

## We Need Pictures !!!!!!!

You'll notice we have some pictures from the Christmas party in this issue. Please send us more pictures of community interest — helps make the Byte more interesting.

## The Joys of Being A Volunteer

### Fire Fighter

Leo Chaloux

If you are a volunteer fire fighter one thing that always hangs on you, always strapped to your belt or tucked into a pocket is the pager. Little square electronic boxes that run on nickel cadmium batteries during the day and rest in a battery charger at night. Never turned off they become the first thing you reach for in the morning and the last thing you put away in the evening. They become such a part of your dress, that you find yourself constantly reaching for it. You touch the case to make sure it is still there. You turn the monitor switch to see what if anything is going on somewhere. You press the squelch bar to make sure the batteries are still good. When the dumb thing just becomes a part of your life then you realize that you are truly a volunteer fire fighter.

It is the pager that sounds off a very unique series of tones designed to wake you from any sleep, or get your attention from any activity you are doing. When those tones go off, no matter what you are doing or where you are, you stop and strain your ear towards the pager. Usually at this point you think of how busy you are, what you have to do in the next hour, how upset your kid or spouse will be. You may even think of turning the darn thing off but still you pause and wait for the announcement to come over from Camino Dispatch. Once the announcement is made it seems that no matter what you are doing you drive to the fire

station to put on the proper protective clothing and get in a fire engine. The only reason why is that you are a Volunteer Fire Fighter.

Our community, just like the majority of communities throughout the United States, receives its fire protection and medical services from volunteers. In this county seven out of ten fire fighters are volunteers. In our community 25 out of 27 are volunteers and yet many in the community do not know how fortunate they are to have these people. In fact the majority of people do not even know what a Volunteer Fire Fighter does. They are often very grateful when a Volunteer arrives on scene to take care of the many problems that occur. Often the only contact, the only knowledge the average person has of that volunteer is they came, they helped, and they left.

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Today a volunteer is a highly trained and skilled individual

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The days of a bunch of good ole boys getting together once or twice a month to check out the

equipment, tell a few war stories from past fires, and drink some beer are long gone. Volunteer fire departments are no longer loose organizations consisting of people with the best of intentions helping a neighbor when something caught fire. Today a volunteer is a highly trained and skilled individual ready to serve their communities by being the best of problem solvers.

Today a volunteer must be a highly motivated and dedicated individual because of new laws from Federal OSHA, Cal OSHA and El Dorado County Health Department along with mandates from the State of California, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and Insurance Companies. To walk in and say you would like to become a Volunteer Fire Fighter is taking on a great commitment. The commitment starts with taking mandatory classes; such as an 80 hour basic fire fighter class, an 8 hour CPR class, a 40 hour First Responder medical class, a 60 hour Emergency Medical Technician class, and a 24 hour Ventricular Defibrillation class. At this point you are allowed to fight fire and provide medical care but not operate fire equipment. To do that requires a written test at DMV for a Class B fire fighters license, for the average



person about 80 hours of driving time, and about another 20 hours of engineering training in order to operate the pump. While all this is going on a volunteer is continuously doing training on every Tuesday evening of the year. Some of the guys and gals want to learn and do more so they take on additional classes, such as Command, Hazardous Materials, over the bank rope rescue, swift water rescue, and on and on.

With a person doing all of the above and the time commitment to do so there is still one other aspect of what a Volunteer Fire Fighter does. That is answering that pager at any time, stopping what you are doing, leaving your family, driving to the fire station using your own gasoline, and doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the country.

How many people are willing to do all of the above and do it for free, do it for absolutely nothing? Fortunately, for this community there are some very special people that live here and serve as Volunteers.

### Important Meeting

**A REMINDER FOR ALL SCPOA MEMBERS**, the SCPOA Annual Meeting is February 13, 1999 at 9 A.M. at the Mosquito Fire Station. This is the time that you can make a difference. Come and vote for new officers that will make decisions regarding the Swansboro Area. There are four (4) positions open. If you don't cast your vote you have virtually no voice as to how the business of Swansboro Country Property Owners Association is conducted. Please come and vote or send in your proxies.

