



MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

MVFA SUMMER PROGRESS: SOLAR POWER, RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS, AND STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT

July arrives with long days, busy weekends, and a steady rhythm of activity across the Fannon Lake Recreation Area. It's also a moment to recognize the meaningful work the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association has been carrying forward — projects that strengthen local businesses, improve recreation opportunities, and support the fire station through volunteer dedication.

One of the most significant milestones this summer is the **installation of the new solar power system at the Diner by EXCITE ENERGY**. Planning for this project began in December 2024, and its completion marks a major step toward long-term financial sustainability for whoever operates the restaurant. With rising PG&E costs continuing to challenge small businesses, the solar system provides predictable, affordable energy that helps ensure the Diner remains viable for future tenants and accessible for the community.

MVFA has also partnered with **Shimmick Construction**, to complete **five additional concrete tee pads** for the Fannon Lake disc golf course. With these new pads in place, all **27 holes** now have concrete tee pads available — a major upgrade that will enhance playability, safety, and the long-term durability of the course. Eleven of the dual-pad locations still need final placement, but with the completion of those pad placement, the course will be fully equipped for both casual

players and tournament-level events. This collaboration reflects the strong working relationships MVFA continues to build with organizations investing in the Mosquito area.

Meanwhile, the **portable batch plant** that has been located on MVFA property is being disassembled and transported to its new owner. Its departure marks the end of a unique chapter in the bridge construction timeline and opens up space for future facility planning.

Summer also brings a surge of visitors to Fannon Lake, and the **campground is fully booked on weekends and many weekdays**. The steady flow of campers and day-use visitors highlights the value of the improvements made over the past several years and reinforces the importance of ongoing maintenance and community support.

That support is especially visible in the volunteers who continue to sort **recycle containers**, generating funds used to purchase equipment for the fire station. This quiet but essential work directly strengthens MFPD's operational readiness, and MVFA remains deeply grateful for every hour and CRV container donated to this effort. We especially want to thank the **Crafters** who generously funded the purchase of a new office printer/scanner/copier for the MFPD Station 75 office!

As July unfolds, these projects and partnerships reflect the heart of MVFA's mission: supporting the fire district, improving community facilities, and investing in the long-term vitality of the Mosquito area. Thank you to everyone who contributes time, expertise, and encouragement — your efforts make a lasting difference.

MVFA FALL FESTIVAL

Would you like to be a vendor at our annual Fall Festival this year? Please let us know by sending an email to MVFA95667@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall Festival at Fannon Lake - 10 am - 3 pm Free Lunch September 12, 2026

Trunk-R-Treat - 6 pm - 8 pm October 24, 2026

Christmas Dinner at Station 75 - 5:30 pm Free Dinner December 5, 2026

The MVFA Board meeting will be on Thursday, June 18th at 3:00 pm at the Diner

CONTINUING OUR HISTORICAL ARTICLES SERIES

Last month, we launched the MVFA's new **Historical Articles** series — a project designed to bring forward the stories, people, and places that shaped the Mosquito region. The response from readers has been enthusiastic, and we're excited to continue sharing the rich history that surrounds us.

Each installment offers a deeper look into the events and local figures that left a lasting mark on our community. From early settlements and forgotten landmarks to the traditions that carried through generations, these stories help us better understand the land we call home.

This month's article continues that journey, adding another chapter to the growing collection of local history. We look forward to bringing you more insights, discoveries, and perspectives in the months ahead as we explore Mosquito's past together.

NELSONVILLE: A GOLD RUSH TOWN THAT VANISHED

By Steve Vrabel

Long before Swansboro Country was dreamt up, and back when Mosquito was a farming and ranching area with fewer than 200 residents, a bustling mining town called **Nelsonville** stood along Mosquito Road, just south of Buckboard Road. Few records remain, but it is known that the town had roughly **2,500 residents** and numerous businesses that served the miners and their families.



