

# MOSQUITO BYTE

Published monthly  
by the Mosquito  
Volunteer  
Fire Department



JANUARY 2002

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THIS ISSUE! RENEW TODAY!  
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MOSQUITO BYTE  
2300 MOSQUITO CUT-OFF RD  
PLACERVILLE CA 95667-9081

## A GREAT COMMUNITY !

Thank you to all the members of our community who helped make this holiday season such a wonderful one - to those who contributed to the Christmas Basket fund and to the many folks who worked on the Holiday party at the Fire Station. It was a great event! We wish you a new year filled with peace and love.

## 2001 IN REVIEW

Chief Leo Chaloux

By the time you get this issue of the *Byte* the New Year will be here. Hard to believe this past year has gone by so quickly. Comes back to what you always hear when you are a kid but never believe, "time goes by faster as you get older." And then there is also the common thing to say, "where did the time go?" No answer to that except it did it -- one day at a time.

The past year has been somewhat of a busy one, but not as busy as some we have had. Again this past summer had the potential of being a very busy and devastating one for not only our community but for all of El Dorado County. And again we were fortunate, there were no large wild land fires and what few we did have we were able to get onto real quick and get out before they had an opportunity to take off. We did have one engine and three fire fighters out fighting fire on mutual aid requests to Nevada, Calaveras County, Placer County and Butte County. Each year we seem to be called out more and more and seem to be going further and further. The State is utilizing mutual aid for strike team assignments more now then in the past and I am sure they will use it more in the future. The good things that come out of going on these strike teams is the fire fighters get some terrific experience and the fire department even gets paid for it.

Last year also proved that the majority of what we do is respond to request for medical help. Seems that now as with the majority of fire departments in the country we go to medical calls, in fact about 70% of what we do is medical. Last year we were dispatched to 44 medical calls. The majority of those came out good, with people coming home and returning to what is normal. However, last year also saw some who did not come home and they shall be missed.

As usual we had several vehicle accidents. Almost all are on bad weather days, with people going way to fast for the conditions and the result being someone getting hurt. Fortunately, and I do not really understand why no one was killed in a vehicle accident. With the way people are driving on Mosquito Road we should be going out more often and having more deadly results. Guess as a community we have been lucky. Last year the department responded to 16 vehicle accidents. Now, these are only the ones we were dispatched to as I know there were many more we were not called out on. That is evident when you drive to town and see all the new scars put into the road bank and into trees.

Another thing we do is in the category of Public Assist. These are calls for help that do not go through the 911 system. These calls can be anything from the old cat up in a tree to someone locked in a bathroom. We even had one where there was a dead skunk under the house, and another one was a hunter who forgot where he parked his car out in the forest - we did find it. Most are quite fun and are a treat as it gives us an opportunity to help someone out who is really not in serious trouble. We really get a lot of these types of calls when there is a good snowstorm. Any amount of snow seems to make people do weird things. First off they just have to go to town. Most of the time it is for no reason but they feel they have to go and when they do that is when things get interesting. Last year we did 32 public assist calls. That is really not as many as usual, but then we did not have a significantly bad winter.

We did respond to three structure fires last year with one of them resulting in about

a 40% loss of the house. Gratefully no one was injured and at the time of the year it occurred there was no serious threat to the wildland. The others we were able to jump on real quick and get them out before they did anything serious.

One series of incidents we had last year was an unusual number of search and rescues. These are the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office but they always use the fire station as a command post and use our people, especially the Support Group, to assist in the search. Last year we did four search and rescues. One lasted one day, a couple lasted several days and one lasted a whole week. Unfortunately, on that one the person was never found.

From a wildland fire standpoint we lucked out. In a normal summer we will average about ten wildland fires. Last summer we only had to respond to two within our own district and one in the National Forest. With a quick response and the volunteers' skill they were put out before they did very much. However, all three had great potential and we were fortunate to have the volunteers available at the times they occurred to put them out.

On the very first day of last year we responded to a helicopter crash. Again, no one was hurt but the result was the helicopter was completely destroyed after it caught fire. Fortunately, it crashed near a house and not into it. We were also dispatched to an aircraft down in the National Forest around Slab Creek. Again, the pilot and passenger were able to walk away from the crash and were picked up by U.S. Forest Service people.

Some of the other things we did last year was one control burn that got out of control, five illegal campfires at Rock Creek, one power lines down with a fire, one welfare check (checking someone at home from a request from a far away family member) and then there were several times we just checked on people because we thought it was a good thing to do.

All in all last year was a good one. Hopefully this year will have us responding to fewer calls, as each time our pagers go off and we pull out the doors it is usually to solve a problem where someone is either hurt or about to become that way.

So for 2002, be careful, help your neighbor and above all take care of yourself.



## OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Mary Joseph

Ring in the New Year and I'm sure ready! December was a blast and it will be nice to take a winter breather. If you didn't make the holiday party at the firehouse, you missed a great potluck and a chance to talk to the people you only wave at on Mosquito Road. There were so many good things to eat that it's difficult to take portions small enough so you can taste everything. I think next year I'm going to bring a serving platter for a plate. Santa, Mrs. Claus and one of the elves took some time out of their busy schedules to stop by before the feast. Some of the little ones were a bit apprehensive but most got over it once they realized Santa was as friendly as could be. The raffle was quite the cornucopia. Dinners, overnight trips, lift tickets, adventures – the list went on and on. With so many prizes your odds were good and some players scored on more than one prize. After dinner the attendees were entertained with several Christmas carols sung by some of the local children. I'd like to give a special thanks to those who helped make the event a real success... Santa and Mrs. Claus, the folks who showed up for all or part of the day to help set up, decorate and make the firehouse festive and those who stayed late to get the firehouse back in order. Rick Dieglemeier painted the great fireplace backdrop for Santa's corner.

The community once again came together to help us bring a bit more cheer for some of our neighbors. It's a real treat to be able to deliver an unexpected package to someone and be able to think that you may have helped someone have a merrier Christmas than was originally planned.

IN MEMORY OF  
CEIL BENES

The MOSQUITO BYTE is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$10.00 per year. Mail check to 2300 Mosquito Cut-Off Rd, Placerville, CA, 95667-9081. 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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relfe@starband.net

FAX 530-622-6436

## 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.

### LOST

BORDER COLLIE, Black and white male. No tail. Call 622-7622.

### HELP WANTED

CAREGIVERS NEEDED - Local home care agency has immediate openings for Homemakers, CNAs and HHAs at every level of experience. Various schedules available. Call (530) 622-9020.

### FREE

FIREWOOD: FREE Madrone and pine. Some down and some standing. You cut and haul. Call Neil Matheny at 295-5578.

### WANTED

A SHORT TERM RENTAL in the Swansboro/Mosquito area for about 6 months for young family with two children until they are ready to build. Call Sally 295.4641.

STURDY FILE CABINET--legal size four-drawer. I also need a VERY SMALL TRAILER or wagon to tow behind my all-terrain motorized wheelchair to haul compost, leaf-mulch, firewood, etc. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

BABYSITTER, for two children ages 4 and 1. A few hours a week, maximum 5 hours, Call 626-3397.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP** Mosquito/Swansboro area residents and visitors can now attend Christian fellowship, Bible studies for all ages, and participate in ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of this area without driving off the hill. The Sunday Bible study begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Celebration service at 11a.m. MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP is a non-denominational congregation of Christ's church. The Celebration service features contemporary music, prayer, testimony and the Word of God. All events are held at 3342 Stope Drive in Swansboro. For more information about MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP call 621-4282 and visit our Web site at <<http://www.cmna.net/mfom>>

## SERVICES

**MASSAGE:** Therapeutic Massage\* and Infant Massage. Communication Classes offered in Mosquito! Call Samantha Ford, 344-1744 for appointment. \* male clients by referral only.

**CREATIVE MEMORIES--**Holiday gift ideas! Come check out our nifty circle cutters, oval cutters and wavy cutters, including new circular blades for easy decorative cuts. I also carry a wide variety of colorful stickers, including a large selection at 50% off! Many other great gifts for those who wish to safely preserve their photo memories in fun and easy ways! Call Diana Adams at 642-9441.

**TRACTOR SERVICES:** Bush hog, loader, box scraper and snow removal. \$55.00 per hour. Call 642-0338

**WEB DESIGN:** Need a website? I offer cutting edge graphic design, logos and brochures. [www.instep-in.com](http://www.instep-in.com). Call Seth Ford at 344-1744.

Fax, Copies and Photo Reproduction services available right here in Mosquito! I'll make regular copies or color copies for you at reasonable prices. Color or old Black & White photos reproduced from originals, wallet size to 8 by 10; enlargements & reductions. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

**CUSTOM PET PORTRAITURE** by nationally renown artist Tamara Burnett. Have your pet forever immortalized in a fine watercolor portrait by Tamara. She is very well known for her highly detailed, realistic, jewel-like watercolor renditions of animals as well as for her



uncanny ability to capture her subject's essence through the expression in their eyes. Please visit her web site or call for more information. web site: [www.innercite.com/~burnett/Burnett](http://www.innercite.com/~burnett/Burnett) Phone: 626-1884 (days), 626-3686 (eves)

**KELLY'S HOUSE CLEANING:** For all of your house cleaning needs. Affordable and trustworthy with previous experience. Will have your house sparkling after every cleaning! Weekly, bi-weekly or one time clean. Will also do windows, yard work etc. Anything you need - I'll do! Call for a free estimate today! I have lived on the hill my whole life! References available. Kelly Stults at 621-4168.

**CUSTOM BUILT COMPUTERS...In SWANSBORO!! YES,** We come direct to your home, 7 Days a week, at YOUR convenience! Call Jeff at: 642-9386 or 9388. email: [llranch@hitechnetworks.net](mailto:llranch@hitechnetworks.net)

**REAL ESTATE SALES ~ personal & professional service!** Call agent, Sally Long Johns (530) 295-4641 for all your real estate needs. I won't leave you hanging!

**Local HANDYMAN FOR RENT.** 30+ years as a carpenter. Also does odd jobs, painting, brush removal, etc. Call and leave a message for Doug @621-3533

**PILOTS - ARE YOU CURRENT & PROFICIENT?** Flight Reviews and Instrument Proficiency Checks. Also ask me about the FAA Wings Program. Ratings include CFI Single & Multi-Engine Land and Instrument. Bill George 530-642-8063.

**2 SCOUT HOUSE/PET SITTER -** We will care for your plants, house and animals (all types!) when you can't! Leave Clinton or Coleman a message at 642-8801. P.S. We are trying to earn money to go to camp for us and other Scouts too - there is a scholarship fund that needs money so we are trying to earn some.

**HORSE AND PET CARE TLC** Pet sitting, Western Pleasure Show Training; Horse Training, the gentle way; Horse hauling with care. 20 plus years experience. 530-642-9386.

**SWANSBORO LAND & HOMES:** Specializing in Mosquito/Swansboro real estate. Debbie and Rusty Harris have 32 years experience "on the hill." 530-622-6822

**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 WEB site <http://www.hitechnetworks.net>, e-mail : [info@hitechnetworks.net](mailto:info@hitechnetworks.net)

**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.

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

**WOOD SPLITTING:**\$20. per hour. Call 622-8711

**DON'S CRITTER CARE:** Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. 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.

**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.

**GOODYMZ 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 [g00dtyzm@pacbell.net](mailto:g00dtyzm@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.

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

## FOR SALE

**Portable bandsaw**, Milwaukee, heavy duty. Cuts stock to 3 3/8". Like new in box. \$75.00. **A/C pump for Toyota**, new, never used, \$50.00. **A/C arc welder**, Marquette, all copper wires, 225 amp, 220 V. \$50. **Hydraulic press plates**, steel, w/ notch. 1x4x10" \$1.50 ea. (Have a bunch) **Lockers**, 1 unit 6 1/2' tall, 9 1/2' long, 1' deep. Openings are: 36 ea. @12x12x12" and 6 ea. @ 12x36x12" - all with lockable doors. \$30.00. **Sump pump**, 110v, w/float switch, never used, \$40.00 642-1240 or 622-6337

Full size truck CAMPER SHELL. The camper shell is in good condition, needs some dusting. \$75, OBO. FULL SIZE TRUCK TOOL BOX. In good shape, just a bit rusty. \$50 OBO. Call Dominique at 344-1744.

Assorted sizes of FRENCH WOOD WINDOWS, ELECTRIC STOVE and MICROWAVE OVEN. Make offer. 546-4961.

QUEEN ANNE CHAIR w/ottoman, blue color fabric, Good Condition, \$75. 642-9961

LAZY-BOY swivel rocker Rose color fabric, 642-9961

LARGE CHEST FREEZER: Excellent condition. Used one season. \$150.00 Call 642-0631.

SEARS CRAFTSMAN LAWN TRACTOR 12.5 hp. 42" cut. Needs battery and connections \$100, OBO. Call 622-7472.

TWO GIRL'S BICYCLES, Good condition. \$45 each. Call 622-0524.

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

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

## Crafters, First Meeting:

Date: Friday January 18th 2002

Time: 9:30 - 11:30am

Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

For more information, please call Sharon Hern at 626-5268

## EARLY WHITE CHRISTMAS

Norm Benes

On the mornings of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December a half inch of snow produced a white snowscape around our house, and just a bit lower toward Dyer Lake. Vehicles passing by showed a good bit more, undoubtedly from elevations higher than my approximately 2700 feet. Earlier in the month, there was three-quarters of an inch on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There's more: snow grains were observed on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Snow grains appear much the same as puffed rice, considerably harder though from the quite cold air.

But, how cold was it in November, now that all the numbers are available? The average low for all thirty days...38.3° and the average high...53.4°. The high temperatures averaged about 3.5° but the lows averaged about one degree warmer. Rainfall for the month, at 6.75" averaged about an inch and a half more over a short-term, nine year normal of 5.17".



So far, December is attempting a fill-up of reservoirs and augmenting an early season impressive snow-pack. Through the one and only Christmas Eve, my rainfall catch was almost ten inches. Decembers (all 31 days) have been as high as 20.31".and as low as 1.59". In the temperature readings over about the past decade, lows have averaged 34.2° and highs were only 52.9°. Rainfall averaged only 6.63". Yes, we are above the short-term normal.

What did Santa have in his pack for us? Nearly a decade of Januarys show an average high of 53.1°. Lows average out to 34.7° and rainfall is nearly 12". About the only recent "dry" January was 1993 with 3.70".

This is certainly the season to believe; especially in the goodness, care and concern that we share with and for all. Past issues of the Byte have promoted community for us "on-the-hill" - all of us. The past few weeks have underscored the care and concern that exists in this community. Those of you who have helped, in whatever fashion, cannot be thanked sufficiently. Names of those who have aided me are not needed: You were there to help, and that you did.

I'm sure us all revered this Christmas by giving those we cherish the best and warmest affection. To all, God Bless and Happy New Year.

**JANUARY 2002**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE MOSQUITO FIRE STATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED		1 	2	3 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	4	5 SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 10:00 AM
6	7	8	9	10 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	11	12 SCPOA BOARD MEETING
13	14	15	16	17	18 CRAFT MEETING SEE PAGE 5	19
20	21 	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Your subscription expires with this issue! RENEW TODAY!!**



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