

# SAHNOAN STAR

*Stand Not Between Me and the Sun*

First it was the howling winds, then came the moisture that coated everything, then the driving thunderstorms, and finally, the freezing temperatures. That's all it took to wreak havoc on the drought-starved trees of Star Ranch. Limbs were/are everywhere, along with a few trees that gave up their grasp of the earth.

What followed was the buzz and drone of chainsaws and many loads of debris added to the burn pile. Still remaining are many more piles of limbs awaiting pickup over the next few weeks. Fortunately, the vast canopy of Star Ranch will look little changed to many of those who visit paradise.



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## President's Message

I wanted to give a shout out to our hard-working staff here at Star Ranch. They have been very busy in the "slow" season. The end of the year found us in a good financial state which also created a bit of a flurry to make some much needed purchases, get several projects launched and pay off some debt. It is also our time to make much needed repairs in preparation for summer. Our staff shows up whenever needed, day or night, for the mundane and emergencies.

The ladies in the office carry the emergency phone home and respond to any issues that may arise after hours. They do not get paid to be on call 24/7, but they do it because they care and want to ensure your safety and security.

The maintenance crew is out working in the cold, when everyone else is warm and toasty inside. They do the digging in the mud, grooming of the grounds, unstopping toilets, and cleaning to make sure our guests and residents can enjoy the property.

We also have dedicated volunteers who show up on a daily basis to help out. You may not see all the work that is happening, but rest assured we are gaining on our punch list every day. Please give them a shout out and thank you for their efforts. They never seek to be applauded, but they deserve it.

Thank you all,

Crystal



# Board of Directors Candidate Bios



## Mark S

Hello Star Ranch Family, I am Mark Sprong, and I would like your consideration and vote as a member of the Star Ranch Board of Directors. Why me and why now? The short answer is that Ronnie is stepping down from the Board and that creates an opening. As for why I am a candidate, I think I can more effectively serve Star Ranch on the business side versus the social side. I have really enjoyed my time on the Council but feel I can provide a higher return on your investment if I were on the Board. The management of resources to include humans and capital is something I do daily in my professional life.

I have 39 years work experience in Manufacturing and Logistics, working my way from entry level to my current position of business manager. Setting timelines to reach realistic goals is ingrained in my work ethic. I earned my BBA Business from UT Arlington in 2012 working full time and going to school part time. I have received awards for identifying problems, proposing solutions, and creating an implementation plan to see the improvements to fruition. My focus is to see "the Big Picture" and set about assisting in getting it done.

I have been a nudist for 12 years. I have been a member of four nude resorts; a full time resident of one, and a past AANR director. I have visited nude resorts from Washington State to Florida. My wife Sandi and I visited Star Ranch many times over the years and became members in October of 2021. We were appointed Council members in early 2022 and stood for election in June of 2022. We were blessed to win that election and have served on the Council since. To say we are proud of the work done by the Council is an understatement. We have a hard working group of folks that execute their duties to the best of our abilities.

If elected, what can you expect? Transparency, honesty and directness. If you would like to know something just ask. And, if I have a need for knowledge, I will certainly ask. Key performance indicators matter, results matter. If what we are doing is not working, you can expect a change. If the change doesn't work, expect a second change. The only thing consistent to my approach is a desire to succeed. The idea that does not achieve the goal is not failure. Failing to recognize unfavorable results and then refusing to change is failure.

I will remain customer focused. Residents, members and visitors are all customers. My actions will be governed by a desire to satisfy customers. It is my hope that Star Ranch will grow and continue to thrive.

If you were to ask people what kind of person I am, I believe they would say that I am unafraid to address the hard things; from escorting a visitor off the property who overstayed his day pass, to that incident report no one wants to tackle. I have dealt with all the issues presented to the Council.

In closing, I hope I have answered some of your questions about who I am. I am not foolish enough to make promises. We can not predict the future. I think my record on the Council offers a glimpse of what I am capable of on the Board. If you agree, I would love to have your support.



# Board of Directors Candidate Bios



## Crystal M.

I have been a member at Star Ranch for 25 years. I have had the great pleasure of seeing how the Ranch has grown and changed over the course of time and have been honored to serve on the Board for the past two years. During my term, I have taken time to review our corporate documentation to better understand our organization and how we need to change and adapt in the evolving world. I have been involved with the general manager and our other staff and have learned how much hard work it takes from everyone to keep things running smoothly and to solve the daily problems that arise.

In my year as President, I have worked to organize our policies in preparation to revise our outdated leases. I have ensured that we have complete board minutes going back to my first day on the board, that are organized in both electronic and paper formats and are available to the membership. I researched state and federal laws to free up corporate shares for sale. I spent our year of forced savings prioritizing expenditures and planning for projects when the spending moratorium was lifted. As a result, we have paid off the debt on the office building and the large outstanding debt on the line of credit. I have endeavored to work with the Council to improve communications and coordination. One of my roles is to work with all members on problems or concerns. There are many voices and opinions. My strategy is to listen to all and try to find the middle ground that will ensure we can all continue to move forward by working together.

It has been my sad duty to help some of our elder members as their health has declined. I have been honored to learn from Gary H and Wanda H and to try to bring continuity based on all their knowledge and experience to the President's position.

I think we will forever be a work in progress, and I hope that I have been a positive influence on the collaborative process that is essential to the organization's health. I would be honored to renew my commitment as a board member and would look forward to your input and support in the coming term.

For those of you who do not know me well, here is a little bit about me. Mark and I have been married for 42 years this June. He started us in the naturist life when we were still teenagers, visiting places like "The Well" in Canon City, Valley View in Durango, and Mountain Air Ranch near Denver, Colorado. We have made lifelong friends on the many Bare Necessities cruises we have taken to beautiful places around the globe over the past 30 years. I have been a nurse for 42 years and recently retired from my academic position. I love dogs and recently rescued our little Shih Tzu mix, Zoey. She loves to greet everyone at the Ranch and is always excited to ride in the golf cart. We have made the Ranch our full-time home so we have a vested interest in its continued success!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY DINNER

**WHEN:** Friday, February 17, 2023

**TIME:** 6:00pm

**WHERE:** Scales Café ([click here for directions](#))

([click here for menu](#))



# February, March, & April Birthdays

February	
2/1	Bill C
2/1	Debra C
2/2	Michael I
2/4	William H
2/6	Gary C
2/8	Ronnie B
2/8	Irenen I
2/9	Ben T
2/13	Brian K
2/18	Bonnie M
2/18	Jason S
2/21	Tom B
2/23	Matthew D
2/23	Jennifer R
2/24	Timothy Q
2/26	Tracy F

March	
3/3	Brittney H
3/6	Sadelina D
3/8	Dani B
3/8	Ellen M
3/9	Larry C
3/9	Pat L
3/10	Fred B
3/11	Gregg C
3/11	BECKY K
3/11	Craig M
3/13	William B
3/13	Jackie H
3/13	Katie T
3/15	Eric G
3/15	Kate M
3/17	Robert F
3/17	Larry S
3/20	Ray M
3/21	Lara L
3/23	Wanda H
3/29	Jo Lynn B
3/30	James S
3/31	Bruce R

April	
4/1	Randy S
4/3	Alvin J. G Jr
4/4	Mark W
4/6	Owen T
4/12	Pixie Mc
4/12	Lucienne N
4/13	Fred H
4/14	Nancy D
4/14	Marta M
4/15	Syrus S
4/15	Ian W
4/18	John S
4/21	Robert "Dan" F
4/23	Stuart G
4/24	Tim S
4/27	Judith M
4/28	Melissa S
4/28	David W
4/29	Roy E
4/30	Charles N
4/30	Katharina W

Here is the next installment of The Beginning and History of the Sahnoans and Star Ranch by Merle and Ditto S.

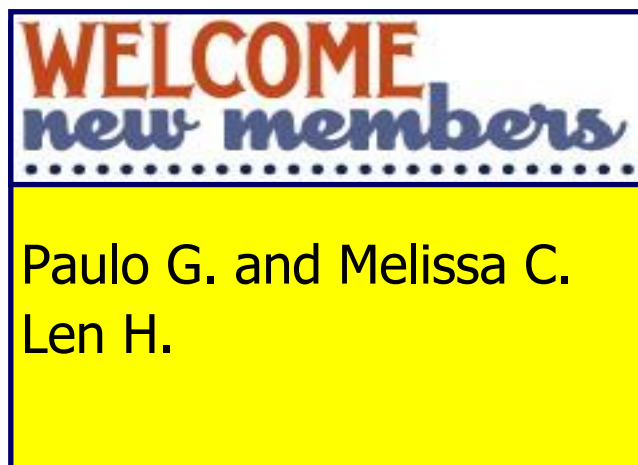
## Cabins

As soon as the Club got a good start, members wanted shelters for sleeping and storing staple items to keep from transferring from home each visit. The first shelters were tents, then came along the cabins. The cabins were all one room, 12x14 feet, considered by the tax office as tin barns requiring little or no taxes. Approximately 66 cabins were built - only one has been torn down (at the time of the writing of the document). As Star Ranch and the Sahnoans grew, electricity and water were installed. In the 60's, larger cabins were requested with toilets, showers and septic tanks, and the cabins grew to 14x22 feet with a bathroom. The members who signed a "Cabin Deal" contract paid for all cabins in advance. Cabins depreciated at 10% per year.

## RV and Factory Built Mobile Homes

As memberships increased, the need for cabins exceeded what could be built. RVs became popular and to live on Star Ranch, a mobile home was a must. Some cabin owners returned their cabins to COG and bought mobile homes. Members did not want to pull their units in and out each visit, so a program was implemented to allow RVs to be left on Star Ranch with water, power and some with septic tanks. Due to the cost of installing utilities and up-keep, a minimal fee was set to pay for availability when members arrived.

It does seem like history is repeating itself here at Star Ranch. As we grow, we have seen a variety of ways to make Star Ranch "home", from renovated original cabins, to modern class A, B, and C RVs, and installation of manufactured homes. People enjoy walking the grounds and seeing everyone's residences and sites. We are planning to give some much-needed attention to our ageing cabins to ensure they can be enjoyed for years to come. Watch for the next edition for background on the Air Strip, trash services, and gifts from members.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*\*\*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

[Click Here For Online Calendars](#)

<b>Friday, February 10</b> 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, February 11</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 10:00am Sahnoan Council Meeting 12:00pm Decorate Tara Hall for the Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dinner & Dance. 6:00pm Sweethearts Dinner 8:00pm Sweethearts Karaoke
<b>Sunday, February 12</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 5:00pm Super Bowl LVII
<b>Monday, February 13</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, February 14</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Friday, February 17</b> 6:00pm Birthday Dinner 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, February 18</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 10:00am COG Board of Directors—CANCELLED!!! 7:00pm Mardi Gras 8:00pm DJ Dance
<b>Sunday, February 19</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 1:00pm Daytona 500
<b>Monday, February 20</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, February 21</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Friday, February 24</b> 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, February 25</b> <b>WORK DAY</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 7:00pm Mexican Bingo
<b>Sunday, February 26</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe
<b>Monday, February 27</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, February 28</b> OFFICE CLOSED

<b>Wednesday, March 1</b> 12:00pm Fire Siren & Horn Tests
<b>Friday, March 3</b> 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, March 4</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 1:00pm RC Boats 7:00pm 8th Running of Sahnoan Downs 8:00pm DJ Dance
<b>Sunday, March 5</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe
<b>Monday, March 6</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, March 7</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Wednesday, March 8</b> 6:00pm Postponed - Tunes at Tara Hall
<b>Friday, March 10</b> 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, March 11</b> <b>WORK DAY</b> 3:00pm Sahnoan Council Meeting 8:00pm KARAOKE!
<b>Sunday, March 12</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe
<b>Monday, March 13</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, March 14</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Friday, March 17</b> 6:00pm Birthday Dinner 7:00pm Wine & Cheese & more!
<b>Saturday, March 18</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe 10:00am COG Board of Directors 6:00pm Irish Potluck 8:00pm St Patrick's Day DJ Dance
<b>Sunday, March 19</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe
<b>Monday, March 20</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, March 21</b> OFFICE CLOSED



<p><b>Friday, March 24</b> 7:00pm Wine &amp; Cheese &amp; more!</p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 25</b> <b>WORK DAY</b> 8:00pm Poker Night and more!</p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 26</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 27</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, March 28</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p><b>Friday, March 31</b> 7:00pm Wine &amp; Cheese &amp; more!</p>
<p><b>Saturday, April 1</b> <b>BARE BUNS 5k #26</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe</p>
<p><b>Sunday, April 2</b> 8:30am Breakfast - Margie's Nekkid Cafe</p>

**CANCELLED!**

**The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for  
Saturday, February 18, @ 10am @ Tara Hall**



# This & That

## CALLING ALL DJs

By Mike Weems

The Council has decided that we will schedule a dance every Saturday between April 8th through October. We need a DJ to conduct a dance for each Saturday (except Karaoke weekends and Sundays some weekends). Let me know what date you can DJ AND pick a theme from below or name your own:

Sock Hop  
50s  
60s  
70s  
80s  
90s  
2000s  
BeeGees  
Karaoke  
Elvis

Beatles  
Prince  
Chris Stapleton  
Willie Nelson  
Garth Brooks  
Jimmy Buffett  
(Parrothead Week-  
end)  
Classic Country  
New Country

Motown  
HipHop  
Top 40  
Pop  
Soul  
1967 – the Biggest  
Year  
Vinyl Dance – All LPs  
All Requests Dance  
Whatever...

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

### TWO BEDROOM HOME AT STAR RANCH (SITE C-14).

Recently (2019) remodeled 2 bedroom/1 bath home with new PEX plumbing and electrical throughout. A new water heater was installed in January 2022. The home also has a nice loft area that could be utilized as an office, extra bedroom, craft room, etc. and a large screened in porch. Other amenities include a large shed, 2-year-old refrigerator, washer and dryer, and a large electric wall oven and electric cooktop. This is a very nice home.

If you are interested and would like more information or a showing of this fabulous home, please give us a call.

Craig (512) 988-1957

Or

Linda (512) 461-6419



## **From the Council**

**Remember that our monthly Council Meetings have been moved to the SECOND SATURDAY of each month at 10:00AM.**

The New Year has started off just as busy as 2022 ended. We hosted the AANR-SW mid-Winter meeting, had our first Sip-N-Paint class with 15 participants showing off their artistic abilities (see the array of Dragon Flies on our web page.) The month ended with the Annual Chili Cook Off, Pie Contest and Pie Auction. Congratulations to Pete T on his award winning Chili, and Nancy R on her first place Dutch Apple Pie. The Pie Auction netted the Council over \$2,000.

The activities scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> were postponed out of respect for our Ms Wanda. Following her Celebration of Life, a Ranch potluck dinner was held in Tara Hall .

We will pick up with scheduled February activities starting with the Council Meeting at 10AM on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Sweetheart Dinner will begin at 6PM. The evening will be capped off with Karaoke at 8PM. Everyone is invited to gather in Tara Hall on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for a Super Bowl Watch Party. Bring your favorite snack to share, your “trusted” refreshment and join in the fun!

We are still finalizing the activities for the Mardi Gras Party on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. DJ Travis has agreed to DJ that night. We know for sure it will begin at 7PM. Another Watch Party on the 19<sup>th</sup> for all our Daytona 500 Fans. Check the online calendar for the latest!!!

The month will round out with a Work Day on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There are all kinds of tasks to be accomplished, especially after the ice storm we weathered!!!

March and April are full of fun activities as well – please refer to the website for specifics.



## Charity

I am going to lead off with a fact. Sandi considers me to be the world's pickiest eater. No kidding. About the only thing you are assured I will eat is meat on the grill. Salad, maybe once a month. Soup, nope. Vegetables, corn and green beans are as far as I will go. As such, you can understand how the Pie Contest and Chili Cook Off are not my favorite events. Throw in the fact that I am a creature of habit and never having been through one of these, I was nervous. Nancy let me know that she needed me to be a judge and I am now very nervous. Evaluating a volunteer's submittal is not my cup of tea. I prefer to simply say thank you.

We arrive late, I had to work Saturday morning. The Chili judging is already complete, thank goodness. Jody tells me I am needed in the club house. I report to the club house and discover it is time to judge pies. I am given a scoring sheet and asked to judge each pie in five categories with a 1-5 rating. Each category has specific instructions. It is obvious this 2023 addition of Pie/Chili judging is not our first endeavor. Star knows what Star is doing here. We are all given a portion of each pie and record the appropriate scores. CM even had water to cleanse our palate between bites.

Next came the pie auction. WOW. In less than an hour we raised over \$2,000. It was so much fun bidding on the pies.

Finally, it was time to eat. Sandi, being the good wife that she is, made sure she provided a shrimp ring mostly for me. You see, I have never eaten chili from anyone not tied to my grandmother. I can assure you her brand of chili would not pass muster in Texas. It is much more like soup. Anyway, back to the potluck. I get a bowl of chili, saltines and a few cubes of cheese. I didn't see the shrimp. I get back to the table and Sandi says the shrimp are not thawed. Sigh. I dip a saltine in the chili, hey that is pretty good. In ten minutes, I ate two bowls. Thank you to whoever made the middle crock pot. It was yummy.

Next time you see that event on the calendar that you are not so excited about, give Star Ranch a shot. You just might like it. You all sure made a believer out of me. I will not miss a chili or pie contest moving forward. Thanks to all who were involved.

Mark S

### 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
Front Office	Melissa S
Maintenance	Mike M
	Patrick L
Housekeeping	Paula T

*Thoughts*

**Pat W**

**Rod McC**

**Norma G**

**Please keep Ms. Wanda's family in your thoughts and prayers.**

**Please keep the Dick L.'s family in your thoughts and prayers as we lost Dick on Feb. 1.**

### **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](mailto: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  
Saturday, February 11,  
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](mailto:jkm8765@gmail.com). Jennifer M.

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