



# RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 88 October, 2018

## Letter from the President

# FALL!

What a great time of year. It brings many new things to our mountain area; of those things one of the best is the RCVFD Mountain Festival. A great debt of gratitude goes out to all the many, many volunteers who unselfishly contributed a tremendous amount of their time to be part of a very successful Festival. Thank you all so much.

Another thing that accompanies fall are cooler temperatures, especially after one of the hottest summers on record, and hopefully more moisture. We must, however keep in mind that we are still not out of fire danger. With hunting season getting underway and many tourists driving through our area looking at fall colors, we must help by being very vigilant. Even though the temperatures are cooling down we must all remember our fire season can actually be twelve months out of the year. As dry as it has been over the past several years we are not out of fire danger unless we are getting a steady rain or the ground is covered with snow.

*Cont'd. on next page*



**2018 RCVFD  
Annual Meeting & Potluck  
Saturday, November 3rd  
6 to 9 PM  
Stove Prairie School**

**Election of Officers  
Area Residents are  
encouraged to attend.**

**Please bring a dish to share.  
(main dish, salad,  
bread or dessert)**

## President's Letter, cont'd.

At this writing we dodged a very big bullet with the Seaman Fire being contained and controlled very quickly with no structure loss. The visual smoke was very unnerving for those who were here during the High Park Fire. Just remember RCVFD was very ready to respond, if needed, to do their very best to protect all we have.

RCVFD Annual Drive contributions are behind last year's donations with about 30% of the residents in the RCVFD fire district contributing. If you have forgotten, it is very easy to donate your fair share at [rcvfd.org](http://rcvfd.org) — click on DONATION.

Please remember whether it's a fire or a medical emergency, RCVFD responders will be the first faces you see. If needed, RCVFD will be there!

*Dale Snyder  
RCVFD President*

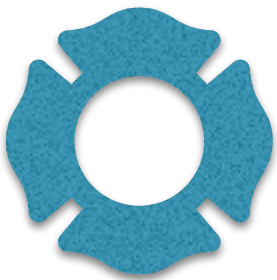


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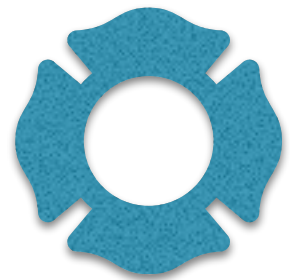
Response time can be delayed when your home does not have address numbers clearly posted.

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## Welcome Fall and Happy Halloween!



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# Chief's Report

First—a million thank yous to all the folks who worked on the Festival. Everyone had a good time and we raised money to help support the operation of the Department. We also appreciate all of you who turned out to support our community. See the article in this Ristwatch for more details.

I have been working with the Board on a couple of projects to help reduce the environmental impacts and operating costs of the department. First, PVREA generously offered to waive the upfront cost to RCVFD that allowed us to buy into the community solar garden at the landfill. The solar power will reduce the overall emissions related to our electricity use and the rate is locked in for twenty years, so this is an economic benefit to the department as well.

In addition, I have been trying to find a good LED replacement for the outside lights at Station 1. They are relatively high wattage and are terrible “glare bombs”. We finally found a solution and the new lights are on order. The wattage will be reduced from 100W each to just 12W. The new lights should also go a long way toward reducing the light pollution around Station 1. It is a passion of mine to try to protect our beautiful night sky views. I don’t think everyone realizes how few people can walk out in their yards at night and look up at the Milky Way.

Finally, I wrote this note for a Community Alert a few weeks back, but woke up this morning to a strong smell of smoke and gale force winds (and we still haven’t had a significant rain since July), so I decided to rerun it here.

It is hard waking up to the smell of smoke from a nearby fire, record hot temperatures and the promise of a red flag day ahead. It is stressful on all of us, but particularly those of us who were around in 2012 for the High Park fire. We know all too well how ugly wildfire can get.

