

Our latest snow storm brought a large amount of precipitation. Even though it's quite a lot of work to get it all cleared away and make Forest Lakes "manageable" once again, we are thankful for it. We'll enjoy some beautiful spring flowers and a nice green forest to keep fire levels low. The near-by lakes have filled up and should be at capacity when the snow melts. Good fishing a'comin!

This picture has popped up several times on the internet. Who wants to try this on some of the Forest Lakes snow berms?? What have you done for some creativity in the snow? Share pictures and we'll post them in a future issue.



Now let's March right along to see what is Happening in Forest Lakes.

UPDATE ABOUT THE VERIZON INFORMATION MEETING that was scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd

Due to the snow amounts and limited access to Forest Lakes on that day, an **additional meeting is scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 9th from 12 Noon to 2 PM at the Fire Station.**

If you have questions or comments about this project, you are encouraged to contact the project representatives directly. They are:

Temporary Site Contact: Reg Destree
Destreedevlopment@gmail.com , 602-349-6930

Long-Term Site Contact: Ken Jacobs (he looks forward to seeing everyone at the meeting)

[kjacobson@northlandresearch.com](mailto:kjacobs@northlandresearch.com), 928-606-7255

Library News

The Library began Summer "Peek" hours a month early! It is now open 9AM to 5PM Tuesdays thru Fridays and 10AM to 4PM on Saturdays. Closed Sunday & Monday.

Check out the Library Page on FLOA's new website, www.floa.club for hours, contacts, and lots of great library information.

NEWS ABOUT OUR RECENT SNOWFALL

THANK YOU from Forest Lakes Owners Association

Thanks to all the Forest Lakes Fire Department staff, the Coconino County Sheriffs operations personnel and the County Public Works staff for their untiring support and dedicated service during the past extreme "Snowstorm" at our Forest Lakes Community. With AZ highway 260 being closed,

our on duty fire, medical, police and public works services successfully maintained operational capabilities for residents having to endure the extreme weather conditions that prevailed.

On behalf of the FLOA Board of Directors, for our Community residents, a well-deserved **Thank You** for your life saving operational services.

Best Regards, Wayne Rothwell, FLOA Board President

REPORT from the Fire District Board Chairman Tom Cummiskey

On February 21, 2019, Arizona was subject to an unusually heavy snowstorm. Much of the state was impacted, but Forest Lakes was perhaps the most heavily impacted area in the state and hadn't seen this heavy of snowfall since 2010.

The community and surrounding area received 4 to 5 feet of snow on top of an estimated two feet already on the ground. Please see the accompanying pictures to appreciate the accumulations Forest Lakes received. Yet, thanks to many people and resources in the community as well as those brought in from across the state, the overall impact was fairly minimal.

A number of people were instrumental in mitigating the impact. Operating in conditions like we just experienced takes commitment and dedication. Thanks to FLFD On Duty Staff members Bryan Heyer, Jeremy Rocha, Cheryl Van Horn, Kevin King, Scott Vowell, Billy Tavares, Adam Radney, Benny Ruiz and Kyle Eggars. The District's POC staff members including Trina Cooper, Jim Weigold, Lou St. Germain and Bill Morehead also played key roles. Their tireless approach and commitment to the profession are admired.

A huge thank you to Sheriff's Deputy Robert McKeever and his wife Stephanie for their tireless efforts. Thanks to resident Gene Rottier and especially to Debbie Skeldon and Sally Rottier for the wonderful food and meals that they prepared for staff to keep them fueled. Also, thanks to Mary St. Germain, Sally Rottier and Lupe Everhart for their administrative support.

On the communications front, John Nelson drove in from California to staff our base station for the storm. John worked closely with the Emergency Operations Center in Flagstaff, neighboring Amateur radio staff in Heber and Phoenix to ensure seamless communications throughout the storm. And FLOA communications expert Judy Nelson greatly assisted the Fire District and Sheriff's deputies with the emergency contact data base she manages allowing us to contact property owners in the subdivision in a timely fashion. Thanks to Judy.

Much appreciation is owed to Coconino County Sheriffs Commander Rex Gilliland, Deputy Robert McKeever, SAR Team 1 personnel Al Astorga and John Penna, Department of Public Safety Sergeant Evan Larson, Trooper's Keith Anderson, Curtis Kuhn, Abel Ballesteros and Jason Klemme, Forest Service LEO John Lopez and trainee Tom Hughes as well as to ADOT Supervisor Brett Rupp and his plow drivers for making this event injury free and successful. The County grader operators, Clint Russ and Juan Williams, were critical. APS Janet Dean was in close contact with FLFD and Emergency Management informing us that additional crews were staged in Payson in the event of an outage. Coconino County Emergency Management, led by Todd Whitney, was instrumental in the planning, resource coordination and communication of any needs and for coordinating with the Navajo and Gila County Emergency Managers and resources so they were available to Forest Lakes if needed.

Significant coordination and leadership were needed to successfully employ all these resources. Fire Chief Dave Rodriguez, operating from our new fire station as the emergency operations center, was the single point of contact to ensure that all the players and resources were efficiently and effectively used to protect the community and surrounding areas. Great thanks and appreciation to Dave for all his good work!

