

## **SVPOA WATER History**

For the first few years the weekend visitors got their water from a spring at the east end of Big Hill Road, located on Lot #65. This required a bucket and a water jug. You dipped the bucket in the spring pool and then poured it into your water jug. This was very clean (if you did not stir the pond) and cold water.

Another technique was to go to Weston Pass and fill a 50-gallon barrel with water from the South Platte River. This was very cold and clean (maybe a few little fish) and could be stored at your cabin for many days. The only problem was getting the open 50-gallon barrel back to Sportsman's Valley with most of the water. An Indian trick was used by putting a log or block of wood in the barrel, decreasing the splashing of the water. The roads were rough getting that barrel back to your cabin.

The water from the spring or the river was mostly used for washing dishes and such. Drinking water was brought from Denver in 5-gallon jugs. It's really surprising how far 5 gallons of water goes when you are pouring it out of a jug and not turning on a faucet.

### **NEXT the WELLS**

The first well was drilled on Pine Ridge Road in 1979 for about \$1,300.00. One of the directors, Jim Farley, lot # 54, researched and used the water witching technique to find a location on Sportsman's Valley Road right-of-way for the well. This was permitted and the well driller hit water at 5 (five) feet. We drilled to about 60 feet. Water was not our problem, but the quality of the water was an issue. We had a high concentration of surface minerals which was sulfur, or smelled like rotten eggs. If you pumped into a bucket and let it air off, it was good washing water but not good for drinking. Again, the Sportsman's Valley members continued to bring drinking water in 5-gallon cans from the city.

Quite discouraged with the water quality, members continued to bring drinking water, and look for better water. Some members had wells drilled and were successful in getting good water.

**NEW WELL WITCHED AND DRILLED IN 2001 at a cost of over \$8000.00.**

A new well was decided by directors. The well was to be drilled on Sportsman's Valley Road right-of-way. Due to permit requirements the well had to be drilled on property of Dave Reichley, Lot # 48, adjoining the right-of-way near Meadow Drive.

The well was successful with many gallons per minute. To try and eliminate the ground minerals, many feet of stainless well casing were installed. The well was drilled to about 150 feet, and the driller installed a 120V well pump, Sportsman's Valley proceeded to build a shed for the gas-powered generator to be housed in. This same structure now also houses the SV Video and Book Library, Grader supplies and fence repair tools.

Due to the New York "9-11 Incident" the library was decorated with a 50-state flag. Our professional painter member repainted the building in 2021. The Water undergoes a state water quality test every so many years. The last test was completed in 2021 with an excellent rating of good, cold water. This is available to all members. Gas provided by all who use the generator. Combination to well house is 2001, and don't forget the loaner books and videos.

-Written by Larry O. Baker 2022