

RANCH

May, 2020

The Year the Earth Stood Still:

There's nothing I care to add to the endless news about Covid, except to inform you of our policies and responses to the threat of the virus. Regarding Hope Ranch Staff and workplace adjustments, the office shared by the Water Company at 695 Via Tranquila has been closed to walk-ins, and staffing for the Hope Ranch side of the office is just Anne and Liza, splitting shifts and working a lot from home. Staff is working 1) from a locker (in the case of Patrol), 2) a camping trailer in a Hope Ranch maintenance area (in the case of me, Greg), from a car (in the case of all staff for a time every day) or from home and his truck (Bob Townsend has a full control station). Sergio's crew is all hands on deck and progressing right along, smooth sailing. Some of you know first hand that working remote is slow (it takes ten seconds to type two words) but we're doing fine. Amenity wise, as approved by the board, tennis courts are open; beach park is open, but the bathrooms remain closed. Guest PIN numbers have been suspended until further notice. I've sent several email update blasts out, so, to stay in the loop, make sure I have your email address, which you can send to Gfeet@hoperanch.org. And remember that plenty of good things have already come from this, and will continue doing so, and that there's no better outpost to weather the storm than Hope Ranch. Greg

Fire Season always coming! We can help.

Covid has made some of us forget the horrors of the past couple of years in terms of wildfires. Due to the increased risk of catastrophe fire in California, some Hope Ranch residents are having their fire insurance cancelled, or they are receiving notices from their carriers demanding that they clear fire fuel from their properties (the latter of which is good news). To help reduce fire fuel, we are again partnering with a defensible space consultant and contractor, *Firesafe Solutions*, who worked with Hope Ranch last year by meeting personally with Hope Ranch members seeking defensible space advice and/or clearing. Because the consultant is a fire mitigation contractor, he will provide specific defensible space suggestions to mitigate

Ramblings



fire hazards on any Hope Ranch property. He will also, upon request by the property owner, provide a bid for doing the clearing work to Santa Barbara County defensible space compliance standards. All consultations will be provided free of charge. After these consultations, Ranch Members can use their own landscaper or contractor to bring their property into compliance, or they can accept the bid provided by Firesafe. We've had lots of rain and sun, and everything is growing. We ask all Hope Ranch Members to take pro-active measures and minimize the fire fuels on their property. For help, contact Marc Russo of *Firesafe Solutions* at 805-689-3430 to arrange a no-charge Defensible Space consultation of your property.

From Anne Rhine: Beach Cards, Kayak storage, and Locker information:

Current beach cards are good until May 31st. Current beach card holders will receive an invoice for the same number of beach cards issued for last year. To renew cards mail your renewal fee or pay online at www.hoperanch.org (service fees apply). Prices for the beach cards remain the same for 2020/2021: First card \$100, second card \$145 and third card \$245 (these are separate prices).

Beach Lockers – Locker assignments are good until May 31st. Lockers are rentable to Members for two years, after which the locker must be surrendered to someone on the waitlist. Members who clear the waitlist will no longer be able to defer taking a locker until the following year—you must choose to either take the locker, be placed at the end of the waitlist, or removed from the waitlist. Letters to current locker users will be sent out in late April or early May indicating to those ending their second year of locker use that they will need to surrender their locker by May 31st. If you are ending your second year, note you will not automatically be placed back on the waiting list. You will need to call or email the office to be placed back on the waitlist. Those members who will

be entering their second year will receive an invoice and will need to pay the annual fee for 2020/2021.

Kayak Spaces – Kayak Spaces are good until May 31st. Currently, there are open Kayak/SUP/Surfboard storage spaces at the beach. Those currently holding storage spaces will be sent invoices in late April or early May. If you do not want to renew your space, please email Anne at Anne@hoperanch.org. Note: It is advisable to cable lock your kayak or SUP Board stored at the beach park. Kayaks or SUP Boards stored in beach spaces without permission will be removed and stored for two months.

Pin Usage on Summer Weekends and Holidays -

Due to Covid, guest pins have been deactivated until further notice. In normal times PIN numbers are issued to Members/Tenants by the Ranch office. A member must have a beach card to establish a pin number. A \$10 charge will be billed to the member's/tenant's account with each use of the guest pin number. A \$20 charge will be billed to the member's/tenant's account on weekends and holidays ("heavy traffic days") from July 4th through Labor Day.

