MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNE, 2004 VOLUME 17 #10

IM COULD BE A LONG FIRE SEASON

Chief Leo Chaloux.

The fire season was officially declared on May 17th by the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection. This is about 4 weeks earlier than normal. With this declaration the CDF starts to put into service the engines at their stations in the Ranger Unit and also the placement of personnel onto them. At this time there will be at least two fire fighters and one captain on each engine. Later as the fire season progresses one and possibly two more fire fighters will be assigned to each engine.

Our CDF Ranger Unit consists of EI Dorado and Amador Counties with the headquarters being located in Camino at Mt. Danaher. Also, located at the Mt. Danaher facility is the Emergency Dispatch Center where all fires, medical aids and request for service is dispatched. Two engines are stationed there and are first out on any Wildland fires that start in the Pollock Pines, Camino, Placerville areas. Two other CDF engines and one dozer are located at the EI Dorado Y, just west of the town of EI Dorado. These engines respond to any fires in the Diamond Springs, Rescue, Shingle Springs, and south county areas. Located in Pilot Hill are two other engines that respond to Pilot Hill, Coloma, Cool, and the west county. In Garden Valley are two more engines that respond to Garden Valley, Georgetown, Mosquito and the north county. Just north of Georgetown is Growlersburg Camp, where five hand crews are stationed. They respond anywhere they are needed in the ranger unit. Coming out of Grass Valley and Columbia are the S2 aircraft that provide services anywhere in the region. Another part of this mix of CDF equipment are the local guys. There are 10 fire districts on the west slope of EI Dorado County and we all have automatic aid agreements with each other where we agree to respond as the closest resource to an incident or whenever requested.

As the fire season continues on through to the hottest and driest months the amount of equipment that is dispatched to a wild land fire increases. Dispatch has developed a system that gathers current information such as present weather conditions, weather over the next two hours, fuel moisture conditions, and resources available in the Ranger Unit and surrounding units. All this information goes into a formula that is utilized to determine how much equipment should be dispatched to a wild land fire. Currently there are three dispatch levels for a wild land fire, dispatch level high is done when there is a high probability that a fire can spread very quickly, dispatch level medium is when conditions are not as severe and dispatch level low is used when local engines along with one CDF engine are considered to be adequate to put out a fire.

One of the criteria for determining a dispatch level is fuel moisture. Fuels are classified as one hour, ten hour, one hundred hour, and thousand hour. A one hour fuel is like grass, anything that has a diameter 1/8 inch or less. This type of fuel reacts very quickly to any change in relative humidity, usually within one hour. So if the relative humidity goes up normally within one hour the fuel moisture also goes up. A ten hour fuel is defined as one that is 1/4 to 1/8 inch in diameter and the reaction time to a humidity change is 10 hours. A one hundred hour fuel, 1 inch to 1/4 inch in diameter takes about 100 hours to change while it takes a thousand hours for any fuel from 6 inches in diameter to 1 inch to react. These fuel criteria are very important when it comes to determining fire behavior because as they react to humidity their behavior also reacts accordingly. The thousand hour fuels are the most critical when it comes to determining fire behavior as they take so long to change their fuel moistures. A scary thing right now is that the 1000 hour fuels in our area have reached their lowest point since they have been taking these measurements.

Well so much for fire talk. We have been rather busy, as we have had more fires so far this year then we had in the past two years combined. One of the fires we had burned up about 5 acres. The surprising thing about this fire was that it took place the last Friday of April, at 6:00 in the evening on a west facing aspect at an elevation of 3000 feet. This fire burned at a rather good clip and even resulted in some of the 30 to 40 foot pines and firs torching. This is completely unusual behavior for this time of the year, in fact it could be expected around the end of June not in April. With the dry spring we have just had and the low fuel moistures that are already present this could end up being a real long and active fire season.

You still have some time to cut the grass around your homes and trim up the trees so that you can walk under

them. Also, make sure there are no tree limbs hanging over your roof and it is very important to clean out your gutters. Gutters full of pine needles and leaves are extremely dangerous in a wild land fire as once they start burning the flame ends up under the shingles and quickly into the attic. One other thing, a fire engine needs to get down your driveway in order to protect your house if a wild land fire is coming. Please make sure we can safely do that by having your driveway at least 15 feet wide (a gravel or paved surface 10 feet wide with brush removed 2½ feet on each side) and limbs trimmed up to at least 12 feet is adequate.

