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MOSQUITO BYTE

DECEMBER 2004, VOLUME 18 #4

TO ALL MOSQUITO/SWANSBORO PROPERTY OWNERS:

You may not be aware that the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department publishes a monthly newsletter named *Mosquito Byte*. The Board of the MVFD decided to send every property owner a complimentary copy of the December '04 issue so that you may see for yourself how informative this newsletter is. It keeps you informed of important happenings in our community – and there is a very popular advertising section. There is no charge for advertising – you just must be a subscriber. How do you subscribe? Just fill in the form on the back page and send it to:

Mosquito Byte
8801 Rock Creek Rd
Placerville CA 95667-8358

The *Byte* is mailed first class, monthly, so that it reaches subscribers by the first of each month. As a note to our regular subscribers, because this is a complimentary issue, your subscription will be extended by one month.

MORE NEW LAWS

Chief Leo Chaloux

We are just now starting to see some of the results of the fires that burned southern California in October 2003. Besides several laws that have been generated from the California Legislature the Insurance Companies are also jumping in and developing criteria for insuring homes.

Two new laws have just recently passed the Legislature that will have impacts on those of us who live in State Responsibility Areas and areas designated by the State as "very high fire hazard severity zones." A State Responsibility Area is any area in the state where the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has the legal jurisdictional responsibility to put out all wild land fires. Our District, as is the majority of El Dorado County, is in a state responsibility area with the CDF&FP providing Wildland fire suppression services. The Mosquito Fire Protection District has the jurisdictional responsibility to provide structure fire suppression services and emergency medical services. Fortunately, there is a great relationship between our District, other fire districts and the CDF

that has resulted in mutual aid agreements that make it possible for both agencies to assist each other in fighting all fires.

Over the past 20 years there has been a large population shift of people from the cities into the country, these areas are called the Urban Interface. This term was developed by the fire service to describe that area where homes and fuel loaded vegetation are closely tied together. In the past, a fire burning in one of these Urban Interfaces did not cause the destruction and losses being experienced now. Also, the tactics for fighting those fires were not as complex or as expensive as they are now for there was no need to protect structures and do evacuations. As more people moved into the Urban Interface more homes started burning along with lives being lost and fires getting to be extremely expensive to suppress. The Federal Government looked throughout the country and started evaluating areas (zones) that had the potential for dangerous fire activity. These areas have become known as "very high fire hazard severity zones." Our District has been designated as one of these zones. With these designated zones, all the government agencies involved started looking at methods of reducing the threats to life and property as well as the cost of suppression. One method that government always seems to utilize first is that of passing laws. Sometimes these laws provide money that make real things happen, but most of the time they become an enforcement issue.

One such law that will go into effect on January 1, 2005 is Senate Bill 1369. This bill significantly enhances state law requiring property owners in high fire risk areas to clear vegetation around their homes to make them more fire safe. Specifically, the bill increases from 30 feet to 100 feet the minimum clearance requirement for flammable vegetation around structures in either "state responsibility area" or "very high fire hazard severity zones" and allows for greater clearance if required by state law, or local ordinance, rule or regulation, or if required by an insurance carrier. In addition, the bill requires property owners proposing to build a new structure or to rebuild a structure that was damaged by a fire in these areas to obtain certifications from their local building official that the plans and construction comply with all building standards, including special fire safety standards developed by the State Fire Marshal for homes in high fire risk areas, and

provide a copy of the certifications to their property insurance carrier upon request. The bill also allows the State to remove flammable vegetation if a landowner fails to do so, and to impose a lien on the property for the cost of the vegetation clearance.

A second law Assembly Bill 2420 goes into effect immediately. In summary it allows the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to exempt timber harvesting that is designed to reduce the threat of wildfires or to lessen the intensity of wildfires from the regulatory requirements that apply to commercial timber harvesting.

With the passage of these two new laws it looks as though we property owners that live in the Urban Interface will have a little more responsibility to protect our homes. The 30 feet of clearance around a house no longer works so 100 feet of clearance will become the new legal criteria. And if it is not done and the State wants to get tough about it they can have a contractor remove the vegetation and then send you the bill and if not paid just lien the property. I know I would rather do the work myself since I work cheaper than a contractor would. At least with the passage of AB 2420 we will not have to jump through as many hoops with the state to get a timber harvest plan so that crown thinning can be done.

Thought I would give you a heads up on these new laws. Also, I am sure these are not the first ones to be written and I am sure they are not the last. Because of the severe financial losses taking place by the Insurance Companies and the high suppression cost the tax payers are covering there will be more new laws to come along. I'll do my best to keep you informed.

In the meantime, hope you had a good and safe Thanksgiving and please be careful driving as Mosquito Road demands a little more respect in the winter than at any other time.

BREAKFAST CREW

The next breakfast will be December 19th from 8:00am to 11:00am. We will be serving French toast, eggs, bacon and sausage. We will also have available coffee, milk and orange juice.

We would like to thank all those who helped with the November 21ST breakfast. We had a great turnout. Hope to see you next month!

The Mosquito Volunteer Board is looking for someone to take over the breakfast starting next year, if you are interested please call Joe Lima at 622-5541.

**IN MEMORY OF
JACK KIRK**

SCHOOL BUS TRAVEL ON ROCK CREEK ROAD

Look for school buses from El Dorado High School District and Placerville Union School District on Rock Creek Road during the following times:

6:10am and 8:30 am
3:30pm and 5:15 pm

School Buses will be in the Mosquito - Swansboro area during these times also. If you are having deliveries of any kind where the trucks will need to travel on Rock Creek Road, please advise them of these times also. Please drive with care and observe that when the flashing red lights and stop sign that projects from the side of the bus, indicating that children are exiting the bus, you are required to stop until the sign is returned to the side of the bus.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!!!!!

DRIVING ON MOSQUITO ROAD

Please drive with care and observe safe driving practices.

*Allow yourself an extra 5 minutes so that you don't need to race down the hill.

*Stay on your side of the road.

*Slow down when approaching another vehicle coming in the opposite direction.

*If you are going slower than vehicles behind you, pull over when safe to do so with adequate visual clearance for the vehicle behind to safely pass.

*Bridge Etiquette - When approaching from the north (going to town) and another vehicle is approaching the bridge from the opposite direction and is already committed to crossing the bridge, pull to the wide spot just before the northside bridge entrance. DON'T stop at or near the last curve before the bridge. That last curve requires a vehicle to make a wide turn in order to continue safely. When approaching from the south (coming into Mosquito/Swansboro) and another vehicle is approaching the bridge from the opposite direction and is already committed to crossing the bridge, pull to the wide spot at the "waterfall" just before the narrow approach to the bridge.

*Bridge safety, one vehicle at a time and take turns, remember it is commute time for everyone no matter which direction you are going.

BURNING QUESTIONS?

Devery Minor, Battalion Chief, Mosquito Fire Department

It's getting to be that time of year again. You have been adding to that burn pile and you're waiting patiently for the fall rains. No doubt about it, we do need more rains to come. We have had a little rain; about 8 inches so far. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection determined that we have had enough rain to lift the burn ban for the season in mid October.

Are burn permits required? Yes. If you come by the Mosquito Fire Department Leo, Mary, or I can issue you a permit after the ban has been lifted. Burn permits are good for three years and always expire on April 30.

What are the terms of the permit? First you must call the phone number on the permit immediately prior to burning. This is one of the most common mistakes we see people make. Second, be sure you have sufficient clearance around your pile. You will need ten feet of clearance around your burn project down to bare mineral soil. Last year we had several fires escape into the wild land due to insufficient clearances. Third, an adult needs to tend your burn pile with a hand tool and a source of water nearby. Children should never be left alone with any fire. Yes we've seen that happen in the past as well. Most fires escape when no one is watching the pile.

The permit is only good for dried vegetation originating from your property and burned in four-foot by four-foot piles. This means you need to hand feed your pile. Burning of household trash or building material is not permitted.

You have your permit, good clearance, hand tools, a source of water and a pile of brush. Now just you just have to make that pesky phone call so you can listen to the recording of the burn day status. Sure enough, this is the third weekend in a row the weather has been beautiful but no burn days due to air quality control. It seems that the only burn days are rainy days. Not a bad time to burn, but your pile is soggy from all the rain we all wished for. For a more successful burn, try putting an old tarp or a large plastic sheet over your pile before it has a chance to get wet. When you are ready to burn, whatever the weather, your pile will be nice and dry. You will find that your pile will light easier, burn cleaner, and put up less smoke if you do.

So, would you like to avoid some of this hassle with all these burning issues? The El Dorado

County Fire Safe Council has a chipping program available to homeowners. You will still need to cut your brush, trim your trees, and pile the slash, but the chipping crew will take care of the rest. We have the applications here at the station. It has all the information on how the program works. Lots of people have used the program and they all seem to like the results. I would encourage any one and every one to give it a try. The best part is you don't have to wait for a burn day to make your property more fire safe.

**IN MEMORY OF
NOBEL WEBB**

CRAFT REPORT

Sharon Hern

The Crafters made \$560.25 at their final Craft Sale on November 12th & 13th. We have had a very good year and a huge "Thank You" all of our community members who have made crafts, sold crafts and especially those who purchased crafts. All of our proceeds go to our Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, so again, thank you for helping to support our community.

The Crafters will be holding the drawing for this year's Levi Quilt at the Fire Station Christmas Party on December 18th. Tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) are still available by calling Sharon at 626-5268.

Meetings:

Next Meeting: December 9th (NOTE DATE CHANGE.)

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

First Meeting for the new year: January 28th, 2005

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am

Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

Dates for 2005: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28 and November 18 (dates tentative)

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE HEALTH CARE AUXILIARY

The annual Georgetown Divide Health Care Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for December 4th from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Georgetown.

