

# MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 39, No. 4

January 2026

WE WISH *new* YOU A *year* **HAPPY**

**2026**

## MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

On **December 6th**, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association hosted its annual Christmas Dinner at Fire Station 75, bringing neighbors together to celebrate the holiday season.



Santa Claus made his grand entrance aboard the fire engine, greeted by a crowd of excited children eagerly awaiting his arrival. Once inside the station, Santa handed out stockings filled with goodies to each child - always the highlight of the evening.

This year's dinner drew close to a record crowd, with nearly **160 meals served**, including to-go orders. The delicious food was

prepared by our friends at **Smoke on the Water**, whose continued support makes these large community events possible.

The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and holiday spirit, and everyone left happy and full. MVFA is grateful to all who attended and helped make this tradition such a success.





## FINNON LAKE CAMPGROUND – A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

As we wrap up another year at **Finnon Lake Campground**, we're proud to share the highlights of a truly remarkable season.

- **965 bookings** brought campers from near and far.
- Guests enjoyed **1,552 nights hosted** under the pines.
- A total of **2,213 campers** experienced the beauty and tranquility of Finnon Lake.
- Our campers shared their experiences through **147 reviews**, praising the clean facilities, scenic lake, and welcoming atmosphere.
- We directly hosted 11 full campground bookings at a value of **\$9,870**.

This success is more than numbers—it reflects the dedication of our volunteers, and community partners who make Finnon Lake such a special place.

We're also thrilled to share recognition from our reservation program provider, **HIPcamp**, who wrote:

***“You've earned \$71,246.00 this year! That puts you in the top 10% of US Hosts on HIPcamp. Nice!”***

This achievement places Finnon Lake Campground among the very best hosts nationwide, a testament to the support of our community and the enthusiasm of our visitors.

As we look ahead to the next camping season, we remain committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and memorable experience for all who come to enjoy the lake. Thank you for being part of our success story!

## MVFA BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association was formed as a result of the formation of the fire protection districts. The MVFA which was originally the volunteer fire department had its roots in volunteerism and community fire protection. From the beginning, the association designed its leadership selection process to promote individuals who had demonstrated a heart for volunteer involvement and continued support of the local fire department and the community. Desirable board members are those who serve as volunteers in the community or have engaged in helping to maintain MVFA's approximately 125 acres of lake property, campground, and local diner. This is why the MVFA bylaws give preference to individuals who are current board members, firefighters, or Support Group members, with a second level of preference to those who have served on committees in support of MVFA events and the maintaining of its assets.

If an adequate number of nominees who represent these two categories do not fill the available open positions, then nominees of the MVFA general membership are candidates for selection through the voting process. (see MVFA Bylaws on GOMVFA.ORG for board nomination and election details).

There were three positions open for board membership this year. Cheryl Owen who was the Board President and Mary Williams who served as Board Treasurer agreed to serve another two-year term. Trent Williams who was the Board Secretary, elected not to run again in order to focus his volunteerism as a recently appointed member of the Mosquito Fire Protection Board

of Directors. Dan VanDusen, who has been a 14-year member of the Support Group and a strong supporter of the MVFA organization and its activities, agreed to run and the three were elected unanimously by the community at the annual General Board Meeting.

Thank you Cheryl, Mary and Dan for your willingness to serve the community!

## MVFA SWAG

### Cozy Up with Community Spirit This Season

As the weather turns cooler, it's the perfect time to layer up while showing your support for the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association! Our collection features **Mosquito Sweatshirts with Hoodies**, alongside classic T-shirts, so you can stay warm and comfortable while sporting local pride.

- **Sweatshirts with Hoodies:** Ideal for crisp mornings and chilly evenings, available in a variety of sizes.
- **Fresh Colors & Styles:** Newly added designs mean there's something for everyone.
- **T-Shirts Too:** For those warmer afternoons, keep your community spirit alive with lightweight options.

Whether you're heading outdoors, gathering with neighbors, or simply enjoying the season, these hoodie sweatshirts are a practical and stylish way to stay cozy while supporting your local fire association. Be sure to check out the latest selections today!



MVFA apparel, along with local phone books, are conveniently available for purchase at the **diner during regular business hours** or at **MVFA sponsored events**.

For personalized orders or special requests, feel free to reach out to us at

[MVFA95667@gmail.com](mailto:MVFA95667@gmail.com). Show your support, stay stylish, and represent Mosquito proudly!

## 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! 



## **NEW NEIGHBORS**

If you are new to the area, or know someone new to the area, MVFA has welcome packets that contain great information about our community and helpful guidance for living in a high risk fire area. Please contact us at [MVFA95667@gmail.com](mailto:MVFA95667@gmail.com) so we can get one delivered to your door!

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Event dates will be conveyed if approved by the MFPD.

The MVFA Board meeting will be on **Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm** at the Diner

## **SENIORS MEAL SERVICES**

El Dorado County Senior Nutrition offers Home Delivered Meals for individuals 60 years of age or older who are homebound either temporarily or permanently, and unable to shop for their own food or prepare their own meals. Home delivered meal service is available to help them meet their nutritional needs. Dedicated, caring volunteers deliver meals Wednesday's, while also checking in on the well-being of each participant -- bringing peace of mind to clients and their families. Our goal is to provide nutritious meals and social contact to support overall wellness that will enable participants to remain living independently and with dignity in their own homes. Frozen meals for weekends and holidays are available upon request. Call today to see if you qualify! 530-621-6160

<https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Services/Assistance-Programs/Seniors/Senior-Services/Senior-Nutrition-Services>

## **MOSQUITO CRAFTERS**

By Natasha Cutter

Happy New Year to our wonderful Mosquito neighbors!

What an incredible and productive 2025 it has been for the Mosquito Crafters. We hit the ground running this spring with our Easter basket sale and kept the momentum going by participating in three community pancake breakfasts.

The excitement continued into the autumn with a fantastic showing at the October Fall Festival, followed by our successful two-day showcase at the Cold Spring Church. We closed out our calendar with a festive Holiday Craft Sale at the fire station and a final crafters' gathering to celebrate our collective achievements.

We are so proud of what we've accomplished together this year and are deeply grateful for the community's continued support. Here's to an even more creative 2026!

## **THANK YOU!**

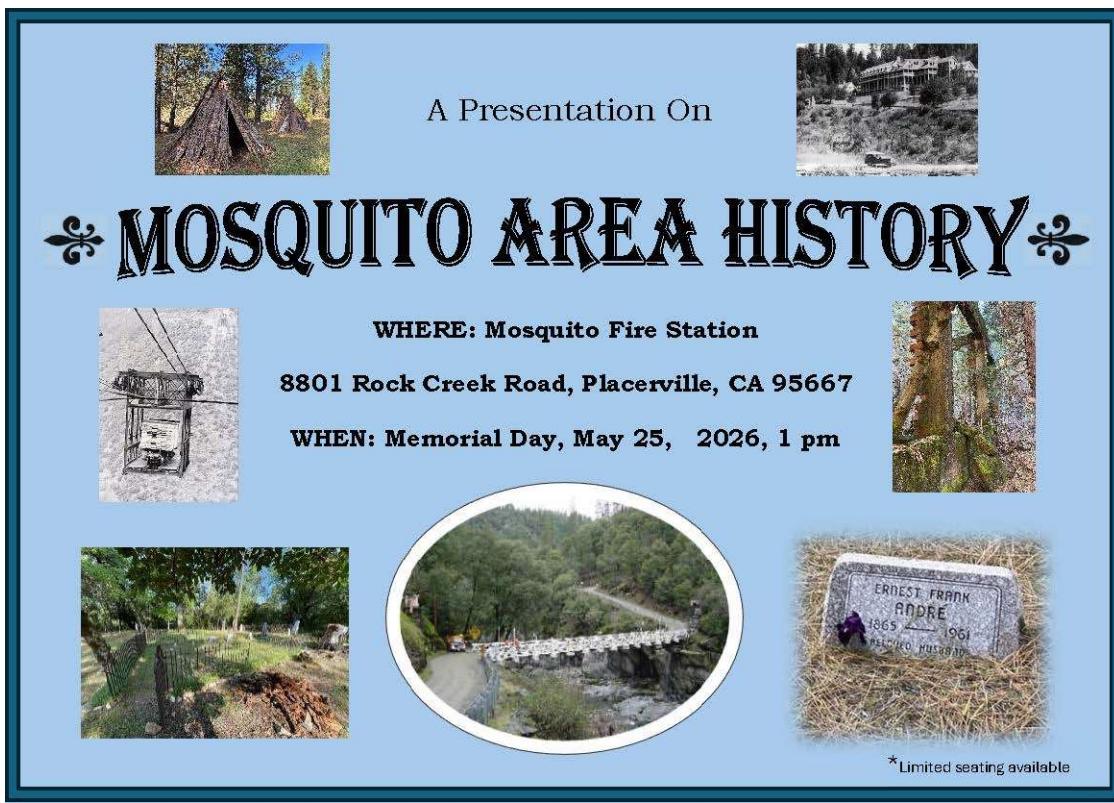
From Dee Harris

Thank you again to all my 'Cookie Angels' for all the delicious goodies you baked for MVFA's Community Christmas baskets. You are much appreciated by so many!

## **MOSQUITO HISTORY PRESENTATION**

By Steve Vrabel

Ever wondered about the Native Americans who were in the Mosquito area before us? Or what happened to the town of Nelsonville, which was located here in the 1850's? Or when Finnon Lake was created; where a local boarding house operated; what amazing history occurred in the El Dorado National Forest just east of us; or the history of our swinging bridge and Swansboro subdivision? These and other questions will be answered during a two-hour presentation on Mosquito History, which will take place at 1 pm on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, at the Mosquito Fire Department.



A presentation slide titled "MOSQUITO AREA HISTORY" featuring several historical images and details about the event.

**A Presentation On**

**MOSQUITO AREA HISTORY**

**WHERE: Mosquito Fire Station**  
**8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA 95667**

**WHEN: Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, 1 pm**

**\* Limited seating available**

The slide includes the following images:

- A small image of a traditional Native American dwelling (possibly a tule hut) in a forest.
- A large image of a long, two-story wooden building, likely the Nelsonville Hotel.
- A small image of a wooden structure, possibly a historical building or a fire station.
- A circular image of a bridge spanning a river, surrounded by dense forest.
- A small image of a headstone for Ernest Frank Andre, dated 1865-1961.
- A small image of a cemetery with several headstones and trees.
- A small image of a tree trunk with a thick, textured bark.

## **SCPOA REPORT**

By Meredith Blain

The **Swansboro Country Property Owners Association** Board of Directors (SCPOA) generally hold monthly meetings at the MFPD Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All SCPOA members are invited to attend. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6pm. Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the SCPOA website: SCPOA.info.

**SCPOA members, mark your calendar now for the SCPOA Annual Members Meeting on Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

Visit SCPOA.info, the official SCPOA website for general public information. SCPOA Members can also get information about upcoming meetings, meeting agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit's DC&Rs, use of the Swansboro Airport and common areas, and much,

more at SCPOA.info! Members need a login to access member information. If you need a login, please send an email to [Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com](mailto:Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com) or [Ashley.silva@managementtrust.com](mailto:Ashley.silva@managementtrust.com) for access.

## **DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax**

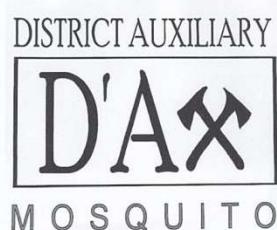
By Meredith Blain

The District Auxiliary-Mosquito\* will hold its January Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 2pm at the Mosquito Fire House, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA. At this meeting two open board director positions will be filled.

Mosquito residents are invited to place nominations via email to [admin@dax-np.org](mailto:admin@dax-np.org), or via USMail sent to the District Auxiliary – Mosquito\*, 6696 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667. Nominations **must be received prior to the January 11, 2026, D'Ax\*** meeting, and please include nominee's name, a brief statement of why they wish to serve, and state that they reviewed all D'Ax\* Bylaws, and they understand director responsibilities.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting or event!

To donate or volunteer, email us at [admin@dax-np.org](mailto:admin@dax-np.org) or contact any D'Ax\* director. Visit our website at [dax-np.org](http://dax-np.org).



## **BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE**

### **December Bird Watch: Winter Visitors and Woodland Residents**

As winter settles over Mosquito, our December bird watch brought a lively mix of resident species and seasonal highlights. A crisp morning made for excellent viewing, and participants enjoyed a diverse range of sightings across the lake and surrounding woodlands.

Highlights from the Count

4 California Quail	1 Turkey Vulture	2 Common Raven
3 Wild Turkey	1 Bald Eagle	15 Western Bluebird
2 Mourning Dove	1 Belted Kingfisher	10 American Robin
135 American Coot	20 Acorn Woodpecker	15 Lesser Goldfinch
2 Pied billed Grebe	2 Northern Flicker	10 Dark eyed Junco
3 Double crested Cormorant	1 Steller's Jay	10 Dark eyed Junco (Oregon)
1 Great Egret	4 California Scrub Jay	3 Spotted Towhee
2 Brewer's Blackbird		

This month's bird watch reflects the richness of our local habitat even in the quieter winter season. From the soaring Bald Eagle to the bustling flocks of American Coots, each sighting reminds us of the vibrant wildlife that thrives in our community.

