



Lightning Bolt

January/February/March

2008

Volume 2 Issue 1

Butterfly Tracks...

from your editor,
Lois Johnson

"WHAT IS IT ABOUT RIMROCK?"

Does that sound like a rhetorical question? Well, not really. I'd welcome any answer you'd like to send. I'm asking because I want to know why we all enjoy our little town so much.

Our town is minimalist. It has everything we need and really nothing we don't. Grocery store, barber shop, auto repair, restaurant, gas station, place of worship, school, post office, tavern, video rental, second hand store, RV spaces and the best mercantile since my days growing up in a town of 300 people. Forgive me if I've left out your favorite store, but the list is so long that I sort of needed to end it somewhere.


Did I mention the mercantile? Have you been in our mercantile? Home Depot has nothing on this store. They are friendly, helpful, priced right and they carry everything you'd ever need for home, shop and garden.

Rush hour. We have one, morning and evening for all of 10 minutes.

Fire station. A number one fire and emergency response team that is the best in the state. Just ask all the travelers they've helped on I-17.

Have you ever spoken with anyone in Rimrock that wasn't just the friendliest? It seems like everyone is your friend even if you've never met them before. Find that in those big metropolitan cities!

Did I mention the natural wonders? Dry Beaver Creek swollen with snow melt or the ducks swimming in Montezuma's Well? How about the Cottonwood trees along the creek as they burst out in their spring green? Better than any large city zoo.

Yup, what is it about Rimrock that makes this just the best place in the whole world to live? 



Ernie and Barbara Silva on their Delta Wing Light aircraft.
Photo by Keith Anderson/Larson Newspapers, Red Rock News, Sedona Arizona Wednesday, November 28, 2007

SILVA, 76, BUZZES BALLOONS IN ULTRALIGHT

*Red Rock News, Sedona, Arizona Wednesday, November 28, 2007
by Todd Etshman, Larson Newspapers*

Is it a bird, is it a plane? No, it's Ernie Silva, the Birdman of Rimrock, in his Delta Wing Light Sport.

Silva, 76, flies his Delta Wing Light Sport [also called an ultralight, similar to a hang glider] most every day out of the Cottonwood Municipal Airport.

Silva said his craft "looks like a large bird of prey" as he "buzzes balloons." Balloon riders like to take his picture as he passes in front of them.

His wife, Barbara, likes to ham it up from the back seat and flap her wings, entertaining the balloonists.

Silva knew he wanted to fly ever since he saw planes taking off and landing at what is now Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, in the 1930s.


An eye injury at age 11 as a result of a cousin's "clod throw-

ing" prevented him from doing that for nearly 60 years, until he underwent an advanced laser eye surgery procedure in 2001 to remove scar tissue and his vision improved. ...

He keeps a one-seater near his home in Rimrock, a two-seater at the Cottonwood Airport.

Bill Gundelfinger helped train Silva to become a glider pilot and occasionally flies with him as he photographs elk, houses, the airport and whatever else strikes his fancy from the air. He also trained near Lake Pleasant. ...

These days he's having so much fun living out his childhood flying dream, he can't wait to get to the airport each day for an early morning flight.

"I have more fun than guys who own regular planes," Silva said. 

WELCOME! TO THE GARDEN CHAPTER

by local gardener Tana

Hi everyone!

Hope the holidays have been fabulous! I am thrilled this morning, the sun is out.

We had about 6 days of rain and clouds last week. The ground is screaming with delight. I loved the rain but was about ready to hit the tanning parlor because of the missing SUNLIGHT.

Cleaned out the veggie garden last month and still have tomatoes ripening in a cardboard box. That old trick does work. Put a lot of the scraps in the compostors I bought this summer. What great mulch it produces!! It may take 4 years to pay for itself but I'm having fun.

There are still a few roses blooming so am happy about that.

Snapdragon, dianthus and pansy survive some frosts. Some of our native plants look great in the winter, there are decorative stalks on the yucca that stand tall in the relatively "short landscape" we have. Later, you can use them for decor or "trekking poles."

I still have plants on my covered porch. Have left them out in years past but lost a few over the years. You can do this but throw burlap or blankets over them, not PLASTIC.

Time to start getting out the catalogs to get ideas for spring planting. It's only a couple of months away now. If you like to start seeds, you can do it anytime if you have space and environment but otherwise, early February is better. There are some warm days by then so they can go outside for a few hours of sun and come in at night. At 8-10 weeks, a lot of things can go outside. That said, we will probably now get a Michigan winter.

This is a great time to check out the nurseries for indoor plants and

color. Lots of cacti, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, mums, kalanchoe, etc. that look great now and can go outside in the spring. I forgot and left my amaryllis bulbs in the ground this year so I guess I'll see what happens in the spring. One of my new favorite indoor plants is the ZZ plant or *Zamioculcas zamiifolia* 'Emerald Fronds'. Ignore it and it lives. The scoop is below. Have not tried leaving it outdoors.

Zamioculcas zamiifolia 'Emerald Fronds'- An amazing aroid from Africa. Superficially resembles a cycad hence the genus and species name. Produces 2'-3' long pointed spears line with alternat-



ing shiny dark leaves. Grows from an underground tuber. Has tolerated subfreezing temperatures down to 24 degrees planted outdoors and returned the following spring. Makes great houseplants because it grows well in containers, can tolerate low humidity, low light, and needs little water and little fertilizer. Full shade to medium sun.

Native plant of the quarter is going to be late this time. Not sure what I did with my time, but it went. Hope everyone had a wonderful, safe holiday!!!

Happy digging!
Tana

WINTERTIME.... TIME TO PREPARE YOUR YARD

Yes, it is the time of year to put your yard into snake-proof condition. Well, maybe not snake-proof 'cause there isn't such a thing but how about snake-unattractive.

Rattlesnakes (and all critters) require the basics, just like us humans: food and shelter. To discourage snakes from your yard, these are the items one needs to address.

Forget about keeping snakes out of your yard. I know, you've read all about those special concoctions made mostly of sulphur or moth balls or some other magic potion but testing has proven they don't work. What they will do is poison your pets and children.

Fences, yup, three-foot high made of aluminum flashing or 1/4-inch metal mesh with 6-inches below the surface. Put one up or modify an existing fence. No need to fence your whole yard, just create a safe place to relax. But don't rely on the fence 100%; Murphy will always prove you wrong.

Remove places where rodents can hide; snakes love rodents. Wood piles, rock walls, low branches on shrubs and trees all need to be removed. They also love to eat birds; think twice about where you position your bird feeders.

Snakes also need a place to warm up when it's cool and cool down when it's warm. Be sure to seal cracks in/around your foundation where they will want to winter over. Keep shrubs and rocks away from your walkways and public areas where they'll want to shade themselves.

Snakes are not bad if their habits are learned. Gopher snakes keep rodents away and King snakes hunt and eat rattlesnakes. 🐍

I JUST WONDER

By Sandy Allan, President

Are we not lucky to own and some of us to live in a place with the history of man so close to us?

From my home here in Thunder Ridge I can walk among the history of man and even touch it at times. Not all of it, just some of it. Just to walk around Montezuma's Well on any given day, to see and touch what man created with their own hands is amazing if not just uplifting to me. I took my time with Rex Vanderford, a National Park Ranger, to study the pitch of the irrigation canal at the well one day and realized what they had accomplished.

What the Hohokam and Sinagua peoples did between 600 AD and 1400 AD is something. I know that in today's world, to dig a ditch that may have irrigated as much as 75 to 100 acres and may have been ½

to ¾ of a mile long is no great feat considering we are now trying to put men on Mars. But they didn't have tractors, shovels, jackhammers, sledge hammers or even a chisel that we know of. Just sticks



and stone implements and oh, yes, their hands and backs, too, to excavate the ditch.

What they also had was a want and a need to grow more crops. Corn, beans, squash and cotton just to name a few. That must be it, a want and a need. I think humans have this built in. But here it comes. . .

If I woke up one morning, let's

say before sun up and went to my son's room and said, "Look, if we start here at the outlet of this well and dig a ditch for about a mile, we can move this water to over there and grow more food and I have the tools to do it with. Here take this stick and flat rock. We can start right here."

