

SAHNOAN STAR

Stand Not Between Me and the Sun

WOW!

**It's time to hang up your flip-flops,
But not until we applaud the great warm season we enjoyed at Star Ranch.
Record attendance, record visitors, record memberships and record income!
People were tired of being "cooped up" due to Covid, so we got the benefit.
Thanks to EVERYONE that played a part in making this season special!!!
Don't forget, we're here all winter!
Come sit by the fire and enjoy our special events!**

Dear fellow Sahnoans,

Upon the occasion of our 65th year in existence, I reached out to our wise and wonderful Wanda to see if she had any bits of history that could be shared. She provided me with a 27 page document that had been compiled by one of the original couples that founded Star Ranch, Myrl & Ditto S. I thought it would be fun to share the history a bit at a time so here is the first installment from the "Beginning and History of Star Ranch". Having known Myrl and Ditto, I can hear their voices in the text - they wrote just like they talked. I think they would be glad to know we are sharing their words.

Crystal W.
Board President

In the Beginning....

A nudist Club called Sanantans, located at Elmendorf, Texas, just south of San Antonio, attracted people interested in Nudism. It was the only landed club in Texas at the time. There was a small travel club in the Houston area. A retired Colonel, Herb L., individually owned the Sanantans. He was an individual not many liked. Another couple, Bob and Ann C. had some property at Telephone, Texas on the Oklahoma border, which was later formed into a club called "Sunrangers".

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	1/2
This & That	3
Birthdays	5
Calendar/Upcoming Events	6/7
Mark's Musings	8
Tidbits	9
Board/Council/Staff	10

(continued from page 1)

In 1955, Tom and Cecile K. came to live and work for Herb L. but were getting disgusted with the way Herb was running people off. Tom asked six couples, who also quit the Sanantans, if they would be interested in forming a new, different type of club. These six couples were Wayne and Doris B., Joe and Anita C., Myrl and Merle (Ditto) S., Henry and Erica, Jim and Inez, and Tom and Cecile K. They met at Wayne and Doris B.'s home in Yoakum, Texas in June 1957 and formed a "Council" form of government that was to be a secret group who were to represent the members. There was no individual control, but 12 individuals (six married couples) with the same rights. One couple was in Foreign Service and was transferred to a foreign country. That left five married couples, which is the same number today. They were to provide activities and handle member complaints.

Property Located

Tom and Cecil worked at a motel in Burnet, Texas while searching for suitable land. They found these 111.7 acres, which were inspected by all five couples who determined it was far enough from the main road. There was no water, power, telephone, or road leading into the property. Access was through a dry creek in dry weather. When it was wet we walked from what is now Brown Road. There was a 12x20 foot wooden building on the land. It was very rustic.

On January 1, 1958, with the new property, "Sahnoa" was officially opened with an American Sunbathing Association (ASA) charter. They gave their ideas as to what they wanted on the land. A pool, volleyball court(s) were a MUST. They all ventured out into the woods on their own, looking for campsites, with no roads, trails, or markers to follow. They all managed to find their way back to the old house. Being proud of their find, they had to show the others. Believe it or not four of them picked the same shady cedar tree. They later started making roads by pushing over dead trees, as they wanted to make roads as accessible as possible. This is why all the roads are crooked, narrow and mainly used as foot trails. A spot big enough for the volleyball court was found. The pool was constructed a couple of years later. They used a stock tank located near the present club house for swimming. It had rattle weeds and snakes in it, but also water to cool off after a vigorous volleyball game.

The property was purchased for under \$5000 and had a four-acre peanut allotment. After Tom purchased the property, he placed it under soil conservation every year and received Government money for this acreage. The Government paid one price for cultivated land and another price for uncleared land. Before they could collect the money, they had to plant Coastal Bermuda grass on all cultivated areas. This grass had to be planted by putting sprigs in the ground by hand. It took about a month to get this done. They were using an Army jeep to pull a disc so that the sprigs could go into the loose dirt. This was a requirement by the Government. In the end, Uncle Sam paid Tom all the money he had paid for the property.

In the meantime, they put an ad in the ASA publication "American Sunbather", published by Mervin Mounce. Within three months the first visitors became members, without being interviewed at their homes, like they all had to do at the "Sanantans". They grew rapidly, as the "Sahnoans" had the best type of government - a Council, which was considered a type of Co-op.

In next month's installment, "How the pool and club house were built!"

This & That

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FIRE SIREN/HORN TESTING

At 12 noon, on the first Wednesday of each month, the fire warning siren and horns will be tested as part of normal maintenance. If you are on the Ranch, don't be alarmed. Notice will also go out on Telegram.

October 5, 2022	January 4, 2023
November 2, 2022	February 1, 2023
December 7, 2022	March 1, 2023

From the Council...

October 9th, at 10:00AM is the monthly Council meeting. Everyone is invited. If you have ideas, concerns, compliments, or just want to know what is going on around the Ranch, please come to the meeting.