Nelsonville existed for more than a decade before it was designated a voting precinct in 1860. In 1865, the town burned completely and, surprisingly, was never rebuilt. Gold was becoming scarce in the river, residents drifted away, and the name slowly faded from memory. Today, all that remains are brief mentions in a handful of publications, scattered county documents, old obituaries, and **Nelsonville Cemetery**, located off La Paz Road on private property.

Many may wonder why Nelsonville—and other similar Gold Rush towns—disappeared. To understand this, we must look at the broader history of the Gold Rush itself.

In 1848, **John Sutter** was having a water-powered sawmill built along the American River in Coloma, California, approximately 50 miles east of present-day Sacramento. On January 24,

his carpenter, **James W. Marshall**, found flakes of gold in the streambed. Sutter and Marshall agreed to become partners and tried to keep their find a secret. News of the discovery, however, soon spread, and they were besieged by thousands of fortune seekers.

From the East, prospectors sailed around Cape Horn or risked disease hiking across the Isthmus of Panama. The hardest took the 2,000-mile overland route, on which cholera proved a far greater killer than the Native Americans. By August 1848, 4,000 gold miners were in the area, and within a year about **80,000**

“forty-niners” (as the fortune seekers of 1849 were called) had arrived at the California goldfields. By 1853 their numbers had grown to over **250,000**. Although it was estimated that some **\$2 billion** in gold was extracted, few of the individual prospectors struck it rich. The work was hard, prices were high, and living conditions were primitive.

In what was a typical pattern, the Gold Rush slackened as the most-workable deposits were exhausted and organized capital and machinery replaced the efforts of individual miner-adventurers with more efficient and businesslike operations. Likewise, the lawless and sometimes violent mining camps gave way to permanent settlements with organized government and law enforcement. Those settlements, like Nelsonville, that lacked other viable economic activities quickly diminished and soon became ghost towns after the gold was exhausted.

So, simple economics is what destroyed a town when its primary industry left or died. Even in the largest towns, like Detroit, Michigan, where for many years the automotive industry carried the bulk of the economic force, when it died, it impacted and harmed all subsidiary business in that area. As Nelsonville was built and ran on mining economics, when mining died, so did Nelsonville.

NELSONVILLE.—This is the name of a flourishing mining town in El Dorado county, which has sprung into existence within the last fifteen months. It has now three stores, two hotels, and several saloons, besides several residences. The **Nelsonville** Canal company have constructed a ditch thirty miles in length, with the collateral canals, carried the whole distance along steep precipitous and rocky mountain sides, with sixteen feet fall to the mile. By means of this enterprise water is furnished to an extensive tract of mining country. Miners are prospering, and the country around generally flourishing.

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please drop off bags of **Plastic Bottles** and **Aluminum Cans** (Sorry no **Glass**) at the back of Station 75. Note: Lids and caps on plastic bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption. Stay green, stay responsible, and happy recycling! ♻️



MOSQUITO CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter



This summer has been buzzing with activity for the Mosquito Crafters, and we're excited to share what we've been working on. From recent successes to upcoming opportunities, there's plenty happening in our community this season.

We had another successful pop-up sale in June at Smoke On The Water. Shoppers especially enjoyed the Father's Day and 4th of July-themed pieces, which helped make the event a great success.

This month, we'll be joining the Pancake Breakfast hosted by

D'Ax. Find us at the Mosquito Fire

Station on Saturday,

July 18th to enjoy a hot breakfast, browse our crafts, and spend time connecting with neighbors and friends.

With just four months to go until our largest sale of the year, the Mosquito Crafters are already hard at work preparing. We continue to meet monthly, grow our inventory, and build toward an exciting event ahead. We can't wait to share it with you!



AIRCRAFT DISPLAY DAYS

By Kim Purcell

The Swansboro airport is home to many interesting aircraft, both homebuilt as well as production built. We are doing our aircraft display July 10th, 11th and 12th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM each day at the airport. Aircraft that are unique as well as older than 35 years will be out and you are invited to look but be sure to remain well clear of the active runway. Please also be respectful and look but do not touch without guidance from owners. If you have any questions, would like further information or a guided tour you can contact Kim Purcell at (530) 621-1049.

