

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 32, No. 6

March 2019

Finnon Lake Horse

By Kim Purcell

Our beloved mustang at Finnion Lake, known to me as Lobos, to others as Pinocchio, and a few other names has passed away. He was at least 35 years old which is quite senior, especially when you consider his lack of medical care. He had a good life at Finnion Lake after his escape from the forest years ago. While he didn't care for people, many admired him. After his injury last June, it was anticipated by a very good veterinarian who came out to observe him, that he would not be able to survive past the summer but somehow, he compensated and continued. He was a very tough and smart horse, surviving in the forest for many years on his own with minimal forage in the winter after his original adopter left him there. He escaped and relocated himself to Finnion Lake where forage and water were plentiful. When the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) came to capture and take him, he managed to evade them until they gave up.



He was buried Saturday, February 23rd, in front of the pine at the east end of Finnion under the tree which he so often stood. Frank and Heidi want to plan a gathering in his honor. This will probably occur when the weather improves so that it can be outside to accommodate all those who wish to participate. We'll be able to share stories and discuss gathering donations for a plaque or monument for him at that time. A huge thank you to Chris Johns, who without any hesitation, gave up his Saturday morning to help lay him to rest.

To see the winds power and the sun's radiant life, one only needs to look at the horse - he's running wild and free again.

**The next MFPD Board meeting is
Thursday, March 14th at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station.**

Finnon Lake Recreation Area (FLRA)

By the Friends of Finnion

The FLRA is open to the public for Day Use which includes fishing, boating, picnicking and disc golf. A day use fee is paid for participation in these activities. No fee is required for hiking or bicycling at Finnion. Finnion Lake dam fees, property taxes and insurance amount to over \$15,000 per year, not including maintenance costs. The goal is to be self-supporting and self-sustaining.

The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) was formed in 1972 and purchased the Finnion Lake property in 1997 from the state for \$1. MVFD recognized Finnion Lake as an

excellent, large source of water for fire control. In 2006, the name of MVFD was changed to MVFA and re-organized in order to relieve the tax district (and taxpayers) of the responsibility for dam fees, expenses and liabilities associated with Finnon Lake.

Finnon Lake Recreation Area is owned and managed by the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) and receives no money from any tax source or from the homeowner's association (SCPOA). MVFA is an independent community volunteer organization funded solely through Finnon Lake user fees and rents, private donations and fund raiser events. The MVFA is governed by seven volunteer members making up the Board of Directors. The 2019 board components are: two MFPD fire fighters, four MFPD Support Group members and one MVFA committee member. MVFA has no paid employees, and most work is done by volunteers without any form of compensation.

All adults living in the Mosquito Fire Protection District automatically qualify to become members of MVFA. If you would like to enrich your membership, please become an MVFA Volunteer on one of our event committees or at FLRA. Board meetings are open to the public and held at Frank's Diner at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month.

An annual Day Use Pass for Mosquito residents is now available for sale for \$50. A two-year resident pass is \$75. Camping is \$25 per night per site. Exclusive use of the entire 19-site campground is also available for groups. Visit our website at www.finnonrecreationarea.com or call (530) 409-5515 for more information.

Come out and enjoy the peace and quiet of nature in the surrounding area. With the new dam, the lake is full and looks the same as it did 15 years ago. If a wedding or group party event is in your future, please consider Finnon Lake. Frank's Diner also offers catering services. Call Frank at (530) 409-1977 or visit www.franksmosquitodiner.com.

Finnon Lake Recreation Area is closed after dark, except for registered overnight campers. Please report any unauthorized vehicles or activity on Finnon property to the Sheriff's Department at (530) 626-4911. Do not call the fire department or the store. For emergencies, dial 911. Thank you for voluntarily supporting Finnon Lake Recreation Area.

The Friends of Finnon are hikers, mountain bikers, pet walkers, campers, disc golfers, fishermen, Boy Scouts, church groups, wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers, motorcyclists, canoeists and kayakers, and others seeking a safe place to find peace and quiet.

