



The Ranch Wrangler

www.ranchatroaringfork.com

March 13, 2009

Please note:

The automatic gate controller has stopped operating; the gate is currently in the open position for the weekend. We have placed "No Trespassing" signs at the gate and hope to have the controller repaired early next week. Thank you for your patience.

Golf Course

Tom Vail, along with many of you is anticipating the 2009 golf season to begin (March 21st weather permitting). We will keep you informed as that date draws near. Thanks to those who have stayed off the greens and tee boxes while skiing the golf course. This winter we have had freezing temperatures (it was 17 degrees this morning), an abundance of snow (it snowed 6" on Monday), an occasional vehicle from Highway 82 as well as a number of geese, elk and deer the course.

As the weather continues to warm; it will be even more important that you stay off the course as the grounds thaw. Tom and the golf course crew thank you

Tennis

We will be installing a "SnapSport" court surface over the existing asphalt. The cracks will be filled prior to the surface, the fencing will be straightened and new wind screening will be installed.

An adjustable basketball hoop will be installed and the surface will be lined for tennis, basketball and shuffleboard.

Condominiums

The winter cold weather prevention measures we have implemented have succeeded in preventing frozen condominium pipes, but we have had several units damaged due to pipe and fitting failure inside the units. As soon as the nightly temperatures stay above freezing we will turn all of the unit heat off, reactivate the exterior faucets and remove the attic vent covers.

Tom Vail and his crew have begun cleaning the grounds in preparation for the lawns to begin greening up. Please remember that the individual condominium owners are encouraged to invest in the care and improvement of the area directly in front of their units. Please go to the website document page for applications and guidelines.

Common Areas

Spring projects are underway, we are patching pot holes and crack sealing all of the roads. Fire hydrants will be tested and flushed and staff will be cleaning and servicing the playground equipment.

As you travel the common recreational areas please be cautious may encounter Rick and the staff grading or spreading gravel on the roads and wood chips on the trails. We will try to do most of this work during the day and mid week to reduce the inconvenience.

The Board of Directors goal was to reduce the potential risk of another wild fire as this valley experienced last year; so we purchased a wood chipper this winter. This will also improve air quality by significantly reducing the amount of wood and debris we need to burn on the Ranch. We will continue to make some wood stacks available for fire wood and chipping the majority of the remainder.

FYI, we still need to perform seasonal ditch and hayfield burning as we need to do each spring. We do register with the Carbondale Fire Department each time we plan to burn and follow their prescribed precautions.

Board of Director Meetings

You can access and print the minutes from the previous meetings on the Ranch's website. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled on April 6th at 4pm. You can check the website or the office front door for meeting times and please remember you are invited to attend. Should you wish to address the Board please contact Doc a week in advance with your topic and he'll work with the Board to place you on the agenda.

New Fishing Advisory Committee

The 2009 Fishing season is coming up soon, we mailed the application and regulations last week and we have also copied them to the website on the Fishing page.

The Board has established a new Fishing Advisory Committee consisting of Dan Bishop, Gordon Nelson, Tom Neel chairman, and George Pucak. Bob Jacobson will continue as the Board liaison to the committee. You may submit comments, questions and suggestions to the committee via email to rrf_fishing@comcast.net or letter.

Stream Maintenance Projects

We are currently working on our budget for in-stream maintenance for 2009. The Fishing Advisory Committee is soliciting input from the fishing community on which segments of our streams would benefit from significant stream channel maintenance or re-sculpting. A photo of the Ranch with an overlay has been placed in the office. Please stop by and neatly identify the specific segments of our streams that in your opinion do not fish as well as they should and need reworking. Once we get your input we will work to select those areas that we think we can make the most improvement per dollar spent. We will publish the sections to be worked on once the budget has been set.

We hope to do this work during the spring muddy season so as to minimize disruption from it. Therefore, time is of the essence. Please stop by the office to give us your input as soon as possible. You may also email your thoughts to the address listed above. Remember, what you will see on the overlay are suggestions from others and ARE NOT the selected projects. If someone has suggested reworking your favorite hole that you don't want touched, please tell us that too!

Catch and Release Fishing

Recently the Ranch has started a stocking program that has placed some very large fish in our "Trophy Ponds" as well as our streams. By following the ideas listed below, we can enjoy our fish for many years to come.

- ✚ Use gear that will minimize fight time. It is known that the survival rate decreases as the fight time increases. A long battle is fun for you, but death for a fish.
- ✚ Do not throw a fish in the water. Gently cradle a fish in the water until it moves off of its own accord.
- ✚ Some experts claim that as little as thirty seconds out of the water dramatically decreases a fish's survival rate. Use a modern net, keep the fish in the water and if you must handle a fish, wet your hands first.
- ✚ For a photo, be sure your partner has the camera ready before lifting the fish from the net or water. Hold the fish close to the ground or the water as a fall from a high distance will eventually kill a fish. Snap a number of pictures quickly and return the fish to the water quickly.

- ✚ Never squeeze a fish in the belly area or place a finger in the gills. Use forceps to remove a hook quickly and if the fly is near the gill area, cut the fly off and leave it in the fish.

Thanks for your help in protecting our great fishery!

Could This Happen Here?

The other day I ran out to see a fisherman (person) catching fish on the other side of the pond. As I was walking up he caught a fish and threw it back in the water to immediately catch another bigger fish. When I finally got to him I must have watched him catch over a dozen fish, so in striking up a conversation I asked what he was using and he mumbled something but I could understand him... so I asked again and listened closer and he mumbled again “*ugot2kepurwurmswrm*”, still not understanding him I moved closer and ask again who he was, and what he was using? He coughed and spit into a cup and said “you gotta keep your worms warm!”

Spring Projects

As you plan for your landscaping and remodeling projects, please remember all exterior renovations require prior approval from the Architectural Committee. You can download the applications for the website on the document page.

The Committee will set monthly meeting dates and all plans and submissions must be presented a minimum of 1 week prior to the scheduled meeting date. A letter of receipt will be issued to the applicant stating the 30 day approval window and the scheduled meeting date. The application deadline is the 15th or next working day for completed application. A regular scheduled Architectural meeting will be set for the 30th and the approval window starts after scheduled meeting date. And applicants are welcome at these meetings.

Remember that if you bring debris to the burn pile please deposit it in the correct location and remove it from trash bags. Do not bring construction debris or any items from off the Ranch to the Ranch dumpsters or the burn pile.

Have a great weekend!