As we move into the new year, keep your eyes open for seasonal visitors and enjoy the changing rhythms of the bird world. We look forward to sharing more discoveries in January!

## **SMOKE ON THE WATER**

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

**Welcome to 2026!**  A brand-new year is here, and we can't wait to see what it brings for **Smoke on the Water** and our wonderful community. We're stepping into the season with excitement, gratitude, and big hopes for the year ahead.

As winter settles in, we'll be shifting to our **winter hours**:

- **Closed on Fridays until spring**
- **Saturday lunch 11 am - 4 pm**
- **Saturday dinner: 4 pm – 6 pm**
- **Sundays breakfast 9 am – 11 am**
- **Sunday lunch 11 am – 2 pm**

These colder months can be challenging, and your support truly makes all the difference. If each of you can stop by just **once each weekend**, it will help keep our doors warm, welcoming, and open all winter long.

Thank you for being the heart of our community and for standing by us year after year. We appreciate you more than words can say.



With love and gratitude, **Your Smoke on the Water Family**

### **Diner Hours:**

Monday - Friday- Closed

Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 9 am - 2 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

<https://www.facebook.com/smokeonthewaterplacervilleca>

## **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**

**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.

**MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT** 6 Cu. Ft. Steel Wheelbarrow @ \$10; 6' Alum step ladder @ \$20; 8' alum extension ladder @ \$30; oil filled radiator heater @ \$5, and Kenmore Progressive Vacuum Cleaner (Canister) @ \$50. Call (503) 626-8689.

#### **UNIQUE JEWELRY**

Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 530-642-2333.

#### **TREADMILL**

Pro-Form J4 Electric Treadmill \$60.00  
Gary at 530-626-0265 or 310-541-7710

#### **2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 883**

Super low mileage Original 875 miles  
New Michelin Tires, New Drive Belt  
Just Serviced, New Battery, Freshly  
Detailed - daviddudleyca@comcast.net

#### **JOTUL PROPANE HEAT STOVE**

Complete with chimney thermostat. Can be seen at 6796 Log Cabin Lane 916-501-3444

### **MEETINGS**

#### **MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP**

Join us for Christian worship and fellowship Sunday mornings 11AM at 3342 Stope

Drive. Bible studies throughout the week.  
530-295-0503

### **SERVICES**

#### **CALI CONSTRUCTION**

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

#### **NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL**

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

#### **HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE**

**PAINTING** Residential/Commercial  
Specializing in repaints contact Steven Martinez, 530-919-7612 or americaneaglepainting4@gmail.com  
Lic# 960086

#### **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.

#### **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.

### **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.mosquitoroadneighbors.com](http://www.mosquitoroadneighbors.com) or 530-295-4641 or toll free 866-SALLYRE, [snlongjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:snlongjohns@yahoo.com).

### **WELDING & FABRICATION**

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

### **REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

Donna Ables, Realtor, MBA/BBA Real Estate & Land Use Affairs, CSUS  
Caldwell Banker Realty  
Where Quality Meets Excellent Customer Service!  
CalDRE# 01887830  
(916) 320-0365  
Visit [donnaablesrealestate.com](http://donnaablesrealestate.com)

### **HANDCRAFTED ART ON THE HILL**

Unique and affordable glass art by Pam Angelo: plates, bowls, vases, birdbaths and more. Perfect as gifts or treat yourself. Studio open most days, text or call to set a time 530-391-5424

### **UNIQUE WOODWORKING**

Created by Dave Angelo in his Swansboro wood shop. Beautiful trinket boxes, wildlife wall art, pepper mills, vases, puzzles, toys and more! Studio open most days, text or call to set a time 707-688-4659

### **WILD PEAK ENERGY**

Licensed Electrical Contractor - CSLB 1138152. Visit our website for more information - [www.wildpeakenergy.com](http://www.wildpeakenergy.com)  
Your Local Electrical Experts! (916) 995-9655

### **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

## JANUARY 2026

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

### 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](http://www.edcfiresafe.org)

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. It is also posted on the [www.goMVFA.org](http://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](mailto: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](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 accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

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

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PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

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