

MOSQUITO BYTE

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Are You and Your Vehicle Ready for El Niño?

By **Mike Hazlett**, Mosquito FPD Fire Chief

If El Niño rainfall predictions are correct, this winter could be the answer to California's drought. While there is a chance precipitation will be only moderate, there is also the possibility of powerful, drenching rain/snowstorms that can quickly create dangerous travel conditions in the Mosquito area. It's time to prepare your vehicle now:



- Have your vehicle serviced, checking the battery, lights, cooling system, defroster, windshield wipers. Also, fill the reservoir. If you are adding floor mats for the wet weather, ensure they are installed correctly to prevent pedal interference.
- Check the age of your tires, the tire pressure and tread, including the spare. The last 4 digits after "DOT" represent the week and year of manufacture. Check the owner's manual for a specific recommendation for when to replace tires. Some manufacturers recommend replacement every 6 years regardless of use. To maintain contact with wet roads, tires should have at least 50% of the tread life left to ensure they can displace water through the grooves and retain contact with the roadway.
- Ensure your vehicle is properly stocked for cold weather breakdowns, that is, jumper cables, flashlight and flares or markers as warning devices. Add blankets, cell phone and charger, non-perishable food and water for longer trips in lightly populated areas.

Should you need to venture out in bad weather, plan your travel and inform others of your route and anticipated arrival time. Check the weather, road conditions and traffic, if necessary. Don't rush and allow plenty of time to get to your destination.



If your vehicle is disabled secondary to mechanical problems or damage from potholes or rock or tree fall on the roadways, stay with your vehicle and don't overexert yourself.

Place warning devices on the roadway, put bright markers on the antenna or windshield and keep the interior dome light turned on. Attempt cell phone contact for help and plan for a long wait for assistance.

These few tasks will better position you against whatever challenges El Niño throws our way.

**The next MFPD Board meeting is Thursday, February 11th, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station
You are welcome to attend!**

ALERT, ALERT, ALERT!

The Easter Bunny is coming to our community! Don't miss this chance to find Easter eggs that have been hidden. Mark your calendars - Saturday, March 26th at 10:30 a.m. More to come in the March Byte.

Upcoming MVFA March Fundraiser

By Tom Harris

The MVFA board has changed its St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner to the Cowboy Chuck Wagon. With apologies to the Irish folks among us, the traditional fare of corned beef and cabbage will give way to pulled pork, fried chicken, beans and coleslaw. All are welcome, and all are encouraged to dress up in cowboy, cowgirl or western attire for MVFA's first event of the New Year.



There will be a gift raffle at dinner and any donors are requested to bring a gift, or drop one off at a board member's home ahead of time. In addition, there will be a 50/50 raffle. This event will be **Saturday, March 12th**, at the Fire Station. Serving will begin at 6 p.m. Y'all come out now, ya hear?

The MVFA Board meeting is Thursday, February 4th, at 7 p.m. at Mosquito General. We hope to see you there!

An Abridged Version of MVFA

No history of MVFA is complete without beginning with Lois Pearson. Lois was one of the primary individuals involved in the founding of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) in 1972. Much historical information of Mosquito comes from her written recollections.

Our current fire department, the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD), was formed by voter initiative in 1978 and is an entity supported by property taxes from district property owners. (The current base annual budget of MFPD is approximately \$325,000.) The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department continued to operate side-by-side in support of MFPD. All of MVFD's revenue came from donations and fund raising events.

Prior to 1997, the State of California owned the Finnon Lake property. In 1997, the dam at Finnon was declared seismically unsafe. The MVFD bought the property for \$1.00 with restrictions that it had to be maintained for PUBLIC recreation and that if MVFD ever decided to sell the property, the state got first right of refusal. State officials promised to waive most of the fees associated with maintaining a dam of this size until the dam was replaced. Unfortunately, as state personnel changed and as the economy got worse, the promise was soon forgotten and the MVFD accumulated a large debt for unpaid inspection fees. From about 2000 to 2004, there was no income from Finnon because the restaurant was not open, the lake level was reduced and the campground deteriorated to marginal usefulness.

The restaurant finally re-opened as the Firehouse Country Kitchen in 2004, and with a low level of campground use, insurance and taxes were paid but not the dam fees. While MVFD thought the dam fees were going to be waived, it made significant contributions instead to the MFPD for equipment, facility maintenance and fire fighter recognition functions through the same fundraiser events originated by Lois Pearson.

