

# MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

MOSQUITO



Volunteer Fire Association

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December 2016

## **Oh, the Holidays!**

By **Edward Dwyer, Mosquito Fire Chief**  
Mosquito Fire Protection District



This past Friday I hung up our Christmas lights on our house. It seems like just last week I had put them away. This time of year, we do many things that can threaten our wellbeing, homes and lives but I don't want to sound like the Grinch. This time of year is my absolute favorite time. JeanAnn and I are already listening to Christmas music, and we started watching our collection of Christmas movies. One of my favorites is called "Fitzwilly." It's about a butler who provides for those he loves through swindling department stores. And then, there is Christmas Vacation. How crazy is Clark Griswold? How many people do you know who do things like good ol' Clark? Though both are comedies, they are great examples of how not to celebrate the holidays.

Think about what crazy things we do when celebrating the Holidays. How many of you deep-fry your Thanksgiving turkey? Do you buy a real tree and decorate it with electrical lights? What about hanging lights on your house? How far do you push safety while on a ladder or on the roof of your home? We have come a long way since the Victorian days of old when candles were used to light the tree. Who in their right mind would fill a pot with three gallons of oil, heat to 375 degrees over an open flame (many times in their garage) or hang off the side of a ladder to place that one last staple to hold the lights in place on their house just so they don't have to come down and move the ladder that one last time? Or move a tree that has been recently cut down into their home, placing it in a spot of prominence and, as I said, decorate it with electrical cords and incandescent lights that if we held in our hands could cause third degree burns, and finally, they place presents wrapped in combustible material under that same tree. We do many unusual things this time of year to celebrate with family and friends.

Here are a few safety tips to keep our holidays wonderful and memorable for all the right reasons and not create memories of catastrophic events like Clark Griswold experienced. How old are your lights? Did you know that the lights we use to decorate our homes and trees have a 90-day safety life? Most manufacturers put warning labels on the light sets that explain that the lights are not meant to be used more than 90 days, consecutively. So if your lights are older than 3 years, consider purchasing new LEDs for you house and tree. Not only will LEDs save you money on your utility lights, but they produce almost no heat, certainly not enough to cause injury or fire.

For old lights, make sure the jackets are intact and that there are no shorts in the wire as this can cause open sparks and arcing, leading to fires. Make sure the tree you purchase is as fresh as possible, since many trees in the lots are cut down a week or two before Thanksgiving. Take your hand, grasp a limb and pull towards yourself. Look at the number of needles that are in your hand. If it appears to be excessive, move on to the next tree. Also, when you bring your tree home, try to get all of the dry needles out of the tree.

When using turkey fryers, fill the pot with water. Place the turkey into it and premeasure the level of oil necessary to cook your bird. You don't want hot oil overflowing from the pot when you put in the turkey. Always make sure to completely dry your bird off and make sure there is no accumulation of water in the cavity. Adding water to hot oil is dangerous. At the very least, it can

cause popping of the oil which may cause severe burns or even cause a boil over that ignites into a ball of fire once it hits the open flame of the burner. Place the fryer in an open area, at least 25 feet away from your house and on a surface that is not combustible.

When decorating your home with lights, make sure your ladder is on level and solid footing. If you reach out to the side, avoid side loading your ladder which may cause it to fall, likely causing yourself injury. It might make you laugh when Clark falls off his ladder but if you fall from the upper stories of your home, you're not going to be laughing. In fact, we will most likely be calling for an air ambulance to transport you to the Trauma Center in Roseville.

Finally, remember that when shopping, either online or in a brick and mortar store, protect your ID and source of payment. Be careful when withdrawing money from ATMs and only do so during the daytime and ensure that when you walk away from the ATM, you have your card, that your transaction has been completed and all information into your account has been closed.

Most of all, enjoy the holidays! Remember the reason for the season, remember those less fortunate than us and reach out if you can. Sometimes just recognizing one's humanity is enough to change a life. JeanAnn and I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas filled with love, joy, the laughter of children and the wonderful blessings of a loving God who sent his Son for us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**The next MFPD Board meeting is Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. You are welcome to attend!**

## **Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association - MVFA**

By Tom Harris



The next MVFA dinner event will be our annual Christmas Turkey Dinner on **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Fire Station, with Santa's arrival at 5 pm and dinner starting at 6 pm. This dinner is a free event given by MVFA to show our thanks to the wonderful members of our special Mosquito community. Santa will be listening to special requests from kids and adults and hopes you'll join us for a holiday dinner with all the trimmings.

Over the next few weeks, MVFA will be collecting canned and packaged food as well as toys and gifts for its annual Christmas Basket distribution. These baskets are distributed to the less fortunate in our community during the holiday season. They provide a complete Christmas dinner as well as gifts for any children in the family.



We are partnering with the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" for toy and gift donations. If you would like to make a donation, please drop off new, unwrapped toys and gifts to the collection box located in the kitchen at the Mosquito Fire Station during normal business hours. If you would like to donate food, there is a collection drum set up at the Fire Station for this purpose. For all the details, please see Sharon Hern and Mary Ann Haywood's article on the Christmas baskets in this month's Byte. Food and toy donations can be brought to the Community Christmas Dinner on December 10<sup>th</sup> or dropped at the Fire Station no later than **DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**. The gift and food baskets will be distributed in Mosquito on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

MVFA will sponsor a Christmas Bazaar fundraiser at the Mosquito Fire Station on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The MVFA Crafters and the Mosquito Trading Post will participate in the sale. A hot dog lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and costs only \$5.00. Lunch and table proceeds will go to the MVFA Station 75 fund to purchase the Thermal Imaging camera requested by Fire Chief Eddie (see article elsewhere is this Byte).

For up-to-date information, photos from MVFA events and happenings at Finnon Lake, please visit [www.GoMVFA.org](http://www.GoMVFA.org). Also, the Finnon Lake Recreation Area website: [www.finnonrecreationarea.com](http://www.finnonrecreationarea.com) has a new look with new photos. The new version is friendlier for mobile devices and has numerous other features. Check it out.

If you would like to join the many volunteers who donate their time to help maintain Finnon Lake Recreation Area - Campground, Day Use area or Disc Golf course on your own schedule, call Tom Harris. If you or someone you know is interested in developing Mountain Bike trails on the Finnon Lake property, please call Tom Harris at 642-2333. Thank you for supporting MVFA and Finnon Lake Recreation Area.

**Join us for the MVFA Board meeting on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.**

## **Some Thoughts from the Editor**

By Darcy Krieger

This month we are rerunning a very pertinent article from former Mosquito Byte editor, Candy Lupient, regarding Mosquito driving etiquette. I think that everyone has noticed how much the traffic has increased on Mosquito Road recently. I was hit head-on and my car totaled by someone who was distracted for just a few seconds and swerved into my lane. Driving Mosquito Road takes serious attention! While the plans for the new bridge are moving along, the road will remain a challenging drive even after the bridge is built. Here is her article which I hope will be a good reminder for long-term residents and informative for our newer neighbors.

### **Mosquito Driving Etiquette**

By Candy Lupient

Like many neighbors, I've noticed traffic on Mosquito Road has become not only more abundant but also much faster. To me it seems just a matter of time before two of the overly aggressive drivers meet each other from opposing directions, with possibly tragic results. Please slow down and drive defensively. As so many people are moving on and off the hill, I will periodically run an article concerning Mosquito driving etiquette. It would be helpful if you would share these rules of the road with expected guests and new neighbors. Many problems could be avoided simply with increased awareness. Here are a few suggestions and your Mosquito Byte editor welcomes your suggestions also!

1. Drive on the right side of the road. ALWAYS ASSUME there is oncoming traffic.
2. Yield to UPHILL traffic; they have the right of way.
3. Dim your headlights to oncoming traffic at night.

4. Keep a good distance from the car ahead of you. They may need to stop suddenly for wildlife. PLEASE DON'T TAILGATE.
5. Drive at a safe speed for the conditions. If it hasn't rained for a while, the roads will have oil on them which, when it rains, will be nothing but a slick surface. Ice is always a risk in the winter, especially on some of our tight curves.
6. If you have an aggressive driver behind you, find a safe place to pull over and let them pass. PLEASE DO NOT PICK A BLIND CORNER TO PULL OVER. Remember that the car behind you cannot see as far ahead as you may be able to. Choose a nice open stretch of road, as much as possible. When re-entering the road, beware of sharp road edges which may cause punctured tire sidewalls. If you are the one wanting to pass, give the car ahead of you time and space to pull over to a safe spot. Remember that drivers may not always pull over for you. These are usually people who are newcomers and not aware.
7. Remember, only one car at a time on the bridge. Always look to see if there is already a car on the bridge or a car waiting on the other side. Take turns! Neither side has the right of way.
8. Going toward town, if there is already traffic on or waiting for the bridge, pull all the way down to the guardrail nearest the bridge entrance, leaving room for exiting traffic. If you stop at the top of the curve on the Mosquito side, it makes it difficult for the car going up the hill to pass.
9. If you are expecting a large delivery, ensure that the company knows that following GPS directions to take Mosquito Road is a recipe for a painful situation (for the driver and residents.) Confirm with the driver that he knows the situation BEFORE he gets stuck on the bridge.
10. Smile and wave! I believe it encourages courteous drivers. It's a "Mosquito Thing"! Happy Holidays!

