

MRR Newsletter

Madison River Ranch Association

June 2017



From the President's Corner John Clark

Spring is rapidly turning into summer on the Ranch with warm days and cool nights. The Madison River is running high from an excellent snow pack, which is still at 130% of normal. The fishing has been reported as excellent and the elk migration is on the move.

This summer will see completion of the fencing in the common area, painting the log entries and road base added to the roads. The Board will continue to focus on maintaining the infrastructure of the Ranch for all to use and enjoy.

As the Board is preparing for the annual meeting we are hopeful that as many owners as possible will attend. If you are not able to attend please take the time to send your proxy to whomever you chose to represent you at the meeting. Also, please return your ballot for the open Board position. Hope to see you in Big Sky Country this summer.

Madison River Ranch Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 2017

10:00 – 1:00

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Snow on the Crawley deck
May 18, 2017

Three Important things to remember:

1. **The 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**

Many thanks to Mickey Haney and David Crawley for contributing photographs for the newsletter. If you have photos you would be willing to share, please email them to noniann@gmail.com

Plan Ahead...

June 17

Deadline to return your ballot for the MRR Board of Directors.

Saturday, June 24

If you are not going to attend the MRR Association Annual Meeting, proxies must be returned prior to the start of the meeting.

- **MRR Association Annual Meeting**
 - 10:00 – 1:00
 - Cliff Lake Village Schoolhouse
- **Potluck Picnic**
 - 1:00 – 2:00
 - Please bring a side dish or dessert to share
- **Association Work Day**
 - 2:00 – 5:00



Planting Trees

On May 15, Madison River Foundation staff, volunteers and Bureau of Land Management staff collaborated on a willow and birch planting day. Five hundred cut willows, potted willows and birch trees were planted along the Madison River on BLM land.

The different plantings will test the most effective way to increase vegetation along the Madison River's main stem. Several of the plants will be fenced and others will be left without the fencing to compare the plots. The comparison will guide Madison River Foundation's plantings in 2018. The goal of the project is to help cool waters and increase shade for fish and wildlife.

*Submitted by Chelsea Pardo
to The Madisonian, May 25, 2017*

Dear Neighbors,

The Madison River Foundation is a 501(c), nonprofit organization wholly dedicated to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the

Madison River and its fishery. You may know it from the annual fly fishing festival held each year in Ennis, but the work the members undertake goes far beyond that.

Through mobilizing its members the foundation engages in boots in the dirt efforts to improve river habitat; planting willows, cleaning up river access sites, eradicating weeds, providing boot cleaning stations, etc. They also support several science based studies and initiatives including active water quality monitoring and the funding of multi-year scientific studies on both insects and fish.

As the only advocacy entirely dedicated to "our" river, the foundation engages with any group or organization that has an interest in or an impact on the health and welfare of the Madison. That includes engagement with Montana FWP, Northwest Energy, developers, ranchers, farmers, local businesses, and the communities that exist along the river. The foundation's efforts are all aimed to insure that the Madison River always has a seat at the table on any subject that has the potential to impact the river and the fishing.

The reason for my note is to ask for your support. If there is one common denominator among the owners in the Madison River Ranch, it has to be the feelings that we hold for our river. As the source of so many great family memories, Dana and I have been very interested in insuring our kids, and their kids, the same enjoyment here as we've had.

Any river, by definition, is a finite resource; and as we live in a growing and changing world, the pressures on that finite resource will only increase. Whether that is due to drought or increased fishing pressures or something around the corner that no one can see yet, the need for the Madison River to have an advocate and a clear voice has never been more important.

