

THE Mt. Lemmon Echoes

SERVING THE HOMEOWNERS OF MT. LEMMON

Annual Dinner Reminder!

Don't forget that you have until the 17th of April to get your reservations in for the Annual Dinner. We'll have a number of speakers that may be able to answer some of your questions pertaining to the User Fees, road construction, water issues, and of course, the new Pima County bear ordinance. To be part of this fun filled evening, send in your reservations now! It is a great way to meet your mountain neighbors and be part of the mountain community.

The speakers will include Pima County Supervisor John Even, District Ranger Tom Quinn, Fire Chief John Roads, Water Co-op President Larry Waldron, Mt. Lemmon Business Alliance President Don Underhill and the 1997 Summit Award recipient.

Trail Dust Town has an added attraction this year. They are putting the finishing touches on a narrow gauge C P Huntington train that runs around the entire Trail Dust complex. The setting is a turn-of-the-century gold mining town. The train departs from the "Chocolate Depot" (where they sell fudge). Tickets are \$1.00 for adults and kids under six ride free. The

APRIL 22, 1997,

**TUESDAY NIGHT AT
SAVOY OPERA HOUSE
TRAIL DUST TOWN
6541 E TANQUE VERDE**

6 PM COCKTAILS

- NO HOST BAR

7 PM DINNER

**FILET MIGNON OR
MARINATED CHICKEN
BREASt, SALAD, POTATO,
PINTO BEANS, BREAD &
STRAWBERRY SHORT
CAKE**

8 PM PROGRAM

train goes through a mining tunnel that is more than 100 feet long. More special effects are yet to be created, such as a talking gold miner and other things they didn't wish to reveal yet. So bring along an extra couple of bucks and "take the train". See you there!

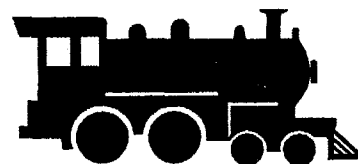
Fran Zimmerman

President, Mt. Lemmon
Homeowners Association

editor's note: The April issue of the Echoes will not come out in time to print the reservations form again. Please send in your dinner reservations today! Thanks

Road Closure Wednesday March 19th

The Mt. Lemmon Highway will be closed at the base of the mountain on Wednesday, March 19th from 8:15AM to 5:30PM. This closure is necessary in order to allow the contractor to safely place the girders for the bridge structure. On Thursday, March 20th, motorists may experience delays of up to 45 minutes (I also heard hour delays). Motorists will continue to follow the pilot car through the construction area. Call the Mt. Lemmon Hotline @ 690-7140 for the most updated information. The contractor will complete setting the girders in early to mid April.





Foam and Fire

by Bob
Zimmerman

I have been watching the development of Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAF) over the past many years and feel it is time to introduce this capability to Mt. Lemmon. A CAF system produces a heavy foam by mixing a little water with a foaming agent and compressed air. Besides producing foam, the compressed air propels the foam great distances. The foaming agent, basically soap, is environmentally friendly. The foam clings well to most surfaces and, in the process, is adsorbed into the surface or object, wetting it. Foam's wetting capability dramatically exceeds that of straight water, an important consideration in putting out fires and the effectiveness of foam.

CAF systems have several advantages over the standard high pressure water system. They have proven excellent for extinguishing both wild land fires and structure fires. I have watched several videos were house fires, in which the house was fully engulfed in flames, was put out in a few minutes. Not only were the flames extinguished quickly, but the fire fighter was able to stand a relatively safe distance away from the house. Standard techniques using high pressure hoses calls for the firefighter to enter the dwelling to spray all surfaces. This practice is quite dangerous and a frequent source of injury.

CAF system are equally effective in controlling wild land fires. Its wetting capability penetrates the duff where fire can hide. Because of

the wetting and adhering ability of foam, another effective use is pre-treatment of buildings or forested areas. Tall trees and buildings can be coated with foam making them highly resistant to fire. Another advantage of CAF systems is the lightness of the hoses which are largely filled with air rather than heavy water. A two inch hose filled with water is quite heavy. The lightness makes it much easier for one person to lay a hose and drag it up hill. Theoretically, one firefighter could respond, attack and control a fire with a CAF equipped truck - a great advantage to fire departments with a shortage on fighters.

Still another advantage of CAF units is their reduced use of water. This is quite important when, as we have on Mt. Lemmon, few water sources. CAF units use 4 to 5 times less water, or, from the opposite point of view, makes 500 gallons behave as if the truck held 1,500 to 2,000 gallons.

The disadvantages include cost and complexity of equipment. Besides the pump, the basis of all firefighting, a CAF system requires additional complex components including a high volume air compressor, mixing valve and a proportioner. The proportioner matches the air pressure to the water pressure. Naturally, the firefighter uses different water pressures for different situations and the proportioner guarantees a proper mixture.

The Fire Board is considering outfitting two vehicles with CAF capability. Last year the department bought a 1 ton truck from Mt. Lemmon Water Cooperative. This unit would carry a self contained unit which cost estimated at \$45,000. The yellow fire truck would be modified to be a CAF truck for approximately \$17,500, giving us two CAF units.

Bird & Bees, Flowers and Trees, and Spring Training

by Sheri Lee

The following is an excerpt from the bird book: *For the Birds, An Uncommon Field Guide* by Laura Erickson, 1994, published by Pfeiffer-Hamilton, Duluth, MN. She writes, "So far the only **ORIOLES** we've seen this spring have been on the airwaves, usually in flocks of 9 birds at a time. These **BALTIMORE ORIOLES** are remarkable in that every specimen ornithologists have found has been male, and all the displays, rituals, and vocalizations ever recorded have been directed at other males. How they reproduce is a great ornithological mystery. This phenomenon has also been noted in two similar species, Toronto **BLUE JAYS** and St. Louis **CARDINALS**.

As with many **GULLS** and **SHOREBIRDS**, the habitat of baseball birds is short-grass fields, which attract large numbers of **BATS**, too. There are many **FOWL** balls, and sometimes a batter tries **BUNTING**. **FLYCATCHERS** are popular, unlike fielders who **DUCK**. Often runners try to **TEAL** a base. If it's a close call, bleacher bums may **GROUSE** or **SNIPE** or even shout, "KILLDEER ump!" These booBIRDS are all **STORK RAVEN** mad. Now if you can swallow all this **PHEASANT** banter, you're probably **VEERY GULLible**. So all you baseball **PLOVERS** out there, just remember, it's one, two, three **SHRIKES** you're out at the old ball game."

This is one of many, many styles of Ms. Erickson's humor. She knows her birds and their habits and she has a wonderful sense of humor and a gift for expressing it in writing. The book is informative and entertaining. I purchased my autographed copy of this book from *Echoes* advertiser, Wild Birds Unlimited.

FOREST HEALTH

BULLETIN REVISED 3/97

PINE NEEDLE RAKING PRACTICE

Forestry Division of the Arizona State Land Dept.

(233 N. Main Ave. Tucson, AZ 85701, phone 628-6015)

There are two main reasons for removing pine needles and other dead vegetative materials which accumulate on the forest floor. One is to prevent the spread of a possible destructive fire, and the other is to improve aesthetics, which is a matter of personal preference.

From a fire prevention standpoint, the needle layer (duff) found on the forest floor is not generally considered to be a significant fire threat by itself, as long as some basic fire prevention practices are implemented.

If ignition occurs, this needle layer can be a source of fire spread, but it is a light fuel, which burns quickly. Its arrangement is not generally conducive to causing destructive forest fires. The more hazardous ignition materials consist of medium and heavy fuels (i.e. shrubs, small trees, dead and down branches and logs) which will create higher temperatures for longer durations, consequently causing more destructive fires. The practice of cleaning needles away from ignition sources, such as incinerators, and away from structures, should be of primary concern. Raking of the entire area is not recommended! However, the following fire prevention measures are recommended:

1. Rake pine needles down to the mineral soil a maximum of thirty (30) feet from structures (100 feet is needed on sloped areas) and remove additional pine needles further out if the needle layer is about six (6) inches in depth.
2. Remove needles and leaves from roof tops and rain gutters.
3. Properly prune overhanging green or dead branches within ten (10) feet of chimneys, stacks or incinerators. Remove overhanging green, dead or dying branches from any tree adjacent to any structure.
4. Prune all branches to ten (10) feet

above the ground a maximum of thirty (30) feet from structures to prevent the fire from climbing a tree and possibly laddering up to larger trees.

5. Properly prune ponderosa pine dwarf mistletoe infested branches and/or remove heavily infested trees.

7. Remove dead and bent trees and prune deadwood from shrubs. Remove small trees growing underneath larger trees; they provide ladder fuels allowing grass and needle fires to jump to the branches of larger trees, increasing fire spread.

8. Leave about fifteen (15) feet of space between shrubs and trees by thinning to help prevent fire spread. Thinning should be done for at least 100, from structures.

9. Remove heavy fuels (i.e. dead and down branches and logs) from around structures and place some of it in open areas to provide habitat for a variety of forest organisms.

10. Properly dispose of debris, slash and branches in the spring before fire season begins. Green branches, etc., removed to reduce the fire hazard, can be mechanically chipped and added to the needle or duff layer away from structures as a mulch.

From the general health and vigor of the pines and other trees in the area, raking of needles could have an adverse affect on the whole area (based on the current condition of our forests). Several problems occur when the needle layer or duff is removed:

1. The organic nutrient supply to the tree is eliminated, causing a possible reduction of tree growth and vigor.
2. Soil organisms (i.e. bacteria, fungi, insects, worms) critical to tree growth may be harmed.
3. Soil acidity is reduced. Pine trees usually prefer acid soils.
4. Pine needles insulate soil from extreme or rapid temperature changes.
5. During hot periods, exposed soils dry out quickly reducing the uptake of moisture through the roots.
6. During wet periods, erosion may occur as a result of needle removal. Needles intercept and absorb the power of the falling raindrops reducing erosion.
7. Bare soils encourage weed production

which may compete with the tree for moisture and nutrients and increase the fire hazard.

8. Soil compaction will increase, reducing the natural absorption of moisture and oxygen into the soil and roots.

If one looks at each factor singly, the impact on tree growth and vigor may not be significant; but combined, complete needle removal could in time cause the weakening of a tree, and could invite insect attacks (i.e., bark beetles). The health and vigor of a tree is its primary defense in fighting off insect attacks which quite often result in mortality.

This subject is much more complex than is stated here, but this bulletin will give you an idea of the things to consider.

NO RED FOOD COLORING, PLEASE!

There have been several reports of hummingbird sightings throughout the winter on the mountain. It amazes us every spring how these tiny guys survive through terrible blizzards, but they do. They eat a lot of gnats (but are there really gnats around during a blizzard?) If you are new to the mountain or this is your first year with a hummer feeder, here is the recipe for making "hummer water":

1 part sugar (never, ever use a sugar substitute such as Equal or Sweet & Low)

5 parts water

Boil 6 minutes to kill bacteria and dispel chlorine.

Some of you feel you must use red food coloring to attract the birds. Please don't. The folks at the Desert Museum tell me it is thought to be harmful to their tongues and livers. Just a little red on the feeder is all it takes to get the birds' attention.

