

The

# Mt. Lemmon Echoes

*Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon*

## From the President

by Larry Waldron

UNUSUAL WEATHER is one subject that invariably comes up during conversations with friends and neighbors. Bob Zimmerman once commented to me that "Mt. Lemmon either gets too much rain or too little rain". Since I have been asked by several to include weather information in the Echos, I needed to seek out the local weather guru.

Mark Hopkins, alias the postmaster, satisfies that title. I recently had a visit with Mark to gather information for this article. Mark has kept precipitation and temperature data since he first arrived on Mt. Lemmon in 1986. The data Mark collects is used by the Water Cooperative as well many agencies from the valley. Mark has contributed some unusual historical information for this article. The highest temperature Mark has recorded is 100 degrees, which coincides with a 117 scorcher-day in Tucson. The lowest temperature is -2 degrees in February on 1987, which coincided with a 60-inch snowfall. Three winters ago the post office location recorded 25 feet of snow. Last summer monsoon delivered over 22 inches of rain. On July 15, 1999 an excess of 7 inches of rain fell, according to NOSA satellite data, during a few morning hours and washed out the highway. These numbers are staggering. Mark did indicate that temperature readings at your cabin might very significantly from what the post office records. Carter Canyon is typically much cooler, as are some of the other

cabin areas. Incidentally, the temperature that appears on the local television weather reports are taken at Ski Valley.

According to Mark the normal snow precipitation is 10 feet while the normal monsoon is 12 inches of rain. The last two winters have fallen way short on snowfall but last summers 22-inch monsoon was incredible.

For some more current information: May's high was 86 degrees, the low 38 degrees, an average of 62 degrees June's high was 88 degrees, the low 49 degrees, an average of 64 degrees July's high was 88 degrees, the low 46 degrees, an average of 66 degrees (thru 7/27/00)

May precipitation was zero inches June precipitation was 3.18 inches

July precipitation was 3.08 inches (thru 7/27/00)

Although we have received over half of our normal monsoon to date, our springs are again producing very little. A suggestion for the square dance August 5<sup>th</sup>: Do a collective rain dance.

## Water Co-op News

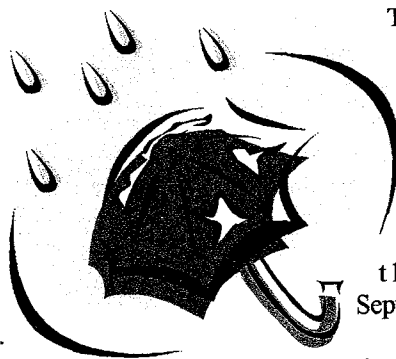
by President Chuck Autrey

Water Conservation Still Needed.

Thanks to everyone's water conservation efforts and some welcome rain showers we made it through June and July without running out of water. It seems like everyone remembered that the water system was theirs and did their share to make it work.

Pat yourselves on the back, you deserve it.

As I write this article (7/31/00) though, the problem has returned. Spring flow rates which have slowed dramatically in the last 10 days. Those rain showers of late June and early July are desperately needed again. We still have a reasonable reserve but our ability to replace the water we use now takes much longer. The spring flow rates in both Sabino Canyon and Carter Canyon are below 3 gallons per minute. That simply means we are using water faster than we can replace it. So please continue to conserve as you have done in the past and pray for those monsoon showers to return soon and often.



The contact for the construction of the new pump house in Sabino Canyon has been signed and the job should be completed by the end of September.

Thanks to Larry Waldron and Mike Stanley the water tank monitoring system has passed its operational test and the censors should be installed on the individual tanks real soon.

At the annual meeting in June we announced a plan to drill a well on Sabino Parkway. Thanks to Mike Stanley that project has cleared several hurdles, but we still have a few remaining. Keep your fingers crossed and I'll keep you posted.