In July 2005, MVFD reorganized from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3) non-profit community support organization. In late 2006, the name of MVFD was changed to MVFA (Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association). Every adult residing in the Mosquito Fire Protection District is automatically a member of MVFA. MVFA continues the tradition of sponsoring fund raising events and charitable activities which now benefit the entire community.

On April 17, 2007, the Finnon Lake property deed was officially signed over to MVFA. At that time, the attorney for MFPD advised against any financial connection between MFPD and MVFA. The reason given was to avoid any taxpayer liability connected with the Finnon property including dam fees, property taxes, liability insurance and maintenance costs. The MFPD board soon dropped MVFA from its liability insurance coverage, and MVFA purchased its own policy. MVFA also purchases its own insurance for Finnon Lake.

MVFA is financially independent and totally self-supporting. MVFA receives no income or financial support from MFPD or any other tax source, nor from any homeowners' group. Neither MVFA nor Finnon Lake has any affiliation with SCPOA. MVFA has no paid employees. Maintenance work at Finnon is accomplished by volunteers. Income from all MVFA fund raising events is by donations, and the events are accomplished solely through the efforts of community volunteers. MVFA has no guaranteed income. Its budget is adjusted periodically to bring fund balances to levels previously authorized by the board.

The financial separation between MFPD and MVFA does not stop MVFA from contributing to and volunteering for work to support the fire department. Projects such as replacing old drywall, constructing the brick fascia, remodeling the office space and bathrooms, and replacing the window blinds at the station were needs that were not covered in the MFPD budget. These projects were accomplished with donations and help from MVFA volunteers. In addition, MVFA now maintains a "Station 75 Fund" which provides money to buy tools and equipment for the fire station at the request of the Chief. Anyone is free to donate to this fund at any time. What's more, many MVFA Board members have been firefighters and members of the MFPD Support Group and the Fire Chief has been an active advisor.

In 2011, when the dam was finally replaced (a story unto itself), it became apparent that the state was NOT going to waive the dam fees. In fact, it assessed penalties and interest. The MVFA was now forced to turn all of its financial attention toward paying off these fees or face foreclosure. With the new dam, Finnon Lake is certified to the level of the spillway and is an excellent source of water for fire protection. Also, Finnon Lake Recreation Area (FLRA) continues to be a venue for wildfire training. During the King Fire, Finnon Lake campground was used as the secondary safety zone to the airport.

With the restaurant now operating as Mosquito General Market and Kitchen, the campground, twenty basket disc golf course, day use activities like fishing and boating and swimming are all operating at increasing levels. Finnon is close to becoming self-sustaining. Once the dam debt is paid off, MVFA will return to its former level of community support, much of it with FLRA income derived from outside the Mosquito community.

For more information, go to www.GoMVFA.org, or visit www.finnonrecreationarea.com and click "About MVFA" at the top of the page.

Thanks to **Neil Matheny** and **Ralph & Sharon Hern** for contributions to this article.

MFPD Support Group Information

As was mentioned above, the Support Group is an integral part of the MFPD, and has been around a long time. It handles traffic control, transports firefighters and equipment, and acts as an information outlet and messenger during emergencies like fires, accidents and downed power lines.

Support Group volunteers played a big role during the King Fire. Many members stayed behind to run the station HQ, answer the phones, make maps, and buy food in town to cook meals for the fire

department, and keep the station clean. In addition, volunteers ran the Pump 75 at Twin Ponds and filled about 60 water tenders when the EID supply started running low.

Lately, the Support Group has expanded its role to include chores and maintenance work around the fire station. They recently repaired the roof of the hose shed that was partially blown off during a November storm.

The Support Group conducts training and information meetings on the first Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Fire Station. The Support Group is MVFA's link with the MFPD because most of the MVFA board members are volunteer Support Group members, and we have a Support Group committee chairperson who gives monthly reports at MVFA meetings. Community members are welcome to become part of this group.

SCPOA

By **Connell Persico**

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, February 13, 2016**. The meeting will be held at the fire station beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude with the announcement of the newly elected directors. This being my last Byte article, I want to express my thanks to those members who participated in both the board and committee meetings. We have discussed, argued, agreed and disagreed, and learned a lot from each other. That is a much better decision making process than members not having a voice.

We affirmed our support for our collections policy which was distributed to all members in the January packet. The Association continues to have members who both fail to pay their annual assessment or fail to make regular payments. Liens on their property and small claims court judgments continue to be part of our strategy. Those actions are only taken when a member fails to respond to attempts to get them to meet their responsibilities to their fellow members. As of December 31, 2015, we have 82 of the 630 property owners who owe some to all of the 2015-2016 assessment and of those, 34 owe for multiple years. The total outstanding is just under \$90,000.

Our new board will be discussing the pros and cons of hiring a collection agency to help recover these past due funds. To do so leads to significantly increased costs, through various fees, for those owing and not paying. Does increasing the cost of delinquency make it less likely the owner can pay what is owed? Or will additional fees and a third party collector lead to agreements to pay? Your opinion is important so let your directors know your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing you around our wonderful community. And I love seeing our lakes continue to rise. Let's hope the rain continues.

The SCPOA meeting is Thursday, February 18th, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. You are welcome to participate!

El Dorado County Community Programs

By **Linda Heyart & Sharon Hern**

Thank you to Darcy Krieger for providing us with information on El Dorado County Programs to share with our community. Each month an article will highlight a different area of resources that are available in our county. This month, here are three web sites that you can access for information:



- www.EDCGov.us/HumanServices A global listing of services available in the El Dorado County
- www.coveredca.com Apply for health insurance coverage including premium assistance/cost sharing health coverage and Medi-Cal
- www.C4Yourself.com Apply for cash assistance, food/nutrition assistance and Medi-Cal

**JOIN US FOR BINGO at 7 p.m.
on
Friday, February 26th,
at Mosquito General**



Birding at Finnon Lake

By **Dave Angelo**

Here are the bird watching results from our Finnon Lake Bird Watch. Typically, bird watching takes place the second Saturday of the month, leaving from Mosquito General at 10 a.m. So, the next bird watch is **February 13th**, and interested community members are welcome. For more information, call Dee Taylor at 626-1196.

US-CA-Placerville-9100 Rock Creek Rd - 38.7967x-120.7519

Jan 9, 2016

9:59 AM

Traveling

1.10 miles

78 Minutes

All birds reported? Yes

Comments: Submitted from eBird for iOS, version 1.1.4 Build 34

1 Bufflehead	5 Common Merganser
5 Steller's Jay	3 Northern Flicker
8 Acorn Woodpecker	1 Western Scrub-Jay
1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10 American Robin
1 Spotted Towhee	1 Red-tailed Hawk
28 Dark-eyed Junco	1 Bewick's Wren
100 American Coot	
Number of Taxa: 13	



In Memoriam
Robert Feagans
John 'Buzz' Sanders

Crafters

By **Sharon Hern**

ATTENTION LADIES – Our 2016 Crafting begins this month!! If you're a "crafter" or just one of us who can do simple (?) cut, paste/glue, paint, etc. jobs, you are encouraged to come join us at our Craft

Meeting. There's the fun of learning new crafts, meeting new friends, coffee, and goodies. Our first meeting of 2016 is **Friday, February 26th**, at 10 a.m.! This is our planning meeting where we set the dates for our Craft Sales this year and determine the projects that we will be working on.

Our craft meetings are generally held on the 4th Friday of each month from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at the home of Darlene Rood, 2211 Swansboro Road. Hope to see you on **February 26th**!

Local Recycling Options for Difficult Items

Here are a couple of local options to recycle those items you usually have to pay to dispose.

Old appliances:

Steve's Appliance ([530\)677-6429](tel:5306776429) [http:// stevesapplianceeldorado.com/](http://stevesapplianceeldorado.com/)
4257 Sunset Ln.
Shingle Springs

Tire Amnesty Days are back on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the material recovery center, also known as the dump, 4100 Throwita Way in Placerville. This is for residents only and you may take up to 9 tires per trip, no large tires and they must be off rims. This will continue as long as the grant funds last, for information you can call (530)626-4141.

Support MVFA

MVFA coffee mugs and grocery totes are still in stock and for sale. Coffee mugs are \$5.00 each and grocery totes are \$4.00 each. Extra savings on 2 or more items. Contact Dave Angelo at 621-3688.

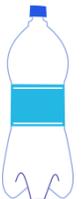
Also, Finnon Recreation passes for resident day use activities including swimming, fishing, boating and disc golf are now on sale for 2016 and beyond. The one year pass is \$50.00. The two year pass is \$75.00 and the 5 year pass is \$175.00. Passes are good for the entire family and one pass will cover up to 3 vehicles registered to the same address. Contact Dave Angelo at 621-3688.

WANTED!!!

ALL CA CRV ALUMINUM CANS, BEER BOTTLES AND PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES. Please drop off bags from 8-5at the Fire Station. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials. (Wine bottles don't have CRV! We can't use them)



This is a very important fund raiser for the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association so MVFA THANKS YOU



CLASSIFIED ADS

Free

Pine rounds, ready for splitting. We have plenty!
You haul. Call Tim at (408)859-3182. (3)

Horse/compost manure for home or garden call
Cindy at (530)621-1600. (7)

Firewood, soft wood. You cut and haul away. Call
Lionel (530)622-7472. (7)

For Sale

1990 Skamper Tent Trailer. Sleeps 6, Spare tire, AC/DC + new 12V battery, Propane heater and 4 burner stove, Registration current. Good condition, just don't use it anymore. \$500 OBO. Call 626-5268

Firewood for \$80.00 per half cord. Call Michael Sargent at 919-2836 (2)

One (1) white, across truck tool box; two (2)white, side mount tool boxes; one (1)diamond plate, truck

tool box. For prices and more information, call Fred tenNapel, (530)626-4281. (10)

2 acre parcel of land at 3081 Stope Drive. No water or power ready. Make offer. Call Donna Borchin at (209)624-3918 (9)

FIREWOOD: Call Dustin Sears at (530)363-4991. (7)

1¼ cord split soft wood, \$195. You pick up. Call Tim at (530)622-4419. (7)

Meetings

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP – Meet new friends, get refreshed and restored. Join us for challenging Bible study, fun events and worship here in Mosquito. Groups for Men/Women/kids/young adults. We meet Sunday mornings 10 a.m. at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website www.mfom.net or call (530)295-0503.

FREE VEGAN VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASSES

Food preparation demonstrations, recipe handouts, video clips and resource materials, along with samples provided. Have fun interacting with other health-minded folks, learning healthful lifestyle principles and discovering tasty new recipes. We meet once a month at the Camino SDA Church, 3520 Carson Rd. on Thursdays at 11 a.m. Call Fred Adams at (530)642-9441 for dates and to reserve your space. Or email AdamsAmigos@gmail.com.

Services

LOCAL FLORIST - Ready for Valentine's Day? Nothing says "love" like fresh flowers. Let me create something exclusively for the one you love. Always the freshest flowers delivered free in Swansboro/Mosquito. Call me, Elaine Galvan, Sierra Life Flowers (530)295-0503

SOLAR CONTRACTOR - Don't keep putting it off- go solar today! You can reduce or eliminate your electricity bill. Great rebates are still available, and \$0 down plans are available through the El Dorado County PACE program. Call your **local** solar guy today for a free quote! Dejan "Dan" Obradovic, www.LaibachSolar.com (530)388-5536 CA State Lic. # 1001369

MISTY'S HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES: Deep cleaning, basic cleaning, move ins/outs, one time cleanings, and flexible schedule arrangements. I also do house sitting, vacation care, pet sitting, errands as needed. Call (916)496-5980

TRAVEL PLANNING: Let me help you plan your next amazing vacation! I specialize in Disney Destination vacations and am a certified Hawai'i Specialist (all islands). I also book other vacation destinations — ocean cruises, river cruises, escorted and independent travel, and more! Email Clydene at clydene.rogers@offtoneverland.com.

SEARS & SONS LAND MANAGEMENT –

FIREWOOD SALES- Wood Splitting - -Tractor Work - Tree & Brush Removal - Dump Runs and More...! Give us a call, free estimates. If we can't help you, we'll put you in touch with someone who can. FRIENDLY HONEST SERVICE – Call Dustin K. Sears Sr. at (530)363-4991.

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING BY FRANK

SURFAS - Service on all brands of Air Conditioning, Heating, Heat Pumps & Evaporative Coolers. Special Rate, minimum charge only \$42.50. Estimates free for new installations & equipment change outs. High quality service since 1978. Call Frank at (530)622-4462. California contractor License #354595

AUTO DETAIL ON THE HILL - Hand wash & wax.

Tire dressing. Windows, dash & chrome cleaned. Rug vacuumed. Car - \$55, truck - \$65 & oversized vehicles may be additional. Call Steve at (530)621-3643.

CLOCK REPAIR — Antique/Vintage, Electric and Quartz. Pick-up and delivery free in Swansboro area. Call Gary at (530)409-0526.