Keep your feeders clean. Wash them in warm, soapy water everytime before you fill them; and this means daily in the summertime. The black mold that hides in the cracks of the feeder apparently tastes pretty awful as hummers ignore those feeders. The same recipe and advice applies to lowland hummers in our cities all winter. Sheri Lee

February 24, 1997

MOUNT LEMMON FIRE BOARD**& MOUNT LEMMON FIRE CHIEF**

Re: Mt. Lemmon Fire and Rescue

Dear Bob, Fred, Phil and John:

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 1997. It was a pleasure working with you on the "barn raising" project at the Firehouse. I enjoyed the "hands-on" work and learned some handy construction techniques from Fred Pace, Leroy Day and RC Denney. I also enjoyed the camaraderie of everyone involved and the good (and plentiful!) food provided by Dani and Mrs. Pace.

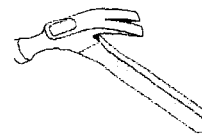
I am writing this letter to express our family's thanks to all of you for your work in making Mt. Lemmon Fire and Rescue an important functional asset to our community. As home owners and full time residents on Mount Lemmon we appreciate having this community resource available to respond to emergency situations.

I personally appreciate the training that I have received from Chief John Roads and Fire/Rescue personnel in becoming a fire department volunteer. The training not only allows me to be an effective volunteer, it contributes to my knowledge base and day-to-day awareness of the environment in which we live.

Thank You to ALL!

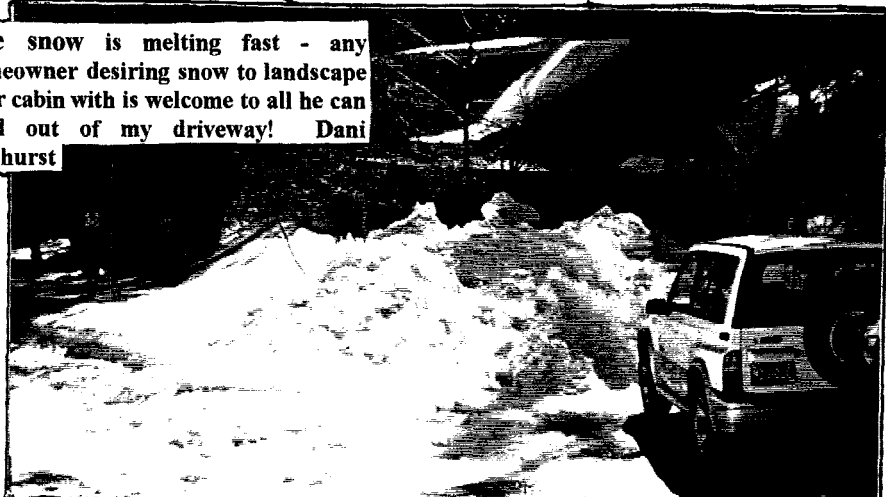
Sincerely

William N. Windsor



Thanks to all who helped with the firehouse "barnraising". Some of those who brought their hammers and stayed for lunch are pictured left including John Roads, Bob Zimmerman, LeRoy Day, Bill Windsor, Jeanne Mayer, Ron Creath, Walt Haage, Olga Pace, Bob Lee, Fred Pace, and R.C. Denney.

The snow is melting fast - any homeowner desiring snow to landscape their cabin with is welcome to all he can haul out of my driveway! Dani Hayhurst



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1997

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Reservations April 17th



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DATE

March 1997

ACCOUNT NUMBER

This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association. It is one of the benefits of being a member. Your board members are Fran Crowe, Red Greth, Paul Hawkins, Pete Krauss, Sheri Lee, Dannie Hayhurst, Florence Wilhoite, John Mulay, Fran Zimmerman, Carrie Reitz, Carolyn Autrey, Larry Waldron and Olga Pace. Dannie Hayhurst is publisher and editor of the Echoes.

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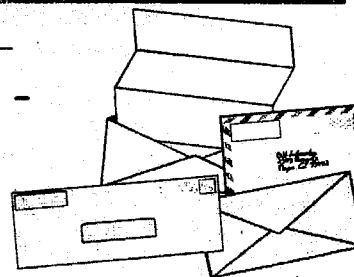
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I will pick up my membership card at the Annual MLHO dinner in April 1997

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