SLO County Running Deer Ranch Company, Inc.

**Winter Update, February 2013**

Dear RDR Owners/Members,

This year we are replacing the annual mailed newsletter with a quarterly email update. This will save postage and provide you with more timely information. For those who do not receive email we will continue to mail the updates to them if they desire. They can indicate that when they return their 2013 dues notice.

**The Lake –** The rain season that began 1 October started out with a few good storms and about 9 in. of rain by Christmas. It has greatly slowed down in the last 2 months and we are still about 8 in. behind what we get in a normal year by the end of April. The lake elevation is at 758, still approximately 20 vertical feet below to get to where we were last year at the beginning of the season. Current capacity is only 48% and it requires a lot more rain to fill as the shoreline flattens out. The water is not yet up to the launch ramp turn and we have about 250 linear feet of ramp under water. Depending on when Monterey County starts releasing the lake level (sometimes in March) and depending on additional rain will determine our season. It doesn’t look good right now. **Pray for a Miracle March of rain.**

**2013 RDR/SNRA Dues –** The yearly dues notice and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) will be mailed by the end of February. The cost will be the same as last year, $425, ($300 RDR dues and $125 SNRA road assessment.) You must return your signed copy of the CUP and a check for the full amount to receive your Point/Launch Ramp keys. Dues are payable 1 April 2013 and the Point/Launch Ramp locks will be changed on 15 April 2013.

**New Point/Launch Ramp locks –** To improve our security and reduce our risk with the mussel inspection certification program we are changing the locks to non-duplicable keys for paid members. Other south shore communities have already done this. These are proprietary keys and locks with a bonded locksmith and cannot be duplicated. You will receive 2 keys with your dues paid. You may purchase up to an additional 2 keys at $25 per key. Keys will be numbered and will have a special RDR icon stamped on them that indicates that only a specific locksmith may copy them for RDR.

**Financial –** Currently all known bills have been paid and we have our emergency road repair funds ($5000) available. The Board also transferred additional funds (approx. $10,000) into road reserves to start saving up for an eventual resealing of Aluffo Rd which will be required in the next 2 years. The budget was also converted over to a 1 April to 31 March fiscal year to comply with our nonprofit status and to align with the yearly dues.

**Aluffo Rd and the Point –** Extensive repairs were completed in the fall on Aluffo Rd. This included patching many sunken areas and shoulder work. Approximately 80% was crack sealed. More shoulder work and crack sealing will be required in the spring. Within the next 2 years, after the patching, shoulder work, and crack sealing are completed the entire road will need to be oil sealed, which will be costly.

The Point is in good shape at present as we have not had any large windy storms and the water is low. The water is just starting to fill the lagoon on the south side and the island in Towne Creek cove, across from the launch ramp, is about 6 feet under water. The only real issue on the Point is extensive squirrel pot holes which create a walk hazard, especially in low light. **Our annual Point cleanup and road work party is scheduled for the Saturday of Easter weekend, 30 March 2013. Please try to make it. We will meet on the Point at 10 AM unless it is raining.**

**Docks –** All dock owners are reminded to regularly tend your dock as rapidly rising water and heavy storm winds can cause docks to come free or bang into other owner’s docks causing damage. For safety, the Board has instituted a policy that no dock may be moored closer than 150 feet from the right edge of the launch ramp at the water’s edge. As in the past, no docks are allowed to be moored in the lagoon on the south side of the Point. Any owner who desires to place a new dock on the Point must submit a request to the Board for approval prior to its placement**.** The request must include the planned location placement of dock, which must not encroach on existing docks.

Current dock owners must ensure their insurance and permit information is up to date with the dock chairman, Jessie Felgenhauer. If the information is up to date, after you pay your 2013 dues a RDR permission form will be sent to you so that you may apply for your yearly Monterey County permit. The dock chairman will also provide a list to Monterey County stating which owners have permission to moor a dock on the Point.