LOCAL REALTORS – Rusty & Debbie Harris,

Swansboro Land & Homes, Inc. Lic.#01781489. Area specialists since 1975. Office next to Fire Station at 8781 Rock Creek Road. Stop by for free maps & info. Happy to put our experience to work for you; buy, sell, short sales & REO's. Call (530)622-6822. www.swansboro.metrolistpro.com or Swansbororealestate@gmail.com.

RIDLEY K-9 ACADEMY – Professional dog training

and dog walking services. For more information visit www.ridleyk9academy.com or call Garrett at (530)409-1879.

IMAGES BY CAROL SCHULTZ – Local scenes of

bridge, lakes, vineyards, etc. Available in cards, posters, enlargements, high quality magnets, and card bundles, all suitable for gifting or personal use. Custom orders on request. Call (530)409-2912, or email csstamper@aim.com.

OPTOMETRY CLINIC – Dr. Dan Morrill in Placerville. Eye examinations, eyeglasses & contact lenses available at Precision Eye Care, 118 Main Street. Open Tues - Fri 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday by appointment. Call (530)622-8300. Most insurance accepted. (New Patients Welcome!)

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.

TUTOR – Fully credentialed tutor with 40 years of teaching experience. Homework, reading, English composition and math remediation or enrichment. Call Joyce Radmanovich at (530)626-7062.

FRED tenNAPEL HANDYMAN SERVICES – Anything from A to Z that you can't do, I will. Home (530)626-4281, Cell (530)417-5986. Lic#044903.

PET CARE - Pet feeding while you're away. We will give your pet the same love and care as you would if you were here. No pet too large or too small. Reasonable rates. Call Devin & Dylan's Pet Feeding Service at (530)295-9165.

KIRCHNER TREE SERVICE – Line clearance certified, hazard tree removal, close quarter removal, view enhancement, trimming, topping, mistletoe removal. Certified Arborist on staff. Call Jared at (530)626-6325.

WELDING & FABRICATION – Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call (530)626-0691.

CHIMNEY SWEEP – For hire, 35 years' experience. Wood/pellet stoves, fireplaces, dryer vents gutters. Repairs, stove & chimney installations/repairs, problem solving. Call Richard Smith at (530)306-2438.

CREATIVE ADMIN. SERVICES – Your office and project support team specializing in Office Management, Business/Personal Contact Mgmt. Event Coordination, Online Services, and much more. Visit our website at www.creativeadminservices.com or call (530)295-1779.

HAND CRAFTED GLASS ITEMS – Bird baths, flower pots, 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.

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.

NOTARY SERVICE – I am a mobile Notary Public living right here in Mosquito. I am experienced in all areas of notary work including loan packages, real estate transfers, etc. Call Elaine Galvan at (530)295-0503.

RESPIRE CARE – Available in Swansboro /Mosquito, M-F, weekends or overnight as needed. Also available for short periods of time (barring previously scheduled commitments) and/or for hospice care for your family member. I have 17 local home-care references to verify my skills and the level of care I will provide for your loved ones. Call Nancy West at (530)626-7975.

MOSQUITO GENERAL MARKET AND KITCHEN

Open Wednesday – Saturday
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Monday and Tuesday

(530)295-4980 or
mosquitogeneral@live.com

Watch for Specials on our Community Facebook page!



February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 MVFA Board 7 p.m. Mosquito General	5	6 MFPD Support Group 10 a.m. Fire Station
7	8	9	10	11 MFPD Board 7 p.m. Fire Station	12	13 Birding at Finnon Lake 10 a.m. meet at Mosquito General
14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 	16	17	18 SCPOA Board 7 p.m. Fire Station	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 CRAFTERS 10 a.m. BINGO! 5 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Bingo Mosquito General	27
28	29					

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.

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.

The MOSQUITO BYTE accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

ADVERTISING POLICY

There is no charge to subscribers advertising in the MOSQUITO BYTE. Ads must be limited to 7 column lines maximum. Please submit ads for the Classified Section to: Joyce Radmanovich at joycecradmanovich@gmail.com or Mosquito Byte at 6530 One Eye Creek Court, Placerville, CA 95667. Ads in the "Free", "For Sale", and "Wanted" categories will run for three months unless the submitter asks for the Ad to be removed or extended.

The **MOSQUITO BYTE** is also posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website.

PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE