

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



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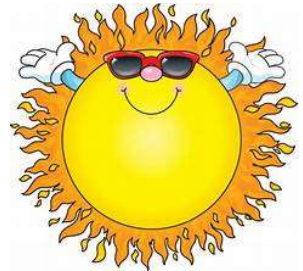
August 2025

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

SUMMER REFLECTION

As August settles over the Mosquito community, the warm evenings remind us that summer is both a time of celebration and vigilance. While families squeeze in final vacations and students prepare for the return to school, fall brings seasonal challenges to our mountain community.



Fire Season Readiness

August marks the peak of fire season in El Dorado County. With vegetation dry and temperatures high, residents are reminded to:

- Clear defensible space around homes
- Review evacuation plans
- Sign up for El Dorado County emergency alerts

The community's readiness is more than operational—it's personal. Many of our neighbors, and friends, are volunteers who are active participants in helping to protect our neighborhood.



Back-to-School Safety

As school buses return to the roads, drivers are encouraged to stay alert as they travel to and from town on Rock Creek Road.

Late-Summer Gatherings

August is a time for community connection. Whether it's a backyard barbecue, a hike around the local lakes, or a quiet evening under the stars, Mosquito residents know how to savor the season.



Looking Ahead

As August winds down, we prepare for the transitions ahead—cooler nights, autumn colors, and continued service. The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association thanks you for your support.

PAWS, PATHS & PUBLIC SPIRIT: WALKING AT FINNON LAKE

Each morning, the trails around **Finnon Lake Recreation Area** fill with quiet footsteps and joyful barks. Locals lace up walking shoes, clip leashes to collars, and set out for scenic loops around the lake—finding not just exercise, but a shared connection to nature and community.

Owned and maintained by the **Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association**, Finnnon Lake is more than a reservoir—it's a refuge. The peaceful surroundings, easy terrain, and fresh mountain air have made it a popular destination for morning walks, especially among dog owners and outdoor enthusiasts.



Walkers Welcome—With Leashes, Please

El Dorado County enforces a **leash ordinance** that applies to all public spaces, including Finnnon Lake. Visitors are kindly reminded to **keep dogs leashed at all times**, both for safety and to protect wildlife.

And just as important: **please pick up after your pets**. Waste bags are a provided courtesy—but cleanliness and consideration are a gift to everyone who visits the trails. Let's keep the paths pleasant and poo-free!



Stay Aware: Rattlesnakes Are Local Residents Too

While the area's beauty is undeniable, nature comes with its own caution signs. **Rattlesnakes are known to inhabit the region**, especially in warm months. Keep an eye on trail sides and avoid letting pets roam off-path. Knowledge and vigilance ensure peaceful coexistence.

Pet Safety Around Untreated Water

Finnnon Lake is a naturally occurring body of water and is not chemically treated or tested for pet consumption. Per **El Dorado County health advisories**, visitors are urged **not to allow pets to drink from the lake**. Bring your own water—just as you would for yourself.



Contributions Keep Trails Open

While Finnnon welcomes walkers free of charge, the **\$10 day-use fee is waived for those simply walking around the lake**. That said, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association appreciates any contribution to help maintain the trails, parking areas, and facilities. For frequent visitors, **annual permits are available**.

Community in Motion

Whether you're counting steps or watching your pup's tail wag, Finnnon Lake offers a setting where wellness meets community pride. Each walk is a small act of appreciation—for nature, for public safety, and for the volunteers who keep it all going.

Let's walk with purpose, respect the land, and keep Finnnon Lake a haven for all.

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 so we can get one delivered to your door!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall Festival at Finnon Lake - 10 am - 3 pm Free Lunch October 11, 2025

Trunk-R-Treat at Station 75 - 6 pm - 8 pm October 25, 2025

Christmas Craft Sale at Station 75 - 10 am - 2 pm November 15, 2025

Christmas Dinner at Station 75 - 5:30 pm December 6, 2025- Free Dinner

MVFA SWAG

Looking to sport some community spirit? Explore the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association's collection of **Mosquito T-shirts and Sweatshirts**, available in a variety of sizes and fresh colors! With newly added styles, there's something for everyone, so be sure to check out the latest selections.

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. Show your support, stay stylish, and represent Mosquito proudly!

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

The MVFA Recycle Program continues to provide a valuable resource of dedicated funding for the Mosquito Fire Station to be utilized by the department at the Fire Chief's request. Your participation in this program is appreciated and is benefiting our fire department!

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! ♻️



The next MVFA Board meeting will be on Thursday, August 21st at 3:00 pm at the Diner
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BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

Looking for a peaceful way to connect with nature and neighbors? Join us for the **Monthly Bird Watch Walk at Finnon Reservoir**, held the **second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM**. Whether you're a seasoned birder or just curious about the calls in the pines, this gentle morning walk offers a chance to slow down, listen, and learn.

Where & When

- **Location:** Finnon Reservoir
- **Time:** 8:00 AM, every second Saturday of the month
- **Distance:** ~1.5 miles round trip
- **Duration:** ~75 minutes

July Walk Highlights

On **July 12, 2025**, early risers gathered at 7:56 AM to begin the walk. Over the course of **1.48 miles and 75 minutes**, participants spotted a variety of local species, from acorn woodpeckers tapping away in the oaks to American coot paddling on the reservoir’s surface. The walk was filled with quiet moments, and shared discoveries that only happen when phones are off and binoculars are up.



Black Phoebe

Bird Species Spotted in July

Here’s a snapshot of what was seen during the **July walk**:

7 Mallard	1 Hairy Woodpecker	3 Lesser Goldfinch
2 American Coot	1 Black Phoebe	2 California Towhee
1 Cooper's Hawk	4 California Scrub-Jay	4 Spotted Towhee
1 Bald Eagle	4 Oak Titmouse	16 Brewer's Blackbird
1 Red-shouldered Hawk	1 White-breasted Nuthatch	4 Great-tailed Grackle
13 Acorn Woodpecker	2 Bewick's Wren	
1 Nuttall's Woodpecker		

From raptors to wrens, Finnon Reservoir offers a rich tapestry of avian life. Each walk brings new surprises and seasonal shifts in species.

What to Bring

- Binoculars (if you have them)
- Water and sun protection
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Curiosity and a love for the outdoors

Why It Matters

Birdwatching isn’t just about identifying species—it’s about fostering appreciation for the ecosystem we call home. Finnon Reservoir is a vital habitat for migratory and resident birds alike, and these walks help build community awareness and stewardship.

Whether you're hoping to spot a rare raptor or simply enjoy the serenity of a morning walk, we invite you to join us at the next walk on August 9. Let’s make the second Saturday a tradition worth tweeting about—literally.

SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway



Can you believe it's already August?

Time's flying faster than a hummingbird at happy hour! But here in our little slice of paradise, we're just warming up—August brings the best weather for outdoor dining, and we couldn't be more excited.

We've been thrilled to welcome a wave of new faces coming up from down the mountain, and we're so grateful folks are making the trip to experience the charm of our lakeside spot. For those of you in our community who haven't made it in yet... what are you waiting for? Skip the drive to town and swing by the diner—we're closer than you think and better than you remember.



Whether you're planning a cozy gathering, birthday bash, or a full-blown summer soirée, we offer private events, parties, and catering. Just give us a call—we love making your celebrations delicious. 530-622-1060

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your ongoing support.



Your Smoke on the Water Family

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 August 15th, 16th and 17th 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.

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

By Chuck Galvan

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP shares the Good News of Jesus Christ right here in Mosquito. We meet Sunday at 11am at 3342 Stope Drive and in various homes throughout the week for worship, study and fellowship. Everyone is invited. Call (530) 295-0503 for more information.

Diner Hours:

Monday - Thursday - Closed

Friday 11 am – 1:30 pm

Saturday - 11 am - 7 pm

Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

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

MOSQUITO CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

The Mosquito Crafters have dedicated significant effort throughout the year to expand our inventory. We've been showcasing our crafts during our monthly meetings, and everyone agrees that our inventory is becoming increasingly exciting and impressive with each passing year. Our



Crafters are very enthusiastic about what they do and it shows in their quality of work! We participated in the pancake breakfast in July, where the sales were successful.



Additionally, we contributed an item to the silent auction organized by D'Ax to help raise funds for the fire

department's roof. We invite new members to join our craft group! We gather on the fourth Friday of every month.

Attending our meetings is not required to join. Your level of participation is completely up to



you. All proceeds we raise go to supporting the Mosquito Volunteer Protection District. If you're interested in becoming part of our group, have any questions, or wish to contribute to the Mosquito Crafters, please reach out to us at mosquitocrafters@gmail.com. You can also find us and follow us on Facebook.

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association Board of Directors (SCPOA) meets monthly at the MFPD Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the SCPOA website: SCPOA.info. All SCPOA Members are invited to attend the monthly meetings, and the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6pm.

Members of SCPOA can visit SCPOA.info, the official SCPOA website, and get information about upcoming meetings, meeting agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit's DC&Rs, using the Swansboro Airport, and find information for use of common areas, and much more! If you have not requested a login for the SCPOA website, please send an email to Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com, or cristin.gibbons@managementtrust.com to gain access.

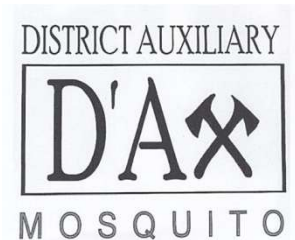


DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

“RAISE THE ROOF” FUNDRAISER: SUCCESS!

D'Ax is thrilled to announce that the “*Raise the Roof Fundraiser*” has officially reached its goal! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community members, we now have the necessary funds to purchase and install a brand-new roof for the Mosquito Fire Protection District's Station 75



In June, the final donations came in, bringing us over the finish line! We are currently working closely with MFPD advisors to move forward with the project, and we anticipate that construction will begin within the coming weeks.

If you're curious about the roofing project, want to learn more about our fundraising efforts, or would like to know what D'Ax has planned next, feel free to contact any D'Ax director or email us at Admin@dax-np.org. We'd love to share more about our work!

Even better—join us in person!

D'Ax holds its regular meetings on the **fourth Thursday of each month**, just before the Mosquito Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting. The August Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 6pm in the MFPD Station 75 Kitchen, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville.

BATTERIES CAUSE FIRES



**KEEP OUR
COMMUNITY
SAFE**



NEVER THROW YOUR BATTERIES IN THE TRASH OR RECYCLING

**BATTERIES THAT ARE THROWN AWAY COMBUST AND CAUSE
TRUCK FIRES THAT THREATEN OUR COMMUNITY!**



PROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL

**Household batteries are accepted free
at the following locations:**

Placerville MRF
(Material Recovery Facility)

4100 Throwita Way.
Friday-Sunday 9AM-4PM

Cameron Park
Recycling Center

3350 Saratoga Ln.
Tuesday-Saturday 9AM-3:30PM

El Dorado Hills
Recycling Center

4421 Latrobe Rd.
Tuesday-Saturday 9AM-3:30PM

***All batteries must be taped with clear tape**

****Recycling Center attendants take 1/2 hour lunch tentatively between 12PM & 12:30PM**

Curbside Recycling from El Dorado Disposal



Residential customers serviced by El Dorado Disposal can request a battery jug to be filled and picked up at your cart. We accept Alkaline, Lithium and Rechargeable batteries with terminals taped on +/- sides with clear tape.

Call El Dorado Disposal to schedule this service



ElDoradoDisposal.com (530) 626-4141

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. Special Price \$10 due to section of upside-down pages.

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

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.

CALI CONSTRUCTION

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

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.

WELDING & FABRICATION

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

WILD PEAK ENERGY

Licensed Electrical Contractor –
CSLB 1138152 Current Promotions:
15% OFF - \$1,500 OFF
General Lighting, Mood Lighting, Outlets, Service Panel Upgrades, Hot Tubs and Much More! Visit our website for more information - www.wildpeakenergy.com
Call Today for a FREE quote!
(916) 995-9655

RENTALS

APARTMENT FOR RENT – AVAILABLE NOW!

Enjoy the comfort and convenience of this charming, fully furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bath apartment featuring: Private entrance for added privacy, Relaxing private patio, Dedicated parking, Spacious 750 sq ft layout. Rent: \$1,500/month + deposit. For inquiries or to schedule a viewing, contact Mickey Sharp at 916-712-1532

AUGUST 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
3 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	4	5 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	6	7	8	8 Bird Watch Finnon Lake 8am
10 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	18	19 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	20	21 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Diner	22 Crafters Meeting 10am	23
24 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	25	26	27 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75	28 D'Ax Board Meeting 6 pm MFPD Board Meeting 7pm Station 75	29	30

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

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.

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PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE