



# Mosquito Byte

August 2002

VOLUME 16 #1

## ANOTHER YEAR !

It doesn't seem possible, but this issue starts the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the publication of the *Mosquito Byte*. The editors would like to know what **you** would like to see in the *Byte*. Is there anyone that would like to write a column about gardening? Weather? Or anything else? Let us know. Call Pat at 622-6436 or Lela at 626-8265 – or you can e-mail us – see the ad page for our e-mail addresses.

## WHAT A TRIP !

Chief Leo Chaloux

Last August the voters within the Mosquito Fire Protection District voted for and overwhelming passed an increase in parcel fees collected by the District. The Board of Directors felt it was necessary to start replacing one of the oldest pieces of equipment the District owned. That unit was Squad 75, our first out unit for all medical and vehicle accidents. It never could respond as first out on any fire as its size, small pump and water tank made it not the proper equipment to fight a structure, wildland or vehicle fire. The Board asked me to start looking into replacing the Squad with a used piece of equipment that would be our first out on all incidents.

Finding one piece of equipment to do all that is needed is a difficult task, especially if you are looking for a used one as it was already built for someone else and their needs. I determined that what we needed up here was an engine/pumper that had enough power to quickly go up the hills. It needed a retarder to safely get down the same hills it had to get up. An automatic transmission for driver safety and ease of training should also be considered. Then it had to make it to that incident where someone would be having a heart attack at four in the morning with two feet of snow on the ground, that would require an all wheel drive unit. With those desires it made it almost impossible to find a used engine that filled the specifications. I did find one that was close but it would not fit into the doors of the fire station being 4-wheel drive it was too tall.

After looking for a used engine for three months I came across a fire apparatus manufacturer in Louisiana called Ferrara. They could put together an engine pumper with all that we needed for \$138,000 a good price considering the 1990 used engine I

found that would not fit was \$99,000. This was a brand new 2002 Freightliner with all we needed, not a real fancy, lots of chrome, whistles and buzzers type but an engine/pumper that could get to that heart attack in the snow as well as fight a structure, wildland, vehicle fire and still do all the many things expected of the first out unit.

The Board of Directors after looking at the engine specifications, the manufacturer, the price and the financing made the decision to purchase this new Ferrara engine/pumper.

I was given the opportunity to fly back to Holden, Louisiana to inspect, accept and then drive this new engine back to Mosquito. What was a terrific opportunity was the Board allowed me to take my wife with me. To do this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. To drive a fire engine across the country would be something I will never forget. Bringing my wife was pretty good to, all she had to do was come up with the money to buy her own plane ticket and she managed to do just that by picking up aluminum beer cans on Mosquito and Rock Creek Roads.

We left Sacramento, transferred planes in Denver and then landed in New Orleans with large clouds, lightning and rain. I had almost forgotten what humidity felt like; it was so bad I thought I was back in Southeast Asia. That night George Goolsby the salesman from Ferrara took us to a place called Pat O'Brien's on Bourbon Street. I had a couple of drinks called Hurricanes that had a definite impact on me. On our way out this guy came up to me and bet me \$10 he could tell me where I got my shoes. With a couple of Hurricanes in me that sounded like a reasonable bet I could win so I told him he was on. He smiled, looked me in the eyes and said, "you got your shoes on your feet." Now I admit I am just an ole country boy and he did know where I got my shoes so I asked Chris to pay him while he and I busted up laughing. Chris is so easy she paid him but I have been paying for it since.

The next day we went to the factory to get the new engine. It was all shiny, clean and ready to go. After going through all the paper work, a tour of the factory and meeting the owner of the company I was given the keys to take it for a ride. It worked great except the driveline retarder was coming on, doing a fantastic job but not turning off. Seems the computer for the ABS braking system was not talking to the retarder. So I would not accept the engine nor would

I release the funds for it until it was perfect. It took them two days to get all the computers on the beast to talk to each other but once they did it worked fantastic. So off we went, leaving Louisiana on Saturday heading towards Texas.

