

MRR Newsletter

Madison River Ranch Association

Spring, 2016



From the President's Corner John Clark

It is on a sad note that I begin this segment of the newsletter. Jeanne Hardy, one of the first owners on the Ranch, passed away last November from injuries she sustained in a car accident while in Montana. Jeanne was a very active resident of Madison River Ranch and she and her brother Jack spent many years enjoying their time in the valley. They were one of the few who lived year round on the Ranch through a number of winters. Jeanne and Jack mowed and maintained the common area for many years as volunteers. I think Jeanne only missed one annual meeting in 25 years and she always made her opinion known about issues concerning the Ranch. She was always a pleasure to be around and I will miss her presence and the conversations I enjoyed having with her. Jeanne will truly be missed.

Mike Wells has decided not to run for another term on the Association Board. I would like to personally thank Mike for the many years of voluntary service he has given to Madison River Ranch. Mike has been responsible for weed control for many years and spent many hours of his own time spraying herbicide to control the noxious weeds. He has also been in charge of the road maintenance and with a limited budget he has worked with our contractor to maintain the roads in excellent condition. Mike also served as the Association's President and did an excellent job establishing a community feel to the Ranch by encouraging all owners

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Madison River Ranch Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2016

Location:

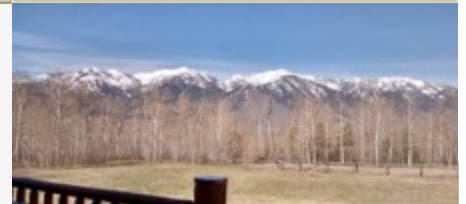
Restored Schoolhouse
3 Dollar Ranch, Cliff Lake

Business Meeting: 10:00 am

Lunch will be provided after
the meeting.

Work party: 2:00-5:00

Please come and participate!



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John Clark: continued from page 1

to engage each other as good and caring neighbors. I plan to continue to seek his advice on Ranch matters as he is passionate about the place we all love. I hope Mike enjoys his extra time to spend with his grandchildren, fishing and hunting. When you see him around the Ranch please give him your thanks.

This year's annual meeting will again be in the restored schoolhouse on Three Dollar Ranch in the Cliff Lake ghost town. The membership enjoyed the historic surroundings last year and we hope to continue to use the building in the future. We will start at 10:00 am and lunch will be provided after the meeting, so please try to attend and bring a side dish to share with your neighbors.

Madison River Ranch continues to be one of the premier developments in the Madison valley and is operating well. It seems more owners are spending time on the Ranch and we have a good sense of community that I hope continues to develop. Take the time to meet and get to know your neighbors as that will help alleviate the chances of conflicts as our community grows. If there are issues you would like the Board to address please contact us.

Hope to see you this summer in Big Sky Country.



Jeanne and Sterling visiting with Jodi and John Clark

Reflections on Jeanne Hardy...by Martha Crawley

When we bought our property Jeanne and Jack were about the first people we met, and nobody could have been more gracious and welcoming. In the early years, when I was putting out the newsletter, Jeanne would fill me in, especially during the winter, on what animals and birds they had seen on the ranch, weather, and any other news the homeowners would want to know about. Without their input there wouldn't have been much of a newsletter. Jack made and installed at the appropriate intersections all the wooden street signs we have to this day.

Jeanne turned 90 last summer, and her birthday party was a highlight of the summer. I am so glad she was able to share so many years with Sterling, her fiancée and life-long friend.

She will be sadly missed.

Salmon fly Sampling Research

There will be a graduate student from Montana State University conducting research along the common area stretch of the Madison this summer. She will be placing traps (see picture) along the edge of the river to trap emerging salmon flies to sample their population. There may also be sticky traps placed in the willows to trap other flying insects to determine the different species of insects along the riverbank. The traps will be marked so please do not disturb or tamper with them. The Association has given her permission to park in the common area

and she does have a parking hang tag. Her name is Heidi and if you see her along the river please make her feel welcome.



Introducing... Dana and Jim Dawson



until they finally started losing their "groove" after playing at our wedding some 30 plus years later. In addition to Jim, the piano teacher also shared that same love of fishing the Madison River with my dad, opening up both of our families to a lifetime of summers in the valley, the river, rodeos, and all things Montana. Jim's family stayed at the West Fork Cabins every year, mine in the Madison Valley Cabins, and we both had nearly the same view as we do now from our place on the MRR. When we first looked out at the beautiful view from the Oxbow we felt like we had come home.

We bought the Oxbow five years ago and have spent as much time as possible enjoying it. Our kids like to debate about who loves it the most. We've spent three Christmas holidays at the cabin and love bringing everything in on snowmobiles. We built a sauna on the property last summer and had a most wonderful Christmas Eve getting so hot that we ran outside and jumped in the snow! We stay as long as schedules allow in summertime, although it's never long enough for Jim who always wants to catch one last fish. I'm guessing he's fished enough to have caught lots of fish twice!

When we aren't on the Ranch we live in Northern California, having just moved from the suburbs into the heart of San Francisco. It's probably the absolute opposite of the MRR! Jim works in tech, at a venture firm, and is working on a new startup while I volunteer with a non-profit that provides healthy food to critically ill, lower income people in the city. We have 4 children, 2 sons-in-law, and 2 grandsons. Our family is spread out; we have a daughter in college in NYC, a son who happened to be in the top 24 of American Idol this year (James VIII in case you were watching), a daughter and son-in law in Austin, TX working and in grad school, and a daughter, son-in-law and grandsons living in Palo Alto, also busy in school and all things toddler.

We are all looking forward to this summer on the Madison. Hope to see you all there!

Dana and Jim

The Dawson family loves Montana and we love the Madison River! Like in the book, it has run through our lives since Jim and I were kids. Growing up in Ogden, when he was 8 years old, Jim's piano teacher started teaching him about everything that, as a kid, he thought was important... salmon flies, Rainbows and Browns, and the Madison River; but very little about playing the piano. That same piano teacher had started his own band when he was in high school with a very cool drummer, my dad, and they played together



Madison Trout and Temperature

Gene Welch

This is largely a repeat from Fall 2011, but revised with new information in 2016. It may be more about temperature and fish than many of you wanted to know. However, if you care about trout, and especially in the Madison, here are some facts that may interest you. The Madison is rather special having an extensive, ongoing temperature monitoring and fish kill prevention effort.

Temperature is probably the most important environmental variable that regulates reproduction, growth, survival and distribution of fish populations. Being poikilothermic (i.e., cold-blooded), a fish's body temperature varies with the ambient water temperature. As cold-water species, trout have thermal requirements that are lower than most other freshwater fish. There are species differences, but generally trout prefer temperature in the range of 53-65F, which is also optimal for growth and activity. Above or below that range they will be much less active, which is of interest to fisher people. At higher temperature there is little or no energy left for growth after normal metabolic demands, so remaining active above their optimum is not energy efficient - and they are smarter than that. Continuous exposure to about 75F for four days is usually lethal.

Temperature is extremely important in the Madison, because the river reaches maximums that exceed the usual preferred range in the upper river and lethal levels in the lower river downstream from Ennis Reservoir. Thermally caused fish kills have occurred in the lower river in the past; the last was in 1988. To manage river temperature and prevent a thermal fish kill in the lower river, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) continuously records water temperature at 15 sites throughout the river's length from April-October and air temperature at 7 sites. Operators of the two hydro dams have funded this work for more than 20 years - first by Montana Power and more recently PPL Montana as mandated by their FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Comm.) license.

Maximum river temperatures usually occur in late July and early August. Average maximum during the warmest 14-day period at three up-river sites in 2010 was 69F with only about 1F variation among the sites. The average maximum was about the same in 2015 for the warmest two weeks. The sites are at Kirby (upstream of the West Fork), Wall Creek and McAtee bridge. The highest summer maximum averaged 71F for the three sites in 2010. So trout in the upper river were exposed to high temperatures well above their optimal range for an

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Cooking With Martha

Happy Spring Montana Neighbors!

Gypsies that we are, we are in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the month of April, and it is a gorgeous spring here! I am sharing my recipe for Fried Chicken with you this month. I made this for a picnic when Dave and I were first dating, I was 17, he was 19. He says the hook was set that day.

I have tried tinkering with this recipe over the years, and the only improvement I made was shaking the chicken pieces in flour a second time. It's not a hard recipe, but you must be patient, both in letting the oil come up to temperature, and in the browning phase. You also have to resign yourself to using a bunch of vegetable oil.

Martha's Fried Chicken

Sprinkle chicken pieces liberally with garlic salt and celery salt (use legs, thighs and wings – breasts are too thick and don't turn out well)

Shake chicken, one or two pieces at a time, in a plastic bag with flour in it. Set pieces aside for 10 minutes.

Heat oil (any vegetable oil, but not olive oil) to 375, I use an electric skillet (much easier to regulate temperature). Oil should be a depth of about 1 inch. When oil is preheated, shake chicken pieces again in flour and place in oil, not crowding. You will probably have to do it in batches. Place the lid to your electric skillet askew on the top so the oil doesn't pop out all over the place.

