

The



Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

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

MT LEMMON HOMEOWNERS ASSOC. ANNUAL DINNER

Summer is approaching and soon it will be time for most of us to head up the mountain for your annual spring-cleaning, needle raking and cabin opening. And it is also time for our annual membership dinner.

It will be held, again, at the **HIDDEN VALLEY INN** on **APRIL 22, 2003**.

This year the dinner will be served buffet style---an attempt by your Board of Directors to give you more time to eat and less time to wait. This also means that you don't have to make any choices until you have plate in hand at the dinner.

The CASH BAR will begin at 6:00 P.M. with the BUFFET line opening at 7:00 P.M.

The menu is as follows:

Entrée offerings: Baked chicken, Prime Rib and B-B-Q pork ribs

Salad Choices: Garden Salad, Pasta salad, and fresh fruit

Vegetables Choices: Baked potato, Vegetable medley

Dessert Choices: Five Berry Pie and Apple Pie for dessert.

Drink Choices: Tea, coffee and soda will be available.

The buffet price is \$25.00 per person.

Please, make your check payable to **Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association** and mail along with the reservation form below to MLHOA Annual Dinner, c/o Carrie Reitz---

PO Box 13430, Tucson, AZ 85732-3430

All reservation are required no later then April 16

Reservation Form

Name _____ 25.00

Name _____ 25.00

Name _____ 25.00

Name _____ 25.00

TOTAL _____

A Message From The President.

by: Ross Quigley



Just as it appeared that winter was fading much too fast and we would be faced with another dangerously dry spring, the much needed relief of rain and snow has come to the mountain. I can't tell you how happy I am to hear that. We have 2 feet of new snow to add to the heavy rains of the 13th & 14th and there are prospects of more precip in the near future. I was talking just the other day with an ex-Mt. Lemmon resident who remembers the years when we had 4 to 5 foot snow storms (Bill Huggins) and swears it went dry only after he left. Let's try to get him to move back !

Our emphasis this year at the Annual Homeowner's Dinner meeting will be to inform you all on the actions being taken by various agencies to prevent a repeat of last years near disaster. The Firewise Committee, Forest Service, Homeowner's Association, Mt. Lemmon Fire Department, and Mt. Lemmon Water Cooperative are all joining forces to make our community safer from a devastating fire. We will tell you at the meeting what is currently being done , what is still not being done, and what is planned by each agency to be accomplished this year. Be aware that this must be a community effort and we will ask each of you to do your share. Please help us out by attending the Dinner Meeting to become better aware of the problems and the possible solutions. If any of you did not receive the publication from the Firewise Committee entitled " It Can't Happen To My Home!" please contact me and I will arrange to have one sent to you. This bulletin is extremely helpful in showing you how to do your part to protect our community. If you follow these tips you will make it much easier for your Fire Department to protect or even save your home !

We have switched to a buffet style dinner this year (and we heard you, there will be desert choices) as an experiment

to make your evening more enjoyable, and we will appreciate comments after the dinner. As you will notice, you have more choices and it should make getting served quicker, but feel free to let us know how you like the change.

Winter Wonderland

by the Barnella's



What a relief to see a little snow. I know the firefighters look forward to shoveling the aprons off and putting on the heavy tire chains, but that is the luxury of working for Mt. Lemmon Fire.

We have given you many FireWise ideas for protecting the community and the exterior of our homes, but don't forget about the inside of your homes. Remember to check smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries annually, make sure to check that all heating sources are maintained properly and are located an ample space away from combustibles. Have at least one fire extinguisher with easy access, especially on the Fourth of July.

We are working with the fireboard to implement a residential inspection program. The program will be completely voluntarily and give suggestions for safety in and outside residences . The loss of many homes last fire season has many insurance premiums going through the roof and has even caused owners to lose insurance entirely . We plan on implementing this program in the next few months and show insurance providers that our homes are being inspected voluntarily and are as safe as possible in our Wildland interface. The next Echoes article will explain the program in further detail and tell residents how to set up appointments for inspections.

Meanwhile , enjoy the SNOW, our local businesses and see you on the ski slope!!!

Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Annual Dinner

Registration Form

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley News

by Jean Davies

SNOW ! SNOW! SNOW! AND LOTS OF IT.

Snowboarders and skiers are having a great time on the slopes. We've spotted Zimmerman School students, Summerhaven residents, old timers like Kent Somers and Fred Heinrichs, and then there are a lot of people who have never been to the Lemmon before. Brian Ashby is still running an incredible ski and snowboard school. Pete Krauss is still responsible for the safety of the skiers on the hill with his well trained crew of ski patrollers. It is an absolutely wonderful group of people putting together a great effort to give you the very best ski experience possible. Come join the fun or come enjoy the deck and watch the energetic swish by.

Thanks for your support !

MT. LEMMON FIREWISE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTEND WORKSHOP

by Linda Currin

Close your eyes and imagine being with more than 100 enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated people committed to the prevention of a devastating wildfire in their communities! The Arizona FireWise Communities Educator's Workshop held February 18-19 in Payson, AZ, provided resources, information, challenges and opportunities for our Mt. Lemmon community. Joe Gunia of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department, Madeline Fischer of the USFA and Linda Currin of the Loma Sabino Homeowners' Association, all Mt. Lemmon FireWise Committee members, attended this worthwhile and impressive conference. Organized and presented by the University of Arizona, Arizona State Land Department and the Arizona FireWise Communities Organization, this workshop included various sessions that addressed the important issues affecting our state.

Particularly significant were the experts' discussions and evaluations of the climate/weather and fuels trends in Arizona, forest health and effects of the bark beetle, how we communicate and relate to the firefighters in our communities, and how we can create defensible space and handle the problems of pine needles, slash and down/dead materials on our lots and common areas. The most critical message was that we **MUST** work together to prevent another catastrophic wildfire such as the Bullock Fire we all experienced last summer.

Flagstaff, Payson and Prescott are dealing with similar

concerns that we have in our Summerhaven community. "Doc" Smith of the Ecological Restoration Institute from NAU and the Coconino National Forest said, "Flagstaff is a cigarette butt away from the Rodeo-Chedeski Fire!" And Sarah Nelson of Payson aptly put it, "We must recognize our community values: safety, prosperity, quality and recreational opportunities."

The workshop reinforced several important issues. What we do with our community and the ever-present fire danger is up to us. We cannot control the weather, but we can and must control fuels and fire behavior. Four areas deserve our diligent attention. First, we need to develop **defensible space** around ALL of our properties, receiving guidance from our Mt. Lemmon Fire Department personnel, as needed. Second, we must find creative ways to **dispose** of the slash/pine needles and dead and down wood that create fuels for fires. Third, we need to be aware that our properties' **insurability** may be dependent on our whole community being FireWise. Finally, we must continually **educate** our neighbors and **encourage** everyone on the mountain to become FireWise. Prescott Fire Department Chief Darrell Willis emphasized that the FireWise efforts **MUST** be "citizen-driven." We have the helpful assistance of several agencies and resources such as the USFS, AZ State Land Department, and the U of A Extension Service. Your Mt. Lemmon FireWise Committee acts as a "steering committee" to pull it all together, yet FireWise is a **COMMUNAL EFFORT**, so your involvement is critical and essential.

We came away from this conference with an important message to you. The Payson and Prescott communities have been working for ten years to promote the FireWise principles for healthy forests and living responsibly in the Wildland Urban Interface, and they are seeing dramatic results of their efforts. They demonstrate that it takes tremendous dedication and devotion, and takes all of us working together, committed, to make our mountain FireWise. Open your eyes and get involved!

A MLCEC Beary Good Idea In Progress

by Patty Thomas

An "addition" to the MLCEC," BEARY GOOD IDEA EVENT "for this summer. In the last issue of the Echo's, we told you about the Silent "Bear" Auction we'll be putting on this summer for one of the Mt. Lemmon Uptown Summer Sunday Events.

