

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 37, No. 8

May 2024

CHIEF'S REPORT

by Chief Jack Rosevear



Calls for Service: March 25-April 21

Medical Aid- 4

Public Assist- 2

I would like to introduce and welcome EMT Asa Deitch, to our firefighter staff. Asa lives off hill in the Shingle Springs area and is starting his orientation with 24-hour shifts on Tuesdays. Also joining us as wildland firefighters in training are Stanley Simons and Randy Campo. Both Randy and Stanley are community residents. All three new personnel will be participating in mandatory wildland training, both in class and hands-on training drills. This includes regular physical training. We continue to recruit for additional firefighters and part-time supervisors for the upcoming fire season.

Austin Eby will be graduating Firefighter 1 academy on May 17 from American River College. Tony Christensen, Trevor Dillender and Angel Rosevear will be graduating from Sierra College Firefighter 1 & 2 Academy on June 2. We are proud of these four men, who will embark on a great career in the fire service. Firefighter academy training is funded by our FEMA SAFER grant.

I would also like to welcome new Administrative Volunteer, Kristopher Buihner, who will be helping to manage our new SAFER grant and will also be writing new grants, as he finds opportunities. Kristopher is a talented person with grant writing and teaching experience, who lives in the Community. We are fortunate to have him on board.

We have submitted grant applications to FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program, which we have had past success for training and equipment. The new applications request a replacement Type 6 Fire Engine (\$327,380), updated portable radios (\$60,569), breathing air compressor (\$76,213). Awards will be announced beginning April 30. We have submitted the application for the FEMA SAFER staffing program to request three full time positions to staff the Station (\$1,241,460). We are currently being considered for a grant extension of residual funding from our previous volunteer Recruitment and Retention Grant (\$120,000). This will purchase a number of items and services for marketing to recruit new volunteers.

We have completed purchasing for the Cal Fire 50/50 grant (\$20,000). Items purchased include 5 Bendix King portable radios, training fire shelters, forceable entry tools, wildland hose, nozzles and fittings. We have applied again for the next open application period in May for 2025 purchasing.

In the Fall of 2023, our District was awarded \$666,320 from the FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program. The grant was applied for in February 2023 and we were successful in the first round of awards. This gives us another four years of grant funding for our productive volunteer program, which has resulted in the fire station being staffed 24/7 for over two years. The funding covers volunteers' stipend pay for shift coverage and response to emergencies, training classes, new volunteer expenses including physicals, background checks, uniforms and safety gear, support of the Explorer program, salary and benefits for a volunteer coordinator (Fire Captain), and more. Residual money from the current grant ending in December 2023 can be used for enhanced marketing and other volunteer support needs. Many thanks for grant writing efforts by Meredith Blain and Didi Everhart (Gatchell Grant Resources-Canton, OH). We are currently awaiting the results of a parallel SAFER grant application for full time station staffing (3 positions- 1 firefighter/supervisor 24/7/365). I have posted a success story about our grant experiences, on the US Congressional website for SAFER and AFG staffing. The District has also been awarded \$10,000 from Cal Fire for wildland PPE and equipment to be spent in the Spring 2024 (50/50 grant- \$10,000 matching from District- \$20,000 purchase total).

Our Fire District staff is fully committed to our Community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information. We are happy to conduct an interior or exterior fire safety inspection upon your request. Please call us at 530-626-9017 or stop by the station.

This concludes my report. I will continue to update our projects and report progress. We appreciate the great support we receive from the Community and its commitment to being prepared. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at the fire station (626-9017) or email jrosevear@mfpd.us.

