

The




# Mt. Lemmon Echoes

*Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon*

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

## From the President

by Ross A. Quigley



As tax time approaches, so does our annual Homeowner's dinner. If any of our members have specific issues they would like to have addressed, please call me so we can discuss putting them on the agenda at the next board meeting. This is your Homeowner's Association and we would be happy to consider any guest speakers you may request.

Spring will soon be here and many of us will be back at our cabins. I would like to urge each of you to be good neighbors and check on the cabins surrounding yours. Winter is the time when most break-ins occur and are un-noticed. An open cabin can suffer a lot of damage by unwanted critters. It only takes a few minutes to check on your neighbors cabin and listen for water leaks as well.

We have had a very dry winter so far and this will have a big impact on spring flows if it stays this way. Hopefully we will get a few more good snowfalls, but we can all help by reporting anything that looks like a leak. The Coop does not mind responding to false alarms and in the past many hard to find leaks in the system have been found by homeowners reporting situations that didn't appear normal.

Starting with the next Echoes we will have a column where Homeowner's Members can advertise items they wish to sell, trade or just give away. No Real Estate or commercial sales will be permitted. We will not charge for this service so please try to keep it simple. Remember, your junk could be someone else's treasure!

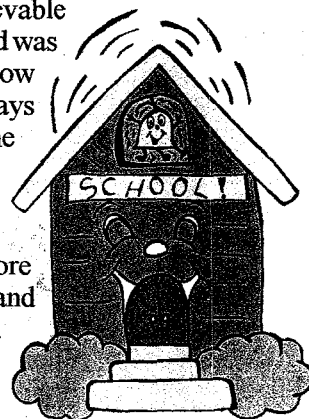
## School Days

by Suzanne Hensel, teacher

Thank you to everyone that came to see our Christmas play on December 20th. There was standing room only! The kids did a fantastic job and everyone really enjoyed the performance. I would especially like to thank **Beverly and Graham Davies** for making the **Iron Door** available. It truly made the evening extra special.

The students at Zimmerman have been keeping themselves busy with the usual stuff - reading, writing and math. We have also begun to study the Middle Ages. Everyone is excited about this because this unit of study will involve a very special trip to the Renaissance Festival. The funds for the trip were made available through the tax donations.

Thanks again for being so generous to Zimmerman School. Of course the weather has managed to add a new twist to recess. The snow we received in December managed to hang around the playground through the holidays. In fact, all of it turned to ice. At first everyone had fun sliding around, but that didn't last long. The students soon came up with a new idea. They discovered that with shovels they could chip away at the ice and make "bricks" for constructing walls. After two weeks of hard work, and unbelievable cooperation, the playground was transformed into a large snow fort with several passage ways and rooms. Now that the new snow has arrived the giant snow fort looks like an ancient ruin. It really is something to see. You're more than welcome to come and take a look, but be careful. There is a lot of ice hidden under all that snow.



# MT. LEMMON FIRE DISTRICT

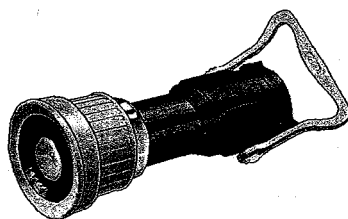
by Chief Dean Barnella

A few facts and suggestions from  
**Mt. Lemmon Fire** to help reduce

fire risk and injury associated with fireplace heating. More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves or other fuel-fired appliance as a primary heating source. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year according to United States Fire Administration. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. The vast availability of pine here on Mt. Lemmon may be dangerous for fireplaces. Soft woods such as pine or lumber scraps do not burn hot or long enough causing creosote buildup in the flue. Combining hardwoods like oak or hickory with pine will help to reduce creosote buildup. A regularly scheduled inspection of fireplaces and vents may help to remedy possible fires. Always use cover in front of fireplace, mesh or glass to reduce embers from entering home. Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester and keep it clean from buildup.

Dispose of ashes in a metal container and add water to cool hot ashes and leave the container outside in an area without combustibles such as grass or pine needles. Placing ash containers on sidewalks or driveways will reduce the possibility of causing a fire. In the effort to work towards a **Firewise Community** the fire department is making available six gallon galvanized "ash cans" with lids for holding ashes. The ash cans will be sold with a product that can be burned in fireplaces to help reduce creosote buildup. I have seen reduction in my fireplace from the product. The ash cans will be available after February 15, call DeAnna or myself to purchase an ash can or if you have any questions.