## Light Festival Square Dance

August 5<sup>th</sup>  
7-10 PM @ Fire Station  
donations at the door go to  
the Mt Lemmon Fire  
Department

**Admission by donation**, everyone welcome, all proceeds go to the Mount Lemmon Fire Dept. We teach on the spot. Fred Field will be the caller, so bring your toe tapping dancing shoes & come prepared to swing! Even if you've never square Danced before - come & join the fun!!

We'll have some "angels" in the group who have square danced before and will help with the steps. Special thanks to Dorothy Crawford and Bonnie Lohman, MLCECs for their help in setting this up!

Thanks to Trico for the judging the winners of the Light Festival:

The trophies given were 1<sup>st</sup> place, Best of Show - Patty & Tom Thomas 112441 Carter Canyon 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Most Patriotic - Ed & Donna Roll 12788 Sabino Cyn Parkway & 3<sup>rd</sup> place Most Beautifully lit Cabin Jaimie & Bill Turner 12935 N Upper Loma Linda Road. Honorable mention certificate winners included

Most Brightly light Business - Don Underhill & The Alpine Lodge Sabino Cyn Parkway, Best Lights Run by a Computerized Timer - John Carroll & Carol Niehoff Phoenix Ave, Best Lights on Wheels - John & Leonore Carlson, Phoenix Ave, Most Deckadent Light Display- Judy Epstein & Chet Goldberg, Middle Sabino lane, Best Events Displays with Lights- Craig & Christie Spenser Carter Cyn, Best Space Ship- Pat & Dani Hayhurst Carter Cyn, Best Lit Ski Resort - George & Jay Davies - Ski Valley & 10 special medallions were also awarded prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

## Ski Valley presents "Cool Mountain Jazz." Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, - No Charge!

By Jay Davies

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley presents "Cool Mountain Jazz." The session will be on the deck ski side from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. We are incredibly fortunate to have two marvelous jazz artists, Jeff Haskell and Betty Craig who have just finished a great show at the Doubletree for The Invisible Theatre called "Hooray for Hollywood." Jeff Haskell is a professor of music at the University of Arizona.

He often performs back up piano and vocal for Linda Ronstadt and other professional vocalists. Jeff is a part time resident of the mountain. Betty Craig is a great local jazz vocalist who enjoys doing musical theater, one man shows and teaming up with Jeff for very special performances.

This should be a delightful show !

No charge. Come enjoy the cool mountain air and the cool mountain jazz ! Watch for info and dates of Sept. and Oct Oktoberfest in next issue of the Echoes.

## School Daze -

Suzanne Hensel is looking forward to returning in August to start her second year of teaching. The first day of school is August 21, and for all you kids out there - start the countdown - the last day of school is May 24<sup>th</sup>! Registration packets have been sent out to parents of ZE School aged children, but if you have a youngster and have not received a school registration packet, contact Patsy at 740-8451, Pima County School Superintendent's office.

**Anastasia Zwick Robinson**

**March 17, 1964 - June 26, 2000**

<http://mt-lemmon.com/memorial.htm>

## Forest Health

By Bob Zimmerman

Last issue I talked about how overgrown our forests have become since the turn of the century. Prior to 1900 low intensity Wild Land Fires swept through all forests every 3 to 5 years clearing out ladder fuels and eliminating down and dead material. One measure of the intensity of a Wild Land Fire is its flame length. At the turn of the century, flame lengths were measured in inches. A typical flame length then was 6 inches. In contrast, today's Wild Land Fire flame lengths are frequently over a hundred feet. This is what you see on TV. What has caused this incredible increase is the build up of fuel in our forests as a consequence of putting out all Wild Land Fires for the past 90 years. As a result, our forest floors are overloaded with dead and down material and, to make matters much worse, our forests have become overgrown with thickets of trees of various heights. This combination produces very intense and therefore devastating holocaust Wild Land Fires that destroy all trees in its path. It takes at least 50 years to recover from what appears to be an ever-increasing holocaust incident of Wild Land Fires causing massive losses of forests, not to mention the millions that are spent fighting these Wild Land Fires. In addition, vital habitat is lost for animals and birds and, finally, erosion becomes a major problem. And, of course, the loss of our cabins would be devastating.

