



December 2017

# Blackhawk Ranch Newsletter

## *EMC Report*

The Emergency Management Committee includes common area fire mitigation on Blackhawk Ranch. The new board has spent the first few months reviewing Policies and Procedures to include safety as it pertains to our property owners and volunteers. This affected our Fire Mitigation Saturdays (the last 4) that were scheduled. However, due to the overwhelming number of volunteers in the first two Mitigation Saturdays as well as time spent working on the implementation of our new radios, we were able to comply with the criteria to maintain our Fire Wise status for 2018.

Several emails were sent out to the list of volunteers, but only three responded wishing to participate on the EMC. This will leave us far short of the resources necessary to be effective and possibly exist. The largest commitment for the revised EMC will be working on communications to facilitate First Responders to the area of need and developing a core group to use the new radios effectively. We are also looking for property owners who are interested in participating on the Fire Mitigation Team, knowing not everyone will be available for all of the Saturdays. We will be looking at four Fire Mitigation Saturdays to meet the need of the community while not overburdening the volunteers.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in participating, please contact me via email at [ken.kwd@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kwd@gmail.com) or by phone at 719-351-3066. (Ken Diehl, Chair)

## *Blackhawk Road Report*

The BHR POA Board has made some fundamental changes in the approach to road maintenance since mid-summer, moving away from the volunteer-based system of grading, repairs, and snow plowing. The intent of the roads work program will be to secure bids from three contractors (if practical) for all significant road work activities. We now have commitments and interest from three qualified and local road work contractors. They include Chris Dotter (CHD Construction), Mike Ferrero (Ferrero Dozer Service), and Heath Andreatta Excavation. A snow removal contract for the 2017/ 2018 season was executed with Chris Dotter (CHD Construction.) Chris has purchased a new 2-ton truck and snowplow for this work, and we are his only snow-removal client. Weber will be our backup snow removal contractor in the event of an emergency.

The Road Committee has been reorganized and redirected. The committee now consists of Frank Stump (Chair,) Roger Buttignol, Gary Hanks, Glenn Key, Mark Sutter, and Ken Diehl. The new function of the road committee will move away from physically performing the road work. Each will assume oversight of a specific section of BHR, making regular assessments of the road conditions in their area, reporting problems and current road conditions to the Road Chair, and helping with the oversight of snow removal, repairs, and regular maintenance by our contractors. Each committee member will help make the decision to plow and verify that their section of the ranch was plowed.

The Road Committee will also help to verify that the Road Chair's multi-year road plan is practical and reasonable. The Roads plan for the next three years has been completed. All roads and spurs will be graded each spring (March/April time frame, weather-dependent). Next spring, as much vegetation as practical will be scraped and tilled off of all road surfaces. Eroding bar ditches will be repaired, and plugged culverts will be cleaned. Primary arterials will be graded each fall and emergency repairs completed as needed. Rugby Mines Road from North Mountain Road south to Lot #129 and Fishers Peak View will be improved with new road base and improved drainage.

In October, asphalt material was removed from approximately 1.2 miles of Lower Mine Road, and property owners have re-purposed most of it. The main arterial roads needing attention have been graded in preparation for winter, and the dead elder trees near the main entry have been removed. Other work planned this year includes completing Lower Mines Road and placing signage at Howard's Draw. (Frank Stump, Chair)

**2017-2018**

### **Blackhawk Ranch POA Officers**

**Ken Diehl**

*President, EMC*

[president@bhrpoa.com](mailto:president@bhrpoa.com)

**Frank Stump**

*Vice President, Roads*

[roads@bhrpoa.com](mailto:roads@bhrpoa.com)

**Lori Diehl**

*Treasurer*

[treasurer@bhrpoa.com](mailto:treasurer@bhrpoa.com)

#### **Members**

*Ray Ryan*

[rayryan1@comcast.net](mailto:rayryan1@comcast.net)

*Mark Sutter*

[msutter@wildblue.net](mailto:msutter@wildblue.net)

**To Contact the Board:**

[bhrboard@bhrpoa.com](mailto:bhrboard@bhrpoa.com)



(photo by Susanne Bloomfield)

Newsletter editor:

Susanne Bloomfield

Copyeditors:

Nancy Pasternak & Cissy Sevrance.

Feedback as well as suggestions for articles are encouraged! [skbloomfield65@gmail.com](mailto:skbloomfield65@gmail.com)

# DAY TRIPPIN'

## *Fossils, Trains, Pottery, & Bats*

Blackhawk Ranch residents are fortunate in having several good local museums and art galleries that feature the history and the culture of our own area. Most are staffed by well-informed volunteers, several have regular field trips or festivals, and all have interesting gift shops that help support the facilities. They are a great way to spend an afternoon or take guests for a visit. In **Walsenburg**, the [Walsenburg Mining Museum](#) takes visitors back to the early days of our community. Housed in the 1896 Huerfano County jail, exhibits showcase the history of the county's mining camps as well as information on the famous "Mother" Jones, the nationally famous labor leader. **Trinidad** offers the [Santa Fe Trail Museum, the Baca House, and the Bloom Mansion](#) as well as the [A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art](#). At the museum, visitors can learn the history of the Santa Fe Trail and even view Kit Carson's buckskin coat. The restored Bloom Mansion, the home of banker and cattle baron Frank Bloom and his wife, is a Victorian Home built in 1882 surrounded by historic gardens. In **La Veta**, the [Spanish Peaks Art Council's Gallery](#) features local artists, and the [Francisco Fort Museum](#) boasts an original 1862 adobe plaza.

However, if you are interested in a full day trip, many spots in the nearby San Luis Valley offer a myriad of diverse opportunities. The art museum in the historic Jamieson Dry Goods Store built in 1906, contains the work of A.R. Mitchell, popular artist and magazine illustrator as well as works by Hispanic and Native American artisans and historic photographs dating from the late 1800s.

The [Fort Garland Museum](#), located in **Fort Garland** (approximately 60 miles, 1 hour), was established in 1858 to protect the early settlers in the San Luis valley. In 1861, Colorado volunteers marched against the Texas Confederates who were attempting to capture the West for the Confederacy. After the Civil War, Kit Carson commanded a troop of New Mexico volunteers and played an instrumental role in negotiations with Chief Ouray and other Ute leaders in securing peace with the tribe. The Buffalo Soldiers, a 9th Cavalry unit composed of African American soldiers, were also stationed here about this same time to remove white settlers, primarily prospectors, from the Ute reservation lands. However, once the railroad arrived in the area, and the Utes were removed from their homelands, the fort was abandoned in 1883. The museum includes a parade ground, adobe buildings, and a recreation of the commander's headquarters as well as Hispanic and Ute artifacts, particularly the Capote band who wintered at Blackhawk.



**Alamosa** (approximately 80 miles, 1 1/2 hours) offers several attractions, many located on the campus of Adams State University. The [Luther Bean Museum](#) houses a collection of European, Native American, and Hispano Southwest arts, including pottery and weaving by nationally known artists. The [Ryan Geological Museum](#) showcases 5,000 fossils and minerals. Alamosa is also home to the [San Luis Valley Museum](#). In addition to exhibits of an early general store, a post office, and a country school, their artifacts and photographs feature early ranch and farm life as well as Native American, Hispanic, and Japanese-American exhibits.





[Conejos County Museum](#) in **Antonito**, (approximately 110 miles, 2 hours) is a part of the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Society and is the home of the [Cumbres Toltec Scenic Railroad](#), a railway train that operates a seasonal 64-mile ride through the Rio Grande National Forest to Chama, New Mexico, that also includes a Santa Train in December. Antonito has the restored Rio Grande depot as well as a museum and other historic buildings: the Warshauer Mansion, the Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos Concilio Superior, and the Palace Hotel, all on the Colorado and National Historic Registry. The state's oldest parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church built in 1866, still holds services north of town.

Silver was discovered in 1889 in **Creede** (approximately 150 miles, 1 3/4 hour), formerly home to 10,000 fortune hunters. Mining continued to be the major industry until 1985 when the Bulldog mine was closed. They have located their [Creede History Museum](#) in the former Rio Grand depot, dedicated to "Gunfighters, Gamblers, Conmen, Miners, and Ranchers." After touring the museum, visitors might want to enjoy an automobile tour, the [Bachelor Historic Loop Tour](#), that takes them by 17 mine sites. An Interpretative booklet is available at the museum. Another unique site is the [Underground Mining Museum](#) on the north end of town. It is unique in that local citizens decided turn an underground firehouse into a mining museum, and it is an authentic example of the mining techniques of the glory days in Creede.



**Crestone, Co** (approximately 130 miles, 2 1/4 hours) was both a gold and an iron ore mining town. The [Crestone Historical Museum](#) is located in one of the few all-wood banks in a Colorado. It was built in 1901, and the huge, original Diebold safe is on display as well as other relics of the era. North of Crestone is the abandoned Orient Mine iron mine that operated from the 1880s to 1932. The old Orient town site, tippie, railroad bed, and mine workings are still visible. One highlight of the mine is the colony of 250,000 migratory Freetailed bats, whose evening flight is said to be thrilling. The Orient Land Trust offers guided tours of the outflight of bats during the summer months.

Three natural hot springs bathing areas are also located in the San Luis Valley. There are the [Sand Dunes Recreation](#) swimming pool and RV Park near the Sand Dunes National Park and Hooper, the [Joyful Journey](#) Hot Springs and Spa that offers various choices of lodging, and the [Valley View Hot Springs](#) in Crestone (note: clothing is optional at Valley View).

**\*\*\* Be sure to check the days and hours that these locations are open to the public, for not all of them are open every day or even all year round.**