
TIMBERLAKE TIMES

TIMBERLAKE LANDOWNER'S ASSOCIATION • HC 61 BOX 767 • RAMAH, NM 87321

AUGUST 2011

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS ARGH!

I have an appreciation for this word and it is probably shared by several Board members over the years— not that all our ancestors were pirates, but the guttural sound in its enunciation reflects that frustration, annoyance, confusion, exasperation, etc. we have experienced. Communication we receive from different sources whether it is through emails, phone calls or written letters can leave us scratching our heads or pulling our hair with the conundrum of who's in charge, who owns the problem, who can solve the problem and yes, is it solvable?

Accountability: The Board as elected officials by the landowners has "duties". These are spelled out in the Bylaws and the Covenants. One of them is fiduciary—making sure that we set a budget and live within our means. The budget dictates the amount of dues we need to collect. If we don't receive dues, we have options to lien and ultimately foreclose. We also protect the Common Areas (land, roads, buildings) by setting policies and regulations to guarantee its beauty and preservation for present and future landowner's enjoyment. Last, but not least, we enforce the Covenants. The Covenants (CC&Rs) were redone and adopted by over 75% of the landowners. When they were rewritten, one of the objectives was to not place burdensome duplicate/redundant restrictions when there are already county and state ordinances. For example, privies were removed from the covenants as the state has regulations regarding placement and design.

Responsibility: We as conscientious Landowners want to maintain the value of our property and take pride in it – we are the stewards. Undersized or plugged private driveway culverts cause washouts of roads and neighbor's property. After the Board communicates this, the landowner(s) involved now own the problem. TRLA landowners possess 1200 acres of Common Area and it needs to be safeguarded. If we go to the lake and the gate is unlocked, LOCK IT! If we go to the brush pile and somebody left the gate open, LOCK IT! If somebody forgot to close the lock at the well spigot, LOCK IT! If somebody left the door open to the bathhouse, CLOSE IT! If there is a Fire Ban in place, DON'T BUILD A FIRE! If we are caught driving an unregistered ATV and have kids under 18 without a helmet – we are breaking a state law. If we are driving that ATV off road in the Common Area (e.g., the lake bottom) or on somebody else's property, we are violating TRLA policy and trespassing. If we are burning brush on our property, we need to get a permit from the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Dept. We can agree to disagree about the necessity for

rules or regulations or laws or guidelines or policies, but I can guarantee you they were put in place because somebody's lack of attention or common sense caused a negative outcome.

Gratitude: The Board appreciates those who are amiable, receptive, and offer potential solutions to solving problems. We applaud the ability of neighbors to work together and honor common sense remedies.

Humility: We realize that "experts" exist everywhere these days. The Board tries to do the best it can with what it has available. We are volunteers. We have walked in many people's shoes and the OJT of living in Timberlake for several years has been a humbling experience. We try and learn from past problems and resolutions – what worked and what didn't so that history doesn't repeat itself. Living in the "sticks" is demanding, unpredictable, and we have to adapt as we chose to be here and we own the tribulations. Mother Nature or resources will not always accommodate our needs, plans or personal vehicles. If we aren't a fulltime resident and want to come up in the middle of winter, we need to call ahead – our road may not be plowed or in the summer a monsoonal downpour may cause difficulties getting to our destination for several hours.

"In Charge" Phone Numbers

McKinley Co. Sheriff: 505.722.7205

Cibola Co. Sheriff: 505.287.9476

McKinley Co. Animal Control: 505/726.1453 •

505.863.2616

Cibola Co. Animal Control: 505.287.4012

Game and Fish Warden Mark Bundren: C-505.33/4872 •

W-505.778.5198 or dispatcher 505.827.9376 for all emergencies: 911

Timberlake Volunteer Fire Dept. (Burn Permits):

505.783.4112

McKinley County/Cibola County Privy Permits:

505.240.0277/505.870.4904

Rural Addressing: 505.863.9517

So, for now, it is farewell from Timberlake, where the volunteers stay committed, the deer are good looking, and life's problems may not be fair, but life is good. Arrr!



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Eileen Domer

If every landowner paid their dues on time TRLA would have collected \$170,890. In FY 2010-11 a total of \$157,553.77 was received in dues payments, leaving 8% unpaid. This unpaid amount is unchanged in two years. The outstanding balance from all previous years was \$15,947, of which \$7,911 was collected this FY.

TRLA budgeted \$183,241 for all expenditures in FY 2010-11. This includes spending on roads, common land and buildings. A total of \$133,393 was spent, leaving \$49,848 for future spending. The Ranch House renovations went over budget but the amount was absorbed by the contingency fund. There is only one loan outstanding. This is for the Ranch House's multi-purpose 550 Ford truck.

The financial health of the association is strong. The \$49,848 will be moved into the reserve account which will increase the account to \$135,667. In the past five years we have saved enough capital to carry the organization in case of a devastating natural or man-made disaster.

The 2011-2012 fiscal year dues invoices were mailed July 1st. The dues remain \$230.00/year and may be paid in one or two payments. The first payment was due July 31st. The second is due January 31, 2012. Please mail to the Corrales, NM address, found on the invoice. If at least one half payment is not received by September 1st the accounting program will automatically start adding interest. An invoice will be sent to those who did not pay on October 1st and will include eighteen percent interest calculated on \$115.00 for two months. If payment is

delinquent after March 1st the eighteen (18%) will be added either to \$115.00 or \$115 + the previous interest.

The cost to apply and release a lien was raised from \$18 to \$50 by both counties on July 1, 2011. The liens are placed when the dues are delinquent longer than eighteen months. The increase will be passed on to the delinquent landowner.

Accounts are sent to our Lawyer for property foreclosure once the amount owed is \$1000.00 or delinquent over four years.

Payment accommodations are considered for landowners who feel they will not be able to meet the deadlines. Arrangements have to be made with the Treasurer. Everything owed must be paid within the current fiscal year. If payment plans are not followed all interest and late fees charges are applied retroactively.

Association dues are the Corporation's only income. The money is used to keep the roads passable, the Ranch House, Bath House and Common Areas safe and attractive. By working together we can preserve all of our investments.

Thank you neighbors!

Eileen Domer, TRLA Treasurer

(The spreadsheets and pie chart graphs can be viewed on the website www.trnews.info)



COMMONS REPORT

Several projects have been completed since the March Newsletter.

- All recorded deeds have been secured for the 1200 acres of the Commons.
- The original oak floors in the Ranch House were completely stripped down to the bare wood and refinished. This included repairing areas, filling, sanding, staining, buffing and final coats of a hardwood finish. Quarter round strips were then reinstalled along baseboards.
- The bathhouse renovation was completed the second week of April. This included replacing all water lines with PEX, shower heads, valves, piping, mixer, urinal valve, inside equipment of toilet tanks and outside main shutoff valve; installing quarter turn valves to three toilets and two sinks, upgrading all propane gas lines to meet current code; venting sewer pipes to improve emptying of toilet bowls, and stabilizing toilet bowls by shimming/caulking. A new furnace was installed.
- New wood deck and steps were made and installed to

the south kitchen entrance by Don Perry.

- Vent/lights were placed above kitchen stove.
- Insulation was blown into the ceiling space above the main Ranch House, Rock Room, Work Room and Well Room.
- Three of seven tapestry wrapped acoustical wall hangings have been placed in the Rock Room.
- A children's play set (swings and slide) was donated and placed at the Ranch House. Play set needs some work and shouldn't be used until safety issues are addressed.
- Antique farm and ranch equipment were donated and placed to the north of the Ranch House.
- Projects to be completed: Lighting over the sink in the kitchen, repair of cable to the north lake gate, wheel chair accessibility to the Ranch House, weather stripping of doors in Ranch House along with sweeps, installing refurbished original screen door to the kitchen and a new door that can be locked to secure the back of the bathhouse.

FISCAL YEAR	MAY 2011	JUNE 2011	YTD
INFLOWS			
Assessment Fees			
Current Yr Collections	\$ 429.96	\$ 933.56	\$ 157,553.77
Previous Yr Collections	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,314.78	\$ 7,939.31
Assessment fee Woodland			\$ 1,610.00
Key Income	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 143.00
Donations	\$ -	\$ 667.00	\$ 667.00
Finance Charges	\$ 345.00	\$ 481.00	\$ 4,308.00
TOTAL Income	\$ 989.96	\$ 3,406.34	\$ 172,221.08
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 485.00	\$ 820.00
Insurance-Directors & Office	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,957.00
Meetings and socials	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies & Exp	\$ 331.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 1,349.00
Postage	\$ 15.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 1,323.00
Subscriptions and Dues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Mileage - Board Members	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00
TOTAL	\$ 346.00	\$ 661.00	\$ 5,489.00
Communications			
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 156.00	\$ 637.00
Website	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 156.00	\$ 637.00
Financial			
Accounting	\$ -	\$ 658.00	\$ 8,363.00
Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - Real Estate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 817.00
Taxes - Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95.00
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 658.00	\$ 9,275.00
Legal			
Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Legal - Casutt	\$ 893.00	\$ (70.00)	\$ 3,247.00
Lien & Notary Fees	\$ 18.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 9.00
TOTAL	\$ 911.00	\$ (16.00)	\$ 3,256.00
Ranch Operations			
Insurance			
Insurance - Workers Comp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 738.00
Insurance - Liability & Bond	\$ 677.00	\$ -	\$ 7,305.00
TOTALS	\$ 677.00	\$ -	\$ 8,043.00
Employee Wages & Taxes			
Wages			
Grader Time (\$10,000.00)	\$ -	\$ 278.00	\$ 2,281.00
Brushhog Time	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Snowplow (\$2,600)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 258.00
Sanitation & Janitorial (W-9) (\$1,400)	\$ -	\$ 374.00	\$ 900.00
Ranch Hand (\$5,000)	\$ 237.00	\$ 602.00	\$ 3,845.00
TOTAL	\$ 237.00	\$ 1,254.00	\$ 7,284.00
Taxes			
Taxes - FICA	\$ 18.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 483.00
Taxes - Federal Unemployment	\$ 2.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 50.00
Faxes - State Unemployment	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 60.00
Mileage - Foreman & Employees	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00
TOTAL	\$ 21.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 638.00
Buildings & Commons			
Operating Supplies	\$ -	\$ 92.00	\$ 403.00
Building Maintenance & Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 482.00
Ranch House	\$ -	\$ 1,611.00	\$ 12,967.00
Bath House	\$ 36.00	\$ -	\$ 5,485.00
Common Land Maintenance/Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,647.00
Sanitation & Janitorial Supplies	\$ 70.00	\$ -	\$ 551.00
TOTAL	\$ 106.00	\$ 1,703.00	\$ 21,535.00
Equipment Maint. & Repairs			
Dump Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,891.00
Grader	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,121.00
Pick Up	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,053.00
Tractor	\$ -	\$ 55.00	\$ 1,113.00
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87.00
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 55.00	\$ 6,265.00
Fuel			
Gasoline (\$1,500.00)	\$ -	\$ 154.00	\$ 1,296.00
Dyed Diesel (\$8,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,297.00
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 154.00	\$ 3,593.00
Roads			
Gravel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,709.28
Road Maintenance & Repairs	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,875.47
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 54,584.75
Utilities			
Telephone	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 551.00
Electric & Propane	\$ 68.00	\$ 98.00	\$ 1,514.00
TOTAL	\$ 110.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 2,065.00
CONTINGENCY FUND			
Notes Payable			
Interest Expense	\$ 96.00	\$ 92.00	\$ 1,362.00
F550	\$ 797.00	\$ 801.00	\$ 9,367.00
TOTAL	\$ 893.00	\$ 893.00	\$ 10,729.00
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$ 3,301.00	\$ 6,012.00	\$ 133,393.75
Bank Accounts as of 07/25/2011			
Deposits	\$ 86,649.67		
Blue:	\$ 44,947.59		
Reward:	\$ 1,520.13		
Reserve:	\$ 85,819.21		
TOTAL:	\$ 218,936.60		

Architectural/Maintenance Report

- One building plan submitted in June on Culebra.
- Three covenant violations closed in May/June/July. One covenant violation partially closed and one on a compliance program.
- One metal building is to be painted by the end of July.
- 6 lots have potential problems with trailer storage for greater than five months.
- CID Building Permit Guide for Residential Construction was revised as of 7.8.11 and no longer requires a building permit for a one story shed whose floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. This now coincides with the TRLA CC&Rs.

Roads Report

During May, June, and July the following has or will occur:

- Nearly all the side roads have been graded along with bar ditching in areas where it was required.
- BIA and the "Flats" have been graded three times
- Spot graveling was added to Bobcat between Timberlake and Pinetree to finish the repair of washout that occurred in September, 2009. (2 fulltime residents).
- Spot graveling to be done on Hilltop/Sunflower intersection (1 fulltime).
- Bar ditches were recut, culverts cleaned and gravel placed on Halcon (1 fulltime resident).
- Black Bear (1 fulltime and 1 recreational resident), Oak Drive (4 recreational residents), and the last part of Culebra Road to Bobcat (2 fulltime and 1 part-time) are being rebuilt with bar ditching and crowning. Recent moisture is helping with the "packing-in" and gravel will be added shortly.
- Gravel to be added to Cottonwood Loop (1 part-time and 1 recreational).

Drought conditions have hampered trimming and cutting trees in road easements due to the fire potential.

Correction in the Roads Report published in the March, 2011 Timberlake Times: The total amount of gravel spread on Buttonwood, Sunflower, Copperweed, and Wolf Roads in October 2010 was 1,250.64 tons and not 515.07 as previously reported. We apologize for the incorrect report and for any concerns this may have caused.

History of the El Morro Valley - Part I

By Dale Spencer

It's hard to believe that the areas of Ramah, Timberlake and the greater El Morro Valley with its great beauty and abundant wildlife remained relatively uninhabited through history but archeological evidence shows that the first substantial human habitation occurred here during the 13th century by the Anasazi, better known by archaeologists as the Pueblo people during their transition from the Pueblo II era of Chaco Canyon to the Pueblo III era. After little more than a century, escalating warfare drove these people from the valley toward Zuni and across El Malpais to form the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna.

As the Pueblo II era came to an end, a great exodus from the Chaco Canyon area began at around 1180 AD. The out-migration from the Chaco Canyon area splintered into three main groups with one group heading North toward Mesa Verde, another West toward Canyon de Chelly and eventually Hopi territory. A Southern faction poured into the El Morro Valley which would become their home for the next century.

Inhabitants established residence throughout El Morro valley including atop El Morro as well as in the vicinity of Ramah where remnants of cliff dwellings can still be found on Timberlake Road. A community we now call the "Atsinna Pueblo" developed atop El Morro. This community eventually grew to around 500 rooms and more than 1000 inhabitants, substantially larger than present day Ramah and also larger than the famed Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon. The massive human migration into El Morro Valley caused a number of social groups to come together with diverse social ideas, technologies and practices creating an environment ripe for social change and resulting in the birth of the Pueblo III era.

Pueblo culture was previously known to have water management skills including the building of dams and irrigations systems. This skill was again employed when the Pueblo III culture inhabited El Morro Valley. Archaeological evidence shows that the present day Ramah Lake was dammed by the Pueblos during their stay in the valley and that the dam washed out and was rebuilt at least five and possibly as many as seven times over the next 100 years or so. This is not surprising given that the dam was washed out and rebuilt twice after the Mormon settlement of Ramah.

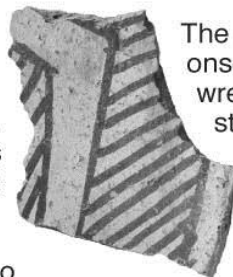
What this story doesn't tell is that the El Morro Valley was abandoned by the Zuni ancestors at the

start of the 14th century. Again archeological evidence indicates that people had continued to crowd into the valley in numbers beyond what could be sustained by the land. Warfare became epidemic and a series of massacres ensued. Eventually the population split into two factions with one heading West to present day Zuni and the other crossing El Malpais to become the Laguna and Acoma pueblos.

As the 13th century came to a close, even the Atsinna pueblo atop El Morro proved vulnerable to attack. Harvard archaeologist Steven Leblanc examined the scene and discovered evidence that the original pueblo had been ambushed and burned. This is in keeping with Hopi tribal lore which describes the attack. Leblanc found that many had perished in the community which had been burned. The remains of 33 children were found apparently burned alive in a single kiva. According to Hopi legends and reported by Leblanc, "They lit shredded juniper bark and highly flammable greasewood and threw the flaming bundles into the rooms. The warriors fed the growing fire with more and more wood; some snatched bunches of chilies that were drying on the pueblo walls and tossed these into the inferno, creating smoke that would have stung like tear gas." Leblanc discovered that the survivors salvaged stones from the walls of the burned ruins to build the imposing Atsinna Fortress that followed. The fortress consisted of 500 rooms enclosing a central plaza. The second site was completed no later than 1279. According to tree-ring dates, the neighboring smaller pueblos were burned in 1276.

According to Leblanc, "What I believe happened was that the survivors dismantled those small scattered pueblos, which were not defensible, and they basically built a fortress", "These people were very afraid of something."

Fear was endemic throughout the Southwest by this time and fortified living had become the norm. Fortifications began to crop up in mid 1200's and by the later part of that century everybody was living in defensive fortifications.



The cause of this violence was almost certainly the onset of a mini ice age, which at the same time wreaked havoc on in Europe causing famine and starvation on a gigantic scale. This period came on the heels of more than 300 years of relatively mild weather and more abundant rainfall which led to a rise in crop yields and population. The centuries of mild weather, greater rainfall and increased crop yields led to the development of the highly sophisticated

History of the El Morro Valley - Part I ~ Continued

Anasazi culture which blossomed near Chaco Canyon in Northwestern New Mexico. The Anasazi built multistory dwellings and a network of roads that crisscrossed parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. They developed a religion some see as a mathematical wonder whereby they attempted to emulate their position on earth in relation to the stars. This was a peaceful period where undefended pueblos were built on canyon floors near their crops and water sources. This culture also became quite adept at water management and was known for making dams and creating irrigation systems.

The warm period was a good time to be a corn farmer. During this time the Chacoan culture prospered, the population boomed and there was relative peace but when the little ice age began people around the world began to die from starvation and the world was gripped in famine. The pattern in the Southwest was no different. There just weren't enough resources to go around. Leblanc estimates that before 1300, at least 20 distinct alliances of pueblos occupied western New Mexico, eastern Arizona, and the southern parts of Colorado and Utah. Today, only four groups survive, the Hopi in Arizona and the Zuni, Laguna, and Acoma in northern New Mexico. The others were wiped out in war and the survivors absorbed by other tribes.



The residents of El Morro Valley, increasingly pressed into warfare with other pueblos competing for resources were by necessity driven by a series of massacres toward increasingly fortified living accommodations. In time, the valley was vacated in favor of better defensive positions to the East and West near the present day Pueblos of Zuni, Acoma and Laguna.

Part II – The Conquistadors and the Seven Cities of Cibola

Stay tuned for the continuation of El Morro History!

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LIGHTNING STRIKES & ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Summer and the monsoon season are finally here, which also means that lightening strikes can cause potential fires in the forest as well as your home. In May, one of our landowner's home was struck by lightning and thankfully, the home did not burn down. However, serious damage was done and almost all electrical appliances, furnace, etc. are being replaced. Several other landowners have had damage to their TV and several other appliances in their home during recent storms. On July 8-9 lightning struck some trees up by the Notches and kept quite a few of us watching the smoke for several hours. Luckily, there was a significant amount of rain that helped the Forest Service put this fire out.

Some facts about lightning are:

- Your chances of being struck by lightning are 1 in 600,000. The odds of being struck in your lifetime are 1 in 3,000.
- Thunder is a shock wave that results from the quick heating and cooling of air along the lightning channel.
- The average length of a lightning strike is six miles.
- The temperature of a lightning bolt is 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit or four times the temperature on the sun's surface.
- Florida and the Rocky Mountains are the most lightning prone areas of the United States.
- New Mexico has the most lightning deaths per million people – 1.88 – based on statistics from 1959 to 1994.
- One in five or 20% of strike victims die. About 70% have long-term health effects after being struck by lightning.
- 70% of lightning injuries and fatalities occur in the afternoon.

15 tips to Avoid Lightning Strikes When Hiking and Climbing

- Check the weather forecast before going out
- Do your climbing in the morning before it storms
- Be prepared to change or abandon your climbing plans
- Pay attention to atmospheric changes
- Get off high places before a storm arrives
- Keep away from objects that conduct electricity (includes water, metal objects like climbing equipment, metal fences and power lines)
- Wet ropes can carry current (untie any wet rope from you)
- Squat or kneel down (use a sleeping pad, empty pack, climbing rope, or anything else that will insulate you from the ground, put your feet close together so you will have less contact with the ground and reduce danger from ground currents)
- Spread your group out (minimum of 15' so if there is a strike, there will be some people available to give first



aid)

- Don't hide in small caves or under overhangs (you're just asking for trouble if you do this since lightning will jump the gap from top to bottom by passing through you)
- Move to either side of cracks (move away from vertical crack systems whenever possible, currents travel down cracks)
- Don't lie down on ledges (and don't sit with your back against the vertical wall since current can pass through you-- instead, you should sit or crouch, preferably on insulation like a dry rope, on the outside of the ledge-- also, tie in crosswire so you don't fall off if struck and keep the rope from under your armpits)
- Learn to recognize thunderstorms that produce lightning (they have vertical development and dark anvil-shaped bases)
- Use thunder to determine how far a storm is from you (Determine the distance of a strike by counting the number of seconds from when you see the flash to when you hear the thunder. Then divide the seconds by 5 to get the distance of the lightning in miles. For example, you count 10 seconds from the lightning flash to the thunder; divide 10 by 5 and you get 2 miles away)
- Follow the 30-30 rule (if the time between when you see a lightning flash until you hear its thunder is less than 30 seconds, then take shelter ASAP. Don't resume activities until 30 minutes after you last observe lightning and hear thunder)

House Precautions

If lightning strikes a tree or pole that stands outside your home, it can send an electrical surge through your home's wires and appliances. The Gallup McKinley County Fire District suggests that you clear all vegetation at least 30' from structures. Tree limbs should not overhang the roof. Prune trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6-10' high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Clean your gutters. Make sure that leaves, pine needles, lumber and other flammables are at least 30' from structures. Roof and exterior should be made from fire-resistant materials (ie: Class A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile and concrete products). Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry.

Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. Use non-flammable screens on your vents and chimneys. Driveways should provide a minimum unobstructed width of 12' and height of 13'6" to accommodate fire trucks. Driveways over 150' long must have room for fire truck turnaround. For more information, visit the website: www.firewise.org.

Continental Divide Electrical Co-op

In the past three years, CDEC has responded to an average of 26 callouts, which translates to about 300 consumers being out of power, per call in the Timberlake area. The average life span of a transformer can be as much as 25 years; however, if you have been experiencing problems, you need to contact CDEC. It's possible that you could unknowingly overload it (particularly if you have increased usage/capacity above and beyond what your electrician originally installed in your home).

CDEC is only allowed to provide service/maintenance to your drop pole. Everything beyond the electrical meter is the homeowner's responsibility. Make sure your tree limbs aren't in the way of the line to your home. CDEC has a contract with Asplundi to trim trees in the immediate path of priority lines, but they still need to clear more trees from right-of-ways. Their contract runs through October, 2011, and will be renewed for next year.

Electricity in your Home

We would like to provide you with more guidelines for electrical safety... one of which is proper grounding. **PLEASE** make sure you adhere to proper grounding procedures. We also understand that you can hire an electrician to put a surge protector at the service panel, which eliminates the need for several plug-in protectors on all your sensitive appliances (TV, computers, etc.) You can read more about electrical surges in the brochures that we are leaving in the Library.

Home wiring is just a number of loops or circuits. A "live" wire brings current to a light or an outlet. A "neutral" wire returns current to its source. Between inside wiring and outside power lines is a service panel. If you encounter a short circuit or overload, you should (1) Unplug appliances (2) Switch off power at the main switch (3) Replace the fuse that has a broken metal strip with a new fuse of the same rating (4) If you have circuit breakers instead, switch the one that's "off" to "on". (5) Try to determine the cause of the problem (6) Restore power.

Never put a penny or aluminum foil in a fuse box to replace a fuse-- you could cause a fire. On your main switch, use it to cut all power when changing a fuse, or in case of fire or shock. If you don't have a main switch, turn off all circuit breakers. Don't tamper with your electric meter. You risk shock, explosion, or fire.

Protection of your house against direct effects of lightning is done by properly grounded lightning rods, a job that should be done by a licensed electrician. Lightning rods are intended to protect structures and avoid fires. They do not prevent surges from happening in the wiring.

Remember, if you're going to be away for several days or

more, the best protection of all is to unplug all unnecessary appliances, computers, tv's, etc.

Grounding (Most important things to remember)

1. The connections to a ground are made for dissipating overvoltages from lightning or mishaps caused by electric utility system higher voltage lines contacting lower voltage lines.
2. "New" codes require that on a power pole there needs to be two ground rods that are 8' long and there needs to be 6' between them.
3. On a house you only need one ground rod.
4. The best grounding for a house is a ufer ground, which is 20' of rebar in a concrete foundation. You stub it up out of the concrete and go from that with #4 bare copper wire with an approved clamp to the meter can.
5. If you are wiring a shed or outbuilding, you take a ground wire with the wire you are pulling to the building from the panel on the house.
6. If you have a subpanel in the house, you need to isolate the ground from the neutral.
7. If you have an electric water heater, you need to run a ground wire from the subpanel or meter can and tie it to the cold water line going into the water heater.
8. The third prong on a plug connects inside the outlet with a "ground wire," which usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in a short circuit, electricity should flow to the ground instead of through you. Never remove the third prong.
9. The best surge protector in the world is useless if grounding is not done properly.

How Fire Happen in the House

Most electrical fires can be traced to overheated circuits and overloaded equipment. When abused, insulation may melt or burn, exposing live wires. Electrical fires can also occur when equipment is driven beyond capacity, or accumulated oil and dirt overheat a motor, or sparks ignite scraps, dirt, dust, or flammable liquids. **Never use water on an electrical fire; use a multipurpose fire extinguisher.**

Fire Safety Checklist

Make sure you have a plan in place and that everyone in your family is aware of this plan, so you can act quickly if a fire occurs. (1) Make sure you know where your fire extinguisher is at, you know how to use it and that it is working properly (2) Know where the nearest emergency exit or fire escape is located (3) Call 911 ASAP (4) Call your TRLA Zone Coordinator (Information is located on the bulletin board for the Bath House and by the Volunteer Fire Dept. You can also call Mary Jo Wallen at 783-4207, or email mrsdw19@aol.com.

When The Power Goes Out & Resumes

Notify CDEC as soon as possible to help pinpoint

problem areas. Have matches, candles, flashlights and batteries in a location easily found in the dark. Also, store water, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit and battery operated radio in case the outage is prolonged. Turn off all appliances to avoid damage from a power surge, but leave one light on to indicate when the power comes back on. Plug in only essential items at first--wait 10 minutes before connecting everything else to let the electrical system stabilize.

If you have a generator, make sure it has a manual or automatic switch that disconnects from the main power lines. If not, use the main switch on your service panel to cut power. **A generator that remains connected to main power lines can backfeed power into them, shocking unsuspecting utility workers.**

Fallen Power Lines

Never touch a fallen power line, or anything or anyone in contact with it (ie: someone in a car). You could be shocked. If a power line hits your vehicle while you are inside, stay there, warn others away and wait for rescue personnel. If you must get out jump clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time and shuffle away.

First Aid

First of all, stay calm and think before you help someone else. Once someone is no longer in contact with electricity, call for medical help and check the following.

Breathing: Use CPR if needed

Shock: Signs include cold or clammy skin, weakness, shallow breathing and rapid pulse. Loosen clothing. Keep person horizontal and warm until help arrives.

Burns: Cool minor burns with cold, running water. Don't touch the burn, break blisters, or remove burning clothing. Get medical help ASAP.

Reference Materials

The next time you're in the Library at the Ranch House, please pick up two brochures that were provided by Mac Juarez, Jr., Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc. They are: **Electrical Safety at Home and Work** and **Electrical Surges**.

(Our thanks goes to the following companies for providing information for this article: *Mansperger Electrical (right here in Timberlake), Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc., National Institute of Standards*

Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year 2010-2011

MONTH: June, 2011 (see spreadsheet for detailed income and expenses)

Income: \$2,509.34

Expenses: \$6,012.00

Significant expenses for June, 2011

- Legal: \$849.00 - Notice of foreclosed lot sale, update on foreclosed lots and requested updated title searches--\$918.86 reimbursement of legal fees.
- Ranch Hand Wages - \$602.25
- Grades Wages - \$277.50 (Timberlake, Halcon and Oak
- Janitorial - \$374 (2 months)
- Operating Supplies (computer maintenance /software - \$129.36
- Annual Meeting - \$485.05 - food and beverages
- Ranch House - \$900-hardwood floor refinishing \$711-lumber, range cover, and misc.
- Road Maintenance- \$250-Halcon ditches and culverts

Significant July expenses:

- Gravel - \$3,349.73 - Justin's Earthworks- Halcon
- Ranch Hand Wages - \$154.03

Collections:

Foreclosure: One account paid in full with reimbursement

Two more accounts are now over \$1,000.00 landowners will be notified of pending foreclosure.

Payment reminders sent to Woodland lot owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Domer, TRLA Treasurer

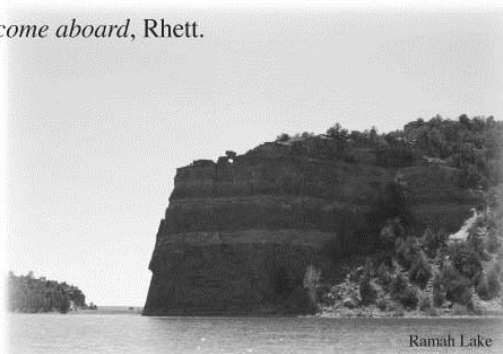
New Board Member

On May 28, 2011 Rhett Renoud joined the TRLA Board of Directors.

Rhett and his wife Sarah have been fulltime landowners and/or residents since 2003. They are in the process of planning and developing home building on one of their properties. Rhett has a Masters Degree in Education and is employed by Gallup McKinley County Schools.

He feels that his years of living here fulltime have made him aware of the issues and thereby setting personal goals to communicate, collaborate and work with fellow Board members to uphold the TRLA Vision statement. He feels equipped to explore solutions that would align with the vast majority of landowners and be a contributing team player with mediation skills, decision making, problem solving and maintaining a positive attitude.

Welcome aboard, Rhett.



Ramah Lake

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
TRLA
HC 61, Box 767
Ramah, NM 87321-9611

Note of Thanks

to all the *Timberlake Volunteers* that keep the ditches clean all the way to Hwy 53 and help beautify the Ranch House with their money making projects (most recently are the window treatments).

to *Nancy Whiteside and family, Tom and Darlene Merritt and family* and the *Railsback family* for picking up trash at the lake.

to *Joty Baca* for donating the antique wagon and farm equipment now located at the TCC Ranch House

to *Bill Kirchner* for making a California Costco run

to *Ron and Mary Mansfield* for donating the play set for the Ranch House Timberlake area in the early evening hours

to *Mike Lipka/Steve Railsback and Larry & Pam Mansperger* who were able to stop potential fire accidents

from happening from an unattended campfire and trespassers at the lake on north and south side

to all *landowners and guests* who camped over holidays and weekends and adhered to the ban on fireworks and campfires

to the *Timberlake Volunteers Fire Department* for responding to calls of smoke during these tense times of drought



“...the man who really counts in the world is the doer, not the mere critic—the man who actually does the work, even if roughly or imperfectly, not the man who only talks or writes about how it ought to be done.”
Theodore R. Roosevelt, 1891