We are bringing back the Star Ranch Luau!! October 15, 2022, is the date, 6PM is the time! We will have decorations and lots of food!! What we need is for everyone to don their most festive Hawaiian shirt, shorts, dress, or whatever to complete the atmosphere. The food preparers are asking for folks to contact the office if you plan on attending, just to get a "ballpark" figure of how much food to prepare. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

The following weekend, October 22, 2022, we are going to initiate our new ping pong table with a Table Tennis Tournament. The action will start at 2PM in Tara Hall. Details for the tournament will be provided in one of Mike W's weekly Updates.

We are closing out October with a Halloween Pot Luck at 6PM, Karaoke starting at 8PM, and a Costume Contest at 9PM (with prizes for Best Couple, Best Female, Best Male, and Scariest)!! Anyone up for an Apple Bobbing contest????

So, while there might not be any more triple-digit days in sight, and volleyball may be waning, lots of activities are still going on at the Ranch!!! Come on out and join in the Fall Fun!!

**This Saturday,
October 8th
Start time is 1:00pm**



WE NEED YOU for the 5K. We have seen a surge in registrations for runners over the last two races.

This will be the largest "Chilly Cheeks" we have ever run, and it will be smaller than the Bare Buns run last spring. But it takes as many volunteers to run a small race as it does a larger one, so we need your help. The easiest way to volunteer is to click the link below, but you can also call the office and let them know by phone that you are interested in helping out. Let's close out this summer season in style with an awesome race (and burgers at the pool afterwards). Linda M., GM [Click Here to Volunteer](#)

BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY DINNER

WHEN: Friday, October 21, 2022

TIME: 6:00pm

WHERE: Santa Fe Steakhouse in Giddings TX



October, November, & December Birthdays

October	
10/2	Luke T
10/3	Glenn G
10/7	Donna S
10/7	Cody H
10/8	Catherine N
10/8	Stephanie M
10/14	Michelle L
10/14	Lottie H
10/15	Teresa R
10/15	Laura G
10/17	Gregory S
10/18	Patrick L
10/19	Ethel M
10/19	Heather K
10/21	Rod McC
10/24	Robert D
10/24	Sharon G
10/26	Mike G
10/27	Kathy J
10/29	Steve O
10/29	Jason A
10/29	Ronald F

November	
11/1	Russell S
11/2	Judy L
11/3	Dominique D
11/3	Mike K
11/3	Kirby G
11/4	Colton H
11/4	Carolyn C
11/4	William "Bill" P
11/8	Thomas M
11/9	Mace T
11/10	Pexie D
11/12	Jennifer B
11/12	Lynn D
11/15	Kathryn McG
11/17	Gopal A
11/18	Jordan S
11/18	Adam W
11/21	Peter GlassG
11/25	Ann S
11/26	Jan A
11/27	Bill H
11/30	David P

December	
12/2	Courtney M
12/4	"Stormy" H
12/5	Russell N
12/8	James (JT) T
12/12	Terry P
12/12	Bill B
12/13	Brian W
12/15	Jean M
12/16	Travis L
12/17	Bruce S
12/19	Elizabeth D
12/19	Scott F
12/20	Pete T
12/21	Connie T
12/21	Richard G
12/22	Gwen W G
12/22	Regina B
12/25	Cristian B
12/26	Nancy R
12/26	Mary Alyson P
12/28	Judy McG

COMING ATTRACTIONS/EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

[Click Here For Online Calendars](#)



Wednesday, October 5

12:00pm Fire Siren/Horn Test



Friday, October 7

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, October 8

CHILLY CHEEKS 5k RACE

1:00pm Burgers are served!

8:00pm DJ Dance @ the Pavilion



Sunday, October 9

10:00am Sahnoan Council Meeting



Friday, October 14

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, October 15

10:00am COG Board of Directors

6:00pm Luau

8:00pm DJ Dance



Friday, October 21

6:00pm Birthday Dinner @ Santa Fe Steakhouse in Giddings

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, October 22

2:00pm Table Tennis Tournament



Friday, October 28

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, October 29

HALLOWEEN

11:00am Decorate the Hall

8:00pm KARAOKE

9:00pm Costume Contest & Judging



Wednesday, November 2

12:00pm Fire Siren/Horn Test

Friday, November 4

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, November 5

11:00am Wildflower seeding

Friday, November 11

VETERAN'S DAY

7:00pm Meet & Greet

Saturday, November 12

12:00pm Salute to Veterans

2:00pm Scavenger hunt

Sunday, November 13

10:00am Sahnoan Council Meeting

	<p>Friday, November 18 6:00pm Birthday Dinner, location TBD 7:00pm Meet & Greet</p>	
	<p>Saturday, November 19 10:00am COG Board of Directors 2:00pm Blind Golf Cart Race</p>	
	<p>Thursday, November 24 THANKSGIVING 1:00pm Thanksgiving Potluck</p>	
	<p>Friday, November 25 7:00pm Meet & Greet</p>	
	<p>Saturday, November 26 6:00pm "Leftovers" 7:00pm 4th Running of Sahnoan Downs 8:00pm KARAOKE</p>	
	<p>Sunday, November 27 6:00pm Thanksgiving Leftovers Potluck & Movie</p>	



Just in case you haven't noticed, days are getting shorter. With shorter days comes time change, mark your calendars. November 6th we will FALL BACK one hour.

