

RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P.O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 93 January, 2020

Letter from the President



It's hard to believe that we've begun another new year! Perhaps it's my imagination, but 2019 seemed to pass by far quicker than I was expecting . . . in fact, by the time we read this in the Ristwatch, we'll already be a month or so into 2020. As with the beginning of a new season or year, I tend to reflect on what has passed, and strive to remain hopeful for what waits for us—individually and collectively—in the journey ahead.

While many of us are still encased in ice, with roots back to snow falling before Thanksgiving, this has helped keep the fire danger lower than is typical. On the other hand, this unusual

blanket (glacier?) of ice has made local travel challenging, even treacherous, for our community members . . . and especially our RCVFD responders as they answer various emergency calls. Please allow extra time and space for your travel and safety, and pray for the safe travels and activities of <u>all</u> of our responders, and the individuals to whom our responders urgently travel to provide care and services.

There have been recent changes within RCVFD, both in its Operations roster, as well as its Board of Directors. Tim Stratman has enthusiastically stepped up to take the torch from Jill Smith (who did an incredible job for our community!) as the Area Representative for Stove Prairie. In a long overdue announcement, after Sandy Deraney-Reilly's plate became overflowing with other commitments and responsibilities almost a year ago, Carolyn Stanley graciously began serving as the Area Representative for Davis Ranch Road. Carolyn has proven to be an amazing force for the good of our community and RCVFD, especially when it comes time for our book fundraising activities.

Letter from the President, cont'd.

I spoke of changes in our Operations roster and . . . well, I don't want to steal anyone's thunder, so you'll have to read elsewhere in this edition of the Ristwatch to discover the exciting news regarding our Operations roster!

Surpassing the "Energizer Bunny", H.J. Siegel and the RCVFD "Friends of the Festival" volunteers have already begun planning and preparing for the annual RCVFD Mountain Festival in 2020. Although the 2019 Annual Festival was successful in many ways, the 2020 Festival will most probably eclipse its predecessor. I'm looking forward to this year's festival even more than I have in any previous year!

It's my understanding that there very well may be some community training events, as well as fundraisers/book sales, offered at one or more points in the coming year. Keep an eye out for announcements in the Ristwatch and, possibly, through our Community Alert system. Our Community Alert system is how we get important information out to our residents. If you are not already registered, please do so through our web site at https://rcvfd.org/community-information/community-alert-signup.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are wholly dependent upon the generosity of our community and supporters. For nearly 45 years, RCVFD—its Emergency Responders as

EMERGENCY CALL 911 well as its Board of Directors—continues to selflessly serve the needs of our community, while continuing to judiciously steward its existing resources, while soliciting and securing the finances required to continue to meet the needs of our community . . . as well as anyone else traveling through our beautiful "home". There are many other ways where we can all help financially support RCVFD, which is the primary Emergency Response System for the areas of Davis Ranch Road, Rist Canyon Road, Stove Prairie Road, Stratton Park Road, Upper and Lower Buckhorn Road, Whale Rock Road and all of their collective tributaries.

In addition to our periodic fundraising letters, anyone at anytime may also make a donation directly to RCVFD via our web site (https:// rcvfd.org). Two other very simple ways include designating RCVFD as the recipient of a portion of your purchases on Amazon (https:// smile.amazon.com) and at your local King Soopers (with your King Soopers Rewards Card account), or through organizations like ColoradoGives (https://coloradogives.org) and Benevity (https://benevity.org). As the saying goes, "many hands make light work"; if everyone gives a little bit throughout the year, frequent fundraisers and large donations are not necessary. Any donation is always welcome and is genuinely appreciated!

If you are interested in learning more about RCVFD, our community or how you can help, please contact me at president@rcvfd.org!

Take good care, stay warm, enjoy safe travels and be well prepared for the exciting journey ahead!

> With Kind Regards, Jeff Yarberry RCVFD President



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Chief's Report

Wow—nothing like a big snow to remind us what a great community we live in. When we got three+ feet of snow over Thanksgiving, I heard many stories of neighbors helping neighbors to get everyone unstuck. The winds that followed were sort of like aftershocks after an earthquake—creating trouble again, but helping us all get creative about our access issues. On one of our calls, a responder had the forethought to take his plow truck to the scene to make sure the winds had not closed off the road (they had, but he cleared the access for the ambulance). It looks like it will be a long winter of snow and ice; when we get this much snow early in the season it sticks around. Make sure you are safe on those spots that keep melting and refreezing. On the plus side, our wells should all be running fine and the sledding is good . . .