In conjunction with **Forest Service** and **Arizona State Land**, Mt. Lemmon Fire will be sponsoring a **Firewise Seminar** in April. The eight hour seminar follows the national standards to help reduce the risks of injury and property loss from wildland fires. All community members are encouraged to attend and will receive full refund from purchasing an ash can or receive one free for attending, please call the station to reserve a spot and exact date and time.



Remember smoke detectors save lives, make sure your residence has at least one. Test smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries annually (Fourth of July would be a good day). If you need a smoke detector or want to add another please call **DeAnna** at the station ( 576-1201).

**Call 911 for all Emergencies.**

## FIREWISE INFORMATION FOR WINTERTIME

By Judy Epstein

For those of you interested in **FIREWISE ACTIONS** to better safeguard your property from fire risk **A GREAT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IS BEING ORGANIZED** (see MLFD article for more info!) and the following is a review of the **AVAILABLE RESOURCES** my husband Chet and I discovered in accomplishing **FIREWISE** actions:

### Removal of ladder fuels

Inspired by the video "**A Matter of Time**" available for **FREE VIEWING at the General Store, MLFD or Mount Lemmon Realty**, we removed low and dead branches, trimmed branches above bushes as firewise steps to remove ladder fuels – the means by which a fire moves from ground to treetops. Thanks to the **MLFD**, we were able to haul slash to their dumpster.

### Lot assessment for diseased, overcrowded and hazardous trees and circumstances

Thanks to the generous assistance of Tom Warfield (State Forester) and Dean Barnella (MLFD's Fire Chief), we had our lot evaluated for diseased trees, potential fire and safety hazards. Several diseased and dead trees were located behind our cabin due to bark beetle infestation. I was truly amazed that I had not previously noticed that these trees were already dead. As with many Ponderosa Pine trees, the lower limbs frequently drop off over the years leaving the green pine needles up quite high. It wasn't until I specifically looked up did I see that the branches on these trees were completely brown and dead. Trees that overhang the cabin and deck pose a potential fire and safety hazard. We had several such trees to which we had grown accustomed, with bird and squirrel feeders hanging from them. The choice to remove or leave them was ours and no one pushed us on any decision. We decide to error on the side of safety and began to explore options for safely felling them. But in our minds we wondered if we would regret having them felled – wouldn't we miss them?

### Felling (cutting down) diseased, dead and hazardous trees

The dead and diseased trees were out in the open and simple to fell, whereas the one against the side of our cabin (leaning over the cabin but not touching it) and the 2 right



against our brand new deck were more challenging. The 2 by the deck were old and toward the end of their life span meaning they posed a greater chance of dropping very large branches from the top or losing the top altogether and causing significant damage to property or lives. Our search for safely felling these trees taught that there are licensed, bonded and insured tree fellers listed in the yellow pages under "Tree Services." These professionals bring equipment and expertise to safely bring down your trees and cover all kinds of accidents -- employee injury or property damage. For these assurances, their costs can be quite significant. We chose to inquire about locals skilled at doing the same, yet without any license, insurance or bonding. (Definitely RISKIER yet much more affordable) We learned of **Jim EtsHokin**, **Matthew Harmon**, and **Don Dugan** (their numbers are listed in the white pages or they may have contact information posted at the **Summerhaven Coffeehouse**). After getting appraisals and input from most of them and given timing, circumstances and costs, we had Matthew successfully fell our trees without incident.

#### **Bucking (chopping up) and stacking firewood**

When all the trees were down, we were surprised to learn that the trees we dreaded to have cut down were not missed. Instead we found that we focused on all of the trees still standing. We actually liked the more open feeling and enjoyed greater views as a result. But now we had a lot of trees down on our property that needed bucking and stacking. Although this service was available with the felling of trees, we decided to research other options. We hired some MLFD firefighters as they were available and arranged to use the Water Co-op's wood splitter. The remaining slash will be chipped using the MLFD's chipper or hauled and our wood will be stacked **uphill** from our cabin, covered with a waterproof tarps to season the wood faster, keep it dry and reduce the chance of insect propagation.

#### **Fireplace safety**

In preparation for safely burning all wood from cut pine trees, we had John Eaton (795-2632) sweep our chimney to prevent a "chimney fire." Pine is a very resinous wood that can cause an accumulation of the resin to build up in the chimney and catch on fire. In addition to regularly having the chimney cleaned, it is important to burn your fire "hot" as this helps burn off the resin in your chimney. There are also products available for purchase that "clean" your chimneys by adding them to your fire.