Magic Summer Dates Still On Calendar.

Seeing the half full glass filling a bit, we remain optimistic about the Summer. We only have a few Hope Ranch sponsored events a year, so you should think about attending all of them. Here they are...

1. Beach Family Campout and Pancake Breakfast
Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11
2. Beach Festival, Labor Day **SUNDAY**, September 6
3. Hope Ranch Annual Meeting, Mid February

Hope Ranch Address Book Second Edition

(Melissa Brooks)

As you may already know, the Hope Ranch Address Book Second Edition is now available for \$20 per book to those who participated. Many have already received their copy. The book is beautiful as well as useful. New features include street maps with legends and descriptions and contacts for various social/administrative groups in the Ranch. Thank you to Ron Williams for providing his stunning photos of Hope Ranch throughout the book. A limited number of additional copies are available so if you want more than one book, please send in the appropriate amount. The committee will make sure you receive yours.

Make checks payable to The Hope Ranch Address Book and mail to:

The Hope Ranch Address Book c/o Melissa Brooks

4150 La Ladera Road Santa Barbara, CA 93110

The Hope Ranch Address Book Committee includes; Alison Bowlus, Geri Bidwell, Melissa Brooks, Jan Dunbar, Alex Pananides, Diana O'Keeffe and Charlotte and Ron Williams

Ramblers Walking Group:

(Charlotte Williams) The Ramblers is in quarantine until the current social distancing rules become less restrictive. We note that there has been a noticeable increase in walking among small groups throughout the Ranch. We are lucky to have such lovely and safe park-like streets. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, our email address is hrramblers@gmail.com and we will notify you when our next ramble will take place.

Bonfire Rings go the way of the Pyrenean ibex

Since the big wildfires, we have not provided bonfire rings for bonfires at the beach. With a slight wind, embers can clear the cliffs and catch dry brush on fire. Citizens starting bonfires will be liable for any damage they may cause. We can't prohibit individuals from having bonfires on the public beach, but if a member wants to risk a beach bonfire, the law states that such fires must be contained in a container (no bonfires in the sand), and a bucket must be present to extinguish the fire completely (in our case with ocean water before leaving the beach).

Got fruit on the tree for Food Bank?

Hope Ranch Member Ashley Parker is asking the community if they have extra fruit on their trees for the Food Bank to collect. If so, contact Matt at MNeal@foodbanksbc.org

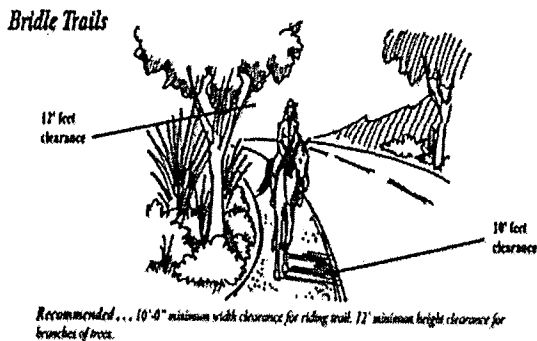
Convert your unused firewood for a good cause?

Member Jim Roehrig is a volunteer for the Organic Soup Kitchen, a non profit that provides soup to those fighting cancer. He had a few cords of wood on his property that he was not using, giving him an idea about local restaurants with wood burning stoves possibly wanting his stockpile and in return they could write checks for OSK. He saw this as a win win for all concerned—the restaurant is supplied wood at a lower cost, and OSK can feed more cancer patients. Jim is asking you to contact him if you have any wood that he may collect and split to help OSK continue to service more cancer patients in our

community. Contact jroeh57004@gmail.com (805) 896-4724

Protecting our increasingly precious Bridle Trails:

Recently a Montecito HOA board member contacted me inquiring about who made our beautiful road signs. He was shocked when I told him that they were made in-house (for the email recipients of the newsletter, I will attach a photo showing one our crew's road signs hot off the bench). Anyway, in talking, he mentioned how the bridle trails of Montecito had slowly been taken over by vegetation and unapproved fencing and lawsuits, and he warned us to protect our trails carefully. Many of you ride regularly throughout the Ranch, and hence love the trails, but even to those who do not ride or to those who are distrustful of mounting an animal weighing more than two motorcycles or three black bears, the sight of equestrians cantering along Hope Ranch trails is pleasing to the observer and a tradition becoming rarer everywhere as time goes by. Most homes in Hope Ranch have easements on them, and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the bridle trail on their property. Currently, thanks to Member Bret Hodges and Staff Liza Kirkbride, we have produced about 90 letters directing homeowners with bridle trails that are becoming encroached with vegetation to clear these trails. All but about 15 members have complied. Please see the illustration showing how bridle trails are to be maintained to the



degree possible. It's to everyone's advantage to preserve bridle trails that were established nearly 100 years ago.