Mark's Musings

Humans

I am often asked what I think makes Star unique. I try to be objective and mention facilities, location, longevity and structure. I have written articles about my views on some of these issues at Star. To say I am a cheerleader for the place is an understatement. This article is not about things, but rather the thing I think is most unique at Star — the people.

I am not referring to any one person in general but rather the entire bunch of you.

How can I make such a macro statement and not discuss the micro? Simple, the experience I have lived at Star over the last ten months. You see, those of us on the Council, and more specifically on the Marketing team, talk extensively as to how we can fill the park up. Our job is to make the place inviting and sell our product. Our product is relaxation. We have action items to include specific events, reduced rates for certain groups and first visit free programs to name a few. The return on investment of such programs is insanely low. It can make our meetings frustrating as many of us have training in these areas and what may seem like a great idea, doesn't grow into the type of return you might expect.

So how is it we have managed to grow membership this year? If you would objectively look at the economy, would you expect folks to be more liquid now in terms of disposable income than in years past? I would say less liquid. Inflation is up: gas prices and food prices are insane. Through all of that, we have many new faces at Star.

The reason for this is the members. The members sell the place big time. As proof, I offer an experience I witnessed over the Labor Day weekend. I am standing in the pool and notice a couple, who was only approved for membership two weeks prior, visiting with day pass visitors. You might think that I am concerned the members may misinform the visitors. Not a chance. Do I expect the new members to know the answer to every conceivable question? Also, not a chance. But we on the Council recognize the power of the members to influence others. We as Council members make a point to meet all visitors and if asked, will answer any of their questions. But we do not worry about what future members may hear from existing members. Do we sometimes hear about sour grapes from one member or another? I would be less than truthful if I didn't say sure. But that is rare. So how do we react when we see this marketing plan taking place organically? We get the heck out of the way and let it happen.

This example is by no means unique or rare. I had another member approach me about a couple she had met over the weekend who is very interested in membership.

So thank you all for being the most effective marketing plan developed at Star. It is awesome to work with each of you.

Mark S

Tidbits

**The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for
Saturday, October 15, @ 10am @ Tara Hall**

FOR SALE - 2020 Forest River Travel Trailer at Camp Site D1

RV model: Cherokee 274VFK

Gross Vehicle Weight: 7,047

VIN: 4X4TCKC22LX141512

Sleeping Capacity: 6

Awnings: 1

Slide Outs: 1

Length: 34

Exterior Color: Silver Grey/Blue

Interior Color: Grey/Brown

Price: \$27K



Site D1 has a new, electrical pole set-up, an outdoor shower, a golf cart & car port with newly spread gravel, a metal shed, water & septic set-up, and a large yard.

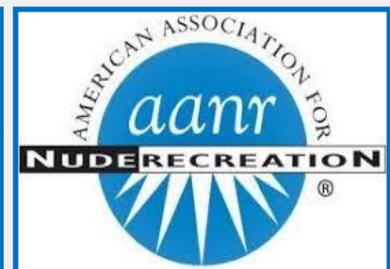
WELCOME
new members

Richard & Jacqueline H.

Charles "Patrick" & Katie T.

Thomas & Beverly C.

Robert "Dan" F.



C.O.G. Board of Directors

President Crystal W
 Vice President Ronnie B
 Directors: Jamie M
 Jean M
 Bart W
 Treasurer David M

Sahnoan Council

Deborah V
 Mark D
 Bob & Nancy R
 CM J
 Mark & Sandi S
 Mike W & Jennifer M
 John M

Star Ranch Staff

General Manager	Linda McC
Business Manager	
Front Office	Melissa S
Maintenance	Mike M
	Patrick L
Housekeeping	Kiara

Thoughts
The Family of Paul O.

Prayers

Classified Ads

The Board recently approved the reinstatement of ads in the Sahnoan Star, our monthly newsletter.

Please send your finished ad as a .jpeg file to Jennifer at jkm8765@gmail.com

Ad rates are as follows:

Full page ad—\$80

1/2 page ad—\$60

1/4 page ad—\$40

Business card ad—\$25

The Sahnoans at Star Ranch is a family-oriented nudist community/club that has been in operation since 1957. Dedicated to maintaining a wholesome and safe environment for the enjoyment of nudist activities, the Club is a member in good standing of the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) and AANR-Southwest. You have received this Newsletter because you are either a member of the club or you have opted-in on our website. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive future editions.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 9, at 10:00am.

STAR RANCH



McDade, Texas

Note from the Editor

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of each month. If you have an idea or submission for the newsletter, please email me at jkm8765@gmail.com. Jennifer M.