#### **"Ashes, ashes..." NO BURNING DOWN!**

And after burning the wood, we acquired significant amounts of ash. Another FIREWISE project is safe disposal of ashes. We are excited to obtain our ash buckets from MLFD so we have a safe means of removing ash build-up in our fireplace. Since ashes can contain hot embers for a couple days (maybe even longer), proper storage is critical. Ashes dumped outside have been know

to cause fires because a few embers were still hot and slowly grew into an unplanned FIRE! So ownership of an ASH BUCKET is an acquisition that completes our FIREWISE actions!

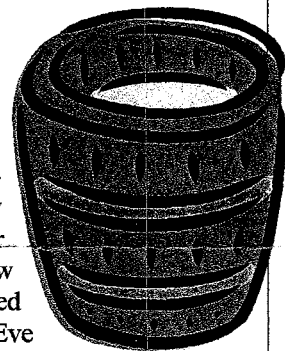
For those in need of an ASH BUCKET, GALVANIZED COVERED ASH BUCKETS will be available for purchase after February 15<sup>th</sup> through MLFD and our community Firewise program! They will also contain useful firewise goodies and information! (See **Fire Chief Dean Barnella's article!**) For more information about Firewise actions, visit Mt. Lemmon's Firewise website at **www.MountLemmonFire.com** or contact **Judy Epstein** at 760-2802.

*Judy Epstein is happy to announce that she is now a PUBLISHED AUTHOR! She is a contributing author of the book **A Guide to Getting It: Self-Esteem**, a book that speaks to individuals on all kinds of levels. A signed copy is available through the Living Rainbow or through Judy at 760-2802 for the list price of \$14.95.*

## Water News

by Mike Stanley

Well as you can expect winter is upon us. The snow of early December has mostly melted off or turned to ice. During this early snow there were several leaks that showed up on the system.. On Christmas Eve morning the calls started coming in at 06:30 about low water pressure. A check found **Miners Ridge Tank** almost empty. A full system check found two leaks. **A customer leaving their meter on lost 82,000 gallons of water in one leak.** The other was a broken valve on a small main line. This leak was running at 5 gallons per minute and was very difficult to find. It acted like it was in the creek or the main road. Water to this area had to be turned on for several hours and off for most of the night. This needed to be done to prevent more water loss but allow customers water during parts of the day. My hat is off to the customers on this main who had to endure this practice for several days. The customers understood the situation of low storage reserves from the major leaks. The repair required digging up the main line in the creek and both sides of the road. During this repair another leak of 4 gallons per minute showed up on the Guthrie Road line. This leak was in the area where there was 2 to 3 feet of snow on the roadway. We were able to isolate this line and reroute water from another area. This leak was repaired after the one on the main road was under control. The Guthrie Road leak looks like it may have started as a small leak on our high-pressure line. We think it was caused by a lightning strike during the monsoon of summer. It started as a small leak but grew to the 4 gallons per minute. When



we got it exposed, we found the pressure had cut away one side of the metal tee. These leaks have all been repaired and the system is recovering.

During the situation of low storage water, we asked the **Fire Department** to set up their system to use water stored in the tank next to the **Alpine Lodge**. We have been keeping this tank on line as a backup for emergency fire fighting water. To do this we are filling the tank with the new well just south of the Alpine Lodge. The tank has many leaks and even though we have tried to repair them as they show up, it has been impossible to stop them.. Most of you that have come up this winter have seen the fabulous ice sculpture the water has created. We have been pumping well water to this tank to aid us in testing the water to use as part of our domestic supply. So far the water is passing the quality requirements for this use.

We are working on several projects during the winter. I am preparing the package for the rate increase the membership voted on at the last annual meeting. This rate increase is to provide funding to cover a \$540,000 loan to do some of the needed work to the system. These funds, if acquired, will be to install a 140,000-gallon tank at the Carter Canyon Source. The existing 30,000-gallon tank is beyond repair. There will also be a 6" main line from the tank down Miners ridge road to the Carter canyon road. This main will have 4 fire hydrants installed as part of the project. The funds will also provide a much-needed 1,000,000-gallon tank at the future Sabino Canyon filtration system. The remaining funds are to install package filtration systems at both sources.

As the winter progresses keep doing your snow dance. The amount of fall rain and winter snow is much less than needed to keep the forest wet. There is a concern if this continues with out relief. We will keep you posted as to the situation. Thank you for your support of the Mt. Lemmon Co-op Water Co., Inc. - **Michael Stanley**

## THE END OF WINTER

by **Barbara Welsh**

It seems strange to write of the end of winter when it just snowed and the weather is cold. It will make me feel warmer if I write about the desert and how animals and plants have adapted to life on the desert floor. A desert is defined by long periods of heat or cold, and a lack of water. Not all deserts are hot, but they all lose more water than is replenished by the rainfall.