We will need the following items for the home baked sale: Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Breads, Candy and homemade Jellies. Please label the items as to their contents, such as type of pies, cakes, breads and cookies, also please include if any of the items have nuts in them and the type. These items will need to be at the Fire House no later than 8:30 am on Saturday December 4th. We will be leaving at 8:30 for Georgetown. I will be happy to pick up your baked goods on Friday, just give me a call. 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. If you have any questions please call Sharon Hern at 626-5268.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department wants to wish everyone in our community a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Please join your friends and neighbors at the annual Christmas Party

on December 18th at the Fire Station. Santa will be there at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. This is a potluck party, with Turkey provided. We request that families with last names beginning with A-M bring a salad or side dish and N-Z bring a dessert. (Or feel free to bring both!) We also ask that you bring at least one canned or nonperishable food item for Christmas baskets for families in need in our community. There will be a brief General Meeting of the MVFD after dinner to elect a board member. If you have any questions or would like to help with decorating, or cooking a turkey, please call Belinda Brent @ 621-3377.

MVFD BOARD NEWS

Belinda Brent

The Board of the MVFD is tasked with managing the funds and assets of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department. This does not include the property and responsibilities of the Mosquito Fire Protection District which is a different entity. The MVFD Board raises funds through events and donations and is in charge of operations at the Fannon Lake Campground and Recreation Area. There are seven board members with Chief Leo Chaloux acting as advisor to the board. The board meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Information on board policies, by-laws and activities is available at the fire station.

The current MVFD board members are-
 Belinda Brent – Board President, representing the Community at Large
 Debbie Minor – Vice President, representing the Support Group
 Neil Matheny – Fannon Chairman, representing the Community at Large
 Joe Lima – Restaurant Liaison, representing the Firefighters
 Iris Saxon, representing the Support Group
 Curtis Schleth, representing the Firefighters
 Chris Johns, representing the Firefighters

The board has been working on next year's budget and we expect to vote on a final budget at the December meeting. There are some exciting developments for 2005. For the first time we expect Fannon Lake to pay for itself and some new improvements. This frees up much needed cash for other projects. We have also consolidated funds into an easier to follow format, to better direct funds where they are most needed.

We will also see the return of the Events Committee. Committee members will help organize, staff and promote the MVFD's fund-raising and community events. Traditionally, the events have included, the Easter Egg Hunt, Fiesta/Latina Night, the Annual Picnic, Italiano Night, Halloween Party and Christmas Party. We are looking for energetic

and enthusiastic volunteers to assist with these events. Volunteers can participate in just one or all of the events and we are open to any ideas for new events as well. Please contact Belinda Brent @ 621-3377 if you are interested in helping out.

Living where we do, in an area of high fire risk, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department is the center of our community. I am truly thankful that we have such an outstanding organization with dedicated and professional volunteers here to protect us. The Firefighters, Support Group members, Crafters and Community at Large do an outstanding job of fostering a sense of community that I think is rare in our modern world. I personally count myself as very fortunate to live in such an unusual and special place. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone in the Mosquito community to support your local volunteer fire department in any way you can. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

FINNON RECREATION AREA

Neil Matheny

Fannon Recreation Area is owned and operated by the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, a not-for-profit corporation, for the purpose of ensuring sustainable income for the future. Our primary function is to provide equipment for the Volunteer Firefighters and the fire station.

The Firehouse Country Kitchen at Fannon is the place to go in Mosquito. Ross and Mary Ann are getting a feeling for the dining preferences of the Mosquito residents. They are expanding their wine and beer lists and are starting to develop a dinner clientele. At the present time dinner is prepared once a month and is by reservation only. If you are interested in receiving news about the upcoming event, contact Mary Ann at (530) 621-2548 or at rosmarpwd@macrevolution.com

The recreational facilities have seen a significant increase in use this year. The quiet and beautiful environment along with the new water line, picnic tables, and fire pits have made the camping experience very pleasant. With flush toilets, the low cost of just \$13.00 per night has drawn many repeat customers. Many people come for a day just to relax and appreciate the pleasant environment and observe the wildlife while others come for the fishing or to get their exercise walking or jogging around the lake. The facility is open all year.

We now have 10 camp sites thanks to the many volunteers who have helped build and maintain the campground. We will be creating several more sites this coming spring. If you are interested in volunteering or wish to make a monetary donation to help with the new development, please contact either Neil Matheny at (530) 295-5578 or Joe Lima at (530) 622-5541.

You can now purchase an Annual Day-Use Pass. Normal Day-Use admittance is \$6.00 per day for a car load. Beginning January 1, 2005 you can buy an Annual Day-Use Pass for just \$3.00 per month for each month (or part thereof) remaining in the calendar year. For example, a pass purchased in May will cost \$24.00 (8 months), but a pass purchased in October will cost \$9.00 (3 months). This pass will entitle you to unlimited day-use for one car including up to two dogs.

Dean Edson, Leo Chaloux and Debbie Minor have met with some State and Government officials to start the process rolling again to get necessary environmental and biological surveys done to meet the States requirements needed prior to issuance of a repair permit through the Division of Dam Safety at the Fannon Dam site. They will strive to keep everyone updated on what's going on with this project as things progress. Devery Minor has been working closely to assure that the supply of water to the Fannon facility is assured. EID has been very helpful and we are confident that water will be available to refill the lake after the dam is restored.

