

# MCHOA NEWS

*Serving the entire Mammoth Creek Community; Aspen Highlands, Big Pines, Creekside Estates, Little Ponderosa Estates, Mammoth Creek Estates, Mammoth Creek Subdivisions #1,2,3, Mammoth Ridge Subdivision, River Forest Estates, Tommy Creek I, West Range, Yellow Pines A & B*

Welcome to the new year of 2022. While I like the Winter months, I do look forward to the Spring season bringing with it sunshine, warmth, singing birds, and the ability to walk on solid ground. Above all , Mammoth Creek is waking up. So much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. Hope you enjoy this first newsletter of the new year. Ardel

## TREASURER’S NOTES

There is still quite a bit of snow on the ground! I envy the people that are able get up there and enjoy the white stuff!

I have completed and mailed the Mammoth Creek Homeowner’s Association’s state and federal 2021 tax returns. I am now getting the database of lot owners in Mammoth Creek updated. We have had some lot changes and Ardel will be visiting the county recorder to help update this list. If you have any corrections to your addresses or other information, you can email myself or Ardel.

The dues notices will be going out the end of March. We will email dues statement for those who find that convenient and will be refining the list of owners who want that option. For those who don’t have an email address or prefer the hard copy, I will mail the dues notices.

We are hoping this season on the mountain will be getting back to normal. A little more snow would be a welcomed addition to help with the moisture for this Summer. It would be nice to use the fire pit we put in a few years ago. We have only been able to use it once and that was when the snow was on the ground and my son sat out there with a small fire going in it. I preferred to stay inside.

Happy New Year to everyone. We look forward to connecting with our mountain friends.  
See ya’ on the mountain!

Bill & Peg Luthy  
Treasurer - MCHOA, wluthy@outlook.com, 702-592-1507

## FIRE CHIEF’S MESSAGE:

by Chief Ensor

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. We received quite a bit of snow throughout December, but January stayed dry with all storms missing Southern Utah.

February, however, is forecast to see a return of near normal conditions which should usher in more moisture to our region.

The valley was busy over Christmas and New Year's and as well as MLK weekend. We had the usual amount of stuck vehicles trying to drive in through 2 and 3 feet of snow. The good news was no reported injuries, so be careful when traveling during the winter months. As spring approaches be sure to check to see your chimneys and stove pipes are intact before lighting that first fire. Also, wild animals will be emerging from their winter sleep and will be hungry. Watch what you leave outside so as to keep our wild animals wild. See the reprint of "living with cougars" for pointers located on the MCHOA website. We did have a nuisance bear last summer, but we do not anticipate a repeat this summer if we all keep our food and garbage secured. If you are interested in learning more, visit the Division of Wildlife website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/living-with-bears.html>

We hope to start the thinning program in the spring as it is fully funded. Our problem last year was the extreme fires in the West that sent the crews to work elsewhere. Add in the COVID pandemic and we had the perfect storm to keep the crews out of the area. The forest service has been busy burning slash piles over the winter, not sure if they have more planned for the spring. Working with the county Fire Warden, the fire department did torch off the burn pit. We will check for flare ups prior to opening to the residents sometime in May. Our issue with the pit is contractors placing large cottonwood trees in there that will smolder all winter.

I am pleased to report the Utah Fire Academy will once again teach our summer training schedule. This free program is available to rural stations such as ours and provides licensed instructors with real world experience. Wildland Wednesdays are back by popular demand. These topics are taught by Josh Soper, Garfield county Fire Warden and his assistant. Thank your volunteer firefighter's when you can, they work hard at keeping us all safe from fire as well as assisting with search and rescue and EMS calls.

I look forward to greeting you as we all transition to summer life on the mountain.

### **Mammoth Creek Fire One Year Anniversary**

by Ardel Jorgensen

This June, 2022 will mark one year since Mammoth Creek came very close to being destroyed. A small fire sparked by lighting ballooned into a full blown fire burning over 700 acres narrowly missing Tommy Creek cabins and other cabins along the ridge that leads to Mammoth Creek Road. It did scorch a couple of cabins and burned trees close to other cabins. We were lucky that no buildings were lost (except for one out building) and no one was hurt. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our own volunteer fighters, the fire fighters from near by fire stations and fire fighters who poured into this area from other locales and states. A full court press ensued to keep the fire away from our properties and keeping the loss of watershed to a minimum. The fire episode carried on for about 2 weeks during which we all were unable to return to our cabins. A chapter of our lives none of us will forget.

One way we can acknowledge the heroism of the firefighters is by following up their efforts by ensuring that if or when we are in the same predicament we are prepared for the worst fire (Prepare for the worst, hope for the best). To do this requires that our properties create a fire buffer that will greatly assist the firefighters with their firefighting efforts. The easier it is for them to fight a ferocious fire, the faster they can put down that fire. In her opening message Chief Ensor touched on an effort we can all participate in, namely the tree thinning program. It is designed to thin the trees on your property in such a way that it minimizes the fuel fires need to impose their devastation. You get to help choose which trees go; you will end up with the wood cut in lengths and you will have earned the gratitude from the neighbors around you for not only considering yourself but considering your neighbors as well.

This program is being funded by a state grant so there is no cost to you. The actual thinning begins this Summer starting with the Big Pines Subdivision (based upon sign ups). To participate, the property owner has to sign a permission slip allowing the firefighters access to the property and the owner has to sign a liability waiver. Easy Peasy. This program will only benefit all of us if enough people sign up.

I signed up when it was first announced last Spring. To kick off the program, the Fire Warden and his crew began the thinning process on my parcel and part way into it they got the word to get ready for deployment to California to help with firefighting needs. As was the case last Spring, the project is dependent on the fire season which is why so little got done last year. However the fire crew is back now, ready and excited to pick up where they left off. This is definitely a win win proposition for all of us.

Addendum: In the process of preparing this newsletter I came across a booklet entitled Wildfire Safety Guide. It was written by a California Law Firm, Cutter Law. It has a great deal of fire safety preparedness information that I found very interesting and helpful. As you know, I don't put commercial advertisements or political material in the newsletter. But I do think this booklet has a lot of valuable info so I want to make it available to you. If you would like to read it go to: [cutterlaw.com/wild-fire-safety-guide/](http://cutterlaw.com/wild-fire-safety-guide/)

### **What's New at the Fire Station/Community Center**

by Chief Ensor

On behalf of the community and the volunteer firefighters, I extend a big thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Costello for their kind donation of a new flat screen TV. Of course before we hung our new TV in the main station, we had to put on a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to Rick Tobler, Dick West and Teresa Carr, we have another option for viewing training videos in a smaller and more casual setting. Come by and see the improvements that have been made.

As you can see, volunteer firefighters do so much more than fight fires. In fact, fire fighting is a small part. They assist law enforcement with things like manpower and traffic control. They are called upon for search and rescue efforts, and EMS calls as well. The firefighters also maintain the pump motors and other small engines and keep the station in good working order allowing for rapid response when called upon.

There is usually some form of activity going on at the fire station that requires help from others. So if you would like to join the group and give back to your community, but don't want to fight fire, there are many other opportunities to volunteer. Stop by the fire station or call me (682-2700) and sign up if you are interested in volunteering. Your help will always be welcomed.

Congratulations to Dick West. I appointed him to fill the position of Fire Station Facilities Coordinator. He is responsible for the day to day maintenance of both the fire station and the community center.

For those who are volunteer firefighters, the training schedule for the summer will involve members from the Utah Fire Academy. Topics are still being worked out, but will come into alignment by early March. The annual Wildland Engine workshop will be held in May, date has not yet been released.

