

Star Ranch Star

Volume 22
 Issue 2
 February 2017

Sweetheart's Dinner
February 11, 2017
6:00 PM—Margie's Café

\$15.00

Salad
Sweet Potato Soup
Choice of:
Chicken with Risotto or
Salmon with Risotto or
Butternut Squash in
Pastry Shell

Clifford Hall
 by Rod M.

One of our dearest members, Clifford Hall, passed away January 27, 2017. Cliff was born October 5th, 1925 & became a member of Star Ranch in 1971. For 45 years & 8 months he was a valued member, contributing his time & money to help when needed. He loved to entertain new visitors at breakfast on weekends.

Cliff was one of the most interesting people you could ever have had the chance to meet & know.

As an 18 year old he was on bombing runs over Germany in WW2, He went to college & got a job at NASA in Houston, Texas. He helped with the Mercury program, the Gemini program, & the Apollo moon program. He could take a 5 cell flashlight & mystify you while he mapped the stars & constellations for you personally at night in the Pines.

Cliff was a great human being & we all will miss him dearly,

WORK DAY

February 4th & March 4th starting at 9 AM

Breakfast 8—9 AM
 Work 9 AM to Noon
 Lunch from Noon to 1 PM
 Work Noon to ?

Breakfast and lunch is free for all Volunteers

Volunteers will receive a ticket for the Silver Membership drawing held on New Years Eve.
 Come join us—after all what more can you ask for?!
 Work a few hours, get free meals and enter the Silver Membership drawing!

December 31st, 2016 went out like a lion! Several cabins & camp sites rented for the New Year's Eve "happenings", perfect weather—not too cold & not too hot, enough food at the Progressive Dinner to feed an army, great camaraderie amongst members and visitors, and a "blast from the past" sock hop. The sock hop was the highlight of the night. Tara Hall was packed with visitors & members. The dance floor was never empty & everyone was singing along. During the dance we held the drawing for the Silver Membership—CONGRATS to Grace L.

I have to say that was the best New Year's Eve ever!!!

C.O.G. Operations by Rod Mc.

Hello Everyone! It's been a while & overdue. I need to give you an update on some things going on at dear old Star Ranch.

2016 was a challenging year. Heavy rains in the spring, cabins damaged, roads ruined. Almost \$7,000.00 spent on gravel, our average is \$800.00 to \$1500.00. Water leaks from broken lines damaged from age and shifting grounds. Costs for 2016 totaled \$28,789.00.

2016 was another year we made a profit, did not make our budget but we were in the black.

If you haven't seen the new outdoor pool then go on the internet (www.starranch.net) and look at what we now have to offer for our members and visitors to enjoy. It was paid mostly with donations from our members and visitors; \$27,197.00 in 2016 and \$11,050.00 so far in 2017 for a total of \$38,247.00. The final cost for the new pool was almost \$62,000.00 so thanks to our members and visitors donations. We only had to borrow around \$23,753.00 and now have the best looking pool in the state of Texas.

God Bless everyone! P.S. Ribbon Cutting at Outdoor Pool on February 11th at 3 PM

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Staff, Board, Council Members &	

▶ February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 WORK DAY 8–9 AM Breakfast 12–1 PM Lunch
5 8:30–10 AM Breakfast 2 PM Super Bowl Party bring your own snacks (bring extra if you want to share)	6	7	8 6 PM Potluck music with Phil & Phriends	9	10	11 8:30-10 AM Breakfast 3 PM Outdoor Pool Ribbon Cutting 6 PM Sweethearts Dinner 8 PM Dance
12 8:30 – 10 AM Breakfast	13	14 	15	16	17 6 PM Birthday Dinner at the Roadhouse in Paige	18 8:30–10 AM Breakfast 10 AM Board & Council Meetings 7 PM Poker
19 8:30 – 10 AM Breakfast	20 Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25 8:30-10 AM Breakfast 7 PM Bingo
26 8:30 – 10 AM Breakfast	27	28				

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 WORK DAY 8–9 AM Breakfast 12–1 PM Lunch
5 8:30–10 AM Breakfast	6	7	8 6 PM Potluck Music with Phil & Phriends	9	10	11 8:30–10 AM Breakfast Sand Volleyball TBD
12 8:30–10 AM Breakfast Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins	13	14	15	16	17 6 PM Birthday Dinner TBD	18 8:30–10 AM Breakfast 10 AM Board & Council Meetings 8 PM St. Patty's Day Dance
19 8:30–10 AM Breakfast	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25 8:30–10 AM Breakfast 1 PM Bam-Bam Ball 3 PM Golf Cart Wash Fundraiser
26 8:30–10 AM Breakfast	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2017

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30-10 AM Breakfast
2 8:30-10 AM Breakfast	3	4	5	6	7	8 8:30-9:30 AM Breakfast 5K Race
9 8:30-10 AM Breakfast	10	11	12 6 PM Potluck Music with Phil & Phriends	13	14	15 8:30-10 AM Breakfast 10 AM Board & Council Meetings
16 Easter 1 PM Pot- luck Ham	17	18	19	20	21 6 PM Birthday Dinner TBD	22 8:30-10 AM Breakfast 10 AM Straw Poll
23 8:30-10 AM Breakfast	24	25	26	27	28	29 10 AM Stockholders Meeting & Board Elections
30 8:30-10 AM Breakfast						

Just Another Saturday at Star Ranch

by Larry S.

Saturday, January 28, was a day of friendly competition and lots of fun at Star Ranch. The day began with our annual chili cook-off. Eight daring souls brought their best to the show and, starting at 9:30 a.m., went about preparing their chili ingredients and getting a big pot of red (or brown, or white) on the stove.

Our entrants were Melissa S., Phil P., Jack R., Gary H., Paul O., Debbie J., DA G. and Ron S.(that's Ron from Canada, for those of you who haven't met him).

A short four hours later, these traditional Texas dishes were ready for the judges to taste and score. Our judges had a great time tasting and the servings were all delicious. By the way, one of the criteria the judges rated was "deliciousity". You won't find that word in the dictionary. We made it up. But, to paraphrase a former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the judges knew it when they tasted it.

After half an hour of hard judging, a little water, a few crackers and a handful of grapes, the judges awarded first prize to Debbie J., who entered a turkey chili. Second place went to Paul O., who wanted everyone to know that this was not his first rodeo! Our friend Ron S. who drove all the way from Canada just to enter our cook-off – that's not true – took third place.

After the judging, the pots of chili were set aside to make room for homemade pies that were entered in our annual pie contest. (Did I mention this was quite a day at Star Ranch?)

With nine bakers entering a total of ten pies (yes, you might know it was Grace who tried to double her chances of winning by entering twice), we had a kitchen full of pies to judge. But, as always, our judges dedicated themselves to the task – tasting and scoring each and every one.

Our pie contestants were Jennifer M., Melissa S., Grace L. (two pies), Phil P., Jeanie O., Jeffrey N., Pamela H., David P., and DA.

This competition was tough on the judges, who had several criteria to score and sometimes even had to take a second bite to make up their minds! But when the final scores were tallied, first place went to Jeanie O. with her blueberry cream pie, second place went to Grace L. with chocolate hazelnut and third place went to DA with his German chocolate chess pie.

At 5:30, after a brief respite following the chili cook-off and the pie contest, we arrived at one of the most enjoyable events of the day: the pie auction. Yes, our bakers graciously donated their pies to be auctioned, with the proceeds going to defray the cost of our brand-new swimming pool.

The bidding at the auction was a ton of fun. Much to the relief of our general manager, who spent the last couple of months writing checks to the pool company, the generosity of our members (and guests) was on full display. When the auctioneer declared the last pie sold to the highest bidder, our total proceeds came to \$11,050, with the first-place pie bringing in \$4000 from multiple bidders.

When we combine the proceeds from this auction with those from the pool fund auctions last year, the members of our community have clearly shown their interest in improving our facilities by donating more than 60% of the cost of the new pool. By the way, for those members who were not able to attend the pie auction, but who still would like to express their support for the new pool, donations are still being accepted by the office.

You might think this was a great day for Star Ranch, but it wasn't over yet. When the auction was done, we still had eight pots of chili to share with our friends at the chili potluck. Oh, and did I mention our good-hearted members who bid on and won the ten pies, then allowed them to be shared by all for dessert? By the end of the evening, everyone was full of good food and ready to call it a day, and a terrific day it was.

Our sincere appreciation to all the cooks and bakers and members and guests who joined together to make this a wonderful day of food and fellowship at Star Ranch. Thank you all.



(Pie Winners Photo will be
in the March newsletter)

Eely Road Update

Lara L. & Bubba Snowden (Bastrop County Commissioner for our precinct) have been texting back & forth regarding road work for Eely Road. Bubba finally gave us some info as to why & when the Eely Road work will be done.

Bubba said "Luminant is partnering with us to widen Eely because it will be very time consuming, take a lot of materials & man power. I have a crew of 12 men & a budge of \$1,670,000 with 228 miles of roads. It is next to impossible to take care of 228 miles of roads with 12 men on the budget. Salaries, fuel, road equipment & materials and county barn expenses come out of the budget."

We are not high priority because we are a rural area & not heavily traveled.

Bubba did send a crew out with equipment & rock to repair pot holes. The Ranch maintenance has been trying to fill in the worst pot holes with our rock.

We will keep you all informed as we hear more news as Lara will keep in contact with Bubba.



February Birthday Dinner will be at the Roadhouse on old Hwy 20 East in Paige at 6:00 PM.

From McDade, turn left on 290 E. You will travel approximately 8 miles to Hwy 21. Take ramp on right & then stay left. Turn left at the lights (signs for Caldwell/ Bryan), in one mile turn right onto 290 E.. Less than 1/4 mile you will see the Road-

house on the right.

You can start with appetizers, they serve meals of steak, chicken, pork chops and sandwiches of all sorts (fantastic burgers!) & finish off with dessert!

Volunteers

Larry & Melissa S.	Abby P.
David & Mary M.	Wanda H.
DA G. & Debbie J.	Mike & Jean M.
Mike W. & Jennifer M.	Phil & Lorraine A.
Jerry & Jeani C.	Roy & Deidra F.

Reminder!

If payments for your monthly invoices are not received in the office by the end of the 20th day you will be billed a \$25 late fee.

C.O.G. Operations

General Manager	Rod Mc.
Maintenance	Paul O.
Housekeeping	Dina P.
Office	Pixie Mc.
	Lara L.
Rental Cabin	
Coordinator	Deidra F.

February Birthdays

Debra C.	2/1	Ken W.	2/18
Celeste D.	2/10	Matt D.	2/23
Suzanne B.	2/12	Grace L.	2/26
Brian K.	2/13	Logan B.	2/28
Dylan L.	2/17	Ronnie B.	2/28
Jeffrey N.	2/17		



Ellen M.	3/8	Lara L.	3/21
Yvonne P.	3/9	Wanda H.	3/23
Mary M.	3/11	Lorie C.	3/26
Craig Mc.	3/11	JoLynn B.	3/29
Larry S.	3/17	TC C.	3/29
Pam H.	3/19	James S.	3/30
Ray M.	3/20		

Board of Directors

President	David M.	pmsgrave@msn.com	512--284-0252
Vice President	Mike W.	taz4951@yahoo.com	512-423-0659
Secretary	Linda M.	lnlazy@yahoo.com	512-451-6419
	DA G.	dkjdag@swbell.net	512-836-2843
	Wanda H.	whannah@austin.rr.com	512-273-2453
Treasurer	Rod Mc.	rod@starranch.net	512-229-6593
Corporate Secretaries	Carla W.		
	Gary H.		

Sahnoan Council

Paul & Jeanie O.	Roy & Deidra F.	Larry & Melissa S.	Tyler & Heather C.
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