



Texas Ramp Project Newsletter Article

May 2021

Dear Friends,

This column is starting out on my new laptop, which seems to disagree with me occasionally so please accept my apologies for this fractious instrument!

I would first like to encourage all of you to record your builds promptly. The more current you are, the better the information that we can use to help raise more funds to offset the rapidly increasing lumber costs we are facing. Plywood had been \$30–\$35 per sheet for a long time, but now it is \$60 or more per sheet! We may see some fallback from that level, but it won't be soon.

As a way of combatting these rising costs, we may need to consider recouping the lumber from ramps that are no longer needed. Additionally, we will need to cut back on our builds in some areas where budgets are being exceeded. Before we start setting quotas, I would ask each build team to limit the linear feet of ramps you build to 50 feet per month for the next two months to try and conserve our treasury.

That could be one large ramp or two medium-sized ramps. We cannot keep building at previous levels in most places. Of course, raising funds locally will greatly assist us, and those funds that you raise will be held for your region as were all donations in the past.

I believe that we need to look at each region individually and decide upon a spending plan for each, taking into account a reasonable forecast of cash inflow for the region and availability of cash from statewide. The regional coordinators and team leaders need to be aware and in agreement. Our financial position is precarious but manageable if we actually do manage.

This is a very serious issue for the TRP, and the sooner we address it the better. Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks, John

John Laine,
Executive Director