### **Snow Laden Mammoth Creek Roads**

by Ardel Jorgensen

I am pretty sure I have written about this subject before “trying to drive into a cabin on unplowed snow laden roads”. Those of you who have been coming to Mammoth Creek in the Winter for a few years know the importance of not trying to drive to your cabins before the roads are plowed. Those of you who have little or no Winter experience up here do not know the consequences of attempting to drive to your cabin. There are safety issues for the driver and occupants of the vehicle, there are safety issues for those who must access their cabin via snowmobiles or side by sides and there are hefty costs to be towed out of the snow. You also need to know that Garfield County does not plow our roads but has made it possible for owners to plow their own roads at their own expense. It requires permission from the county, the payment of a fee and the filing of a \$5,000.00 bond. In general, the only road that is plowed in the Winter is the upper road (Mountain Avenue) paid for by a cabin owner way up near the upper end of the road. The rest of the roads in Mammoth Creek are not typically plowed. There is a sign regarding plowing at the entrance to Mammoth Creek East road. Please read it.

This Winter season, December 2021 through January 2022, has seen its fair share of people trying to gun their way through the snow laden roads in order to get to a cabin. Several cars have been buried on Mammoth Creek Road East that runs in front of the fire station and a couple of vehicles have been buried on the Tommy Creek road just past the bridge just as it heads up the steep hill. In their attempt to travel up the hill, vehicles have drifted off the road and were buried in the deep snow. In almost every event, the driver or occupant has stated that the snow on the road didn't look deep enough for them to get stuck. They have even commented that they saw snowmobile tracks on the road and felt that the snow was packed down enough to safely drive on it. I can tell you that snow depth is deceiving and snowmobile tracks do not ensure hard pack to drive on. The snow will hold the snowmobile, but not the weight of cars and trucks. Under these conditions, even chains will not protect you from sinking.

Stuck in the snow is dangerous. As the sun goes down so does the temperature and you run the risk of hypothermia. You have to seek help or run the risk of freezing to death. If you have a cell phone and can make a call out, call the Garfield County Sheriff at 435-676-1134 (Garfield County Dispatch). They will get a tow truck for you, but you will have to pay for it. I am told that the fee runs about \$1,000.00. Calling our fire station will get you the Fire Chief, but our volunteer fire station is not equipped to rescue vehicles from the snow. The Chief will call the sheriff on your behalf, but you will still be facing a hefty towing fee. To save time, call the dispatch number directly. You could leave the vehicle and wander around looking for someone to help you. Don't do it unless there is plenty of daylight left so you can return to your vehicle before the sun starts going down and the temperature starts to drop. Otherwise, stay with your vehicle, put out something that will attract attention, bundle up and wait. If you constantly run your engine for warmth, you run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Many a person has died from this poisoning. Wrap yourselves in those extra jackets and blankets you brought with you and be sure your flashlight has fresh batteries so you can signal for help after the sun goes down. In addition, if you get hungry, nibble on those granola bars and drink that water you brought. You need to keep hydrated.

The impact you have on others by tearing up the snow laden road is something you probably haven't thought about. Unless you are lucky to have a cabin that faces Mountain Avenue, you will have to rely on either a snow mobile or a side by side for transportation in and out of your cabin. The danger to these drivers comes when they are forced to constantly maneuver their machine's skis around to avoid the deep ruts made by the vehicle's tires. Getting the skis caught in the ruts can end with the snowmobile rolling over and trapping the rider. Most riders have sleds attached to transport their belongings. The sleds exacerbate the difficulty of keeping the machines upright. It's a big challenge to drive these machines on roads that are torn up.

For those of you who are fortunate to have a cabin you can reach directly off of the plowed road, please do not try to access that road from Mammoth Creek Rd. East because it will not be plowed. The road looks plowed but after 100 feet or so, the snow piles up and that's where vehicles start their sinking dance. Travel on the paved road a little bit further towards Hwy 143 to access Aspen Meadow Dr then turn left. In one block the road name becomes Mountain Avenue. That, in all likelihood, will be plowed and this will eliminate the anguish you feel when you get stuck along with avoiding a \$1,000.00 fee to be towed out and you will eliminate the difficult position you put snowmobile drivers in when they encounter dangerous road conditions like these. (See pics. Pg. 8) I am told that this mess was made by a couple of fellows who were caught on camera supposedly looking for a shovel and other items that would help them get un- stuck. This happens to be at the entrance to Yellow Pine and is the very road I and others in Yellow Pine have to navigate safely to get in and out of our cabins. To add insult to injury, the very next day someone else tried to come up the same road into Yellow Pine and could only get to the well house. They had to back out thus creating more ruts in the road. Wouldn't you think they would have concluded that with the ruts at the entrance to Yellow Pine it means that the snow is too deep and too soft to be driving on? How could they have missed the clue, Dick Tracy.

The issue of tearing up our roads has gotten worse over time and this year is at the top of the list. I realize that Garfield Public Works cannot put a stop to this reckless behavior.

It really is up to all of us to recognize when roads are solid enough to drive on or, as the roads are called, they are wet roads. Wet roads, be they snow or mud, will not hold a heavy vehicle so you end up putting deep ruts in the road and getting stuck in the snow. And believe me, snowmobiling back and forth on snow laden roads does not make for a solid road that can carry the weight of the vehicle.

## **Snowmobile/UTV In The BackCountry**

by Ardel Jorgensen

I wrote above about vehicle drivers thinking they are impervious to snow packed dirt roads (wet roads) here in Mammoth Creek. This is a companion story, if you will, about the actions of some drivers of snowmobiles/UTVs on snow impacted dirt trails, roads and cross country in the back country. Such outings can be a boat load of fun but it can also lead to a calamity if you haven't taken necessary precautions to mitigate a possible disaster. In other words, prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Mammoth Creek has experienced its fair share of people in trouble and in need of help to get out of their predicament safely. Snowmobiling/UTVing is a lot of fun and full of surprises. However, snowmobiling/UTVing can be dangerous because you could bury the machine, the machine could roll over on you thus preventing you from wiggling out, you could run into a tree, your machine could develop mechanical problems and you have no spare parts, you could get lost (everything looks very different when covered in snow), frequent snow storms could descend on you reducing your visibility and obliterating the trail behind you, the temperature could suddenly drop below freezing, you could experience a medical emergency. What do you do? (See pics. Pg 8)

The following are meant to provide you some guidance as to how to protect you and your companions from an emergency event in the back country.

1. **The Cardinal Rule: Never Travel Alone!** Always travel with another adult who has their own snowmobile/UTV. If something happens to one, you have another machine to get you back to safety and you have immediate help right there if needed.
2. Always tell someone who isn't going along; a) where you are going, b) the route you are taking, c) what time you expect to return and d) names of persons traveling with you. This is your plan and you need to stick to it if at all possible. Without this plan, a successful rescue is very difficult to execute either by volunteers from Mammoth Creek or by the Sheriff's search and rescue team.
3. Make sure you have a full tank of gasoline before you start out.
4. Always take with you: a) your cell phone fully charged and on so it can ping any cell towers and keep phone warm and dry, b) basic first aid kit, c) an extra snowmobile or UTV belt (they have been known to shred to smithereens.) and spark plugs, d) basic tools to use on the machines, e) solar battery charger for the phone (that phone could be your life line), f) extra blanket or jacket and warm socks all kept dry for you and your passengers,

- g) matches and something to start a fire with, h) flares and/or flashlight (with new batteries) for light and SOS signal. i) nourishment such as trail mix, trail bars and extra water.
- 5. Wear the appropriate winter clothing and boots /socks, gloves and hat for snow and cold. Important that you stay warm but not so warm that you are sweating.
- 6. Wear appropriate/protective helmets. Protect your head in the event you get into a wreck or thrown off the machine.
- 7. Stock up on water for you and your passengers. Be sure you drink water regularly as cold snow weather is very dry and your body needs to keep hydrated.
- 8. Always know where the last rider in your group is. Turn around and check to make sure they are still with you. Never leave the last rider to fend for themselves.
- 9. Head back to the barn around 2pm (MST) while you still have light to see what you are doing and time to make a course correction if needed. In addition, temperature starts dropping dramatically about 3pm.

You may discover other protective measures you can incorporate. Feel free to do so and let me know so I can pass on your suggestions. I know this may seem like an “over reach” approach to address a situation that may never happen. Then again it might and as the Girl Scouts say (and I was one for 9 years) “It is better to be safe than sorry.” Have great fun and problem free time in the back country. By the way, once you leave the cabin area, you are entering the back country.

### **SHORT-TERM RENTALS – WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL**

BY KADEN FIGGINS, DIR. PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH

With the trend of short-term rentals (STRs) continuing to rise, counties and communities will continue to have compliance and mitigation at the top of their minds in 2022. STRs are especially popular in rural areas, due to the lack of traditional hotel inventory. Additionally, travelers today are seeking a different experience that most traditional hotels cannot provide. STRs are also popular because they are extremely profitable in comparison to long-term rentals.

It seems STRs are a great investment, as long as there is a demand for them. So, what’s the big deal? As you all may know, STRs can be problematic for both residents and local governments. For residents, neighborhoods can feel more like main streets, privacies can be infringed upon and in certain cases, safety can be a legitimate concern. For local governments, STR compliance monitoring is one of the greatest challenges and frustrations. STR hosting platforms such as Airbnb, Vrbo and others do not consider State or local regulations. Therefore, hosts can advertise immediately without local zoning approval, a business license, proper tax collection and remittance, etc. Additionally, local governments are usually the ones dealing with issues and complaints resulting from the STRs, rather than the STR’s hosts or managers.

The purpose of this article is twofold. For residents, please be aware that you can contact the County if you are experiencing legitimate issues with nearby STRs such as safety concerns, nuisances, traffic congestion, environmental concerns, etc. For STR hosts,

please make sure you are compliant with Garfield County regulations, which include a health and safety inspection, conditional use permit and County business license. We

anticipate 2022 will be one of the busiest years yet, in terms of visitation. Please be courteous of your neighbors, no matter what side of the “creek” you are on regarding short-term rentals.

For issues you encounter with a STRs and/or business license information and application, you can contact me via the following: Phone—435-676-1157, or email — Kaden.figgins@garfield.utah.gov, or drop in to my office — Garfield County Courthouse, 55 South Main St, Panguitch, Utah 84759.



Snowmobile through this mess safely?

When in trouble, 2 is much safer than 1 in the back country.





**Celebrating A Tuesday Phenomenon**

by Ardel Jorgensen with thanks to the St. George News

Do you realize that February is the 2nd month of the year and it has a Twos-day on the 22nd of the month. In other words pretty soon we will be experiencing 2-22-22 twice in one day, once in the am and the other in the pm. And in a mere 200 years we may be celebrating 2-22-2222. In honor of this phenomenon, I hope you enjoy this little tongue twister.

“A tutor who tooted the flute,  
Tried to tutor two tooters to toot.  
Said the two to the tutor:  
“Is it harder to toot, or  
to tutor two tooters to toot?”

Happy Valentines Day and Presidents Day

**Coming Events –2022.** (all times are Mountain time)

- Summer Months            Utah Fire Academy - Firefighter training Program
- Summer Months            Wildland Wednesdays - Josh Soper Trainer
  
- May 28 10 AM                Annual Mammoth Creek Homeowners Meeting at  
The Community Center/Fire Station.
- Sept. 2 9:00 AM              MCHOA Road Side Clean Up-meet at  
Mammoth Creek Fire Station.
- Sept. 3. 9:00 AM              Annual Firefighter’s Pancake Breakfast and Raffle  
The Community Center /Fire Station.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Stop by the station or give Chief Ensor a call at 682-2700 if you are interested in any of the following opportunities.

The MCFD still has positions vacant and is looking for volunteers who would like to be a firefighter, a mechanic, or just general help around the station. You do not have to be a firefighter to donate your skill set to the fire station.

The MCFD also provides community service opportunities for your teenager including the shadowing of a member of the fire station and to learn a useful skill set. It is the opportunity for them to spend quality time with the firefighters during the summer months.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**MCHOA Board Members and Officers:**

Carl Radomski , President — — — 702-682-9999 — -carl.radomski@gmail.com  
Don Schulz, Vice President — — — 702-858-2404 — -bajadon1@gmail.com  
Bill Luthy, Treasurer — — — — — 702-592-1507 — -wluthy@outlook.com  
Ardel Jorgensen, Secretary — — 702-499-6114 — -ardelj@mchoa.info  
Fire Chief Ensor, Member — — — 435-682-2700 — -mcfire@scinternet.net  
Rich Kingham, Member- — — — 702-290-4224 — -rkingham@cox.net  
Cam Hughes, Member — — — — 702-497-3450 — -apedfxd03@yahoo.com

**Board Support:**

Dale Askew, Webmaster  
Ardel Jorgensen, Newsletter Editor  
Lance Griffith, Facebook Manager  
Christy Radomski

**MCHOA Addresses:**

Website: [www.mchoa.info](http://www.mchoa.info)

Mammoth Creek Homeowners Association  
HC 82 Box 1077  
Duck Creek Village, UT 84762-8200

MCHOA Newsletter  
P.O. Box 351  
Hatch, Utah 84735

Mammoth Creek Fire District  
P.O. Box 415  
Hatch, Utah 84735

**Facebook:**

Once connected to Facebook, search for Mammoth Creek HOA and if you are not a member, ask to join. Membership required.

**Short Term Rental Assistance (STRs):**

Kaden Figgins, Director of Planning/Economic Development  
435-676-1157  
[kaden.figgins@garfield.utah.gov](mailto:kaden.figgins@garfield.utah.gov)  
55 South Main St. Panguitch, Utah 84759

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Fire/Medical and Other Immediate Emergency, Contact:\*\*\***

**First Call, Garfield Dispatch — — — — — (435) 676-1134**

**Second Call, Mammoth Creek Fire Department — — — (435) 682-2700**

**Important you call Garfield Dispatch first so they can send help immediately. Then call the Fire Department so they can assist with EMS issues at the emergency site.**

**In The Alternative Dial — — — — — 911.  
then call the Mammoth Creek Fire Department — — — — (435) 682-2700**

**If you need it, there is an emergency telephone located on the East wall of the main fire station building. It is clearly labeled "911" and goes directly to Kanab dispatch. Explain the emergency and ask to be transferred to Garfield Dispatch.**

**\*\*\*Do not call other fire departments because they cannot respond unless they are officially dispatched.**

**For Non/Life-Property Threatening Help, Contact:**

**Mammoth Creek Fire Department — — — — — (435) 682-2700**

**Call If the incident requires only local assistance. The Fire Department will respond and evaluate the situation and determine the proper course of action.**

**Garfield County Sheriff's Office — — — — — (435) 676-2678**

**Power Outage/Propane Emergencies**

**For service Monday through Fridays, 8am to 5pm**

**Garkane Power/Propane, Hatch Office — — — — — (435) 735-4288 \***

**Toll Free — — — — — 1-888-735-4288\***

**\* Monday through Fridays, 8am to 5pm**

**For Evenings, Holidays, Saturday, Sunday — — — — — 1-800-747-5403**

**This number will automatically connect you to CRC Dispatch. The direct call to CRC Dispatch is no longer in use.**

## **Community Communication**

This newsletter is a good vehicle for you to communicate with Mammoth Creek Homeowners Board members or friends and neighbors. I have heard a number of times people looking for help to wash windows, clean the cabin, repair something, trim or cut down a tree, shovel snow from their deck etc. You might have new neighbors to welcome and introduce or a neighbor who has passed you would like to remember. Stories about life at Mammoth Creek and fun events in your subdivision are always interesting. You might have an item to sell/donate or you are looking for some particular item or service. You might even have constructive suggestions about this newsletter.

Why not send to me an email or mail a note with your comments and requests. Most will find their way on to the MCHOA web site and into the next newsletter. Be sure you include your name and contact information if required.

Email me at: [ardelj@mchoa.info](mailto:ardelj@mchoa.info) or mail a note to me at:  
MCHOA newsletter, P.O. Box 351, Hatch, Utah 84735. I look forward to your participation.  
Ardel J.