

# Madison River Ranch Newsletter

Madison River Ranch Association

March 1, 2020



## From the desk of MRR Board President John Graifemberg

The winter weather conditions this year appear to be typical for the MRR. The combined snow/water levels for Madison County are at 100% of normal. River flows and fishing are expected to be good this season.

All 13 miles of MRR roads and the commons parking area were graded last year. We also added another half mile of road base on Flatiron Trail. The process of laying additional road base will continue, based on various roads conditions and traffic levels.

3 Rivers Communications completed the first phase of their cat 5 infrastructure system last fall. They are scheduled to complete the next phase this year. I met with 3 Rivers several times last year to better understand their planned scope of work and schedule. I found them to be very courteous and professional.

Last summer eight or more property owners had their properties sprayed for invasive weeds by the new contractor that the association hired to spray along all of our roads, the common area and the adjacent leased state property. The service to spray individual properties should be available again this year. I have also had several property owners voice concerns that their neighbors have allowed large areas of invasive weeds to grow unabated and, in some cases, spread to adjacent properties. Every property owner is responsible for controlling invasive weeds on their property.

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*We hope you enjoy this issue!*

**The Annual Madison River Ranch  
Property Owners Meeting will be  
held Saturday, June 27.  
We hope you'll be there.**



**John Graifemberg**,,continued from page 1

Last year, at the request of property owners, the architectural review committee reviewed several new home construction projects and several additions of out buildings to existing homes. All projects met the required norms in section 6.12 of the convenents. We had far more construction and land sales last year than in recent previous years. I was also pleased to see that a few new owners were half my age.

Cliff Lake Road is closed by the County between the middle of December to the middle of April to vehicular traffic with the exception of snowmobiles. The road is posted with these restrictions and has been enforced this winter by the county. Driving on MRR roads too early in the spring has damaged some of our roads and increased the scope and cost of repairs.

To be entitled to vote as a member of record, property owners must have a copy of your current deed showing the name(s) of ownership on record with our board secretary, Dana Dawson.

The Ranch website has been updated with a members-only section. If you need help signing into this section, contact Marv Gibbs, webmaster, at <http://www.575madisonriverranch.org>

I plan on being on the Ranch from the end of April until the first of October. If you have any questions or comments, contact me on our website, [jrgreifemberg@gmail.com](mailto:jrgreifemberg@gmail.com) or 916-709 7575.

**Ray McCoy Strickland**

Ray McCoy Strickland, 85, died January 13, 2020 in his home in Phoenix Arizona.

He leaves behind Linda, his wife of 38 years, his three sons, Jeffrey, Gregory (Ann Marie), and Richard (Christine), his two step-sons, Dennis (Beth Ann) and Timothy (Sherri) Barksdale, 12 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren; two sisters, Bonnie Harkey and Sharon Stringfellow, both of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and a niece, Jerri Thompson of Tempe, Arizona.

Ray was born in Berry Alabama. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed in Hawaii, Japan, San Diego, and Luke Naval Air base in Arizona

Ray was a cowboy at heart and stayed in Phoenix. He hired on with the Phoenix Fire Department. After 21 years he retired. After all the years of hot summers he wanted some place that was cool to spend his summers. One trip to Ennis, Montana, and he was hooked.

He bought logs, cut them into square logs and built a log cabin on his 20 acres. His first love was his horses (thank you Dr. White). He worked with a couple of ranchers tending and moving cattle.

He was well liked and admired by family and friends alike. The Madison River Ranch will definitely be different without him.

*From The Madisonian, February 6, 2020*

*In addition to being a friend and neighbor to many in the Madison River Ranch community, he served on the MRR Board for many years. He will be missed.*

**Cooking with Martha**

By Martha Crawley

I like this recipe for clam chowder because it's a little "brothier" than what you often see. Clam chowder is sometimes so thick and rich, you could almost eat it with a fork. This version is rich and delicious, and you can eat it with a spoon! I got it on the internet, and adjusted it slightly. It uses canned clams and clam juice, so you can easily find the ingredients and have them in your pantry. I hope you'll try it and love it! See you next summer!

