

Round Mountain Gazette

UNAUTHORIZED IRREGULAR PUBLICATION OF ROUND MOUNTAIN RANCH

Ukiah, California

Number One

March , 2006

CLOSE CALL



Monday, February 27, several trees fell at the ranch, including one massive oak that narrowly missed Denny O'Brien's yurt. Electrical power was out at Kate and Denny's. Another tree fell across the road and was cleared by Acorn and Phil.



Tree down across road. Acorn was first on the scene with a chain saw and cleared it with Phil's help.

ENERGY USE!

For years, Round Mountain residents have paid a flat fee for utilities. More recently, folks up the top here have been engaging in a lot of discussion about energy usage. Denny plugged in a meter to gauge what he was using and has reduced his electrical needs a great deal. In an email, he offered the following "Things You Can Do On Eight Kilowatts Per Day":

1. Run a 600-watt electric heater, radiator type, for 8-10 hours at half power.
2. Run a TV, computer, and/or stereo to your heart's content.
3. Cook a meal with a toaster oven or microwave.

4. Keep about two cubic feet of space cool with a small outdoor refrigerator.
5. Dispel the darkness all evening with 160 watts of lighting.
6. Run a clock radio and answering machine 24/7."

He continued, "...I believe that any of us can maintain the above usage and still be within the pro rata share of the electric bill." Kate has done research and come up with interesting results. King bought an amprobe (measures amperage by clamping around a wire) and did several energy use readings at and around the cabin. This is what he found that several appliances draw when they're running full tilt:

How much energy do your appliances use?

*To answer that question
we measured the amperage of several appliances*

Appliance	Reading in amps
Hotplate	6.0 Amps
Microwave	7.8 Amps
Kettle	4.4 Amps
Electric oil heater 600W	5.7 Amps
Electric oil heater 900W	6.5 Amps
Electric oil heater 1500W	12.1 Amps
“New” freezer, running	1.0 Amps
Refrigerator	4.7 Amps
Desktop computer	1.0 Amps
Laptop computer	0.1 Amps

Conclusions: Most surprising to us were the figures for the duplex shed/kitchen refrigerator and freezer. The fridges pulled 4.7 amps each, and the freezer was only 1 amp! We don’t know yet whether the freezer runs longer or what, but on the face of it,

it’s much cheaper to freeze things than to run those old fridges. Note that the shed fridge has not been well maintained and that it needs to be defrosted, etc., so stay tuned for the latest on that.

COMING SOON!

Fiddler On The Roof

Our own **Acorn Alan Sunbeam** is performing in “Fiddler On The Roof” for two weekends starting March 31 at Mendocino College Center Theater. And, yes, he was interviewed on KMEC. Go see the play!



FEBRUARY 2006

Sunday, February 26, 2006 Meeting at the Farm House

By Gabrielle from Pat's minutes

Utilities:

Balance in Utility Fund: \$1774.

Farmhouse: We need to figure out wattage/cost of ozone-water purifier and deduct that from David and Artemis' utility bill so we can equalize cost of water purifier at farmhouse. David couldn't figure out where the high electricity use was coming from.

We ordered a 2nd meter and now have 2 small 110v house meters. 220v, which the purifier uses, is more efficient than 110v. King will hook both up to see how much the ozonater is costing in watts.

(Water at the ozone purifier is for drinking, available near the farm house. Last backflush of ozonater was done last week [both filters]. Other water goes through sand filters. Water from lake goes first through sand filters and then thru all faucets

except Linda McClure's. Finally water goes through ozonater.)

Acorn's bill has gone up. The barn is rated industrial, which an "L" on the bill indicates. Residential rates are cheaper. Need to check that farmhouse is rated residential and not industrial and see about getting the barn re-rated. The pump at the lake is rated "agricultural."

Solar Power

Barn has perfect south facing roof—solar would help electricity bill. 2006 offers more government incentives—possible 40% rebate. We could invest \$1500 in a system; perhaps someone could contribute an extra 1000, which they'd get back in the rebate. It's cheaper if we do the work ourselves. We have to do calculations. Interlink is the most important and costliest part.

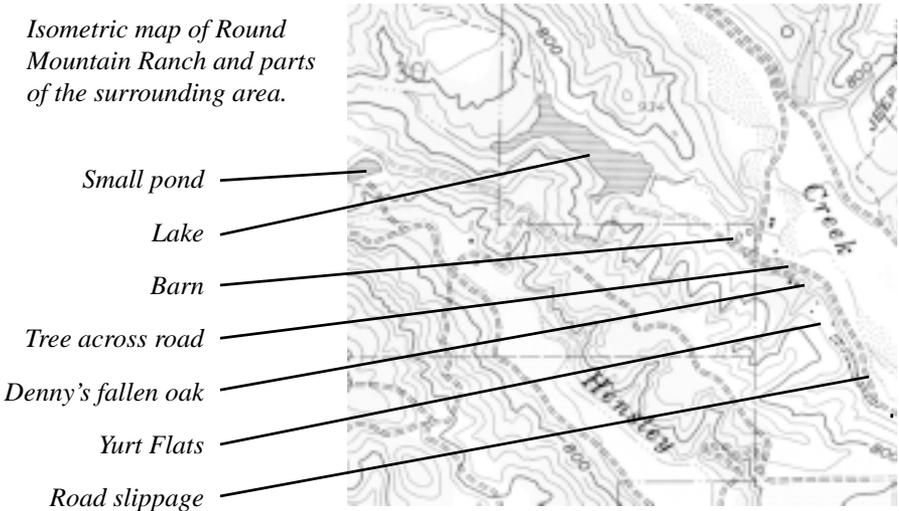
Look for an investor to get paid off over time? \$40,000? This person could get rebates plus getting paid off from our monthly utility fund. \$10,000 could be raised. Claude thinks this unlikely.

National and state funding available. Amount of rebates will drop over time. Claude says \$ can also be borrowed from banks. Gaby found article on S. African invention

of very efficient solar panels. Will research further.

Proposals for hydro/solar power are under consideration now. A written proposal from John Takes and a CD of the discussion about the hydro/solar conversion at the dam spillway is available (468-5513). Stay tuned! Subcommittee formed for further research: Acorn, Denny, King.

Isometric map of Round Mountain Ranch and parts of the surrounding area.



TRAVEL NEWS

Pat to New York

Pat Rourke leaves for New York to visit her mother on March 11 at 3 in the morning, when Artemis is taking her down to the city to catch the bus. She will be gone for 2 months. She was to be seen in a flurry of activity before she left, tying together loose ends. We'll miss you, Pat!

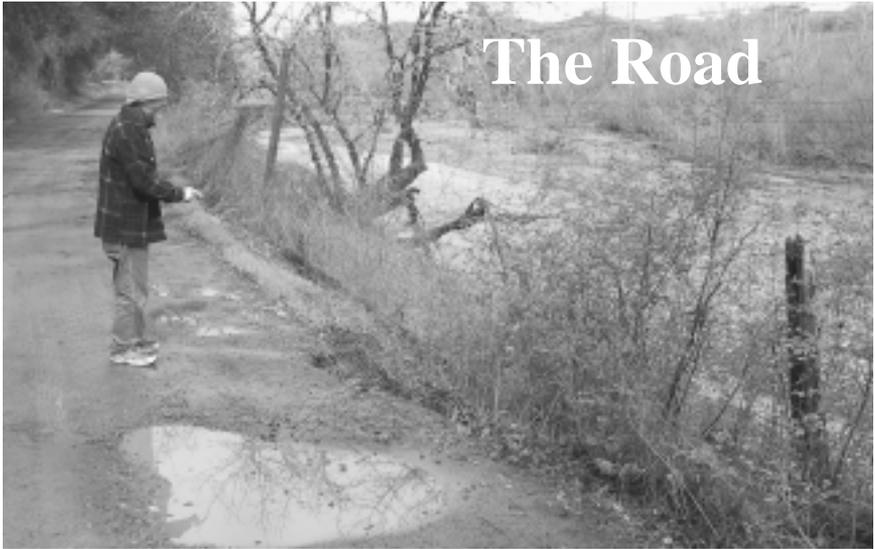


Annie Elfing

Annie Elfing Visits Round Mountain

Since Gabe's doing the newsletter, she gets to include a picture of her daughter, 19 year old, Annie, who visited for 3 weeks in February. She's in Peru now and starts school in the Bay Area this fall. She plans to get a nursing degree and become a midwife.

Good luck to you, Annie!



The Road

Uh oh, the road is slipping

Road

Denny's road mending is holding up pretty well, but yurt flats area is slipping due to poor flood drainage.

Solutions: Big rocks in ditch might be enough to stabilize the ground, keeping water under drains and on upside. The culvert is backwashing. Possibility of planting willows on the other side of the fence:



The culvert is backwashing

Claude says it is our land out to the middle of the river. We can go on that land freely. But their riprap in the river has caused problems with sliding on our side. There are complicated negotiations going on between Claude, Tim Hart, Tom Forrest and Jack Cox about the siphon, so we'll leave it alone for now.

The **white car** abandoned on the road belongs to Denise's son Shane. Denny needs it moved so he can work on the road there, where it is worst.



People from above have been stopping to talk to Denny. Kaye from Heartland said there's a group of them want to work on a stretch of the road, between the corral and yurt flats in addition to the part above the autoshop that they normally do. Claude said they should use Denny's method to mend the road since that's

what works. No one can touch Lee Howard's area since the state of it is his method of dust abatement. We gave \$400 to him for dust abatement this year. A printout of Denny's method is set out below.

Denny can't do this for free anymore. He would like to have his \$15 a month maintenance fee waived monthly while he's here. All agreed.

People above the road should help pay us for the rock used, said Claude. Also Denny's labor. Ask them for \$250 to share rock with us.

Things feel better between us and them. Sounds like we're building trust since they can see Denny

working on the road. Acorn says they have 2 quarries of crushed red rock that could be used.

Should we have work parties again? Set up work party and meeting afterward with folks above who come.

Let's call them and see. Acorn will call folks above, but only on his own behalf.

Can we use the tractor to improve the road? Needs repair; hydraulics are leaky. Phil's tractor is very limited in what it can do. Hershel will be

working on Claude's tractor.

Acorn will make more signs for people to slow down. We need a couple of speed bumps put in.



At the rock pile

Patching Method

“Get the water off and keep it off”



What Denny's been doing is first to work on clearing the drains. Next fill 5-gallon buckets with larger rock from the rock pile to place in the bottom of the holes. Over the top of the large rocks, he caps with sediment from the ditches. This is forming a sturdy patch. Lots of work!

The *Gazette* invites letters and/or contributions from residents of Round Mountain, Heartland and our international contacts.

Do you have concerns, questions, reactions, needs, poetry, songs, grumblings, stories, photos, cartoons, artwork, or eulogies? Please submit them to King and Gabrielle to be included in the next *Gazette*, whenever that happens.

Look for us on the Web at www.greenmac.com/gazette.

Corral garden at Acorn's place

There've been no horses for a year and a half, Acorn said. Several people have suggested putting in a community garden there. There are issues of consistent water: sun is very brutal there; soil doesn't hold water; possibility of raised beds; need deer-proof extension to existing fence; possibility of Mendocino Freecycle for free fencing).

Acorn, Gaby, Pat, Artemis, King would be interested. Claude wants a nice looking fence.

Phil says the space is rock and clay soil—difficult to work. Would be a very good place for trees, especially citrus. They should be on south side of house.

Is this a community project or one for only a few people? Acorn is open to working on this; Contact him.

Some work paid by residents

Kristi is compensated for doing books; Kate for flushing the filter; Denny for working on the road.

That's all, folks!

Fresh. Locally Grown. Community Radio!

KMEC 105.1 LPFM

OFFICE 707 468-9801 • ON-AIR 707 468-9800

106 Standley St. • Ukiah, CA 95482

On the web at KMECradio.org

Round Mountain History on CD



Svante van Bart discussed the “Illuminated Elephants” and the early days of Round Mountain with King Collins on KMEC’s *Rebel Tuesday*. Darsa Nicholson, not pictured, also took part in the interview. A 60 minute CD is available (468-5513).

Round Mountain Gazette

UNAUTHORIZED IRREGULAR PUBLICATION

Produced By

GREEN MAC

1201 Parducci Road • Ukiah CA 95482 • 707-468-5513

Edited by Gabrielle Welford and King Collins