The Fire Safe Demonstration Area of the park should be finished this winter and will provide an opportunity for residents to observe a variety of fire safe practices that they can utilize around their home. We will announce the opening of this area in the *Byte*.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PREPARES NEXT GRANT REQUEST

Len Newell

The next applications for grants to help communities toward fire safety are due on February 4. We in Mosquito have used the grants acquired in 2003 to produce our Strategic and Implementation Plans, and to treat fuels on the six miles of "A" Priority Evacuation Routes, a total of 73 acres. The Mosquito community has benefitted from more than \$180,000 in fire-safe projects in the last two years. Our luck held meanwhile and we escaped a major fire again this year. Call it a good year for fire safety. Time now to look ahead at what we still need to accomplish before we can call ourselves fire safe.

Among things remaining to be completed in the Implementation Plan, and for which grant funds are needed, are the Priority "B" and "C" Evacuation Routes. Our corrected estimate is \$137,000 to treat them to standards. They are: all remaining courts and roads in Swansboro; Mosquito Road to south of La Paz; La Paz and Triple R Roads, and Shale Drive. There is also much work to be done to implement the Public Information and Involvement Plan, and there are many individual properties that require reduction of fuels to promote public safety.

A very large void in our Fire Safe Plan is the continuing lack of an emergency warning system, to get information of potential disasters quickly to the community. A recent estimate of cost to purchase and install a low-power AM Radio station, and a second siren in North Swansboro, is in the \$50,000-\$60,000 range.

These are several of the needs in play as we prepare grant requests. Your ideas are welcome and you can send them to, and/or discuss them with, any MFSC Board Member. A FINAL CHANCE FOR COMMUNITY REVIEW OF OUR GRANT PROPOSAL WILL OCCUR AT OUR NEXT MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2005, 2-4 PM at the Fire House. An Agenda will be out a week previously.

Happy Holidays, and thanks for all that you do for fire safety in our community!

WONDER WHY????

No newspapers at the news stand at Dyer Lake and at Firehouse Country Kitchen? Because someone has been using slugs and a screwdriver instead of coins to buy their paper. The coin receptacles have been replaced many times already. Please use real coins so that this convenience of having a newspaper dispenser locally will continue to be here for all of us to use.

FIREHOUSE COUNTRY KITCHEN NEWS

*With each visit to the restaurant you will receive a ticket for a drawing for a Christmas Tree Ornament. The drawings are held each Sunday at noon, with the last drawing on December 19th.

*Gift Certificates are available in any amount, do your Christmas shopping right here.

*Want to know what the daily specials are, when there will be a special dinner then e-mail your e-mail address to Rosemary at

rosmarpwd@macrevolution.com

LITTLE JULY

Iris Saxon

Being the young animal lovers that they are when Elizabeth Stone, her sister Meredith and their friend Amber found their cat Jessie playing with a small bird, they decided to rescue the bird. And after a short stay at Sierra Wildlife Rescue, he was ready to be set free. Since Fish and Game wants these little birds released within a mile of where they were found the decision was to let him go at Dyer Lake. Because he was given his freedom on July 4th he was named "July". Well little July could hardly wait to be set free, so as soon as Elizabeth removed the last piece of tape that was holding him prisoner in the cardboard box he flew straight to the closet oak tree. He didn't even take time to look back and thank

his rescuers, but it sure made Elizabeth happy to see the bird free once more. After all he belonged in that oak tree. That fourth of July you set an angel free Elizabeth and for that I'm sure he'll be forever thankful.

SCPOA REPORT

Kim Purcell

Our maintenance person Johnathan was unable to attend our November meeting but we can all see the great work he has been doing. We are still having a problem with damage done to the bathrooms, the security doors will be installed and the bathrooms will be locked in the evening. If anyone has any information on any vandalism that occurs within the association please contact SCPOA. The new fencing along Mosquito is in and looks great and replacement of the old wood fence with the vinyl will continue. Road patching will continue as weather permits, the rear tires on the tractor were so bald they finally had to be replaced. The new tires unfortunately don't work as well for compacting the road patches so we will need to look into the possibility of a roller or compactor. Johnathan has also been working very hard to clear brush along roads and to maintain and improve the drainage along the sides. Some areas have brush or trees starting to grow which will interfere with drainage, those that are in the road area (not on private property) will be removed even if they have been marked with blue tape. Everyone is encouraged to help maintain clear areas along the roads and on their property, forms are still available for the free chipping service at the fire station. There is additional assistance for seniors and others who are unable to do the clearing. Let the fire safe counsel know about any hours you spend clearing brush, this shows the community is working and will help them in getting more grants for continued work.

The fire safe counsel has provided some native grass and flower seeds for SCPOA to apply to the area below Trout Lake that was cleared, this will hopefully help the area stay in a more natural state and keep some of the unwanted vegetation out.