### What's New with MVFD

Leslie Keene

Plans are well underway for our annual Fire Department/Community Picnic being held on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at Finnon Lake Campground. As always, this will be a team effort and we are looking for all the help we can get to make this another successful fundraiser as well as a really fun day for the community! The following is the list of picnic coordinators. If you'd like to volunteer, give them a call:

- Overall Coordination ..... Leslie Keene
  - Set-up ..... Everyone
  - Food ..... Lee Hair, Jean McLain
  - Drinks ..... Leslie Keene
  - Dunk Tank/Games ..... LaVonne & Byron Moser
  - Music/Clothing Sales/Raffle ..... Doreen Frazier
  - Ticket Sales ..... Debbie Minor
  - Publicity ..... Diane Brady
  - Clean-up ..... Everyone
  - Equipment Displays ..... Leo Chaloux, Pat Keene
- Attention all Firefighters, Support Group members,

Crafts ladies and gentlemen, and Telephone Tree Committee! Our Annual Awards Dinner is being held on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. This year the Firefighters Fund is providing the main entrees, with all of us bringing potluck salads, desserts, and side dishes. There will be some wonderful awards, some serious (for example, Firefighter of the Year and Support Group Member of the Year) and some NOT so serious (no examples, it would ruin the surprise!) Diane Brady is the chairperson of this event, so if you have some AWARD you'd like to give, give her a call!

Our next community event is the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by our first fundraiser of the year, the Spring Spaghetti Feed, being held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We have two new firefighters on the department, **Todd Hern** and **Clay Salzman**. They have been training with us for the last month or two and are a welcome addition to the department! Also, our heartiest congratulations to **Craig Hansen**, who was just promoted to Captain!

Just a reminder that our next two Board meetings will be held on Friday nights, February 5<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Following that we will resume our normal first Thursday of the month Board meetings. The community is always welcome at our meeting -- we value your input!



Photo by Jean McLain  
Pat sharing her winnings



Photo by Jean McLain  
Fire fighters win fire picture

## Finnon Lake Planning Committee

Diane Brady

On January 17, the Finnon Lake Planning Committee (FLPC) met to discuss the latest developments at Finnon, and to continue our plan of action to remodel the facility. Now that the restaurant is closed, we are only waiting for the permits from the county to begin the actual remodeling. And let me say that working with the various county departments to obtain the necessary permits and approvals has been an eye-opening experience for all of us. Even though we thought we covered our bases by meeting with all the department heads last April, we are now constantly surprised by new requirements that have to be met in order to have the county's blessing on our every move. It has been very frustrating to realize that everything takes 3 to 10 times as long as we originally expected it to.

However, we continue to press on, because we realize we have a unique opportunity here to create a facility that can add immeasurably to our community. We actively seek input from everybody in the community as to what we should do with the 121 acre recreational site we now own, and we urge you to complete and return the Community Action Plan survey you will be receiving in the next few weeks. In addition, you may call me at 622-7019 with your ideas or suggestions at any time. We will give consideration to every idea we receive; however, one thing we can not do is act on anonymous complaints or comments. There are a number of people devoting a lot of time and effort to this project, and they need your support and input. If you have opinions as to how things should be done at Finnon, come on out and help! We meet at the Mosquito firehouse on the third Sunday of every month at 6:00 p.m. When we get closer to arranging actual work parties, we will post that information in the Mosquito Byte. And we of course will gratefully accept any donations of building materials or cash to the project! Call me at 622-7019 for any of the above.

## Wanted -- Craft Coordinator

**Attention! Attention! Attention!** The Craft Group is in need of a Coordinator for the 1999 craft season. No experience necessary — you've got a lot of talented folks to do the work. But like any "ship" we need someone at the helm to keep us on course. Want to help the community and earn money for the Volunteer Fire Department? Give our going Coordinator, Sharon Hem a call at 626-5268.

The craft group meets once a month at the Fire Station; usually on the 3rd Thursday. We held our first (and maybe the last if we can't find a coordinator) Craft Meeting of 1999 on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 7 ladies in attendance and many new ideas and new options for crafts were discussed. However, without a Craft

Coordinator, plans can't be made. We have several willing craft workers, we just need someone to assume the role of coordinating the crafts.

Please remember that all of the proceeds from the craft sales go directly to the Fire Department to augment the funding of items that are used for the protection of our community.

## Dear Neighbors,

We are writing this to inform you that we have finally made the big decision to sell our store property. It was a hard decision that we have thought long and hard about. Having our third child, Lucas, was really a life changing event for us and we realize that we no longer want the kind of life that running a store would entail. So it is now officially "up-for-sale". Most of the research and legwork has been done and it's ready to build. We put a lot of thought into the design and it encompasses the best parts of the general stores that we visited in El Dorado and surrounding counties. The six acre parcel is split zoned with an underlying land use designation of commercial, and overlay zoning of Planned Commercial, and Unrestricted. There is a beautiful view building site for a home, orchard, or other possible business, as well as the commercial side with all engineering and store plans that have been through the county once already. We are hoping to pass the 'country store dream' onto someone else who wants to take it from where we are leaving off. Its got great potential! If you are interested call C.B. Bamicote or Dale H. at Caldwell Banker Real Estate at 621-3300.