Plants have several ways to survive this harsh climate. They have smaller leaves to reduce the amount of water lost by transpiration, some have done away with leaves completely and use their stems for photosynthesis, some have a very long deep tap root, some have shallow roots to use every drop of rain that falls. Others can store water in their leaves or

stems.

The flowers also have ways to survive in the desert. The seeds can remain dormant for up to 20 years if conditions are not right. Some wildflowers will sprout and bloom and shed their seeds in a matter of weeks, some are dependent on early rain (November and December) while others need late rain.(January and February). In Tucson we are fortunate to have two rainy seasons. This is the reason we have such a diverse desert instead of only sand dunes.

The animals have to cope with the heat, cold, and lack of water just as the flora does. Most desert animals hunt at night, live in caves or burrows, have periods of dormancy both in winter and summer (estivation), and some even have physiological adaptations (such as the kangaroo rat) to enable them to conserve water.

As for the birds, soon the Magnificent hummingbird will be returning to the mountain, and the Anna's will be leaving my feeders down in Tucson for the mountain, as all of us are looking forward to doing in the spring.

## As the Lemmon

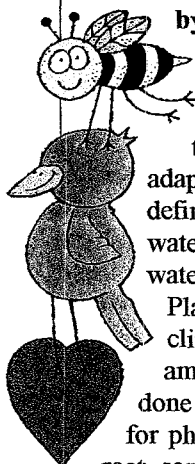
## TWISTS

\*\*\*\*Happy January Birthdays include - **Deputy John Eader, Chief Dean Barnella, Mike Stanley Helen Forrester, John Roads & John Mulay.**

Happy February Birthday to **Debbie Fagan** on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Debbie told me she wished she was born on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> so she could be a lot younger on this birthday. Happy March birthdays to **Judy Epstein, Olga Pace, Pat Hayhurst, and Kelly Shanahan.**

How about some brand new birthdays? In the early issues of the Echoes, new arrivals were announced as "Lemmon Drops". Here are 2 new "**Lemmon Drops**":

CONGRATULATIONS to **Gradi** (formerly Gradi DeYoung) and **David Thomson** on the arrival of their daughter **Addison Mae**. Their bundle of joy was born Sunday, December 30th weighing in at 5 lbs. 11 oz. The very proud grandparents are **Rod and Kathy Shields.**



Congratulations also go out to **Chris and Amy Massengill** on the arrival of their son, **Mathius James**, weighing in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces on December 28<sup>th</sup>. What a great way to start the new year!



**Rachel Crawford** took home a fist full of trophies and money when she attended Ajo's **Annual Old Time Fiddle Contest**. She took 1<sup>st</sup> place including a trophy and \$100 prize money for "Hot Fiddle", 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy and \$100 prize money for the "Young Adult division, and in the competition from all winners categories she took 2<sup>nd</sup> place Grand Champion and won another \$100. This was the first time **Rachel** has competed in this contest, and she wowed the 500- 600 plus in the audience!

**Phil Mack** passed on this nice little piece of news: as of Monday, Feb 4 THERE WILL BE NO MORE PILOT CAR!!!! There is a possibility that you may have to wait for 15 minutes AT THE MOST for flagging in one area. If this exceeds 15 minutes Kaneen would like to hear about it as they are not allowed to stop traffic for more than that. Asphalt is everywhere except Rose Canyon to San Pedro. McCrossen got extra time on bird restrictions, originally scheduled to begin Feb 1, restrictions will now start Feb 28 on the owl/falcon issue, this is from mountain residents working as flaggers on the road. ( thanks for the update, Phil, Kaneen has not furnished any mailed updates in recent months)

#### **Highway Hotline 751-9409**

**Ever notice** the back page section of Trico's newsletter-the Trading Post? Starting with the next Echoes we will have a column where Homeowner's Members can advertise items they wish to sell, trade or just give away. No Real Estate or commercial sales or fee service ads will be permitted. We will not charge for this service so please try to keep your ad short & simple. Space will be limited. You will need to list the item, the price of the item, and a full name and phone number. Common sense - nothing illegal, immoral, or sent as a practical joke, please. The MLHO takes no responsibility for the condition of the item listed. The MLHO board reserves the right not to run an ad for any reason. Mail a printed copy of your ad

to D. Hayhurst, 100 N Ave Javalina, Tucson, 85748 or by email, hayhurstaz@aol.com or drop your ad off at Mt Lemmon Realty by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for publishing in that month's edition.

