

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

"You can overlook Tucson, but you can't overlook Mt Lemmon"

Happy New Millennium!

What a wonderful way to start the year 2001! This is a note of appreciation and a special THANK YOU to all the merchants of Mt Lemmon who contributed to the New Years Eve raffle at the Community Party at Don Underhill's Alpine Lodge to bring in the New Millennium!

The raffle tickets were \$1 each, and \$452 in raffle tickets were sold within an hour and a half to community party goers. The money raised benefitted the Mt Lemmon Fire Department and the Mt Lemmon Cooperative Water Company equally.

These local businesses participated by each donating loads of great raffle prizes: The Living Rainbow, Inc. (owner Debbie Fagan), Mt Lemmon Cabins and Cookies (owner Vic Zimmerman), Mt Lemmon Suites & Fine Crafts (owner Sonni Wendt), Mt Lemmon Ski Valley (owners Jay & George Davies), Mt Lemmon Café (owner Pam Rinella), the Summerhaven Coffee House, Mt Lemmon General Store & Gift Shop (owners Phil & Carol Mack), the Alpine Lodge (owner Don Underhill) and the Mt Lemmon Fire Department.

There are certain key words that work well together and need to be repeated frequently - "local businesses & community" - All the above named businesses are locally owned and operated. It is wonderful to see everyone working together for a better community while having a great time celebrating the new millennium. The Mt Lemmon Community Events Coordinators (MLCECs) worked with



Alpine Don to create the fun event. During the evening, the entire crowd of more than 100 surprised the water dude, Mike Stanley, (soon to turn 50), when, as the lights blinked at 10:30 a chorus of "happy birthday" reverberated through out the Alpine.

The crowd was also entertained with "Auld Lang Syne" played by bag pipes several times that evening. Food was not in short supply, and if anyone went away hungry it was because they decided to start their annual new years diet a day ahead of time. Of course they could have danced away several pounds as the bar room was converted to a the dance floor.

Thanks to the youngest MLCECs who carried boxes & helped set up ...Olga von Ehrenstein & Amber Greth & Special thanks to Bea & Joe Shirley for the wonderful Honey Baked ham & Turkey they had sent over for community party. We welcome our newest MLCEC Bea Shirley!

Dani Hayhurst

Keep the community spirit of the new year going by doing your part supporting the local merchants -your neighbors in the community - and by helping support the Mt Lemmon Fire Department, the Mt Lemmon Co-operative Water Company, the MLCECs and the MLHO association whenever possible.

New "Old Man" of the Mountain

Mike Stanley turns 50

MANY THANKS For Birthday Surprise My heart feels so good. Thank you, all of you. The party was great. I really

liked the bagpipes. That's the first time I've been that close to a man blowing that hard. I will remember that for another 50 years. I must admit, I admire all of you for shocking a man this old. Thank you for being so close to my heart and to the community. I feel so fortunate. I celebrated my First annual Thirtieth birthday and my Twentieth annual Thirtieth birthday on the Mountain at the Alpine Lodge. Thank you for the gift, but most of all you have made me feel so young. Love to you. Michael, Psycho and all of my alter egos. Mike Stanley

MT. LEMMON SKI VALLEY IS AGAIN A SKI AREA!

By Jay Davies

January brought Ski Valley lots of snow- we are open with delightful conditions and everyone is having a great time skiing and boarding. We will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays because of the road closures and my suggestion is to come on up on Monday, Wednesday or Friday to have the slopes to yourself. Zimmerman School students and parents came to ski on Monday the 22nd as guests of Ski Valley. It seemed like 50 kids in our tiny rental shop but it turned out to be only 14.

Everyone headed for the slopes with Keith and Jay from the rental shop to act as instructors and a good time was had by all. We've got the beginnings of

some great little skiers. Even Mrs. Hensel was game and learned the basic snow plow, how to stop and turn - the important stuff! This will be a weekly event as it's pretty hard to play basketball or baseball in 3 feet of snow.