Yours truly,  
The Aspenleiter Family

## Mosquito Kids Excel

Deborah H. Arsenych

Grades are out for the second quarter and there were twelve kids in the Mosquito area with a G.P.A. over 3.0. There was even one very special person that had straight A's. Let's give a hardy congratulations to Steve Loree, son of Steve and Lori Loree. Great Job.

Those children who made Honor Roll with a G.P.A. of 3.0 to 3.49 are sixth grader Amanda Susmill, seventh graders, Elizabeth Frazier, Daniel Norman, Amanda Pearson, Jonathan Skaggs, Gregory Stuhr, and eighth grader Nathaniel Chaloux. In the Honor Society with a G.P.A. of 3.5 to 3.9 we have in the sixth grade, Caroline Veerkamp, in the seventh grade, Zoe Arsenych, and Tawnia Peissner, and in the eighth grade Ashley Levine. Congratulations to all and keep up the great work.

Don't be pessimistic — it won't work!

**PUZZLE**

The answer to the January puzzle was "Prehistoric" and Ralph Hem won the prize of an adult ticket for the spring spaghetti feed. This puzzle is just for fun, to practice for the April puzzle contest.

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, like other sheriff's departments throughout the country, has many positions and functions to help serve the public. Listed are 41 words relating to the operation of the Sheriff's Department. Circle the words reading them up, down, forward, backward or diagonally. The remaining uncircled letters create the goals of the El Dorado County Sheriff's office.

L	L	O	R	T	A	P	Y	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
L	I	L	A	I	R	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	Y
O	L	E	A	T	R	O	N	L	M	W	B	J	B	T
R	O	W	U	E	A	O	T	I	O	S	A	E	O	N
Y	P	A	P	T	P	W	S	V	C	I	C	C	O	U
A	E	O	S	A	E	T	S	I	L	O	K	I	K	O
P	R	S	E	E	A	N	T	C	I	N	G	V	S	C
P	A	W	R	R	E	C	A	R	S	E	R	R	T	O
R	T	E	G	D	C	F	T	N	L	O	O	E	C	D
E	I	A	E	R	O	F	S	I	T	L	U	S	E	A
N	O	R	A	E	C	I	F	F	O	R	N	D	T	R
O	N	N	E	R	R	E	C	O	R	D	S	E	O	
R	S	Y	T	U	P	E	D	S	E	O	S	E	D	D
O	S	E	N	I	F	H	C	T	A	P	S	I	D	L
C	A	N	I	N	E	S	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	E

AIM    BACKGROUNDS    BOOKS    CANINES  
 CAPTAIN    CIVIL    COLORS    CSO  
 CORONER    COURT    DEPUTY    DETECT  
 DISPATCH    EL DORADO COUNTY    FEES  
 FILE    FINES    JAIL    LIEUTENANT    NARCOTICS  
 OES    OFFICE    OPERATIONS    PATROL  
 PAYROLL    PROPERTY    RECORDS    RESERVES  
 SED    SERGEANT    SERVICE    SHERIFF  
 STAR    STATS    SWAT    SWEAR    TORT  
 TRAINING    TRIAL    VOW    WEAPON

**Try This For an Appetizer**

Peggy Vogele

**LYNN'S SHRIMP SPREAD**

- 1 C cooked chopped shrimp
- 2 C grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 6 small green onions and tops, chopped
- ½ C mayonnaise
- 1 clove garlic, pressed
- Hungarian paprika to taste

Finely chop shrimp, cheese and onions. Combine with remaining ingredients, sprinkle with paprika. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. Remove from refrigerator at least 30 minutes before you plan to serve it to allow flavors to ripen. Serve with crackers.

