

# MOSQUITO BYTE

FEBRUARY 2001

VOLUME 14 #7

## Phone Book Time

OK – everyone! We are really getting serious about getting the 2001 Mosquito phone book put together and we really need your input! If you have new neighbors, ask them if they want to be listed and give us a call with the information. If you have a business, do you want your business card in the advertisement section? Let us know !! Call Lela at 626-8265 or Pat at 622-6436.

## Looking Back on 2000

Chief Leo Chaloux

With the start of the New Year there is the closing out of the old year. In looking back over the last year, the one with the Y2K end of the world computer problems, the predicted worst fire season ever and so on went all the predictions. In reality it was a very slow year as far as the fire department was concerned. Not only was our District running fewer incidents but also so were the County and even the state. While the rest of the west was burning up California was very fortunate and had an abnormally slow fire season.

Last year the fire department responded to 99 incidents. Rather slow considering we normally average around 150 incidents. What I don't understand is we responded to more requests for service 10 years ago then we are now. Yet, the population has more than doubled as well as the number of homes and the amount of traffic. This business has a tendency to run in cycles, and I guess this past year has been part of that down cycle. I'm not looking forward to when things get back to normal and we start responding more.

Last year we responded to 38 medical calls, the most common call we do now. These are calls that result in a patient being transported to a hospital to receive more advanced care. Fortunately the majority of these calls have positive results with people coming back home. However, last year we did unfortunately have several people pass away. The volunteers and I

know the majority of people on this hill and whenever anyone does pass away it does have more of an affect on us.

Another thing we do is put in the category of public assist. These are the types of calls that can be fun, amusing, and sometimes complex. These are the ones I like to do the most for it gives us an opportunity to help someone who is not really having a serious emergency but simply needs a hand, a little direction or just some support. Last year we responded to 30 public assist calls, ranging from getting a cat out of the tree to helping someone start their car. Yeah, we are still one of the few fire departments that will give you a hand getting your cat out of a tree. That type of a call is a real tough one sometimes as cats are very independent but weird animals. Most of the time when they are in a tree and you go up to get them they kind of go higher. Last year Stu Frazier had one where he went up to the cat and it climbed down and got in his arms. I still tell people I have never seen a cat skeleton in a tree but they are sure theirs will be the first so we will come up and try to get the beastie down. Another assist call was when a girl got trapped in her bathroom when the door lock broke. That was an easy one as we good at tearing doors down. Another area of public assist calls are those we call welfare checks. Often, we will receive a phone call from someone outside of the area who had not heard from a relative for some time. We will go up and check them out and make sure everything is all right.

With good ole Mosquito Road being what it is and the way people drive it we had 11 dispatched vehicle accidents last year. Now these are the ones we are dispatched to and I do know there are many more we do not even know about. That is evident when driving into town I notice new skid marks, or bark taken off a tree and dirt removed from the shoulder of the road. Many accidents take place and people do not want the CHP or an insurance company to know about it so they haul out as fast as possible. Considering the way things are with the road and the many people driving it I am surprised we are not dispatched to more accidents.



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As with most fire departments now days responding to actual fires is one of the least things you do. In fact medical aids make up about 80% of what the average fire department does on a nation wide basis. Last year we responded to 2 vehicle fires, 2 structure fires, 6 wild land fires and 4 mutual aid assignments for wild land fires in other districts. One of the vehicle fires resulted in the complete lost of the truck while the other no big deal. One of the structure fires was a chimney fire that extended into the roof burning off about 10% of the roof. The Volunteers did a terrific job in saving that house as it had a great potential of a total loss of the structure. Of the wild land fires 2 were not much more than little roadside spot fires. One turned out to be a dispatch at around midnight for a wild land fire out on Mosquito Road in the National Forest. On that one we did not find a fire but I believe who ever turned it in was seeing the lights at the Sierra Pacific Lumber Mill in Camino. Of the other 3 wild land fires one was for a fire on Mosquito Road in the Placerville area and the other 2 were fires on Rock Creek Road in Garden Valley's District. One of those was on a real windy day when a control burn on Rock Creek Road almost to Highway 193 got out of control. Garden Valley was too busy to go to it so we were dispatched and managed to get there just as the fire was at the back deck of the house. We were busy there for a few minutes but did manage to save the house.

All in all the year 2000 despite all its dire predictions was a rather slow one. Let's hope that this new year is just as slow or even better a little slower. However, if you do need us do not hesitate to call 911, we will be on our way.

Winter from a weather standpoint has not really gotten here yet so please be careful out there on the roads.