School Days

Zimmerman School presented their Holiday Play a Perfectly Grumpy Christmas starring the students of Zimmerman School. Paul Hensel and Justin Gratham narrated, Colton Shunk was town mayor, Adam Hollenback was the fire Chief, Ryan Hensel was sheriff. The town children were played by Scott Hensel, Amanda Ingalls and Mindy Hensel, and the town's people were Alexis Eader and Chris Early. The Grumps were Daniel Rosano, Hillary Ingalls and Garrett Barnella. "Bones" played guitar for one of the Christmas songs and Karen Shunk helped with another musical number. There was lots of great cookies and snacks for all to enjoy, and Chris Early had a special birthday celebration after the performance.

Tax Credits Discussed.

Mark Jones, Pima County Schools District Director, was in attendance for the School performance and was happy to open a dialogue about the Zimmerman elementary school tax credit money. He was kind enough to sent me a copy of the extra curricular tax credit monies available to Zimmerman School. The report states a balance as of 11/30/00 and was sent January 24th, 2001. The school has \$7,166.46 available in tax credit money.

Mark Jones was also getting together with teacher Suzanne Hensel last Friday on Mt Lemmon regarding what playground equipment is needed. That playground equipment has to be purchased from the general budget (

not with tax credit money). He also has a copy of the rules & regs for playground equipment and will hire a vendor familiar with the rules to install any playground equipment purchased for safety reasons. He also wants to have a committee formed including Suzanne,

some parents, and some community members to discuss how tax credit monies will be spent.

PRESCRIBED FIRES

The Coronado National Forest will get a portion of the \$1.8 billion National Fire Plan this year to reduce the wildfire threat in national forests. In Southern Arizona, the Coronado's budget for prescribed fires and thinning projects will jump from \$400,000 to \$1.1 million this year.

Eighteen burning and thinning projects are planned on about 16,000 acres of the Coronado this year, mostly small burns designed to create buffers around forest-edge communities or to protect private investments within the forest. Some of those burns include 10,000 acres in the Redington Pass area and several burns to protect the communities of Summerhaven and Oracle in the Santa Catalina Mountains from catastrophic wildfire.

As the TWISTS

**** Happy

January Birthdays include - Deputy John Eader, Helen Forrester, Mike Stanley, & John Mulay. ****

***The first white man know to have entered the Catalinas was Isaac Goldberg in the 1860's. He had a party of 12 men looking for silver & gold. Did you know that this was current

resident Chet Goldberg's great, great uncle? Talk about one of the oldest family connections to the mountain! Too cool! ****

The Search & Rescue group will be doing an overnight Winter Survival training exercise on the mountain Feb 3-4. Lets hope the weather gods are not in too playful a mood! *

****This old old cabin -with a twist of lemmon please! Some of the handy guys on the mountain have offered to have "demonstrations" and "how- to" sessions to share their techniques this summer for those who'd like to learn some basics. Watch for updates in spring issue of the Echoes. ****

****Rachel Crawford was "jamming" at the Alpine with fellow musicians before the New Year- everyone there was in awe of her talent - when she picks up the fiddle & bow - the music comes from within her soul. ***

***Darby Lindholm's brother Lance is in from Missouri. He is a roofer. For references he did Sonni Wendt's last winter & he did Darby's roof on 10961 Turkey Run almost 10 years ago. He will do whole roof jobs or repairs. Anyone interested can call Darby at 907-1176 or 795-8989 or 576-1228 or e mail at darbylynn@aol.com. ***

***I was thumbing thru some of the piles of catalogs last week, trying to decide which to hang on to and which to chuck, when I came across one that Carol Jones sent me - called High Country Gardens. She had used it to order plants for Mt Lemmon. The really nice part is it has a web address www.highcountrygardens.com.. For those not connected, there's 1-800-925-9387. Those who like to garden understand how difficult it can be to find cold hardy plants suitable for Mt Lemmon. Just be sure to *Leave Room in your garden for Angels to dance.* *

*** Starting in February, a new parking fee will be collected at Sabino Canyon. This is an expansion of the Mt Lemmon / Catalina Mountains Fee Demonstration Program, started in

