

August 15, 2022



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met on July 12, 2022. Treasurer Art Jackson reported on the delinquent dues and explained his research on how much money should be kept in the POA Reserves for emergencies. Road Chair Jim Nance discussed the completed and scheduled road work and identified three problem areas that need attention: the “slide” areas of Four-Mile Canyon Drive and Timber Drive. EMC chair Brad Brooks explained the mitigation work recently completed on the CSFS grant, the progress on HAM radio testing, and the new BHR maps created by Wendy Jackson. The final revisions to the Policies and Procedures were approved and were posted on the website. Under New Business, the continued work on the Neighborhood Watch Program was discussed. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

Important Links

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)

Reporters: Nancy Pasternak
and Melissa Miller.

BHR Website Updates

by Susanne Bloomfield

[Revised Policies and Procedures](#)

[New BHR Maps & More to Come](#)

[Annual Meeting Minutes & Power Point](#)

[Updated BHR Properties for Sale](#)

[New Page on Blackhawk History](#)

[Three BHR Weather Stations](#)

[New Handbook for Roads](#)

[Photos of Noxious Weeds](#)

[Updates of New Owners](#)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

*Check one of the three
Blackhawk-specific weather
stations when you plan your
trip to the Ranch, especially
during the winter weather.
The BHR Facebook page is
also a great source for weather
reports.*

Annual Meeting Highlights

by Susanne Bloomfield

The Blackhawk Ranch Annual Meeting was held on July 13, 2022, at the La Veta Mercantile. Forty property owners representing 32 parcels and four guests attended the meeting, and three owners attended via video/teleconference. Eleven proxies were recorded, so a quorum was not established to conduct business. Art Jackson, Nancy Pasternak, and Jim Nance introduced themselves and stated why they are running for re-election to serve another two-year term. Brad opened the floor to accept nominations, but none were made.

The president, Brad Brooks, reported on the State of the Ranch. Art Jackson, treasurer, explained the 2022 budget and stated that due to less expenditures in snow removal, legal, and EMC than planned, the 2021 budget finished approximately 11,000 under budget. The remaining funds were applied to the 2022 road budget.

The 2022 revision to the Policies and Procedures were reviewed. The major changes were made to comply with the new Colorado House Bill 22-1137 as well as technical updates to documentation and records, Board of Directors membership, meeting standards, finance, delinquent dues, emergency management, nuisances, and evacuation routes. The latest version of the [Policies and Procedures](#) can be found on the website.

Nancy Pasternak, Compliance chair, state that she approved six Driveway and two building Compliance forms, and she mailed out 15 Welcome Packets to new owners. Communication Chair, Susanne Bloomfield, reported that newsletters were being emailed five to six times a year, and that twenty-seven editions had been published since she began editing in 2014. All are available on the website.

Emergency Management Chair, Brad Brooks covered the significant progress made in this fire mitigation and suppression that included the completion of the Dedicated Firefighting Water Storage; the TEAM RUBICON portion of our Colorado State Forest Service matching grant; the BHR Firewise Community status and certification; the Home Ignition Zone training by Colorado State Forest Service; the Emergency Ingress and Egress projects remaining to be completed; and the New property owner Wildland – Urban interface presentation from the Colorado State Forest Service.

The Security Committee, co-chaired by Dillon Miller and Brad Brooks, addressed the issues of aggressive dog packs and illegal dumping, and stressed that security is a shared responsibility between individual property owners and the POA. Following the meeting, the Board of Directors held a short business meeting, accepting the unanimous owners' votes for the three candidates and renewing the board officers and committee chairs from the previous year.

Volunteering Opportunities

by Brad Brooks

Hello Friends and Neighbors! The Blackhawk POA is seeking to fill several positions now open that are related to the practical operation of the ranch.

Weed Committee Chair – Monitors Blackhawk Ranch for Noxious Weed infestations and applies approved herbicide to reduce/eliminate invasive noxious weeds. Equipment, assistance and mentoring provided. Spring and Fall applications.

Snow Captain – Works with the Emergency Management Committee - Partners with the EMC and our snow removal vendor, Chris Dotter, to determine when snow conditions necessitate a snow removal off the ranch roads. Assesses snow depth across the ranch and makes the early morning call to our vendor to plow or to stand down. Assistance and mentoring provided. Full time ranch residency required.

EMC Search Team Members – Works with the Emergency Management Committee – Joins the established EMC search team and established search strategy across four quadrants of the Blackhawk Ranch. Ability to respond to incidents or searches is important. Training, mentoring will be provided. Full time ranch residency required.

Fire Weather Sign Team Members – Works with Emergency Management Committee – Joins the established Fire Weather sign team for the ranch. Monitors and reports changes in fire weather status across the National Weather Service, County Sheriff Offices, Local Weather Reporting and updates signs at the gates accordingly. Full time ranch residency required.

Please consider joining these important services to the ranch. Help Us Help You!

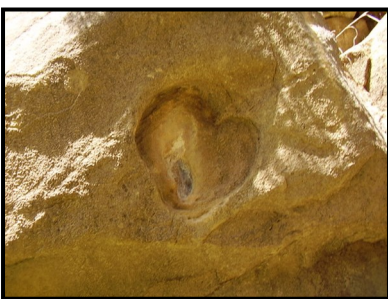
A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that Blackhawk Ranch and the area between our ranch and Silver Spurs Ranch have been identified as places that contain “Spanish monument markers” indicating buried gold? The following story is a synopsis of an article written by Charles Goza, Parcel 57, in 2007 entitled “Spanish Monument Markers, Southern Colorado foothills east of the Spanish Peaks.”

When Spanish explorers were in the Southwestern United States, they enslaved Indians to mine gold. However, the gold was so heavy that it was stored in caves to be picked up later. The king of Spain sent sculptors with the expeditions to carve monument markers to identify the caves for their marker maps. Today, these monuments are found throughout Colorado and Arizona.

The Spanish created a standard measurement and code describing the meaning of the monument markers for their treasure/mine maps. For example, two boulders leaning against each other made a hole. Looking through the hole should direct the person further. Many times, a white boulder would be placed by the hole indicating the direction to travel. An open-eyed monument meant to go in the direction it was looking. A closed-eyed monument said, “Look here.”



Monument markers often resemble animals, people, and hearts. Charles discovered monument markers that look like a squirrel on Parcel 79, a face in a canyon on Parcel 39, a lion/cat head, a heart (the sign/symbol for gold), a turtle, a horse head, and a bear head with seven carved teeth (thought to be a growling dog carved for the purpose of protecting something of great value, probably a large hidden cache containing goods from mines all around our area). It is believed that turtles are telling the

searcher to “go slow,” and complete hearts with no broken lobes are telling you that the “desire of your heart” is nearby.

According to Charles, “One of the most famous legendary mines in the Huerfano region was known as the Lost Mexican Mine. The most promising gold or silver veins discovered were identified as the possible Lost Mexican Mine. The veins were found not only on the Spanish Peaks, but on Greenhorn and Silver Mountains, the Blanca massif, and Rough and Mestas Mountains in Huerfano and Las Animas counties. Wherever the Lost Mexican Mine really was, there was plenty of evidence of gold leaving the Spanish Peaks country bound for Mexico City and later to the eastern United States. Mexican legends indicate that mining in the Spanish Peaks area began as early as 1541.”

More information about these markers can be found in the books *Turtles Lead to Treasure: A Guide to Spanish Trail Monuments*, by Calvin C. Keys, 2007, and *Spanish Monuments & Trail Markers in the United States* by Charles A. Kenworthy, 1993. An excerpt quoted from the book reads: “The Spanish mined and hid their treasures for more than two hundred years. They were creative geniuses leaving behind great works of art in the form of stone sculptures that not only marked trails but hid treasures.”

You can find Charles’ entire Power Point that includes many photos on our ranch website under the “Resources” link titled “Blackhawk History.”

The NEW Walsenburg Mercantile

by Susanne Bloomfield



The newly-opened Walsenburg Mercantile, located at 408 Russell Street 1/2 block east of the old Denver & Rio Grande Western RR depot, is now home to a new shopping adventure. The store features forty-five vendors selling hand-crafted or locally grown items, such as original arts and crafts, candles, jewelry, organic soaps and lotions, chokecherry jam, baked goods and sweets, tea, and Gub Gub's Ice Cream and Pizza.

According to the [Mercantile Home page](#), the large brick building has an interesting history. L.B. Sporleder Sr., the original builder, began his business career when he was 16, working in carpentry, selling furniture and novelties, and running a gunsmithing shop. Next, he started a commission house, where he dealt in hides, pelts, wool, and grains. However, he achieved the most success when he started his feed, seed, and grocery business in 1890.

In 1903, Sporleder founded the Sporleder Feed and Commission Company, and in 1904, he purchased George Quillian's wholesale and retail feed store. Then, in 1905 Sporleder built the warehouse for his grocery, seed, and feed

business. In 1906, the business was incorporated and named the Walsenburg Mercantile Company, and in 1907, the brick warehouse was enlarged to 80 by 140 feet and contained a 20,000 square foot basement. Six employees delivered goods to coal camps and small towns in southern Colorado. Both of his sons, Fred and Carl, became active in the business, while their father began writing books about the Spanish Peaks region.

The Sporleder businesses and properties changed over the years, but in 1933, another addition was made to the building, this time a section built of bricks salvaged from the Rouse boarding house and other coal camp structures. Carl Sporleder took over the feed side of the business in 1957, and Pazar and Benine purchased the wholesale grocery department, known as Wholesale Foods Company, which continued in business into the 1990s. The Sporleders are still active in the community, 120 years later.

The store is open daily from 7 am to 10 pm. A handicap ramp has been recently added to the front. Check out their [Facebook Page](#) for more items with photos.