I think my son would look at me as though I was mad or just demented. He would then roll over in his nice warm bed and say, "I'll go to the store with you later."

What it must have taken to get up every morning?

I just wonder. . .

Editor's Note:

Montezuma's Well Hours

Open Daily: 8 AM- 6 PM
(June - August)

Open Daily: 8 AM -5 PM
(September - May)

Meet . . .

Jim & Betty Jeannoutot

We are Jim and Betty Jeannoutot and we have lived in Thunder Ridge for the past 6 years; among the first in this great community. I think there were 8 families at that time and we all made a special effort to get acquainted.

We were wanting to leave Yuma when we found this spec home, which was just perfect for us; all we had to do was move in. We never get tired of our view.

We were both born and raised in the Midwest, Jim in Nebraska and Betty in South Dakota, but spent most of our working years in

We have never lived in a place that is more friendly...

Greeley, Colorado. When we retired we bought a home and moved to

Yuma, AZ, thinking we would spend the winter in AZ and go back to Colorado in the summer, but after doing that for a couple years realized, this is not working.


We sold out home in Colorado and bought a bigger one in Yuma. Living in Yuma was great in the winter and the summers were fine, if you could plan your vacations to be gone most of the summer.

We started traveling even before we retired, taking advantage of our 2-week vacations. We have traveled to many countries, spending weeks on a tour bus in Europe, weeks on cruise ships, and driven our car all over this country. I must admit the lust for traveling has diminished, something we knew would happen when you reach our age, just happy we traveled as much as we did; now we have some happy memories and some great pictures. We seem to be

content to visit our children once or twice a year, a daughter in Colorado, a daughter in Oklahoma, and a son in South Dakota. We have many grandchildren and 7 great-grandkids, which makes for a fun time when we get together.

We own several time-shares and use them to go to other places around the country; probably forces us to travel now, which is a good thing.

We have never lived in a place that is more friendly, and we have moved a lot. The people in this community are the friendliest and have made this area a place we don't want to leave.

When the time comes that we can no longer care for ourselves, we will no doubt move to Oklahoma City to be near our daughter and the grandkids; no plans to do that anytime soon. 

MEET BARBARA & ERNIE SILVA

As told by Ernie Silva

Both Barb and I are Arizona Natives. I grew up on a farm at 16th street and Bethany Home Road in Phoenix on a hundred-acre farm that my Grandfather homesteaded in 1898. He came from Portugal. Barb was born in Casa Grande, Arizona on a farm that her Grandfather purchased after moving from Kansas. Barb's Great-Grandmother was an Ogalala Indian from Oklahoma. Barb and I met at North Phoenix High School when I was a senior and she was a sophomore. We both had jobs at the Cinema Park Drive-in Theatre. We were married in 1951 after Barb graduated from high school.

I continued working at the Cinema Park Theater as assistant manager and joined the Arizona Air National Guard. Two months after

Our store was called "The Pant Shack" at Van Buren and 37th ...

joining, they activated the guard and I was now in the regular Air Force, stationed at Luke Air Force Base. After jet engine school in Florida, I was stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada. Every week-end, I would travel to Phoenix and work Saturday and Sunday, relieving the manager at Cinema Park. This continued for three years until I was discharged. While I was in Florida, Barb went to beauty school and became a manicurist. She worked in a downtown Phoenix barbershop and at the Biltmore Hotel.

After discharge from the service, I went back to work full time at the theatre, eventually managing six theatres in the Phoenix area, and we began our family. We ultimately had three children, two girls and a boy. We built a home at 35th avenue and Bethany Home

Road and lived there for 38 years before moving to Rimrock.

While managing the theatres, I also started a swap meet at one of our

I learned to fly after moving to Thunder Ridge

theatres on Buckeye Road where Barb and I met a man who was selling ladies clothing. He got Barb started in this same business. As the drive-in theatres began closing around the country, I realized that the drive-ins were going down the tubes so I resigned and joined Barb in the clothing business. Our store was called "The Pant Shack" at Van Buren and 37th avenue. We expanded from ladies clothing and went into men's and boy's western ware. I worked the swap meet and Barb ran the store. Eventually, we worked into a Levi franchise and had the only Levi store in the area. It has been there for 40 years and is now run by our son.

During this time, Phoenix was growing by leaps and bounds. One morning, we looked at the house next door with six cars parked in the driveway and said, "That's it, we're out of here."

Barb had an aunt who lived in Camp Verde and we used to visit her; we loved the area. We both wanted space, not just a small lot and we found it on Sedona View Lane in Thunder Ridge. We discovered it by accident seven years ago and bought it that day.

We have five acres on top of a mountain ridge with views of the Mogollon Rim and the Sedona red rocks. We drew up the plans and included everything that we always wanted in a house. Our son-in-law and Barb and I built the house in about nine months. We moved in,

had a house warming, our 50th anniversary and my birthday on the same night that the Phoenix Diamond backs won the world series.

I learned to fly after moving to Thunder Ridge. I have my sport pilot license and have two delta wing ultra-lights. We purchase property at Rimrock Air Park with two hangers and an apartment. Barb always wanted to ride horses so she found a lady instructor who is a real cowgirl and a barrel racing champ. Barb rides with her twice a week. I offered to buy her a horse but Barb said she was too damn old and the horse would probably outlive her. I fly; she rides.

Besides the wonderful view, we love the peace and quiet and the lack of car traffic. We're having a great time in our retirement years.



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Accredited Buyer Representative
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928-821-3529

RR_BOB@msn.com

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**Do you want to be involved in
the Thunder Ridge POA?**

**Do you care about
your POAs future?**

Volunteers
Needed

Call (928) 592-0345

THUNDER RIDGE BOARD APPROVES 2008 BUDGET

After several board meetings, on December 17, the Thunder Ridge POA Board approved the budget for 2008 which included an **annual increase** in fees of \$44.00. This will be the first time the POA has had an increase in the assessments over the past five years. As you all know, 2007 was the first year that the Thunder Ridge POA has been running without any financial assistance from the original developer. Before 2007 the Thunder Ridge Clubhouse was used as a sales office by the developer and a number of our large routine expenses (pool maintenance, power, phone, ground maintenance, insurance, water, clubhouse cleaning, trash removal & etc.) were paid 50% to 100% by **them** and the remaining difference was paid by the Property Owners Association. In 2007 that has all changed with the POA paying 100% of all expenses.

During the budget development process, the board had several open meetings which some property owners attended and added their views to the overall discussion. These owners were Tana Allman, Bob Bruno, Ernie & Barbara Silva, Mike Johnson, Gary & Nancy Rowland, Madeleine Britton, Bob Whiting, Tom & Linda Hawbaker & Paul Ennis. The general consensus from these meetings was the proposed budget was reasonable. I have attached the overall exhibit that was used in our meetings and is now the approved 2008 POA budget.

At this writing, we do not have our full 2007 expenses but we did develop a projection for 2007 based on 11 months of actual expense information. This projection gave us a year end expense figure of \$52,338.22 which is about \$600.00 more than what we will collect in assessments for the year 2007. (There are 154 lots with the current rate of \$336 = \$51,744 as our standard years income.) Our goal is to maintain the capital reserve that we inherited at our election and try not to draw on these funds unless we incur a major expense hardship. The assessments that we are collecting are for the day-to-day operation of the POA, routine capital improvements (they are listed in the attached budget exhibit) and a continuous building of our capital reserve fund.

So to sum things up, the \$44.00 annual increase comes to 13% and if you spread it over the 5 years since the last increase it's 2.6% per year or a **\$3.66 change per month** from the 2007 rate.

2008 Budget Exhibit	A	B	A+B=C	D	E
	Actual 2007 Expenses	Projected Dec. 2007	Projected YE Exp.	Budget 2008	2008
<u>Thunder Ridge Major Accounts</u>	<u>To Nov. 16</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Accounting	\$1,811.67	\$100.00	\$1,911.67	\$1,740.00	Kitchen Sink \$200.00
Office Exp. & Supplies	\$2,923.18	\$0.00	\$2,923.18	\$1,830.00	Security Camera \$5,000.00
Bank Fees	\$180.00	\$20.00	\$200.00	\$240.00	Drainage Repair \$3,200.00
Insurance	\$3,294.00	\$758.00	\$4,052.00	\$4,200.00	Out Door Lighting \$700.00
APS Electricity	\$3,128.57	\$260.00	\$3,388.57	\$3,600.00	Pool Chairs \$1,500.00
Water	\$855.03	\$80.00	\$935.03	\$960.00	Water Softner \$1,500.00
Trash	\$507.00	\$67.00	\$574.00	\$610.00	Repair Ramada \$1,200.00
Pool Maint.	\$2,845.38	\$240.00	\$3,085.38	\$2,600.00	Emergency Fund \$5,000.00
Grounds Maint.	\$6,329.50	\$500.00	\$6,829.50	\$6,000.00	Club House TV <u>\$1,350.00</u>
New Plants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	<u>\$19,650.00</u>
Propane	\$206.73	\$0.00	\$206.73	\$650.00	
Pest Control	\$309.00	\$0.00	\$309.00	\$500.00	
Alarm Service Fee	\$1,069.05	\$50.00	\$1,119.05	\$600.00	
Permits & Licenses	\$279.50	\$0.00	\$279.50	\$280.00	
Annual Meeting	\$96.00	\$0.00	\$96.00	\$100.00	
Billing Postage	\$342.15	\$0.00	\$342.15	\$250.00	
Board Meetings	\$127.28	\$250.00	\$377.28	\$1,000.00	
Qwest/Phone	\$437.94	\$40.00	\$477.94	\$500.00	
Cable TV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	
School Donation	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Web Site	\$78.71	\$0.00	\$78.71	\$0.00	
Club House Cleaning + Maint.	\$570.79	\$80.00	\$650.79	\$1,160.00	
News Letter	\$762.59	\$0.00	\$762.59	\$1,200.00	
Misc. Exp.	\$1,041.59	\$100.00	\$1,141.59	\$3,000.00	
Taxes	\$5,217.55	\$0.00	\$5,217.55	\$3,350.00	
Legal Services	<u>\$1,786.55</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,786.55</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	
Expense Sub Total:	\$34,199.76	\$2,745.00	\$36,944.76	\$38,870.00	
Capitol Improvements	<u>\$13,243.46</u>	<u>\$2,150.00</u>	<u>\$15,393.46</u>	<u>\$19,650.00</u>	
Total Expense:	\$47,443.22	\$4,895.00	\$52,338.22	\$58,520.00	
Est. 2008 Income \$95 per qtr./154 lots.				<u>-\$58,520.00</u>	
Expenses vs Fees Collected				\$0.00	

Thunder Ridge Climatological Summary

(taken from lot 53)

ELEVATION: 3695 feet

LATITUDE: 39 30' 00" N

LONGITUDE: 111 30' 00" W

Data as of 12/31/2007

TEMPERATURE

Mo	Mean	Hi	Date	Low	Date	>=90	<=32
Oct	66.9	91.4	10	45.4	23	3	0
Nov	59.5	88.0	6	30.6	25	0	1
Dec	41.8	72.5	4	18.3	26	0	21

WIND SPEED

Mo	Avg	Hi	Date	Dom Dir
Oct	4.6	37.0	5	S
Nov	2.6	27.0	22	NE
Dec	3.3	42.0	1	NE

RAINFALL

Mo	Total	Max One Day	Date	Days Over 0.01"	Days Over 0.1"	Days Over 1"
Oct	0.02	0.02	4	1	0	0
Nov	0.88	0.88	30	1	1	0
Dec	1.72	0.68	1	7	4	0

For complete weather reporting every 10 minutes, go to ThunderRidgePOA.com and select Current Weather.



6820 THUNDER RIDGE RD
RIMROCK AZ 86335



THUNDER RIDGE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION
OFFICE: (928) 592-0345

6280 N THUNDER RIDGE ROAD
RIMROCK AZ 86335

Thunder Ridge Board meets 3rd Monday of each month

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