**The SCPOA meeting is Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. You are welcome to attend!**

## **Christmas Basket Recipients**

By **Sharon Hern & Mary Ann Haywood**



Through the years, MVFA has helped families in our community who have found themselves in a less fortunate position at Christmas time. Traditionally, we have been able to provide the recipients with a full Christmas meal along with gifts for any child family members. As we approach the holidays, we are asking for the community's help so that we can plan for this year's baskets. If you know of someone in our community you think could use a basket, please call Sharon Hern, Christmas Basket Chairperson, at (530)626-5268, or Mary Ann Haywood, Co-Chairperson, at (530)622-5477. They will need the adult names, children's name and age, address and phone number. The information is treated as confidential.

Want to help by donating? We are again partnering with "Toys for Tots." Gifts for children should be unwrapped so they can be matched to the children's age, and please don't forget our pre-teens and teenagers. We are also looking for canned and boxed foods, hams, turkeys.

Please remember that opened boxes, outdated food and perishables cannot be accepted for donations. Donations can be dropped off at the Fire Station not later than **December 12, 2016**. We will be distributing these baskets on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your help and may you have a wonderful holiday season!

## **Shopping for the Holidays!**

By **Eileen Guell**

The holidays are coming quickly and a great way to support your community is by shopping online via a method joyfully utilized by many already - Amazon! Use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/> - "You shop. Amazon gives."



When you shop at **AmazonSmile**, Amazon donates 0.5% of your AmazonSmile purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice (Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association) which is an eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organization. A message appears after each purchase is made successfully, "*I just supported Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association at AmazonSmile.*"

Please refer to the AmazonSmile website for questions/answers. You may also visit our website [www.goMVFA.org](http://www.goMVFA.org) and click on the Smile Amazon link directly to sign up. Thank you so much, as always, for supporting our wonderful community! Happy Holidays to all!

## **The New 2017 Mosquito Phone Book**

By **Sharon Hern**

The Mosquito Phone Book is published every 2 years, and will be available for purchase in January 2017. The Mosquito Phone Book contains information on our Mosquito/Swansboro area such as, Who Are They (MVFA, MFPD & SCPOA), Helpful Area Phone Numbers, a Timeline History of Mosquito, Mosquito Fire Department History & Other Useful Information, Map of our Area, and Residential & Business Listings.

If you are listed in the 2015 Mosquito Phone Book, Residential or Business, and have changes to your listing or wish to have your phone number removed, please let me know not later than the end of December as these listings will automatically be carried over to the 2017 phone book.

If you wish to be listed in the new 2017 Mosquito Phone Book or add a business listing, you can call me at (530)626-5268, email me at [sahern1943@gmail.com](mailto:sahern1943@gmail.com) or mail the information to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Court, Placerville, CA 95667. Residential and business listings are free.

## **Crafters**

By **Sharon Hern**

The Firehouse Crafters wish to THANK all of you who have supported us this year at our Craft Sales, both here on the hill and off the hill in town. Our proceeds are used to help support the needs of our Fire Department.





## A Special Request

By the MVFA Board of Directors

Mosquito Fire Chief Eddie Dwyer has asked the MVFA Board to purchase a Thermal Imager for the Fire Department. This tool is a lifesaver and enables firefighters to see through heavy smoke to locate the source of flames. Using infrared detection, the imager can also indicate the body heat produced by a human being or pet at night in pitch dark. If you have any questions about the unit to be purchased, please call and talk with Chief Eddie.

Our goal is to raise \$4,000 to purchase the Thermal Imager. Details of this unit can be found at: [http://www.bullard.com/V3/products/thermal\\_imaging/fire\\_service/legacy.php](http://www.bullard.com/V3/products/thermal_imaging/fire_service/legacy.php). We are asking the Mosquito Fire District community for help. If you are looking for a year-end tax deduction and would like to make a donation for a Thermal Imager for our Fire Department, please send your check with a note specifying so to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville 95667. MVFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations may be tax deductible, and a letter specifying the donation amount will be provided to you.

MVFA is totally self-supportive and self-insured. MVFA funds itself through grants, donations, fund-raiser events and fees from Finnon Lake Recreation Area. MVFA receives no taxpayer funds, nor any funds from SCPOA, and has no paid employees. All of its supporters are volunteers, and MVFA is working with MFPD on this project.

## Birding at Finnon Lake

By Dave Angelo



Here are the bird watch results from our outing on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Our next outing will be Saturday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. The group meets at the pavilion at Mosquito General, and the community is welcome to participate. It is a nice leisurely walk around Finnon Lake using the campground access road. For more information, call Dee Taylor at (530)626-1196.

US-CA-Placerville-9100 Rock Creek Rd - 38.7967x-120.7519

Nov 12, 2016      10:00 AM      Traveling      1.10 miles      90 Minutes  
All birds reported? Yes      Comments: 70's, sunny

1 Canada Goose	8 Bufflehead	14 Hooded Merganser
1 California Quail	1 Hairy Woodpecker	50 American Coot (Red-shielded)
5 Acorn Woodpecker	1 Northern Flicker	1 Black Phoebe
1 Steller's Jay	2 California Scrub-Jay	2 Western Bluebird
15 American Robin	18 Dark-eyed Junco	2 Spotted Towhee
Number of Taxa: 15		



## CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SALE

**Fire Starters** - Homemade by local boy. Get 4 for only \$1.00. Contact Dad, Dustin Sears at (530) 363-4991 (2)

## FREE

**Pine wood**, ready for cutting up and splitting. There are 5 large trees down on my lot. You haul. Call Hans at (530)622-2718 or (415)897-8548.

**Pine rounds**, ready for splitting. We have plenty! You haul. Call Tim at (408)859-3182.

## **MEETINGS**

**MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP** – Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. Groups for Men/Women/kids/young adults. We meet Sunday mornings 10 a.m. at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website [www.mfom.net](http://www.mfom.net) or call (530)295-0503.

## **SERVICES**

**HOUSE CLEANING** - I've been cleaning houses for 10 years. I enjoy cleaning and would love to make your house Sparkle for you! I am a trustworthy, honest, and very hard worker with 10 years' experience. \$15 - \$20 per hour. Call Sylvia at (530)417-7315

**PERSONAL FITNESS PROGRAM** - Improve mobility! Lose weight! Feel younger! Live longer! Enjoy home personal fitness program conducted by Air Force veteran who is a certified, insured, experienced trainer located in Swansboro. First session includes a free consultation and fitness evaluation. Call James Porter at (907)328-9544 for a free consultation today.

**FREE VEGAN VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASSES** - Food preparation demonstrations, recipe handouts, video clips and resource materials, along with generous samples provided. Have fun interacting with other health-minded folks, learning healthful lifestyle principles and discovering tasty new recipes. We meet once a month at the Camino SDA Church, 3520 Carson Rd. on Mondays at 11 a.m. Call Fred Adams at (530) 642-9441 for dates and to reserve your space. Or email [AdamsAmigos@gmail.com](mailto:AdamsAmigos@gmail.com).

**CONCRETE AND BOBCAT SERVICE** - driveways, patios, retaining walls, finish grading, property clean-up. \$80/hour Bobcat rental. Call Dustin (530)306-9291.

**LOW WATER LANDSCAPE DESIGN** - We create landscape designs to bring sustainable long-term visions to your landscape with unique outdoor rooms, water features, visual beauty, all while lowering your water use and fire risk at the same time. Call Aaron Reddick at (805)234-6485 or go to [www.LowWaterLandscapes.com](http://www.LowWaterLandscapes.com) to reserve a consultation today!

**RESPITE CARE** – Available in Swansboro/Mosquito, M-F, weekends or overnight as needed. Also available for short periods of time (barring previously scheduled commitments) and/or for hospice care for your family member. I have 17 local home-care references to verify my skills and the level of care I will provide for your loved ones. Call Nancy West at (530)626-7975.

**SEWER SNAKE RENTAL** - On the hill. Ridgid K750 100 ft. snake. Call Dustin (530)306-9291.

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**MISTY'S HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES** - Deep cleaning, basic cleaning, move ins/outs, one time cleanings, and flexible schedule arrangements. I also do house sitting, vacation care, pet sitting, and errands as needed. Call (916)496-5980

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**UNIQUE JEWELRY** - Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 642-2333.

**LOCAL REALTORS** – Debbie & Rusty Harris, Swansboro Land & Homes BRE #00656169 [www.swansboro.metrolistpro.com](http://www.swansboro.metrolistpro.com). Area Specialists since 1975. Located next to Mosquito Fire Station. You're welcome to stop by for free maps & information. Client service with integrity, experience & common sense. 530-622-6822. For a free market analysis of your property, contact us at [swansbororealestate@gmail.com](mailto:swansbororealestate@gmail.com).

**IMAGES BY CAROL SCHULTZ** – Local scenes of bridge, lakes, vineyards, etc. Available in cards, posters, enlargements, high quality magnets, and card bundles, all suitable for gifting or personal use. Custom orders on request. Call (530)409-2912, or email [csstamper@aim.com](mailto:csstamper@aim.com).

**OPTOMETRY CLINIC** – Dr. Dan Morrill in Placerville. Eye examinations, eyeglasses & contact lenses available at Precision Eye Care, 118 Main Street. Open Tues - Fri 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday by appointment. Call (530)622-8300. Most insurances accepted. New patients welcome!

**VHS VIDEOS CONVERTED TO DVDs** – Have any family vacations, precious memories or baby pictures on videos? I can copy them to DVDs. Call Dee at (530)642-2333.

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**PET CARE** - Pet feeding while you're away. We will give your pet the same love and care as you would if you were here. No pet too large or too small. Reasonable rates. Call Dylan's Pet Feeding Service at (530)295-9165.

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**HAND CRAFTED GLASS ITEMS** – Bird baths, flower pots, plates, bowls, etc. Also, handmade wooden jewelry boxes. Affordable and unique. Studio open most days; call first. Do your gift shopping here on the hill! Call Pam or Dave Angelo at (530)621-3688.

**REAL ESTATE SERVICES** – Live the 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! You can reach me at [www.mosquitoadneighbors.com](http://www.mosquitoadneighbors.com) or (530)295-4641 or toll free (866)SALLYRE, [snlongjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:snlongjohns@yahoo.com).

**NOTARY SERVICE** – 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. Call Elaine Galvan at (530)295-0503.

**MOSQUITO GENERAL STORE & KITCHEN**

Open Wednesday – Saturday  
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed Monday and Tuesday  
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<https://www.facebook.com/Mosquit0General/>



# December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>MVFA Board</b> 7:00 p.m. Fire Station	2	3 <b>Christmas Bazaar</b> Fire Station 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8 <b>MFPD Board</b> 7 p.m. Fire Station	9	10 <b>Birding at Finnon Lake</b> 10 a.m. meet at café pavilion <b>Christmas Dinner</b> Fire Station Santa 5 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m.
11	12 <b>Christmas Basket and Toy Donations due</b>	13	14	15 <b>SCPOA Board</b> 7 p.m. Fire Station	16	17 <b>Christmas Basket Delivery</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Happy Hanukkah</b> 
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Bring on the NEW YEAR!</b> 

The **MOSQUITO BYTE** is mailed first class to subscribers each month. A subscription is \$15.00 per year, with a two-year maximum pre-pay. Please mail your check, payable to MVFA, to 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville, CA, 95667. The deadline for advertising and articles is the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Editors have the right to edit, limit, or refuse any article submitted for publication. Authors are responsible for article accuracy and their opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the MVFA Board of Directors or the editors.

The MOSQUITO BYTE accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

#### ADVERTISING POLICY

There is no charge to subscribers advertising in the MOSQUITO BYTE. Ads must be limited to 7 column lines maximum. Please email ads for the Classified Section to Darcy Krieger at [mbyte.editor@gmail.com](mailto:mbyte.editor@gmail.com). Ads in the "Free", "For Sale", and "Wanted" categories will run for three months unless the submitter requests it to be removed or extended.

The **MOSQUITO BYTE** and other updates are posted each month on the [www.gomvfa.org](http://www.gomvfa.org) website.

PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

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