I want to send out a big thank you to Jeff Brack. He helped us diagnose and fix an electrical problem on one of our fire trucks that had been dogging us for a while. Just a reminder that you do not have to be a responder to be a big help to the RCVFD.

Now the big news—this is my last Chief's letter for the Ristwatch. At the January meeting, new officers were elected and Jeff Elsner will be the new RCVFD chief in 2020. Jeff has been a firefighter and EMT for RCVFD for a long time, was a professional wildland firefighter when he

lived in California, and is just all-around a great guy. Phil Benstein also stepped up as Assistant Chief—his dedication to our training for the past few years has been fantastic. I will be stepping back into the Captain's spot and look forward to supporting Jeff and Phil in their new roles.

The full slate of officers is:

Chief - Jeff Elsner
Assistant Chief - Phil Benstein
Captain - Carol Dollard
Medical Officer - Ron Hall-Estand
Lieutenant (Radios/Comm) - Terry Shetler
Lieutenant (Equipment) - Jesse Ceplecha
Lieutenant (Trucks) - Norm Miller
Public Information Officer - Mark McCracken

I want to express my gratitude to these folks who have stepped up to be officers—they are giving an extra level of commitment to RCVFD. I would also like to thank the entire Rist Canyon community for supporting me in my role as chief for the past four years.

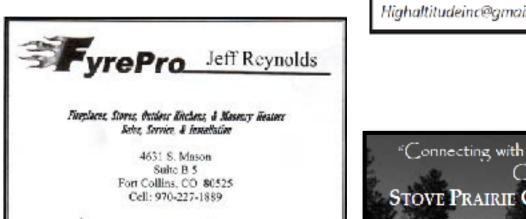
Sincerely, Carol Dollard RCVFD Captain RCVFD Chief, Retired

The Ristwatch reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any article or ad at any time. We base this decision on our responsibility to our readers. We will not knowingly print any article or ad that is misleading or untruthful. Articles submitted to the Ristwatch are a representation of the author and not necessarily an endorsement by the RCVFD.

Here's My Card









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Meet Your New Fire Chief — Jeff Elsner

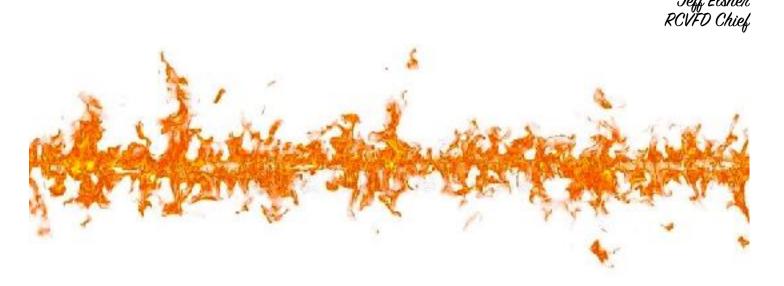


I have been fire fighting for Rist Canyon fire department for 15 years starting in 2005, and have been an EMT since 2011. When I was younger I worked for the YACC—the Young Adults Conservation Corps—where I became fire trained. I then worked on an engine crew in the Angeles National Forest for two seasons. I then went to the Texas Canyon Hot Shots out of California for two more seasons. After that I worked with the Lake Hughes Volunteer Fire Department for a couple of years. So fire is in my blood.

The reason I live in Rist Canyon is because it's a quiet, peaceful life and the people are very kind and friendly. For my paid job I own JNC contractors where I work as an exterior trim carpenter doing siding, decking and timber work with four dedicated employees.

I have been married to my loving wife Carol for 40 years. Carol is a retired nurse specializing in pediatric patients with special needs and other fields of nursing. We have two sons and three grandkids who all live in California.

My joy is riding motorcycles with the wind in my hair, riding across country and camping. I also own a backhoe front loader that I use to do side work and help out mountain people. I am a member of the Rocky Mountain Tool Association where I share my love of old hand planes and antique woodworking tools.









MAY 20 - MAY 25, 2020

Join us for Memorial Day Activities hosted by the Veterans Plaza of Northern Colorado



ALL VETERANS GALA

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD, 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM FORT COLLINS HILTON HOTEL

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS - TONY AND JANET SEAHORN, AUTHORS OF "TEARS OF A WARRIOR" DINING, MUSIC, DANCING

OFFICAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, NOON - 1PM DISPLAYS 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM FLYOVER AT 1:00 PM

WALL AVAILALBE FOR VIEWING

WALL ARRIVES 3:00 PM MAY 20 WALL CONSTRUCTION 7:00 AM MAY 21 WALL DEPARTS VETERANS PLAZA MAY 25 3:00 PM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION - VETERANS PLAZA OF NORTHERN COLORADO OR CONTACT LISA NELSON - LNELSON@EDMLINK.COM

Treasurer's Report



Happy New Year to the RCVFD community!

2020 is upon us and as we enter a new decade, your RCVFD is financially sound and volunteer-strong! What makes this community strong is all of us working together as one.

A very good example of this is the Friends of the Festival group that our festival coordinator, H. J. Siegel, has assembled. Working together, the mountain festival was able to raise just over \$20,000 in 2019. This is a great asset in helping to support the annual drive.

The annual drive is, and has been, the main financial support of RCVFD. To provide and maintain the excellent fire and medical services needed in our 112 square mile radius, support of all property owners is much needed. Thanks to all of our 2019 donors!

We can, and will, continue to grow and stay a self-funded volunteer fire department! No tax line item! When you receive your annual drive envelope, donations big or little is what it takes.

The last couple of years we have found another way each of us can support RCVFD, using the King Soopers 5% rewards program. In 2019 RCVFD received \$4,892.96 with only 96 households participating. Sign up and every time you make a purchase, King Soopers will award RCVFD 5% of your purchase amount at no cost to you!

For those who shop on Amazon, use AmazonSmile. Go to www.smile.amazon.com. For more information on signing up for AmazonSmile and the King Soopers rewards card, see the next page.

2019 was a great year for RCVFD, and 2020 will be even better.

Richard Lund Treasurer

RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7 PM at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Road

Operations —1st Wednesdays Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays

Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays
Medical Training—4th Wednesdays

Three Easy Ways to Help the RCVFD



Spread the Word!

One of our biggest fundraisers is the King Soopers Rewards Card. Although this is a fairly new program for us, and not many neighbors have connected their cards to the RCVFD yet, the fire department earned almost \$5,000 in 2019. If everyone in the Rist Canyon area used this program, it could make a HUGE difference in our

fundraising. This generous program gives the RCVFD 5% of all of your purchases at King Soopers. This includes groceries, toiletries, supplies, clothing, gas and even prescriptions.

The process only takes a few minutes. If you don't already have a free King Soopers
 Rewards Card, request one from your cashier or the service desk. Once that's done, jump on your computer and go to www.kingsoopers.com/communityrewards. Click on the link to enroll.
 Set up an account, or sign in if you already have one. Then click on Community Rewards from the list on the left. Use the "Find an Organization" box to enter our NPO number, YP687 and click Search. It will verify that you have selected the RCVFD. Click "Enroll" and you're done!
 Always scan your Rewards Card when shopping. As a Rewards member, you'll save money and earn points towards gas discounts; and the RCVFD will receive 5% of your purchases. If you have any questions about the King Soopers Rewards Program, contact them at

800/576-4377. And thank you for telling your neighbors to sign up, too!

You can donate through Colorado Gives any time of the year! Please Spread the WORD to family and friends!



It's easy—just post this link:
http://coloradogives.org/RistCanyonVolunteerFireDepartment
to Facebook and ask them to donate! Your fire department thanks you!



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Letter from the Vice President

• Part 1: Want to be one of 25 to win \$10?

• Part 2: Remember Betty Crocker?

• Part 3: Learn how to be a press agent from an expert?

• Part 4: Join a \$20,000 team for free?



• Part 1:

Here is how 25 families can each win \$10 worth of books at the Mountain Festival Book Sale. Three times a year, the residents supported by the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) receive a request letter for a donation to make the RCVFD possible. Embedded in the next letter, which will go out in March 2020, will be a "secret password." The first 25 families to call or email H.J. with the password will each win a certificate for \$10 to use at the 2020 Mountain Festival Book Sale. More information will be in the request letter.

• Part 2:

I do not believe the rumor that Lisa Diederich, the Mountain Festival Bake Sale Chair, is a direct descendant of Betty Crocker. I do believe that Lisa has been kind enough to chair the Bake Sale for about 15 years. She is looking for a co-chair to work with her on the 2020 Mountain Festival. If you want to find out what this will involve, with no obligation for asking, please contact Lisa at diederich@toast.net. Thank you.