What can be done in our community? Reduce fuel loading is the primary method to make our community safer from holocaust Wild Land Fires. It will take years to make substantial gains, but it is worth doing. As a community we can reduce fire danger for all by each doing our part and reduce fire danger on the property we own.

Community owners removing pine needles by either having them burned

or hauled to Tucson has already helped reduced Wild Land Fire danger. This program, sponsored by the Mount Lemmon Fire Department, will continue. If you have not taken advantage of this program, please call John Roads, Fire Chief, at 576-1201.

We are now commencing the second phase of reducing fuel loading which is to encourage homeowners to thin ladder fuels and thickets of trees. Ladder fuels include the lower branches up to 10 to 20 feet high. These should be removed. Thickets of smaller trees should be thinned out. You would be surprised to know that many of the thicket trees are dwarfed and are much older than their appearance would indicate. This dwarfing is the result of starvation for nutrients, sunlight and water. These thickets are often breeding grounds for insects and mistletoe, another good reason for thinning. It is acceptable to leave buffer trees where desired as long as the bulk of the fuel loading has been reduced from your lot.

If you would like to see how thinned sites should look, three sites have been thinned under the direction of Steve Plevel. To get a map showing the sites, call me at 576-1333 I hope you will have an opportunity to drive by and see how they look. You will notice that the removed wood is wrapped in plastic. This is to prevent pine beetles from laying eggs in the dead wood and subsequently infecting the surrounding live pines. Pine Beetles can kill a stand of pines in short order.

Next month I will discuss factors, which make certain areas of our valleys, more dangerous than others and more tips on reducing fire danger around your cabin. Certain areas of Sabino Canyon Valley are more critical in terms of Wild Land Fire danger than others.

## *Loma Sabino Homeowners Association Letter from Stratford Management*

June 27,00

Dear Mt Lemmon Neighbor:

As you may know, the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association has offered permanent, recordable access easements to those Mt Lemmon property owners who require practical access to their properties via Loma Sabino Homeowners Association road system. Our records indicate that some of you have not requested an access easement.

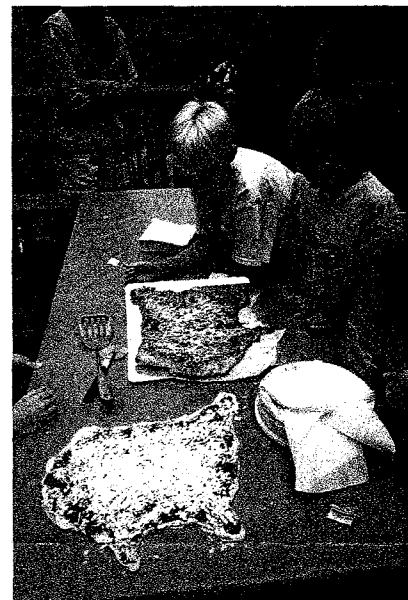
Because the road system is privately owned, it must be maintained by the Association. The cost of maintenance must be shared by all users. It is therefore unfair that some residents use the road system without contributing to the cost of its upkeep. Unfortunately, not all of those individuals using the road system have applied for access easements. Therefore, the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association will soon decide whether to install a controlled access gate system or take legal action to insure that everyone pays their share of road maintenance. The purchase of an access easement will insure that if access affects you, you have the access to your property now and in the future. The cost of an access easement is as follows: Easement purchase of \$1850 plus 1998 and 1999 Assessments: \$2,450 Annual (2000) Associate Member Assessment (for road maintenance \$300 for a total of \$2,750.

Please respond to this offer no later than September 15th, 2000. Please send a letter of request to Loma Sabino Homeowners Association, PO Box 40790, Tucson, AZ 85717, attention Teri Foust. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the content of this letter, please

contact: Lynn Marrs or Teri Foust, at Stratford Management , 795-6500. Sincerely,  
Teri Foust for the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association.

## **Kids Clubs**

(photo)by Carol Niehoff



Here's a fun Photo from Saturday's Kids Club. We made and ate the pizza in the shape of the US. Magpies generously donated all the ingredients. It was a fun morning and Kay Slocum did a great piece about the history of pizza. Do you know who ordered the first "pizza delivery" in history? King Umberto I and Queen Margherita of Savoy in 1889.

## **26th Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

**Fran Zimmerman**

We had over 30 entries, which makes this the largest parade ever. The judges judged each entry according to its category of Original, Humorous and Patriotic, awarding a first and second place. This year the judges were Dan Cutler, Joe Richey, and Don Underhill. Beaver Band Box provided music at the Alpine, but only for 45 minutes and then they had to leave for Tucson for a

prior gig at 3PM. We thank them for their efforts of coming up here.

The winners of Humorous (1st place) Living Rainbow, (2nd place) Yankee Doodle Clowns; Patriotic, (1st place) Sunrise Chapel, (2nd place) Carter Canyon Families; Original (1st place) Mt Lemmon Woman's Club, (2nd place) Vinneman Family. Many thanks to all that participated in this year's parade, also thank you Bill Brown, John Mulay, Pima County Sheriff's Department and our own Mt Lemmon Fire Department. See you next year.

## Bunko

**Bunko is for Saturday September 23rd, 6:00 pm at the Summerhaven Coffee house; Dinner will be your choice of Lasagna or Chicken Enchelada for \$12.50 which includes dinner, drink tax and gratuity. Please RSVP by Sept. 17th to Linda Mulay!**

## July 2000 - MLFD

by Chief John Roads

Well, the rains came, and then kind of left again. We are currently having a few showers, however, Fire Season is still among us. As of this writing, there are numerous fires across the Western United States, including 3 here in Southern Arizona. Many resources have been taken from Arizona to fight larger fires in other states, but the fire start activity has returned to Arizona. We are not out of the forest yet, so to speak. The pine needles are damp, but remember they only need one hour (1-hour fuel) to dry out again. Continue all safe measures to prevent any fire starts. With the added event of lightning, we have a higher potential for fire starts.

**Ash Disposal** - Even with the wet conditions, it is still a severe hazard to improperly dispose of fireplace and charcoal ash. Dumping hot ashes on wet needles will cause the needles to dry out and ignite. Ashes can hold their heat for several days. Insure that

all the ashes are cold to the touch before disposal.

The Pine Needle dumpster is still here, behind the station. So far this year, we have filled the dumpster 4. We will keep the unit for a little while longer.

Correction from last months article - Last month I thanked Joan Klinger for her generous donation to the Fire Department. The article stated, "The funds will be used to purchase additional fire breathing air tanks. The tanks will be used to put four additional breathing packs in service." The article should have stated that Joan Klinger's generous donation included 6 breathing air tanks to put the 4 breathing pack units in service. Each unit requires two air tanks, and the other two tanks had been donated with two of the units. I hope this clears up the confusion. Thanks again, Joan. Donations like yours assist us in keeping the fire department running.

**LOCAL FIRES** - On Sunday, July 30th, 3 fires broke out on Mt. Lemmon, all the result of Saturday night's lightning storm. On efire was in Sabino Creek below the village, one was in Box Camp are below Spensor Canyon, and the third was on the Oracle Ridge Trail below the fire station. The Oracle Ridge fire was visible to many tourists and the slurry bombers flew right over the village. None of the fires were a threat to the village, but serve as a reminder that even in a monsoon storm, fires can still burn.

**WARNING** - We are currently experience bear problems in the village again. Lax garbage practices have proven just enough of an invite for a mom and 3 cubs to make the village home for easy feeding. (We suspect there may be more than just this 4) We have learned in the past that such eating behaviors can be fatal to the bears (either by causing plastic bag related stomach problems, by irreversible behavior patterns that require extermination, or by bear mortality during and through

relocation). Current efforts are underway to capture this quintet of bears for an attempted relocation. There is no excuse for leaving garbage of any kind in any unsecured, outside area where bears can access the garbage. **REMEMBER**, a garbage bear is a dead bear.

## Bears in the Woods

A little more than a week ago Helen Quigley & her 2 sons had a visitor - a mother bear with 3 cubs. For awhile it was enjoying apples in the apple tree in her neighbors yard, but it also took a quick look at her barbeque grill on her covered porch - this was a daytime event! Helen was not willing to get close enough to check the ear tag number on this visitor, but a bear with 3 cubs visited Patty Haskell off Turkey Run that same day, and Patty reported the ear tag number as 68. A single bear was also sighted last Saturday afternoon behind her week in the Summerhaven area. Several people reported having their hummingbird feeders being pulled out of the trees over the last few days. See the story below.

If you have any questions regarding bears, or want to report bear encounters, contact Arizona Game and Fish 628-5376. If you have an emergency concerning bears and the Az Game & Fish office is closed, call 1-800-352-0700. If you can safely document bear activity thru the use of photograhs or video, that would be helpful to G&F in documenting the existence of problem bears on Mt Lemmon.

## Sighting on Monday Morning, July 31:

I'm still at our cabin and was awoken by a big "thud" on the deck...got up and found mama bear (with a big yellow tag on her left ear) and three of her cubs (cute!!!) hanging out in the tree they all came up - no sense using the wide stairs if you can climb trees, I suspect! :)

We didn't have any food outside (of course!) and I had meant to replenish

the bird seed in our hanging feeders, yet since I hadn't, those were empty -- that is where mama was headed! The hummingbird feeders were full though, and overcrowded with hummers!

My dogs went crazy from inside barking at them through the living room window so I closed down the roll shutter most of the way (the sheet of glass didn't feel like safe protection, just in case) and mama began her retreat back down the tree. Later 2 of the cubs came back up until again my dogs went crazy with their barking. I called the fire station who said they would notify game and fish through the beeper number they have for them. Unfortunately my camera was in my car otherwise I might have gotten a photo of them... Thought you'd like to know...Judy Epstein

## Report Bear Sightings

## WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

Our annual Woman's Club Tea was held at B.J.Singh's cabin. Thanks B.J. for allowing us the use of your cabin every year. It is a wonderful setting for a tea. We had 42 ladies attend. Several were new women to the mountain. In addition our Southern District GFWC President attended. Thanks to Fran Zimmerman for chairing this event and the women who helped her. It was a team effort. Our music was presented by a group called "MZEKALA" which means, "sun woman" in the Soviet Georgian sector. The singers who comprise this group are Deborah Beaumont, Jeanne Hartmann (a Summerhaven resident), Sally Lefso, Diana Vidal, Barbara Whittlesey and Virginia Welford. They have been singing together for 10 years. Their music consists of folk

songs from Bulgaria, Croatia, Russia, Sweden, and about 10 other countries. Oh, by the way, they sing in English also. We do want to thank these women for being part of our day.

The Executive Board met and has planned our meetings for the next year. Club members should have received a tentative schedule. We hope to plan some new and exciting meetings. Anyone wishing to host a meeting please contact any of the board members, we still have some open dates.

Dues are payable by August 1. Please note the increase to \$26.00/year. This increase is because we have to send more to the GFWC's State and National Organizations. Our new 2-year directory will be going to the printers in October. We need all updated information on our members by September. Only the members who have paid their dues will be included and receive a copy.

Our September meeting will be held at Sally Coulthard's. She will be demonstrating the cooking "Thai" food. Also Sally has the Bear Chimineas, large and small for sale. Please contact her if you are interested in purchasing one. Supply is limited. Luann Waldron, President MLWC 576-1568

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The Echoes is the publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association for its membership. Membership dues are \$25 annually. Renter and Friends of the mountain may obtain an associate membership for \$20. Send your check to MLHO, PO Box 699, Mt Lemmon, Az 85619. *Eight to Nine issues are mailed from February to November with updates on community events and information.*

  
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