

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 38, No. 4

January 2025

Happy New Year

MFPD SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

by Trent Williams



Support Group In Review

The Support Group was established to perform those duties often associated with a fire emergency response which do not require the training and skill level of a certified firefighter. The Group operates under the general direction of the Fire Chief, however, during an emergency response the Group is generally supervised by the Station Manager and Incident Commander.

A Support Group volunteer's duties may include:

- Emergency Evacuation Coordination – manage the evacuation of residents and/or the staging of evacuees at the airport for temporary refuge,
- Road Control - road closures or traffic direction during emergency incidents,
- Water Supply - operating a mobile water pump or controlling the flow of water from a fire hydrant,
- Helispot Coordination - provide verbal assistance to a helicopter during landing when being used in an emergency incident,
- Medical Assistance – aid medical staff with equipment delivery and record keeping,
- Firefighter Rehabilitation - ensure that firefighter personnel who might be suffering the effects of heat/cold stress, dehydration, physical exertion and/or extreme weather receive evaluation and rehabilitation during training and emergency operations,
- Logistical Support – transporting firefighters, equipment, food and/or water to the scene of an emergency incident and other duties as may be assigned by the Chief or Station Manager during an emergency incident.

Occasionally, and when assigned by the Chief, the Support Group may also assist the career staff with fire prevention duties, perform public education functions and assist in the District's Administrative Office.

Following is a summary of the support provided to the district this past year.

Support Group Members:

- ▶ Currently 28 team members
- ▶ Over 133 collective years of experience
- ▶ An average of 4.75 years of experience per member

Support Group 2024 Stats:

- ▶ Responded to 113 Incidents
 - 82 Medical
 - 15 Fire
 - 8 Traffic Control
 - 8 Assist
- ▶ Over 606 manhours of incident response (not including the Crozier fire)
- ▶ Crozier Fire – 754 manhours
- ▶ Over 420 manhours of training
- ▶ Over 96 manhours of general department support



The Support Group is an integral part of the emergency response capability for the Mosquito community, freeing firefighters to focus on primary fire suppression and/or medical treatment.

The next MFPD Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 16th at 7:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

FINNON LAKE RECREATION AREA

MVFA Campground News

Here are the camping stats from HIPCAMP for the Finnon Lake Recreation Area Campground for the year.

- We had a total of 1,270 bookings on HIPCAMP.
- We had 2,473 nights hosted, with each booking lasting 2.0 nights on average.
- We had 3,483 campers stay with us.
- We had 207 new camper reviews in 2024.
- With an average booking value of \$47, we earned \$60,258 this year. That put us in the top 10% of Hosts on HIPCAMP!
- We directly hosted nine full campground bookings at a value of \$7,170.



We are looking forward to another robust and successful camping season when we open this spring!

A New Chapter for Our Bald Eagle

This year, our local bald eagle has graced us with a return that is both encouraging and hopeful. After the heartbreaking loss of her mate last May, she appears to have found a new companion, which will likely bring a return of more fledglings to the nest this spring.



Observing these beautiful birds soar above the treetops, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit that these magnificent birds embody. Last year's loss was felt deeply, not only by the female eagle, but by all who have followed her journey. It was a somber reminder of the fragile balance within the natural world.

However, nature, with its remarkable capacity for renewal, has blessed us with her return with a new mate. This

pairing signifies a hopeful future and the continuity of life and is a testament to the resilience and adaptability that are intrinsic to the bald eagle species.

We will continue to protect and maintain our natural habitat to ensure that our bald eagles have a safe and thriving environment.

MVFA ACTIVITY

MVFA Christmas Dinner



The annual MVFA Christmas dinner was again the highlight of the year. We filled the Fire Station with excited children ready to see Santa. After placing ornaments on the tree, the kids watched Santa and his elf arrive on the fire engine. There were squeals of excitement as Santa greeted each child. Santa made his way to his chair and delivered a stocking full of goodies and a gift to each child. Seeing the smiles on all their faces was the best. A big shout out to Smoke on the Water for preparing all the wonderful food for the evening. We served over 130 meals again this year. We appreciate all those that came out to enjoy an evening with family and friends.



We want to thank all the volunteers who helped decorate, serve, and help clean up. We could not have done it without each one of you!

Thank You

From Dee Harris

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

MVFA Board Membership

The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association was formed as a result of the formation of the fire protection districts. The MVFA which was originally the volunteer fire department had its roots in volunteerism and community fire protection. From the beginning, the association designed its leadership selection process to promote individuals who had demonstrated a heart for volunteer involvement and continued support of the local fire department and the community.

Desirable board members are those who serve as volunteers in the community or have engaged in helping to maintain MVFA's approximately 125 acres of lake property, campground, and local diner. This is why the MVFA bylaws give preference to individuals who are current board members, firefighters, or Support Group members, with a second level of preference to those who have served on committees in support of MVFA events and the maintaining of its assets. If an adequate number of nominees who represent these two categories do not fill the available open positions, then nominees of the MVFA general membership are candidates for selection through the voting process. (see MVFA Bylaws on GOMVFA.ORG for board nomination and election details).



Unfortunately, due to the routine badgering of Mosquito organization board members and misguided inflammatory rhetoric posted on social media, many desirable board candidates are reluctant to subject themselves to this abuse. The past MVFA election did not produce nominations to fill the two open positions. As a result, in accordance with the bylaws, two individuals will be appointed to the board at the January meeting. The current MVFA board members thank the community for their continued support of our events and to the many volunteers who serve on the local boards and who help us with the maintenance of our assets.

MVFA SWAG



Explore MVFA's collection of Mosquito T-shirts and Sweatshirts, available in an array of sizes and colors. New colors and style choices have been recently added, so please check them out. Apparel and local phone books are conveniently for sale at the diner during regular business hours or at MVFA sponsored events.

For personalized orders, reach out to us at mvfa95667@gmail.com.

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

The MVFA Recycle Program continues to provide a valuable resource of 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 water bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption.



The next MVFA Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 2nd at 3:00 pm

SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

Hello Neighbors!! Happy New Year!

As we say goodbye to 2024, a year filled with its share of challenges, we eagerly look forward to the possibilities that 2025 holds. Your support in the first half of the year gave us the hope and strength to keep our beloved diner open.

Now, with winter's chill upon us, we invite you to escape the cold

Diner Hours:

Monday - Thursday - Closed
Friday 11 am – 1:30 pm
Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm
Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

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

and wet weather and join us in our cozy, warm, and friendly diner. Our food is as comforting as ever, and we need your continued support to keep our doors open through the winter season.

Exciting news: We are now open on Fridays for lunch from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM with a simple yet delightful menu, perfect for kicking off your weekend while we prep for the busy days ahead.



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Your Smoke on the Water Family

CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

Happy New Year!

The Mosquito Crafters are very excited about the year we have had! We participated in over 6 different opportunities to sell our crafts. With sales at everything from Valentine's Day, Easter, pancake breakfasts, the Fall Festival, to Christmas! We had a very successful 2024 making a grand total of \$4,364 for the year. This is a group effort that involves participation from all of us in order to achieve such an awesome total. So, a big thank you goes to all the Crafters for continuing to make this possible. Also thank you to the community for supporting us and shopping with us! We love seeing our neighbors, friends, and new faces come by and shop our selection of handmade goodies. We are always interested in having new people join us. We meet once a month on the fourth Friday. If you are interested in joining our group or would like to donate any crafted items to our sales then please contact us at email mosquitocrafters@gmail.com.



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, however, there will not be a meeting in January 2025. **The next SCPOA board meeting will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, and will be the Members Annual Meeting. SCPOA Members please mark your calendar and plan to attend. We will have refreshments and members will have an opportunity to talk directly with SCPOA directors.** Meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the SCPOA website. All SCPOA Members are invited to attend.

Typically, at the February Annual meeting an election of board directors takes place, but because there were only four candidates, no election is necessary. Budget information, along with the latest edition of the SCPOA Newsletter will be sent to all SCPOA members in January by the Management Trust.

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, much more! If you have not requested a login for the SCPOA website, please send an email to Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com, or Melissa.bell@managementtrust.com to gain access.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

Happy New Year! While the District Auxiliary usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, the January meeting will take place on the same day as the MFPD Board of Directors Meeting which is January 16th, 2025.



The January D'Ax meeting will begin at 5:30pm on January 16, 2025.

At the January 16th meeting we will hold an election for three open director positions. Please visit the MFPD website for access to the D'Ax Bylaws for information about nominations, elections and officer director responsibilities. Please always verify meeting dates and times by checking the MFPD.us website under the Meetings tab. All residents of Mosquito Fire Protection District are invited to attend District Auxiliary meetings.

Find us at MFPD.us. Email us at admin@dax-np.org.

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for December. The next Bird Watch will be on the 11th of January. Our new starting time for Fall and Winter is 9:00 A.M. at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



20	Canada Goose	2	Bald Eagle	1	Brown Creeper
4	California Quail	19	Acorn Woodpecker	2	American Robin
150	American Coot	1	Steller's Jay	43	Lesser Goldfinch
	Double-crested		Mountain		Dark-eyed Junco
2	Cormorant	1	Chickadee	25	(Oregon)
9	California Scrub-Jay	2	Common Raven	11	Spotted Towhee
1	Turkey Vulture	2	Pied-billed Grebe	2	Oak Titmouse

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 (\$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 530-642-2333.

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

RABBITS FOR SALE by Finnegan the Rabbit Rancher. California/NZ, Lionhead/Flemish, California. \$35 So many pretty colors. Email for details. FinnOson7@gmail.com

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

TREADMILL

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

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

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

HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE PAINTING Residential/Commercial

Specializing in repaints contact Steven
Martinez, 530-919-7612 or
americaleaglepainting4@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.

WELDING & FABRICATION

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Years Day	2 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Station 75	3	4 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
5 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	6	7 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	8	9	10	11 Bird Watch Finnon Lake Day Use area 9 am
12 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	13	14	15	16 D'Ax Board Meeting 5:30pm Station 75 MFPD Board Meeting 7:00pm Station 75	17	18
19 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	20	21 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	22	23	24 Crafters Meeting 10am	25
26 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	27	28	29	30	31	

Local Area Web Links

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)
 Finnon Lake Recreation Area
 Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD)
 Swansboro Country Property Owners Association
 Mountain Fellowship in Mosquito (MFOM)
 El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.finnonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

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