Before we left I had to give Chris some rules. They were she had to pick out the route (asking her to be the navigator is scary as she gets lost going to the bathroom in a restaurant), she had to pick out the hotels, and when she had to go to the bathroom she had to tell me before she started crossing her legs and crying. After two hours into the trip I looked at her sitting in the engine and asked who she was, we had not been together alone on a long trip in over 12 years. Being with her alone was kind of scary but I figured she was pretty good at picking up beer cans so I could boot her out and she could gather enough for a bus ticket back to California.

The engine did great. I kept it off the Interstate for the first two days so the motor and transmission would get a work out. If this thing was going to break I wanted it to do it on the trip out and not on a fire. I was surprised how comfortable it was, it actually rides better than my wife's Jeep Cherokee. It averaged 10 miles a gallon fully loaded with Louisiana water. Has all the power it needs and all the brakes in the world. I quickly fell in love with this thing, what a great machine and it will be one that will do a great job for the next 20 years.

The trip back was a good one, Chris did great as we only got lost once and it wasn't really her fault as the roads were under construction in Austin. She is so cheap she found the best hotels for the price and her main criteria quickly became finding one where we could park the engine so no one could hurt it and we could watch it. She became so possessive I thought she would sleep in the cab doing the junkyard watchdog thing. She even picked out restaurants based on the size of their parking lots. One interesting thing that happened was many of the hotels would give us large discounts. They would ask me if I was a fire fighter and then would take \$20 to \$30 off the price of the room. In Lee Vining we got a room that was normally \$80 for \$48 and the lady thanked me for being a fire fighter, it was a great feeling, one I shall always appreciate.

The final test for the engine was I drove up Monitor pass. I wanted to see how it would do going up that pass and it did it in 3rd gear. More importantly I wanted to test out the driveline retarder. I was able to go all the way down without ever using the brakes, the retarder held the engine all the way down and I am convinced that was the best money spent.

All in all the trip was fantastic and I want to thank the community for their financial support making it possible to buy this unit, and the Board of Directors for given me and my wife the opportunity for this experience. This new engine is at the fire station and will be placed into service by the end of July. Please come see it and you may be able to con Devery or

me into giving you a ride.

*Ed Note: What a great article - thanks to Chief Chaloux for writing it. The community is thankful and pleased that the Chief and Chris picked up the new engine so it could be given the once over before the funds were released and also could be given a good road test on the way home - plus it saved big delivery charges!!!*

## Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty,  
Wherever flames may rage,  
Give me the strength to save a life  
Whatever be its age.  
Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late,  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert  
And hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling and  
To give the best in me,  
to guard my every neighbor and  
Protect his property.  
And if according to God's will  
I must answer death's call,  
bless with your protecting hand,  
my family one and all.

© Perfect Pleasures

## MVFD REPORT

Debbie Minor

Hello everyone! How are you all faring in this wonderful summer weather we are having? We must be extra careful this time of year and stay observant during this hot dry summer.

Speaking of heat and summer, it is time for our annual Fireman's Picnic. It will be held on July 27th. We hope that you all will attend. It should prove to be another successful event complete with good food and a large amount of socializing. If you would like to help with this event please contact Mary Joseph or Ron Stone as they are the chairpersons for this event.

Finnon is continuing on in a gradual but steady way with the remodel project. Mary Joseph is our Project Manager for this and if you would like to help in anyway with this task please give her a call. Also I would like to add that the Volunteer Board has acquired a grant through the Sacramento Regional Foundation. This grant is a community based wildfire prevention grant to help teach the community as well as others who may visit our area how to maintain their parcel in a fire safe way. We are in the beginning stages of planning for this grant and as information and development occurs I will post information within the *Byte*.

Remember Stay Fire Safe!

## CRAFT REPORT

Sharon Hern

Our next Craft Sale will be at the Fireman's Picnic on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and look at all of the talents that we have in our community.

We need to have as many crafts to sell as possible. We are busy doing "summer event" crafts at our meetings, but do hope that you will help us out by not only coming to our craft meetings but work on crafts at home. We will arrange to pick up your items or have them dropped off at the Firehouse. All of our proceeds go to our Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, so please help support your fire community.

Future Craft Sales:

July 27<sup>th</sup> - Mosquito Fireman's Picnic

September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Diamond Springs Labor Day

Bazaar

November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - First Baptist Church on Cold Springs Road

We need volunteers for these sales. If you would be able to help us out on any of these dates please call Sharon Hern at 626-5268.

Meetings:

Future meetings are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at Darlene Rood's home

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am

Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

Dates: July 26, August 23, Change of date to September 13, October 25 and November 22

We hope to see you at our next craft meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Come and meet your neighbors, share ideas and help make our community even better. If you have any questions or need further information, please call Sharon Hern at 626-5268.

## GEORGETOWN DIVIDE AUXILIARY

It is not too early to start planning for our community participation in the annual Georgetown Divide Health Care Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar on December 7. We will be collecting "useable" white elephants and baked goods.

White elephants are those items that you no longer need or want that are not broken. No furniture or clothing please and only small appliances that work. Books, games with all of the pieces and toys that are not broken are needed.

The proceeds from this event are distributed to the 3 Fire Districts in the Divide area. Our Volunteer Fire Department uses this donation towards medical equipment or medical supplies. So once again please support your Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department.

We will begin to collect the White Elephant items in mid October, so give us a call then for pick up. If you have any questions please call Sharon Hern at 626-5268.

## SCPOA BOARD

Bill George, Director

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Long Range Planning:** George Kellison & Pete Stressenger

Pete presented a revised overview of our reserve fund. This was prepared with the help of Barb Mikel. Thank you Barb.

**Bylaws & DC&Rs:** Bill George & Jim Irving

Four new complaints have been received. These will be addressed as soon as possible.

**Common Areas/Fences:** George Kellison & Kim Purcell

The common area fences as well as fences along Mosquito & Rock Creek Road were discussed. Much of the fence line is in disrepair. Your Board has been replacing the existing wood fence with white plastic fence. This fence is more expensive initially, but will be practically maintenance free. Since the DC&Rs specify the fences, we must maintain them until the membership chooses to modify the DC&Rs.

As was mentioned in my last report, we have begun chemically treating Trout Lake. If you have a chance, drive by to see the improvement.

We are acquiring signs for the common areas to list rules of use as well as El Dorado County leash laws.

**Nominating:** Kim Purcell & Bill George

No report at this time, but it is never too early to think about serving **YOUR** community by becoming a Board Member.

**Roads:** George Kellison & Pete Stressenger

Major roadwork has been completed for this year. Gold Court, Dyer Road & Dyer Court intersection, Maidu Road, Highgrade Road, Claim Street & Swansboro Road intersection and Stope & Dogwood Lane intersection. Patching will continue as the need arises.

Missing road signs have been ordered, and brushing roadsides will begin shortly.

**Runway:** Jack Kirk, Kim Purcell & Rob Kirkpatrick

The cost of the vandalism damage to the runway lighting system has been received. Schedule for the repairs will be determined by the progress of tree & brush removal along the runway object free area.

**Old Business:**

Another discussion was held on acquiring a tractor for our maintenance man to allow him to do more work more efficiently. A tractor of the proper size will allow him to make many of the road repairs that we now have to contract out at additional cost.

It has been suggested that we establish a database of any and all expertise that our members possess and would be willing to volunteer for the good of our community. So please contact me at 642-8063 or [bgeorge@innercite.com](mailto:bgeorge@innercite.com) if you wish to participate.

Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, August 10, 2002 at 09:00 AM.

Please plan to attend, this is your organization, and the members of the Board welcome your input.

