

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
APRIL 2004 VOLUME 17 #3



BE ON THE LOOKOUT !

Someone tried to steal a 4X4 Quad Runner on Pineneedle Lane. In the process of doing so the practicing thief damaged the ignition system and other components. Be on the look out for anyone that may be attempting to either steal or destroy quad runners, motorcycles and other equipment.

FIRE SAFETY AND OTHER THINGS

Chief Leo Chaloux

I want to thank all of you who contacted Supervisor Charlie Paine regarding the ad valorem tax money we receive. He did respond back to several people with a phone call and assured them that he entirely supported the fire districts not losing any money. Hope the other Supervisors feel the same way.

Here we are ending up the month of March and now that spring is officially here we can start gearing up for summer and the wildland fire season. Over the next couple of months the fire department along with the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection are planning to inspect all the homes in the District. This is something the CDF is suppose to do every spring but has not been able to dot for the past several years due to funding. Well this year the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is funding a CDF position so that the 30-foot clearance inspections around homes can be made. They will be concentrating on doing inspections in the Mosquito, Garden Valley and Georgetown Fire Districts.

During this time I plan to have members of the Mosquito Fire Protection District Support Group help the CDF. Our goal is to inspect each home not only for the required 30 feet of clearance but also for other important fire safe requirements. Our emphasis will be clearances around propane tanks, the removal of brush for driveway widths, address numbers at the start of driveways and filling out of a Wildfire Risk and Hazard Severity Assessment Form. The purpose of this Form is to come up with a uniform and objective method of determining the risk a home faces in the event there is a wild land fire in the area. With this information it becomes easier to determine fire equipment resource needs, personnel resources, evacuation requirements, and other logistical needs.

The Fire District was able to acquire a Federal grant to be utilized for reducing fuels in the Mosquito District. With that grant we were able to develop a Strategic Fire Safe Plan that identified the high risk and hazards of our District. From the Strategic Plan we are now in the process of developing an Implantation Plan that will determine community communication methods, evacuation routes, and establishes the means and ways of reducing fuels.

The following quote from the Strategic Fire Safe Plan prepared by P. A. Smith Concepts and Designs, Inc. and Davey Resource Group is one of the reasons why we are inspecting homes, and working towards reducing fuels. "Mosquito, like the western Sierra Nevada in general, experiences months when temperatures can exceed 90 degrees with little rain throughout the summer and early fall. During this period, the dry grass and dense brush may be easily ignited and may support rapid-fire growth, especially where the terrain is steep. Historical experience indicates that there are 15 to 20 ignitions in the area each year. Ignitions have typically arisen from cigarettes, machinery use, camping, and other human activities. Because most ignitions are caused by human errors, they are most likely to occur in close proximity to population and structures. In the last few years, the number of ignitions averaged about 5. This dramatic reduction in ignition frequency is most likely an anomaly and is not predicted to be a sustainable change resulting from behavioral changes. The threat of accidental ignition and swift fire spread is illustrated by the ignition on September 15, 2003 that was allegedly caused by a mower. Although firefighters successfully defended threatened homes with no injuries, over 40 acres of brush burned rapidly even after reinforcements arrived. The community was very fortunate that this ignition did not grow into a major fire." The Strategic Fire Safe Plan is available at the fire station and I encourage everyone to come down and read it. After all your Federal Tax dollars have paid for it

and it does point out the reality of our situation up here. It is the blue print to what needs to be done and besides it isn't bad reading.

It is time as a community that we become aware of the fire danger we live with and we start putting more effort and money into preventing fires instead of suppressing them.

Next month is the time to start getting your home ready for the fire season. Cutting grass, trimming trees, cleaning gutters, and in general looking to providing as much defensible space around your house as possible. The County Fire Council still has the chipper program available so please take advantage of it, request forms are available at the fire station or give us a call and we can mail one to you. If you have any questions or need some advice please do not hesitate to call Devery, or me, as we will be glad to come up to your house and give you some advise

FIRE SAFE OPERATIONS ONE MONTH AWAY!

Len Newell, Chairman, Mosquito Fire Safe Council

The warm, dry weather for the past two weeks looks like we'll have a rare very early fire season. I for one am hoping we'll still get more rain and cool weather before it begins in earnest. Read on to see why.

With the awarding of the Implementation Planning (ImPlan) Contract on March 9 to EIP Associates of Sacramento, the goal of beginning fuel hazard reduction operations before fire season was nearly in sight. EIP has agreed to meet our deadline of April 19 to have the final report to us. We plan to begin work on priority road segments within days of then. We want to start with the roads because they are the only way that we could escape a large fire moving fast upon us, and right now they are too dangerous to use! To meet our goal we need help from two quarters: the weather and landowners (us.) Since we can't do anything about the former, we landowners are our own best hope.

Specifically, if you live along any of the main evacuation routes (Log Cabin Lane, Stope Drive, Lupin Lane, Maidu Drive,) we're asking permission from you and your neighbors to conduct roadside fuels reduction, which may include a strip within your property boundary. **Please notify any MFSC Board Member by April 10 if you are willing to work with our operations contractor in this way.** Ask your neighbors to cooperate. We are trying to achieve an attractive "shaded fuel break" along our

roads, meaning taller trees, with branches trimmed to 8-10 feet above the ground, no ladder fuels below them, and a low volume of brush. If you are concerned about losing vegetative screening, brush can be thinned without completely removing it. You of course have the right to retain any tree or shrub that you desire within the corridor, so long as the roadside itself is within fire safe standards.

Please plan to attend the MFSC monthly meeting on March 28, at the fire station from 2-4 PM. We'll discuss more about planning and operations, and we want to have more people sign up to work with our four committees: operations; emergency communications/EWS; community information and involvement; and evacuation route safety. We also want your ideas on the best way to contract for work on properties rated "high" priority for crown thinning and/or other fuel reduction work. Let any Board Member know if you have a topic to add.

Don't be left behind, in a dense thicket of unmanaged forest and brush, when a wildfire heads toward your property. Get out in front of the situation with fire safe practices now!

Mosquito Fire Safe Council Board of Directors:

Gene Bowen (liaison to SCPOA Board,) 622-4656

Leo Chaloux, Treasurer, 626-9017

Lynda Lima, Secretary, 622-5541

Neil Matheny (liaison to MVFD Board,) 295-5578

Len Newell, Chairman, 344-1592

Regular Meetings are the 4th Sunday of the Month:

April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28 ,(none in December)

MEDICAL AIR EVACUATION

Something we all hope we never need but if we do it's nice to know it is available, but could cost thousands of dollars.

As many if not most of you know, Swansboro Country Airport has been used on numerous occasions for life saving medical evacuation by helicopter. While we have our own wonderful Volunteer Fire Department (and aren't we fortunate that Chief Chaloux requires everyone to be an EMT), and ambulance service is available from town, sometimes a situation may require more immediate action.

In case you are not aware, CALSTAR (California Shock/Trauma Air Rescue) is a non-profit , on call air ambulance service. If you have insurance, you

should check to see what coverage you may have for this service. If you have none or only partial coverage, you may be interested in knowing that for \$45 per year individual or \$50 per year family you can be a CALSTAR member. As a member you will not be billed for a medically necessary life saving flight. You can call them at 888 207-5433 or visit them at www.calstar.org.

SCPOA REPORT

Kim Purcell

We had another good meeting this month and would like to thank everyone who attended.

Jonathan has been hard at work cutting and clearing brush as well as continuing work on the roads. He has been trying to improve the drainage which will help to minimize damage during the rains. Anyone who notices road damage or problems can relay them to Jonathan through the SCPOA phone number.

Our secretary Lynda reports that 60% of the members have already paid their dues for this year but we still have 85 people who have not paid the \$19.00 from the special assessment. The assessment was used to pay for the unexpected large insurance premium increase we had last year so it is important that everyone pays their portion.

Some concern was expressed by several people who saw a mobile home being brought up Stope recently and we received several calls. We appreciate the calls but in this case this mobile home was enroute to a location just outside of SCPOA and we had been aware of it. We would like to encourage contact with the board regarding any concerns such as this mobile home since we may not always be aware of them.

The budget committee will be getting together soon and it was suggested that all other committees start to put together 5 year plans. This will help the constantly changing board to be more consistent and make budget planning a bit easier for the budget committee.

We are in the process of getting pricing on more fencing, the cost of the vinyl fencing has recently increased so we are shopping around to get the best price. We will also be treating the lakes again this year to contain the growth and have received a plan from Aquatic environments

The road and airport committees will be having a meeting coming up soon so that we can start to get bids. Much of the work is similar so that we can combine research and have the same contractors

give bids and suggestions for both. Anyone wanting to participate or having a suggestions please contact our secretary at the SCPOA number and let her know.

