

MRR Newsletter

Madison River Ranch Association

March 2017



The MRR Association Board Meeting, June 2016:

Left to right: Dana Dawson, Sue McMahon, John Clark, Pat Toalson, Frank Davis

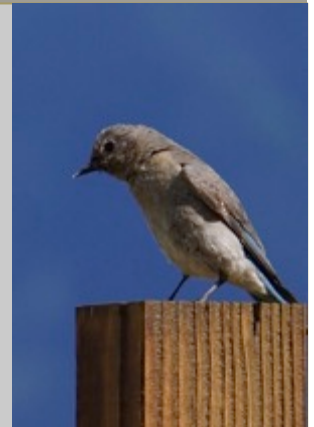
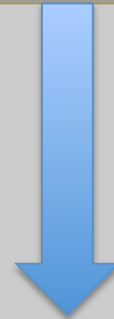
From the President's Corner

John Clark

Winter is coming to end in the Rocky Mountains and fortunately it has been generous with the snow pack. I'm sure those of you who live in California are happy with some relief from the drought conditions. Montana is averaging 130-140 percent above annual snow pack, with the Madison drainage at 139% as of March 13. This should bode well for filling the reservoirs and giving the fish plenty of cold water to thrive in this coming season. I look forward to seeing my neighbors in the common area and enjoying the beautiful Madison River together.

For those of you who did not spend time on the Ranch this fall you will be happily surprised to find a "paved road" to the Ranch when you return. The county finally addressed the poor county road conditions by resurfacing the road with asphalt millings from the road-resurfacing project on highway 87 and highway 287 at our end of the county. They re-graded the county road and removed a lot of the rocks in and alongside it and then spread and compacted the asphalt millings from the highway to the

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SAVE THE DATE
MRR Association Meeting
Saturday, June 24, 2017
We hope to see you there!

John Clark *Continued from page 1*

main entrance of the ranch. The project occurred a little later in the season than was optimum so the millings did not have a chance to compact with the warm summer sun and there are still some washboard areas. I spoke with the county engineer in charge of the project and he informed me they will be back this summer to smooth out some of the rough spots. All in all, it is a nice upgrade and hopefully will withstand the increased traffic we have seen accessing Wade and Cliff Lakes the past few years. I would like to thank all the owners who contacted the county and kept the pressure on them to improve the road conditions, your perseverance paid off!

The common fence between Sundance Ranch and Madison River Ranch was replaced last fall and will serve us well for years to come. The contractor did a nice job installing a wildlife friendly fence with barbless wire and the heights are set for easy access for both elk (top wire) and antelope (bottom wire). There is also a gate that can be left open in the fall and spring to allow the animals to migrate freely. The project to replace the fence from the common area gate to the river will be completed in May. We will be cost sharing with Three Dollar Ranch and using the same contractor. This should be the last big fencing project for quite a while as we have replaced all the perimeter fencing over the last ten or so years.

I would like to welcome all the new owners on the Ranch. We have had ten lots change hands in the past year. As all of us who own a place on Madison River Ranch know, it is a little piece of paradise and we welcome our new neighbors. If you see a new owner please take the time to introduce yourself and make them feel a part of our community.

I look forward to another year spending time on the Ranch and hope to see all the owners at the annual meeting on June 24. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact any of the Board members via the Ranch website: www.madisonriverranch.org.

**Daniel Hugh Hanson**

Daniel Hugh Hanson passed away on Sept. 14, 2016, after a valiant struggle against cancer. Dan was born on May 15, 1935 on a horse ranch in Slope County, North Dakota. He was the fourth child of Harold Hanson and Gina (Haarsager) Hanson.

After many days of snakes and ornery ponies, the dust bowl finally drove the family off the ranch. They moved to the Gallatin Valley in 1940, coaxed here by a friend.

Dan fell in love with the Valley on day one. He thought going on vacation was to head over to Madison County. Dan was one to work. He started contract irrigating at 14, and after finishing high school in Bozeman, he started carrying hod for an Idaho masonry contractor working on one of the buildings at the college. Before long Dan became hodcarrier foreman and in charge of tracking daily production. When winter came, Dan partnered with Dean Marks building fireplaces. They formed an incorporated company, Marks and Hanson in 1959. The company is still laying brick, block, and stone. Dan never gave in to retirement, but in the last couple years, his son Brendan has been taking over much of the work. If you are in Bozeman you are almost always in eyesight of a building Marks and Hanson was part of, including much of the airport, local hospitals, and numerous schools.

Dan was an avid hunter, dirt biker, camper and snowmobiler. In the spring of 1994, he started building a cabin over on the Madison near Cliff and Wade Lakes. It became his obsession. A very peaceful place to spend time in any season. Dan was charming, a wonderful storyteller, with a great sense of humor. A good guy to hang out with.

From the Bozeman newspaper, submitted by John Clark



Introducing... The Clark Family



John discovered Madison River Ranch while on a fishing trip with an Air Force fishing buddy in November 1989. They used the excuse of “looking at property” to fish a couple of days on the Madison. They had the pick of the Ranch since only a few lots had sold at the time but between two young Air Force fighter pilots they barely had enough money in their savings account to cover the down payment. John came home to Jody with the news that they had emptied their savings on a piece of Big Sky Country! Needless to say that did not go over so well.

The next summer we spent our vacation in the Madison valley and Yellowstone, which has been our annual pilgrimage ever since, and Jody fell in love with the Ranch. Between Air Force assignments, airline jobs and multiple moves we finally settled in Evergreen, Colorado in 1996. With two young boys to raise, Josh and Jeremy who are now 28 and 24, we decided to build a small cabin that we could come to in the summer. The two of us did all the work building our little one room fishing cabin while we enjoyed hiking, camping, and teaching the boys to fly fish. Montana was where we spent our family time raising our sons while John was flying for United Airlines and Jody was teaching secondary math.

The more time we spent on the Ranch the more we realized it was the place we wanted to be. In 2013, after raising two boys to be on their own and surviving the airline industry after 9/11, we decided to build our retirement home a few years early. After dreaming and planning to build a log home to fit our needs we broke ground in April and were actively involved in the building process, doing as much of the work as possible. We are now experts with a staining brush and John is pretty good at laying tile. We have been fortunate to spend more time on the Ranch in our dream home over the past few years. Our younger son, Jeremy, now calls Montana home. He has become an expert at catching large brown trout and helps manage the Slide Inn fly fishing shop. Our older son, Josh, lives and works in Colorado.

After meeting in college 36 years ago and being married for 32 years, we are enjoying our spot in “The Last Best Place” and hope to call Montana home during retirement. One thing that has not changed is that the more time we are on the Ranch, the more we hate to leave. We have made



many friendships over the years and look forward to seeing our neighbors every year as well as making new friends with all the new owners. If you are ever in the neighborhood please stop by and say hello.

John and Jody

Introducing.... Frank Davis and Laura Halston



We have longtime Madison River Ranch denizen Chris Costello to thank for introducing us to the ranch in summer 2001. After a sublime week of hiking, fishing and canoeing in the Madison Valley and Yellowstone National Park, it was just a question of where to build our summer cabin. A year later we co-purchased Lot 34B on Gravelly Trail with Frank's brother Greg and sister-in-law Carol. With help from friends (especially Chris!) and family we managed to "finish"

our log cabin over the next few summers. We continue to make annual pilgrimages to the Madison Valley from our home in Santa Barbara, California, while Greg and his family do the same from Baltimore.

During our time on the ranch we have made many new friends and developed a strong sense of community with our MRR neighbors. We are committed to maintaining the traditional character and environmental integrity of the Madison River Ranch. Frank has served on the MRR Board since 2010, first as Secretary and now as Vice-President.

You could call a vacation in Montana something of a busman's holiday for Frank, who has been doing forest ecology and rangeland research in the mountains of California since 1983. Frank is a professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara, where much of his research and teaching has focused on environmental land planning, plant ecology, and the ecological effects of climate change.

Laura also spent much of her career in academia, first as a Geography professor at CalState Northridge teaching Geography and Climatology and then as an Assistant Dean at UCSB's Bren School. Now she is a fulltime fitness instructor teaching yoga and Pilates. Having fished since an early age and having studied climatology for her Ph.D., Laura is right at home in Big Sky country.

Daughter Jessica has been coming to the Madison Valley since the age of seven. This year she graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a dual major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics as well as Government. She is passionate about political philosophy and constitutional theory, and is currently a Research Analyst for the Tobin Project, a social science research center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

We come to Montana to hike, fly fish, watch the weather, and soak up the power and beauty of Montana's landscapes and wildlife. Our cabin on the Madison River Ranch serves as a cozy base camp to the Greater Yellowstone region. Favorite local hikes include Avalanche Lake, Sheep Lake, Coffin Lake, and Hidden Lake, although every year we find additional great hikes in the Madison and Gallatin valleys. When we are not hiking we are fishing the local lakes and rivers. We are always happy to trade hiking and fishing tips!



Hebgen Dam Restoration



Construction on the Hebgen Lake Dam has been ongoing for the last eight years, but there is an end in sight. “2017, hopefully, marks the final year for the project,” said Butch Larcombe, media contact for NorthWestern Energy.

The dam was completed in 1915, but the Earthquake in 1959 shook things up. Repairs to the dam’s concrete core and the road concluded in 1960. In 2005, the intake was identified as needing to be brought up to seismic standards. Then in 2008, some stoplogs failed and there was an uncontrolled release of water, which accelerated the need for the project.

In 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission required that the dam undergo major repairs to meet current safety standards. The repairs would take place in three phases: the dam intake – where water enters the dam,

controlling the intake flow; the spillway – which helps control the level of water in the reservoir; and the outlet pipe – which returns water to the river below the dam.

The intake phase was the most complicated and took several years to complete. NorthWestern Energy is nearing completion of the second phase, the spillway, and hopes to finish construction by early March. After the spillway is complete, they will begin work on the outlet pipe, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

The location of the dam makes construction difficult, which is why the project is taking as long as it is, said Larcombe. The isolated location and elevation of the reservoir greatly impact the construction on the dam. If the water levels are too low the workers cannot redirect the water to the spillway from the drainpipe and vice versa. “We are at the mercy of mother nature as far as what we can get done each year,” he said. “We are doing the best we can.”

In the spring, as early as the reservoir level and runoff allows, NorthWestern Energy will divert the normal Madison River flow to the newly completed spillway, which will allow work inside the outlet pipe. The outlet pipe is a 500 foot long, 12 foot diameter concrete pipe with a wood-stave lining that serves as a conduit for normal river flow from the intake structure. The outlet pipe traverses through the dam itself and is more than 100 years old. The wood-stave lining of the pipe will be removed and a new lining consisting of reinforced concrete applied as shotcrete will be installed. The project is anticipated to require four to six months to complete.

The water that exits the spillway tends to be warmer than the water that exits through the outlet pipe at the bottom of the dam. The change in water temperature is something that concerns fishermen, but most people understand the dam construction is necessary.

“The fish populations are doing well,” according to Dave Moser, a fisheries biologist with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. “They are exceeding or at long term averages. According to the data FWP have collected, the construction of the dam has not harmed the fish populations. FWP would prefer if water was not release from the top of the dam, but understands engineering requirements are inflexible, and that the dam is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. FWP, local fishermen and NorthWestern Energy all agree on one thing – they are all anxious for the dam to be fixed and construction to end.

Adapted from articles by: Abigail Dennis, *The Madisonian*, January 19, 2017; Dustin Jones, *West Yellowstone Star*, March 2, 2017



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



Madison River Ranch Association Board of Directors

John Clark, President
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Dana Dawson
(Lot 64)

Webmaster, Marv Gibbs
<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

Newsletter Editor, Ann Costello
noniann@gmail.com

Cooking With Martha

Hi MRR neighbors,

My recipe this time is one I found on the internet, and is from Ina Garten, the "Barefoot Contessa." I always thought Risotto had sort of a mystique about it – all that tedious stirring, the special rice, etc., but using this recipe it's easy and only a little stirring at the very end! You do have to use the Arborio rice. You should be able to find it at any grocery store these days. This risotto is so creamy and delicious. I could make a meal on just that, if I didn't live with a carnivore who thinks no meal is a meal without meat.

See you in the spring!

Easy Parmesan Risotto (Recipe from Ina Garten)

1 ½ c. Arborio rice
5 c. simmering chicken stock, divided
1 c. fresh grated Parmesan cheese
½ c. dry white wine
3 T. unsalted butter, diced
2 t. kosher salt
1 t. freshly ground pepper
1 c. frozen peas

Preheat oven to 350.

Add rice to 4 c. simmering chicken stock in a Dutch oven (anything that can go from stovetop to oven, with a lid, works). Cover and bake 45 minutes, until most of the moisture is absorbed and the rice is al dente. Remove from oven and add the remaining cup of hot chicken stock, the Parmesan, wine, butter, salt and pepper and stir vigorously for 2-3 minutes, until rice is thick and creamy. Add peas and serve hot.

Tips: If you don't happen to have an open bottle of white wine, or don't want to open one for a recipe, I've found those little bottles you can buy in 4-packs work fine. I keep them on hand for recipes, and the bottles hold about the right amount, maybe 6 oz. or so. This is delicious with the Parmesan, but I have used other cheeses (I'm a big one for using what I have on hand) and it always turns out great.

Enjoy! *Martha Crawley*

Links

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

If you are one of the 18 property owners 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.