• Part 3:

After serving the Festival as Press Release Chair since 2014, Leisa Taylor is retiring from the publicity committee for the annual Mountain Festival. She prepares and sends out Festival Press Releases that will go to media and Northern Colorado organizations. This is a self-contained job that can be done from home. Leisa has lists of organizations and media outlets to contact, draft press releases, etc. Leisa is happy to mentor her successor. Please contact Leisa to find out what is involved: taylorsle@msn.com. Thanks.

Part 4:

Last year, about 100 RCVFD Mountain Festival volunteers raised \$20,000 to help keep our RCVFD functioning effectively whenever 911 is called for medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, wildland fires and structural fires. It will be great to get more neighbors involved so we can raise even more this year. You can help anytime, all year long, before, during and after the festival on September 12th. Please contact H.J. if you want to find out more about the possibilities: HJ@computer.org.



H. J. Siegel RCVFD Board Vice President, RCVFD Firefighter and Medical Responder, and Mountain Festival Coordinator

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Fire Department Updates

New Burn Permit System!

All this snow means many of us might be cleaning up slash from last summer's cutting. Be aware that the County has a new burn permit system, so even if you got a permit this fall, you need to reapply. I just did it, it only takes a few minutes. All the info about burn permits and the link to the new form is here:

https://www.larimer.org/health/clean-air-water-and-soil/airquality/burn-permits

Also, remember that once you have your permit, you need to call Dispatch and notify RCVFD on the day you burn. This helps us discern if a smoke call might be a slash burn and not a wildfire. The number to notify Larimer County Dispatch is on your permit and you can notify RCVFD by going to our online notification form—link below.

https://www.rcvfd.org/ community-information/slashburn-notification

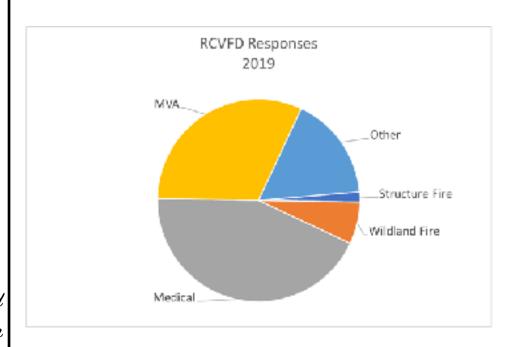
Be sure to follow all the rules regarding slash pile burning posted on the Larimer County site.

Carol Dollard RCVFD Captain

2019 Call Summary

Just a quick summary of the calls RCVFD responded to in 2019. Because it was such a wet, cold spring and early summer we had very few fire calls. However, there were plenty of medical calls and motor vehicle accidents (MVA). We ended up with 61 calls for the year. The graph below shows how they broke down by call type. If you are curious, the "Other" category includes things like CO detectors going off or smoke reports that are not really fires.

When you look at 61 calls, you think "about one per week, that's not too bad". Except that it doesn't work that way. We can have a very quiet several weeks and then something happens and we suddenly get a bunch of calls. For example, in a two week period around Labor Day we had over a dozen calls (several days during this spell with more than one call per day). Regardless of how many calls we have per year (we average between 60 and 80), we have to train to be prepared for almost anything. My gratitude goes out to all the responders who spend the time to keep their training up in order to help when needed. Also, many thanks to Phil who heads up training.



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 For You to Build Custom Home
- Send of the Road Privacy



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WHAT HAPPENED IN 2019?

There were many transactions occurring in our area during 2019! People are looking to our area for privacy, lack of HOA's, and proximity to the Fort Collins/Loveland area. However, there are not enough properties available. Call me TODAY for your complimentary market analysis.

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Meet Your 2020 Board of Directors

Jeff Yarberry, President

Jeff and Michele Yarberry moved to Rist Canyon in August 2016, and knew that they were finally home. They enjoy meeting their neighbors, and are looking forward to meeting more folks, and becoming more of a part of this community. Jeff is a Management Analyst with the USDA's Emergency Response agency, APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), and has served on other nonprofit boards, and volunteered with humanitarian relief efforts around the world for nearly 15 years. Jeff and Michele welcome the opportunity to become more involved in the community, and look forward to the journey ahead.

Jeff Elsner, Fine Chief and 2nd Vice President
Jeff has been a firefighter for RCVFD since
2005, and an EMT since 2011. Jeff owns JNC
contractors where he works as an exterior trim
carpenter. Jeff and his wife, Carol, have two
sons and three grandkids in California. In his
spare time, Jeff is riding motorcycles and
camping. He also owns a backhoe front loader
that he uses to do side work and help out
mountain people. He is a member of the Rocky
Mountain Tool Association where he shares his
love of old hand planes and antique
woodworking tools.

H. J. Siegel, Vice President

H. J. has been a RCVFD Firefighter since he moved to Colorado in 2001, was certified as an Emergency Medical Responder in 2009, joined the RCVFD Grant Writing Committee in 2017 and has been Coordinator of the RCVFD Mountain Festival since 2018. H.J. was a Professor at Purdue University from 1976 to 2001, a Professor at CSU from 2001 to 2017 (now a "Professor Emeritus"), and was the first Director of the university-wide CSU Information Science and Technology Center from 2002 to 2013.

Richard Lund. Treasurer

Richard has lived in Rist Canyon since 1991 and has been a volunteer for the RCVFD since 1994, serving as Board Member, President and currently Treasurer.

Steve Denlinger, Asst. Treasurer

Leisa Taylor, Secretary

Leisa hails from Texas and, after an adjustment, loves the Colorado snow. She lives up Davis Ranch and enjoys walking, writing and watching tennis on TV (in another life, she will be a professional tennis player). For work, Leisa is the Outreach Coordinator for the Global Village Museum in Fort Collins. Leisa turned 30-for-the-second-time last year, and she has two good mouser cats (Winnie and Sienna).

Bridget Tisthammer, Ristwatch Editor

Bridget and Thom moved to Rist Canyon in 1989. They raised two children here, who went to Stove Prairie school. She has been involved with the RCVFD as Ristwatch editor since 2015. Bridget helps Thom with his company, Wattle and Daub Contractors, and volunteers as a Larimer County Master Gardener. Bridget is always looking for community news and photos to publish in the Ristwatch.

Don Diemer, Buckhorn Rep

Don left the nuclear power industry a long, long time ago to cut and sell firewood. He has since worked as a cabinet shop apprentice, built custom log furnishings and, for the last 28 years, has been the hand on a small ranch west of Loveland. He is currently 16 years into caretaking properties on both the upper and lower ends of the Buckhorn Creek. He continues to teach himself guitar and occasionally entertains at small venues, usually from behind the potted palm plant.

2020 Board of Directors, cont'd.

Carolyn Stanley, Davis Ranch Rep

Carolyn and her husband, Randy, moved here from Virginia and into their home on October 31st, 1984. They have enjoyed their mountain home. She started her sewing business, Cloud 9 Sewing, in May of 1990 and works out of her shop on the property. In 2017, she was elected by Joan Miller to be the chair for the book tent and has since become known as "Queen Bee".

Idris Hamid, Rist Canyon Rep

Idris and his wife, Muminah, have lived in Rist Canyon for about 20 years, where they have raised their children who attended Stove Prairie School. Idris is a Professor of Philosophy at CSU. After completing a Masters degree in Physics, he received his PhD in philosophy from University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

Tim Stratman, Stove Prairie Rep

Tim and his wife, Jennifer, moved to the area just over one year ago from St. Louis. After 19 years of vacations in Colorado they finally get to call it home! Never have they been more excited, and are looking forward to meeting new people and finding more trails to explore.

Louise Creager, Stratton Park Rep

Louise moved to the Rist Canyon area in 1989. Her children attended Stove Prairie, and she has been involved with RCVFD in many capacities: Vice-president, Mountain Festival coordinator; founder and chair of the Firefighter Silent Auction, originator of the fire department's 501(c)3 non-profit status; Chair of the Fine Art Auction and Board Member Stratton Park Road Representative since 2009.

Brian Finley, Whale Rock Rep

Brian has owned property in Whale Rock since 2008. He is a career firefighter, working with the National Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Alpine Hotshots. Brian is currently a student at CSU, working on his Fire Science degree.

2019 RCVFD Annual Meeting Report by Leisa Taylor

The 2019 RCVFD Membership Meeting was held November 2nd at Stove Prairie School with 48 people in attendance. Highlights of the meeting included:

- President Jeff Yarberry presented the President's Award to Chief Carol Dollard for her dedication and exemplary service;
- Treasurer Richard Lund reported RCVFD is in good financial shape with a budget of approximately \$80,000 per year;
- Chief Carol Dollard reported 52 calls to date in 2019, with approximately 80% of the calls being medical or motor vehicle accidents. There have been no serious wildland or structure fires; and
- Festival Chair H. J. Siegel announced a profit of over \$20,000 from the 2019 Mountain Festival with over 100 volunteers and an attendance of approximately 2,000 people.

The slate of nominees for the 2020 RCVFD Board was approved unanimously as follows:

President – Jeff Yarberry

1st Vice President – H. J. Siegel

2nd Vice President – Carol Dollard

Secretary – Leisa Taylor

Treasurer – Richard Lund

Assistant Treasurer – Steve Denlinger Ristwatch Editor – Bridget Tisthammer Rist Canyon Rep. – Idris Hamid Davis Ranch Rep. – Carolyn Stanley Stratton Park Rep. – Louise Creager Whale Rock Rep. – Brian Finley Stove Prairie Rep. – Tim Stratman Upper Buckhorn Rep. – Don Diemer Lower Buckhorn Rep. – Open



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RCVFD Community News

Entering the winter months, please be careful traveling on our icy roads and remember the uphill traffic has the right of way. Also, it is very helpful to lower your headlights to your parking lights when stopped to allow a vehicle to pass.

Carolyn Stanley Davis Ranch Area Rep From creekside on the Upper Buckhorn . . . it's the Winter Solstice . . . 18 hours without sunshine and 6 hours with . . . barely enough time to find the chronometer and astrolabe to fix my location. The pack rats, mice and squirrels have finally stopped trying to get in the cabin and have settled into their own little middens. My cat (Mrs. Kitty) is worn out from the constant attacks. Hope your holidays were pleasent and you had time to reflect on 2019. Up here I was reminded of . . . no job, no boss, no cell service, no traffic, no stoplights, no indoor plumbing, no prairie dogs, no TV, no water bill, no electric bill, no parking fees, and, as a friend once asked, "Why are there no single women?" With all of these freedoms from expense, commitment and labor, a resident could just DONATE.

RCVFD can always use . . . donations of spare change and labor, fire fighting volunteers, a representative from the Lower Buckhorn and input from Crystal Mountain. Please consider . . . checking into the RCVFD web site once in a while, voicing your opinion to your area representative (at mile marker 31), attending the Summer Festival and Having a Happy New Year.

Up the proverbial creek without a means of locomotion Don, Briggs the dog and gato

Book Bees News

As you may be aware, Bee Hive 1 (aka our new book shed behind RCVFD station 1) is here and full of boxes of books. Shortly, the Book Bees will be meeting to sort and consolidate all the boxes in this storage unit and the black trailer behind Station 1. Our biggest need right now is help moving the boxes as Harry "Box Coming Through" Bates went and broke his arm in Karate class. We usually meet on Friday mornings from 9:30 to around 12 noon. If you can come and help with this project, please call or email me.

Larry Monesson will be working on Bee Hive 2 when weather permits. If you can help in the construction of this second building, please contact Larry or me. Any help is gratefully appreciated.

The collection box out front of Station 1 is always available for donations. Our other

donation boxes will be out around the 1st of June. If you have a large donation, please contact us and we will be glad to come pick up your donation.

We take all kinds of books, CDs, DVDs, records, etc. If we cannot use the items, they are donated to Arc or shared with schools, etc. We are now placing books on Ebay that are worth more than \$2,000, hoping to receive a better price for them. We are also selling records at the local flea market and have been successful in that venture.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us whether it is for an hour or more. We love to have new faces.

> Carolyn Stanley, Queen Bee RCVFO Mountain Festival Book Tent 970-221-2024





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Location: In Rist Canyon, ~8 mi west of Vern's Restaurant.

Please contact Michele Yarberry at 970-672-6174

or at contact@liberatedlivingforyou.com

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour, and check the batteries in your smoke and CO2 alarms!

We need a garage sale!

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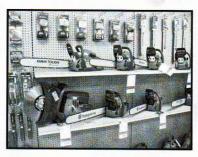


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Community Classifieds

\$1 per line for a 4" wide ad.

No businesses, please.

Business ads, classified ads, community news and photos can be submitted to the Editor at ristwatch@rcvfd.org.

The deadline for the April Ristwatch is March 21st.

2019 Annual Drive - Budget \$80,944 - Donations YTD \$76,981.47

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