According to **Jay Davies** "Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley is ready and waiting for snow and skiers ! We do have all new rentals for those who do not have their own equipment. The **Iron Door Restaurant**, the **Miner's Sweet Tooth** (Fudge Shop) and the **Motherlode** (gifts & stuff) are all open regardless of snow. Come on up and check us out. We have lots of winter gear.

#### **ARIZONA SEPTIC TANK INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Effective January 1, 2002 - The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality adopted rules to provide for the statewide inspection of septic tank and alternative systems to help selling and buying property owners understand the physical and operational condition of the septic system serving the home or business. For additional information please visit: ADEQ Web Site at [www.adeq.state.az.us](http://www.adeq.state.az.us).

## *High Lights*

### **Lighting Contest This Summer**

Keep out those Christmas Lights & decorate your cabins in May - we're having the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mt Lemmon Summer of Lights-lighting contest starting Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Labor Day weekend. Winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mt Lemmon Summer of Lights contest will be announced at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. So light up the nights starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, every Saturday night. Because of requests, events will be on various **Sundays** instead of Saturdays this summer - more people want to participate and couldn't because of busy Saturday schedules.

Mark these events on your summer calender in pencil as some events may change ... but here are the events currently on the drawing board:

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the MLCECs will be bringing you "Do You Believe?" where Santa, the Easter bunny the tooth fairy, and other childhood favorites can be visited on Mt Lemmon, as they cool off for the summer.

June 9<sup>th</sup>, **Karen Shunk** and **Don Underhill** will coordinating the Art Show. You'll want to contact either of them later this spring for details.

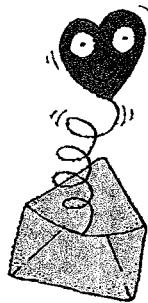
June 23<sup>rd</sup> is on the calendar for a "Flea Market". We had so much interest about the February Flea market planned in Tucson, that we changed the date to this summer and the location to Mt Lemmon. This would be a good time for cabin owners to think about having garage sales from their own yards as well. Seems everyone has something to sell. This is still in the development stages.

Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> we've tentatively set with **Bonnie Lohman** to coordinate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bluegrass Sunday.

Everyone enjoys the American sound of Bluegrass. (We'll try to schedule a few square dances at the fire station after the rainy season starts later in the summer.)

Another hit last year was the **MLCEC Pie Auction** so we're scheduling another Pie Contest and auction for Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. The benefits from the pie auction go directly to the **Mt Lemmon Fire Department**.

## MLCEC's 1<sup>st</sup> Winter Friday Game Night was a Ball ... Bingo Ball that is!



By MLCECs

The MLCECs decided to kick off the Friday winter game nights for the Mt Lemmon community on January 25<sup>th</sup> with BINGO. Big thanks goes to **Don Underhill**, owner of the **Alpine Lodge and Restaurant** for donating the bar area to use as a bingo room plus 5 bingo prizes, and extra big hugs and kisses go to **Jim and Judy Connolly** for donating 5 bingo prizes from the **Alpine Ice Cream & Snacks Shop**, the **Summerhaven Coffee Shop** for 5 bingo prizes, **Phil and Carol Mack**, owners of the **Mt Lemmon General Store and Gift Shop**, for 5 bingo prizes, **Debbie Fagan**, owner of the **Living Rainbow**, for 5 bingo prizes, and the MLCECs for donating the bingo equipment, and CEC members **Patty Thomas** and **Donna Roll** for running the bingo games. The MLCECs sent every female bingo player home with a set of leg warmers as an added bonus. Everyone seemed to leave a winner that night -both the kids and adults who participated and brought "snacks to share" with the other gamers from 7:30 PM until 11PM. The final bingo game was called "black-out" where all the numbers on the card had to be called to win - and the winner was **Colton Shunk**. The nice thing about bingo is that it can be played by kids and adults together as a group game. Everyone who played received one or two free bingo cards per game. There was no charge for all this fun and a special thank you goes to the businesses who donated bingo prizes enabling the MLCECs to provide free bingo games for the Mt Lemmon Community to enjoy on these cold winter nights. Special thanks to **Don Underhill** and the MLCECs for all the help that went into producing another wonderful **New Years Eve** party for the community. The patriotic themed event was a huge success .. Although it's possible there were more than a few with very patriotic eyeballs the next day ( red, white & blue) .

### 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**

**tear out application for renewal of  
annual MLHO dues on cover page**