Upcoming Events:

Special Board Meeting- TBD- Station 75
Thursday May 2- MVFA Board Meeting- 3pm- Station 75
Saturday May 4- Medical Group Training- 9am- Station 75
Saturday May 18- Community Yard Sale- 9am-1pm- Station 75
Tuesday May 14 & 28- Fire Training- 6pm- Station 75 (Public Welcome)
Saturday May 18- Budget Public Workshop – 10 AM - Station 75
Thursday May 25 - Fire Board Meeting- 7pm- Station 75

<p>The next MFPD Board meeting will be on May 23rd at 7:00 pm at Station 75</p>
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REMINDER

BURN PERMIT REQUIRED as of Wednesday May 1, 2024

<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov>

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

EAGLE LOSS

We sadly lost one of our bald eagles at Finnon Lake at the end of April. Many have asked what will happen now that the nest has a fledgling in it and only the female eagle to care for it. When a bald eagle loses its mate, it often goes through a period of mourning. The good news is studies have shown that when a mate dies or fails to return to the nesting site, the surviving



eagle typically does not remain solitary for long¹. Instead, they actively seek out a new mate to continue their lineage and maintain their nesting site¹. Interestingly, bald eagles do not linger in mourning for extended periods. Instead, they swiftly adapt to the loss by forming a new bond with another eagle, highlighting their resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity¹.

One fascinating aspect of bald eagle behavior is their strong nest site fidelity¹. Even after the loss of a mate, the surviving eagle will often choose to remain at the existing nest, now

with a new partner, showcasing their commitment to their established breeding grounds¹. Upon finding a new mate, the pair will work collaboratively to maintain and potentially refurbish the nest, ensuring that it remains a safe and secure environment for raising their offspring¹.

By swiftly finding a new mate and continuing the breeding cycle, bald eagles demonstrate their dedication to perpetuating their genetic line and securing the future of their species¹. The ability of bald eagles to adapt to the loss of a mate by forming new bonds underscores their social complexity and the importance of companionship in their lives¹.

We can only hope that the period of mourning will be short and a new mate will be found soon to help fend off predatory birds and aid in the feeding of the fledgling.

Learn more

[1 savetheeaglesinternational.org](http://1.savetheeaglesinternational.org)

FROM EL DORADO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES WEBSITE

Be Careful with Your Pet Near Lakes, Rivers and Ponds - Animal Services is reminding residents to use caution when recreating at lakes, rivers or ponds where potentially dangerous algae may be present. To avoid possible cyanobacterial toxin poisoning, practice safe water habits. Dogs can be especially susceptible when algal mats are present. Do not let your dog drink water or enter water where patches of algae are present, or to eat scum or algal material.

Wash your pets with clean water after lake or river play. Provide clean drinking water. For more info, visit <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/what/index.html> or https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/domestic_animals.html

VOICES FROM THE CAMPGROUND

We would like to share some of the reviews we have received during our first month of being open this year.



Francheska says:

I love the place. It's very peaceful & the lake was so beautiful. The restroom was clean. The campsite we had doesn't have a lot of shade but good thing we brought a canopy. Overall, I would recommend this place & I will surely camp there again.

Lisa says:

We had a great time camping with our family of 4. Excellent access and views of the lake with an abundance of nature. Firewood was available with a place to leave \$ which was nice even though diner was closed. Very spacious campsites and super clean bathroom. We booked again to come back in a few months! Fish are definitely biting with bait!

Jace Jade says:

This was my first time camping without the family so I was nervous & felt like I overpacked my car. Driving towards finnon lake in the mountain felt like driving to Lake Berryessa. It was smooth but watch out for cars bc they like to drive like a speed racers LOL. Everyone was friendly and kept to themselves. Restroom was walking distance, I would say it's like walking towards the end of the electronics at a Walmart. (Somewhat closer!!) It got busier during the weekends & you would think from reading all these reviews about the frogs/birds/etc at night it would be harder to sleep but no it's the kids at night. Towards the end of the night, everyone voice & background sounds became white noise to me. Love the family friendly & people I've came across <3 LGBTQ FRIENDLY!!

Sean says:

Beautiful views, exactly as described, would recommend staying here to family and friends.

Jonathan says:

What a magical place. Check out the eagles if your so lucky!

Phil says:

Very friendly and helpful staff and fantastic fishing! My kids had an absolute blast!

Janice says:

The place was so great to relax and a great escape from work. My kids enjoyed their stay. They went fishing and played in the water. It was just too cold on our first night. Would recommend this place for everyone.

