



CHIEF'S REPORT

by Chief Jack Rosevear



October-November 2023

Calls for Service: October 30-November 13

Medical Aid- 1

Public Assist- 4

Congratulations to EMT graduates Trevor Dillender, Tony Christensen, and Kristen Dillender. They have successfully completed their intense training. Their next step is the National Registry Test- which can be likened to the Bar Exam. As soon as they pass their registry test, they will be EMTs able to work in the State of California. Their final step will be County registration. We are very proud of their accomplishments. The addition of the EMTs will staff an EMT every day in addition to two paramedics at various times.

Trevor Dillender, Tony Christensen and Angel Rosevear will be starting Sierra College Firefighter 1 Academy in early January. This is a very intense program which will run until May requiring the three to attend academy related training or physical training seven days a week (training grounds in Roseville and Grass Valley). We wish them success and know they will represent our Community well. Both EMT and Firefighter 1 training is funded by our FEMA SAFER Grant.

Many thanks to the volunteers of D'AX and our staff for a great pancake breakfast on Veteran's Day November 11. It was the last breakfast of the year and a tremendous effort to consistently put on a quality event, which was only a vision before last January. The Veteran's breakfast served 120- which was the most of the 2023 breakfasts. D'AX raised approximately \$1,000 after expenses. We are very grateful for the commitment and dedication to the Department of our awesome volunteers and the leadership of D'AX.

A special thank you to the MVFA for their continued support of the Station. The crew kitchen is currently being completely remodeled with new cabinets, countertop, sink and dishwasher. The MVFA supported the apparatus floor painting project by renting the floor grinder for an extra day @ \$300.00. Thank you to Trent Williams and David Dudley for their time spent painting and the on duty crews stripping, gridding off paint and filling cracks.

A special thank you to the wonderful Crafters Group who have diligently worked their creativity and raised considerable money for the Station. We are very grateful!!

The Fire District was recently awarded \$666,320 from the FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program. The grant was applied for in February 2023 and we were successful in the first round of awards. This gives us another four years of grant funding for our productive volunteer program, which has resulted in the fire station being staffed 24/7 for over two years. The funding covers volunteers' stipend pay for shift coverage and response to emergencies, training classes, new volunteer expenses including physicals, background checks, uniforms and safety gear, support of the Explorer program, salary and benefits for a volunteer coordinator (Fire Captain), and more. Residual money from the current grant ending in December 2023 can be used for enhanced marketing and other volunteer support needs.

Many thanks for grant writing efforts by Meredith Blain and Didi Everhart (Gatchell Grant Resources-Canton, OH). We are currently awaiting the results of a parallel SAFER grant application for full time station staffing (3 positions- 1 firefighter/supervisor 24/7/365). I have posted a success story, about our grant experiences, on the US Congressional website for SAFER and AFG staffing. The District has also been awarded \$10,000 from Cal Fire for wildland PPE and equipment to be spent in the Spring 2024 (50/50 grant- \$10,000 matching from District).

TSU Tree Service has completed their work in the community and their equipment has departed our parking area. They will provide a transfer load of gravel to begin the process of re-grading the parking lot. We appreciate their cooperation and partnership. They are welcome back anytime.

Our Fire District staff is fully committed to our Community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information. We are happy to conduct an interior or exterior fire safety inspection upon your request. Please call us at 530-626-9017 or stop by the station.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday December 2 – Annual Holiday Sale - Station 75– 10-2 PM
- Tuesday- December 5- SCPOA Monthly Board Meeting- Station 75- 6pm
- Thursday December 7- MVFA Board Meeting- 3pm- Station 75
- Saturday December 9- MVFA Holiday Dinner 6pm- Tree Lighting 5:15pm & Santa- Station 75
- Thursday December 28 - Fire Board Meeting- 7pm- Station 75

The next MFPD Board meeting will be on December 28th at 7:00 pm at Station

THANK YOU to all my 'Cookie Angels' for another tasty contribution to MVFA's Christmas Food Baskets. You are very much appreciated! Dee Harris

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

MFPD SUPPORT FROM THE MVFA

We are very pleased that we have been able to provide some much-needed funding for our local fire department this past year. The MVFA has provided over \$23,000.00 in donations of equipment and station improvements this past year. Improvements have included-

Upstairs Bathroom Renovation, Mechanic Tools, Bulletin Board, Welder and Welding Accessories, Evacuation Drill Signage, CPR Manikins and Training Booklets, New Flagpole and Lighting, New Stackable Washer/Dryer, Upstairs Kitchen Renovation, Roll-Up Door Replacement and Electrical System Repairs

CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we reflect on Thanksgiving and all that we have to be thankful for, we look forward to the Christmas holiday and hope that it finds you joyful and healthy. The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association Board wishes you a Merry Christmas and a meaningful New Year! Don't forget to join us for dinner at the Fire Station on December 9th. The event starts at 5:00 pm and the Firefighters will be lighting the Christmas tree at 5:15 pm just in time for Santa's arrival at 5:30 pm. Please bring an ornament to put on the tree. Santa and his reindeer will be there to pass out presents to all the kids. We hope to see you there!

CAMPGROUND ACTIVITY

As the camping season closes, we will be using the down time to make repairs, trim trees and perform our annual clean up. This season has been a good one with a full campground on weekends and a number of family, scouting, and disc golf events which filled the campground as well. We continue to receive high praise in reviews from our campers who appreciate the spacious campsites, serene setting and the clean facilities. Here are some of the recent reviews.

VOICES FROM THE CAMPGROUND

Nick says: We loved staying at this campground! It was in a beautiful spot, serene, quiet, waterfront was gorgeous, the campground and sites themselves were well kept and clean, the bathrooms were amazingly clean as well. Can't say enough about this campground, we had an amazing time. We'll definitely be repeat campers, thank you for the stay!

David Glenda says: The camp grounds are well maintained, very quiet, nice hiking trail around the lake.

Gloria says: Was born and raised in Mosquito. Always love coming back. Still quiet and remote from the crazy world. Nice and clean.

Jay says: Easy check in. Spot is nice and quiet with very clean restrooms. What more do you need?

Susan says: This place has such a serene feel, so incredibly beautiful and quiet, and clean, I loved my stay watching the birds and the sun come up over the lake, would recommend to everyone, but stay a couple nights or more, I will be back when I have more time for sure. Thank you!

Patti says: First off the whole place is spotless including the flush toilets and restroom. Great surprise! Water is well placed around the campground. Two huge recycle bins and two huge regular garbage bins for trash. This particular spot is Huge! Well shaded and what a beautiful view!! The breeze off the water kept everything cool. I watched a few kayakers fishing and saw some pretty good sized bass being caught. The campground was quiet after 8pm and the stars! So many stars to gaze at including the satellites.

Debi says: We discovered Finnon Lake a couple of years ago. Love that FIREWORKS are NOT allowed so we've been bringing our dog up here during the 4th of July for the past 3 summers. Bathrooms are clean, dogs MUST be on leash at all times, no motorized vehicles are allowed on the lake and most people respect the quiet times that are posted. Love this quiet little gem campground.

Jeff says: Site T14 was very private and quite beautiful. Campground was clean and peaceful. Everyone we ran into were friendly and pleasant. Restrooms were spotless.

Jennie says: A perfect spot. I haven't been to Finnon Lake for 50 years—since childhood. It lived up to all my memories & expectations. THANK YOU!

Nicole says: I'm hesitant to even write a review because I want to be selfish and keep this place a secret! What an amazing hidden gem! We went Labor Day weekend and of the only 18 sites, probably 5 were still empty. It wasn't crowded and we lucked out with some respectful and fairly quiet fellow campers. The lake was small but so warm, perfect for a paddle or swim. There were turtles, fish, frogs and various water fowl, including a duck that seemed to laugh at our jokes with perfect timing all evening. The volunteers came often, kept the place clean and checked on our firewood and ice needs daily. Two things to note - the sites aren't super level and they're strict about dogs being on leash. 10/10 spot, we will definitely be back!

DINER ACTIVITY

As we await the return of a food serving diner, we are taking this opportunity to do some repairs to the building interior and equipment. We have been renovating the back storage room with drywall replacement, trim work and painting. We will also be repainting the kitchen. Repairs have included replacement of burners to the range, ice machine components, and restoration of the coffee bean grinder. Also the floor tiles have been secured and regouted. We look forward to new occupants and the diner reopening in 2024.

The next MVFA Board meeting will be on December 7th at 3:00 pm at Station 75

Mosquito Road Driving

by Leslie Baumgartner

Tis the season to be hurried, tis the season for the roads to get wet, tis the season to be safe! Things TO do while DRIVING Mosquito Road Wave to everyone who is courteous. Leave a BIG space between you and the next guy - most of us stop for upcoming cars and wildlife. Keep to your right. Drive like there is always a car coming your way. Yield to uphill traffic. Dim your headlights. Check across the canyon for traffic at the "Great Wall of Mosquito" so you can stop above the last switchback going to town. Pull over in a safe spot when you have a car behind you and you are 1st in line. When stopping at night, turn off your headlights and leave just your parking lights on for uphill traffic so they can see. Let the person in front of you get all the way across the bridge before you get on. Call the person/place you are going and let them know you will be late if you have not left yourself at least 25 minutes to get to town. Enjoy the drive! Things NOT to do while DRIVING Mosquito Road. Leave home with 10 minutes to get to town (folks, it takes much longer). Talk on a cell phone. Watch television. Read anything. Take care of children/pet issues. Flash your headlights/honk your horn to get someone to pull over, they see

you and will pull over where they are comfortable. Pass a stopped car before the last switchback, they probably are waiting for upcoming traffic! Drive slowly down the middle of the road, please stay to the right. Stop by the beginning of the guardrail at the last switchback before the bridge when going to town - this impedes cars trying to make the switchback turn - just move on down to the wide spot just before the bridge.

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for November. The next bird watch is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. We will start at 9:00 A.M. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



2 Bald Eagle
5 Pie-billed Grebe
135 American Coot
25 Dark-eyed Junco
11 Scrub Jay

20 Western Blue-bird
2 Cooper's Hawk
5 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
2 Acorn Woodpecker
1 Northern Flicker

1 Double-crested
Cormorant

Number of Taxa: 11

DISTRICT AUXILIARY

by Meredith Blain D'Ax President



The District Auxiliary's (D'Ax) primary purpose is to raise funds for the good of the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD), and this year our efforts have been focused on supporting the volunteers and staff firefighters, and the explorers, in hosting the pancake breakfasts. D'Ax has helped plan and purchase the breakfast food, and with other community support, provided our time to setup, cleanup and maintain the necessary supplies and assets. We have funded supplies and food for other events as well, including the Support Group events, and the purchase of MFPD Swag for sale, and children's fire related activity supplies. With remaining funds from the November 2022 fundraiser, D'Ax recently approved the purchase of a new stove for the kitchen, which is used for many community events. The D'Ax Board also recently approved a donation to MVFA for the purchase of holiday gifts for the children of local families in need this holiday season.

The recent November pancake breakfast was held on Veterans Day, and was the most successful breakfast yet! The D'Ax provided additional food options this time, and the event was very well attended! More than 120 meals were served! Local veterans Tom Harris, Leo Chaloux and Jim Burkhalter planned and delivered a beautiful tribute to all veterans and their families, and Jim did an outstanding job of acknowledging the sacrifices of all veterans and their families. D'Ax funded the purchase of MFPD challenge coins that were presented to all veterans in attendance.

Dee and Michelle set up a beautiful Crafters display! Natasha and Maddie set up the children's activity display/swag at the entrance and greeted kids as they arrived at the check-in table. Many thanks to all, including volunteer firefighter Scott Reiman and board member Kirk Bronsord for their

planning and expertise, and special thanks for Kirk's cousins, Ron and Don for cooking! The next pancake breakfast is planned for Saturday, January 27, 2024, so please save the date!

The D'Ax Board of Directors meets monthly at 5:30 pm prior to the regular MFPD Board of Directors Meeting at the firehouse. Meeting agendas can be found on the MFPD website under the Supporting Groups tab.

It would be wonderful to see more community members at the pancake breakfasts in the coming new year! D'Ax welcomes all community members at their monthly meetings, and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 28, 2023!

Happy Holidays and best wishes to our entire Mosquito community!

Holiday Sale December 2nd

By Kim Purcell

The annual Holiday Sale will be held on Saturday December 2nd from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The event will be held at the firehouse and will be featuring our local artists with their products. This will be a great opportunity to shop local for your holiday gifts while visiting with your neighbors. If you wish to participate as a vendor please contact Kim at 530-621-1049, we will also again be donating to Station 75. Mark your calendars and plan to start your holiday shopping without having to leave the hill while supporting our talented local artists.

CRAFTERS

by Eileen Reisner

The Mosquito Firehouse Crafters have been working hard on various projects. We welcome all interested in crafting, talent is optional 😊. The Crafters meeting for December will be canceled due to the holidays. If you are interested in joining our group, contact Eileen Reisner at 530 295 0541.



MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please drop off bags of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass) from 8 am - 5 pm at Station 75. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials.



NOTE: Lids/Caps on plastic water bottles **MUST BE REMOVED** before they can be redeemed. Lids/caps can be included for redemption. If you have a chance and can remove the lids, it will sure help the recycling volunteers.



CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

WANTED

LOCAL ORGAINC FARM seeks small to medium lightweight trailer (l.e.- small horse trailer, small flat bed, boat trailer) to be remade into mobile chicken coop. Have anything sitting around? Open to trade/negotiation. Please reach out if you have something sitting around that you don't use anymore. All trailers considered. Please contact Ryan at: farm3goats@gmail.com

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 (0000)

FOR SALE

The Goat Doctor of the Sierras book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy (530) 626-8689 to buy your copy (\$20). A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting.

UNIQUE JEWELRY

Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 642-2333. (0722)

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. We meet Sunday mornings 10 am at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website mfom.net or call (530)295-0503. (0621)

SERVICES

GOLDIE LOCS OF LOVE - Loc creation / extension installation / decoration / maintenance kelsvanfleet@gmail.com (916) 295-9059

NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

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

OXBOW FIREWOOD \$375 for hardwood, \$300 for softwood. Delivery on the hill gratis. Are you cold? Call the Ox 916 862-7511

HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE PAINTING

Residential/Commercial
Specializing in repaints contact Steven Martinez, (530)-919-7612 or americaleaglepainting4@gmail.com
Lic# 960086

CALI CONSTRUCTION

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

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. (1222)

SIERRA SHIELD FIREARMS & TRAINING

Mention MOSQUITO BYTE and get 25% off CA CCW Class. Also, receive FREE box of ammo with each firearm purchase. www.SierraShield.com or call [530-387-0110](tel:530-387-0110). (0622)

WELDING & FABRICATION

Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call (530) 621-3300 (0622)

VHS VIDEOS CONVERTED TO DVDs

Have any family vacations, precious memories or baby pictures on videos? I can copy them to DVDs. Call Dee at (530) 642-2333. (0722)

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

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

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. (0622)

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. (0322)

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 (0622)

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, snljohns@yahoo.com. (0000)

<https://www.gomvfa.org>

<https://www.finnonrecreationarea.com/>

<https://mfpd.us>

<https://scpoa.info>

<https://mfom.net>

www.edcfiresafe.org

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am					1	2 Annual Holiday Sale 10am – 2pm Station 75
3 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	4	5 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	6	7 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Station 75	8	9 Bird Watching Finnon Lake, Day use area 9am MVFA Holiday Dinner 5pm Station 75
10 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	11	12 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	13	14	15	16
17 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	18	19 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	20	21	22	23
24 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	25	26 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	27	28 D'Ax Board Meeting 5:30pm Station 75 MFPD Board Meeting 7:00pm Station 75	29	30

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 Rob Kirkpatrick 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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