



RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 109 January 2024

Letter from the President

Looking Forward to 2024!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe season of holidays. We are looking forward to 2024 here at RCVFD. We have a few major announcements.

Richard Lund, who has been our treasurer for so many years, has stepped aside to take on Assistant Treasurer now that he has his replacement, Diane McCarthy, trained to his exacting standards.

Jeff Elsner is taking a well-deserved break from his role as Chief and is handing the big shoes to Mark Neuroth. Jeff will continue on with the Department, likely in an officer role.

And finally, this will be the final Ristwatch edited by Bridget Tisthammer. Bridget is also taking a well-deserved break. She has recruited Ellison Carter to be our new editor.

We all owe this dedicated bunch a huge round of applause. When you see them, shake their hands and thank them for their selfless service to our community. I personally look forward to having as successful a working relationship with the new Board members as I enjoyed with their predecessors.

And, as always, PLEASE DONATE!

Neil Faber
President - 2023

Chief's Report

Greetings to all in the RCVFD response area. Before I introduce myself, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jeff Elsner for serving as chief of RCVFD for the past five years. His dedication, knowledge, and expertise, as well as his leadership abilities, have been invaluable. Jeff will remain on the department as a lieutenant, for which I am extremely grateful.

My name is Mark Neuroth, and I am the new chief of RCVFD. I started coming to training at Rist Canyon in 2018 and officially joined the department in 2019. I have been the medical officer for the department since 2020. I was an EMT for North Fork VFD from 2007 until 2018. I got my EMT in 2007 and my Advanced EMT in 2012. I was a captain at North Fork from 2012 – 2018.

My wife Cheryl and I are natives of Colorado and have been married for 42 years. We moved to Bellvue in 2019 to be closer to our kids and grandkids. I'm proud to be asked to be Chief and to be part of RCVFD. We have a great group of responders, and I would like to capitalize on that to make our department even better by continuing to work with the dedicated officers and our board of

directors. My goal is to continue training our volunteers to be extremely well prepared and safe, and to be ready to respond to any emergency.

I would also like to thank our grants committee for securing a grant for 10 new SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) units, which will be delivered early this year. This will better equip our firefighters and enhance firefighter safety. Thank you to the board of directors for providing great support, and to the community and companies that have donated time and money to keep this department up to date with equipment and supplies. I look forward to proudly serving the community as Chief.

Mark Neuroth, Chief
Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department
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Letter From the Vice President

Bridget Retired as Ristwatch Editor

Bridget Tisthammer retired as Ristwatch Editor after serving from July 2015 to December 2023. She did an outstanding job in putting together the quarterly newsletter that is mailed hardcopy to ~1200 Rist Canyon residents, and also appears (in color) on our RCVFD.org webpage. Bridget also greatly increased newsletter advertisers to cover the newsletter costs.



***Bridget as Festival
Ice Cream Chair***
photo credit: H.J. Siegel



photo credit: rcvfd.org

Jeff Retired as RCVFD Fire Chief

Jeff Elsner retired as the RCVFD Fire Chief after serving in that role for five years. The department grew and improved under Jeff's leadership. Jeff was a very effective Chief, who got a lot accomplished as a professional leader, and who led with a sense of humor, kindness, and heart. Jeff will now serve as a Lieutenant of RCVFD.

Wanted: RCVFD Mountain Festival T-Shirt Chair

Come join the RCVFD Mountain Festival team as T-Shirt Chair. Mentoring from the current T-Shirt team is available. The position involves working with our graphic designer to create, order, and sell commemorative shirts for the Rist Canyon Mountain Festival.

Please contact the current T-Shirt Co-Chairs:
Shannon Phelps (shannonp13@hotmail.com) and
Molly McLean (mollybea37@hotmail.com)
for more information.



Festival T-Shirts on Display
photo credit: H.J. Siegel



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Letter From the Vice President, continued from page 4

New RCVFD Ambulance

We now have our first, well-equipped, four-wheel drive ambulance, custom designed for our environment, thanks to your donations! Before this, we only had a much smaller and much less effective modified SUV. To save money, the RCVFD Officers led an effort that refurbished a used vehicle. This cost was somewhat over \$50,000. A new vehicle such as this costs about \$200,000.



RCVFD Ambulance
photo credit: H.J. Siegel

H. J. Siegel
RCVFD Board Vice President
Mountain Festival Coordinator
HJ@computer.org

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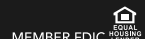
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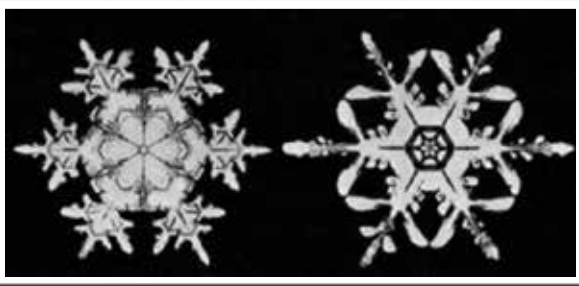
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**Daylight Saving Time begins at
2 AM on Sunday, March 10th.**

**Don't forget to set your clocks forward one
hour and change the batteries in your CO and
smoke detectors!**

Notes from Your Area Representatives



Winter greetings neighbors!

The road seems to be holding up well this winter. Take extra caution when navigating the narrows and tight areas. Sightings of elk and moose have increased as the animals settle in for a long winter. This year I noticed increased traffic for the holidays as locals searched for their favorite tree for the holidays. Hope you're all doing well.

Erica Michel
Upper Buckhorn Area Representative

The lower Buckhorn has been very quiet leading up to the end of the year. We've had only one snow storm that had any real consequences. Larimer County has done their usual excellent work clearing CR 27.

We've had varying weather from significant cold periods to kind of amazingly much warmer periods that get into the low 50's temperature-wise. Isn't this why we love, at least in part, Colorado? If things get active, I will update Ristwatch with those items.

Finally, I've rid myself of my landline because of multiple nonstop solicitations. My only phone number is my cell phone. It is 720/635-9012. If you're not in my contact list, the call will go to voicemail. Please tell me your concern or ideas, and I promise to listen and return your calls.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to one and all.

Dean Yoder
Lower Buckhorn Area Representative

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Along with 2024 being a leap year, we welcome in new Friends Of The Festival (FOTF) committee members, and there are a few RCVFD officer changes.

The new year is starting off peaceful and quiet along Rist Canyon with the occasional sighting of a mountain lion or bobcat sprinkled in with the common sights of deer. If you would like to learn more about being involved with the FOTF or being a volunteer firefighter, please let me know.

'Tis the winter season and sending a reminder that the **Larimer County Burn Permit process requires you to notify the fire department each day you burn on the day of the burn.** Refer to <https://www.rcvfd.org/community-information/slash-burn-notification>.

Wishing everyone 12 months of success, 52 weeks of laughter, 366 days of fun, 8,784 hours of joy, 527,040 minutes of good luck, and 31,622,400 seconds of happiness.

Debbie Benson
Rist Canyon Area Representative

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Notes from Your Area Representatives, cont'd from page 12

As the year ends, we here on Fire Route 2 have seen Mountain Lion tracks in the snow and have had a deer kill, confirmed by a game cam. This reminds us to keep a close eye on our pets.

The fire department is supplying Chimfex sticks for your wood stove and fireplace. I have a supply at my home and will be glad to bring one to you, or you can pick one up at my home. The fire department is also supplying address signs at no charge. If you would like one, please contact me at 970/221-2024 or cloud9sewing@gmail.com.

You can also contact me for information if you are interested in helicopter insurance. One trip on the Flight for Life can possibly cost you \$20,000.

Please make sure you have a burn permit when burning slash.

If you have any concerns about the fire department or their response to our area, please let me know.

Carolyn Stanley
Davis Ranch Area Representative



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2023 Annual RCVFD Membership Meeting

The November 2023 Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department Annual Membership Meeting brought together community members to recognize the accomplishments of the past year. The celebration provided recognition of those directly involved in the day-to-day operations, as well as community volunteers and donors.



The meeting annually provides the community with the opportunity to meet neighbors, renew friendships, and better understand the complexities of providing an all-volunteer fire department. About 50 people attended the pot-luck feast hosted by Mervyn Jacobson, owner of the Stove Prairie Ranch Events Center.

Potluck | photo credit: H.J. Siegel

Three individuals were recognized for their significant contributions. Chief Jeff Elsner is stepping down as chief after five years, and he is now a Lieutenant. Also leaving from her position was eight-year Ristwatch Editor Bridget Tisthammer. Richard Lund, after serving on the Board as Treasurer since 1994, will shift to Assistant Treasurer, and hand the reins to Diane McCarthy as the new Treasurer.

Yearend highlights included: Mark Neuroth will become Fire Chief in 2024; Carol Dollard will serve as Assistant Chief; and Jesse Cephlecha will serve as Captain. Dean Yoder is working to establish a fire station in the Buckhorn. A new (used) ambulance has been outfitted and is ready to use. RCVFD is working with the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority mutual aid and fire service using geolocation coordinates. This technology uses cellular and cell tower data, and WiFi access points to generate latitude and longitude coordinates. The Department recently received a \$75,000 grant to purchase ten self-contained breathing apparatus unite for the firefighters. More than 130 volunteers were involved with the Mountain Festival, which raised a profit of more than \$28,000. An estimated 2,700 people attended.

Business was conducted including the election of the 2024 RCVFD Board of Directors. A list of the 2024 Board is available on the last page of this issue of the Ristwatch.

The RCVFD's operational expenses are solely dependent upon donations, primarily from the 1,212 property owners in the community that benefit from its services. Typically, only 30 percent of these landowners in the Department's service area annually donate yet all landowners receive 100 percent of the benefit. No money is collected from any type of tax, service assessments, the county or state, etc. Thus, donations are critical to the success of the Department. Grant monies only may be used for specific equipment.

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We have been receiving a steady donation from the Old Firehouse books. We also have donation boxes at Station 1 and at Pleasant Valley Church down near the Bellvue Post Office.

We have two new volunteers from the festival and would like to invite anyone who is interested in helping sorting books this winter and until the festival to contact Carolyn Stanley at cloud9sewing@gmail.com or Kathy Cox at kathyc228@yahoo.com , and we will be glad to email you when we start sorting.

Carolyn Stanley

Submissions to The Ristwatch

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.

Submissions of written work or photographs are welcome and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please send submissions to the Ristwatch Editor at ristwatch@rcvfd.org.

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Operations —1st Wednesdays (6-7 PM)

Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays (7-9:30 PM)

Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays (6-8 PM)

Medical Training—4th Wednesdays (6-9:30 PM)

Ops, Fire, and Medical Trainings are at Firehouse #1 at 11835 Rist Canyon Road. Board meetings are held at Firehouse #1, or on Zoom if necessary. All Rist Canyon area residents are welcome to attend. Around the first of each month, RCVFD sends out a Community Alert with the deadline to request a copy of the agenda. If you would like to receive the agenda, please email your name, email address, and phone number to the RCVFD Board Secretary at secretary@rcvfd.org. Please note that the agenda will arrive one to two days before the scheduled meeting. To sign up for Community Alerts, visit RCVFD.org.

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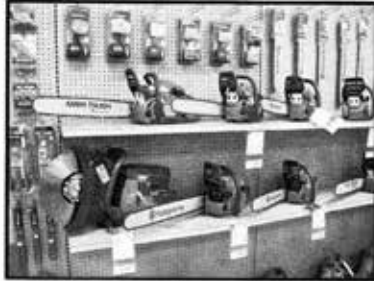
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Always scan your Rewards Card when shopping. As a Rewards member, you'll save money and earn points towards gas discounts, and the RCVFD will receive 5% of your purchases.

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!

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2023 Annual Drive: Budget \$132,640 - Donations YTD \$74,921

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Brault, Aaron & Steph	Dukart, Lane & Susan	Henchenski, Robert & Gail
Brautigam, Wayne & Myrna	Dunn, Jordan	Hermand, Linda M.
Brotsky, Rochelle	Dvork, Josef	Herrera, Rachel
Buckhorn Carvings, A. Hawks	Eagan-Foster, Tammie	Hinojosa, Raley & Patricia
Budge, David & Carol	Edwards, Robert & Robin	Hogan, Scott & Paige
Burggraff, Gerri	Elliott, Elizabeth	Hokansson, Steve & Monica

2023 Annual Drive, cont'd.

Horn, Deborah L.
Horner, Jim & Cindy
Houska, Dennis & Noreen
Hueser, Joseph & Kay
Huxley, Patrice
Jacobson, Cecilia
Janssen, Wendell & Debbie
Johnson, Anna
Johnson, Christopher
Johnson, Darrell & Douglas
Johnson, Frederick & Antonia
Johnson, LaRue & Mary
Johnson, Luke
Johnson, Megan
Jones, Terry & Judy
Kefalas, John
Kendall, Lon & Kathy
Kessler, Phillip & Deborah
Kindsfather, Ruth
Klein, Jerry & Kori
Knab, Tom & Lynda
Knoedler, Louise
Knuth, Roger
Kooser, John
Koturov, Marisue & Daneil
Kramer, Dan & Donna
Kregel, Kathy
Kreshon, Tom & Julia
Lauenroth, Bill & Indy Burke
Lawson, Paul
Lebesch, Jeffery & Zia Zybko
Lechtenberg, David
Levick, Bill & Joan
Lidmila, James & Patti
Limbach, Pete & Lauren
Lippucci, Fred & Donna
Lira, Ernest & Judith
Lough, Jack & Kathleen
Loveland Ready Mix
Lund, Richard & Elenore
Lynam, Ronald
Magruder, Andrew
Maher, Mike & Linda
Mason, Cricket
Masone, Joseph & Maria
Mattison, Harold & Lynn
Maxwell, F. & L. Rubenthaler
May, Steve & Joy
McCracken, Charles & G
McCracken, M. & D. McCarthy
Miller, CW & Carol
Miller, Joan
Miller, Ted & Darla
Milliger, Mitch & Judie
Minch, Peggy Sue
Minick, Gerald & Shannon
Monesson, Larry & Barb
Moore, David
Moreno, Jack
Moreshead, Cody & Krista
Morgan, Bryan & Axson
Morrison, Tom
Mounts, Russ & Jeanie
Mr. Greenjean's Landscape
Mueller, Johanna
Muirhead, Larry & Sharon
Mulligan, Nancy
Mumford, Troy
Murphy, Cindy
Murray, Laura & Neil
Mutcher, Dennis & Joyce
Neal, Frank & Sharon
Neergaard, Kenneth & Marian
Neil, George & Joni
Nelson, Lynne Smith
Nelson, Rob & Lisa
Nett, Terry & Terry
Neumon, Viva
Newman, Paul & N. McElroy
Nolte, Joel
Norris, Robert & Pamela Gilles
Oesterle, Max & Pam
Oppenlander, J. & D. Richmond
Otte, Jean
Paris, Leslie
Peacock, Carol
Pender, Joe & Christina
Perry, Phillip
Peterson, Joel
Peterson, Leslie & Gelene
Peyton, Lee
Pfitzer, Neal & Marlys
Phelps, Shannon & M. McClean
Pierce, Randy & J. Klausmeyer
Pine Acres Road Assoc.
Porensky, Lauren
Powers, Barbara
Powers, Cathleen M.
Price, Linda Hernandez
Rist Ranch
Rosander, George
Rosenberg, Walt & Paula
Rutt, Wes & Nicki
Ryan, Marie-Laure
Schaal, Herb & Cindy
Schettler, Dick & Dixie
Schipper, Bill & Linda
Schleppy, Raymond & Wendy
Schneider, Robert & Joan
Scholz, Ernst & Sarah
Schulke, Will & E. Peterson
Seneca, Martin
Shaffer, David & Mary
Shandley, Jack & Renee
Shenk, Tanya D.
Shenk-Brien, Tracey
Shetler, Terry & Bonnie
Shulman, Steven & Deborah
Siegel, HJ & Janet
Skelton, Joe & Deanna
Sloan, Cathy
Smethurst, John & Ruby
Smith, Douglas
Smith, Marilyn
Smith, Tracy & Terry Hribal
Smylie, Wade & Ruth
Snyder, Dale & Marilyn
Standring, Carolyn
Stanley Family
Staubs, James & Peggy
Stephens, Jon & Susanne
Stove Prairie Comm. Church
Stowe, Kathryn
Stratman, Thomas & Charlene
Stratman, Tim & Jennifer
Stringtown Gulch Rd. Assoc.
Swenson, Charles & Elizabeth
Talarico, Ronald & Nanette
Taylor, Leisa
Thomas, David & Pamela
Tisserat, Ned & Jan Leach

2023 Annual Drive, cont'd.

Tisthammer, Thomas & Bridget
Tjornehoj, David & Diana
Toplyn, Ron & Cathy
Tri-Life Properties, LLC
Tyree, Donald & Debbie
United Mailing
Vannorsdel, Dick & Carol

Vickery, Harold
Weiler, Richard & Patricia
Weixelman, Gary
Wernsman, Robert & Kathy
Willauer, David & Diane
Williams, Barbara & Heather
Williams, James & Patti

Wilson, T & H. Bartmann
Wilson, Thomas
Wing, Tom & Lynn
Wood, Chuck & Kathleen
Workman, Kim
Zoner, Kurt

Thanks to everyone!
Your support is so important to the health of our RCVFD! THANK YOU!
If we missed you, please call 970/419-0397.



Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department
P. O. Box 2
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