**Read on to Find Out About Blue Moons**

Jim Hinds

**Atmospheric**

This is a good time to begin a weather report mainly because it hasn't rained all day and the Sun did come out and shine for a few minutes during the afternoon hours. We did some catching up water wise during the previous 5 days however. The 24 hour period ending today, the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, left us with 19.50 inches of rain for the year to date and 7.07 inches for the five rainy days which began on the 16th. Since we had only 2.75 inches of rain in November the season from July 1, looked pretty bad. The new look is a little better. The 120 year average is 28.76 inches of rain through January. We have ten days left this month and we just might make it. Our weather people point to the two or three Hawaiian storms heading our way as the Jet Stream has changed direction and is bringing these storms directly to toward mid-California. The first storm is due Saturday or Sunday. Since they are gathering moisture as they cross the Pacific, we may get a lot more rain. Any way that is the prediction from the Weather prognosticators. These estimates are from our local weather people in Sacramento. It is a little after 10:00 P.M. The stars are shining brightly which is a nice sight after so many nights without any sign of them or the Moon. Anyway we needed the rain. So, if you feel like, doing a little "Rain Dance," we could use some more of the wet staff. Please don't over do that "dance." We are in no mood for another January and February like last year. In *The Mountain Democrat*, Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, there was an article on weather about the snow piling up in the Sierra. On page 7 there were some references made by former supervisor Bill Center about what happens to snow when it begins to melt in the spring. He pointed out that the snow pack so far is below normal as December had little rain or snow so far this year. His primary concern is the amount of water that spills over the Chili Bar dam. It has reached the 2000 cubic feet per second

when the overflow occurs. He explained that the normal summer rafting flow is between 1500 and 2000 cubic feet per second (cfs). He indicated that as the cfs. flow increases serious consequences are the result. I quote. "In the 1997 floods the river topped 80,000 cfs". If memory serves me right, this was the year when nearly all of the boat launching area was washed away at Chili Bar. Just how much water is going down river at 80,000 cfs. I think you will be surprised. To make this calculation, we used a 1,000 cfs as a basis. You will understand why, shortly, 1000 cfs = 7,300 gal. per second = 438,800 gal. per minute = 26,880,000 gal. per hour.

This would be enough water to fill more than 4,000 Trout Lakes every hour. This may give you some idea as to the amount of water going down our river and under the Mosquito Bridge during Spring runoff or during long and heavy rains. Thank you Steve H. and Leo C. for helping me get this data together. You out there who bother to read all this stuff can see if one of you find an error in all these numbers, I will have someone to blame.

#### Astronomic

This is the second time for this part of the article. It is a copy out of the March 1999 issue of *Sky and Telescope* which arrived the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is about Blue Moon months. I quote directly from the article. "It's not rare to see two full moons in a month. Because the Moon's phases are out of sync with our calendar and all the months but February are longer than the lunar cycle of 29 1/2 days, this happens about seven times in every 19 years. Months have different lengths, so the phenomenon moves around a bit.

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$8.50 per year. Deadline for news and advertising is the 19th of each month.

The editors reserve the right to edit, limit or refuse any article submitted for publication in the *Mosquito Byte*.

Editors: Lela Edson - 626-8265  
Pat Relfe - 622-6436



## ADVERTISING

There is no charge for advertising in the *Mosquito Byte* for our subscribers. Deadline for advertising is the 19th of each month. Call Pat at 622-6436 or Lela at 626-8265. Ads in the "For Sale" department will run for three months unless you call to say the item has been sold, or you want the ad extended.

#### FREE:

CEDAR SEEDLINGS. Sizes vary from 2" to 18". You dig. Call Diane at 622-7019.

HOT WATER HEATER: Old Ream glass standard 80 gallon or Solar Aid Water Tank. Call Henry at 626-4166.

#### MEETINGS

QUILTER'S MEETING February 25<sup>th</sup> at Sandy Nester's, 6680 Peycos Dr, 642-9865.

#### WANTED

**Softball players!** Anyone interested in forming a softball team this spring to play in a Placerville league one night a week, please call me. Anyone 18 or over, male or female, is welcome to participate -- you don't have to be good! The cost will be about \$20 per person for the season, to cover the cost of the field, umpires, etc. Call Diane at 622-7019 and leave a message if you want to play.

BODY PARTS for 1964 thru 1967 Chevy El Camino and Chevelle. Please call Travis at 621-4107 after 6:00 p.m. weekdays.

CLEAN FILL DIRT: Call Doug 642-2118.

#### SERVICES

ROBERTI ROOFING License #754951. Call Nick Roberti at 626-7116 or 957-6399.

NOTARY PUBLIC- Anytime, Anywhere: I live in Mosquito and will come to your house to do notary work. Call Elaine at 621-2433.

WORKER AVAILABLE: Honest, dependable, hardworking man seeks work gardening, weedeating, house cleaning, painting, odd jobs. Call 621-1762.

SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY: For help in times of crises. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, clothing, transportation, abuse intervention drug dependency, emergency housing or any other need, please call Sharon McCoy 621-4383 or Mountain Fellowship 621-4282. All requests will be confidential and needy parties are treated with respect. Your help and support are needed. Call us to assist in this ministry or to donate food, clothing, cash or other usable items.

VACATION CARE: Going on vacation? Need any pet care, or taking care of plants? You have found just the one: me, Amanda

**Pearson.** I love animals and am great with plants. Call me at 621-1653. If I'm not there, leave a message.

**PLUMBING:** Vick's Plumbing, license No. 605357. Victor Garcia, 626-6493.

**CLEANING:** Swansboro resident for 7 years to clean your home, meal preparation or errands done with TLC. Reasonable, experienced, references. Call Renee at 626-3280 OK to leave message

**NUTRITIONAL AIDS** and free information. Call Teresa at 626-6970.

**BABY SITTING:** Need a sitter? Call Teen-Sitter now! CPR CERTIFIED. Amber Meadows, 642-2044 or Kirsten Lietz 622-3296. Call evenings after 5:00.

**PROSPECTOR PLUMBING:** Plumbing for your propane and natural gas needs. Hot water heaters, gas lines, leak repairs, etc. Licensed, bonded and insured. 622-1241.

**COMPUTER HELP:** Need Help with your computer? A+ certified computer technician. Upgrade, troubleshooting, repair, hardware and software. Call Mike at 622-1316.

**CARETAKER/DOOR SHAKER SERVICE:** Available to vacation/vacationing homeowners at modest cost, daily, weekly, monthly. Reference available. Call "Critter" Don Reid, 622-7622.

**DON'S CRITTER CARE:** Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. Reasonable rates, references. Call 622-7622.

**BUSINESS CARDS:** Small quantities, 10 to 100. Designed for you. Cost plus \$5.00. Call Lela, 626-8265.

**ANIMAL OUTREACH:** Cats for adoption. Low cost spay, neuter and vaccinations. Call Pat Hair at 642-1944 for information.

**REALTOR:** Continuously serving this area with efficient, friendly service. Associated with Coldwell Banker, Gerwer and Assoc., Inc. residential affiliate. Member of Multiple Listing Service, Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department Support Group and Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department Board. Call LaVonne Moser for any of your real estate needs. 622-6337 or 626-3333.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** Coldwell Banker, Gerwer and Assoc. Inc. Now has property management services. If you are a landlord or prospective tenant, please call LaVonne Moser at 622-6337 or 626-3333.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Are you stressed to the max about your bills? Are you having difficulty making your monthly payments and the creditors are calling and getting nasty? WE CAN HELP! Call Barbara Proctor at Hampton Financial for a FREE consultation at 621-3153.

**J. R. PLUMBING:** Licensed plumber. Repairs, remodels, new construction. Gas Lines and gas appliance conversions. Local gas company references. Call John at 626-6552.

**COMPUTER SERVICE:** Frazier Electronics. Computer/printer service and repair. Free estimates. Call Stu at 621-4221.

**ROBIN'S NEST CLEANING:** Commercial and residential. References. Call Robin 621-1030.

**TAX HELP??** Professional Tax Preparation and Electronic filing. Call Don Bates, licensed and bonded tax consultant, 622-1886

**FOR SALE**

**COMPUTER:** IBM 486; 8mb RAM; 1/2 G hard drive; CD; new ink jet printer; new monitor; new keyboard; complete package \$300 firm. Call 621-4682.

**REFRIGERATOR:** Amana side-by-side, water and ice in door. Only used for six months. Will sell for \$800, paid over \$1,000. Call Mike at 621-4107 after 6:00 p.m. weekdays.

**SECTIONAL FRONT ROOM SET,** with arm chair and foot stool, light greens and tan colors. Very comfortable but doesn't match our new house. Call Suzie at 621-4107 after 6:00 p.m. weekdays

**1998 and 1999 KAWASAKI FOUR WHEELERS** Both Lakota 300 cc with all the extras and extended warranty. Only eight total hours on both bikes. Must sell. \$5,000 each. Call Shauna at 621-4107.

**WEIGHT LIFTING** weights \$20. Call 626-3280.

**DODGE STEPSIDE PICK-UP 1978,** \$1,500 OBO; **CHAIN SAW,** New Sears 16" with case, \$150; **JOE WEIDER** workout gym, \$45; **ROWING MACHINE** \$10; **CANNON COPIER** \$25; **New window QUASER AIR CONDITIONER,** 7000 BTU, \$275; 1/4 ownership in **WOOD SPLITTER** - personal use only (explanation available!) \$175. Call 304-0423.

**WASHER:** Maytag Washer, \$40. 622-1886

**AVON:** Call Gwen at 622-9314 for all your AVON needs.

**HERBS:** Evergreen Herb Garden, 2001 Swansboro Road. Herbs, herb classes, products, plants and books. Call or write for information. 626-9288.







Mosquito Byte  
2300 Mosquito Cut-off Road  
Placerville CA 95667-9081



renewal date!  
is it time yet?

