



Breakfast With Santa 2015

By: Jessie Roberts

R-Ranch in the Mountains hosted their 28th annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 5, 2015.

"The purpose of this event is to give children the chance to experience Santa that otherwise would not be able to," said Tracy Hennessee, Breakfast with Santa Chairman. This year, roughly 350 to 375 people attended the event, Hennessee said. This is a ranch event that benefits the ranch by acting as a community outreach program, said Denise Roberson, R-Ranch in the Mountains Lodge Manager and Events Director. "We are putting ourselves in front of the public to show that we are not so much of a secret and that we are asset to the community."

"It's getting out to the community that R-Ranch is having fun," Roberson said.

Hennessee said that this event is also a tradition to the Ranch and the community. To some children, this will be the only opportunity they get to meet Santa.

"This event is for the children," Hennessee said. "A lot of foster families come because it is affordable."

This was also the first year Breakfast with Santa had crafts that the children were able to take home. "It didn't just stop here, the R-Ranch experience went home with them," Roberson said.

Hennessee added that this event is beneficial to the Ranch because it creates owner involvement.

"This is a social event that encourages camaraderie between owners and is one of our only children's events," Hennessee said.

Breakfast with Santa is important because it is one of those events that help build the pride in the ranch spirit, Roberson said. "I believe that we need to invigorate the R-Ranch community spirit and I believe

Breakfast with Santa helps generate the spirit of R-Ranch pride amongst themselves and within the community."



Mrs. Clause and Santa

Photo Credit: Steve Rowe



R-Volunteer of the Quarter

By: Michael Hoffer, Executive Director

Closing out 2015 I've named ranch owners Valorie Lottes and Tracy Hennessee as co-Volunteer of the Quarter.

Valorie currently chairs the Accommodations Committee, leads the monthly Lottery program, chaired our first Classic Car Cruise In, and has agreed to chair the 2016 Mountain Top Rodeo. She's also been active with upgrades to the Stable House Cottage and the Rainbow Cabins.

Tracy just seems to always be there to jump in and help lead so many ranch events: Easter Egg Hunt activities; the 4th of July Rubber Duck Race; the Rodeo; Chapel Hill Improvement Group events; Kids Summer Camp; and most recently chaired the Breakfast With Santa event.

Valorie and Tracy join last quarter's volunteer leader – Holly Sell, who continues to always be looking for ways to make the ranch an even better place.

We applaud these terrific ranch owners for their work, time and financial commitments to R-Ranch.

R-Stable News

By: Jessie Roberts

The stable has two new horses, Maddie, a 9-year-old Paint mare and Chilli, a 14-year-old Arabian mare. Both are being worked into the trail line-up but are not available to ride yet.

The stable has two horses up for adoption. Dodge, due to medical issues with the front hoof and cannot be used on the Ranch anymore. He needs a home where he will be lightly used or used as a pasture buddy. Charlie is being re-tired due to old age. He also needs a home

where he will be used lightly with small children or as a pasture buddy.

Stable staff would like to remind owners to keep working on receiving your gold card and acquiring hours. Junior Wrangler reminder that we will begin the program again when it warms up and children can begin applying by contacting the Junior Wrangler Coordinator, at the Stable.

Stable staff is currently refencing the putt-putt pasture for a more efficient use by our herd. We also had a great year for rides, completing the year of 2015 with a total of 2,989 riders and 379 guest passes.



New horse, Chilli.

Photo Credit: Jessie Roberts



R-Office News

By: Jean Kelly

We have two, part-time weekend Reservationists, Sidney Cunningham and Carla Ahrendt. Sidney is a student at the University of North Georgia majoring in Psychology. She was hired to fill Olivia McTeer's position. Carla is a Dahlonega resident who, among other pursuits, drives a Lumpkin County school bus. She provides back-up as needed for the Reservations team. We are happy to have them both on board and know you'll welcome them to the Ranch!

Starting this month, it's time for all Ranch owners to complete a new Owner Information Sheet as well as the Waiver of Legal Liability and Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment form for our files. These forms must be completed annually. They're available at the front desk and are posted on the Owners page of our website.

The RV and Chapel Hill Cabin Reservation "re-up" program has been extended through March 2016. At the end of this extended trial period, the Accommodations Committee will review and evaluate it for future consideration by the Board of Directors..

The 2016 Black-out Dates are available at the front desk. As you know, Black-out dates offer owners first refusal on reservations for special holidays and events. Be sure to keep a copy on hand. Black outs are typically lifted 3 days before that event date.

New Owners

R-Ranch in the Mountains would like to welcome all new owners to the ranch. We are excited to have you as part of the family and look forward to creating many memories with you and your family.



R-Ranch Staff and Board Members 2015





Upcoming Events

- February 14th- Valentines Day Event
- February 20th- Board Meeting
- Teen Team Training, March 18-20

Teen Team Training is planned to become a group of well-organized teens that will be properly trained to help assist with the events at R-Ranch. The goal is to have teens that want to have fun, make new friends and develop valuable life skills while working with owners and their children. You will have the opportunity to help plan and implement fun filled programs for owners, family and friends. You will be assisting in set up, design and operations. There will be numerous rewards as you spend the summer having fun and growing as a group. This program will be offered only once before fall of 2016. There will be a surprise adventure at the end of the summer. You must be registered no later than March 12, 2016. Call 706-864-6444 ext. 221 and ask Mrs. Jean to sign you up for Teen Team Training. All applicants under 18 must have a parent present at check in on Friday night. There will be a short introduction and dinner. This program is open to all youth between the ages of 15-18.

- March 5th- Lottery
- March 19th- Board Meeting
- March 27th - Easter Egg Hunt
- April 1st Assessments Due
- April 23rd- Annual Owner's Meeting and Board Elections

A Message from the Executive Director:

Thanks to leadership by your elected Board of Directors with implementation by Ranch staff, there were very significant enhancements to the R-Ranch in 2015, to include:

- Approximately 50 families joined us as new R-Ranch owners and another 40 purchased ownership title from previous owners.
- A number of owners have adopted Chapel Hill cabins and are making repairs and renovations to their cabin – a long term benefit to the Ranch.
- Final decisions were made and a new direction set to resolve repairs required by the State D.N.R. on the Rainbow Lake Dam. Over the next months Rainbow Lake will be restored.
- Multiple phases were completed toward bringing increased electrical service (60 amp) to the Chapel Hill Cabin community.
- Major repairs were made to the Welcome Center roof and the Stable Barn - roof, gutters and copula.
- Two phases - sections of the main ranch road to the RV areas were repaved.
- The RV Storage area was nearly doubled in size and opened for use in the late Spring, 2015.
- We developed a Gold Mining Sluice Box station and activity area near the RV-1 entry.
- Our Dog Park was opened in April, 2015
- The Chapel received a new HVAC system.
- The Rainbow Cabins were redecorated and dozens of mattresses were replaced.



- A pest control contract was initiated attempting to deal with destructive Carpenter Bee and Ant problems which plague the Rainbow Cabins.
- A security camera system was donated by an owner and installed in the Stables.
- Two ranch vehicles were purchased – a Mercury van for Sales & Marketing, and a 4x4 Ford Ranger pickup for Security.
- Major overhauls were completed on the Maintenance and Stable “Gators” and a large lawn mower.
- New chairs and a conference phone set were purchased for the Board Room.
- Park benches were placed at the Dog Park and on the Chapel Hill road.
- A larger boiler was installed in the Lodge to provide greater heating and efficiency. Thermostat settings were established in an effort to reduce operating costs.
- The Administrative Office computers were inventoried and audited for efficiency. Computers were purchased for the Maintenance and the Stable staff.
- Stairs were built in the Stable Barn providing access to much needed storage in the barn loft.
- Picnic tables were placed at the Lodge playground, Crystal Lake canoe launch, and on various RV pad sites.
- A large fire ring and picnic area was built on the hilltop by the Lodge parking lot.
- A new picnic pavilion was added for the Chapel Hill community.
- Flooring was replaced in the Stable Cottage. New living room furniture was donated along with a flat screen TV for videos.
- Great progress was made on repainting or replacing signage around the ranch.
- The 2015 Mountain Top Rodeo was successful, generating over \$12,000 in net revenues which are dedicated for ranch infrastructure improvements.
- Four (4) horses were added to the ranch herd, now totaling 28. Four or five with age or medical issues are seeking new homes.
- An unfavorable service contract with a trash hauler was replaced with a new, much more customer friendly agreement with Grogan Disposal, including all new dumpsters.
- Water damage repairs were completed on the RV-5 Bathhouse.
- We’ve enhanced our reputation and community outreach, building new relationships with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Visitor Center, UNG, local schools and government.

And for 2016 the Board of Directors has provided funding for other significant enhancements to include major repairs to the swimming pool, the water treatment plant, cabin repairs and RV pad sites.

-Michael Hoffer, Exec. Dir.

