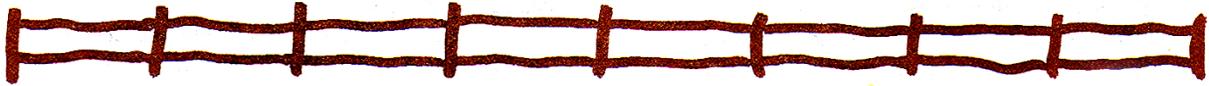


The Hitchin' Post

January 2006

Patsy Ward, Editor



A Community Oriented Newsletter for Weed and Surrounding Communities
"If You're Lucky Enough to Live in the Mountains, You're Lucky Enough"

Sympathy

Our friend and neighbor Herbert G. Essek died on Monday, December 12, 2005 in his home after losing his battle with cancer. He was born on November 17, 1942 in Zurich, Switzerland and lived there until 1999 when his passion for nature and animals brought him to the Sacramento Mountains. Together with his wife he built up a guest ranch which they operated until spring 2005 when his health condition forced him to quit. He will be remembered for his generosity, his honesty and integrity and his great sense of humor.

On December 21, a wonderful sunny and warm day, some 40 people gathered at Bluewater Canyon Ranch to say good bye to Herb. It was a sad but also cheerful event. As one of the participants put it, "I laughed just as much as I cried...." Herb would have been happy with it! His wife Margrit would like to take the opportunity to thank everybody for attending and also for all the cards and signs of sympathy that she received upon Herb's death.

Elaine Wright Recognized as Volunteer of the Year

- Jim Hengstenberg

Elaine Wright was recognized December 6 by the Sacramento-Weed Volunteer Fire Department as that organization's Volunteer of the Year for 2005. At the group's annual Christmas Dinner, Fire Chief Randy Adams presented an engraved statuette to Wright who serves as the Director of Emergency Medical Services for the mountain VFD. In his presentation, Chief Adams cited several major contributions made by Wright during recent years, stating Wright's efforts have been instrumental in saving lives and limiting medical complications within the community. Wright has been responsible for enhancing the training level of department EMTs and fire fighters. Most significantly, she arranged training and contractual relationships to obtain assistance from helicopter medical evacuation that has been utilized extensively in responding to several severe medical emergencies in this region, where ambulance transport to area hospitals can take up to three hours. Wright also has written grants and coordinated community efforts to upgrade medical vehicles and equipment, including obtaining three automated electronic defibrillators (AEDs) for the department and the regions two major youth camps.

A Basic Emergency Medical Technician (B-EMT), Wright has been selected to serve on New Mexico's state EMS Board representing rural areas that deal with critical problems of emergency medical response in remote areas with limited facilities and difficult access. A lawyer by profession, Wright is a thoughtful and articulate advocate for her patients, her community, and for the needs of New Mexico. She and her husband

Russ own and operate RavenWind Bed and Breakfast and are also particularly active in water issues and organizations affecting the Sacramento Mountains. as the South Sacramento Water Group. Her colleagues and friends in the area of Sacramento and Weed recognize her as a compassionate and competent care-giver who invests countless hours and unmeasured energy through the Sac-Weed VFD to save lives and improve health care in her community.

CONGRATULATIONS, ELAINE!

Thanks To All Volunteers

It is that time of year when we step back and give thanks for all those things and people that make life marvelous. So thank you to all of you who take time out of your busy schedules to volunteer for your community, to those who fight fires, edit and contribute to newspapers, manage community centers, decorate our towns, supply us with water, write grants, respond to personal emergencies, bake food and provide transportation for those in need, visit the sick, help us remember to give thanks on Sundays, run dances, keep our meeting places open, the list goes on and on.

I'll be Home for Christmas

Obie Manning, who survived a 30-foot fall in September, returned home from the hospital December 22. As he and Pat were leaving El Paso, he pulled down his sun visor, which has a mirror on it, and said, "Happiness is El Paso in my rearview mirror." Many thanks to everyone in this wonderful community who provided help in any way to make his homecoming special.

U. S. Postal Service

- Debbie Stone

A rate increase will be effective January 8, 2006. The new Lady Liberty 39-cent stamps are now available, and we still have 37-cent stamps and 2-cent Navajo Jewelry stamps available. Other rate increases can be obtained at your local Post Office or via internet at www.usps.gov.

The Post Office will be closed January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Water Matters

[Support the Hydro-geological Mapping of the Sacramento Mountain Watershed](#)

Write to Your Legislator

Avon Wilson
Box 381

Roswell, NM 88202-0381
624-7442 623-4777

Avon.Wilson@roswell.enmu.edu

or

Vernon D. Asbill
1502 Mountain Shadow
Carlsbad, NM 88220
302-8135 887-1844

vernon@asbillforsenate.com

Decisions on use of water from the Sacramento Watershed are being made both in the mountains and by communities that surround the mountains without any understanding of the Watershed and the impact these decision will have on its future sustainability. In 2005, the New Mexico legislature allocated \$250,000 to begin this study on the western slopes. We now need them to fund the remainder of the study for \$1,252,500.

-South Sacramento Water Group

South Sacramento Water Group Meeting

December 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Hengstenberg at 6:08 p.m. Areas represented were Middle Peñasco, Lower Peñasco, James Canyon, Piñon, Sixteen Springs, Cox Canyon and Weed. Guests included Dr. Marty Moore, Otero County Comptroller, and Ellen Wedum, a possible Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives.

Corrections to the November 10 minutes are noted on the original. Motion by R.L. Posey to accept the minutes with corrections; minutes accepted. Items for discussion at this meeting included Articles of Incorporation/By-laws; Health of mountain watershed; Ways to educate legislators on what we are doing; Update on hydrological studies.

Guests were introduced and given a few minutes to tell about themselves.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Beth Mahill and accepted.

Old Business

Articles of Incorporation/By-laws: A preliminary copy drafted by Barbara Springer was distributed and explained by Jim with discussion following. Request by the group to ask Barbara to incorporate previously approved by-law motions into the document for distribution in January.

Russ Wright spoke about working with our legislators and the watershed situation. Russ distributed a sheet with suggestions on focusing conversations concerning the mapping project when speaking with legislators. Some discussion concerning other groups SSWG can work with to help maintain the continuation of the mapping project. Jim suggested this project be the main focus of SSWG for the next three months. Steve Cook reported on the continuing hydrological studies. Geoff Rawlings will be at the SSWG January meeting to speak on the progress being made. Steve had a request from Geoff for additional well sites in James Canyon, west of Twin Forks, that would be willing to participate in the study. An isotope study has been completed on the water from the Sacramento Mountains and Steve will have a handout on the study at the January meeting.

New Business: None brought forth.

Motion made by R.L. Posey to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be held at Chimney Spring at 6 p.m. on January 12, 2006.

- Marsha Slane

New "Journey Towards Healing" Workshop

- Russ Wright

At the urging of one of my clients, I am beginning a series of workshops aimed at helping individuals find and navigate their own roads towards healing. The sessions will be held at

RavenWind, at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, with the first one on January 15. All are welcome.

I am calling this a "Journey Towards Healing" because, in my experience in body work and therapeutic massage, I have found that many medical problems are messages our bodies are sending to us, asking us to pay attention, and change the way we are doing things. For example, a painful medical problem might be founded in an old injury or trauma we suffered years ago, which is now surfacing in a surprising way. We can learn to listen to our bodies, tune in to those messages, and find ways to help our bodies heal themselves. Of course, there is always a place for medical doctors in our lives, especially when dealing with serious medical problems. But are there alternative and complementary means to better health that you have yet to explore? Having studied a number of these alternative paths over the years, I would like to introduce some of them to anyone who is interested.

Discussion topics will include pain control, stretching exercise, guided imagery, kinesiology, aromatherapy, energy healing, and diet. The workshop will begin with a presentation on a specific topic and include demonstrations where appropriate. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The setting will be comfortable and informal, healthy refreshments will be served, and there is no charge. Please reserve your space by calling 687-3073.

People of Otero County

This organization lets us know what is going on in local, state, and federal government that pertains to us. The next meeting will be held in January, possibly in Alamogordo. Call Evelyn Miller, 687-2170, for more information.

Internet Usage at the Library - Joyce Komraus

The Michael Nivison Public Library in Cloudcroft has four computers with internet usage. The Library also has WIFI connection for those of you who have WIFI capabilities on your laptop computers.

Anyone can use these computers for internet usage, whether or not you have a library card. The computers are available during the hours the library is open. For first-time users, there is a form you need to read and sign which explains the library's policies and procedures for computer usage. (It's pretty generic; every library seems to have the same policy.) After you sign the form once, it is kept on file and you don't have to sign it again.

Library staff will explain how the signing procedure works. Usually there isn't a waiting list to get on the computers with the exception of summer when you may have a waiting period of one-half hour or so until a computer is available.

For those of you who are interested in having a class in beginning computer usage, call me at the Library (682-1111) or at home (687-2308) and we can set up a class to show you how it works OR we can show you on an individual basis (one-to-one) depending on time and what you are wanting to do.

The internet has a wealth of information with web addresses and sites. There are search engines in which you can type in a word and all

related sites are listed - and even unrelated sites. (I can tell you a story about looking up fireplace and hearth manufacturers when we were building our house.)

Stop in and see the computers.

Monday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday 12 noon - 5 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bookmobile

The bookmobile is scheduled to be at the Weed Post Office Tuesday, January 10, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Community Christmas Parties

December 14 was the annual community Christmas service and dinner at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly. It was a wonderful evening. Many thanks to Jim Hengstenberg, Dub Schuessler, Dulaney Barrett, Shirley Akers, and Marie Rodgers for an inspirational evening.

A grand time was had by all who attended the Weed Community Christmas Party on December 16. Approximately 50 friends and neighbors enjoyed the fellowship, delicious food, Santa, and Christmas carols. As usual, the food was excellent; and there was plenty of it! The ham and drinks were provided by the Weed Community fund. Many folks helped in many ways to make it successful. The fellowship was wonderful. Santa arrived to the excitement of some children and the tears of others. Pat Scott did a humorous skit. The children were treated to wheelchair rides around the gym on Jean Weddle's lap. From the looks on their faces, we're not sure which ones enjoyed it more - Jean or the children.

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Congratulations, Get Well, Thank You, Welcome, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...John & Carolyn Grisak, Jan. 9
...Noel and Shirley Akers, Jan. 15
...Gene and Guelda Orsack, Jan. 26

Happy Birthday to:

...Jesse Mateer, Jan. 2
...Jean Weddle, Pat Foster, Bill Lee Parker, Jan. 4
...Anna Rae Brown, Jan. 6
...Dana Ham, Hannah Toth, Jan. 7
...Gary Stone, Jan. 11
...Elaine Wright, Jan. 15
...Bryan Green, Joshua Livers, Earl Burton, Evelyn Miller, Jan 21
...Kara Goss, Jan. 23
...Louise Winkle, Jan. 24
...Felicity Braziel, Jan. 25
...Kris Williams, Jan. 26
...Kirk Hall, Jan. 28
...James Livers, Bonnie Nunn, Jan. 29

Thank You to:

...James & Karen Rodgers for letting us tap into their electrical supply for the Christmas display on the Weed Corner.
...Bro. Don & Anna Rae Brown for letting us set up the Christmas display on their property.

Get Well Wishes to:

...Everyone who has had or has the "creeping crud" that's going around. If you haven't had your flu shot yet, think about getting one!

Area Churches

Mayhill Baptist Church - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship services beginning at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service begins at 6 p.m. Children and youth Bible study and adult Bible study and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Men's breakfast and devotional, Thursday, 7 a.m.

Mayhill Church of Christ - Marlon McWilliams, Pastor. Sunday Bible class begins at 9:30 a.m.; worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Evening worship is at 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study is at 7 p.m.

Piñon Baptist Church - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

Piñon Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Sunday worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study begins at 7 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Dulaney Barrett, Pastor. Regular Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m., with Sunday School beginning at 11 a.m.