## Summer Treat

Evelyn Potter

Do you like cold soups? This is certainly the time for them. Our first try at cold soups was this one. We really enjoyed it. It is most flavorful if made the day before it is to be served. Use the amounts in parentheses for a smaller amount of soup. This makes about 6 quarts (3 qts.)

### GAZPACHO

- 1 46 oz can tomato or V-8 juice (3 cups)
- 1 16 oz can chicken broth (1 cup)
- 2 T salsa (1 T)
- 2 T olive oil (1 T)
- 3 T lemon juice (2 T)
- ½ t crushed basil leaves (¼ t)
- ¼ t cumin (⅛ t)
- 1 t sugar (½ t)
- 1 each red pepper, yellow pepper and green bell pepper (½ each)
- 2 medium cucumbers (1)
- 5 or 6 celery stalks (3 to 4)
- 1 sweet onion or 2 bunches green onions including greens (½ sweet or 1 bunch green)
- 2 c fresh tomatoes, preferably cherry or grape (same amount)
- 4 to 5 avocados (2 to 3)

Combine first eight ingredients in a gallon jar. Chop vegetables and add to juice mixtures. Refrigerate. Serve cold with crackers, chips or French bread.

Try adding copped cilantro, a dash of Tabasco and a splash of Balsamic vinegar.

## BITS AND PIECES

*The following information was obtained from an article in the June 30, 2002 Sacramento Bee sent to us by Linda Gieseler-Smith. It is a tribute to Norm Benes who recently passed away and was the Byte weather reporter.*

"Norm Benes was a meteorologist with experience and credentials that reached from Sacramento to Antarctica. He carefully read *The Bee's* weather reports and often spotted problems among thousand of details. Mistakes irritated him, he expected better, and he let *The Bee* know it." The article went on to say that Norm made *The Bee* a better paper by suggesting improvements and that his contributions were appreciated.

## MOSQUITO BRIDGE MADE THE NEWS IN 1878!

*Bev Cola contributed this article to the Tailings. It appeared in the Mountain Democrat on August 17, 1878.*

### Board of Auditors

Board met Monday 5<sup>th</sup> inst., and continued in session until Thursday evening. The following business was transacted.

In the matter of the complaint by Miller, Chris, Finnon, and other citizens of the county that the wire suspension bridge crossing the South Fork of the American River on the road leading from Placerville to Mosquito, is in dangerous condition. The Board will notify the road Overseers respective for road Districts Nos. 3 and 4 to examine carefully the condition of the said bridge and report to this Board at its next meeting.

## AN E-MAIL LETTER

Please print the following or remind dog owners to keep their dogs quiet. Debra Lewis

As I start to enjoy another quiet and peaceful night, it happens again. Dogs barking. Some nights the barking continues so long that I have to close the windows and turn back on the air conditioner to be able to sleep. This barking is coming from more than one dog in the area of Lawyer and Indian Way. Are the neighbors of the people who let these dogs bark afraid to tell them? Surely they must hear it also, along with the owners. If need be, I will drive around until I find the dogs to report the owners. It is now 11:00 pm and the barking continues. Let me know if you don't want to talk to the owners or file a complaint. Tell me where the dogs live. I'll be happy to do it for you.

## GOPHER HUMOR

Byron Moser

In case you haven't noticed, the gophers are running hot and strong. And again, this year, the season's daily bag limit and season total have yet to be defined. As in the past, the heat of summer hits us, the grasses turn dry and brown, and it's "here come the critters" as they begin their yearly migration to the green, green grasses of home. That's specifically is your prize plants and veggie garden.

