



Mosquito Byte

February 2003

VOLUME 16 #7

DON'T

FORGET!

We do need help in getting names, addresses and phone numbers of ALL the new people in the Mosquito Community for the Mosquito Phone Book. The deadline to be added – or subtracted – is March 15. Call Pat at 622-6436 or Lela at 626-8265. Thanks!

“AN

EXPERIENCE”

Chief Leo Chaloux

A couple of Saturdays ago my wife and I went to the Bay Area, Redwood City in fact, to see my brother. Now, I haven't been down there in a few years so going down I thought would be kind of a nice experience. Well after the trip I will just call it an experience.

First off going anywhere that requires crossing the Sacramento Valley this time of the year is just not any fun. If you go real early to miss the traffic you will get bogged down in the fog and possibly become one of a three hundred-car pile up. If you leave too late you will most likely fight traffic from Cameron Park to the ocean. One thing to understand is that my definition of traffic is counting over 40 cars on Mosquito Road when going to town.

Well we decided to leave at a normal time and get some breakfast in Placerville. This is where it started, right at the restaurant. Seems we had to wait for a while as everyone was heading to the snow and Tahoe. While standing in line waiting to be seated an interesting remark came from a lady who was complaining about the traffic and the stupid traffic lights in Placerville. My wife stopped me but I sure wanted to tell this lady she was part of the stinking traffic.

After breakfast we managed to get on the road at around 9:30. There was still traffic on Highway 50 starting at around Bass Lake Road and it just didn't get any better. There was fog and some major slow downs going into Sacramento. It astonishes me how you can

be cruising the freeway at 70 miles per hour with some jerk right on your butt, flashing his lights, flipping you off and then within a micro second you are hitting the brakes skidding to a stop with the jerk behind you still flashing his lights. Then off you go, picking up speed, going to 70 and then right back to nothing. Just like one big slinky, everyone moves down the freeway stopping and going in a gigantic hurry to get nowhere (it is Saturday morning).

From the Yolo Causeway to Vallejo I was doing a good consistent 75 miles per hour on a road that has a 65 miles per hour speed limit. All around me people are passing me up, on both sides of me no matter what lane I was in. All along there was this jerk right on my butt flashing his lights and flipping me off. The real terrifying thing was going across that bridge leaving Vallejo, I know the name of it but I don't know how to spell it. Anyway, they are building a new bridge there and repairing the old one at the same time. The old bridge has holes in it that are full of tires and other car parts and you just can't miss them. I will never gripe about the potholes on Mosquito Road again. What really terrified me about this bridge crossing was everyone is passing me up, talking on cell phones, drinking coffee and their kids are looking at me like I am an idiot for doing the speed limit. While doing this they are dodging each other, the construction barriers and the potholes. I thought Mosquito Road gave me the experience to dodge fast moving objects but I have nothing on them. And during this time there was this jerk on my butt flashing his headlights and flipping me off.

Going through Berkeley and getting lined up in the right lane for the Bay Bridge was also interesting. One thing for sure is if you are not aggressive you will just simply be caught in the wrong lanes and vanish in a free way system and after a couple of years your picture will appear on milk containers. The Bay Bridge shocked me; the toll almost forced me into Chapter 11. That is a lot of money to pay for something that is so old. They should have paid that thing off 20 years ago, but then the Governor does have a slight budget problem.

Going into San Francisco is still a joke, getting dialed in for the correct lane is a major process, as I

wanted the Bay Shore Freeway. Lanes to the left go to the north, lanes to the right go straight, lanes straight go no where and I am just trying to figure out what lane I am in. And during this time there is this jerk on my butt flashing his headlights and flipping me off.

Finally I pulled off the Bay Shore to go where I needed to go and as I came up to the El Camino Real this jerk that had been on my butt flashing his headlights and flipping me off pulled up right beside me. My wife would not roll the window down as I had a few things to say. I needed to get even and I had a few words that would do just that. Even though she would not roll down the window the jerk was still able to see me flipping him off. She just could not understand why I was so upset. She told me it was a real enjoyable ride down. Yeah, she fell asleep around Cambridge Road and had just wakened up. Now, here I am in the bay area screaming and yelling, using finger jesters, and driving out of control. Things got better from that point on, after all now I was just kind of fitting in. However, I did not have a cup of coffee in my hand and a cell phone stuck to the side of my head.

The only good thing to come out of my trip to the Bay Area is it sure makes me appreciate Mosquito Road.

MOSQUITO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council was held at the Fire Station on January 5th. There were 26 in attendance.

Battalion Chief Devery Minor spoke of the need of a Fire Safe Council. He began by saying "I'm deathly afraid of summertime." Then he presented a vivid professional and personal recollection of the Chili Bar Fire of September 1979, recalling that until that time there had been no major fire in the Mosquito area in the memory of anyone he knew. The fire began from a campfire started at the bottom of the big pipe, near the South Fork of the American River, south of Rock Creek Road. The fire began to spread rapidly about 2 PM on the 17th, and burned everything to the south of the river, to the top of Union Ridge, including what is now the Quartz Hill Vineyard, some 800 acres. A CDF burnout operation made the situation worse when their command did not account for the steepness of the canyon above and below the Mosquito Road Bridge,

and thus misjudged the time it would take to perform the burnout operation. By the time the firing was done, the morning wind shift had occurred and instead of meeting the main fire and depriving it of fuel, the two fires burned together and moved up-canyon and up-hill. By day 3 the fire approached the Mosquito Fire Station, and Leo Chaloux lit a grass fire with a fuse to save the station. The main fire jumped across the airstrip and burned on up to the Eldorado National Forest, when the U.S. Forest Service attacked it, and brought it under control. In total the Chili Bar Fire burned some 8,000 acres - nearly the same area as, but not congruous with - the Mosquito Fire District. Two dozer operators were seriously burned, and four houses were destroyed.

To put the Chili Bar Fire into perspective for today, there were 100 houses in Mosquito and 20 people in the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department then. There are about 500 houses and 25 MVFD people now. The fire burned pretty much everything in the District south, west, and north of the landing strip, while leaving the forest to the east, which is why we still have the high forest there. This remaining high forest has some of the highest fuel loading that forest fire professionals have seen, and even the area that burned in 1979 has very high volumes of fuels, with very flashy fuels to carry fire. This is why we need a Fire Safe Council and action to reduce fuels in the entire Mosquito area.

Walter Graves, Mosquito Fire Safe Council President.

The Chief's article in the June *Byte* piqued his interest in fuels management specifically, and when he read the second article (July) he called to offer his services. Walter called upon the Pilots' Club to meet and share/generate ideas. The conclusion of the group was that Mosquito residents should become more aware of the danger that the hazardous fire situation presents to their lives, homes, and lands. They contributed funds for, produced, and mailed a packet to all homeowners. Walter Graves also got in touch with the El Dorado Fire Safe Council, which had been organized 14 years previous. This was the first contact from a non-MVFD member of the Mosquito community to that Council, and Walter Graves became our representative to it along with Chief Chaloux. Walter, the Chief, and others have formed the Mosquito Fire Safe Council (MFSC.), which called the meeting to seek further community support. Walter added that *access to homes by fire equipment* is an issue as big as the fuels loading issue, and reminded those present that the MVFD will take them for a ride to their own property in a fire engine to see if there would be any

problem in getting to their homes from the public road. Just ask for a check of your accessibility to fire equipment.

We have an opportunity, through the MFSC, to receive a U.S. Forest Service grant of up to \$200,000 to manage our fuels problem. He emphasized that *landowners will retain control of what is done on their lands* under the program. He then introduced Leonard (Len) Newell, who has 35 years of experience in forest management, with prominent assignments in fuels management, and who moved to Mosquito in April of 2002. Len had prepared a draft of the grant application

Len Newell, Council Secretary gave a review of the Draft Grant Application. He stated that his career in fuels management in California dates to 1977, when he was given responsibility by the U.S. Forest Service to lead a multi-agency project in San Diego County to reduce fuels strategically in a 200 square mile area. He said that the Laguna Fire of 1970, which burned 180,000 acres in 5 days, caused several deaths, damaged much property, and burned the asphalt off of some highways that it leapt, spurred the project.

We have been lucky so far, but the fuels continue to accumulate, and it is up to us to help ourselves out of this danger. Community Protection Grants were authorized and funded under the National Fire Plan in 2002, and are expected to be funded this year. This Council has been formed under the leadership of Chief Chaloux and the Council plans to take advantage of the grant opportunity.

Len expressed a bias toward use of prescribed fire for managing fuels, for several reasons: (1) low-intensity fire is the natural way that fuels were reduced before people arrived and began suppressing all fires; (2) it works with nature and allows for regeneration of California's native forest species, so that the forest stays healthy and diverse, (3) properly planned and conducted prescribed burning is the least expensive way to reduce fuels over a large area, and (4) we have some very experienced fire-use practitioners in El Dorado County and nearby, who can help us as consultants to plan and execute projects. Controlling ground fuels and ladder fuels are the two keys to successful fuels management, and even when these are controlled to defensible space standards around one's own home, it can still ignite if neighbors and the members of the wider community have not done their part. In a general conflagration (large-scale, high-intensity, wind-driven fire covering many square miles in a few hours) flying embers can lodge in flammable parts of the house (under and on decks, against siding, on roofs etc.) and cause the house to burn. These

ember-caused fires often happen *after* the main fire front has passed, when people have let their guard down, or are not around to watch closely for problems.

Len reported that forester friends of his have asked him "Aren't you afraid, living in that Mosquito area fuel bed?" He admitted that he is, and that fear is one of the reasons he wants to help the Fire Safe Council meet its goals. "We had one of the driest periods on record this year. 1000 hour fuels (big logs to most of us) were at their lowest moisture levels ever recorded. The only thing that saved us this year is that we had no wind events, and almost no lightening" in this part of the Sierra.

He cautioned that our approach to fuels reduction must be respectful of the forest, which provides the beauty that we like about Mosquito, and that the burned area of the 1979 fire was converted from high forest to mixed oak and pine in a brush and grass matrix that persists today. The MFSC wants ideas and thoughts about the Draft Grant Application. He led the meeting through its various strategies and projects, asking for comments.

Questions and answers

Question: What happened to the CDF inspections?

Devery Minor: Two reasons: CDF is short of money and staff and fire seasons have come early the last two years.

Question: Could we take some of this on?

Devery: Yes, though we'd have to get authority from CDF first; we want to get these inspections done; the two biggest problem categories of property are (1) the *undeveloped* properties, and (2) properties owned by elderly and/or disabled people, who cannot work on their lands nor afford to hire the work done. He added that many people have good defensible space, but their driveways are too narrow for equipment access. Devery described the fuels management demonstration project at Finnon Lake, which is owned by the MVFD. That project, funded from a grant obtained last year from the Bureau of Land Management, will demonstrate, on two-acre parcels, various methods of fuels management. Landowners in the community will be able by this spring to see what the various methods look like, how much they cost, and what production rates are. Then people can choose a method that suits them.

Question: Does the MVFD still have the map and database of homeowners created several years ago?

Devery: the map is still being used. Not sure where the database is residing.

Question: Can we *compel* people to reduce their fuel loading?

Len: We have no authority to do that:

Others: education is the key to get these people acting responsibly, not coercion.

Question: Will the Council submit a monthly article to the *Byte* about this program?

Walter: Yes. We will have a meeting each month, and the meeting minutes will go to the *Byte*.

Question: What is the ongoing commitment from the MVFD, after the initial 18 months of the new \$200,000 Grant is past?

Devery: MVFD will continue with \$18,000 per year of in-kind (not cash) support for the project, and we will seek further grants to augment this contribution.

Walter: Our Association fees in the Swansboro Subdivision provide for \$8,000-\$9,000 per year for clearing along roads.

Suggestions: (1) The Council should provide a list of people to contact, who will cut trees and handle the tops; brush etc.; Council Officers agreed. (2) Provide guides for how much fuel to remove: Agreed. The Demonstration project at Finnon Lake will help with this.

MVFD REPORT

Debbie Minor

The Volunteer Board wishes the community a Happy fire safe New Year!

We are having a very dry start to our 2003-year. The weather has been wonderful, making one think of spring.

Not a whole lot has been going on except the usual stuff. We are still working on getting the restaurant up and running. The Finnon Dam repair is on hold until we get all the necessary permits that will allow us to begin work. We are awaiting a planning and environmental review from the Sierra Forest Communities Institute for our Fire Demonstration area, which will be located on the Finnon Lake property.

Our Secretary Lois Pearson has been ill the last few weeks and is now on the mend. We sure do miss her at our meetings. Get well soon!

Chris Dillender has resigned from the Volunteer Board. We will miss his input. Thanks for the time you have given us Chris!

THANKS

A big hearty thank you to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, especially Leo, Ron, Rosemary and Iris for my "care package" groceries and an

outstanding turkey supper! Also, thanks to all my neighbors and friends for their ongoing support in a different area. And – your awesome work is going to be missed Paul Hinds!

Critter Don Reid

DEAR

SWANSBORO

MEMBERS

AND

DEER

As most of you, we love animals too and dearly love the wild animals that wander through and live in this area. However, some of you seem not to be aware that the Animal Control Leash Laws also apply to our area and many animals, (dogs especially) run loose constantly. Please comply with the leash laws so as not to alienate you neighbors. Too, do you know there is a rather stiff penalty if your dog is caught chasing deer?

Please be considerate neighbors and help to make this a friendlier area. Thanks,

A Swansboro Member of many years.

YUMMY CAKE!

Evelyn Potter

This wonderful cake was served at a birthday party and all the ladies requested the recipe. It's a little involved but well worth the effort. Heath candy bars are hard to find but Rite-Aid finally got some in.

TIRAMISU TOFFEE TORTE

1 box (18 ¼ oz) white cake mix

1 c strong brewed coffee, room temperature

4 egg whites

4 Heath candy bars (1.4 oz each) chopped

Frosting

4 oz cream cheese, softened

⅔ c sugar

2 c whipping cream

⅓ c chocolate syrup

¼ c plus 6 tbs. strong brewed coffee, room temperature, **divided**

2 tsp vanilla extract

1 Heath candy bar (1.4 oz each) chopped

Line two greased 8" round baking pans with waxed paper and grease the paper. In a mixing bowl, beat the cake mix, coffee and egg whites on low speed until moistened. Beat on high for two minutes. Fold in chopped candy bars. Pour into prepared pans. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes and turn onto wire racks. When cool, split each cake into two horizontal layers.

For frosting, in a chilled mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add the whipping cream, chocolate syrup and ¼ c of coffee and the vanilla. Beat on high speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes.

Place one cake layer on a serving plate, drizzle with 2 tbs of coffee. Spread with ¾ c frosting. Place second layer on top and repeat and again the third layer. Top with remaining layer and frost top and sides with remaining frosting. Refrigerate overnight. Garnish with last chopped candy bar. Store in refrigerator. Serves 12-14.

HINT: To cut layers into horizontal layers, have a piece of thread at least 3" longer than the cake is wide. Using a sawing motion, cut cake with the thread.

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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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

Wilson Multi-Station Home Gym - 642-0338

WANTED

Old single shotgun, any gauge, any condition, CHEAP. 622-7622

HELP WANTED

TO ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING JOBS: **Wood Workers:** pay by the piece. 1. Building manzanita bird gyms, tabletop and floor models. 2. Cutting & nailing melamine bases using a table saw & air tools. **Laborers** \$7.00 per hour. 1. Cutting manzanita, sand blating manzanita. 2. General shop clean up. **Assemblers** 1. Production of perches, swings, toys. Pay by the hour or by the piece. WE need to produce 300-3000 perches per month. Some piece rate jobs can be done at your home or shop. Call Manzanita Creationz 626-9066.

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.

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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CHILD CARE: In my Swansboro home. I can watch infants/children. Please call Connie at 344-9394 or e-mail connietinker@hotmail.com

SWANSBORO LAND HOMES- located next to the Mosquito Fire Station, specializing in Mosquito/Swansboro real estate. Debbie and Rusty Harris have 34 years experience "on the hill." Call 530-622-6822.

AVON INDEPENDENT SALES and Leadership Representative would like to fill your shopping needs. To buy - or if you would like to sell Avon products - give me a call. 957-8518.

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

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

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Special homes needed for **16 WEEK OLD KITTENS**. They are part Siamese and were born wild but have become very social and people oriented. They have started their shots and need good indoor homes. Please call Kim at 621-1049 if you are interested.

LOOKING FOR NEW HOMES - 3 American Miniature horses (13-year-old blue roan mare, 2-year-old blue roan pinto colt, and 19-year-old b&w pinto "pet" stallion), a pair of year-old female pygmy goats, and a 3-year-old short-haired tortoiseshell cat. They need more love and attention than I can provide, so I am looking for suitable buyers/homes for them. Please contact Elisabeth at 626-7088 for more information or to schedule an appointment to meet one or all of them. Feel free to tell friends, family, business associates...!

Fleetwood Jamboree Searcher **motorhome** 1993 22 ft. 20,000 miles, 460 Ford engine in extra good condition. \$22,500. 642-9961.

WHIRLPOOL APPLIANCES: Self cleaning 30 inch STOVE w/drawer; over stove MICROWAVE with exhaust fan; DISHWASHER with pots and pans cycle. All white. \$95. Each or all 3 for \$275. 626.9384

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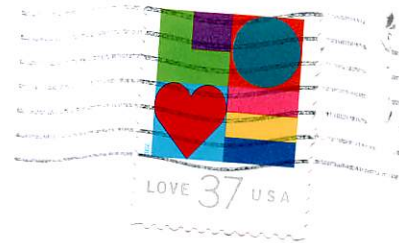
FEBRUARY 2003

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 SUPPORT GROUP 10:00 am
2	3	4	5	6 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	7	8 SCPOA ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 am
9	10	11	12  LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	14 	15
16	17 PRESIDENTS DAY	18	19	20	21	22  WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28 CRAFT MEETING 9:00 AM 2211 Swansboro Road	



Mosquito Byte
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Placerville CA 95667-9081



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