1997. A year pass is \$20, and a week pass is \$10. The pass is good for both Mt Lemmon and the Sabino Canyon parking lot. The Fee program was extended by Congress through September of 2002. ***

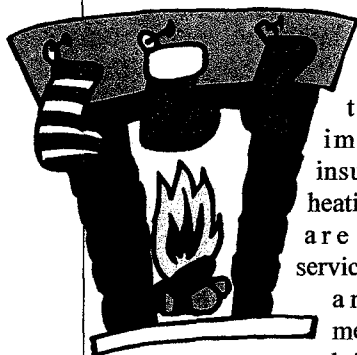
High Lights

Lighting Contest This Summer - Watch for Future Update

There is No Water Shortage so far this Year (no shortage of snow either!). Keep out those Christmas Lights & decorate your cabins in May - we'll have another Lighting Contest this Summer.. and, if you are concerned about old wiring, it would be prudent to get it checked by a competent electrician - don't fret about a string of lights starting a fire when anything electrical from a toaster to an electrical socket in your cabin could do that - be safe - not sorry.

WINTER FIRE PREVENTION WARNINGS

by Chief John Roads



With the cold weather continuing, I will reiterate that it is important to insure that all heating appliances are properly serviced, that there are proper methods of ash disposal

(remember, ash piles can retain heat for several days that can ignite adjacent combustibles), and insure that all smoke and CO detectors are in proper working order. Be sure to inspect your propane-powered heaters to ensure that there are no leaks. Keep all portable heaters away from combustible materials such as curtains, clothing, furniture, etc.

The POOP on the New Septic Rules

by Dani Hayhurst

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality had a packed house at an information and discussion meeting regarding AD EQ's Unified Water Quality Rule specifically focusing on conventional on-site disposal system permitting on Thursday, January 25. Representatives from Pima County DEQ and Arizona DEQ were present to answer questions and discuss procedural and implementation issues resulting from the new rule. Arizona DEQ's Unified Water Quality Permit Rule became effective on January 1, 2001. The rule can be found at the ADEQ Web Site at

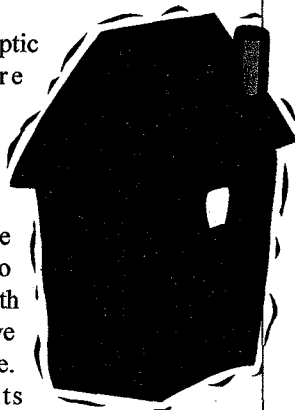
<http://www.adeq.state.az.us/lead/oac/st.at.html#water>. It is item 3 under the Proposed and Draft Rules and is listed as Unified Water Quality Permit Rule. Forms, checklists, and additional information can be found at the DEQ station at Pima County Development Services 201 North Stone, 1st Floor. Eric Shepp, 740-3959, spoke for Pima County. There were lots of questions and statements about how the new rule will affect the cost of installing septic, as well as the time involved to have the inspections required done. Engineering fees, newly required filters, use of geotextile filter paper over the leach lines, excavation costs, trench depths and time for inspections were huge concerns of the audience. A non refundable permit fee is paid for up front, and if the permit is denied, the fee will have to be paid again. The minimum size for tanks will now be 1000 gallons (up from 960 gallons meaning lots of tank suppliers will be re-outfitting their inventories). The hand out literature was at least a 100 pages of fine print, and it is obvious by the questions and statements that there will be a real learning curve involved in working out the clarifications of the issues that are arising during this "break in" period.

Over 300 septic permits were applied for in Pima County during the last weeks of December, some in an effort to avoid dealing with the learning curve of this new Rule. Three permits were applied for in the first 3 weeks of January. The State explained that rule interpretation guidelines are left to the counties over issues that come during the break-in "period." The County could also propose Alternative Methods of Soil Analysis as long as it meets the equivalent performance. Questions can be answered as well at the state level by phoning 602-207-4599.

There will be a learning curve on how the new Rule will affect Mt Lemmon as well. We may all become very familiar with the phrase "alternative design or technology system". More later.

Speaking of alternative systems, Ross Quigley told me about an ad he'd seen, and I sent off for the information from a company called MicroSepTec, Inc in Scottsdale. If you have property with high ground water tables or poor percolation, you may want to check this company out.

