



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## Important Links:

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [Sept. 21, 2019 Minutes](#)

## Board of Directors Update

The Blackhawk Board of Directors held a meeting on September 21, 2019. The Road Chair reported that the 2019 Road Plan was 95% complete. Work to be finished includes grading Four Mile and fixing the Brodmore intersection.

The EMC stated that the committee is working on a Colorado Forest Service Grant as well as one from Huerfano County. Two small fires on the Ranch were reported in September.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Aguilar Community Center. Property owners are invited to attend. The full minutes of the meeting can be accessed from the link on the left.

## Board Resignations and Appointments

The Board of Directors accepted with regret the resignations of Glenn Key (because of additional business responsibilities) and Sue Helm (for health reasons). The Board appointed Jim Nance and Nancy Pasternak to serve the remainder of their terms. Terry Bloomfield was appointed to chair the Road Committee, but Glenn Key will remain an active member of that committee.

## Front Entrance Design



Our present adobe entrance to Blackhawk Ranch is deteriorating rapidly. In an effort to have community input on the design, materials, and costs for the front entrance to Blackhawk Ranch as well as the entrances to Braden's Point and Howard's Draw, the Board would like to form an ad hoc committee to submit 2-3 options for owners to choose from at the Annual Meeting next summer so that construction can begin next year.

**If you have good ideas or strong opinions, please volunteer for this short term committee.** If you want to be a part of this important project, contact president Brad Brooks. (tractorboy2017@gmail.com)

## Things You Need To Know

**Huerfano County Commissioners recently passed Resolution 19-27 that requires the approval of POAs and HOAs on all county-issued building permits for projects within the boundaries of the association's jurisdiction.**

**What this means for Blackhawk Ranch is that before property owners can begin any building project that requires a Huerfano County permit (over 200 square feet), it must be approved by the POA.**

## Best Practices for Emergencies

by Brad Brooks, Emergency Management Chair

Living in the Wildland Urban interface (WUI) places some additional responsibilities on our shoulders as BHR landowners. Because of our relative isolation, knowing what to do in certain emergencies will increase the odds of a positive outcome.

### MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Call 911 to request assistance if required. Best Practice would be to contact a neighbor or a BHR Emergency Management Committee (EMC) contact to request that they meet Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and guide them to your location on BHR. EMS may require 30-60 minutes to reach BHR. If your situation allows, relocating the patient to Exit 42 on I-25 can shorten considerably the time for EMS to address your emergency situation.

### FIRE

Because of the condition of our forests, wildland fires are a current and present danger to our BHR properties. While the EMC continues to work closely with many BHR volunteers to mitigate some of that risk, wildfire remains a significant threat. Best Practice is simply to use common sense. If you see a fire or a smoke column that is not a campfire, and it is unattended or seems out of control, first call 911 and then notify an EMC contact or neighbor to meet firefighters and guide them to the location of the fire.

Slash pile burning is extremely dangerous and should be undertaken only on no/low wind days and **only after you have notified Las Animas and Huerfano County dispatches of your planned burn**. Best practice would be to also post your burn location and date on Facebook and/or the POA website, so the neighborhood will not make unnecessary calls to 911. Further, it is your responsibility to stay current on the county fire bans or restrictions on open fires throughout the year. Compliance with these restrictions is required by law. Currently, a Stage 1 fire restriction (no fires) was issued October 15.

### ROAD EMERGENCIES

Flooding and road washouts occur on BHR. If you see an emergency issue related to roads, or if you are snowbound and have an emergency that must take you off of BHR, please report it to the BHR Road Committee contact or EMC contact.

## Day Tripping

by Judy Nance



Need a day trip? We recently discovered the Red River Brewing Company in gorgeous Red River, New Mexico. The town, which began as a booming mining camp in 1895, has a rich history, for miners from all over the West flocked to the area in search of gold, silver, and copper, and the décor of the brewery reflects this mining legacy.

If you have a free day or two to take a beautiful drive and eat some to-die-for deep fried cheese curds (and maybe some great beer), this might be the place for you. The burgers and fries are delicious as well. The award-winning Red River Brewery currently offers 12 beers on tap as well as root beer. A large window offers

visitors a glimpse of the brewing process, and you can even schedule a tour with the Master Brewer.

There is so much to do, including ATViing and horse-back riding in the summer and fall. A stable nearby provides horses and guides. Or, you can take a chair lift ride up the mountain for a spectacular view, scream down a zip line, or maneuver a ropes course. If there is snow, you can do a little skiing on their 63 trails or even try tubing that day at 8,750 feet.



## Abert's Squirrel

by Pat Henry



When my husband and I first began camping on our parcel in the 1990s, we noticed the unusual small black squirrels that scurried up our Ponderosas. A local from Walsenburg suggested that these squirrels were special and might even be endangered. They aren't endangered, but they are native to areas that are dry and have a good population of Ponderosa pines. Their official name is Abert's Squirrel, and they inhabit parts of Wyoming and Arizona as well as along the front range of New Mexico and Colorado. They are categorized as "threatened" in Mexico because much of their territory there has been logged.

These squirrels were named after Col. John James Albert, who led the effort to map the American West in the 19th Century. The squirrels make nests fairly high in the Ponderosa pines. They use these nests not only for raising their infants but also as their homes throughout the year. The squirrels eat the Ponderosa pine nuts and the inner spongy parts of twigs. They are active from sunrise to just before sunset, and hawks are their primary predators.

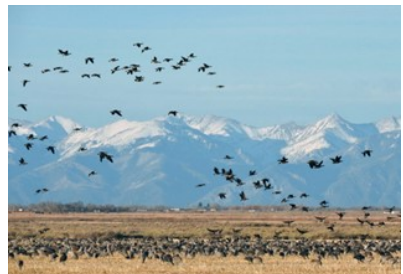
## No Broadband Yet

by Nancy Pasternak

Blackhawk residents filled out a questionnaire about cell phone and broadband service over a year ago, and many are wondering about the results and if any action has been taken. Jim Galusha, Huerfano County Coordinator, stated that the county has had some success in La Veta and is working with Jade Communications to extend broadband to Cuchara. They also approved a new tower in Gardner that should be constructed by early next year. "The Blackhawk area is a challenge," Galusha explained, "because of the low density of houses and the rough terrain." However, he explained that they will keep searching for solutions for our area.

## Sandhill Cranes

by Susanne Bloomfield



Between 23,000—27,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate bi-annually through Colorado, their flights peaking in mid-October and mid-March. BHR owners can often see and hear these distinctive birds during these months as they fly to or from one of their regular stopovers at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in south central Colorado, a wetlands snuggled in the San Luis Valley. These wetlands are also home to over 200 other bird species. Every March, Monte Vista hosts a three day Crane Festival that attracts hundreds of visitors.

## An Invitation to ALL Blackhawk Ranch Women

Judy Nance is initiating a **First Friday Women's Friendship Circle** tea, a gathering to share news and laughs, inspire each other, and offer support when needed. The first tea will be held at the Nance's home on Bear Spur on November 1st from 10:00—noon. Judy will provide the tea, and if anyone has something to share, whether food or inspiration, please do so. RSVP [JudyNance1@yahoo.com](mailto:JudyNance1@yahoo.com), or call /text 559.917.3620.

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