ABR Items—(more than average due to bi monthly newsletter and heavy ABR demand)

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

4631 VIA BENDITANEW RESIDENCE
4692 VIA BENDITA ADDITION AND NEW BARN. ROUND PEN VARIANCE

4604 VIA VISTOSA CONVERSION OF GUEST HOUSE TO AN ADU

450 VIA DICHOSA REMODEL, ADDITION & VIOLATION **CONTINUED**

4441 VIA ESPERANZA GARAGE

CONVERSION, NEW GARAGE & SHOP 4475

VIA ABRIGADA REMODEL, ADDITION & LANDSCAPE WALL

PRELIMINARY REVIEW

855 ESTRELLA DRIVE REMODEL ADDITION & ADU CONVERSION

1170 ESTRELLA DRIVE NEW STRUCTURE, STORAGE AND OFFICE

4545 VIA VISTOSA REMODEL, ADDITION & GUEST HOUSE

FINAL REVIEW

524 VIA SINUOSA REMODEL

4520 VIA VISTOSA REMODEL & ADDITION

4055 CUERVO AVE. REMODEL

4477 VIA ALEGRE REMODEL, ADDITION, GUEST HOUSE & POOL

400 VIA DICHOSA REMODEL & ADDITION

652 VIA TREPADORA NEW RESIDENCE

4066 VIA LAGUNA NEW RESIDENCE

767 LAS PALMAS DR. REMODEL & NEW RESIDENCE

4640 VIA BENDITA NEW RESIDENCE

4090 CUERVO AVE. POOL, POOL CABANA & POOL EQUIPMENT

4653 VIA ROBLADA NEW GARAGE, BARN, TENNIS COURT & NEW STRUCTURES

4565 VIA HUERTO ADDITION

4403 VIA ABRIGADA NEW WALL, ENTRY GATES & LANDSCAPING

4171 MARIPOSA DRIVE REMODEL, ADDITION, POOL & LANDSCAPING

4444 VIA BENDITA REMODEL, ADDITION, LANDSCAPE & SPORT COURT

1117 LAS PALMAS DR. REMODEL, ADDITION, STUCCO, WINDOWS AND DOORS

1125 ESTRELLA DRIVE REMODEL & ADDITION

VARIANCES

4116 CRECIENTE DRIVE NEW SPA APPROVED

4692 VIA BENDITA ROUND PEN **UNDER REVIEW**

Closing Jokes that, while not very funny, survive because they offend few

What do you say when you see a snail drive by in a sports car? **Look at that S-car-go.**

PATROL REPORT

We begin with more important older items that could not fit in the last newsletter
This report is selective and does not include all Patrol responses during this period
Not all readers may be emotionally prepared for the Patrol Report!

(Older) November, 22 8:45AM – Patrol received a report from a Resident at HR beach who reported seeing an eight-year old nude boy west of HR beach. The boy was seen alone by a pile of rocks and at a fort he had built. From a distance, patrol spotted the boy who was somewhere close to the More Mesa steps, well outside HR beach. He looked to be alone as he walked to the ocean and then out of sight along the bluff. Patrol connected the female directly with the Sheriff's dispatch so she could provide a firsthand account of what she had witnessed on her walk. Patrol directed Sheriff deputies who responded to the scene. The boy was located and identified as a 13-year-old non-Ranch Resident who had left from his home with plans to return the next day. The teen's father had reported his son missing. Deputies transported the teen home to his father.

December, 6 1:00PM – While pulling into the Ranch office parking lot, patrol noticed a grey Jeep SUV that had been seen on video backing into the HR bldg. admin truck at the Ranch office parking lot a few days before, passing by on Via Tranquila. The Jeep had backed into the HR bldg. admin. company truck after making a delivery at the office and left the scene without notifying Ranch staff of the damage to the driver's side of the truck. Patrol had been on the look-out for the Jeep and followed up with the contracted delivery driver's company and provided them details of the incident. After spotting the passing Jeep, patrol followed the Jeep and contacted the driver about the incident. Patrol showed the driver a video of the incident and pictures of the damages. The driver admitted to the collision but said he did not realize he had caused that much damage. The driver provided his personal and vehicle information and with the okay from the Ranch GM, the matter was settled by filing a claim against driver's personal vehicle insurance co. for the repairs to the truck.

December, 16 4:37PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the 4500-blk. of Via Vistosa who reported that two guitars and a laptop were stolen from an unlocked studio located to the rear of the main residence. The home had no video monitoring system. The studio is a detached structure - not connected to the main house. Apparently, beer bottles, previously inside the mini fridge inside the studio had been found broken on the driveway and broken beer bottle pieces were found thrown inside the fridge. The Resident advised the theft occurred sometime between 1p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Monday. The Resident suspect the incident may have involved juveniles. The Resident advised that nothing else of value was taken from the garage. The Resident filed a criminal report with the Sheriff's department. At this time, the suspect(s) is/are unkn. *Note: The Ranch GM emailed the Ranch Membership about this incident soon after it occurred.*

December, 26 3:15PM – While monitoring the Sheriff's frequency, patrol heard a roll-over vehicle accident call go out on Estrella. Sheriff units, fire and medics all responded with lights and sirens. Patrol was first on scene and noticed a vehicle on its roof on Estrella near La Ladera with several people standing nearby. Patrol asked if everyone was okay and they said they were. Responding units arrived, followed by CHP who began their investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

December, 27 5:30PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the 4300-blk. of Llano who reported a suspicious male walking on Las Palmas near Las Olas. Patrol located a transient male on Las Palmas near Via Cayente. Patrol gave the polite Oregon resident a ride just outside the Ranch.

December, 28 10:50PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on Cresta who reported a hitchhiker on the 900-blk. of Las Palmas. Patrol contacted a transient male who was walking south on Las Palmas and offered him directions. The male asked for a ride out of the Ranch, but due to demeanor patrol declined. Patrol monitored the male's progress and noticed some odd behavior as the male would yell to himself at various times along the way.

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The male was last seen exiting the Ranch on Marina Dr. towards Cliff Dr.

January, 1 6:40PM – Patrol received a report from an anonymous Resident who reported a vehicle accident on Marina Dr. Patrol responded and located a silver Honda sedan on the shoulder of Marina near Creciente. The vehicle was occupied by 1 male and 2 females, all non-Ranch Residents. No injuries were reported, and the driver advised that a tow truck was already enroute. The driver advised patrol that while west bound on Marina, some animal ran out onto the road and he drove onto the shoulder to avoid hitting the animal. The SBPD, and ambulance and the county fire department also responded to the scene. SBPD conducted a sobriety check on the driver and it appeared alcohol was not a factor in the accident. The tow truck arrived soon after and pulled the Honda out of the landscaping, which had some minor damage. SBPD conducted the investigation of the accident.

January, 7 8:45PM – While patrolling Marina Dr., patrol contacted a female who was riding west on Marina Dr. with several personal items. The female appeared to be homeless and advised she was trying to get to the next town. Patrol provided directions to the female and monitored her progress. She was last seen exiting out the Ranch on Marina towards Cliff Dr.

January, 7 9:21PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the west-side of the Ranch who reported several items stolen from his bedroom. The Resident advised that 2 expensive pairs of sunglasses, worth about \$700, and about \$50 worth of marijuana had been taken. The Resident advised that nothing else in the house appeared to have been taken. The home had no security video system. The Resident suspected the items may have been taken by a "friend of a friend" (juveniles). Patrol discussed security measures with the Resident who keeps various doors to the house unlocked. It was suspected point of entry was through the unlocked garage. The Resident pondered calling the Sheriff's later to report the incident.

January, 8 8:55AM – While patrolling Las Palmas near Lago, patrol noticed an older transient male walking slowly on the road. Patrol monitored the male's progress and noticed the male laid down like he was going to take a nap at the map parking lot on Las Palmas. Patrol contacted the male who asked for directions to the store. Patrol gave the male directions and he was last seen exiting out the Ranch on Las Palmas.

January, 21 8:30AM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the 900-blk. of Canon who reported her cat stuck in a tree. Patrol responded and noted the cat was meowing loudly in a bushy tree. Patrol tried spooking the cat down and nudging it with a broom, but it did not want to move. Patrol used a ladder to climb up and was able to grab the cat that was possibly impaled on a branch or had its fur tangled up. Patrol cut the branch and got the cat down. While the owner examined the cat, it ran off into the landscaping. Patrol assisted in searching for the cat, but it was not located. It was unclear what injuries, if any, the cat had sustained.

January, 25 11:36AM – Patrol received a call from an alarm co. regarding an alarm activation at a residence on the 4000-blk. of Mariposa. Patrol responded and on scene was 2 vehicles parked on the property. While checking the property, the Resident came out and advised patrol that he has been having problems with his alarm. The Resident cancelled the call with his alarm co.

January, 28 5:18PM – While patrolling the 4500-blk. of Via Esperanza, patrol noticed a couple of teen males jumping out of a fenced parcel lot. A burgundy Toyota Tundra was parked nearby on the bridge trail. Patrol contacted the males and learned they were 15 and 16 years old and did not live in the Ranch, but had horses kept in the Ranch. The teens claimed to have received permission from the property owner's son. Aside from a water bottle, the teens did not have anything with them and appeared to just be hanging out. The teens left the Ranch without incident and patrol followed up with the property owner.

February, 03 10:30AM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the 4600-blk. of Via Cayente who reported her dog loose in a neighbor's horse corral. The female was unable to catch her dog. Patrol responded and after a few minutes, the dog walked up to patrol who was able to secure the dog without incident.

Feburary,09 1:00PM – While checking the outskirt of a property with a Via Laguna address, patrol noticed trash, items, etc., discarded on the ground. The items appeared to have been left behind by a transient. Patrol took pictures of the location and followed up with the Ranch GM and maintenance supervisor for further review. The location was cleaned up by the maintenance crew. *Note: Patrol continues to check this location and various other concealed locations daily, by foot and/or by the new patrol SUV for similar activity.*

Feburary,14 8:48AM – While checking the HR beach, patrol noticed a glass window to the locker cabana structure had been broken out. Patrol found several rocks on the floor and a circular point of impact on the remaining glass, indicating the damage was done from the inside of the building. Patrol blocked off the area and the Ranch maintenance crew cleaned up and repaired the damage.

February,21 7:15AM – Patrol received a report from the daughter of a Resident who reported that she was attacked by German Shepard on Via Hierba. The female did not sustain any injuries but said the unsecured dog made a couple of “aggressive movements” towards her when she went out to pick up the newspapers. The female screamed out for someone to get the dog and she had to retreat behind a tree on the property, where she then noticed the dog take a potty break. The female said the dog finally retreated after a male called out for it. Patrol followed up with the owner of the dog who advised that the puppy is a new rescue, who escaped when he took him out for a morning potty break. The owner of the dog was unable to get the dog as he was recovering from a recent surgery and the caretaker was not there that morning. The owner of the dog said he would follow up with the female to apologize.

Feburary,22 8:56AM – While patrolling the 4600-blk. of Via Roblada, patrol noticed work vehicles parked at a construction site. Patrol heard machinery being used and workers talking on the property. Patrol noted the site had no obtained authorization to work on Saturday from the HOA. Patrol issued a construction violation notice and the stopped. Patrol followed up with the bldg. administrator for further review.

February,26 8:05PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident reporting a transient walking a bike on Roble towards Las Palmas. The transient was reported to have a black eye. Patrol located the transient walking north on Las Palmas and asked if he was okay, which he said he was. Patrol gave the male directions out of the Ranch and monitored his progress. The male exited out the Las Palmas exit.

March,01 8:00PM – While patrolling the 4300-blk. of Vieja Dr. patrol noticed an older white Mercedes occupied by 4 juveniles, parked on the side of the road. The non-Ranch Members left without incident when they spotted patrol in the area. The Mercedes was not seen again in the Ranch.

March,3 7:12PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on Via Cayente who reported a suspicious vehicle that had sped away from the Via Cayente fire gate, which the Resident believed may have been involved in a drug transaction. Patrol responded and began checking the area. The vehicle had left the scene and was not located. Update: The Resident called patrol to advise that he spoke to the involved party and it turned out no illegal activity had occurred; it was a misunderstanding on the part of the Resident.

March,4 10:15PM – While patrolling the 4200-blk. of Mariposa, patrol noticed a black compact sedan parked on the bridle trail. Patrol contacted a male driver with a European accent as he was sitting in the dark. Patrol advised the male that he was parked on private property and he needed to leave. During contact patrol noticed nothing of concern inside the vehicle. The male left without incident.

March,10 11:10PM – While patrolling the 1100-blk. of Las Palmas Dr., patrol noticed a white Dodge Caravan with Utah plates parked on the shoulder. The Dodge had the rear cargo area completely covered and the windows were foggy. Patrol knocked on the window and a shoeless male came out from the cargo area. The male said he was sleeping in the back and planned to stay there overnight. Patrol gave the male directions to a more suitable location to spend the night. The male left without incident.

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March,11 7:30AM – Patrol received a report from a Resident who reported a tree down and blocking on the 900-blk. of Estrella. Dr. Patrol responded and coned-off the tree and advised the Ranch maintenance crew, who removed the tree and cleared the roadway. Light rain conditions for the day.

March,12 7:00PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident who reported a RV parked along Las Palmas Dr. Patrol located the RV parked at the map lot on Las Palmas and contacted the driver, who had planned to spend the night there. Patrol advised the driver the area was private property and he needed to leave. The male was unhappy about the warning but left the Ranch without incident.

March,13 09:57PM – While checking the outskirts of a property with a Via Laguna address, a previous location where trash, items, etc., had been found discarded, patrol noticed a plastic tarp draped on a fence near the wall to the mentioned property. Patrol contacted a transient with a straw hat on that was leaning on the wall. Due to Covid-19 precautions, patrol made contact wearing proper PPE (mask and gloves) and from a safe distance away. The male had brought a shopping cart and various other items. The male was advised the area was private property and he gathered some items, abandoning the rest, as he did not want to deal with them. The male left without incident and the Ranch maintenance crew cleaned up the abandoned items.

March,12 7:00PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident who reported that he had just backed into a palm tree at the HR beach parking lot. Patrol responded and contacted the young adult male in the parking lot as his grandmother's red hatchback was stuck on top of a flattened down very small palm tree on the island planter. The male did not sustain any injuries and said he had just woken up from a nap and when backing up, he panicked, causing the collision. Patrol noticed no signs of impairment and collected the driver's information for insurance purposes. A tow truck arrived to dislodge the hatchback, which was still drivable. Due to the hatchback belonging to the male's grandmother, she was also contacted about the incident. The grandmother said she may want to handle the cost of the damages in lieu of her insurance co.

March,13 2:31PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident who noticed a transient on Las Palmas Dr. by Las Olas Patrol responded and located the transient who was walking east on Marina. Patrol gave the male directions out of the Ranch. The male was last seen exiting out Marina Dr.

March,17 7:23PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on Via Cayente who reported a couple having sex in a vehicle by the fire gate. Patrol responded and the vehicle was gone on arrival. The Resident believed the vehicle belonged to the daughter of an old renter on Via Carretas. Patrol kept an eye out for the vehicle, which has not been seen since.

March,17 8:38PM – Patrol received a report from a Resident on the 1100-blk. of Las Palmas Dr. who reported that an unknown male rang the gate intercom claiming to be a UCSB student who was lost. Patrol checked the area and spoke to the male by the map parking lot on Las Palmas Dr. Note: Due to COVID-19 warnings, patrol took necessary precautions during the contact. The male advised his phone died and he was looking for his bike. The male did not appear to be familiar with the area. Patrol gave the male directions out of the Ranch and followed up with the Resident.

March,21 15:38PM – Patrol received its very 1st "social distancing" (SD) complaint at HR beach due to the COVID-19 pandemic by a Ranch Member, who also reported under-aged drinking was involved. Patrol verified no under-aged drinking was taking place and noted the reported group were all at a good distance from each other. Patrol did note it was a busy beach day with various families and daily beach goers enjoying the beach.

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