It uses a computer controlled microwave dehydration process, and a controlled combustion and fluid processing system. The system is controlled by a computer e-connected by a telephone line for continual monitoring. Information about this company and it's products are accessible thru the internet website at www.microseptic.com or by phoning 1-800-877-2septec. I spoke with Jeff Mumma, and he said his company, founded in 1994, has installed numerous systems in Arizona and California.



From the President

by Larry Waldron

The new millennium is here and many of us can't wait to get back on the mountain. The busy holiday season tends to limit many families from enjoying the winter season on the mountain. When I see the mountain covered in white I imagine how mesmerizing it would be to snuggle near a fireplace and gaze out the window at the fresh snow. This weekend will hopefully be our first opportunity of 2001 to enjoy the winter wonderland. Although the holiday season was pleasant on the mountain, the lack of snow seemed to take away from the festive feeling. Thankfully this new year is starting out nicely. The mountain has been covered with significant and regular snowfalls. Keep your fingers crossed for a white and wet spring.

The homeowner's board is busy planning this year's annual dinner, which is on Tuesday April 17th at the **Hidden Valley Inn**. Attendees to last year's dinner suggested some minor changes to the menu. The board will see what options are available for us. If there is a specific topic that you would like addressed at the annual dinner please contact one of the homeowner board members and we will do our best to have it covered by the appropriate speaker. Remember to reserve April 17th 2001 for the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Dinner.

The following weather information is courtesy of **Mark Hopkins** at the post office:

2000 total moisture was 40.39 inches, which is above normal (thanks to October).

2001 year to date moisture is 6.24 inches, which equates to 38 inches of snow.

2001 coldest temperature was 6 degrees on January 17th. 2001 warmest temperature was 57 degrees on January 5th.

The homeowner's board is busy planning this year's annual dinner, which is on Tuesday April 17th at the Hidden Valley Inn.

In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court (<http://www.supremecourt.us.gov>) has ruled that the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers cannot regulate isolated wetlands merely because passing birds might land on such property. The effect of the decision is to reinforce the authority of state and local governments to determine local land use.

Highway Hotline 751-9409

MT. LEMMON FIRE DISTRICT

"BUILDING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY"

**FIREWISE COMMUNITIES -
Update by Chief John Roads**

The National effort continues towards the Firewise Communities goal to reduce losses to homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface communities. The Chief recently attended a Summit to assist the Arizona and New Mexico Governors in developing a long range, 10-year plan that will ultimately be shared with all the Western States Governors. The plan calls for all the Governors to follow the same plan in an effort to secure funding for the 10-year period.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, we are still awaiting word on three grants filed for work this spring. The Fire District filed for two of the grants; the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association filed for the other one. All three grants were listed very high on the national list that

went to Washington DC.

The Forest Service is expecting to treat several areas adjacent to private and leased lands, as well as other improvements on the Santa Catalina Ranger District over the next ten years. There will be some areas that will require mechanical treatment (thinning) before fire can be introduced. Other areas that have already had an initial entry of fire will be mechanically treated if needed, and burned again. The Forest's objectives will be to reduce the fuel accumulations and improve forest health.

Projects that will be undertaken around the Summerhaven and Loma-Sabino Pines Subdivisions will include a combination of mechanical treatments and prescribed burning. These projects will be coordinated with the Mt. Lemmon Fire District in conjunction with the FIREWISE COMMUNITY program. For additional information on these projects, please feel free to contact **Jim Ets Hokin** at Palisades, 576-1344.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE

MLFD is continuing to recruit homeowner volunteers to assist in emergency management, especially in the functions of dispatch and medical emergency assistance. We are working towards a rotating weekend on-call program that includes training. For more information, call the station (576-1201) and speak with Volunteer Coordinator **DeAnna Barnella**.

EVACUATION ALERT SYSTEM TEST

The Fire District will be conducting a mid-winter, short test of the Evacuation System Air Horns to insure that the system is working properly. Another long sound test will be conducted in late spring, probably on a busy weekend, so that the homeowners can learn what sound to listen for. The upcoming test will probably only involve one unit at a time. No exact date has been set as of press time.

