

July 1st, 2006
M-24 Ranch Association
Annual Meeting

From 11:00AM to 12:00Noon we got ready for the annual potluck dinner. We ate 12:00Noon. At 12:30PM we had some music by Gordon Blake, (Guitar) Greg Lynch, (Fiddle) Sue Haaland, (Guitar) and Tod Scott. (Mandolin) They played some music and sang some songs. They ended the program with a song and a poem about our Lake Problem. These are added as an addendum after the last page.

The Meeting began at 1:PM. Board members present: Don Starks, Bob Wade, John Konings, Sue Haaland, and Tod Scott.

There were only 21 members who signed in; there was not a quorum so we could not have an annual meeting.

We had a Board Meeting instead.

Member comment period:

South Gate Update

Major Hoggard gave an update on the automatic gate for the South entrance. The Chircop's are in the process of removing the gate and sign and re-facing the stone supports. The cost of the new gate, \$8,561.00 was funded by donations. It will cost \$50.00 to purchase a remote opener, and \$100.00 to purchase a replacement opener if you lose it. The system will be a dog tag style that can be reprogrammed instead of using keys. A loop system will be implemented to hold the gate open when something or someone is in the way.

Full time members need to pay \$500.00 to buy in, plus \$50.00 for a remote.

Part time members \$250.00 buy in, and \$50.00 for a remote.

They will take down the old South Gate poles with the M-24 sign. Sign and gate to be sold.

Lake Water Testing:

Susan Russin wanted the lake water tested 3 times a year, in five different places. Compare with Solar Bee's before and after.

Cost of each test is \$85.00. $3 \times 5 \times \$85.00 = \$1,275.00$. That is an awful lot of money for our tight budget. Plus, testing doesn't show what or who is polluting the lake. It could easily be the geese, not people. Initially, it was suggested that we table the request for testing until we have sufficient money. Then it was decided to test at least in October and see if more testing is needed.

Lake Restoration Efforts:

Bruce Marhenke said he had been up here at the lake every year since he bought his place in 1964. He gave a brief and interesting history of the lake since then, noting that until recently, none of this greenery (water-shield) was here. He pointed out how beautiful and clean the lake used to be and said that those who have only seen the lake in its current condition don't know what they

are missing. He said that when the dam broke and we lost most of the water, it was repaired and the lake filled back up in one winter. He thinks we should lower and clean out the lake. He admitted it will be expensive and time consuming, but that it will be worth it. Suzie Russin said she would be willing to help raise money.

We have sprayed a section of the lake for a test to see how it works on the water-shield. To do the rest it will take \$865.00 more.

The State was involved in replacing the Dam, it was brought up to code. We are looking at permits.

Walt Schefluer will consider donating \$5,000.00 if the lake is lowered and big equipment is brought in to do the job right.

Security Phone Tree:

John Scadding is working on the Neighborhood Watch Program and setting up a new Phone Tree.

Trolling motors on the lake:

Jason Chircop brought up the subject of using trolling motors for boats on the lake. Bruce said it's a bad idea to let them in the lake because they can be hazardous if they get lost in the lake. Bob Wade pointed out that trolling motors of today are much different than the trolling motors of the good old days. Now they have sealed batteries, sealed bearings, greaseless gears, only go three miles an hour, and sailboats go much faster. If trolling motors were voted in the bylaws would have to be changed by a vote of the membership. They have been changed before.

Unit I Road Report:

Dan Dowdin gave a report on Unit I roads. Don Steneck, our road contractor has a 5-7 year plan to get them in top shape. The roads still needs some more improving, but Dan suggested that we them go through the winter and let them settle. In the mean time we need to put in some more culverts and do some ditching. We also need to spend more money, about \$2,500 - 3,000. Dan suggested leaving it go for a year and do a 7 or 8 year plan. He also noted that Royal Ridge Drive needs to be fixed before winter.

Road conditions are a priority.

Next meeting, July 29th, 2006.

M-24 Secretary

Tod Scott

The song and poem mentioned before, are added on the next three pages. About the lake problem. Gordon wrote the song, and he and Greg sang it. Tod wrote the poem and read it to the members.

Drain Down The Lake
By Gordon Blake

(To the tune of "Home On The Range")

Oh give me a lake, that is fit for a Blake,
Or even a Nichols or Scott
Where it can be said, there's no water shed;
Yes, we sure would like that a lot.

Drain, drain down the lake,
So our backhoes can get in and scrape.
Now open that spout, let the water run out,
And we'll make old Emory ship shape.

Oh give me a pond, of which we are fond;
Cleared of those nasty old reeds.
So it won't be grim, to go for a swim,
Cause you won't be tangled with weeds.

Shall, shall we agree,
Not to fuss, gripe, complain, fume, or stomp?
Now don't be a flake, lets clean up the lake,
Before it turns into a swamp.
Before it turns into a swamp.

By Odd Tod

The "Old Gulch Fire" was burning big
The Fire Department used every rig.
The helicopters got water from everywhere
And put watershield in our lake, we were unaware.

But it started to grow and take over fast
It was decided to do something at last.
We tried pulling it up and carrying it out
It just kept going and spreading about.

We got a machine to do underwater mowing
But the watershield just kept on growing.
A plan was devised to lower the lake
Scrape out the muck and roots and let it bake.

From opposition the plan up and died
Every government Department was notified.
It would have been easy, nothing to it
But they found every reason not to do it.

Then another plan appeared for all to see
The answer to our problem is the Solar Bee.
The Solar Bee's were suppose to take
Away the reason for lowering the lake.

It was touted highly and put out for a vote
It was voted down, cost too much, is what they wrote.
But the plan didn't die without considerations
It would be put in with some donations.

A deal was made they thought was right
From fourteen donors they put on the bite.
The installation fee is all we could stand
The Solar Bee's were installed for seven grand.

For a year the Solar Bee's kept on going
The watershield just laughed and kept on growing.
They didn't do what we hoped they would
It was pointed out that they did some other good.

Get them out some members begin to rant
No, we can keep them with donations and a grant.
But getting donations was harder to do
And the grant never did come through.

The Solar Bee's just had to go
Couldn't keep them, not enough dough.
With sadness they watched the Solar Bee's go by
Then they started worrying about Ecoli.

Dire predictions were bandied about
That would happen, with the Solar Bee's out.
Bluegreen algae will take over the lake
Slimy waters and septic leakage will overtake.

Lets keep trying to make the lake perk
We know a lot of things that didn't work.
Maybe results we want we can still bring about
By lowering the lake and cleaning it out.