

Elk Falls Bi-Monthly



Elk Falls
Property
Owners'
Association

February 2018

President's Corner-February Newsletter

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Vice-
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For the newer folk moving into Elk Falls Ranch, such names as Buffalo Creek, High Meadow, Hayman, Snaking, or Black Mountain may not ring a bell. But these are all names of significant wildfires that threatened our community over the past 22 years or so. Wildfires are the last thing we think about when the snow is flying, but given the lack of snow this winter, it may be another rough wildfire fire season throughout the Intermountain West. Firefighting resources may be spread pretty thin. The time to start thinking about wildfires is now, well before we see towering plumes of smoke on the western horizon. What sort of mitigation could you do on your property now to help save your home? Do you know what you will take if you must leave in a hurry? How long will it take to gather up? Does it all fit in your car? What about your pets? How will loved ones who are "down the hill" know if you are out and safe? Does your family have a rally point?

There is only one egress route out of Elk Falls Ranch by car, Elk Creek Road, and there are over 100 households on the Ranch. Elk Creek Road will get very busy during an emergency evacuation of the Elk Falls Ranch and Staunton State Park. I would strongly suggest that you start thinking about these things now as a reality of mountain living. I would also suggest contacting Bob Fletcher with Firewise at Robertbfletcher68@gmail.com and ask his advice on these fire mitigation matters. Oh, and let's all hope/pray for more snow and lots of spring rain, because I've seen the alternative a few times, and it's a very scary experience.

When we first moved up here about 21 years ago I noticed that almost everyone waved when we passed them on Elk Creek Road or the Ranch roads. Along with the Elk Falls stickers, waving was a way of knowing that the people passing by were from around here and belong in our neighborhood. Things have changed a lot since 1997. Staunton State Park was built, and there seems to be a higher turnover of people in our community. I see lots of people I don't know passing by my house daily. Many are driving too fast to wave anyway as they need to keep both hands on the wheel just to maintain control of their car. I get the impression these people don't have the best interest of our community or the safety of our children and pets in mind.

Not too long-ago folks around here didn't even lock their doors most of the time. It really was a sleepy community. Not anymore. I don't think we have a crime spree going on and it's not time to break out the tin foil hats yet, but I do feel it's time to start paying attention to who comes and goes around here. We have had some unusual, illegal, and disturbing activities in and near Elk Falls Ranch lately. If you see someone or something that doesn't look right it probably isn't and you should report it. If you can do so safely, get a license plate number. Try to get a description of the vehicle or person(s) involved in what you consider unusual activity and contact either the Park or Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Another thing. It may be a while before the sheriff's office can respond to your distress call. We live in a rural area and those peace officers are trying to cover a lot of territory. You should consider what you might do to help yourself while you wait for help to arrive. A twenty-minute response time may seem like an eternity when it is you or your family in danger. It would also be great if you were acquainted with your neighbor and could watch out for them as they watch out for you. Think about it.

On a much lighter note. You may not know it, but the Elk Falls Property Owner's Association has an Architecture Committee led by our Vice President, Dave DiMeo. We also have covenants that guide us on building and construction in the community. If you are building a fence or shed, and certainly if you are building a something larger like a garage, driveway or home, you must submit plans to Dave BEFORE you start your project and get approval. It's almost certain either Jefferson or Park County will require a building permit as well. Dave will ask you for these things when you notify him that you have a project in mind. Please help us adhere to the covenants of our community. Dave can be reached at dadimeo@exede.net.

Finally, we are expecting some turnover on the Board come the May Annual Meeting and are looking for new volunteers to bring fresh ideas to the Board. Please give some thought to serving on the Board in the coming year. The community would benefit greatly from your insights.

Welcoming Committee -

Did you know that Elk Falls Ranch has a Welcoming Committee? The committee consists of Christine Groves along with Ross and Nita Folkers. If you are interested in getting involved please contact them. As you can tell by the number of for sale signs, they aren't very busy.



If you see a neighbor moving in or out please let the committee and the new neighbor now about this valuable resource.

Contractor Corner -



Have you had a contractor or someone doing a service for you that you would like to recommend or just get a shout out to? Do you yourself offer a service that is valuable to the community?

We can post anything from dog walking to those that perform services for a living. This would be the place to your neighbors know about great people and good work.

Facts About the Rocky Mountain Range –

Rising over 14,000 feet into the sky, the Rocky Mountain Range stretches between the United States and Canada. The mountain range, which holds the Continental Divide, draws guests from around the world who wish to climb its peaks, study its wildlife or take in its views. National parks in both the US and Canada protect the area so that guests can continue to appreciate its grandeur

Topography -

While the Rocky Mountains sit high above sea level, hitting the 14,000-foot range in most areas, the mountains themselves are not particularly high since they rise from areas already at 4,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level. Mount Elbert near Leadville, Colorado, has an elevation of 14,433 feet, making it the tallest peak in the mountain range. The popular Pikes Peak, the second most visited peak in the world, is only the 31st highest, rising 14,110 feet above sea level. Peak Bagger indicates that the Rockies are fairly gentle and require little technical mountaineering to climb, with the summit of Mount Elbert reachable by bicycle.

Animal Life -

Because the Rocky Mountain Range covers such a vast geographical area, the animals found in the mountains vary from location to location. The National Park Service indicates that Rocky Mountain National Park serves as the habitat to 66 mammal species, including the rare lynx and wolverine. Above the tree line, small pikas live in the rocky crevices of the mountains. Black bears, coyotes, elk, marmots, mountain lions, bighorn sheep and moose also live in Rocky Mountain National Park. Banff National Park in Canada has numerous bighorn sheep as well as hoary marmots, grizzly and black bears and the golden mantled ground squirrel, among other creatures.

Length -

The Rocky Mountain Range actually represents a series of more than 100 separate mountain ranges, rather than one uninterrupted mountain chain. These ranges stretch through New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, and also extend into British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. The entire series of mountain ranges measures approximately 3,000 miles.

Boundaries -

The southern edge of the range sits in central New Mexico, with the Liard River in Canada serving as the northern boundary. On the east, I-25 serves as the boundary in the US. The Rocky Mountain Trench serves as the western edge in Canada. The western edge in the United States is not well defined, as the mountains gradually merge into the Great Basin desert regions.

National Parks -

Because of the vast expanse covered by the Rocky Mountain Range, it holds several national parks. On the Canadian side, Banff, Kootenay, Yoho and Jasper National Parks protect the landscape and wildlife of the Rocky Mountains. Canada also has three provincial parks, Mount Robson, Mount Assiniboine and Hamber, along the Rockies. On the US side, the Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Glacier National Park and the Royal Gorge Park, among others, all give guests the opportunity to explore the Rockies.

- USA Today

Road Report – Part 2

Stay tuned for part 2 in April 1st newsletter – John Nelson

Firewise –

As we all know, our precipitation amounts for this winter season are down substantially from whatever the "normal" is for our area. The snowfall on January 21st helped but didn't bring us back to the "comfort zone". As we all also know, our biggest snowfalls are yet to come in March and April extending on into May (when we least want it). With this said, it's a good reminder that forest fires can happen anytime of the year.

We all like to take a vacation from our fire mitigation efforts this time of year but it's not too early to be planning ahead for the spring and summer efforts. Consider using the Jefferson County Slash program or the Elk Creek Fire District chipper program. If you could use some neighborhood help in your mitigation efforts, let me know and I'll help organize that.

Also in case you're wondering - I am aware that our Firewise sign is missing from our Elk Falls entrance sign. It apparently broke loose during one of our high wind days a few weeks ago but we do have the sign and I'll get it back in place this spring.

Bob Fletcher Robertbfletcher68@gmail.com.

Featured Mountain Animal Facts

By: Your Name Here Kids

Hey, do we have some kids that would like to write an article?

Five things you didn't know about porcupines.

- They are the third largest rodents in the world and second largest in North America. Beaver is second place and capybara is first place.
- When a porcupine is threatened it tenses up and attacks with the swat of its tail. Approximately 30,000 quills.
- There are two different types of porcupines. Old World which live in Southern Europe, Asia, and Africa. New World is indigenous to North America and Northern South America.
- Old World porcupines are not good climbers but are excellent swimmers. New World porcupines are good climbers and can cling to trees with their tails.
- Porcupine quills are pre-medicated with a topical antibiotic, so the quill may not necessarily lead to infection. This is a defense mechanism to prevent accidental self-quilling.



For Sale –

Contact Mike Hensick 303-838-5493, or mthensick@gmail.com



Excellent Condition
Tectrix Personal Climber \$295.00
Multiple Programs and Readouts



Excellent Condition
LifeCore LC-R100 Rower \$945.00
Multiple Programs and Readouts



Quick Easy and Delicious – Asian Style Salmon Burgers

- 1 lb rough-chopped salmon
- 1 T black sesame seeds
- 2 heaping T garlic red chili paste
- 2 T sliced green onions
- 1 T soy sauce

Approximate measurements. Save some green onions for toppings.

Serve on grilled bun with mayo and thin sliced cucumber.

The Elk Falls Property Owners' Association is a non-profit corporation in good standing since 1965. The intent of the corporation is to preserve the integrity of the area and lifestyle.

The corporation was formed and incorporated for:

- 1. The promotion, improvement and protection of property values in the area represented by the Association by maintaining the area as a highly desirable single dwelling residential neighborhood possessing features of extraordinary value and improvement, maintenance and**
- 2. The repair of all roads and all ongoing maintenance within the area represented by Elk Falls Property Owners' Association.**

Do you have a column you want to write, something you want to share, a story you want to tell?

Send it to cg@ChristineGroves.us by the 21st of odd numbered months and we will get it in the next newsletter. Newsletters are published the first day of even numbered months. Next publication - February 1st.

love to color –