A LETTER TO THE LOMA SABINO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Teri Foust, Stratford Management, P.O. Box 40790
Tucson, Arizona 85717

Dear Association Members:

This is the follow-up letter promised in Chief Roads' letter, dated 11-13-00, to Lynn Marrs. It responds in greater detail to the gate closings, approved by the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association, which were described in Teri Foust's letter, dated October 31, 2000. Ms. Foust's October 31st letter announces the closing of three gates, which provide access to the Loma Sabino subdivision. These are:

GATE AT ENTRANCE OF LOMA SABINO AT LOMA LINDA EXTENSION ROAD

GATE AT ENTRANCE OF LOMA SABINO AT AJO AVENUE

GATE AT ENTRANCE OF LOMA SABINO AT TUCSON AVENUE

The letter contained a postscript stating that a member of the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association Board of Directors would give the Fire District a key to the lock..

These gate closings raise serious health and safety concerns for residents of Loma Sabino, as well as those of the village and greater community. The proposal by the Homeowners Association, that the Fire District keep a key to the locked gates and open them in the event of a fire, fails to recognize and plan for the dangers, physical conditions and emotional reactions that are associated with a large fire. Nor does it take into account the limited number of trained personnel and resources or the relative isolation of our community.

You may recall Luann Waldron's description of driving out of the village in a thick fog, which appeared in the *Echoes* last year. While the disorientation she describes also occurs when there is pervasive smoke due to a fire, the circumstances are substantially more difficult for several reasons. First, the fear level is higher. Second, many people will delay driving in a fog or will pull off the road and wait. Not so with the urgency of a fire, where it is impossible to know how fast or which direction the flames are headed or how far it is to safety. Panic is a common response, and panic, in turn, reduces the ability to accurately perceive changing circumstances and respond appropriately.

There was a fire in Oakland/Berkeley Hills California Wildland/Urban Interface in October of 1991. The physical terrain is similar to Summerhaven, but without locked gates. Even so, most of the 25 people who died in the evacuation were trying to find their way down narrow winding roads while confused by smoke and fear. The presence of locked gates in such circumstances increases the danger and risk to those in the vicinity, in addition to impeding the access by firefighters and other emergency personnel.

While mountain conditions here are similar to Oakland, the ready availability of trained personnel and back up crews present a dramatic contrast. The Mount Lemmon Fire District is small and rural. It is operated by three people per day, including one full-time firefighter, one part-time firefighter, and one supervisor. As with the other local businesses, there is a high turnover in personnel. Due to the length of training time required, there is a regular shortage of back-up personnel. Our nearest assistance is from the Forest Service at the Palisades Ranger Station, which also has a limited staff and is often unavailable due to other fires. The next closest help comes from Tucson, with a wait of at least an hour and a half.

Expecting the Fire Department to unlock the gates in an emergency is not reasonable due to the combination of factors. Among these factors are the potential for rapid fire spread (which can climb a slope from bottom to top in less than 15 minutes), the limited number of trained staff and the need for available Fire District staff to perform critical tasks. Such tasks include overseeing the village evacuation, coordinating with assisting agencies and tracking the fire spread. Like many other Wildland/Urban Interface communities, Mt. Lemmon is vulnerable due to the widespread use of wood-based construction materials, the overgrowth of the surrounding forest and the sloping terrain. And our dry weather conditions, particularly when accompanied by high winds, increase the potential for a devastating, large-scale fire.

It should also be noted that large-scale fires are not the only circumstances where locked gates may hinder service delivery. Timely assistance in a medical emergency or a single-structure fire is vital. Minutes taken to open gates can make the difference to a non-breathing or bleeding patient or to prevent the spread of a single-structure fire.

Finally, like any form of technology, keys are better suited for some purposes than others. Reliance on a key for emergency access is subject to the problems that commonly occur with keys: keys can be inadvertently dropped or lost. And unanticipated circumstances can hinder or divert a designated key holder while en route. Although merely inconvenient in everyday

situations, in an emergency the resulting delay can have tragic consequences.