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

June Bird Watch – Finnon Lake

June brought a lively mix of early-summer activity across the Mosquito and Finnon Lake area, with several species showing strong numbers as the season settles in. The month's most prominent presence came from **Acorn Woodpeckers**, with an impressive **25 individuals** busily tending granaries and calling from oak stands. Their energetic chatter set the tone for a warm, active month.

Waterfowl activity was lighter but steady: **14 Canada Geese**, **2 Mallards**, and a single **American Coot** were seen along the shoreline. A lone **California Quail** made an appearance, reminding us that broods should be emerging soon.

Songbirds and scrubland species added color and variety.

California Scrub-Jays were well represented with **5 sightings**, while **Wrentits (3)** and **Bewick's Wrens (2)** contributed their distinctive calls from dense understory. Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were a welcome seasonal highlight, often perched conspicuously as they hunted insects. Finch activity included **2 Cassin's Finches**, a nice addition to the month's list.

Ground and brush species remained active, with **6 Spotted Towhees** scratching through leaf litter. Blackbirds and their relatives showed strong numbers: **20 Red-winged Blackbirds**, **2 Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and a notable **21 Great-tailed Grackles**, which continue to expand their presence around Finnon.



Ash-throated Flycatcher

Overall, June offered a vibrant mix of resident species and seasonal visitors, with woodpeckers and blackbirds dominating the landscape. As summer progresses, we can expect fledglings, increased foraging activity, and plenty of opportunities for community bird watchers to enjoy the diversity of our local habitat.

The Count

14 Canada Goose	2 Ash-throated Flycatcher	6 Spotted Towhee
2 Mallard	5 California Scrub-Jay	20 Red-winged Blackbird
1 California Quail	3 Wrentit	2 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 American Coot	2 Bewick's Wren	21 Great-tailed Grackle
25 Acorn Woodpecker	2 Cassin's Finch	

SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

Happy Birthday, America — 250 Years!



Summer has officially arrived, the lake is sparkling, and we're kicking off July with good vibes, great food, and brand-new hours!



Summer is in full swing, and we're shaking things up to make your days by the water even better.

Diner Hours:

Monday – Wednesday – Closed
Thursday – Happy Hour 3 pm – 5 pm
Friday- 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm
Sunday 8 am - 2 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)



What's New & Fun This Season

- **Thursday Happy Hour** — 3:00–5:00 Sip something refreshing, snack on something tasty, and soak up lake views with your favorite people.
- **Friday Lunch** — 10:30–1:30 Your classic Friday tradition is back!
- **Saturday Fun** Lunch from 11–4, then dinner from 4–6 — a full day of good eats.
- **Sunday Breakfast** — 8–11 Early birds, this one's for you. **Sunday Lunch** — 11–2 Keep the weekend rolling with a lakeside meal.



A Big Thank You

We appreciate every familiar face who continues to visit us, and we're thrilled to welcome new ones. If you haven't stopped by yet... what are you waiting for? Come say hello to our awesome staff, enjoy the sunshine, and make some memories at the lake.



Your Smoke on the Water Family

Here's to summer, good food, great company, and celebrating America's big 250 in the best way — TOGETHER!!

MOSQUITO COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY

By Kim Purcell

Another successful community cleanup day!

A huge thankyou to all who helped make this a success again, the Pilots Association has been doing this event for more then 25 years and look forward to another one next year. Thank you to all who volunteered in the heat to help unload vehicles, to our firefighters Ben and Heide for their support all day and especially to Alex Pedersen who volunteered his excavator and himself to crush the large objects so that we had plenty of room in the dumpsters for everyone, he even joined in to help with the unloading. If you need brush clearing, driveways, road, trenching or

any other type of work please consider contacting him, he has done great work for a number of community members.

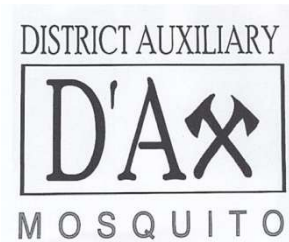
We had 70 loads put in the dumpsters and thanks to Alex's crushing we still had room at the end of the day. We also thank everyone who donated to our scholarship fund, it will allow us to add a nice amount to our fund for local students.