Weed Baptist Church - Tom Dusak, Pastor. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., with the worship service beginning at 11 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held after church on the third Sunday of the month. Bible Study class is held each Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Weed Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Bible study is taught from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Sunday; worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday evening services are from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Weed House of Prayer - Dub Schuessler, Pastor. Services are held every Sunday in the home of Jimmy and Frances Goss. Prayer and singing begin at 10 a.m.; a sermon and children's classes begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday prayer service is held at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the first Sunday of the month.

Farmer's Almanac January Gardening Tips

(This Bulletin is determined by the Almanac's age-old formula and applies generally to regions where the climate is favorable.)

1-2 Good day for planting aboveground crops such as sweet corn, beans, peppers in southern Florida, Texas, and California.

2-3 A good time to kill plant pests or do plowing. Poor for planting.

4-5 Fine for planting any aboveground crop where the climate permits. Extra good for peppers, tomatoes, peas and other vine crops.

6-7 Barren days; do no planting.

8-9-10 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

11-12 Poor days for planting; seeds tend to rot in ground.

13-15 First day best for planting aboveground crops, especially peas, beans, cucumbers and squash where climate is suitable. Last two days most fruitful time for planting beets, carrots, onions, and other hardy root crops in the deep South. All days are good for planting seed beds and flower gardens.

16-19 A barren time. Best for killing weeds, briars, poison ivy and other plant pests. Clear wood

lots and fence rows.

20-22 Favorable days for planting root crops, fine for sowing grains, hay, forage crops. Plant flowers.

23-24 Plant carrots, turnips, onions, beets, Irish potatoes, and other root crops in the South. Lettuce, cabbage, collards, and other leafy vegetables will do well. Start seed beds.

25-26 Seeds planted now will do poorly and yield little.

27-28 Good planting days for root crops where climate permits.

29-30 A good time to kill plant pests or do plowing. Poor for planting.

31 Fine for planting any aboveground crop where the climate permits. Extra good for peppers, tomatoes, peas and other vine crops.

Quotable Quotes

"We, born to freedom, and believing in freedom, are willing to fight to maintain freedom. We, and all others who believe as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees."

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Hunting in Unit 34

Bow season for deer, 3-points or more, January 1-15, 2006.

Aluminum Can Recycle Bin



Have you noticed the new recycle bin in the dumpster area? At the suggestion of Paul Comino, a point of collection was made for aluminum cans, with the proceeds going to the Weed Community fund. The bin, for bagged cans

only, was made by Don Sadauskas and Tom Ward. The first week, \$12.90 was collected. Please join in.

Avon Calling

Need an Avon Fix?

Call Cathy Jordan at 687-3050.

Weed Bluegrass Festival - 2006

Kids, get out your crayons and put on your thinking caps! Word has it that there's going to be a contest for the Weed Bluegrass Festival tee shirt design this year. So, get busy and good luck!

Cloudcroft Deli, Bakery, & Market

Located in the Burro Street Exchange on Burro Avenue. Open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We carry produce, meats, fish, cheeses, pastry items baked daily, an assortment of shelf and freezer items, sandwiches, daily take-out specials, and Blue Bell ice cream. Exclusive dealer for Boar's Head meats, cheeses, and products in Otero County. Let us help you plan your next event. Call us at 682-5588 for daily and weekly specials and to-go orders.

Recipe for a Happy New Year - Unknown

Take 12 fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past. Have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of time.

Cut these months into 30 or 31 equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time as follows:

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad - don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour love into the whole and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

- from *Farmer's Almanac*

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter! News for the *Hitchin' Post* may be mailed to Patsy Ward, Editor, P.O. Box 565 or sent via e-mail to patrice@cavemen.net anytime during the month, or one of our reporters may be calling you. **Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.**

If you have information you want included in the newsletter, call Joy Garrett, 687-3862; Evelyn Miller, 687-2170; Barb Schuessler, 687-2513; or Elaine Wright, 687-3073, with your news. If you prefer not to have your personal information included, please let us know.

The staff of the Hitchin' Post wishes you

*A new year
filled with
peace and
happiness!*