The budget committee has been working very hard to get a budget ready for the December meeting, at this point our reserve funds are looking great but out legal and insurance expenses are still very high. Our Secretary Lynda has done such a great job collecting dues that we are probably at an all time low in delinquent accounts with only 3 members owing for more than one year. One property was foreclosed on by the loan company and we are trying to collect the over \$5000.00 owed to us, another went to a tax sale and in time we will get the amount owed to us on that lot.

The architectural committee has been very busy this year with 2- 6 plans coming in each month,

review usually is done within a week if all the needed information has been sent. The committee monitors the county website to be sure that anyone getting a permit has submitted plans to SCPOA and received approval.

The nominating committee is still looking for anyone who is interested in running for the board next year, we will have four openings. This is the best way to make a difference in our community, it gives you the opportunity to really learn about how and why things are done the way they are and gives you the option to make improvements. If you are interested please contact our secretary Lynda at 621-0309

The road work we had scheduled for this year had to be put on hold due to the sudden onset of winter, rather than risk not having the job done well we will wait until spring. This may also give us the opportunity to save by adding in additional work planned for next year. There is still some concern about the lack of culverts at some properties, if the property is on a road that will be resurfaced the owners will be sent a notice that the culvert must be put in or SCPOA will have no choice but to have one put in and bill the owner.

The runway work is also on hold for the same reason as the road work, if we get some dry conditions we may get the crack sealing done, cold dry temperatures are the best time to do this. The Swansboro pilots group has volunteered to purchase the paint and reapply the markings to the runway once it has been resurfaced, this will save the association several thousand dollars.

Our website was having some problems that should be fixed soon, our provider was sold to a new company in Salt Lake City. We will be looking into a new provider and possibly upgrading the site.

The Dogwood well proposal is still being sorted out, we did finally get confirmation of the water rights from EID but another concern over liability has come up. A property owner at this meeting stated that the ditch is in very poor shape by his property. He thinks it would be very expensive to repair and if it isn't repaired then could cause significant property damage. The liability issue will be brought up with EID and a vote will be taken at the next meeting whether we will be willing to take the well and ditch or not.

A motion was made and passed to purchase 10 signs for the common areas by the lakes. These signs will remind people that they are for member use and have the language required by our insurance company regarding swimming at the lakes.

Our next meeting will be December 11th at 10:00am at the fire station, this will include discussions to finalize the budget for next year. Please plan to attend and give us your input.

TIMELY RECIPE

Evelyn Potter

This is so good that I am making it and using some for a pie filling. It will make a very unusual pie, but so good. I will put it into a pre-baked pie shell. Yum!

WHIPPED SWEET POTATOES WITH COCONUT STREUSEL**Whipped sweet potatoes:**

3 lbs sweet potatoes, peeled and cooked OR 2 cans, drained. (29 oz each)

½ c packed brown sugar

½ c heavy cream Or evaporated milk (fat free can be used)

2 T butter or margarine

1 T vanilla extract

2 t pumpkin pie spice

1 cup miniature marshmallows

Coconut Streusel:

¼ cup all-purpose flour

¼ cup packed brown sugar

½ t pumpkin pie spice

2 T cold butter or margarine

1 cup chopped pecans

½ cup shredded coconut

1) Preheat oven to 350°. Place all whipped sweet potato ingredients in a large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until fairly smooth and fluffy. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in or 3-qt baking dish. Top with marshmallows.

2) For streusel, mix flour, brown sugar and pumpkin pie spice in a medium bowl. Cut in butter in with a pastry blender or fork until crumbly. Stir in pecans and coconut; sprinkle over marshmallows and whipped sweet potatoes

3) Bake, uncovered, 25 minutes or until heated through topping is golden brown.

Makes 12 (½ cup) servings

Have a wonderful Holiday everyone!

SPA HAS BEST YEAR YET

Jo Thomas

The Swansboro Pilots Association has always been an active driving force in this community, but they definitely set a new milestone in 2004. This was the first year the SPA granted two \$500 scholarships to local graduating high schoolers, Zoe Arsenych and Stephen Loree, who entered college this past fall. It is expected that the SPA scholarship program will be available on an annual basis to help deserving high school graduates from our community attend college.

Also this year the SPA began sponsoring weekend displays of antique aircraft, which are available for public viewing at Swansboro airport on a periodic basis. In addition, the pilot's association sponsored the 3rd annual Dumpster Day which allowed the community to dispose of household

trash for free; painted the pavilion and pump house at Dyer Lake and performed maintenance on the runway which saved precious SCPOA resources; for the fifth year picked up trash on Mosquito Road from Dyer Lake to Mosquito Bridge while the road was closed during annual bridge maintenance and contributed to the MVFD Christmas gift baskets which are given to those in the community who are in need. Some of these activities involve many, many hours of labor donated by numerous volunteers from SPA. Watch for information about the above SPA activities in future *Mosquito Byte* newsletters. If you would like to become involved with this active group, contact Ralph Hern at 626-5268.

You need not be a pilot to be a member!

YOUR PET QUESTIONS

Pam Steinke, DVM

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

If you all made it through Halloween and Thanksgiving without your pets getting sick, you showed great restraint in the food and goodie department. If not, here are some examples of what I see this time of year:

Overeating of rich/fat foods. Some animals are very sensitive to changes in their diet and will get vomiting and diarrhea easily. Little dogs will take these foods from our hand while larger dogs will go through the garbage or steal it off the table. Treatments can range from removing food for 24 hours and bland diet to hospitalization and IV fluids for several days.

Toxins. Chocolate is the main culprit here. You would be surprised how fast a Jack Russel Terrier can open a completely wrapped box of chocolates and devour the whole pound, wrappers included. The darker the chocolate, the more toxic substances available. Call your vet immediately for instructions. Other toxic foods are almonds, onions, grapes and raisins.

Foreign body ingestion. The Christmas tree has so many goodies to play with and these can end up getting swallowed. If an object is big enough to swallow but too large to pass through the GI system, you have an obstruction. It will require surgery. Icicles and string are lures for cats. They love to play with these, but if swallowed can cause damage to their intestines and require surgery. Having pets is like having little toddlers around--you just have to watch them.

If you have any questions concerning your pets you would like answered in this column, email to drpjjs@hotmail.com

Trivia: If group of whales is a pod, a multiple of geese is a gaggle, then did you know that a pond full of frogs is a knot!

SIERRA WILDLIFE HOSTS HOLIDAY PARTY AT ART GALLERY

Sierra Wildlife Rescue (SWR) invites the public to its annual Holiday Party and raffle, which will be a two-day event, December 4 and 5. The party will be held at Rocky's Art and Framing, 404 Main Street, Placerville. We hope you can join us for this special celebration! The prize for the raffle on Saturday, December 4, donated by Magdi, owner of Rocky's, will be a gorgeous, signed lithograph of an eagle titled "Wings of Gold," by Daniel Smith. The world-renowned artist will be at Rocky's from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. to sign his art books, posters and prints, available through the gallery's two locations, and the raffle will be held at 8:00 p.m. Perry Creek Winery will also be in attendance to pour some of their finest wines.

On Sunday, December 5, SWR will host its annual Holiday Party from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the same location. The party will feature a great array of culinary treats and drinks, a silent auction, and a gift boutique, as well as a second raffle, to be held at 3:30. Prizes include numerous art pieces; the featured prize will be a Thomas Kinkadee print. Enjoy the excellent selection of art at the gallery, do some early holiday shopping, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about El Dorado County wildlife and wildlife care.

Raffle tickets are good for both days, so if you don't win the drawing on Saturday, you still have a chance on Sunday. You can buy tickets from any Sierra Wildlife Member, or at the door on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased by calling Judy, at 530-620-5369, Nan at 530-647-1089, or by calling 621-4661; leave a message and someone will get back to you. Ticket prices are \$2 per ticket, 3 for \$5, or 10 for \$10 (best bargain); all purchases are tax-deductible donations. You need not be present to win either raffle. Proceeds from the raffle ticket sales support SWR's continuing work in rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife of El Dorado County.

So come join us to support preserving El Dorado County's wonderful wildlife and enjoy an early holiday treat!

SMUD IOWA HILL POWER PLANT RAISES QUESTIONS

Karen Hansen

On Wednesday, October 20th, SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) held a meeting at the MVFD to present information on the visual impact of the proposed Iowa Hill Pumped Storage Power Plant. The meeting made clear that many issues beyond the limited topic of 'visual impact' affect our community.

Questions arose at the meeting that went unanswered. Others concerns have emerged in conversations with members of community afterwards. A few of these many questions include:

Why is this power plant being planned and what alternatives to this power plant has SMUD explored?

What possible benefits will accrue to the citizens of El Dorado County as a result of the construction of the Iowa Hill Power Plant?

What are the ramifications of building an earthen dam on top of a hill above a river in an earthquake zone, i.e., what happens if the dam fails?

What are the impacts of this power plant during both construction and operation (air-born asbestos, noise and light pollution, destruction of the South Cable Point area, impact to habitat, electromagnetic wave transmission)?

How will Slab Creek Reservoir be affected (additional recreation usage, impact to water temperature and water level)?

What will be done to reduce added fire danger associated with additional recreation usage?

Community members who wish to learn more about SMUD's proposed Iowa Hill Pumped Storage Power Plant can visit their website at <http://hydrorelicensing.org/> and using the Quick Link pulldown menu to locate Iowa Hill. Watch the *Byte* for an announcement of a future meeting.

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$12.00 per year. Mail check to 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA, 95667-8358. 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 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.

RENTAL

Puerto Valletta condo available May 29th - June 5th, sleeps 4 but perfect for 2. I also have a flex time and size condo with options in Mexico and Hawaii I will not be able to use. They are very nice places, make great vacation destinations and are very reasonable. Give me a call for more information 621-1049.

MEETINGS**MONTHLY STAMP, SCRAP AND CHAT- LADIES NIGHT OUT!**

Come and bring what supplies you have or use/ purchase from me. Work on your own projects or I will have several projects each month for a small fee. Make your own greeting cards or start your personal memory scrapbooks, fast and super easy with simple kits ordered from our Close To My Heart catalog. Light refreshments served. Every 3rd Wednesday beginning January 19. 6:30pm-9:00pm. Please RSVP to Lori Loree 626-0691 3822 Dogwood Lane, [corner of Maidu and Dogwood]. See you there!!

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Mosquito/Swansboro area residents and visitors are invited to 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 9:30am followed by a Celebration service at 11am. MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP is a Bible teaching 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 295-0503 and visit our Web site at www.cmna.net/mfom

NEW GROUPS

HORSE BUDDIES: <http://www.horsebuddies.com> If you would like to ride with me, give me a call. 642-8753; Yvonne McGregor

WORK WANTED

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

FREE

NEED FIREWOOD? I have a partially up-rooted oak tree leaning on the fence into my yard. Yours for cutting and hauling. Please call me at 642-8063 to arrange a time.

MAGIC CHEF REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER SIDE BY SIDE. Pale Ivory Color. In Very good Condition. FREE! Please, call Mel or Sieglinde at 626-3898

FREEZER - small upright power saving model in good working condition. National Geographic's -dating from the 1930's to the 1990's. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

Used Jenn-air 4 burner gas white stove top with down draft, extra griddles and grates, (missing one burner grate). Replaced unit with new stove top and will give to anyone who wants unit. 626-9565

FREE TRUCK 344-9066

SERVICES

LOCAL COMPUTER SERVICE AND SUPPORT with over 25 years of experience including Windows, Linux, Mac. Wired and wireless network installation, setup and administration services. Virus removal and recovery, software installation. Webpage design and hosting. Reasonable rates. Call Rich at: Phone: 530-642-0377 Email: thetechshop@Netlynx.US Webpage: <http://www.netlynx.us/thetechshop/>

SIGN PAINTER: Signs, Logos, Pop Art, Screen Painting. Phil Langdon 622+-5378

CRYSTAL MILK HOME DELIVERY. You can have milk, butter, orange juice and more delivered to your front door. Call Arthur at 295-1518 for more information.

10 WHEELER/EQUIPMENT for hire. Landscaping, garbage hauling, material delivery, earth moving, reasonable rates, local business. For a free estimate call Kurt Kimm 295-9203 or 916-496-7284.

I am a **MOBILE NOTARY PUBLIC** living right here in Mosquito. I am experienced in all areas of notary work, including loan packages, real estate transfers, etc. Save time and money, call me now. Elaine Galvan 621-2433

LOG SPLITTER owner operator \$25.00 hr. 2 hour min..Swansboro area only. 344-9066

HANDCRAFTED POTTERY. Swansboro studio open by appointment, or visit the website anytime. Classes available. Pam Angelo 621-3688. www.clayimpressions.com

ASPEN LITES ELECTRIC CO Electrical wiring: all phases: specializing in new construction and remodeling. Serving our local Mosquito-Swansboro area for over 15 years. Competitive rates and excellent dependability guaranteed! Keep the business up on the hill! Call Rich at 621-2911 or Cell 409-9931.

VICK'S PLUMBING: Call Victor Garcia 530-626-6493.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVING THE MOSQUITO AREA. Complete design and build service. New homes, residential remodels, additions, garages, decks, barns. Top quality construction at a reasonable price. Modena Builders. License #809494. Call 530-622-5307.

I make **GARDEN MEMORY STONES.** Call 344-8049 for information.

TUTORING IN MATH OR SCIENCE. Credentialed teacher with a degree in Chemistry. Experience in teaching Junior High & High School Students. Flexible hours. \$75 / month or \$75 for every four one-hour sessions. Call Jeanine at 621-3875

GUTTER CLEANING, we work in Swansboro, we are fast and reliable. Call Tim for quote (916) 879-0362"

We build **METAL BUILDINGS, CARPORTS, SHEDS, STALLS, FIFTH WHEEL COVERS,** etc. Local family, free estimates. We also do concrete work, sidewalks, foundations, etc. Call Jeremy at home 530-626-4406 or work 916-826-9758.

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 www.mosquitoadneighbors.com (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.

SIERRA NEVADA SEALCOATING: CSL#680730 NSL#0033110A. Call 644-8888.

OSTERKAMP CONSTRUCTION Specializing in custom homes. Plumbing and general building contractor. Home improvement. Certified, dependable service. Quality construction at competitive prices. CCL 612033. Call 626-7873

SIERRA CRITTER SITTER From pets and livestock to plants. Will love them & feed them. Will NOT feed them & leave them. Experienced, reliable and honest. God Bless.... 344-8049

BUYING OR SELLING REAL ESTATE? Staging is FREE when you list with me. "First impressions are everything!" Call Laurie for all your Real Estate needs. Direct line 622-2000 x 118. Cell 409-7168.

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

SEAMSTRESS/ALTERATIONS: Need a new outfit for a special occasion; Prom, weddings, club uniforms? Or, do you have clothes in your closet that need fixing? How about home decorating changes with new curtains and pillows, etc.? Reasonable prices, professional work, 23 years experience. Call Esther at 622-6455.

CREATIVE MEMORIES - I help busy people get their albums done! Spend an afternoon at my home having fun with fellow Mosquito scrapbookers or host a class in your home and earn free products! Diana Adams 642-9441.