Our next event will be the household hazardous waste collection event to be held on August 29th. We'll provide more information as we get closer.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

As many of you know, our small community's fire department is currently in a period of transition. D'Ax* recognizes the many hours of hard work being devoted by the Mosquito Fire Protection District Board of Directors and appreciates their dedication to achieving the best possible outcome for our fire department and the residents of the MFPD community.



D'Ax*'s mission is to serve the Mosquito community through fundraising, education, and support of the fire department. We remain committed to supporting our community in meaningful ways that make a positive difference.

We are pleased to welcome Chief Dwyer back to the office and are excited to once again partner with **MFPD** in hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, July 18, 2026**.

This year's breakfast will feature a special silent auction item—a sturdy owl box generously donated to D'Ax*. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the firehouse. Owl boxes provide safe nesting sites for owls, which naturally help control rodent populations, making this both a practical and unique addition to your property.

Please mark your calendar for **July 18th!** Join us for a delicious breakfast from 9 to 11 am, catch up with friends and neighbors, and be sure to stop by the check-in table to place your bid on the owl box.

D'Ax*'s next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **Monday, July 20, 2026** at 2pm, in the firehouse kitchen. We sincerely thank Chief Dwyer for his prompt approval of our facility use request and for making this meeting location available.

We hope everyone enjoys this beautiful foothill summer, and we look forward to seeing you on **July 18th!**

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA) Board of Directors generally holds monthly meetings at the MFPD Fire Station, located at 8801 Rock Creek Road, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All SCPOA members are invited to attend.

The next SCPOA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6pm.

Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the official SCPOA website at SCPOA.info.

Visit SCPOA.info for general public information. SCPOA members can also access details about upcoming meetings, agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit DC&Rs, use of the Swansboro Airport and common areas, and more.

Member access requires a login. If you need login credentials, please email Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com or Ashley.silva@managementtrust.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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THE GOAT DOCTOR OF THE SIERRAS

book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy (530) 626-8689 to buy your copy. A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting, \$20.00. A few books with section of upside down pages are still available for \$10.00.

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MEETINGS

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HANGTOWN RANGE

Located at 1540 Broadway, Placerville CA. We are now a full, fire arm, archery, and retail indoor shooting range for all of your needs and wants. We offer a 10 lane 25-yard shooting range for all hand guns, shotguns and long guns up to 3200fps (some restrictions apply) and an 8-lane indoor 20-yard archery shooting range. We also have a full line of rental guns and archery recurve bows. We are now a fully stocked retail department for hand guns, long guns, archery supplies and ammunition.

We offer CCW and Renewal classes in our onsite classrooms along with all private and group classes to improve your shooting and safe handling skills, and also offer archery lessons in our indoor range, and let's not forget the available Women's classes. Come in and try our Milo Virtual shooting range using your own hand gun and live ammunition with over 200 different challenging and fun scenarios to choose from.

We are open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays.

Give us a call at 530-497-5443, for Range or 530-621-4500 for new sales.

WELDING & FABRICATION

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UNIQUE WOODWORKING

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48 - 12 X 12 Tiles Beige
36 - 12 X 6 Tiles Terracotta
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Plus More (530) 642-9084 or (916) 539-5395

July 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
5 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	6	7	8	9	10 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	11 Bird Watch Fannon Lake Day Use area 8am
12 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	13	14	15	16 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Diner	17	18 D'Ax Pancake Breakfast 9am - Station 75
19 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	20 D'Ax Meeting 2pm Station 75	21	22 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75	23 MFPD Board Meeting 1pm Station 75	24 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75 Crafters Meeting 10am	25
26 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	27	28	29	30	31	

Local Area Web Links

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

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.fannonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://dax-np.org>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

The MOSQUITO BYTE is mailed first class to subscribers each month. A subscription is \$20.00 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. 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.

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