



■ Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association ■

At the Ranch

www.deerspringsranch.org

Winter 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear DSROA members.

With a heavy heart I must tell you if you haven't heard, Fred Searle recently passed away. He was a beloved Ranch member and always had a smile and a wave for all he passed on the roads of the Ranch. I watched, as many of you did, his efforts to turn his property into a place to be proud of. His white fences were sturdy and well done. His orchard and beautiful little house were also very well done with an eye for the aesthetic. He loved his dogs and took them with him always. He was congenial and friendly at the annual meetings. He remembered people's names and made you feel as a friend when he spoke with you. I and many of the Ranch members will truly miss Fred.

As time continues on all of you will forge more and more friendships at the ranch. Those friendships grow stronger with time as we develop a feeling of family and community with each other. This sense of community guides us to have each others backs, to help each other with our individual projects and needs at our beloved Deer Springs Ranch. Yes there are a lot of different ideas about how to do some things but our ultimate concern for each others well being helps us to move on with that sense of community after hard decisions or compromises are made.

We will miss the Braytons and are glad they are not too far away from the Ranch. What a wonderful family that has shared their lives with us in many ways. We are actively searching for our next headquarters family and hope to have news for you soon.

president's message, cont'd-

I invite you to go to the web site and take the time to read the minutes of your board meetings. If you have feelings about topics being discussed always feel free to write a member of the board sharing your thoughts. Winter will come and go and before we know it the miracle of spring will be upon us and new adventures at the Ranch will begin to blossom. I appreciate the opportunity as do the other board members to serve you as best we can to make the ranch a better place.

Sincerely,
Phil Hall

FROM THE RANCH MANAGER

Well, here we are at the end of the ninth season since we arrived in May, 2008.

We have so many amazing memories here. We've raised our youngest four children at the Ranch, now two of them are adults. Dee (24) is married and has our first granddaughter, he lives back in Reno, Nevada, and just bought a house. Dee is a local truck driver and his wife stays home and takes care of their daughter. Jeremy (21) lives in Washington state, he too bought a house and ten acres, with a few cows, horses, chickens, and goats. He is an electrician, but getting ready to leave on a fishing boat (deadliest catch type) on the Barring Sea.

Zech (16) goes to Kanab High School, plays baseball and football, get good grades and is just a great kid!! Aliyah (15) also goes to Kanab, gets good grades, has been a cheerleader and the most amazing daughter we could ever hope for. Both are looking forward to

ranch manager, cont'd-

getting jobs.

There's a reason for my "Child Report":

Paul has accepted a position with Arizona Department of Transportation, we have insurance benefits and retirement, it's a supervisory position. Because of distance, we will no longer be able to manage the ranch. However, we will still be an email or call away. I will continue to do the things I do thru the winter, Paul will still be the Water Master over your water systems, and we will train whoever comes in to replace us. We have replaced all the queen sized mattresses in the cabins, so no more dilapidated mattresses!! We've winterized the cabins this year, and are still in the long process of moving. We are so embedded in the Ranch it's like pulling ourselves up by the roots!

We live close, so y'all can visit us, as well as us coming up to visit you, if you let us know you're coming up!!

You'll still see us around, now we'll be able to come and just enjoy the Ranch. We are planning on buying property this winter, so we will also be true Ranch members!!

We'd like to thank our amazing Board of Directors for making the last few years the best!! And thanks to all the members for making memories with us that will be with us always. We have made so many lifelong friends at the Ranch.....those won't go anywhere.

Y'all make your reservations for next year before the time you want is gone.

Paul & Nancy Brayton

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Deer Springs Ranch and The Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association celebrated their 40th birthday in July of 2016?

Deer Springs Ranch and The Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association were created in July of 1976. Not many of us were present to witness the birth of the Ranch we all share and love. Having personally witnessed the birth of each of our seven children, the birth of a child is the most memorable, emotional, traumatic, and stressful event I have ever experienced. I think those who have witnessed the birth of a child would agree. During each birth, I could do little to assist my wife – I prayed, tried to be supportive, worried, tried to comfort her, but ended up pacing back and forth wringing my hands. After each birth, as I held the newborn in my arms, I wondered what the future would bring. Would it be healthy? Would it be happy? Would it be productive? Could I protect it from harm? What would I do to protect it from harm?

As I reflected on the Ranch's 40th birthday I could not help but reflect on the many years our family has enjoyed the Ranch. Our eldest son will turn 32 years of age this December. Our seven children grew up coming to the Ranch every chance we could. They caught their first fish, rode their first horses, and saw their first rattle snakes on the Ranch. They worked, hiked, worked, rode four wheelers and worked on the Ranch. They attended family reunions, participated in junior rodeos, pulled hand carts, and swam in the ponds. Yet, not all the time they spent on the Ranch was idyllic and wonderful. They had some less than desirable and physically painful experiences too.

Which reminded me of the quotation by Jenkin Lloyd Jones who said "Anyone who imagines that bliss is normal is going to waste a lot of time running around shouting that he's been robbed. The fact is that most putts don't drop, most beef is tough, most children grow up to just be people, most successful marriages require a high degree of mutual toleration, most jobs are more often dull than otherwise. Life is like an

did you know, cont'd-

old time rail journey, delays, sidetracks, smoke, dust, cinders and jolts, interspersed only occasionally by beautiful vistas and thrilling burst of speed. The trick is to thank the Lord for letting you have the ride."

May each of us be thankful for "the ride".

Jeff Michelsen
DSROA Board Member

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS OF THE DEER SPRINGS RANCH OWNERS ASSOCIATION 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Total Number of Official Ballots
Counted: 192

The names of the people contending for a position on the DSROA Board of Directors, in alphabetical order, are:

Barry Clarkson, Leland Gentry, Phil Hall, Tamra Hardin, Brad Hunt, Elizabeth Jammond, Ed Kennedy, Tammy Leavitt, and Mark Rowley.

There were 0 write-in nominations this year.

Election Business: during the Candidate Forum at the annual meeting, Tammy Leavitt chose to withdraw her candidacy due to personal matters.

For your information:

Official Ballots were received by mail, proxy, or delivered in-person. Official Ballots received by mail were given a deadline to be received by Friday, September 9, 2016. Ballots received by proxy or delivered in-person, were given a deadline to be received by Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the time the acceptance of ballots closed and tabulation began during the 2016 Annual Meeting at Deer Springs Ranch Headquarters, with time of voting being determined by the meeting. All Official Ballots were subject to DSROA voting rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, a members account dues being paid in full.

election results, cont'd-

Official Ballots only were counted during the Annual Meeting by a committee of 5 under the direction of Mariah Wheeler, Deer Springs Ranch Secretary & Reservation Clerk in Training and further under the supervision of Board Member, Jodi Akers. Committee members were: May Woolsey, Lois Nyman, Nancy Brayton, Blaine Wheeler and Sunshine Harris, with Tammy Leavitt as board approved observer.

The results of the Election are as follows:

The top three persons voted for today, receiving the most votes and whom will now be appointed as the three newest Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association Board of Directors members are:

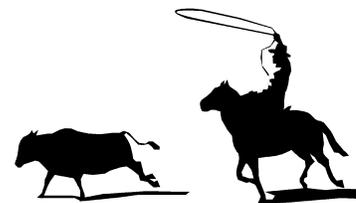
1. Brad Hunt, having received 117 votes.
2. Barry Clarkson, having received 103 votes.
3. Phil Hall, having received 96 votes.

(Of special note: There was a tie for the third position between Phil Hall and Tamra Hardin. The election committee re-counted the ballots 3 times. Both candidates were notified that there was a tie and each were given the opportunity to withdraw their candidacy. Both candidates verified they did not want to withdraw.

The candidates were given two options, 1. a coin toss or 2. a re-voting of all DSROA members. It was decided by the candidates that they would accept the coin toss. Tamra Hardin was given first choice and chose tails, Phil Hall took heads. The coin toss was performed by Tammy Leavitt and the results were heads.

(Phil Hall was congratulated as the winner and will take the third position.)

This concludes the Election results for the 2016 DSROA Board of Directors.



FROM LINDA ALDERMAN

For the last 10 years, if you called the Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association telephone number, you'd hear me say, "Deer Springs Ranch, may I help you?" For those 10 years I have made your Reservations, answered your questions and paid the bills for the Association. I feel pleased with what we've accomplished over these 10 years. Communications have blossomed through newsletters like this one, Vance's work on the website, deerspringsranch.org, the telephone system, and the Members who rigged the Internet. With our wonderful Ranch Managers, the Braytons, we had a Certified Water Operator, as well. It was our early priority to get more of the members out to the Ranch and we reached that goal. We developed guide books for the cabins and upgraded the cabins more each year to make them more comfortable and pleasant. Working with Nancy & Paul, Vance, Brent, Robert Allen, Jodi and all has been a delight, I feel a part of all the positive improvements of the Ranch. But, on Jan 1st, 2017, I will be leaving the reservation desk behind.

In March of this year, my Husband, Terry passed away and soon it became evident that Life was going to be far too complicated for me to continue on with the demands of DSROA. I therefore decided to redirect my life and leave the DSROA Reservation desk and secretarial duties in the very capable hands of my daughter, Mariah, with the approval of the current DSROA Board of Directors, of course. We have been training. Perhaps you have met Mariah already.

I have owned Lot #152 for over 15 years, so I will still be involved. But the saddest part of leaving the reservation desk will be not visiting with all of you on the phone when you call. So for now I will wave as we pass on the Roads and perhaps even see you at Board meetings. Thank you for everything, Linda

THOUGHTS FROM THE BACK OF A HORSE

DSROA Board Member -Brad Hunt

Our country has just been through, what some would call, one of the most divi-

ranch manager, cont'd-

sive, mean spirited and just plain ugly elections ever. Some folks got what they wanted and other folks didn't. Gossip, rumors, exaggerations and misinformation literally ended lifelong friendships and tore families apart. Two sides equal in passion and vision, shouting for what they felt was good for America. Sadly in the middle of so much shouting, anger, and finger pointing, I'm afraid folks have forgotten this true principle: "A house divided against itself cannot stand" - Abraham Lincoln

I bring this up because in the years I have been here at the ranch, both as a guest and as a lot owner, I have seen on a smaller scale some of the same kind of divisiveness. I am ashamed to admit that sometimes I have even been part of it. But the same things that will heal our country are the things that will heal our ranch. It's time to put the past behind us and work together for the common good of the ranch. This coming New Year is the perfect opportunity, for each of us as lot owners, to make a fresh start. We can choose to look for and incorporate good ideas no matter where they come from. We can treat each other and speak of each other with respect, even when we disagree.

I love the ranch as do each of you. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the DSROA Board. I truly want to preserve, protect and enhance the western experience and peaceful solitude of the ranch. I want to represent as many of you as I can. It is important to me to have YOUR input, to protect YOUR rights and to be YOUR voice. I invite you to contact me with any concerns or suggestions you have at ranchlifematters@gmail.com or call me at 801-668-4819.

The ranch is at a crossroads. As we look back Tammy and I would like to express our condolences to the Fred Searle family, we mourn his loss. We say goodbye to a good friend and member of our ranch family. We will miss him. We'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Brayton Family and Linda Alderman for all they have done for the ranch. will be greatly missed. We welcome Mariah Wheeler and the future Ranch Manager and look forward to an exciting New Year at Deer Springs Ranch! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

HAPPY TRAILS DEAR FRIEND

Fred Searle, Lot owner and long time Member of Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association, sadly passed away in his home on the 15th of November. Fred was someone everyone looked for at the Ranch. Originally from Southern California, Fred found DSR when roaming the hills during a hunt and purchased his first lot in the 1990's. He had a perfectly manicured lot with a small home on it. And over the years purchased several other Lots. Fred loved Southern Utah and the Ranch and shared it whenever he could.



We will always remember Fred with Levis, a flannel shirt and his caring face shaded by a Hat (Hat with a capital H) that we all knew and loved. You couldn't help but smile as he approached you with his lanky gate and a gentle grin. A small group of friends and family gathered on a rainy day in Kanab Cemetery to pay their respects to Fred Searle on Nov. 21st. It's hard to say good-bye, We'll miss him on the roads at the Ranch, stopping and siding up to your car window to let you in on some current event in our small part of the World. He was a mainstay at Deer Springs Ranch.

Our condolences to the Family and Friends he left behind.

Fred once changed a tire on a suburban I was driving out at the ranch. I had 3 little children (under the age of 5) and was stranded in the heat and where we stopped, was a swarm of yellow jackets that couldn't be gotten away from, as well as no equipment to change a tire. I didn't know it was Fred who happened down the road and rescued me until I spoke with my mom later that day. I am so grateful that he stopped to take care of me and my little family. I thanked him then, but does a mom ever forget a

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person that takes care of her and her family when in need? I am grateful for his generous moment taking care of me.

Mariah Wheeler, Lot 152

Few years ago, I had been working on the network on the hill above his place in August. Of course, every day about that time of year, there will be a thunderstorm early afternoon. This day was no exception. I had just finished up and beat the lightning off the hill. Stopped by Fred's place to wait out the rain in his carport.

Fred says, "C'mon in, I'll fix ya a baloney sandwich while you wait!"

Had lunch and a good conversation in his kitchen while it poured outside.

We would always see him headed in or out on Meadow Canyon Road to his place from our porch at 156, with his home-made plywood box for his hounds in the back of the pickup.

Vance and Kathy Green, Lot 156

CLEARING THE AIR; THE WATER; AND MOVING FORWARD AT THE RANCH

Jodi Akers, DSROA Board Member

Many of us purchased our property at the Ranch because of the beauty of the area and because of the big, wide open spaces. Most were also quick to realize the additional benefits included the abundance of fresh clean air, and the ample supply of water bestowed upon us. This combination has become rare in the southwest, and proper management of these resources is vital to the sustainability of our future here.

After the purchase of our lot, I began to understand the importance of what we had, and also began to see that the division of these resources were not fairly distributed. It was evident that certain entities were under control of our funds and our assets, but the benefits were only to few. I began attending the Board meetings and after observing for months, I realized changes had to be made.

I bring this up now because at one of our recent Board meetings, a question was asked by a member which told me there is misinformation being given to the members, and that the members do not know where to go for answers. So let me clear the air.

During the past 6 years, there has been great effort put forth to establish processes which would ensure every member had equal access to our shared assets. Only after hearty persistence were we able to establish a DSROA Water Committee - which would be necessary to begin the daunting task of producing plans and supporting documentation that would keep the water rights and availability of that water ...

- a. in the hands of the membership;
- b. and out of the control and/or ownership of any one entity or person that would commercialize this asset and collect funds from you for utilizing what was already yours.

This goal proved to be a monumental challenge, and I am grateful to those members that had the stamina and courage to help with this project, and who were so instrumental in leveling the playing field for the benefit to all. As customary when trying to implement change that would mix up the balance of control, we were blamed for the contention, we were labeled as trouble makers. But we held strong that we were moving in the right direction, and with hope that our efforts would be successful with end results providing equal benefit to all.

So considering the question asked that day during the Board meeting -

"Are we able to get water for our lot even if someone doesn't like you?"

It seems evident that this person has been told that they would not get their water right or access, if they were "not liked" by a particular party or entity that would be making the final decision. I am glad that the question was asked so that I can clear the air for you and put your minds at ease. In short - YES! You obtain your water and water rights through the same process everyone else at the Ranch. Because of the hard work of the Water Committee, your right and access to the water is 100% the same for you as it is for your neighbor. We all share equal access and equal benefit. Is it the same process that was done in the past and on a prayer and a hand-shake? No, and for good reason. Unlike the past, you are now assured equal access and use. As with any shared asset within a community, it was necessary to draw up guidelines on the process to maintain fairness, and this process is outlined in the current Bylaws. Water is the most important and valuable asset at the Ranch and our exis-

tence at the Ranch depends on it. We all own a share, and we all have the responsibility to protect it.

If you have questions or concerns about your water rights or any other operation at the Ranch, please make them known to the Board or overseeing Committee so they can provide you with accurate information. You can find all of our contact information at www.deerspringsranch.org.

My commitment to the Members has always been and will remain, keeping it fair.

PAUL AND NANCY BRAYTON AND FAMILY

Nearly 10 years ago A family of 6 came to the Ranch to interview for the position of Ranch Managers. While waiting for their interview with the Board of Directors, The man and his 2 oldest sons saw Taylor Button doing some work on the DSROA machinery and they went over to help. Good Move. Immediately Taylor could see these folks knew what they were doing and that they were willing to work.

They got the job and soon the entire membership came to know and love the Brayton Family...Paul & Nancy; Dee, Jeremy, Zech & Aliyah. Nancy & Linda embarked on a campaign to get the membership out to the Ranch more. Along with their regular duties and with the help of Member Vance Green, they created a newsletter. Through emails and when folks called in they encouraged the membership to visit the Ranch again and Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association became a family of Friends and Neighbors.

Over the years The Braytons have not only gone over and above what their jobs have asked of them, They have crated a welcoming atmosphere at the Ranch that has brought folks back again and again. It will be very hard to replace them. Some of their children have grown and gone, the youngest are soon on their way as well, and though Paul & Nancy Brayton love the Ranch Paul has decided he must take advantage of a job offer with another Company. And thus we will experience the end of an era.

Though the Friendships will live on, we will miss the Braytons at The Ranch.

- Linda Alderman