Fry chicken to golden brown on one side – be patient! – turn and fry other side to golden.

Remove to an ovenproof dish in single layer. I set a rack (like a cooling rack) over a baking sheet so the extra oil drains off. I bake it on that too. *

Place in 325 oven for about 45 minutes or until hot through, and serve. Refrigerate leftovers uncovered until completely chilled.

Enjoy!

*At this point you can refrigerate the chicken, uncovered, for several hours. When ready to serve, bake as directed, but a bit longer, or until hot through.

Gene Welch, *continued from page 2*

extended period in 2010, which was not the warmest summer in the past ten years; the summer maximums at the upriver sites in 2007 averaged 2F higher (73F) and 74.3F in 2015, the highest recorded since monitoring began in 1994.

Fortunately for the trout, summer clear nights in MT are cool causing substantially lower daily minimum water temperatures. The average daily minimum for the same 14-days in 2010 was 57F at the three up-river sites. That represents a 12F difference between average maximum and average minimum, which was about the same as the average of daily differences. The low nighttime temperature allows the fish a respite from the stressful daytime highs. As a result, trout growth and survival are dependent on the daily average temperature, more than the daily maximum. The average daily median temperature, which is similar to the daily average, was within the optimal range at 63F and for the three sites during the 14-day period in 2010. The average daily median was about 2F higher in 2015. This pattern is a clue to fisher people who wish to spend their time on the river when fish are most active. However, as we all know, action also depends on hatches.

Hebgen Reservoir also normally has a cooling effect on the river, because outflow is drawn from depth. Its outlet average daily median temperature during the warmest 15-day period in 2007 was 6F cooler than the inlet. However, water has been released from Hebgen at the surface since construction of a new intake began in 2012. Maximum temperature of water released over the past four years was about 5F higher than during 1996-2011. While temperature at the three sites downstream was about 2F higher during the last four years, the fish population apparently did not suffer because browns and rainbows greater than 12 inches at the Pine Butte site increased about 60 and 30%, respectively.

Thermal conditions for trout are not as pleasant down river from Ennis Reservoir. The 14-day average maximum at the Norris site was 76F in 2010 and the minimum was 68F, the former being lethal if it were continuous for four days, and the latter above the optimal range. The highest daily maximum was 78F in 2010 and 80F in 2007. Clearly there is a serious threat of a thermally caused fish kill in the lower river. Maximums were even another degree higher at sites farther down-river. The average diurnal range at Norris was 8F, so the average daily median for the 14-day period was 72F, not lethal, but well above the optimal range and 9F higher than the upriver average daily median of 63F.

A pulse-flow system was developed by MFWP and PPL Montana in 1994 to prevent thermal fish kills in the lower river. The system activates if maximum temperature

forecasted air maximum exceeds 80F at Three Forks (river mouth). Those conditions result in a pulse release of 1400 cfs (cubic feet/second) in early morning to cool the downstream reach by late afternoon. With incremental warming of the outlet up to 73F and next day predicted Three Forks air up to 95, pulse releases will increase to as high as 2400 cfs. Pulse releases were needed each year from 2000 to 2007, but not in 2008-2010. Water is released from Hebgen Reservoir to replace the water loss from Ennis Reservoir. There were 29 to 43 pulse releases in 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2013, while 12-18 releases occurred during six other summers including 2015. These releases drew down Hebgen 2.68 and 2.12 feet in 2003 and 2007, with lesser amounts the other years. Fisher people in the upper Madison may have noticed flow increases at times during warm spells in those years.

Madison River temperature may have increased over the past century. Air temperature has increased from 0.9 to 3.6F per century at nearly all of over a hundred monitoring sites in the Pacific Northwest during 1920 to 2000, and the Madison responds quickly to air temperature. However, the current record is not sufficiently long-term to detect a trend. The current river monitoring will be extremely valuable to determine any future trends. Not only are air temperatures expected to increase further in the future, summer stream flows in the Pacific Northwest are predicted to decrease substantially by the 2020s, because snowmelt will be earlier. Lower stream flows probably mean higher water temperature. This does not bode well for Madison River trout. It's fair to ask if future generations will enjoy the fishing experiences that we currently take for granted?

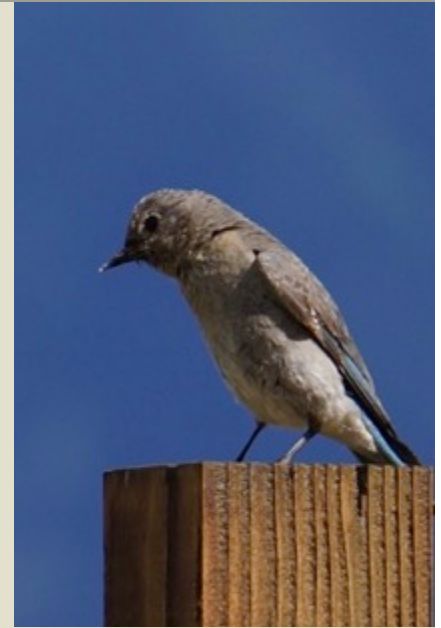
Gene Welch,
2016



Acknowledgement: The data discussed here were taken from annual reports by Pat Clancy and Travis Lohrenz, MFWP, and can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/fishAndWildlifeLibrarySearch.html>

Madison River Ranch Association Annual Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the members of Madison River Ranch Association, Inc. will be held at the Cliff Lake Village Schoolhouse on **Saturday, 25th day of June, 2016** from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. The Schoolhouse is located on Trumpeter Trail as you drive into the Ranch Common Area. Trumpeter Trail turns off the Cliff Lake/Wade Lake road as you come through the little ghost town area on the drive in to the ranch from the Hwy 287 turnoff. Last year's meeting seemed to be a success by holding it earlier in the day and having a potluck luncheon following the meeting, so we plan to repeat that same schedule again this year. The board will provide items for sandwiches but we would request owners to bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Mike Wells has chosen to retire from the board this year; therefore we have an opening for a new board member. Dana Dawson is the only new board volunteer we received and has been added to this year's ballot. Please be sure and return your board ballot by June 17th to Amy Hanson at Jennings Law as indicated on the ballot.

The **agenda** of the annual meeting follows:

- Welcome/Introductions
- Results of mailed ballot for current year vacancies on the Board of Directors
- Reports: Treasurer, Weeds, Roads, Wildlife, Capitol Improvements – Main Entry Gate replacement
- Old Business
 - Ranch capital improvements
 - Results of mailed ballot for last year's proposed dues increase
 - Future association dues
 - Board vacancies in 2017, request for future nominees
 - U.S. Postal Service mailboxes, UPS / FedEx deliveries
- Other Old Business
- New Business



Association Potluck Picnic Social

There will be a MRR Association Potluck Picnic Social in the Common Area on Saturday June 25th, from 1-2 p.m. immediately following the conclusion of the association meeting. The Association will be providing sandwiches and drinks, owners are encouraged to bring along a side dish or dessert.

Association Work Day Announcement

Saturday June 25th from 2 p.m.-5:00 p.m. For those available to help, we may choose to complete some of our annual upkeep chores in the ranch common area. Please bring weed eaters, gloves, shovels and other lawn tools.

MADISON RIVER RANCH ASSOCIATION

ELECTION INFORMATION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each MRR Association property owner will receive the notice of the annual meeting, information about the candidates running for election, the ballot, and a proxy for you to fill out if you are not going to be at the meeting. When you receive the information, please VOTE! Ballots must be turned in via email or mail by June 17th, 2016.

The Board members that are continuing are John Clark, Sue McMahan, and Frank Davis. Information about Pat Toalson, running for re-election, and Dana Dawson follows. You will vote for two people. There is space on the ballot for a write-in candidate if you so choose.

Pat Toalson

My name is Pat Toalson and I am running for another term as a board member on the Ranch's association board of directors. I currently serve as the Secretary for the Association. My wife, Deena and I have been owners of lots 93 & 94 on the Ranch since 1990 and built our log home on Lot 93 in 1998. We have spent several summer vacations and Christmas holidays since then on the ranch with our family. Last October we made the decision to move to Montana full time and will be living on the ranch this summer while we build a new home closer to Ennis where we can have year round access. My wife has retired and I will be retiring at the end of 2016 so we can spend more time fishing, hunting and exploring all of the places Montana has to offer. For the past 33 years I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Deena and I have three grown children who grew up on the ranch and love Montana. Chris and his wife now live in South Florida, Lauren and her husband in Chicago and our youngest Erin lives and works in Nashville TN. I look forward to helping serve the Madison River Ranch for one more term and continuing to make it the best piece of property in the Madison Valley.

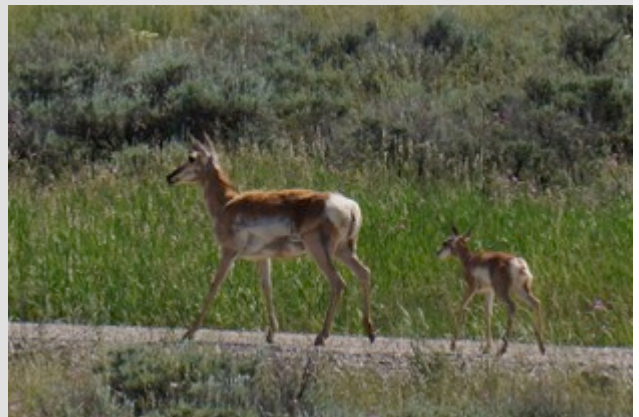
Dana Dawson

My love for the Madison Valley goes back more than 40 years, when my family first started taking our annual vacation from Utah to Montana so that my dad and grandpa could fish the river. Back then the \$3 Bridge was only the \$1 Bridge, and I remember walking from the Madison Valley Cabins with my sister all the way to the Slide Inn just to buy ice cream!

Today, our family includes my husband Jim, our four kids, two sons-in-law, and two grandsons. We all look forward to our annual migration north, to our home on the ranch. While Jim wades the river, I enjoy

enjoy riding my bike around Henry's Lake and hiking the beautiful trails on Sheep Mountain. At Christmastime the whole family loves to cross-country ski and ride snowmobiles through Yellowstone Park. Our time at the ranch is truly the highlight of the year for all of us.

Jim and I have moved many times, including to four different countries. For me, the best way to feel at home in a new location is to find a place to volunteer, and our travels have given me many opportunities to contribute to worthy causes. While I was busy raising my children I organized a non-profit summer camp for 100 teenage girls that ran for several years, which included numerous fundraising campaigns to help low income girls attend. As a recent graduate of San Francisco State University with a degree in Sociology, my eyes were again opened to new people and new ideas and I have found new avenues for donating service. Currently I volunteer every week at Project Open Hand, a non-profit that provides nutritious meals for the critically ill, homebound population, and also at Glide Memorial Transition Center, where we serve meals to the homeless. As my family and I spend more and more time in Montana, my desire to contribute has grown. I believe my life experiences working with people from all walks of life will greatly benefit our community at the Madison River Ranch. I am ready to do my part!



March Moisture

Spring Storms benefit Southwest Montana snowpack percentage
 Abigail Dennis, *The Madisonian*, Ennis, April 7, 2016

“The Upper Madison (River Basin) above Hebgen went from 85 percent of normal on March 1 to 92 percent of normal on April 1,” Lucas Zukiewicz, water supply specialist with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, said. “It’s really just one storm away from being normal at this point.”

Last year on April 1, the Upper Madison River Basin was only at 52 percent of normal, Zuliewicz added.

“Below Hebgen saw a little more moisture. It was 92 percent (of normal) on March 1 and improved to 105 percent of normal for April 1. Last year, it was only at 72 percent of normal at this time.”

He pointed out it is important to remember the area will still benefit from snowfall throughout April and into May. “The area is way ahead of where it was last year in terms of snowpack, but last year also brought below normal precipitation during spring and summer. “But if we’re taking a snapshot for today, we’re in better shape than we were last year,” he concluded.

3 Things you should know:

1. The new gate code is #1004
2. The combination of the UPS shed (just past the gate) is 5971
3. The combination code of the Fed Ex box (by the mailboxes) is 5971



**Madison River Ranch Association
 Board of Directors**

John Clark, President

Frank Davis, Vice-President

Sue McMahan, Treasurer

**Pat Toalson, Secretary
 Gates**

Mike Wells

Roads, Weeds and Common Area

Webmaster, Marv Gibbs

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

Newsletter Editor, Ann Costello

noniann@gmail.com

Don't forget to VOTE by June 17th

We need your help!

Writers are needed for the newsletter...about your area of interest ...fish, birds, other wildlife, the MRR area, ecology - whatever you are willing to share.

We also need volunteers for “Introducing...” to write about you, your family and how you became a property owner at the MRR.

Please contact Ann Costello, newsletter editor if you are willing to contribute: noniann@gmail.com

Thanks so much!

If you have moved, or have a new email address, please let us know so that our records can be updated.

Links

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

If you are one of the 20 property owners still receiving a black and white version of the MRR Newsletter by mail, we encourage you to sign up for electronic delivery. You will enjoy it much more in color! Go to the Madison River Ranch web site, click on the "Contact Us" tab, and sign in to make sure we have your correct email address. It is also posted on the website.

