



RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 99 July 2021

Letter from the President

Awakening! After almost 18 months of extremely challenging times (which included but were not limited to, a global pandemic and multiple local wildfires), our community appears to be awakening from an extended season of physical isolation and emotional hardships. To varying degrees, we are now collectively able to begin interacting and moving about, as we were more than a year ago. Along these lines, if you haven't already heard, our annual Rist Canyon Mountain Festival is a "go" for this year! I'm keeping my letter brief this month, so there's room in this Ristwatch for far more details!

I do, however, want to acknowledge the service and memory of Brian Finley and Paul Vanderslice, two incredible members of RCVFD, who both recently passed away. These precious souls will not be forgotten; if you were not already aware, please reach out to support their respective families, as you are led.

I'd be remiss if I did not encourage folks to remain watchful for announcements in the Ristwatch (available by mail and online at <https://rcvfd.org/community-information/ristwatch>), as well as through our Community Alert system. Our Community Alert system is how we get important and timely information out to our residents. If you are not already

registered, please do so through our website at <https://rcvfd.org/community-information/community-alert-signup>.

In addition to our Annual Drive fundraising letters, you may also make a donation directly to RCVFD via our web site (at <https://rcvfd.org>) or by 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 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.

Thank you!
Kind regards,
Jeff Yarberry,
President, RCVFD

Chief's Report

2021 is a little busier than average so far, with 31 calls vs. 25 calls at this time in 2020 (mid-June). With a hot summer starting already, we can expect more activity through the wildland fire season. As we always do at this time of year, we beg you to use caution with your various outdoor activities and to stay vigilant for smoke and flames, especially right after a thunderstorm. Residents have no doubt already noticed some hazy and smoky skies from fires burning in the Western Slope, where drought conditions are much worse. We were "blessed" this year with a late spring snowstorm, and rains since the green-up have continued at about average frequency. But all that lovely vegetation will cure into flashy fuels by late summer unless we continue to get moisture at regular intervals as the season progresses. Long-term forecasts are not very encouraging in that regard.

Recovery from the Cameron Peak Fire continues in the Buckhorn, with cement culverts being an ongoing project to help prevent or reduce the effects of flooding. Residents have started using the sandbags provided by Larimer County to protect their properties, and dumpsters have been placed at the Ranger Station for community use. A big "thank you"

goes to Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, which has been leading efforts for further erosion control along Buckhorn Road, installing wattles, or "hay snakes". Rist Canyon Fire engine E-641 is being stationed midway up Buckhorn Road for the summer, and we are training up some recruits in that area so that they can be early responders.

Speaking of training, I would like to make a special note that Phil Benstein is stepping down from his position as Assistant Chief for health reasons. Phil has been our training officer the last few years, and as Assistant Chief handled much of the operations duties during the Cameron Peak fire. Phil was also instrumental in our website redesign a few years ago, and has been spear-heading efforts to improve communications between RCVFD and other area agencies, including Larimer County. Much of Phil's work behind the scenes goes unnoticed and unappreciated, but he has done as much for the department the past few years as anyone. Our fire department is a family in many ways, and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Carol Dollard has stepped in as Assistant Chief.

Sincerely,

Jeff Elsner, Chief

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

P.O. Box 2

Bellvue, CO 80512

chief@rcvfd.org

RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

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

Operations —1st Wednesdays
Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays
Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays
Medical Training—
4th Wednesdays

Will RCVFD find you when they need to? Consider purchasing a reflective sign. Just \$15! All we need is your address. Order today! Call Louise Creager at 970/217-6843.



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Community Alerts!

Information about community events, evacuation orders, current active fires and more are delivered directly to your Inbox by signing up for Community Alerts. Just go to RCVFD.org and scroll to the very bottom of the Home Page. There you'll enter your email address and first and last names, then click Subscribe. This is a great way to get the most up-to-date information from the RCVFD.

Treasurer's Notes

The Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department is financially solid! You as a donor can be proud that your fire department stands tall as donation-based and staffed with all volunteers.

Based on 27 years of being involved with RCVFD as board member, president and treasurer; I have seen the RCVFD community work together, making the fire department what it is today. When I share with others in the Fort Collins community that I volunteer with the Rist Canyon fire department, there is always an incredibly positive response. Our firefighters and medical personnel are viewed in high esteem. I am proud to support our front-line volunteers who answer the call 24-7!

Richard Lund
Treasurer



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MANY THANKS TO
RIST CANYON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department 2021 Mountain Festival September 11, 2021

The Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) is excited to announce the Rist Canyon Mountain Festival will be from 10 AM to 4 PM, Saturday, September 11, 2021. "We want to invite everyone to our annual fundraiser featuring activities for the entire family," said RCVFD Chief Jeff Elsner. "We are proud to provide the event in our beautiful outdoor mountain setting, especially this year celebrating the strength of our firefighters, first responders, community and all Americans on this 20th anniversary of 9/11." The RCVFD Mountain Festival is held annually on the first Saturday after Labor Day, opposite the fire house at 11835 Rist Canyon Road, west of Bellvue.

This year's celebration features book sale and silent auction tents, free ice cream, bake sale, plant sale, craft vendors, live entertainment, food trucks, educational booths and demonstrations, and kids' area with activities. There also will be a commemorative presentation in memory of those who perished on September 11, 2001. Admission, parking and a tractor-pulled hayride shuttle to and from the parking lot are free.

The more than 100-square-mile RCVFD service area, in addition to the mutual-aid additional 50 square mile area, has been especially hard hit recently, presenting many unprecedented challenges. Last year's severe drought conditions caused numerous lightning-sparked fires. The Cameron Peak Fire decimated thousands of acres, burning many residences in its path. In mid-March, the area was deluged with snow; some areas receiving more than four feet within a 48-hour period. Sharp upsurges in road traffic increased the number of related emergency responses. Visitors and residents also now must constantly be vigilant for potential flooding and erosion dangers, particularly in the burn areas. Through all of this, the approximately 35 volunteer firefighters have been resolute in their efforts to provide emergency response to life and property from natural disasters, fires, medical emergencies, accidents and rescue situations.

As the 2021 summer season approaches, it is important for visitors and residents to be Fire Wise and keep an eye on the skies for potential dangers. Stay informed and know the rules of the high country as making time in the area safe and enjoyable is a paramount priority. Tips and information are available at www.rcvfd.org.

"The RCVFD community has faced many extraordinary challenges since we last were able to gather at the 2019 Mountain Festival," said Chief Elsner. "We look forward to everyone celebrating with us at the 2021 RCVFD Mountain Festival! Your support of our dedicated volunteer firefighters is sincerely appreciated."

For additional information, including how to participate as a vendor (profit or non-profit participant), food truck, volunteer or sponsor, please contact the Festival Coordinator, H.J. Siegel at HJ@computer.org.

Karen Salaz
Mountain Festival Communications Coordinator
rcvfdfestival@gmail.com

Letter from the Vice President

The annual Rist Canyon Mountain Festival will be held from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, September 11th (the Saturday after Labor Day weekend), opposite the main firehouse (#1) at 11835 Rist Canyon Road. As always, the admission and parking are free (And so is the ice cream!). In 2019, about 2,000 people attended, and we raised over \$20,000 profit to support the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD). We had to cancel the 2020 Festival because of the pandemic and we are very excited to be back!

The Rist Canyon Mountain Festival will be packed with fun and entertainment, including live music, a used book sale, an old-fashioned dunk tank, arts and crafts vendor booths, a silent auction, children's games, farm animals, a bake sale, a plant sale, firefighter demos,

educational booths, food trucks, a medical evacuation helicopter and free ice cream. It will be a great time for the whole family, in a beautiful mountain meadow.

The Festival is the major fundraiser for the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD). All volunteer and 100% donation-based, the RCVFD provides emergency, medical and fire services to over 100 square miles in and around Rist Canyon. If you have any questions, please contact me.

H. J. Siegel

RCVFD Board Vice President, Firefighter and
Emergency Medical Responder,
and Mountain Festival Coordinator
970-416-9062, HJ@computer.org

Bake Sale Tent

Need your Baked Goods for Mountain Festival Bake Sale Please

Please help the RCVFD Mountain Festival by donating your delicious baked goods. It is a terrific way to get the entire family involved in supporting our firefighters and EMS. PIES, PIES, PIES are by far our best selling item, and we sell it by the slice or whole pie. Any pie that doesn't need to be refrigerated will be a big hit. Cookies, bars, brownies, cinnamon rolls and breads always fly off the table too. Please package items in sellable amounts (e.g., 1/2 dozen cookies, 1 dozen cookies when possible) and list high allergen ingredients such as nuts or dairy. Thank you in advance for supporting the wonderful team that keeps our canyon safe. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer some time at the bake sale tent, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Lisa Diederich
Bake Sale Chair

970-472-8426, diederich@toast.net

Are You Crafty?

Craft and Vendor Booths Available

Calling all artisans, crafters and anyone looking to sell their wares! Come join us at our Rist Canyon Mountain Festival on Saturday, September 11! We have booth space available. For more information, contact me. Thanks!

Jill Smith

Craft Booth Chair

970-420-4327, jgriffanti1@gmail.com



Mountain Festival News

9/11 Memorial

This year's festival will include a special 9/11 recognition—for those who perished, those who responded and our own first responders. A commemoration plaque will be presented to the fire department, along with a musical tribute and speaker. And we want your participation, too! A large banner will be available for festival goers to write thank you notes to the first responders of our community. We hope you will enjoy this special commemoration. Thank you!



Erica Michel,
9/11 Memorial Chair
sable221@gmail.com

Silent Auction

It's time again to start working on the Mountain Festival Silent Auction FINALLY! Our 2019 auction had over 250 wonderful items: gift cards, handmade items, paintings, tools, equipment, even a sink! Thank you to all of our awesome donors and the people who found them. We only have a few months until this year's auction, so ANY HELP you can offer will be gratefully accepted!

One way you can help is to think of items you'd like to see at the auction and who might donate them. To be part of our continuing success, **each and every one of us** can talk to prospective donors wherever we go. Your favorite restaurant, store, service provider, brewery, crafter or mad inventor might be happy to contribute to the fire department. There is a nice letter for donors, explaining what RCVFD is, what donors gain (good karma and free advertising), and how to donate. There is also a Festival flyer and other info. Even people who cringe from asking for things can do this: hand your prospective donor

the letter and a flyer, tip your hat and leave. So please let's **ALL** do this! We don't want to contact people multiple times, though, so please do **email us your suggestions before you get donations**, to be sure you're the first person asking! **Thank you!** We also need the following help:

1. People to help with donated items: some to pick up items or photograph them, or write descriptions of them, or make bid sheets for them, and some to write thank you notes to the donors. It's all interesting and you get to see all the cool stuff first.
2. People to help with the festival: we need setter-uppers, taker-downers, booth workers and a LOT of people to close the auction, including organizing items and collecting cash from highest bidders.

If this sounds like something you can do, PLEASE call or text me. Thank you!

Janet Siegel
Silent Auction Chair
970-231-7877, equuphile@gmail.com

Thank You RCVFD



Chet Dobbs, Owner

970-231-4408

office@dobbsxinc.com

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This advertisement is for Loveland and Johnstown Ready-Mix Concrete. It features two identical logos side-by-side at the top, each showing a concrete mixer truck above the text "LOVELAND READY-MIX CONCRETE" and "JOHNSTOWN READY-MIX CONCRETE" respectively. Below the logos, the text "PROMPT DEPENDABLE SERVICE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the tagline "Over 55 Years - Family Owned and Operated" in a smaller, italicized font. A horizontal line separates this from the "SERVING" section, which lists "The Front Range & Northern Colorado" and provides telephone numbers for dispatch: Loveland (970.667.1108), Johnstown (970.203.1144), and Boulder (303.444.4992). Another horizontal line follows, leading to the text "CONCRETE FOR ANY SPECIFICATION".

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This advertisement is for Gary Weixelman, a Realtor with Continental West Realty. It features a headshot of Gary on the left. To his right, the text "Gary WEIXELMAN" is displayed in a large, stylized font. Below this, the company name "CONTINENTAL WEST REALTY" is written, followed by "COUNTRY LOG HOMES LLC" and the address "4814 Valley Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526". Contact information is listed: Office (970-229-1413), Cell (970-218-1686), and Red Feather Lakes (970-881-2800). The email "GaryW@GaryW.com" and website "www.GaryW.com" are also provided. Logos for "MLS" and "B-PRO" are visible at the bottom left of the ad.

Gary
WEIXELMAN

CONTINENTAL WEST REALTY
COUNTRY LOG HOMES LLC
4814 Valley Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526

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Cell: 970-218-1686
Red Feather Lakes: 970-881-2800
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www.GaryW.com
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Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

Educational and Non-Profit Booths Welcome at Mountain Festival

Did you know that we are one of only three non-tax supported, all volunteer fire departments in Colorado? We are supported by grants, voluntary outside contributions, residents' donations and by the Rist Canyon Mountain Festival, which is a major fundraiser. We would love for your Non-profit or Educational organization to participate in our festival! Having a Non-profit or Educational booth is free of charge and allows you to show our community the information and opportunities you offer. Join our festival on September 11th—we would love to have you!

Please let me know if you would like to participate in this event and feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you!

Angie McQuillan
Educational/Non-profit Booths Chair
angmcq@yahoo.com

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Kids' Activities!



Join us for some family fun in the Kids' Area of the RCVFD Mountain Festival on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Some of the FREE activities include games, farm animals, coloring tables,

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Trisha Johnston
Kids Activities Chair
tajohnmt@gmail.com

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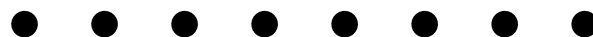
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Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

Entertainment



We are excited about this year's entertainment lineup, which is packed with local Rist Canyon musicians. MAYA DANKOWSKI, a solo acoustic guitarist, will treat us to a number of favorites from the recent past. DON DIEMER will once again bring us the Vacuum Tube Radio Hour featuring old time classics, the kind you might have listened to on the radio while sitting around the kitchen table. COWTOWN returns to our stage bringing a contemporary mix of country swing and boogie. ALSO KNOWN AS, previously known as PRAIRIE DOG COMPANION, brings an eclectic brand of Americana music they call "City and Western." The CHOICE CITY TRIO blends a mixture of original music and old familiar favorites, all of which encourage community connection.

Sandra Deraney Reilly,
Entertainment Chair
deraneyreillys@gmail.com

T-shirts – Special for the Mountain Festival

We will be selling commemorative Mountain Festival T-shirts again this year. They will feature artwork designed by the amazing Taylor Hubbard. Based on feedback, we have added women's and youth styles. These shirts are a great way to celebrate our community pride and support our Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department! For more information, please contact me.

Molly McLean
T-Shirt Chair
mollybea37@hotmail.com

Book Tent Needs Help

We are now accepting book donations for the book tent at the Mountain Festival. Along with the permanent book deposit box at Station 1, book deposit boxes have been placed at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ (this is also a permanent book box) across from the Bellvue Post Office, Laporte Pizza and Laporte Hardware. I hope to place several more boxes when I receive permission. If you or a neighbor have a large load of books that need to be picked up, please contact me. We also are going to sell our older books that might be worth some money online. One place will be on Ebay.

We have lost six book bees this year, so if you would like to join us, we would love to have you. We sort books every Tuesday and Friday at Station 1 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

We're also looking for anyone willing to help in the book tent the day of the festival to help customers, hand out bags, move books or cashier. I would love to have several cashiers so we could give everyone a break.

Carolyn Stanley
Book Tent Chair
970-221-2024, cloud9sewing@gmail.com



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References

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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.

Three Easy Ways to Help the RCVFD



Spread the Word!

One of our biggest fundraisers is the King Soopers Rewards Card. 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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Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

Don't Just Stand There, Plant Something!

Time to get your green thumb on and start your transplants now for the plant booth at the RCVFD Festival on September 11th.

Bring your beautiful starts to the Plant Booth on the morning of the Festival. All plant sale proceeds support our Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. Thank you for all your support! For any questions, please contact me.

Eve Ege
Plant Booth Chair
evee61@gmail.com.



We had a very productive June 2021 Friends of the Festival (FotF) Gathering.

The FotF who attended and are in the photo are: Erica (9/11 Commemorative), Karen (Publicity), Richard (Facilities), Bridget (Food, Ice Cream), Janet (Silent Auction), HJ (Coordinator), Sandy (Entertainment), Molly (T-shirts), Angie (Non-profit Booths), and Carolyn (Books).

I thank all of them for coming and contributing great ideas.

HJ Siegel
Mountain Festival Coordinator

We Need Help for the Festival – Really – Please

In 2019, about 100 Mountain Festival volunteers raised about \$20,000 to help keep our Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) functioning effectively whenever a neighbor calls 911 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 money this year. You can help anytime, all year long, before, during and after the September 11 festival. You can help for just an hour or join the Festival leadership team, or anywhere in between. Some of the leadership team possibilities are Bake Sale Vice-Chair, Plant Sale Vice-Chair, Silent Auction Vice-Chair, Corporate Donations Vice-Chair, Facilities Vice-Chair, and Information Technology Chair.

Please contact HJ, the Festival Coordinator if you just want to find out more about the possibilities with no obligation. Thanks!

HJ Siegel
Mountain Festival Coordinator
970-416-9062, HJ@colostate.edu

Your Local "Market in a Minute"



Here is your Oasis away from it all! Custom home from original cabin was added to in 1999. Gourmet kitchen with WOLF stove, granite counters & perfect pantry. Primary En-Suite has expansive, vaulted ceilings with walk-in closet. Relax near a waterfall flowing into two ponds, going to professionally landscaped raised bed gardens. Plenty of room in the 42' X 29' barn for toys, workshop, & garage. Your horses will love riding through treed 80 acres w/gently sloping hills, and breathtaking views. Home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, 2671 square feet on private 80 acres. Perfect for entertaining, or just relaxing. You will enjoy long walks with magnificent sunrises. Horses will love roaming around. So much more to see. Located in Livermore. 45 minutes to Fort Collins. Call Louise for your private showing.



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Mountain Home Maintenance Tip

- When is the last time you cleaned your septic? Larimer County recommends you have your septic cleaned out every 4-5 years.

Louise Creager
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Notes from Your RCVFD Area Representatives

Welcome to summer! While our summer is very hot and we're making plans for vacations and fun weekend getaways, grass and weeds are growing around our homes. Be sure to make time to pick up downed branches, or trim up to ten feet on those tall trees. Mow and trim around your homes as well as all out-buildings. This will not only look neater, you'll have less insects and other pests, and more importantly, keep a good defensible space from potential fires. Enjoy your summer.

Louise Creager
Stratton Park Area Rep.

I know I do not have to tell you but it is always good to remind everyone. Please be very careful with cigarettes, grilling, welding and chain saw cutting as any little spark will easily start a fire. We all love living up here and we need to take extra precautions to keep our homes safe. Let us keep last year from repeating with the fires.

Carolyn Stanley
Davis Ranch Area Rep.

Canyon Clean-up

WOW! What a great turn out for our Spring Clean-up along our main roads of Rist Canyon, Buckhorn and Stove Prairie! We want to thank the over 60 wonderful volunteers this year who came and cleaned up along our roads. Special kudos to the youngsters who walked several miles with their parents to help out as well.

Thank you to our Firefighters who were our safety managers. A Big Thank You to Ruben and HJ, who stood over hot grills to cook our wonderful lunches. Food provided by Ruben and Louise. Thanks to BJ, who drove to take all the trash collected to the fire stations and the land fill. Thank you to Ohana Ranch who allowed us to use their beautiful location to have our Buckhorn/Stove Prairie Clean-up. And a Big Thank You to Canyon Utilities, who gave their time and took all this trash to the landfill at no cost to us. See you next year! Enjoy the photos courtesy of Juana Jackson and Louise Creager.





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Notes from Your RCVFD Area Representatives, cont'd.

June 13, 2021 is a day that forever changed me. My family was with me when I spotted a cyclist who crashed into a ravine at the north end of Stove Prairie Road. I ran down to the man and discovered he was badly injured but conscious. I assured him I would return and ran back to the road to find help. My wife flagged down another cyclist and explained the situation. My dad directed traffic around the site and my mom prayed. I stopped a car and asked for help. He ran down with me and we had a conversation with the cyclist. I held his hand and others comforted him as best we could. We made shade from a tarp, a Crystal Lakes FD volunteer stopped and provided ice for cooling him, another former EMT stopped to assist. The four of us talked for some time. A doctor also happened by. I could tell from the look on his face the situation was dire. He asked for a trauma kit, but we were helpless. Aid was on the way but would be at least another 10-15 minutes. CPR was initiated minutes before the ambulance arrived. The life flight helicopter flew over and the crew had to be shuttled up from the landing site.

RCVFD crew arrived and took command of the scene. The road was blocked to make room for people to work. A rope was set up to assist entrance and egress from the ravine. I was amazed at the calmness. All volunteers knew the job they had to do. I watched six to eight volunteers perform CPR in rotation with water breaks. It was very hot that day. This went on for quite some time. It was obvious they were not giving up on this man. It was heart wrenching. Even with all their efforts, this man was unable to be saved. It was the most somber experience I have ever had.

The next day, I was contacted by the deceased man's brother. He expressed his gratitude that I had found him down in that ravine. The family was grateful their loved one had not died alone. I had a chance to meet his mom, widow, daughter, brothers, sisters and a few friends. We wept together. It was

very humbling. I believe I have a friend for life, this being the first gentleman I flagged down. He thought I was just some crazy guy who jumped out in front of his car. He was on the scene with me for nearly three and a half hours. To him, I would like to say thank you. It has been an emotional roller coaster; saddening me to know a family would receive that phone call.

I am glad I found this man. It has given me great pause. I suppose I have taken many things for granted. I have ended up in a ditch in the past and escaped unscathed. I hadn't realized how lucky I had been.

Please keep your eyes peeled. I never thought that partial glimpse of a bicycle tire in the ravine was going to turn into such an emotionally heavy day. Thanks to all involved. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. If it's any solace, I was told a crash into an emergency room would not have saved this rider. Be safe and remember to hold your loved ones near. These mountain roads can be life altering.

R.I.P, B.H. – I wish we had met in a different way.

Tim Stratman

Stove Prairie Area Rep.



Notes from Your RCVFD Area Representatives, cont'd.

Summer, along with all its friends, has found its way to the upper Buckhorn. Hummingbirds seem to be enjoying all the flowers. On a lot of the burned sites you can see flowers and grasses growing in well. There are sand bags at the Moody Hill lot for runoff and debris flow mitigation. Dumpsters at the ranger station seem to be going well. Upper property owners are reporting bear, coyote and moose active in the area. Road crews have been doing great on the road base and culvert work.

Erica Michel
Upper Buckhorn Area Rep.



Photos courtesy of Erica Michel



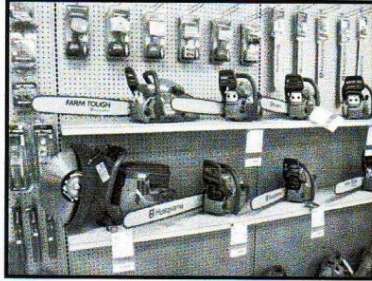
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**The deadline for the
October Ristwatch is
September 21st.**

2021 Annual Drive Budget \$103,520- Donations YTD \$32,288

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2021 Annual Drive Budget cont'd.

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Siegmund, John
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Smith, Marilyn
Smith, Steven & Anne
Squires, Jordan
Standing, Carolyn
Staubs, James & Peggy

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Stowe, Kathy & F.M. Wile
Stratman, Thomas & Charlene
Striegel, Randy & Sally
Swenson, Charles & Elizabeth
Taylor, Leisa
Thielen, Robert
Tisserat, Ned & Jan Leach
Tisthammer, Thomas & Bridget
Tracy, Robert
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Weiler, Richard & Patricia
Welch, Jarrett & Shalisa
White, Phil & Christie
Willauer, David & Diane
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Williams, James & Patti
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Wolters, Bill & Phyllis
Wood, Chuck & Kathleen

Thanks to everyone!
Your support is especially important during this trying time.
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