We have just completed mailing out the letters to property owners in the designated high priority areas asking for their approval for the removal of ground fuels from the sides of the main evacuation routes. I am extremely surprised and very pleased with the response. Of all those permission slips that were returned I would guess that there has been a 99% acceptance. I want to thank everyone who will be participating in this fuel reduction program. This work will make it possible for people to safely evacuate our area if a large fire was to come through and it also provides an opportunity for responding fire equipment to get into the area and safely fight fire. Again, I thank everyone for this shall be a safer community.

Be careful out there, this is going to be a long fire season with great potential for a large fire. Lets pray it does not happen.

The Safe Work Comes Home Roadside Operations by June 287

Len Newell, Chairman, MFSC

Thanks to lots of extraordinary effort and good participation, our community stands ready to start removal of hazardous fuels along our evacuation routes. We know, thanks to our Strategic Plan of November 2003, what are the important things to do and why they are important. We also know, thanks to our Implementation Plan (ImPlan) of April 2004, where, when, how, why, and with what methods and costs we will be working to reduce hazardous fuels. Although the early fire season may hamper full operations due to danger from machine-caused fires, we are proceeding to answer a final question: "Who?"

The Mosquito Fire Safe Council (MFSC) is looking for a few good contractors to remove the excessive fuels, on the schedule desired (see below.) We want safe, timely, quality, professional work at a good price, so that our community will look better as it becomes more fire safe. Getting contractors to do it that way will require further diligence within the Mosquito community. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be published on June 3, and prospective bidders will have the opportunity of a guided tour of the various road segments on June 12. The MFSC welcomes any and all comments and help in this process.

Please send comments on the RFP to any Board Member by June 1. The Draft is available from the same folks. MFSC e-mail Members also have copies.

Landowners in Mosquito have responded very well to our request for permission to work up to 50 feet inside of the main road edges, and 25 feet inside of the feeder road edges as prescribed by the Implementation Plan for fire safety. We are still hoping that more landowners will come on board while the contracting period is still open.

Meanwhile, here is what cooperating landowners should do between now and June 10 to help us be ready for the bidders to examine the contract offering:

1. Within 50 ft. of the road edge, wrap blue tape at 4-5 ft. above the ground around trees, and any shrubs or groups of shrubs, that you want to retain. If you have given permission to work but do not mark any trees, the contractor will remove/leave trees according to the ImPlan prescription.

2. Mark as closely as possible the property comers of your lot(s) with red flagging at each end.

3. Talk to your neighbors who may not have responded to the mailings, and see if they will help us improve the safety of our evacuation routes.

If you would like help with any of these tasks, please call any MFSC Board Member (See below.)

Meanwhile please stay safe with any source of fire or sparks outdoors. Things are very dry, and despite the cool air fires will spread rapidly in windy conditions and upslope. Thanks for all that you do for fire safety in this community.

MFSC Schedule of events: June

Release RFP to contractor community. – June 3 Send Prospectuses out as requested – June 5-14 Mark Roads for Parcels with "OK" to work – June 7-11 Field showing to interested bidders – June 12 Bids due at 5 PM – June 18 Select winning bidder(s) – June 22

Winning Bidder Conference(s) – June 25 MFSC Regular monthly meeting – June 27

Begin Operations in "A" Segments – June 28

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

MIVITD NEWS

Belinda Brent

New Finnon Campground Committee Chairman

The MVFD Board has elected Neil Matheny to act as the Finnon Campground Committee chairman. Neil will be responsible for getting the campground at Finnon Lake completed and operating smoothly. He has already begun to formulate a plan of attack to accomplish this. People interested in volunteering to help out on Campground projects should contact Neil @ 295-5578

Italiano Night June 12th

Italiano Night is coming early this year, on Saturday, June 12th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Lasagna and Tortellini are the entrees. Dinner will include salad and breadsticks as well. Abondanza!

MVFD General Meeting

There will be a general meeting of the MVFD held on Saturday, June 12th at 5:30pm, immediately before the Italiano Night Dinner. All members of the Mosquito community are welcome. Agenda items will include an update from the MVFD Board on finances, Finnon Lake projects and the election of Joe Lima (FF) to the Board. This is also an opportunity to the community to provide feedback to the board.

Mark Your Calendars-July 17th!

This year's picnic plans are underway and shaping up to be one of the best ever. Many thanks to LaVonne Moser for acting as Picnic Chair. The picnic will once again be held at Dyer Lake from 11:00am to 4:00pm. There will be a Barbecue, beer & wine, games, prize drawing and of course a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. The firefighters have promised to provide water fun, and if the weather is anything like last year (IOO°+) you'll want to get wet!

If you would like to volunteer to help out at the picnic, contact La Vonne @ 622-6337

FINNON CAMPGROUND

UPDATE

Neil Matheny, Chairman

With the opening of the Firehouse Country Kitchen, the MVFD, and many volunteers, increased our efforts to get the campground ready for this camping season. At the March Work Party, we cleaned up debris that had accumulated, cleaned out the restrooms, treated the picnic tables, trimmed trees and chipped them, etc. The campground also benefitted from brush removal as part of the development of the Fire Safe Demonstration Area. For information on this project, contact the Fire Station or Debbie Minor.

More recently a new sign for the facility was put up at the entrance on Rock Creek Road, we put windows in the Women's restroom and have windows ready to put in the Men's side. The weeds were mowed around the campsites and throughout much of the grounds between the camping area and the lake and we have treated the Poison Oak. Most of the fire rings' were raised by the Boy Scouts to bring them up to a height that is more fire safe. We currently have 10 full camp sites and 2 partial ones (no table) and can provide camping for all camp equipment from tent to large motorhome. Reservations and registration are being handled by Ross and Mary Ann at the restaurant. Call them at 621-2548.

We are working to finish the existing camp sites by marking their boundaries and parking spaces and putting up site numbering signs. We also hope to develop 10-12 more sites this summer. Our long term plan is to have 50 campsites available including some larger sites suitable for groups. This will take a while, and we will periodically provide updates in the *Byte*. We recently had a visit from Mr. Don Pearson, Director of Recreation for EID. He offered many suggestions for making our facility a more pleasant and profitable enterprise. This was also a return home for Don since he grew up in the Mosquito area and learned to swim at Finnon. We hope to further utilize his expertise as we begin to create more camp sites in the park.

Camping fees will be \$13 per night. There are additional fees for pets and extra vehicles. Even with this increase in fees, camping at Finnon is still about 30% cheaper than at Stumpy Meadows and Sly Park.

A new brochure for the facility should be ready about mid June. Stop by the restaurant and pick one up. Pick up several and send them to your family and friends who might like to visit.

As reported in the last *Byte*, a very successful Easter Egg Hunt was held at the campground and the Boy Scouts recently held a Webelos Woods adventure there in exchange for a lot of hard work on firepits, BBQs and restroom windows. We expect the campground to continue to benefit the community by both hosting local events and by providing a positive income for the MVFD to keep our Mosquito Fire Department one of the best in the West.

As always we owe a special THANK YOU to the many volunteers who work so hard to make the Finnon Lake facility a pleasant and successful enterprise. If you have any expertise that may benefit the park, you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact any of the MVFD Board members.

PLIEASE NOTE

There will not be a Support Group meeting on Saturday, June 5th. There will be a special Support Group meeting on Tuesday, June 8th at the Fire Station.

FIREHOUSE BREAKFAST

The Breakfast Crew would like to thank all that came out and supported the MVFD monthly Fire House Breakfast. We had a great turnout and will be doing the breakfast again on June 20th from 8:00 am to II:00 am at the Fire Station. The money that we raise from the monthly breakfast will go towards purchase of equipment for the MVFD. We would like to give special thanks for the people who volunteered their time. We hope to see all of you again; we will be serving biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage. See you there!

CRAFT REPORT

Sharon Hem

The "Crafters" took a vacation in the month of May, but were still working on items at home. We do hope that you will help us out by not only coming to our craft meetings but working on crafts at home. We will arrange to pick up your items or you may drop off at the Fire Station. All of our proceeds go to our Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, so please help support your fire community. Our next Craft Sale will be at the Fireman's Picnic on July 17th.

Meetings:

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

Next Meeting: June 25th Time: 9:30 - 11 :30 am Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

Dates: July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22 and November 19.

A REMINDER

I don't know if people in Mosquito are aware that the county will come up for free and chip, if you cut and stack brush, tree limbs, manzanita up by the road - this saves the fire dept. some of the funds received for this job and they will be able to do more areas. If you are at all capable and able, I urge you to do this forms are available at your fire dept. - please don't take the attitude, I'll just let the fire dept. do this - it is for all our benefits. Our home was built in '78 and finished just before the bad fire that raged for weeks up the canyon and toward our community and there were lots fewer homes up here then. Let's all pitch in and do our share, if we are able and save the money for the people who are not able...Manzanita is a hot burning fuel and should be removed! We were lucky last time and our homes were saved - let's make sure we are as fire safe as possible NOW!

Also, I along with many other people, pickup trash along the roads and there are numerous cigarette butts laying in the pine needles - please use your ashtrays or carry a baggie to put them in if you are walking!

Thanks. Elsie Collins

CHICKIEN NOTIES

Pam Steinke, DVM

I recently received a letter from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) informing veterinarians that they are launching a national emergency surveillance program aimed at some of the diseases found in noncommercial (backyard) poultry. The campaign, which will involve States, other Federal government agencies, and diagnostic laboratories, asks poultry owners "to report sick or suspicious birds to your veterinarian, and/or extension agent and to practice good biosecurity." The diseases they are surveying for are exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI). END is contagious and fatal for chickens, turkeys, and many species of birds, and AI also has serious consequences for poultry. These diseases cost countless bird and poultry owners their pets and, in some cases, their livelihoods.

I have some pamphlets outlining good biosecurity practices, information on the diseases END and AI and a contact list if you need to test any birds. APHIS will subsidize testing costs. If you would like to have any of this information sent to you, please contact me at the addresses below and I will send you a copy.

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 or e-mail to drpjjs@hotmail.com

PILOTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLANSHIP PROGRAM

The Swansboro Pilots Association is offering \$500 scholarships to Swansboro high school seniors. If you live in Swansboro, are a high school senior and intend to go to college next fall, you can apply for one of our scholarships.

To apply: send us a one-page double-spaced typed essay* that states: who you are, what college you plan to attend, your life plans, and why you should receive one of our scholarships. Please include your address, phone number, and email address if you have one.

Send your essay to: Pilots Association 6234 Pineneedle Lane Placerville, CA 95667 *Essays <u>must</u> be postmarked no later than June 30.

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 <u>edson@hnet.us</u> FAX: 530-295-1589

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

ADVIERMISING

There is no charge for advertising in the *Mosquito Byte* for our subscribers. Deadline for advertising is the 19^{th} 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.

NEW GROUPS

Are you interested in participating in GIRL SCOUTS in Mosquito? We are looking to start our own troop here on the hill and we'll probably start in the fall (next school year) Please call Teresa Kimm at 295-9203

PLAYGROUP at Dyer Lake. Come enjoy the beautiful weather and meet other moms with young kids. Anyone with young children is welcome. Tuesday's at 10:30 AM. for further information call Jeanine at 621-3875.

WANTED

I'm looking for other adults interested in playing basketball at Dyer Lake. Evenings or weekends. Call Solon at 621-3875

LAPTOP COMPUTER - If you recently upgraded your laptop and need a good home for your old one, our son Daniel needs one to use at boarding school. Preferably one with a CD burner. Also looking for USED DIGITAL CAMERA. Call Fred or Diana Adams at 642-9441.

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

WORK WANTED

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

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.

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AMERICAN DREAM - the ownership of a home and a little acreage to call your own! Sally Long Johns, your Resident Mosquito Road Realtor, will help you buy or sell any property in El Dorado County! Utilize your new neighborhood website <u>www.mosquitoroadneighbors.com</u> (530) 295-4641 or toll free 866-SALLYRE snlongjohns@yahoo.com 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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BABYSITTING available in my Mosquito home. Attentive to your child's needs. Available Mon-Wed evenings, to allow parents movie and dinner time. Your child will receive no junk food, will be played games with and will be read to. I'm a preteen that loves children. I will have parental support and supervision while watching your children. No sick children, please. Call Dominique @ 344-1744

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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* offered in Mosquito. Call Samantha Ford,CMT, 344-1744 for appointment. *male clients by referral only.

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS - 11 boxes dating from the 1930's to the 1990's, make offer. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

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Firehouse Country Kitchen

Ross and Mary Ann Aguilar 9100 Rock Creek Road 621-2548 Monday, Thursday & Friday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Closed Tuesday and Wednesday Saturday & Sunday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm We are now accepting Visa, Mastercard and ATM cards with the Visa logo. Until we can afford to absorb the cost we will charge \$1.00 to process these cards.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	4	5 SEE JUNE 8
6	7	8 SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 10:00 AM	9	10 MFPD BOARD MEETING 7:00PM	11	12 SCPOA BOARD MEETING 10:00 AM ITALIANO NIGHT, SEE PAGE 6 MVFD MEETING SEE PAGE 3
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 MVFD BREAKFAST 8:00 - 11:00 AM		22	23	24	25 CRAFT MEETING SEE PAGE 4	26
27 FIRE SAFE MEETING 2:00 PM	28	95	30			
	L		se Countr			

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 Buy one lunch item (over \$2.00) at regular price and receive \$2.00 off the 2nd item of equal or lesser value.

4

*Coupon is good weekdays only. Monday, Thursday and Friday, 11:00 AM to7:00 PM.

Copies of coupes are not accepted. Expires 6/28/04

Mosquito Byte 2300 Mosquito Cut-off Road Placerville CA 95667-9081



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