First, I want to say take a deep breath and take care of yourself. All of us process stress differently. It can be helpful to do things that are productive. The bonus is that if things go south you will be better prepared. I would suggest the following:

- Review your evacuation list. There is a link on [RCVFD.org](http://RCVFD.org) that will give you a good start.

- Review the defensible space around your house. Clean up combustibles that you have stacked out behind the garage (I am guilty). Again, there is information on our website about defensible space.
- Make a home inventory—video or photos are great for this. Do not store that information in your house, but somewhere safe (your desk at work, send to a trusted friend or store in the cloud).
- Have a communication plan with your family and friends. Know where you are going to meet if you are asked to evacuate.

The weather is not going to be our friend for a while. It is predicted to be unseasonably hot and dry for many days. I measure rain at my house and we have not had more than a few sprinkles of rain since the last week of July. Be extremely careful with anything that could create a spark. If you are out cutting firewood, take water with you so you could douse a spark from your saw if you hit a rock.

There are many places to stay up to date on local fires. LETA 911 ([leta911.org](http://leta911.org)) is a great resource for current information and you can register to receive reverse 911 calls in case we need to contact you. Another good resource for current details is the RCVFD Facebook page.

A final reminder to take care of yourself and your friends and family—and pray for snow.

*Carol Dollard*  
*RCVFD Chief*

## **RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule:** **Meetings at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Rd.**

Operations – 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Fire Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM  
Medical Training – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM



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## Treasurer's Report

Thanks to All for your annual drive support so far in 2018. As we enter the last quarter, the annual drive donations are at \$50,732, however we are about \$15,000 behind 2017. There have been several large unexpected truck repairs as of late. Insurance makes up over 33% of our budget, as I am sure we can personally relate to. The life blood of RCVFD is your support! As a donation-based fire department, we will only be able to provide the best medical and fire protection with each and every land owner's support. Please send in your support envelope and let's end 2018 in the same way we did in 2017. We can, and will, make our budget of \$77,743.

*Richard Lund*  
*RCVFD Treasurer*



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 AM. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour, and change the batteries in your smoke and CO2 detectors!

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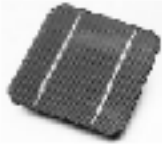
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# Another Successful RCVFD Mountain Festival!

A tradition since the 1970s continued on Saturday, September 8th, when the Mountain Festival was held to raise funds for the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. Over 80 neighbor volunteers worked together to make the festival happen. The festival activities and the names of most of the volunteers are listed below. There were about 2,000 happy attendees, and a nice profit was made for the fire department.