## A Special Thanks

Paul Hinds

A tip of the hat to Ed Darr who volunteered his dump truck and time over Thanksgiving weekend. We tried to place 125 tons of road patch over three days but ran out of time and energy about half through. Ed's truck sure made moving that heavy patching material much easier. Unfortunately, the weak link was the dummies like me at the end of a shovel who just couldn't keep up with Ed and my son Jabo on the Backhoe. So now I have to hand shovel what's left into the back of my pick-up and shovel it out into the potholes. Much slower work! I don't know what this community would do without the people who volunteer to attend endless committee meetings, fight fires, or put together this newsletter. Maybe the days of the handshake agreement are over, but I for one sure appreciate those who pitch in and help.

## Mosquito Board News

Debbie Minor

I'm Back! Sorry I missed writing last month. I had many more things going on than I had time to do all of them. I will attempt to catch all of you up on what has happened over the last two months.

We have started a new year and have some new Board Members that I would like to tell you about. I would like to personally welcome our new members and thank them for taking the time to volunteer for the fire department and community.

Representing the community at large are Rosemary Callahan, Tim Fitchner and Debbie Minor; for the Support Group we have Nancy Miller and Mary Joseph and for the Fire Fighters we have Stacy Stefan and Jean Pearson. I have been elected the President for another term and Tim has been elected our new Vice President for the year. We are still looking for a Fire Fighter to replace Jean, as she would like to take some time off from the board. If there are any fire fighters that are interested please contact me at 621-3533.

We have also had our first meeting of the Finnon Advisory Committee. This committee has been activated because we have acquired a grant from the Forest Service for a Master Recreational Plan to be done for the Finnon Lake Facility. Over the next few months there will be some Town Hall meetings on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> (see article and calender).

Boy not much else is going on at this time that I am aware of. I would like to let everyone know that we have changed our board meeting date and time to the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

## It's Winter!

Norm Benes

I'm sure you've all noticed how often the heater turns on, or how quickly the stove wood burns away. Then there's that white stuff (frost) on rooftops, decks, grass, and the one way bridge.

The tail-end of December was somewhat mild; the high temperatures averaged in the low sixties (63.1) the last dozen days. And, the low temperatures averaged in the mid-sixties (66.3) for the same period.

The new year ushered in a quintet of days that clustered around seventy degrees for high readings. But, after that it was all down hill. Cold, polar air kept the average high temperature for the next twenty days about a dozen degrees colder at 50.5. All the while, morning low temperatures skidded colder. The last days of December averaged 36 degrees and the first 20 days of January averaged 33.

Several days, just before deadline, the low

temperatures dropped to the low and mid-twenties. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, with a 22 on my minimum thermometer, I checked temperatures at ten in the morning over western Canada. Dawson, in the Yukon, reported a minus 6 degrees, calm wind, and a partly sunny sky. And, Old Crow, 75 miles north of the Arctic Circle, reported nine degrees below zero. While the weather was generally fair over the Yukon, barometric pressure was relatively low.

Mostly high pressure over northern California led to fog in the Sacramento Valley, but mostly sunny skies here. A few days before Christmas a weak system dropped nearly a third of an inch of rain in my gauge. That brought the first half of the 2000-2001 rainy season total to 12.67 inches. Contrast that total with the January 2000 total of 14.04 inches (it rained 12 days in a row!). But, the weather was relatively benign until the start of the second week of January,

Polar air plunged rapidly south with minor ripples in the wind flow dropping scant moisture as they moved inland over northern California. One developed into a strong low pressure area along the central California coast, then charged inland over southern California, nearly swamping the south state. Pictures of the satellite and radar visuals were impressive; especially when presented on one page (similar to having a second screen on a home computer). The extremely white cloud cover of the satellite picture, plus the radar display below it on the same fax page provided a vivid and expressive view of the weather system.

The radar view had cloud tops to 23 thousand feet (high for winter thunderstorms) merging with the very bright white cloud display on the satellite picture. As the system moved over the L.A. area, Avalon on Catalina Island, had its automatic weather station reporting heavy rain, very poor visibility, and a cool 46 degrees at four in the afternoon on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Earlier in that week, Beaumont reported a mixture of rain and snow with a visibility of just one mile and an out-of-character temperature of 34 degrees at 8:00 a.m. January 11<sup>th</sup>.

That very cold air had been sitting over much of California thereafter. Around here, morning low temperatures had varied throughout the twenties until the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> when a relatively warm 37 degrees was measured. For those with freeze sensitive items out-of-doors, the warmth must have been most welcome. A cloud blanket overhead is great.

With the cloudiness comes the promise of rain. Clouds, while necessary, may not be sufficient to produce rainfall. We'll see what the Inauguration Weekend brings to our area: a mixture of rain, sleet, snow was indicated for the Washington, D. C. area.

Remember, in just a few days it will be

Groundhog Day with the annual glimpse into nature's choice of future weather, Spring, or more Winter.

## Good Winter Recipe

Evelyn Potter

Very thick, very easy AND a "can opener" cook's dream!

### TACO SOUP

- 1 lb. ground sirloin
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 package Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix

#### The following undrained:

- 1 small can pinto beans
- 1 small can Hot Chili beans
- 1 small can Mexican stewed tomatoes
- 1 small can regular stewed tomatoes
- 1 small can RoTel tomatoes (with green chilies)
- 1 small can whole kernel corn (drain this can)

Brown meat and onion. Drain off grease. Add the two mixes. Add rest of the ingredients. Simmer, low heat, about one hour, stirring frequently.

## In memory of Cleo

Iris Saxon

The little white goat who lived with Honey Bunch the donkey on the corner of Stope and Highgrade went to the big goat heaven in the sky on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Cleo, was a good little goat who lived for many years.

## Community Forums

The newly formed MVFD Recreation Master Plan Committee met on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Erin Perry of the High Sierra Resource Development Council and consultants Dick Milbrodt and Brad Kortick and the committee members set up the dates for two Community Forums to be held Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Mosquito Fire Station.

These professional consultants will help the community to develop a recreation plan which will include both short and long term goals and they will aid in obtaining funding to develop these plans. The grant for this process was obtained from the U.S. Forest Service.

It is important that ALL property owners provide their input. You will be notified by a letter and by

phone calls. PLEASE COME AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

## NASA Internet Site

Byron Moser

Here is a neat Internet site link that Wayne Allison passed on to me. It is a view of the Earth taken from orbiting shuttles. It obviously wasn't done in one pass, but NASA has put together what the earth looks like at night before everyone turns off the lights. Really interesting. If you thought there were still a lot of uninhabited places in the US, think again.

Here is what Wayne had to say about it:

"It's truly AWESOME! Show your family members, especially the school age children. Shuttle's view of Earth This is really cool . . . It was taken from the Shuttle. Notice how the big cities are concentrated light, and places such as the Outback in Australia are very dark. Hawaii sure looks all alone in the world. And the black water is spooky. Be sure to scroll up and down and back and forth to see everything. A friend who works at NASA sent it to me, thought you might enjoy it...sure puts a different perspective on things!! It really doesn't take too long to load --it's worth it!!!

Go to the following web site but be sure to type or copy and paste it correctly

[http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earth\\_hlights\\_dmsp\\_big.jpg](http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earth_hlights_dmsp_big.jpg)

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$9.00 per year. Mail check to 2300 Mosquito Cut-Off Rd, Placerville, CA, 95667. 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*. The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

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## 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.

## FOUND

Large, cream-colored cat with sad eyes and squeaky meow. Very friendly, appears well-fed, but with matted fur. This cat is at my house at the top of Pineneedle Lane every evening, and I can't have it bothering my cats, even though it's very sweet. If this is your cat, or you know whose it is, please call me at 622-7019. Thanks.

## FREE

Well used Queen mattress - good for when you don't want company to stay more than a night! 642-8801

Maytag Washing Machine, at least 10 years old but works perfectly. Please call Candy: 530-344-0897 or 650-591-1236.

Moving boxes Call 295-5578

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Square dancing lessons for new dancers, every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the IOOF Hall in downtown Placerville, 469 Main Street, upstairs dance floor. For further information call Loren at 626-1231.

## SERVICES

LOCAL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER: \$99 per Year - Lowest Price Around; No Set-up Fees (\$35 Savings); No Monitoring / No Limitation; No Hidden Fees - Just Good Service ;Free e-Mail / Free WEB Site; Call TODAY (530) 295-8590 HiTech Networks, 681 Main Street, Suite 204-A, Placerville, CA 95667 Visit our WEB site <http://www.hitechnetworks.net>, e-mail : [info@hitechnetworks.net](mailto:info@hitechnetworks.net)

CREATIVE MEMORIES supplies, classes and workshops are still available here in Mosquito. Call Diana Adams at 642-9441 to schedule a class and earn free products!

CHIMNEY SWEEP for hire, 27 years experience. Wood stoves - pellet stoves - fireplaces - dryer vents - gutters. Repairs - installations - problem solving. Richard Smith 622.2990.

VICK'S PLUMBING: Call Victor Garcia at 530-626-6493.

AD CLEANING: Always Dependable, Residential and Commercial Cleaning; Free estimates, Reasonable rates; Bonded, California Lic. #025055. Call Edna Cerini 530-344-9432.

CAN'T GET OUT? Mobile beauty services provided for men and women. Specializing in hair cuts, pedicures and perms in your home. 626-0307

IS MOSQUITO ROAD ROUGH ON YOUR VEHICLE? Give "Hippie" a call at *Mosquito Auto*, specialist in transmissions, brakes, tune-ups. 642-2867.

WOOD SPLITTING: Winter's coming. \$20. per hour. Call 626-8856

IF YOU ARE GOING ON VACATION we can do pet and garden care. Call the Pearson's at 621-1653.

I CAN RUN YOUR ERRANDS, do shopping or even help with cooking meals. Call Jean Pearson at 621-1653.

**ARTIST:** All subjects (portraits, landscapes, animals) all media (watercolor, oil, pencil, pen and ink, etc.) Makes great birthday or anniversary gifts. Call Ann, 622-6447.

**DON'S CRITTER CARE:** Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. Also, I do mail box installation and repair. Reasonable rates. References. Call 622-7622.

**NEED SOMEONE** to take care of your yard, plants, animals when you are away? Or do you need a baby sitter? Then I'm your answer! Responsible, reliable and caring at a low cost. Call Whitney at 295-9190.

**FOR HIRE - DUMP TRUCK.** Edd Darr 622-8648.

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

**HOUSE CLEANING** Reference available. Free estimates. Lisa Harvey, 626-1524.

**DENTISTRY:** Dr. Robert Catron, a Mosquito resident, has 10 years of experience in General Dentistry and Orthodontics. Consistent with the past, Dr. Catron donates 5 % of his earnings from Mosquito residents to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department. For a no charge consultation, please call and schedule an appointment at 676-7777.

**HORSESHOEING:** Hot, cold or therapeutic: Call David Greenlee at 647-9100.

**COMFORT CONTROL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING:** Sales - service - installation. Free estimates on replacement. 10% senior discount. 530/642-0987 or 1-800-770-7747.

**GOODTYMZ ENTERTAINMENT:** Offering the newest and best music for dancing and for karaoke singing. Private parties, corporate parties and clubs. Reasonable rates and service with a smile. Call John or Lee-Ann Becton at 642-1444 or e-mail at g00dtyzmz@pacbell.net.

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

**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 295-8112 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.

**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.

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

## FOR SALE

**DAVENPORT** - good condition, colors are tan, cream and brown with oak wood trim. \$75.00. Call 622-9492.

**OAK STUDENT DESK** with Hutch -bought at Naturwood \$350- informal oak rectangular DINING SET w 4 oak chairs asking \$350 626-5699

**TOYOTA TERCELL** white with front end damage-'95 4door auto/ac \$700 obo call 626-5699

**2 SMALL ANIMAL CAGES** good for Guinea Pigs - \$10 each. 642-8801

**BABY STUFF** for Grandma's house? PORTA-CRIB, 2 BOUNCY SEATS, DIAPER GENIE, Infant CAR SEAT with Stroller, Jogger STROLLER, Toddler CAR SEAT. 642-8801

Ornate, dark wood **dining room table, chairs and buffet** for sale \$400.00 642-8801

**'91 Jeep Camanche**, new clutch, 4 wheel drive, runs great - with camper shell \$3,500. 626-0979.

**1985 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS**, 4 door sedan; A/C; power steering, windows and door locks; cruise control; AM/FM/Cassette; Premium wheels. \$2,500. Call 622-9492 or 295-8140.

**BRAND NEW GAS DRYER** \$100. Call 344-0422

**TERRY TRAVEL TRAILER;** 1964, 12' very good condition. \$700. Call Bob 622-5702.

**FIRE WOOD** Edd Darr 622-8648.

**LAWN MOWER** high wheel, 5 HP runs great, has broken bolt for blade. \$20.00 622-1336

**PRICE REDUCED!** Frontier 1980 heavy wood stove, 29 inches high, 26 1/2 by 21 inches square, cast iron. \$200. 622-9492 or 295-8140.

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



**FEBRUARY 2001**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	2 	3 SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 10:00 AM
4	5	6	7	8 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM	9	10 SCPOA BOARD MEETING 9:00 AM
11	12 	13	14 	15	16	17 SCPOA ANNUAL MEETING 10:00 AM
18	19 	20	21	22 	23	24 COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING 10:00 AM
25	26	27	28	<b>ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE MOSQUITO FIRE STATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.</b>		



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