Nina says:

Finnon Lake camping rated excellent!! It was quiet, peaceful and exactly what we needed. The temperature was perfect and experiencing all the wildlife was such a treat. Nesting bald eagles

and geese, pond turtles, bass, rainbow trout, bull frogs and beautiful scenery were the highlights! Thanks Finnon!

Thelma says:

We've enjoyed our Stay at T-14. Very serene and relaxing. We loved the sounds of nature. Very clean rest room. Hiking around the Lake is a plus. We will be back.

Paige says:

Great place! Would recommend to everyone. Nice people, clean and quiet.

YARD SALE



Date: May 18th, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for a delightful community yard sale where treasures await! Whether you're hunting for vintage gems, household essentials, or unique finds, our yard sale promises something for everyone. You'll discover hidden gems that spark joy from gently loved furniture to quirky knick-knacks.

If you want to reserve a space to sell your unwanted treasures for \$10 please contact mvfa95667@gmail.com or call 530-409-5515.

Location: Fire Station Parking Lot

Don't miss out on this community event. Bring your friends, family, and a keen eye for bargains!  

See you there!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please mark these on your calendars and plan to join us on these dates for fun and community comradery.

- Saturday, May 18, 2024 - Yard Sale at Station 75 parking lot - 9 am to 1 pm, Please note change of date.
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 - Spaghetti Dinner at Station 75 - 6:00 pm, Please note change of date.
- Saturday, October 12, 2024 - Fall Festival at Finnon Lake - 10 am - 3 pm **Free Lunch**
- Saturday, October 26, 2024 - Trunk-or-Treat at Station 75 - 6 pm - 8 pm
- Saturday, December 7, 2024 - Christmas Dinner at Station 75 - 5:30 pm **Free Dinner**

The next MVFA Board meeting will be on May 2 nd at 3:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please drop off bags of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass) from 8 am - 5 pm at Station 75. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials.



NOTE: Lids/Caps on plastic water bottles **MUST BE REMOVED** before they can be redeemed. Lids/caps can be included for redemption. If you have a chance and can remove the lids, it will sure help the recycling volunteers.
All proceeds go to Station 75



CRAFTERS

By Eileen Reisner

The Crafters had a small table at the Pancake Breakfast. To date, Crafters have made approximately \$685.00 for Station 75 this year.



Our focus continues to be on preparing for the annual sale in Placerville. We will continue to participate at the pancake breakfasts with limited inventory.

Our next Crafters meeting will be held on May 24 at 10:00 AM. If you're interested in joining us, contact Eileen Reisner at 530-748-7962.

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for April. The next bird watch is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. We will start at 8:00 A.M. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



Bald Eagle	2	Pie-billed Grebe	4	Red-winged Blackbird	25
Western Bluebird	10	Dark-eyed Junco	5	Calliope Hummingbird	1
Lesser Goldfinch	2	Acorn Woodpecker	10	Double-crested Cormorant	2
Great-tailed Grackle	8	Pileated Woodpecker	2	Northern Flicker	2
Band-tailed Pigeon	10	Barn Swallow	1	Osprey	1
Mourning Dove	2	American Robin	3	Common Raven	2
Canada Goose	6	Scrub Jay	4	Belted Kingfisher	1
American Coot	35				

LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA

Placerville, California, is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna. The region's natural environment is characterized by its rich biodiversity, which is evident in its numerous parks and recreational areas.

Gold Bug Park & Mine is one such place where you can observe the local flora and fauna¹. The park spans over 61 acres and features hiking trails that take you through areas abundant with natural flora and fauna¹.

The EI Dorado National Forest is another excellent location for exploring the region's biodiversity². It is home to 80 campgrounds and picnic sites, several picturesque lakes, streams, and rivers. Hiking trails in the forest offer opportunities to see various flora and fauna endemic to the park².

The California Native Plant Society also provides a comprehensive field guide for anyone wishing to learn about the amazingly diverse wildflowers of the region³.

In the future, the Gold Bug Park Committee plans to turn a building into a nature center describing the flora and fauna of the area⁴. This will provide an excellent resource for those interested in learning more about the region's natural environment⁴.

In conclusion, Placerville, CA, offers a rich and diverse range of flora and fauna, making it a haven for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you're hiking through the EI Dorado National Forest or exploring the trails of Gold Bug Park & Mine, you're sure to encounter the region's unique biodiversity^{1,2}.

Learn more

[1 visit-eldorado.com](#) [2 trip101.com](#) [3 cnps.org](#) [4 cityofplacerville.org](#)

SCPOA Report

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA) Board of Directors will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Mosquito Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, at 6pm. Agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and all SCPOA members are invited to attend! SCPOA committees meet throughout the month and SCPOA members are invited to join committees as well as attend their meetings to provide input and get accurate information about what is going on in Swansboro.

Go to [SCPOA.info](#) for committee dates and times and read minutes from past meetings.

[SCPOA.info](#) is the only place to find accurate and factual information about SCPOA.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY

By Meredith Blain

The D'Ax board is busy planning events! Mosquito residents are welcome to join our monthly meetings to see what we are up to! D'Ax meetings are held at the Mosquito Fire Station just prior to the monthly Fire Board meetings, usually the fourth Thursday of the month. Our agendas and minutes can be found on the MFPD.us website! We hope to have a date for the next pancake breakfast soon!

DISTRICT AUXILIARY



MOSQUITO

SWANSBORO DRIVE & FLY IN

by Tom Harris

Saturday June 22, 2024, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Swansboro Airport and Dyer Lake Park. (Set up time: 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM). Bring your antique and classic autos and motorcycles, hot rods and aircraft. A donation of \$10.00 will enter your "Toy". Vendors are welcome. A \$10.00 donation is required for vendor's booth space. For Swansboro residents and their guests.

All proceeds to benefit the Mosquito Fire Protection District Auxiliary (D'Ax).

For information call:

Tom (Motorcycles and Cars) 530-957-0900

Kim (Aircraft) 530-409-2357

Dee (Vendors) 415-823-5443



Swansboro Drive & Fly In

Swansboro Airport & Dyer Lake

June 22, 2024 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WANTED:
antiques, hot rods,
classic motorcycles,
cars, aircraft &
vendors





\$10.00 donation
to enter your "toy".
\$10.00 donation
for a vendor's
booth space.

All proceeds benefit Mosquito Fire Department

For more information call:
Tom (motorcycles & cars) 530-957-0900
Kim (aircraft) 530-409-2357
Dee (vendors) 415-823-5443



**COMMUNITY
YARD
SALE**

**MAY 18
9AM - 1PM
FIRE STATION PARKING
LOT**

**SIGN UP FOR SPACE
\$10**

**CALL OR TEXT
530-409-5515**

CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

WANTED

LOCAL ORGANIC FARM

Seeks manure source, specifically goat, sheep, chicken, llama or alpaca. Please contact Ryan at THREE GOATS FARM. (530) 497-4279 or farm3goats@gmail.com

FOR SALE

WESTINGHOUSE GENERATOR 9500

\$600.00 OBO, like new. Call, 408-218-6687.

THE GOAT DOCTOR OF THE SIERRAS

book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy (530) 626-8689 to buy your copy (\$20). A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting.

UNIQUE JEWELRY

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

OXBOW FIREWOOD \$375 for hardwood, \$300 for softwood. Delivery on the hill gratis. Are you cold? Call the Ox at 916 862-7511

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. We meet Sunday mornings 10 am at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website mfom.net or call (530)295-0503.

SERVICES

GOLDIE LOCS OF LOVE - Loc creation / extension installation / decoration / maintenance kelsvanfleet@gmail.com (916) 295-9059

NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

FIREWOOD

Tired of paying outrageous prices for wood? I will cut and split downed trees and/or rounds for you. Call Daniel @ 530-919-8878

HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE PAINTING

Residential/Commercial
Specializing in repaints contact Steven Martinez, (530)-919-7612 or americaleaglepainting4@gmail.com Lic# 960086

CALI CONSTRUCTION

General contractor 530-903-1869
Decks, fences, siding, flooring, and more.
5% senior or veteran's discount.
CSLB#1054550

HARP TEACHER

Have you always wanted to play the harp? There is now a Harp Teacher in Swansboro. Over 20 years' experience teaching children and adults. I have a few harps available for rent. For more information, please call 530-344-1531 and ask for Paula or e-mail: harppaula@gmail.com.

SIERRA SHIELD FIREARMS & TRAINING

Mention MOSQUITO BYTE and get 25% off CA CCW Class. Also, receive FREE box of ammo with each firearm purchase. ww.SierraShield.com or call 530-387-0110

WELDING & FABRICATION

Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call (530) 621-3300

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.

FLORIST ON THE HILL

"I am your community florist providing long lasting flowers for all occasions. We ALWAYS deliver FREE on the hill! Stop by and check out our collection of Honey House products, gifts, jewelry, & handmade cards. Also offering flower subscriptions specifically created for you. Call me Elaine Galvan 530.295.0503 for all your floral needs."

HANGTOWN RANGE

1540 Broadway, Placerville Wednesday – Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5 with 10 Indoor Shooting and 8 Archery Ranges, Firearms and Recurve Bow rentals, Milo Virtual Shooting Range w/ live fire ammunition, Archery and Handgun classes, CCW classes, One on One training, Basic Pistol Classes, Women's Classes. Call 530-497-5443 for more information.

HANDCRAFTED GLASS ITEMS

Birdbaths, flowerpots, 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.

MOSQUITO CREEK OUTFITTERS

3000 Mosquito Road, Placerville, Tuesday – Friday 9 to 6, Saturday 9 to 5, El Dorado County's premier source for the best hunting, fishing, archery and outdoor products. Mosquito Creek Outfitters is always stocked with the best gear to accompany you wherever you may roam. 530-621-4500.

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 or (530)295-4641 or toll free (866)SALLYRE, snlongjohns@yahoo.com.

Local Area Web Links

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)
Finnon Lake Recreation Area
Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD)
Swansboro Country Property Owners Association
Mountain Fellowship in Mosquito (MFOM)
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.finnonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Station 75	3	4 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
5 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	6	7	8	9	10	11 Bird Watching Finnon Lake, day use area 8am
12 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	13	14 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	15	16	17	18 YARD SALE Station 75 9am – 1pm MFPD Budget Public Workshop Station 75 10am
19 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	20	21 SCPOA Board Meeting, 6pm Station 75	22	23 D'Ax Board Meeting 5:30pm Station 75 MFPD Board Meeting 7:00pm Station 75	24 Crafters Meeting 10am	25
26 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	27	28 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	29	30	31	

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 19th of each month. It is also posted on the www.goMVFA.org website 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.

MVFA is organized as a non-profit tax-exempt entity and is funded entirely by grants, donations, fundraisers and rents and fees at Finnon Lake - which it owns. MVFA receives no tax revenues, nor any dues money from SCPOA. As per IRS mandate, MVFA gives no cash nor has any financial connection to any non-501(c)(3) organization or to the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD). MVFA has no paid employees, and operates primarily with volunteers who donate their own time and often their own money to make our community a better place. If you would like to enhance your membership in MVFA, please become a volunteer. MVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. A letter stating your donation will be provided on request. Send your donation to MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville CA 95667.

MVFA values and promotes voluntary efforts in our community. MVFA continues to carry on the work begun by its predecessors many years ago. If you have any questions about MVFA, please attend the MVFA Board of Directors meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Mosquito Fire House, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville at 3:00pm. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to obtain correct and updated information about MVFA and its committees, legal obligations at Finnon Lake and events and volunteer opportunities. Mosquito residents may request a copy of approved MVFA Board meeting minutes by emailing your name and address to mvfa95667@gmail.com, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct. Placerville CA 95667.

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 Mosquito BYTE Editor at 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 accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

The MOSQUITO BYTE and other updates are posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website. No copyright infringement intended.

PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE