



■ Deer Springs Ranch Owners Association ■

At the Ranch

www.deerspringsranch.org

August 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

Fellow Members of DSROA, as the President, I wanted to express my hope that you are all doing well. Given the turbulent times that we are all experiencing this year, it helps to remind us that our focus should be on family and those things that are most important in life. The Ranch is a place where we can escape the conflicts and noise of the world around us. I am glad to have a place of refuge.

As an update, the Ranch is functioning very well. We have been able to enjoy the many talents of our property management company and its principal, Kurt Jacobsen. I personally was able to enjoy his outdoor cooking skills at one of our Board meetings and it was delicious. I know that several other activities and cookouts have been hosted by the property manager, including a fishing derby.

I also find that headquarters has been cleaned and many of our members are participating in a community garden. This makes the whole operation more cooperative and fun for families and friends that visit the Ranch.

The restoration of Cabin 3 has now been completed and thanks to the efforts of Joe and Candy Bosze, Brent Fullmer, Brad Pierce, Jeff and Tina Collins, Kurt Jacobsen and many others, this project was completed quickly and economically.

The restoration of Cabin 7 has also been completed with too many

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upgrades to mention. This project was made possible by Kathy Pierce, Scott Koller, Kurt Jacobsen, and many volunteers including Mike & Sue McNichols, Brent Fullmer, Michael Haeseker, Brad Pierce, TaNiesha Spor, the Hunt family, and many, many others. It should be noted that this project was completed with very little cost to DSROA because of the generosity and work of so many volunteers.

Finally, the water hauling station has now been installed, and with the exception of a few final tweaks, will allow us to have a dispense system for our water hauling members which can be certified. This project was made possible through the efforts and contributions of Brent Fullmer, Kurt Jacobsen and Larry Clarkson.

The airstrip is currently being improved and addressed through the generous contributions of time and money from a new member, Jeff Meshinsky. This work will improve the value and access to the Ranch by members and will make the area look nicer.

The members should know that several other projects were put on hold earlier this year because of the threat of COVID-19 and its possible impact on our annual budget. Some members have stepped up to help fund items which we would have otherwise put on hold. Just to highlight a couple, Dale Clarkson

president's message - cont'd

paid for stocking the fish ponds this year and Joe & Candy Bosze donated a large amount of furniture to the Cabin 3 restoration project. Additionally, some modifications have been made to the scheduled use of the cabins in an effort to minimize the risk to the members of exposure or infection.

All in all, as we head into this year's annual meeting, I want the membership to know that the state of the Ranch is very good, financially and physically. There will always be work that can be done, but we must stop from time to time and recognize the work that has been completed and to recognize those who help make it happen.

We would all like to thank the members for their contributions both big and small.

Barry Clarkson, DSROA President

ANNUAL MEETING AUCTION

Going once, going twice, SOLD! Join our auction and donate goods or services to be auctioned off! Contact Mariah at

dsroa@deerspringsranch.org

to submit your items!

AIRSTRIP REGRADED

It's the middle of July with record setting heat, and I'm sitting inside a 17,000 pound road roller compactor on a strip of dirt at DSR with Joe, my best friend from San Diego, who is sweating it out in the DSR grading blade. What fun. We're reprepping a nearly 1 mile long airstrip. And at 6,500' MSL in altitude, no less. By the way, the U.S. record for highest dirt strip is in MacKay, ID, called the Copper Basin strip, and at it sits at a nose-bleeding 7,700' MSL. At DSR, our proud strip is not too very far off or behind the MacKay one with the record setting altitude -- just a few hundred feet lower in altitude. And while such mountainous thin-air height pose issues for pilots, nonetheless Larry Clarkson tells me that several years ago a TV filming crew actually brought in a C-130 (4 propeller) military cargo plane into the strip as part of a reality TV film set-up. Like I said, what fun.

Regardless of the heavy military gear and cargo lift capability, the runway still requires deft handling as a pilot negotiating altitude and air density -- all set way up here in the ethereal, where thinner air exists (particularly in the summer time when the mountain air, which already thin, expands even more to become thinner). And yes as you would imagine, the thinner the air then there is less lift that the aircraft's wings can support at slower speeds. So in general the aircraft requires higher speed take-offs, and thereafter remaining in so-called "ground effect" (i.e., not pulling up and pointing the nose skyward too quickly but flying level with the runway for a bit before you ever-so-gradually begin your ascent).

For years Phillip Hall had been maintaining the airstrip, while he was still flying. But in the last 3 or so years, the runway had fallen victim to plant-life, cattle hooves, and ATV tire

airstrip - cont'd

ruts. But speaking of good-handling in "ground effect" above, Phil told me a plane had gotten totalled (no one hurt though) when the pilot pulled up a bit too quickly a few years ago, as opposed to staying level and remaining in ground effect, and the aircraft drifted off to the side to collide with the plant-life off to the left of the runway. So indeed mountain airstrips aren't just for every one. But for those wanting the ability to visit DSR, a bit more quickly and easily, then the runway is a keeper. Which of course brought me and my best friend Joe, a president of a San Diego grading company, into DSR with a 17,000 road compactor roller, and a borrowed water truck (thanks to Larry Clarkson and his crew) and the



DSR road grader blade.

We spent the better part of a Saturday and Sunday in July running back forth, north to south and south to north, grading and regrading the strip (and compacting it with water and the roller) to make it fun and yet usable again. There are still challenges to be sure. The lower 1/3 of the runway compacted a fair amount. But there was not enough water to get the latter 2/3'rds to the north compacted. So we'll have to wait for the monsoons to help out.

To boot, yesterday a fresh new bright orange wind sock arrived at my home -- and I'll get back up there in the coming weeks to don it on the pole that I'm assuming Phil Hall originally put out there. And last weekend my wife Eli, a Brazilian ranch hand

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herself that took me on as a project 23 years ago (although I still need a lot more grading and compacting), flew out with me to DSR and we tested the runway out (pictures provided). I began flying 35 years ago with a commercial, multi-engine, instrument rating and eventually helped build a municipal airport out in Washington DC and ran it with two partners for a number of years until selling it in the 90's and moving out west to the San Diego mountains. Dirt strip and turf or grass strip flying is some of my favorite within the capabilities of the two aircraft we keep and fly about in: a Cessna Turbo 182RG and a two engine, pressurized Cessna 421. The Turbo 182RG is a perfect platform for mountain flying and dirt strips -- it has both a turbo-charger, to compress that thin air, and it has retractable gear to suck up into the gear wells and create less drag after takeoff.



All that said, the Meshinsky's are very excited to be a part of the DSR family and to continue to help maintain the DSR strip. Many great thanks goes to the DSR Board for supporting the project and donating the assistance of the ranch grading blade and the water and diesel fuel.

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And the biggest thanks of all, of course, goes to Larry Clarkson and his crew, Christian and XXXX (forgot his name -- please fill in) for jumping in to assist and run some of the vehicles. Anyone that may be flying into the ranch in the future that wishes any pointers of inside knowledge, of what I've learned of the strip during the grading, please feel free to call me and Eli any time. Happy flying, touring and enjoying the great opportunity of the ranch, and thanks for welcoming us aboard!

Jeff Meshinsky, 619-843-2086

ON THE RANCH

Hello everyone,

Fourth of July weekend was a great success. Many folks took advantage of the amazing fireworks display that Kanab puts on every year. Others took advantage of our activities here at the ranch. We had a pot luck BBQ Friday July third and it was awesome. We had a great turnout. It rained that afternoon and everyone just gathered in the store and porch. We were blessed with a double rainbow and some amazing photo ops.



On the fourth we had a lunch at Headquarters followed by a scavenger hunt that led to the trout ponds where we had a fishing derby. Absolute blast and thank you all who attended.

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Ranch improvements are coming along. Big shout out to Brent Fullmer for all of his help and leadership getting this management team on their feet. All cabins now have new propane gas lines throughout and regulators up to code. All of the refrigerators are operating and keeping cold. They do need to be burped once in a while; just the nature of propane refrigerators. If you notice that the top or bottom is warmer than it should be, just let us know and we will take care of it. The new water hauling J station is installed and operating. We are tweaking it, but it works well and much faster than the old hose. For your first time utilizing it, I will be happy to assist you.

There are many more projects to be done and I will be posting a schedule for volunteers, so if you see something that you might be interested in or have some expertise, all help is appreciated. Schedule forthcoming. Our cabins are seeing some exciting new foundational systems created. I want to make a shout out of gratitude to Cindi Olson has been an integral part of this process. She has immersed herself in learning and analyzing and is integral in creating these new systems. And YAY! She's running for the Board.

Upcoming Ranch Events: Labor Day weekend activities include a weekend long scavenger hunt and fishing derby as well as Volleyball games and Horseshoes, topping it all

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off with a Potluck BBQ and awards ceremony Sunday evening at 6pm!

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12. We will have a double header for entertainment. Mike Ewing and Jon Stone with demonstrations on blacksmithing, kids crafts, knife making and more. Don't forget to come hungry for the Annual Meeting BBQ and bring your side dish to share. And let's make that auction profit soar.

Now regarding the election to be held at the annual meeting. The most important part of being a member, is the opportunity to elect your board. We have some great candidates and each are worthy of consideration. You all have probably had interactions with some of them and know them. This is an opportunity for each of us to choose who sits on the board and helps make decisions for the ranch. I urge you all to consider carefully your candidates and cast your own votes for those you think will best serve the ranch and you. Board members should have no consideration of personal gain. It is not a power position, but rather a humble calling to serve our neighbors and act on behalf of all. I urge everyone to vote for candidates who have your best interests in mind and heart.

Kurt Jacobsen, Board Member
Property Management

FISHING

A big THANK YOU to Dale & Patsy Clarkson for sponsoring the stocking of fish in the ponds this year! Biggest catch yet is a 2.5 pounder! Congrats Gary Christensen!