Regarding resources, Sheriff Commander Rex Gilliland and Fire Chief Rodriguez determined on Wednesday that, with the in-bound storm and predicted snow amounts, staging a Snow Cat in Forest Lakes would provide the best Strategic and Tactical advantage for emergency response. The Snow Cat arrived in Forest Lakes that evening. SAR Team 1 was now in service. And most residents know from previous messages that the Snow Cat was used to rescue an ill patient from Young and bring him back to the Rim for transport to Payson. This Snow Cat was one of two pieces of essential equipment we had available for the storm.

The second was the District's front-end loader that proved invaluable throughout the storm's events. It was used to pull stuck tractor trailer semis off Highway 260. It was used as a loader to clear snow and of more importance, with its front-end blade attachment, it was used in coordination with the County's graders to plow out the dramatic amount of snow that covered the community's roads. Much thanks to Grant Cooper who was the primary operator of the loader that made such a huge difference.

To conclude, through professional and comprehensive planning and participation by many people, Forest Lakes was spared what could have been a catastrophic impact to the community. So, if you run into any of the people mentioned above, please go out of your way to thank them for all their efforts to keep Forest Lakes safe and secure! This was one for the Forest Lakes history books!

Picture descriptions: Fires Stating acting as the Emergency Operations Center – huge snow load buries crew's vehicles – digging out the vehicles – Front loader pulling semi from snowbank – Front loader helping to clear the roads – Incident scene on the Young Road – Snow Cat doing its job – Merzville Road just after the Front loader made a first pass – Battalion truck following the loader – Sheriff's Deputy McKeever's vehicle

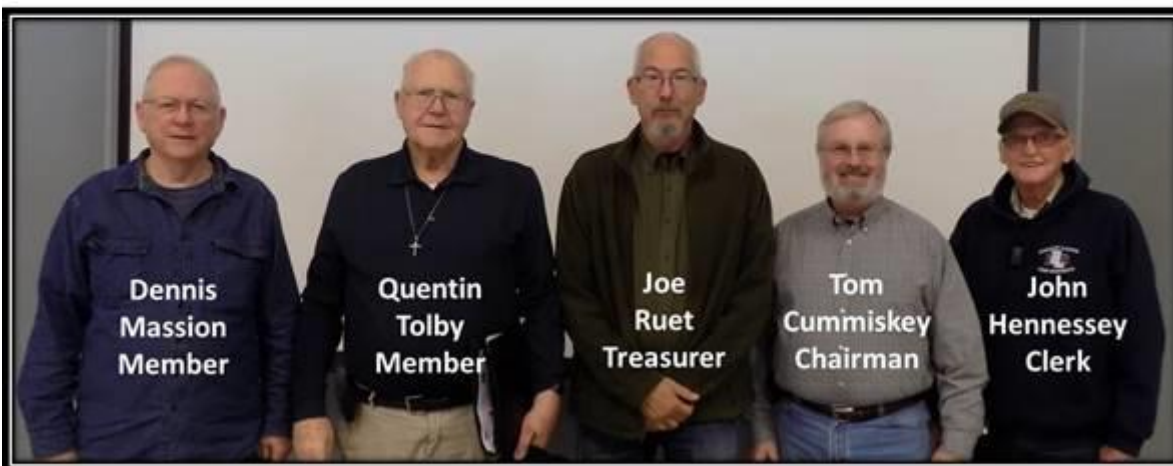




[MORE FIRE DISTRICT NEWS....](#)



**FOREST LAKES FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DECEMBER 08TH 2018**



The new Forest Lakes Fire District Board of Directors, as pictured at the December 8, 2018 regular board meeting. Along with Chief Rodriguez they constitute the Leadership Team for the district.

2018 Strategic Plan (STRAP) Update. The 2018 update to the fire district's strategic plan was published February 9, 2019. The FLFD leadership team (Board and Chief) puts significant effort into a Five-Year Strategic Plan Update every year. The plan is intended for both the leadership team and the community in general. It provides a complete description of our district operations and is published in the spirit of openness and transparency. It addresses the fire district's projected expenditures and revenues for the next five fiscal year periods and becomes the basis for the annual financial budgeting process.

The complete 44-page document, as well as a one-page summary, are available on-line at www.flfdaz.com/budget.

New Ambulance Status Update. Chief Rodriquez reported at the February 9th fire board meeting that the spec for the new ambulance is complete. We anticipate delivery and payment to be made by June 30th, in time for the busy summer season.

With school spring breaks happening in the next couple weeks, many residents will want to come to Forest Lakes to enjoy some special times at their cabin and play in the snow. Please be sure that you have planned to have your driveway plowed out in advance of your arrival. The snow is melting quickly due to warmer days, but you might still have a huge berm of snow piled up at the driveway entrance. Be mindful that along with the melting snow, comes muddy roads and driveways. This is to be expected from now until summer because it takes a lot of time to "fix" the rough spots caused by winter weather. We can all help by driving sanely on the roads and not causing unnecessary ruts. Since it's OUR community, we all will want to do our part to keep it safe and beautiful.

Happy, Happy Spring to everyone!