An Abridged History of MVFA

By MVFA Board of Directors

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 Lois's written recollections. Her book, "Mosquito Memories" is available thru MVFA. Our current fire department, the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD), was formed by voter initiative in 1978 and is supported by property taxes from district property owners. The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department continued to operate side-by-side with and in support of MFPD. Most of MVFD's revenue came from donations, Finnon Lake fees and fund-raising events.

Prior to 1997, the state of California owned the Finnon Lake property. In 1997, the state declared the Finnon dam seismically unsafe and offered the property to MVFD, which bought it for \$1.00. The primary intent of the purchase was to maintain a large body of water for fire control. The purchase came with restrictions that it had to be maintained for public recreation and that if it ever decided to sell the property, the State would get 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 in 2011. Unfortunately, state personnel changed and as the economy got worse, the promise was forgotten. MVFD accrued a large debt for unpaid inspection fees, (which MVFA later paid off).

While MVFD thought the dam fees were going to be waived, it made significant contributions to the MFPD for equipment, facility maintenance and fire fighter recognition functions through the same fundraisers and events began by Lois Pearson.

In July 2005, MVFD reorganized from a 501(c)(4) fire department support organization to a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit organization. IRS rules differ between 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(3) non-profits. In late 2006, the name of MVFD was changed to MVFA (Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association). Every adult 18 years and older residing in the Mosquito Fire Protection District is automatically eligible to be a member of MVFA. MVFA continues the tradition of sponsoring fund-raising events and charitable activities which benefit the entire community - including the fire department. The beneficiaries of these events are stated on its advertising signs and on its website www.GoMVFA.org.

MVFA provides community support and community education through various community events like the Christmas Dinner, Christmas Basket donations, Easter Egg Hunt, Cinco de Mayo Dinner, Yard Sale, Community Clean-up Day, Children's Halloween Party, Spaghetti Feed, etc., and by publishing information sources like the Mosquito Byte newsletter, the Mosquito Phone Book and by aiding residents in need through its community funds. Participation in MVFA events is voluntary. Go to www.finnonrecreationarea.com and click the "Events" page for MVFA event dates and information.

The MVFA board maintains the name MVFA out of respect and memory for its founder and third generation Mosquito resident Lois Pearson. A memorial to Lois is erected in the pavilion gardens of Finnon Lake Recreation Area.

On April 17, 2007, the Finnon Lake property deed was officially signed over to MVFA. Around that time, the attorney for MFPD *advised against any financial connection between MFPD and MVFA* to avoid any taxpayer liability connected with the Finnon property including dam fees, property taxes, liability insurance and maintenance costs. Shortly thereafter, the MFPD board removed MVFA from its liability insurance coverage, and MVFA purchased its own policy.

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 property owners association. Neither MVFA nor Finnon Lake Recreation Area has any affiliation with SCPOA. MVFA does not endorse or support any political candidates or parties. MVFA has no paid employees. Most maintenance work at Finnon is accomplished by volunteers. The income from all MVFA fund-raising events are donations and the events are accomplished solely through the efforts of community volunteers. MVFA has no guaranteed income. Its

budget is comprised of funds into which fees are directed and donors can direct their donations. It is MVFA policy to use the proceeds of those funds only as the fund specifies. The MVFA Board of Directors meeting is held at 7:00pm at Frank's Diner on the first Thursday of each month and is open to the public.

IRS rules prohibit transferring cash from a 501(c)(3) (like MVFA) whose donations may be tax deductible by the donor, to a non-501(c)(3) organization (like the Mosquito Fire Department). The financial separation between MFPD and MVFA does not stop MVFA from contributing volunteer time and resources to support the Mosquito 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, and were accomplished with resident donations and help from MVFA volunteers. The MVFA Crafters purchased a new clothes washer and dryer for the fire department, and MVFA supplied the materials and labor to build and install a set of cabinets above the new washer and dryer. MVFA rose over \$4,000 in donations from the community to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera for the fire department and paid \$2,500 toward purchase of the new storage shed behind the fire station.

MVFA 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 - or any other MVFA fund - at any time.

In November 2011, the new Finnon dam was completed. Finnon Lake is certified to the level of the spillway and is now a source of almost limitless water for fire protection. Finnon Lake Recreation Area (FLRA) continues to be a venue for wildfire training. During the King Fire, Finnon Lake campground was used as a safety zone, secondary to the airport, and many fire fighters were camped there.

With a restaurant/store, a campground, a twenty-seven-basket disc golf course, day-use activities like fishing, picnicking, boating and swimming all operating at increasing levels, Finnon is close to being self-sustaining. MVFA incurs over \$15,000 in annual dam fees, taxes and insurance costs, but with increased participation in its events and fund-raisers, and a renewed relationship with the Fire Department, it hopes to return to its former level of community support, much of it with FLRA income derived from outside the Mosquito community.

MVFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations may be tax deductible. A letter stating your donation will be provided to you upon request. Thank you for supporting MVFA and Finnon Lake Recreation Area. For more information, visit www.GoMVFA.org or www.finnonrecreationarea.com and click the "About" button at the top of the page.

Thanks to Neil Matheny and Ralph & Sharon Hern for contributions to this article.
Last Update: February 11, 2019

You are welcome to attend the MVFA Board meeting on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Frank's Diner.

The SCPOA Board meets on Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

Crafters

by Sharon Hern

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. We have selected our "Craft Sale" dates and will begin working on our new selected craft items. Our March meeting date is **Friday, March 22nd at 10am.**

Our craft meetings are generally held on the 4th Friday of each month from **10 AM to 12 Noon** at the home of Darlene Rood, 2211 Swansboro Road. Hope to see you on March 22nd!

The 2019 Mosquito Phone Book

by Adam Reisner

The Mosquito Phone Book contains information on our Mosquito/Swansboro area such as, Who Are They (MVFA, MFPD & SCPOA), Helpful Area Phone Numbers, a Timeline History of Mosquito, Mosquito Fire Department History & Other Useful Information, Map of our Area, and Residential & Business Listings



The Phone Book is available at the Mosquito Fire Station 75 at 8801 Rock Creek Road (530)626-9017 or Franks Diner for \$5 per copy.

The Mosquito Phone Book is published every 2 years. For changes to the Phone Book, email us at mosquitophbook@gmail.com or mail the information to: MVFA, phone book 9009 Orval Beckett Court, Placerville, CA 95667. Residential and business listings are free to list.

Frank's Diner

By Frank Ethridge

With all the crazy weather and power outages up here, it was awesome to see our little community of Mosquito come together and help each other out. We are a unique small community full of diverse people, but we know when it's time to come together and watch out for each other. We are hoping for a more mellow (weather wise) March. Thank you to all who came out for Valentine's Dinner, it was a slammin' success! March brings us Leprechauns and cloverleafs - so let us celebrate!

Hours:

Wednesday-Friday 11 am - 8 pm

Saturday-Sunday 8 am - 8 pm

Wednesday Night Family Dinner

Always \$10 from 5 pm - 8 pm

- 6th Gumbo, (Mardi Gras night, 'Come dressed for the occasion')
- 13th Corned Beef and Cabbage
- 20th Meatloaf
- 27th Chicken Marsala

Other dates to remember:

7th MVFA Meeting @ Frank's Diner 7 pm

9th Manland Men's Fellowship 7 am (Breakfast)

Recipe of the Month

by Frank Ethridge

What to do with all that corned beef and cabbage, you ask? Well, here is a traditional recipe from Ireland called Bubble and Squeak that you can try out for breakfast. Serves two.

Bubble and Squeak

6 tablespoons butter (unsalted)

1/2 cup onion (finely chopped)

1-pound mashed potato

Any leftover vegetables (i.e. cabbage, swede, carrots, peas, and/or Brussels sprouts; finely chopped)

Salt (to taste)

Freshly ground black pepper (to taste)

Instructions

- 1) Gather the ingredients.
- 2) In a large frying pan melt the butter (you can also use vegetable oil, but butter tastes better), make sure it doesn't brown. Add the finely chopped onion and fry gently for about 3 minutes, or until soft and translucent
- 3) Turn the heat up ever so slightly and add the mashed potato and all the chopped up leftover vegetables. Fry for at least 10 minutes, turning them over continuously in the melted butter, ensuring the potato and vegetables are thoroughly reheated. You are also aiming to brown, not burn, the outside edges of the vegetables, so occasionally press the mixture into the pan to brown a little then continue stirring.
- 4) When the mixture is heated through, give the vegetables one long final press onto the base of the pan with a spatula and leave to cook for 1 minute. Flip over and repeat.
- 5) Serve as mentioned above with either a fried or poached egg on top, bacon pieces or ham pieces, or any leftover roast mixed in and reheated thoroughly.
- 6) Serve and enjoy!

Birding at Finnon Lake

by Dave Angelo

Our last bird watch was to be held on Saturday, 2/16/2019 but due to the snow it was canceled. The next scheduled bird watch will be on **Saturday, March 16th**. We will meet at the dam by Franks Diner at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to attend.



CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

FOR SALE

1981 RED CAMERO with red interior, low mileage, engine and transmission replaced at 100,000 miles and not driven much since then, has wire wheels and T tops very good condition, Asking \$16,000.00. This is the last year of this body style. Phone 530-621-1173 (0119)

1963 TOYOTA LAND CRUSER FJ40, 4-wheel drive, has some upgrades runs well, with soft top and doors, have had this since 1965 a lot of time in desolation and even to ALASKA. Asking \$8000.00 Phone 530-621-1173 (0119)

WANTED

LOCAL FARM seeking manure source. Specifically, Goat, Sheep, llama or Alpaca. Please contact Ryan at Goat Mountain Farms. 530-497-4279 or goatmntnfarms@gmail.com

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 a.m. at 3342 Stope Drive and throughout the week. Check our website www.mfom.net or call (530)295-0503. (0620)

SERVICES

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. (0620)



HANGTOWN RANGE 1540 Broadway, Placerville
Tuesday – Saturday 9 to 8
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. (0619)

WELDING & FABRICATION – Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call (530) 621-3300 (0620)

FLORIST ON THE HILL – Your source for fresh, local, organic and international flowers. All occasions deserve flowers. Call me 530.295.0503 Elaine Galvan for a specially made arrangement or buy individual blooms to brighten your day. Always delivered FREE on the hill! (0619)

FREE VEGAN VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASSES - Food preparation demonstrations, recipe handouts, video clips, resource materials, generous samples provided. Interact with health-minded folks, learn healthful lifestyle principles and discover tasty new recipes. We meet once a month at the Camino SDA Church, 3520 Carson Rd. on Mondays at 11 a.m. Call Fred Adams at (530) 642-9441 or AdamsAmigos@gmail.com for dates and to reserve your space. (0000)

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. (0419)

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. (0719)



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 (0619)

UNIQUE JEWELRY - Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 642-2333. (0719)

CREATIVE ADMIN SERVICES – Your office and project support team specializing in office management, business/personal contact management, event coordination, online services, and much more. Visit our website at www.creativeadminservices.com or call (530)295-1779. (0819)

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. (0319)

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. (0000)

NOTARY SERVICE – I'm a mobile Notary Public living 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 (0620)



Please drop off bags from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Fire Station. Please consider this option when you organize your recycled materials. (Sorry, wine bottles do not have CRV so we cannot use them)

NOTE: Lids/Caps on plastic and glass CRV containers **MUST BE REMOVED** before they can be redeemed. If you have a chance and can remove the lids, it will sure help the recycle volunteers.



MVFA THANKS YOU!

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Support Group 10 am Fire Station
3	4	5	6 Frank's Family Night <i>Gumbo</i>	7 MVFA Board Meeting 7 pm Frank's Diner	8	9 Manland 7am Frank's Diner
10	11	12	13 Frank's Family Night <i>Corned Beef & Cabbage</i>	14 MFPD Board Meeting 7 pm Fire Station	15	16 Birding at Finnon Lake 9 am Finnon Lake Pavilion
17	18	19	20 Frank's Family Night <i>Meatloaf</i>	21 SCPOA Board Meeting 7 pm Fire Station	22 Crafters 10 am Darlene Rood's	23
24	25	26	27 Frank's Family Night <i>Chicken Marsala</i>	28	29	30
31						

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 20th 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.

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 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** and other updates are posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website.

PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE