

# The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

*Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon*

Volume 22 Issue 1

January 1995

## Fire Board seat decided by draw from hat

Never, never, never let anyone tell you your vote doesn't count, especially here on Mt. Lemmon. Just ask Fred Pace and Ed Motzkin. Ed Motzkin's name was printed on the ballot as a candidate, and Fred Pace ran as a write-in candidate.

Both candidates received the same number of votes (27) creating a tie for the position. It took a "draw from the hat" at a Pima County supervisor's meeting to determine who would sit on the Fire Board.

Young Corey Motzkin pulled the name from the hat, and Fred Pace was declared the Board Member, Mt. Lemmon Fire District. This is a four year gratuitous commitment to the community. MLHA applauds both candidates for their willingness to tackle this undertaking by placing their names on the ballot.

## Fire Board receives 600% increase in election bill

Precinct 240 sincerely hopes Pima County Department of Elections made a BIG mistake on a recent billing. Otherwise, the Mt. Lemmon Fire District will have to pay a recently mailed invoice for services rendered totaling \$1,284 for printing and ballot page preparation fees in the November election.

The total bill for our last Fire Board election in 1992 from Larry Bahill was \$205, a difference of over 600% in two years.

There are 105 registered voters with 54 votes counted in the general election, which took 5 days to tally. If you divide the number of voters in the general election by the billing, the cost of voting up here in the Fire District election is \$23.78 per vote.

Jane Williams, Clerk of the Board, notified us earlier the A.R.S. 11-251.06 mandates that the districts contract with Pima County to conduct elections, and we agreed to pay reasonable costs of the election. Unfortunately, the Board was not informed about the change in

calculating the costs when Jane Williams took over responsibilities for the Department of Elections. Consequently, the Fire Board had not budgeted for this large a bill leaving it with a large financial obligation under an already extremely tight budget.



## New Water Co-op President named

David Ostapuk has resigned his position as President of the Mt. Lemmon Water Cooperative Board of Directors because of his recent appointment to the Pima County Superior Court Bench as a Court Commissioner.

Larry Waldron has taken over as Board President and will press on to tackle the tough issues the Co-op is presently facing. Larry and the Co-op need and deserve the support of the entire mountain community in the months ahead.

## Water Board busy on many fronts

The Co-op Board has many issues they are dealing with at the present time from the Corporation Commission to Water District to balancing funds and maintenance needs.

The Co-op has a pending rate increase before the Corporation Commission. No doubt the Commission will adopt some of its staff recommendations which cut back on some key rate issues presented in the Co-op's package. If so, the financial woes of the Co-op for its short-term and long-term needs will continue until a water district can be formed to replace the Co-op.

The County is still working on the Co-op's petition for formation of a water district. Once the County compiles its list of all affected

property owners, the water district petitions can be circulated for signature by property owners.

Due to lack of funds, the important maintenance of sand-blasting and recoating the main water reservoir of the system had to be put off another year.

Due to lack of funds the modest planned start on a needed main transmission line to the Loma Linda system had to be put off another year.

The Co-op is working to finalize an agreement for water management on the mountain with the U.S. Forest Service that will be a major long term benefit to everyone on the mountain.

There are some equipment needs which the Co-op has and those will be reduced to a wish list and given to anyone who asks what they can do to help the Co-op. The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club has requested such a list.

The Board continues to work on upgrading its policies and procedures in efforts to improve day-to-day operations.

In summary, the Co-op continues to deliver water over a system that struggles to meet the increased use and regulatory demands made on it by the consumers on the mountain and the governmental groups regulating it. The Board is committed to press on to get a Water District formed to help relieve the financial part of the equation and to help with the regulatory issues as well. Larry Waldron and the Board members and Co-op employees need your support when the District petitions are circulated.

**Watch for your**

**1995 Homeowner's  
Invoice**

**In this Echoes issue  
on pink paper**

## MLHA saves money by sending 1995 invoice with Echoes

In an effort to cut expenses, your Homeowner's Association is sending your annual invoice in this issue of the Echoes. It has been printed on pink paper and will be the only copy you receive this year.

Simply check the method you wish to receive your membership card, include your check for the appropriate amount and return to the Homeowner's Association on Mt. Lemmon. Remember to include your self-addressed and stamped envelope if you want to receive your card by mail.

The Homeowner's Board is working hard at keeping expenses down and appreciates your efforts to help us conserve.



## Sheriff's Dept. reminds us of county's false alarm ordinance

By Ed Hardesty, PCSO

In an effort to reduce the number of false alarm responses by the Pima County Sheriff's Department, The Pima County Board of Supervisors enacted ordinance number 1994-36. This ordinance is designed to bring the alarm users/operators in Pima County to standard of no more than four false alarms in a 365 day period. The fifth false alarm during this period would be in violation of the ordinance and make the user/operator subject to a fine.

While we haven't had the problem on Mt. Lemmon with faulty alarms as has the metropolitan Tucson area, there have been several alarm users that, prior to enactment of this ordinance, would have been in violation.

Habitual false alarms reduce the effectiveness of the alarm itself and waste the resources of your Sheriff's Department. I would encourage all of you that are currently using an alarm to check your system for any problems that could lead to future false alarms.



## Security placards update

By Dannie Hayhurst, Pres. MLHA

The MLHA has mailed out close to 100 Security Placards in the last three months.

To join this security program, you need to first fill out and return a profile sheet with the appropriate information for the Sheriff's Department. Then a laminated, color coded 6"X9" placard is made and imprinted with the last three numbers of your address. These placards are placed in a window visible to the deputies and the information you give the deputies lets them know whether your residence is occupied by your or an unwelcome guest.

We will be printing the profile sheets again in an upcoming Echoes for those who have not yet filled these out. Profile sheets will also be available at the Annual Dinner on April 18.

The graphic below shows what the placards look like. The idea of area color coding and partial address numbers cuts the risk of cards being stolen and used in other cabins. In addition, it will help us to all be good neighbors by watching for these cards when a cabin is occupied by someone you don't know. If you're not sure, simply call the Sheriff's Department to make a report.




## MT. LEMMON FIRE STATION WISH LIST

- ☉ 400 SQ. FT. PEEL & STICK FLOOR TILE
- ☉ SAND PAPER
- ☉ WOOD VARNISH
- ☉ 6 KITCHEN CHAIRS
- ☉ NEW POTS & PANS
- ☉ PRE-HUNG 36", RIGHT SIDE HOLLOW-CORE DOOR
- ☉ 5 SHEETS OF 3/4" PLYWOOD
- ☉ CARPET FOR DAYROOM, STAIRWAY & OFFICE
- ☉ GARBAGE DISPOSAL
- ☉ STATE OF ARIZONA FLAG
- ☉ A VOLUNTEER WITH ELECTRONIC EXPERIENCE TO EVALUATE NON-FUNCTIONING ELECTRONIC PHONES & SPEAKERS
- ☉ A VOLUNTEER TO ADVISE METHODS OF OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIRS
- ☉ A VOLUNTEER TO TEACH TESTING 110V ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS

WE APPRECIATE ALL HELP AND GIFTS OFFERED!



# CABIN ID. PROGRAM



**Pima County  
Sheriff's Dept.**

**No. 789**

**Mt. Lemmon, Az.**

## Fire Dept. Activity Report...

By John Roads, Chief MLFD

Generally during the winter months, the emergency calls are very low. November, with only seven runs (5 auto accidents, 1 camp fire and 1 false alarm) was an indication that we could catch up on other work.

Things picked up in December with 18 calls (6 auto accidents, 5 hike or fall related, 1 sledding injury, 4 medical emergencies and 2 minor fire related calls).

January, typically the quietest month has absolutely gone crazy. As of January 18th, the fire department has handled 31 calls (three times the call load for the first 18 days of 1994).

Most of the calls are snow related - auto accidents on ice, power lines down from snow and ice and a major rash of sledding related accidents involving fractured legs, back injuries and even one skull fracture.

When I first started with Mt. Lemmon in September, I was told that Bea Shirley had donated a snow mobile to the fire department. I stood scratching my head trying to figure out what to do with a snow mobile. In a three day period (MLK holiday weekend) the snow mobile was called out eight times and used four times to pull injured sledders out of the forest. We learned in a hurry what to do with a snow mobile!

The snow mobile pulls a sled type rescue basket into the injured party's location and smoothly pulls the patient back to the transport units. During the following week, modifications were made to the snow mobile and sled to provide a higher level of safety and efficiency for a more rapid emergency response.

While the snow mobile cannot be used in every situation, we continue to respond the machine as a part of our regular emergency service.



## Other Tidbits...

Special thanks to Bea Shirley who donated a snow mobile to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department a few months ago that has been used in a number of emergency calls in the first few weeks of January. Sledders injured from spills in steep icy locations have benefitted from the snowmobile's ability to get the victims out to medical help.

A **ghostly great time** was had by all at the Halloween Party at the Fire Station. DeAnna Barnella rounded up lots of support and help and did a **SUPER** job coordinating the activities. Thanks to everyone involved, and a special thanks to DeAnna!

**Congratulations to David Ostapuk** on his recent appointment as a Superior Court Commissioner for Pima County.

The **Annual MLHA Dinner** is just around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 18** at the Savoy Opera House in Trail Dust Town. Watch the next Echoes for your reservation form. In case you wonder how the date is chosen each year - it's easy! The first Tuesday after **TAX DAY!**

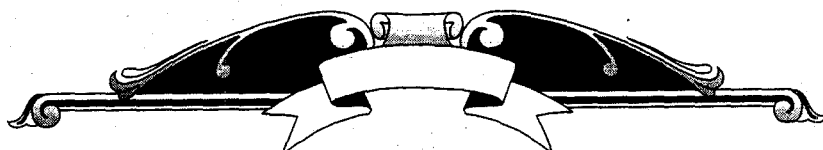
**Severe vandalism in the new comfort stations** the Forest Service recently completed has caused untold damage. If you notice anything unusual as you travel the mountain, don't hesitate to report it to the authorities. We hope to have a complete report in a future issue.

## Plan cleaning strategy now to avoid fires in future

By John Roads

It's a little too cold to start taking action, but now is the time to start mentally preparing for the action that needs to be taken. Summerhaven and all the Mt. Lemmon cabins all sit in the forest. Not necessarily the actual legal forest, however, I am using the boundaries that the bears follow - we are all **IN** the forest. As we all know, forests can burn and so can ours. But with proper human intervention and management, we can either prevent our forest from burning or control the damage and destruction if a fire does get started. It's best to prevent the fire from starting, but in order to insure that no fire occurs, we would have to have total control over all the elements that start fires - i.e: lightning, electrical sources and our most feared - the two legged camp fire toten tourists. Since we can't control lightning and tourists, our best option is to protect ourselves, our property, our business and our community. In order to protect ourselves, we must first understand what causes the threat.

Standing forest trees generally will not burn, anymore than a large log by itself will burn in your fire place. The wood will absorb and distribute the applied heat to prevent a high enough temperature for the tree to ignite. Pine needle on the forest floor, on the other hand, are small and incapable of absorbing and



**MLHA 1995  
ANNUAL DINNER**

**Tuesday April 18 6:00 p.m.**

**Savoy Opera House**

**In Trail Dust Town**

Watch for reservation form in next issue!



cont from Page 3

distributing the heat, and therefore, readily ignite. A high volume of pine needles can produce enough heat to overcome larger (downed and dead) wood's capability of absorbing the heat and in turn, the larger wood will also ignite, adding more and more heat. The pine needles act similarly to the newspaper and fire starters used in your fire place. The downed wood acts similar to the fire place kindling. Eventually there is enough paper and kindling heat output to start your fire place fire. The needles and downed wood do the same thing in the forest and can cause the standing forest trees to burn into a full blown, take everything in its path (including cabins, cars, business, people, etc.) forest fire. The best way to never have a fire in your fire place is to never add kindling. The best way to never have a destructive forest fire is to eliminate the forest kindling (needles and downed wood). This will be our spring time goal.

As the Fire Chief, there are two fires that I worry about. The first is a fire in Summerhaven, Willow Canyon or Soldier's Camp that can easily spread from one lot to the next and continue until we have enough heat produced to create a major forest fire. Removing the kindling aids in controlling the original fire and keeps the fire spreading either to your neighbors, or if your neighbor's place is on fire, aids in keeping the fire from spreading to your place. The most feared fire is the one at your neighbor's.

The second fire that I fear is an out of control forest fire that is heading in to Summerhaven or one of the other cabin areas. The wilderness areas are also packed with kindling and a fire could develop a tremendous amount of force as it approached a cabin area.

Suppression of fires comes in three ways: smothering the fuel by removing the air (it is impossible to smother an entire forest); cooling the fuel, usually with water (while water is a major forest fire fighting agent, completely spraying down the forest takes mass quantities of water and time to extinguish a major fire); and the third is removing the fuel so that the fire eventually burns itself out. Fire place fires are almost always extinguished by letting the fire burn itself out of fuel. Similarly, forest fires are controlled using fire breaks (roads, rivers or pre-burned areas) where the fire stops or slows down when it runs low or out of fuel.

In order to stop an out of control

forest fire from sweeping through the village, we need to remove and reduce the fuel and create fuel breaks so that the fire slows down or stops in its tracks. This is difficult since most of our village and cabins are made of wood which fuels a fire.

I am currently working with the forest service to explore options for fuel breaks and reducing fuel loading. Cleaning up all the kindling on private and leased properties is a must and will help slow down a threatening fire. The fire may still cause some damage to the outer boundary properties. Controlled burn fires around the boundaries may be a solution, however this solution will require a tremendous support from the community. Controlled burns cause smoke and occasional traffic delays, but the benefits of using controlled burns in controlling a threatening destructive forest fire definitely outweigh any disadvantages.

It is important that we all understand both the real problems and the real solutions. Probably by July, you will be sick and tired of hearing me talk about the problem and our need for hard work to reach the solution, but the problem is a real threat. I'm talking to prevent you from experiencing the devastation that has happened elsewhere in other communities and can repeat itself here.

As always, if you have questions regarding this article or any fire prevention topic, please feel free to contact me at the fire station business line, 576-1201. If you have an emergency, call 911.



## Birds & Bees Flowers & Trees ...

By Sheri Lee

Finally we have a couple feet of snow, not only to replenish the springs for our summer water supply, but to provide a summer crop of berries and sprouts for the bears. This is good if you are among those of us who do not want bears prowling around our cabins all summer looking for birdseed.

Rumor has it nobody has seen a

bear or javelina lately. One person reported seeing huge mountain lion tracks near his cabin in Upper Loma-Sabino.

For the most part the chipmunks and squirrels are feeding from their private stock of cones and seeds, but if you put seeds and peanuts out, you will soon be visited by chippies and squirrels.

Several years ago a fellow at Fish and Game assured me the javelina could not survive the winter on the mountain. Our javelina have proven him wrong several winters in a row. He said javelina have no fur, only bristles and thus, will freeze to death. He didn't account for them finding warm cabins to live under all winter. Bears, skunks and feral cats live under cabins too...maybe under yours?

Remember the birds need water in the winter, too. Fill your birdbath every morning, and if you are ambitious enough, empty it every night so it won't freeze. For those of you who visit only occasionally during the winter, use a plastic flowerpot saucer as a birdbath, and you don't have to worry about it cracking when it freezes.

You may wonder how the birds survive these cold winter days and nights. Well, a lot don't. Many freeze or starve or die of thirst. If we put out food and water for them they might have enough energy to keep them alive through those coldest times. If you put out suet, hang it on the shady side of the cabin. Sunshine will quickly turn it rancid.

Jillions of birds and critters survive the winters in the forests without the aid of man, but it gives us that warm and fuzzy feeling knowing we made things a little easier for them.



## Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club News...

By Sharon Thomas, Pres. MLWC

I hope your holiday season was an enjoyable one. Now that we are through January it is time to start getting busy again. I would like to thank our November hostess, Bea Shirley for her hospitality. We had a wonderful time.

Thank you also to our Christmas Brunch hostess, Luann Waldron, for having us in your home and making it a special day. We also want to give a special thanks to JoAnn Foor for getting us in the mood with her Christmas music.

### Upcoming Events:


Mar 1.....Meeting @ 12:30 / TBA  
Apr 1.....Southern District Spring Conference  
Apr 5.....Spring Salad Luncheon/S.Thomas  
May 3.....Meeting Helen Quigley/Cinco de Mayo

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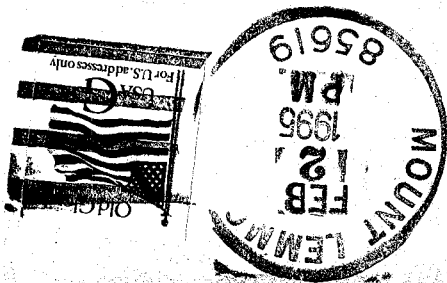


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The Echoes is the Publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association for its membership. Controversial and political articles reflect the opinions and decisions of the Board of Directors. The Board reserves the right to approve all submitted articles. Membership dues are \$25.00/year. Renters and friends of the mountain may obtain an associated membership of \$20.00 per year. The Echoes will be published in 1994 monthly April through November. Photo ready ads, articles and letters to the editor of interest to the general membership should be submitted by the 15th of each month prior to publication. Send articles to P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. Ad rates: 3X5-\$10; 2X3-\$5. Other sizes, inquire to Echoes staff.