*H.J. Siegel, Festival Coordinator (HJ@computer.org)*

## Mark your calendars for next year's Festival: Saturday, September 7, 2019!

- **Announcer:** Chuck Andre
- **Bake Sale:** Lisa Diederich, Chair; Beth Schwartz, Diane Schwartz, Lisa Mayse, Marcy Gray, Mary Atella, Melanie Bevers, Thomas Dorman
- **Book Sale:** Carolyn Stanley, Chair; Allie Shellhammer, Barb Monesson, Betsy Bartel, Cale Brehio, Chad Link, Clint Woods, Dakota Squibb, Gabrielle Borin, Gretchen Long, Harry Bates, Hunter Squibb, Jean Otte, Jeff Brack, Joan Miller, Joe Shellhammer, Kathy Cox, Karen Rairdon, Kristen Michaels, Linda Squibb, Nancy Sheriff, Nicki Rutt, Pam Thomas, Pat Baker, Pat Carey, Randy Stanley, Tanner Squibb, Tracy Skinner, Vivian Burke
- **Corporate Sponsors:** Taylor Hubbard
- **Craft/Vendor Booths:** Jill Smith, Chair; Denise Dobbs, Lori Schleber
- **Dunk Tank:** Trisha Johnston, Juana Jackson
- **Dunk Tank Tickets/T-shirt Sales:** Bridget Tisthammer, Candace Andrasik, Michelle Yarberry, Tim Jackson
- **Entertainment (six music acts):** Sandy Reilly, Chair; Alan Anderson
- **Facilities** (e.g., tents, tables, chairs, potties): Richard Lund
- **Farm Animals:** Coreen Rairdon, Chair; Kim Gilbreth
- **Field Provider:** Gail and Gene Michaud
- **Fire Trucks:** Juana Jackson
- **Firefighter Display Booth:** Juana Jackson, Chair; Carol Dollard
- **Firefighter Gear Demos:** Carol Dollard
- **Food Trucks:** Bridget Tisthammer, Chair
- **Helicopter for Airlifts:** Juana Jackson, Ron Hall-Estand
- **Henna Drawing:** Sky Siegel
- **Ice Cream:** Shane Downing, Chair; Aidan Pederson, Candace Andrasik, Dave and Jenn Write, Denise Dobbs, Ilsa and Lori Schleber, Jill Smith, Lia Arrieta, Sophia, Terry Tracy, Tracy Smith
- **Kids' Activities:** Trisha Johnston, Chair; Abbas Hamid, Ann Nichols, Ashton Croxton, Candace Andrasik, Hunter Squibb, Jack Johnston, Josh Neufeldt, Taylor Hubbard
- **Mentor/Treasurer:** Richard Lund
- **Non-Profit/Educational Booths:** Cherie Brandhorst, Chair
- **Plant Sale:** Ann Nichols, Chair; Colleen Clark, Josh Neufeldt
- **Publicity:** Leisa Taylor, press releases, online calendars; Taylor Hubbard, Facebook, posters
- **RCVFD Firefighters for Set Up, Parking, Dunk Tank, Book Sale, and/or Close Up:** Ashton Croxton, Carol Dollard, Claudia Benstein, Eric Shaveland, Erik Williams, Jeff Elsner, Jeff Stark, Jesse Ceplecha, Jon Benshoof, Larry Monesson, Larry Sippel, Mark McCracken, Norm Miller, Parker Fisher, Pedro Boscan, Phil Benstein, Ron Hall-Estand, Ruben Arrieta, Terry Shetler
- **Road Signs:** Juana Jackson, Chair; Eve Ege, Randy Hediger
- **Shuttle Tractor Drivers:** Brett Johnston, Mark Comstock, Josh Neufeldt
- **Silent Auction:** Janet Siegel, Chair; Brett Carr, Carol Nichols, Carolyn Stanley, Deb Pederson, Juana Jackson, Landon Nichols, Lori Schleber, Louise Creager, Sheryl Hanson, Trisha Johnston
- **Smokey the Bear Organizer:** Juana Jackson
- **T-shirts:** Susan Miley, Chair; Taylor Hubbard, Designer
- **Welcome Booth:** Dale Snyder
- **WiFi:** Erik Williams, Mark McCracken, Phil Benstein



**Mama Bear and Baby Bear  
checking out Randy's road sign.**

**Thanks to Kathy Watts for this great photo!**



# THANK YOU

Volunteers of the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department



*Dennis*



*Noreen*



*L.J.*



*Jen*

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## RCVFD News and Notes

Even though the weather does not feel like the season has changed, the colors are beginning to tell us that fall is upon us. Having the Mountain Festival behind us is another marker. It was wonderful to work with many of you in preparation for this year's events. I was struck with the number of talented musicians we have living in our community. We were pleased to have sponsorship from the Bohemian Foundation for our entertainment, and even more grateful to the performers who donated their proceeds back to the RCVFD. Enjoy the beauty of our Mountains and have a wonderful fall. If you have any concerns or news regarding Davis Ranch please let me know.

*Sandy Deraney-Reilly  
Davis Ranch Area Rep*

If you live in Rist Canyon and have any questions related to either life here in the Canyon or any RCVFD activities, please send me a note through the RCVFD website by using the "Contact" link for me. Take care, be safe and enjoy the changing of the seasons!

*Jeff Varberry  
Rist Canyon Area Rep*

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To the RCVFD Responders:

I just want to say thank you to everyone that helped to make this year's Rist Canyon Mountain Festival a huge success! I know your time is valuable, and I really appreciate every single minute that each of you spent on the festival.

*Juana Jackson  
Festival Chair, Firefighter Tent*

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 Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

# Unsung Heroes of Pollination

While we love butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and bats, some pollinators might feel a little sad that they are not better known. But now is their moment of glory! We want to celebrate some of these unique species and help broaden the pollination conversation.



## **Lizards, Geckos and Skinks**

One pollinator you may not know about is Brazil's Noronha skink, which drinks the nectar of the flowers of the mulungu tree and gets pollen on its scales. It then transports the pollen to other flowers. Scientists who studied pollination relationships between 37 species of lizards believe that most pollination relationships between them and plants take place on islands, suggesting that there are some unique ecological or evolutionary factors that make these relationships possible in isolated locations. In Tasmania, a snow skink only found there seems to have a visible co-evolutionary relationship with *Richea scoparia* plants. It is only after the skinks tear off part of the flower and eat them that insects can access the parts of the flowers used for pollination.



## **Tiny Crustaceans**

Turtlegrass, a common seagrass, is an underwater flowering plant. In a study published in 2016, scientists discovered how tiny crustaceans in the ocean helped pollinate seagrasses, which are flowering plants. Just like on land, the scientists believe that the crustaceans move from plant to plant, getting pollen on their bodies which they then transport such that pollination can occur.

## **Cockroaches**

Yes, cockroaches! While it's admittedly a new area of research, pollination relationships between cockroaches and plants were discovered in three countries around the world, with the latest being in Chile.

## **Mosquitoes**

Not all mosquitoes feed on blood. Only the females feed on blood, and only when they are producing eggs. Male mosquitoes feed exclusively on plant nectar, sometimes serving as vectors for pollen transmission.

## **The Self-Pollinators**

Who needs a friend when you can pollinate yourself? Actually, we DO like having friends. But some species such as the bee orchid, which is found predominantly in Europe, can move their reproductive parts to self-pollinate when the conditions make it necessary.

## **Even MORE Unsung Heroes of Pollination are Out There!**

While we think we've helped shine the light on some new animals to think about when it comes to pollination, there are still quite a lot more unsung heroes. For instance, a large variety of insects like ants, beetles, moths and even spiders are pollinators. Some mammals also lend a hand (or paw), including lemurs, rodents, mongooses and honey possums—which might have one of the best animal names of all time.

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Rist Canyon Area references for standby generator installations can be provided.

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# **This electric driverless logging truck can carry up to 16 tons of timber Einride's T-Log will hit public roads in 2020**



Swedish self-driving truck startup Einride is out with another eye-catching prototype. Much like the company's first autonomous offering, the new T-Log is all-electric and completely driverless, and it completely lacks a front cab for human drivers. But unlike the T-Pod, the T-Log comes equipped with off-roading capabilities and is designed for one specific purpose: hauling tons of gigantic tree logs. Unveiled on Thursday at the UK's Goodwood Festival, the T-Log is more powerful than the T-Pod, and it's designed to carry up to 16 tons of cargo. It can also navigate dense, uneven forest roads, the startup claims, making it ideally suited for logging purposes.

How exactly this truck with no human driver can handle unmarked, often dirt and gravel roads is pretty interesting. Most self-driving vehicles rely on a suite of sophisticated sensors, mapping data and deep learning capabilities to handle the driving responsibilities. But even then, a majority of operators will stick to highly predictable environments, like suburban communities with robust roads and signage. (MIT recently proved that self-driving cars can successfully navigate rural, unmapped roads.)

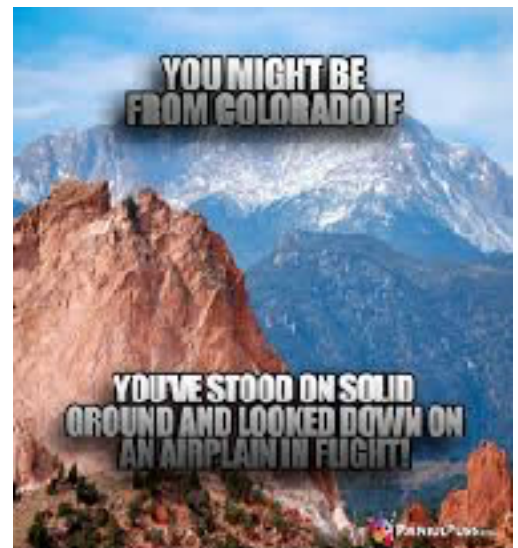
Not Einride. The company says it is using Nvidia's self-driving software to achieve Level 4 (meaning completely driverless within a set area) driving. The trucks can also be controlled by a remote operator who is located hundreds of miles away using Phantom Auto's teleoperation technology. The use of this technology may help Einride overcome the hurdles presented by off-road driving.

The lack of a cab allows for more hauling capacity, as well as more efficiency out of the vehicle's all-electric motor, Einride says. The T-Log's 16kWh battery enables up to 120 miles of driving range. But we won't get a definitive look at the heavy hauler until 2020 when Einride says it expects the T-Log to hit public roads.

Most experts believe that the first industry to be affected by autonomous driving will be the trucking sector. What better use case for driverless technology than long-haul trucking where most of the driving is confined to the highway? But Einride has a bolder vision that includes off-roading and heavy-duty cargo.

No doubt the image of a cab-less truck will further stoke fears that autonomous technology will lead to enormous displacement in the workforce. In the US, 4.4 million jobs are related to driving; of those, trucking jobs comprise about 2.5 million. A recent study found that automated trucks could reduce the demand for drivers by as much as 50 to 70 percent in the US and Europe by 2030, with 4.4 million of the 6.4 million professional drivers on both continents rendered obsolete.

*Andrew J. Hawkins  
Reprinted with permission from  
the Tree Farmer Alert, Sept. 2, 2018*





## Community Photos



Jeff Elsner, John Benshoof, Norm Miller, Ruben Arrieta and Terry Shetler responded to this 25' x 25' fire caused by a single lightning strike near Pennock Pass. Thanks to Ruben for these awesome photos!



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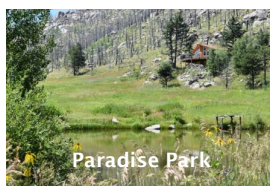
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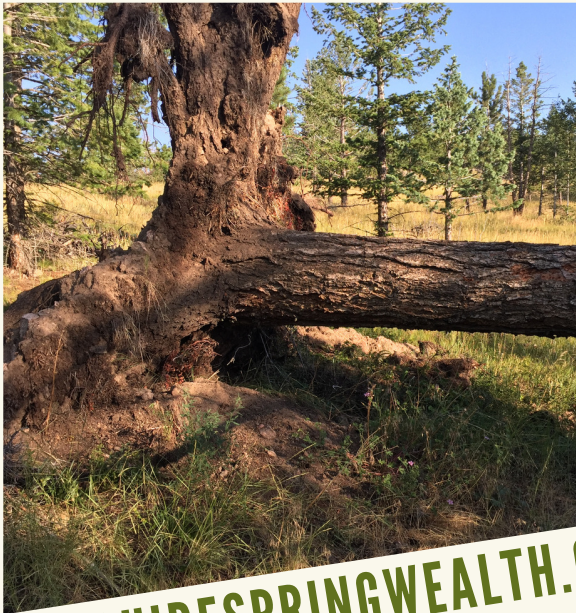
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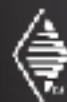
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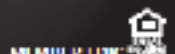
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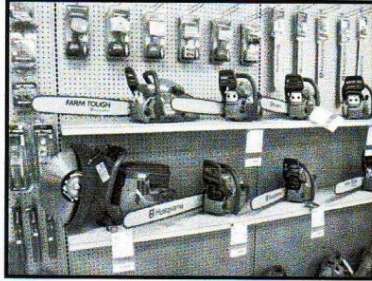




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