**New England Clam Chowder**

3-6.5 oz canned minced clams  
 1-8 oz. bottle clam juice  
 1 T Butter.  
 6 center-cut bacon strips, chopped  
 2 stalks celery, finely chopped  
 1 large onion, chopped  
 3 1/2 C Russet potatoes, peel and dice  
 3-5 cloves garlic, minced  
 1/4 t hot pepper flakes (optional)  
 1/3 C flour  
 2 C low sodium chicken broth  
 2 bay leaves  
 1/2 t each dried oregano and salt  
 1/4 t each dried thyme and pepper  
 1 C heavy cream

Drain juice from clams into a measuring cup and add the bottled clam juice.

In a Dutch oven, cook bacon until fat is rendered and slightly brown. Add the butter. Increase heat to medium and add celery and onion.

Saute for 5-7 minutes or until onions are soft. Add potatoes, garlic, red pepper and sauce 30 seconds.

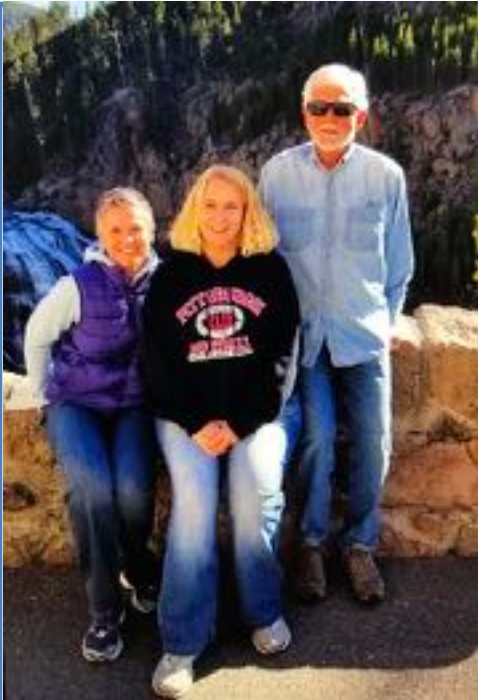
Sprinkle in flour and cook an additional minute.

Stir in chicken broth, reserved clam juice, chicken bouillon, bay leaves and all seasonings. Bring to boil, then simmer for 15 minutes, or until potatoes are tender.

Stir in the heavy cream and bring to simmer to heat through. Discard bay leaves.

Remove from heat and stir in clams. Taste and add salt/pepper to taste.

# Introducing... John Graifemberg



For over ten years I spent a week or so fishing at the Broken Arrow Lodge on the upper Ruby River. I started casually looking at properties along the Madison River in the summer of 2013. Most of the properties shown to me by my local real estate agent were beyond my budget and few had adequate river access. Eventually I did tour several properties on MRR which had great river access, but still not within my budget. It was early October and starting to snow when I happened to notice another MRR property that my agent had not mentioned before. When I called to ask about the property, my agent said he was just about to show me that property, but he was with another client. He told me that no one was at the property and I could go and see it from the outside. I had been fishing that morning and was still in my waders when I walked around the house where I could see the river as it flowed along the commons area and both \$3 Bridge and Reynolds Bridge. The property had been on the market for two years without receiving a single offer. The next day I saw the interior of the house and made an offer. The property (130 Madison Trail, Lot 61) closed in December. I retired the following May and spent the next five months on the Ranch.

My father and I were both born in Wallace Idaho and fished together for many years in the area as well as in Montana and California. I still have the bamboo rods and fly reels that he bought for himself and my mother after his return from the war in 1946. When I am not fishing I am tying all my own flies.

I have lived most of my life in Texas and California. For the last six years I have spent half the year on the Ranch as a Montana resident and the colder months in northern California.

I have two daughters, Michelle and Sarah, who live in Indianapolis and Dallas. Both girls are college graduates with Michelle being an HR director for a property management company with offices in over fifteen states and Sarah being a community college administrator working with local high schools. Michelle and Sarah both visit and fish on the Ranch each summer.

I obtained a Bachelors of Architecture and a Masters of Business Administration before becoming a licensed architect and construction manager. I taught architectural and construction classes at a California community college for fifteen years. I have served as president of a condominium HOA and on two nonprofit boards that provided services to developmentally challenged children and adults. I have been a member of the MRR Architectural Review Committee for the last two years, was elected to the board of directors and currently serve as board president.



**Yellowstone National Park**

Guess who’s celebrating a birthday? Yellowstone National Park just turned 148 years old this week. Yellowstone was established as the world’s first national park by an act of congress and signed into law on March 1, 1872 by President Ulysses S. Grant. In honor of this occasion, here is a brief look back at Yellowstone’s beginning.

**1800’s**

In the early 1800s, European American trappers brought back stories from the west of a place where the earth hissed and bubbled, where multi-colored hot springs and spouting geysers filled the landscape. These reports were largely dismissed as delusions or tall tales until formal expeditions commenced in 1869. Further proof in the form of Thomas Moran’s artwork and William H. Jackson’s photography from the Hayden Expedition of 1871 are said to have helped convince Congress that the Yellowstone landscape was exceptionally beautiful and valuable. Congress appropriated funds to protect it in 1878, but efforts to safeguard the park were largely unsuccessful until the US Army took charge in 1886. The National Park Service was later formed in 1916.

**1900’s**

The Yellowstone boundaries we are familiar with today differ from the straight, rectangular-shaped boundaries in place when the park was established. In 1929, President Hoover signed a bill changing the borders to better conform to natural land and water features. Three years later, Hoover issued an executive order adding around 7,000 acres above the original north boundary near Gardiner, Montana, to provide winter range for ungulates. In retrospect, setting aside Yellowstone for preservation was a brilliant move. The protection afforded by its national park status has prevented the 2.2 million acre wilderness from falling victim to development and the human-caused loss of geysers and large mammal habitat. The park’s establishment also led to a lasting concept - the national park idea,

**2000’s**

Today, Yellowstone is one of the largest nearly intact temperate-zone ecosystems on Earth, and preserves a collection of more than 10,000 hydrothermal features - more than the rest of the world combined. It is home to the largest concentration of wildlife in the lower 49 states, and is the only place in the US where bison have lived continuously since prehistoric times.

*From the Yellowstone Forever website*

**MRR  
Board of Directors**

**John Graifemberg, President**

Lot 61

**Dana Dawson, Secretary**

Lots 64A, 64B, 95

**Sue McMahon, Treasurer**

Lot 68

**Mike Carpenter,**

**Vice President**

Lot 40

Marv Gibbs, Webmaster

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

Ann Costello, Newsletter

[noniann@gmail.com](mailto:noniann@gmail.com)



Don’t forget:

The gate combination is #1004

Fed Ex and UPS box combination is 5971

**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.

Do you enjoy reading about our MRR neighbors? If you haven’t contributed your story, it’s your turn to write about you, your family, how you became a property owner, and why.. Please volunteer!

Please contact Ann Costello, newsletter editor if you are willing to contribute, [noniann@gmail.com](mailto:noniann@gmail.com) Thanks so much!

**Yellowstone Capturing Bison to Cull Herd**

Yellowstone National Park is capturing bison migrating outside the park and will hold them for possible slaughter as part of a population reduction program.

State and federal officials want to reduce Yellowstone’s bison herds by up to 900 animals this winter under an agreement aimed at shielding Montana’s cattle industry from the disease brucellosis, which many bison carry. The bison population in the park is about 4,900.

*Associated Press*

Link to Madison River Ranch website:

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>