**Master Plan** – As was discussed at last year’s general membership meeting, the Board did research on the potential purchase and placement of a launch ramp wave barrier. Several bids were solicited and all came out to be cost prohibitive ($40K plus) unless the general membership votes to start a long term savings initiative for it. That will be discussed at this year’s general meeting. In the meantime, the Board is attempting to coordinate with Lake Authorities on lower cost options or placement of new 5 MPH buoys adjacent to the launch ramp.

The cooperative dock group is still in the planning stage and has not submitted a proposal or request to the Board. The group is headed by Wayne Woodard and if you are interested you may contact him at [paso.cab@gmail.com](mailto:paso.cab@gmail.com)

**Fire –** The John Swift family recently donated an operable fire truck to RDR. Thank you so much! The Board is researching obtaining liability insurance for it and potential future maintenance requirements. The intent is not to start an organized RDR member fire team, but to have it for an immediate emergency when Cal Fire is not available or to provide additional water to Cal Fire. Jerry Reese and Don Heflin, retired firemen, have volunteered to help with the fire truck. Once these issues are sorted out a training session will be held for RDR permanent residents if they desire to attend.

The weed season has already begun and promises to be a bumper crop. Cal Fire usually sends inspectors out in May to assess property weed abatement and fire hazards. If it is not in accordance with Cal Fire directives for a severe fire hazard area they can write citations. All members are reminded that their water tank must have an operable connection for Cal Fire to hook up to, to draw water if they need it. They will do this before going down to pump from the Lake.

**Mussel Inspection Certification Program** – The requirement for a current inspection certification is now a state law. The program is in effect all year long. Inspection again will be required on a 21 day cycle. If the watercraft has been in infested waters in the last 10-30 days a full inspection will be required or the certification will not be issued until the quarantine period is over. All watercraft must be absolutely clean and dry to receive a routine screening or a full inspection. Starting in April, present mussel inspectors for the day will again be posted at the Point gate. We ask all inspectors to post their name there when they are at the lake to help with the large amount of inspections that are required. This is a courtesy service to RDR members. We again will be asking for a $5 donation for inspection of guest watercraft. These funds to will go to road and ramp improvements.

**Resident Program –** You should have received a mussel resident program brochure in an email from RDR. This brochure spells out the requirements for those members who have their watercraft on RDR fulltime to get a yearly decal and not have to do periodic inspections. We are highly encouraging all RDR members who leave their boats at the lake to apply for this program. It will save you a lot of time and greatly lessen the burden on the few inspectors who do the majority of the inspection certifications.

**NRWMAC** – The Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Council has asked RDR to place a member on their Council. This will help us keep RDR involved with the process they oversee and involved in their decisions. Most lake communities are currently participating

**SNRA –** SNRA is beginning to plan the roadwork it will do in 2013. If you would like to be on the Roadwork Committee, which recommends projects to the Board, please contact Russ Johnson at [RANCHODELLAGO@aol.com](mailto:RANCHODELLAGO@aol.com).

Whit’s Turn tree service will be cutting brush and limbs which overhang the SNRA road easements. Vegetation will be cleared 5 feet from the road edges and cut vertically from there. Work will be done during the next few weeks so drive carefully.

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training classes have been postponed and will be rescheduled.

All members are welcome at the SNRA Board meetings. Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9am in the Cal Shasta clubhouse. There are exceptions, so check the SNRA newsletter to be sure of the schedule.

**RDR Correspondence –** The board can be contacted at [RDRBoard@gmail.com](mailto:RDRBoard@gmail.com). There have been some issues with responding to emails sent to our mail site and getting emails out the last 2 months. We apologize for any inconvenience and our email is up and operating now. For additional information on south shore communities or RDR Board meeting schedule and minutes you can go to our website at [www.lakenacimientosouthshorearea.com](http://www.lakenacimientosouthshorearea.com).

**RDR Board:**

Don Bullard, President Jerry Ford, Vice President

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