FAX AND PHOTOCOPY service here on the hill. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? You need an honest, reliable, hardworking real estate agent on your side! Serving El Dorado and Sacramento counties. Call Jessica Dillender at 295-3331 or (916) 765-1256 cell.

MANZANITA REMOVAL. With chain saw, by the hour. One bush or up to a couple of acres. Call for quote. 626-9066.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN, Hauling, Maintenance. Handyman Work. Fast, Friendly, Reliable. Free Estimates. Flat Rates. 622-4731

HANGTOWN GLASS CARE I tint commercial and residential glass. Will save you money on energy costs and retard fading your furniture and carpet. Call for free estimate! Rex Langdon, Jr. 530-409-5530

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

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.

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

CHIMNEY SWEEP for hire, 27 years experience. Wood stoves - pellet stoves - fireplaces - dryer vents - gutters. Repairs - installations - problem solving. Richard Smith 622.2990.

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

DON'S CRITTER CARE: Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. Reasonable rates. References. Call 622-7622.

HOUSE CLEANING Reference available. Free estimates. Lisa Harvey, 626-1496.

FOR SALE

OAK FIREWOOD \$200 per cord. \$10 delivery fee. Call 626-1341.

Boy Scout Troop 95 Christmas Tree Sales
Saturday and Sunday, November 27-28 and December 4-5 8am - 4pm
At Lion's Club: Corner of Missouri Flat Rd. and Pleasant Valley Rd.

SCENTED PINE CONE FIRE STARTER BASKETS. Makes a great Christmas gift. Baskets made to order and will deliver. Call Kelly Knoll Farm at 295-9165.

NEW CEMENT BLOCKS (approximately 20) \$1.50 each. FIREWOOD - Oak \$245 for a cord, Cedar \$200 for a cord, Pine \$140 for a cord. Easy access, you pick up. Call Eileen at 622-9492.

THREE 8' X 7' GARAGE DOORS. Avalone, with extra insulation. TWO GARAGE DOOR OPENERS. Call 295-3548.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS. \$175. Prefer cash. 622-7622.

JET PUMP, shallow well, Craftsman 1 hp convertible W/jet pkg. Never used \$115/230V \$180; PUMP, submersible, 110V, garden hose outlet, never used, \$35.00; CHEVY 305 ENGINE, complete & rebuilt and zero miles. A steal at \$475; VALVE GRINDER, Black & Decker \$375 firm; GABLE POWER VENT 15", w/thermostat. \$35; FISHING BOATS swivel/fold-down, clamp-on seats. Padded vinyl, like new, 2 at \$10 each.; FISH FINDER, Hummingbird 4ID, complete \$65; TIRES, 235/75R15 M+S, 2 ea. 90% \$50 pr.; PUMP, 1/2 hp, 1 1/2" discharge w/float sw, Never used, \$50; FREE HP OFFICE JET, copy, fax, print & scan, mdl. 550, works.; FIREWOOD, seasoned pine and cedar mix, 1 1/2 cord, you haul, special @ \$100; 1 1/2 sheets 3/4" OAK PLYWOOD, make offer; ROCKER PANELS for 73 + Suburban. New, make offer; BANDSAW BLADE WELDER 1/4" - 1/2" Cap. \$90; BANDSAW BLADE ROLL, 50' - 75' 3/8" -14 racker for metal \$45; FREE BIKE, 10 sp. Huffy 27"; SOLDERING FURNACE, twin burner, gas/propane \$35. Call 622-6337

MAN'S CORDUROY JACKET, with fur collar, size 40. \$65.00; Wilson's new LEATHER JACKET, size large, real deal at \$150; All kinds of MEN'S CLOTHES - best offer. Call 622-9492.

Set of mens GOLF CLUBS WITH BAG AND PULL CART. \$25.00. Call 626-5268.

TRAILER 4' X 7', high sides \$400.00. Call Jim 621-3641

ENCLOSED 5' x 8' TRAILER bought in 2000. New spare tire, current license. \$1,500. Call Larry, 621-1071

ESSENTIAL OILS for sale \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 Please call Connie at 845-0678 for more information.

Firehouse Country Kitchen

Ross & Mary Ann Aguilar

Monday, Thursday & Friday 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Closed Tuesday & Wednesday

621-2548

This issue of the *Mosquito Byte* is sponsored by Sally Long Johns of Coldwell Banker. She is a local resident.

MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Saturday, December 18th

Mosquito Fire Station

Santa will be there at 5:00 PM

Dinner will be served at 6:30

This is a potluck! Please see Page 3
for more information!

Yes, I want to subscribe to the *Mosquito Byte*.

Enclosed is my check for \$12.00 for a year's subscription.

Make check payable to: Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department (or MVFD) and
mail to 8801 Rock Creek Rd, Placerville CA 95667-8358.





Please print!

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

The MVFD also publishes a Mosquito Resident Phone Book every two
years. The next issue will be April, 2005. If you would like to be
included, please give us your phone number. _____

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

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

MOSQUITO BYTE
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