Ready on the left? Ready on the right? Ready on the trapping line? Get your traps out boys and girls and ready the BBQ. I hear they taste just like chicken! Better than chicken! Chickens eat bugs and uglis. Gophers eat plants. They're vegetarians! They stay out of the sun thus preventing wrinkles and dry skin. They work out. This burns fat and they remain a lean mean digging/eating machine. Running about a 1 ½ lb. on the hoof, you could have enough for a family of four in a week if you have a good hole. I have one in my vegetable garden that has produced four in 5 days. It's the I-5 of the underground. That's the kind of hole you want, and when you catch one, don't cover the hole. Leave it open so that when Ready Eddy the gopher comes zipping by, Eddy will stop to plug the whole. Remember? They like to stay out of the light and sun. You did put a trap back in that open hole?

You might think that the gopher trapping requires great skills such as when turkey hunting or

successful fishing but the first skill to learn is HST (How to Set the Trap). I went thru two hardware stores, 7 folks in sales and a retired passerby. Heck, I even had this one sales manager in a store, pull the box of traps from the shelf for return shipment as "defective". I studied the directions in the last store for 20 minutes and came to the conclusion that they must have been written by some limited English-speaking emigrant with a lisp and at least two other handicaps. Eventually I figured out that the wire goes under the frame and not over like in the victor mousetraps. The end of that set wire that is wound around the frame has a little end sticking out and it is this end of the wire that holds the trap down in the set position. The other end of the set wire then goes under the trap and up into the hole in the trip flap. Some gophers have graduated from GES. That's Gopher Escape School. They will set off your trap and fill the hole with dirt. So to be able to find your trap attach a piece of wire or light chain.

(To be continued next month)

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$11.00 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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## 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

TWO GIRL'S BICYCLES, Good condition. Call 622-0524.

### CLASSES

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Sign up for all 5 classes for just: \$250.\* Sign up for

individual classes: \$55.\* \*materials included except for Cold & Flu class. Call to sign up: Samantha Ford, CMT 344-1744

### HELP WANTED

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### NEEDED

PAINTER: for interior work in my home. Neat and clean, reasonable rates: Call 546-4961.

### 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>>

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

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# El Dorado County Environmental Management Department

Is proud to sponsor the following event:

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMER CLEANING EVENT

### BRING ITEMS ON

SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2002  
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

TO THE

**MOSQUITO FIRE HOUSE**  
8801 ROCK CREEK ROAD  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

### ITEMS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED:

MOTOR OIL/OIL FILTERS	PAINT THINNERS
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	POOL CHEMICALS
SOLVENTS/ REMOVERS	ADHESIVES/SEALANT
PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES	BATTERIES
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VAPOR & SODIUM LAMPS	FLUORECENT LIGHT TUBES
MERCURY THERMOSTATS/THERMOMETERS/SWITCHES	

MOST PRODUCTS LABELED "CAUTION", "DANGER", OR "POISON"

### ITEMS THAT WILL "NOT" BE ACCEPTED:

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, INFECTIOUS MEDICAL WASTE, EXPLOSIVES,  
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~ BUSINESS WASTES ~

Please limit materials to 5 gallons or 50 pounds; however, you may transport up to 20 gallons of used oil or latex paint with no single container larger than 5 gallons. Please use original or disposable containers.

For Additional Information Please Call (530) 621-5300  
Or Visit Our Web Site At  
[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd)

## ON THE SAME DAY

The Swansboro Pilots Association will provide a dumpster at the Mosquito Fire Station for household waste **Please** no furniture, large appliances or yard waste and of course the hazardous waste will be taken care of by the county. Now is the time to do some cleaning of closets and the garage !

# AUGUST 2002

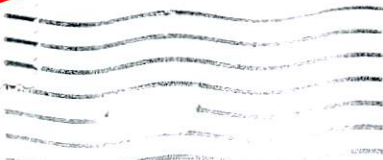
All Meetings are at the Mosquito Fire Station unless otherwise noted.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	2	3 SUPPORT GROUP 10:00 am
4	5	6	7	8 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	9	10 SCPOA BOARD MEETING
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 CRAFT MEETING SEE Page 3	24 CLEAN-UP DAY !!
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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MOSQUITO BYLE  
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