Please take a look at the website at

<http://madisonriverfoundation.org> and, if you feel so inclined, please join. With an extremely small overhead, the foundation puts almost everything it raises straight back into meeting its mission. This year's annual funding raising event, held on the evening of our annual meeting, is called Catch the Hatch. It is always a very fun evening and the entertainment will be provided by James VIII (our kid) and the River Band. It will be held at the Jumping Horse Barn in Jeffers, details are on the web site. If you are interested and can make it, Dana and I would love to see you there. The river, and the foundation, have never needed your support more. *Jim Dawson*



Introducing... The Haney Family

Lot 28, 44 Homestead Trail So, on the ridge overlooking Wade Lake

My name is George M. Haney (officially) but I have always gone by my nickname *Mickey* (from my middle name Michael) because my father was also named George (G. E. Haney). He was born and raised in Butte and my mother was Alice Jensen from Kenmare, North Dakota. My father became Butte High School principal and City Superintendent throughout the 1940's and 1950's. I was raised in Butte also through my Elementary and High School years in the 40's and 50's. I had a sister and all of us used to camp, hike, and fish many times at Wade & Cliff Lakes 60-70 years ago. My sister remembered a time when the Cliff Lake Post Office was still in operation I believe in the late 30's to early 40's. That was a time, before the Big Earthquake (which, incidentally, we felt at night in our beds in Butte, a hundred miles away), when it was quite common to catch fish on Cliff in the 3-5 pound range. We either stayed at the Wade Lake Lodge cabins (under different management than the current Dave & Lori Schmidt) or camped at a campsite with a tent (no camping trailers/RVs/motor homes). We occasionally fished the Madison also, without a "catch & release" policy, but fished the Lakes more often. I had an uncle that didn't like to fish so he would hike around the rim of the lakes (mostly Wade) while we fished. He would walk the game trails.

Well, as I was thinking about a retirement place 26 years ago (1989), after many years in the Aerospace business (but still working) in the Los Angeles area my wife, four daughters, and I were driving through this area after a vacation on the Salmon & Snake Rivers in Idaho. I found out about the property for sale at the Madison River Ranch and flew from Los Angeles to Bozeman for the opening day sale on Labor Day weekend and ended up buying Lot 28. My oldest daughter came with me. I was still working full-time but after a few years and talking with a few contractors ended up getting a contractor from Big Sky to build our little place over a 3-summer time frame 1993-1995. We bought the lot on the ridge overlooking Wade Lake because I had all those memories from childhood fishing on Wade (and Cliff) and with my uncle walking the ridge line meant that he had walked thru the property which Lot 28 was a part of. I remember one of the stories another one of my uncles used to talk about one of trips there. One night while we were all sleeping in a big family tent my uncle rolled over in his sleeping bag and his hand touched the head and hair of my mother and he woke up startled and yelled "Bear, Bear in the tent, everyone out!" Of course we all woke up in a panic and ran out of the tent and eventually had a big laugh over the big ordeal.

Our cabin on the ridge was finished by the contractor in July 1995 and my wife (Angeles), four daughters, eight grandchildren, and other family and friends have been vacationing there off and on now for 20 years. Our lot is right next to an original 2-acre place owned by the Schendels who bought the land from the ranch owner (supposedly some relative relationship) many years before the purchase by Yellowstone Basin Properties and then eventually the MRR. Chet & Kitty Schendel were from Three Forks and we became very good friends with them over the last two



decades. Chet & Kitty passed away a couple of years ago but their children are still using their place, Bruce Schendel being the main person. My wife had never fished before and wasn't very interested until I finally got her to hold a pole in her hand for a while and when she hooked on to her "first fish", well, she was hooked. We fish the lakes more than the rivers but we also go all over the Southwestern Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming area on various outings and adventures. The grandchildren really enjoy going though the

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The Haney Family...

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the Park. We have the original utilities of propane (gas tank rental), electricity (entirely solar and house batteries), water (3000 gallon stainless steel cistern, obtaining water from the MRR community well), and telephone/internet (via a buried fiber-optic cable from 3-Rivers Telephone, connecting to the line supplying the Wade Lake Resort 20 years ago, at a surprisingly low cost). But no TV, even to this date. We have been blessed with good fortune over these twenty years to-date with many good times, beautiful scenery, fishing outings, and visits by animals, etc. In May when we arrive to "open" the place up for the summer we often have many visits by elk, deer, and antelope (Pronghorn) that especially like to just hang out on the property casually looking at us and wondering what we are doing there on their land. I don't blame them. With my parents originally introducing me to this area many years ago, and now my grandchildren growing up knowing this country, that makes four generations of our family truly enjoying Montana -- "The Last Best Place" indeed!