However, the Fire District wants to work with the Homeowners Association to find an acceptable solution. To that end, the Fire District would like to invite Homeowner Association members and other concerned individuals to discuss options, which address the Association's concerns, while adequately providing for the health and safety of local residents.

To encourage as many people as possible to help in the design of a workable solution, the Fire District is mailing a copy of this letter to all homeowners and residents whose names are listed on the Loma Sabino Homeowners Association member list as well as all homeowner members of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association. We request that the Association notify anyone whom it believes may have an interest. We are also asking that the Association respond by January 31st, 2001, to provide the Fire District with a choice of three dates on which a public meeting could be scheduled. The Fire District will select one of the dates and will post notice of the meeting at the Fire Station and at the Post Office two weeks prior to the meeting and also post notice in the closest edition of the Echoes, time permitting.

Please give Chief Roads or anyone of us a call (576-1201) or come by the Fire Station if you have any questions or want to discuss this informally. We look forward to our meeting together in the near future.

Sincerely, Robert Zimmerman, Board Chairman, Danielle Hayhurst, Board Clerk, Fred Pace, Board Member, John P. Roads, Fire Chief

The entire Oakland/Berkeley Hills Fire document may be found on file in the Chief's office or at <http://www.firewise.org/pubs/theOaklandBerkleyHillsFire/contents.html>.

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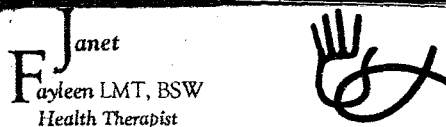
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The Echoes is the publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association for its membership. Membership dues are \$25 annually. Renter and Friends of the mountain may obtain an associate membership for \$20. Send your check to MLHO, PO Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association. It's one of the benefits of being a member. Your board members are President Larry Waldron, Vice President Franny Crowe, Secretary Kathy Shields, Treasurer Florence Wilhoite, Carrie Reitz, Fran Zimmerman, Chuck Autrey, Olga Pace, John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Red Greth, and editor of the Echoes, Dani Hayhurst. *Eight to Nine issues are mailed from February thru November with updates on community events and information.*



Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

P. O. Box 699 Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

The Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association (MLHO) was formed in 1969 to protect the welfare of the Mt. Lemmon community and to be involved in all aspects of its improvement. The concerns of the organization are not limited to private property owners. Full membership, with voting rights, is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues.

The most visible product of the MLHO is the ECHOES; a newsletter published eight times a year consisting of approximately seven pages. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles enabling owners to mingle while at the same time raising funds for various community causes. This group has always depended upon volunteer support and found strength in numbers. An elected board acts on behalf of and for the benefit of the membership.

Being organized, having a legal fund and having active LOCAL voice participation enables the Association to accomplish most of its goals. Pima County has said the MLHO is the strongest and most respected homeowners' organization in the entire county.

Creating a volunteer fire department and preventing condemnation of private and leased land were the priority issues for which the MLHO was originally established. A list of accomplishments includes: establishing the volunteer fire department, helping to purchase its needed equipment, involving the County in development, planning and zoning, expediting highway maintenance and snow removal, fund raising for the Water Co-op, working to improve the environment, assisting in settlement of reserve boundaries, paying for water tank chlorinators, buying fire hydrants, renting a private water tank to "quick fill" fire tankers, establishing the Mountain Watch program, numbering houses for emergency services, helping reduce the 1989 unorganized school property tax and supporting, politically, the now completed land exchange. Two of the most essential accomplishments were assisting to prevent permittees on Mt. Lemmon from suffering the same fate as those in Madera Canyon and hiring an attorney to save the domestic water supply from termination by the Sierra Club. Currently the MLHOs are working with the fire department and water cooperative to add fire hydrants to the distribution line from Miner's Ridge to the Loma Sabino tank.

The Annual Dinner and Meeting is held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes.

Dues are \$25 per year. Renters and friends of the mountain may obtain membership for \$20 a year. Membership fees are prorated quarterly. Checks payable to Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Assoc., PO Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619-0699