There have been some changes to the Davis Sterling act that will affect how the board is able to make resolutions. Many had expressed concern regarding the fact that our bylaws allow for a non member to be on the board and wanted this changed through a resolution. We will be working on this and others but a new requirement now says we must contact the entire membership. To help minimize expenses we will be using the June mailing as one of the notifications so that only one extra mailing will need to occur. We will also be looking into members having the option of being notified via e-mail which will also decrease costs.

The fire safe counsel is continuing to have meetings on the 4th Sunday of each month at the Fire Station from 2-4 PM and would like to encourage everyone to attend. This group has already received one grant and is in the process of applying for another to help alleviate the fuels in our extreme fire danger areas. We need to encourage everyone to clear brush from their property. Please contact our fire chief if you have any questions and the free chipping program is still available, just pick up the forms at the fire house.

Our next SCPOA meeting will be April 10th at 10:00 am, please come and participate if you can.

The SCPOA phone number is 621-0309.

LETTER OF APOLOGY

To the Mosquito Volunteer Firefighters, Support Group and Crafters:

I would like to apologize for the mix up with the invitations to the March 6, Firefighters Awards Night Dinner. For those of you who did not receive invitations, I am truly sorry. For those of you who did, I apologize for the confusion and cancellation of the March 6 Awards Night.

Sincerely,
Belinda Brent

MVFD REPORT

Belinda Brent

Finnon Lake Campground Improvement Plan

The Volunteer Fire Department Board is in the process of completing a detailed Master Plan for Finnion Lake. The Plan will include a timetable for completion of all projects related to Finnion. We are requesting that any proposed work to the

campground, roads, day use area and lakefront be submitted to the board for approval before work is begun. This will avoid unnecessary 'do-overs' for projects completed out of sequence.

Thanks to our Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the first of this year's Finnon Work Parties on March 20th. We are off to a great start, but as always, there is still more to be done. We will be scheduling another work party for May. Hope to see you there!

Here Comes Peter Cottontail...

The annual MVFD Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 10th at Finnon Lake, weather permitting. Children who wish to participate should bring their parents to Finnon Lake by 10 am. If the traditional rain and snow should happen again, the Easter Party will move to the Fire Station.

Donations of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt can be dropped off at the Fire Station on or before Friday, April 9th.

CRAFT REPORT

Sharon Hem

With our "Spring Extravaganza" with Easter & Spring crafts behind us, our busy Firehouse Crafters are working on "Summer" crafts for the Fireman's Picnic in July.

We 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.

Meetings:

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

Next Meeting: April 23rd. Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am

Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

Dates: NOTE - May -NO MEETING, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22 and November 19.

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE HEALTH CARE AUXILIARY

Chief Chaloux just announced that the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department was given a check in the amount of \$2000.00 for our participation in the annual Georgetown Divide Health Care Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar that was held in December 2003. Thank you so much to all who donated "useable"

white elephants and baked goods for this event and a special **Thank You** to the "Firehouse Crafters" who again organized this project.

This money will be used towards medical equipment or medical supplies for our Volunteer Fire Department

SPECIAL RECIPE

Evelyn Potter

Well, here we are well into March. Where does the time go? This month's recipe was given to me by a lovely lady and my friend, Nell Dasher. I tried it, and it is sooo good. If a little more sugar and perhaps a wee bit of vanilla were added, you would have something a little more cake-like.

The texture is somewhat like cornbread, but the flavor is nothing like it. So, Nell thank you for this great and different bread. By the way, this is not Irish Soda Bread.

Irish Bread

½ cup sugar

¼ lb. butter or margarine - room temperature

2 eggs

2 ½ cups flour

2 ½ t baking powder

¼ t salt

1 cup milk

1 cup raisins, lightly floured (this keeps the raisins from lumping and falling to the bottom of the dough).

In a large bowl cream sugar and butter well. Add eggs one at a time. Beat well after each addition. Sift dry ingredients in medium bowl, Add to sugar/butter mixture alternately with milk, mixing well after each addition. Gently fold in lightly floured raisins. Lightly oil 8"x 8" pan, and pour in batter. Cook 1 hour in 350° oven. Crumbly, but delicious hot; a little firmer textured when cool, but equally delicious.

YOUR PET QUESTIONS

Pam Steinke, DVM

We saw our first rattlesnake of the season on the southern bank of Jaybird Creek. It was an exciting affair, with kids running, parents shouting and dogs being leashed. The poor little four button diamondback retreated with tail rattling and mouth open--just daring us to take another step closer. It was probably out looking for a mate and was nearly stepped on.

Snake bites can be a real problem for us and our pets, too. The smaller the pet, the more serious the condition can become. With antivenin in short supply and extremely costly, it is hard to know what

to do. I have treated animals both with and without antivenin. The one case I nearly lost was due to a reaction to the antivenin.

If your pet should get bit by a rattler and antivenin treatment is too costly or unavailable, there is still supportive care such as IV fluids and antibiotics. This treatment can keep your pet from going into shock and treat the tissue damage.

If you have any questions concerning your pets you would like answered in this column, send them to Pam Steinke, P.O. Box 1992, Placerville, CA 95667 r e-mail to drpjjs@hotmail.com

THANKS

Now belated Thanx to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department for "happy ho ho" groceries and ditto to the kindhearted persons who erected the "Thank You Veterans" sign at the Mosquito Bridge. "Critter" Don Reid

FIRE HOUSE COUNTRY KITCHEN

Ross and Mary Ann Aguilar
9100 Rock Creek Road

MONDAY 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

FRIDAY 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

SATURDAY 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

SUNDAY 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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.

Editors: Lela Edson - 530-626-8265
edson@hnet.us

FAX: 530-295-1589

Sharon Hern - 530-626-5268
7062hern@hnet.us

ADVERTISING

There is no charge for advertising in the *Mosquito Byte* for our subscribers. Deadline for advertising is the 19th of each month. Call Sharon at 626-5268 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

40" wide single bed frame, box springs & mattress. Good condition microwave oven. Call 626-9601

WANTED

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Retired Hobbyist Would be interested in finding BROKEN OR INOPERATIVE PINBALL, JUKEBOX AND/OR SLOT MACHINE to use for parts or repair. Should be reasonable to Cheap. Thanks. Larry 621-1071

DIRT WANTED!!!! Please Help! My daughter and I have been trying to put in a horse arena at our house for 3 years, with nothing but broken promises, my daughter had a riding accident recently and I am very short on money! We still need about 6 dump truck loads of dirt. Could anyone on this hill help out? God Bless and thanks!!
Days: 320-9386 / Eves: 642-9386

WORK WANTED

RETIRED ELECTRICIAN looking for electrical jobs on the hill. Please call John at 344.1912

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTANT: Firehouse Country Kitchen is looking for a part time accountant. Preferably someone with restaurant experience to help with setting up our business accounts and paying taxes. Call Mary Ann or Ross @ 621-2548 or 622-4508.

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DENTISTRY: Dr. Robert Catron, a Mosquito resident, has 13 years of experience in General Dentistry and Orthodontics. Dr. Catron donates 5% of his earnings from Mosquito residents to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department and has been one of the largest financial contributors to the department. Please mention that you are a Mosquito resident as he has a separate bookkeeping account for this donation program. For a no charge consultation please call and schedule an appointment at 676-7777.

SWANSBORO LAND AND HOMES: Specializing in Mosquito/Swansboro real estate. Debbie and Rusty Harris have 35 years experience "on the hill." Our office is located next to the fire station. 530-622-6822.

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E A S T E R E G G
H U N T

FINNON LAKE
SATURDAY, APRIL
10TH
10:00 AM





If it rains (or snows!) see you at the Fire Station!

Donations of candy accepted at the Fire Station from now until Friday, April 9th.

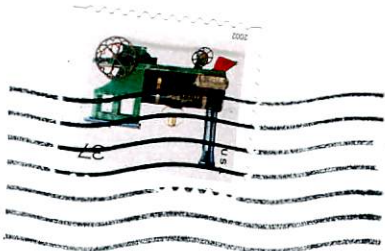


APRIL 2004 All Meetings are at the Mosquito Fire Station unless otherwise noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	2	3 SUPPORT GROUP 10:00 AM
4  Time Change	5	6	7	8 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	9	10 SCPOA BOARD MEETING 10:00 am EASTER EGG HUNT SEE PAGE 7
11 	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 MVFD BREAKFAST 8:00 - 11:00 am	19	20	21	22	23 CRAFT MEETING SEE PAGE 4	24
25 FIRE SAFE MEETING 2:00 PM	26	27	28	29	30	



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