Mickey

Editor Note:

My sincere apologies to Frank Davis and Laura Haston for misspelling Laura's last name in the March edition. *Ann*



Cooking With Martha

Judy's Burritos

Seriously, it almost takes longer to read this recipe than make these (except for the crock pot part). They are super easy. My sister-in-law, Judy Crawley Burvant, used to make these with just the meat, which is also my preference, and take them with them camping. I've added my own touches over the years, but the basic idea is the same. It's a great way to put lunches or dinners in your freezer to pull out whenever you want a quick meal.

Rump roast, 2 ½ or 3 lbs.

Salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder

Green chili sauce, or green taco sauce (2 cups)

Flour tortillas

Franks hot sauce to taste

Refried beans (optional)

Shredded cheese (optional)

Salsa and sour cream

Rub the roast with the salt, pepper, garlic and onion powder. Put meat in crockpot, add about ½ cup water, and cook on low for 10 to 12 hours (I do it overnight). Remove meat from pot and let it cool enough to handle, then scrape the fat off and shred it with your fingers into a bowl. Stir in a little of the delicious broth from the crockpot, and the green chili sauce (I use La Victoria green taco sauce) to taste. Add salt if needed, and Franks Hot Sauce (give it a few shakes – it improves almost everything, even if you don't add enough to make it spicy). At this point the meat should taste delicious and well seasoned.

Warm the tortillas in the microwave until soft. You can wrap them in a clean kitchen towel to do this.* Working with one tortilla at a time, spread with refried beans if using, place meat mixture on lower third of the tortilla, add cheese if using, fold in the corners and roll up. Place seam-side down, and brush with butter. I use about 1/3 cup of the meat mixture per tortilla, but feel free to make them bigger if you have big eaters in your family.

If you are serving them right away, place in a buttered casserole, cover with foil, and heat at about 325-350. To freeze for later, wrap each burrito in foil and seal. Put in a plastic bag in the freezer, then when you need a quick lunch or dinner, take out as many as you need. Put them in the oven, still wrapped in their foil, at 400 for about 40 minutes, or until hot through. I can't tell you exactly how many this will make, but I always get about a dozen. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

*I have a La Tortilla Oven (not really an oven, but a padded sleeve the size of the tortillas). Look them up online if you're interested. They work great – you heat the tortillas in them in the microwave, and they keep them hot for a long time, longer than the towel does. They come in two sizes. But the kitchen towel works just as well for this recipe.

Enjoy! *Martha Crawley*



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!



Madison River Ranch Association Board of Directors

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(Lot 7)

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Webmaster, Marv Gibbs
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Newsletter Editor, Ann Costello
noniann@gmail.com



Bighorn Sheep at Quake Lake

Bighorn sheep can often be seen just outside of West Yellowstone, primarily along US Highway 287 west toward Ennis. Driving along the winding roads past Hebgen and Quake lakes, you often see sheep either in the road, licking the pavement or on the steep hillsides nearby.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) have been monitoring the sheep in the Taylor-Hilgard range, including those by Quake Lake, since 1988. "We have a native herd that has been augmented down by Quake Lake, and we are trying to make sure they stay healthy," according to a FWP wildlife biologist Julie Cunningham. Cunningham and FWP take a lot of biological, political and social factors into consideration before introducing the sheep anywhere, most recently to Wolf Creek. The transplanted sheep have explored new winter and summer ranges, and have migrated to Indian Creek and Bad Luck Creek, but their distribution is constantly evolving.

The FWP recent report counted 155 sheep in the Taylor-Hilgard herd, which is one of seven research herds in Montana. FWP utilizes GPS collars to monitor the herds in hopes to understand how bighorn sheep use their environment and how it relates to disease risk. The research will be used to create habitat models and help expand bighorn sheep range in the state.

Bighorn sheep are native to Montana and spend their time on steep hillsides and cliffs, where most predators, like wolves, can't get them. The only animals that can take down bighorns are cougars. Don't get too close to bighorn sheep or mountain goats, especially when they are breeding. Give them a good amount of space, at all times of the year.

Information from Dustin Jones, The Madisionian, May 25, 2017

Photo from National Wildlife Federation

If you move, or get 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 18 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. The newsletter is also posted on the website.