In "addition" to the "stuffed bears," we're adding to the auction "any kind of item" that is "Bear Related." This doesn't mean, "Ha Ha", relatives, but any item with bears like, photographs or pictures, dishes, candlesticks, toilet paper holders, etc. Anyway we all have some kind of an item with a

Bear on it. Soooo GIVE IT UP! It's for a GOOD cause. All proceeds will go to "Your" Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept.

PS: Those of you who might be interested in "Dressing and Decorating" a Bear... Stuffed of course, but don't have a Bear ... call us. We have many "extra Bears" and we will give you one to decorate. Go "BEAR WILD" (like Hog Wild) anyway, call MLCEC Donna Roll 886-3503/576-9662 or MLCEC Patty Thomas 749-2664/576-1616, also known as the "Need a Bear Hotline." We're still deciding on the Sunday Date to hold this event. Father's Day June 15 looks possible.

Volunteerism: The backbone of Mt. Lemmon

*By Bob Zimmerman, Chairman
Mt. Lemmon Fire District*

Being that Mt. Lemmon is not an organized city or town, the many organizations that help us over the rough spots and provide services are boards run by volunteers. Without these volunteers many of the services – emergency medical and fire response teams and water to your house – would not have been organized and managed. A few civic-minded individuals do this work.

From time to time events occur which require a large involvement of every community member for the greater good. It is time for everyone to get involved.

It is no secret that we need to reduce the fuel loading by thinning and limbing and attend to our cabins to make us a FireWise community. Last summer, much work was accomplished toward this goal, but much remains to be done. Summer is rapidly approaching when fire danger will increase to dangerous levels. Our best protection to save our cabins against a catastrophic fire is to achieve a true FireWise Community as described in the FireWise Pamphlet your were mailed.

Another important reason to make our communities FireWise is insurance. Linda Currin reports in this issue that Insurance Companies are making the effort to recognize FireWise Communities. Failing to achieve a FireWise condition could lead to future cancellation, non-renewal and/or substantial rate increase. I can remember when insurance premiums for commercial buildings cost about 5% to 10% of the value of the building.

As indicated in the FireWise pamphlet, the best way to achieve a FireWise community is to organize into neighborhoods. This is primarily because of the small lot sizes that do not afford a proper defensible space.

To assist you in achieving a FireWise condition, the Mt.

Lemmon Fire District, in cooperation with the Coop, Women's Club and Homeowners, will present a map showing these neighborhoods at the Annual Homeowners Dinner. Not only will this help organize the work, it will provide a method of measuring progress in achieving our goal.

We hope to send out the neighborhood list before the Annual Homeowners, which will designate the initial neighborhood facilitator. "Initial" because the members may elect a different facilitator once organized.

The facilitator will organize meetings to identify what needs to be done in the neighborhood and how best to accomplish our FireWise goal. The facilitator will report progress to the District so that the overall progress can be measured.

The District's Firefighters will be monitoring progress through cabin inspections. There is discussion of issuing a FireWise Certificate to neighborhoods that have achieved the goals of FireWise.

BINGO

by Patty Thomas

The Community is invited to play BINGO Saturday March 8 7-10 pm at the Alpine Lodge "Bar Area" by the MLCEC'S (Mt. Lemmon Community Event Coordinators), and your "Local" Mt. Lemmon Community Merchants

RSVP: There is "NO CHARGE" for the BINGO CARDS. The MLCEC'S will be running the games, but everyone is asked to please bring a Snack" to share.

P.S. The Alpine Inn will be featuring a "SPECIAL" that evening of a "LARGE PIZZA (SUPREME) for \$15.00. If you want to order a pizza for that evening, Please call before Saturday and let them know — Alpine Inn 576-1544.

FireWise Notes

**Next Group Order Deadline for
Flame Stop: Friday, April 25, 2003!**

**Watch for Emergency Evacuation Signs:
Maps and Arrows for exit routes in an
Emergency**

MOUNTAIN TIME

by Barbara Welsh

As I sit here on a rare rainy day and know our mountain is getting some much-needed snow I am thinking of the coming summer and the things we all love about our mountain.

In the early mornings I love to sit out on the deck with a cup of coffee and watch the birds looking for their early morning food. The hummers are crowding the feeders but they are not chasing one another off at this time. They seem to know that in order to survive they must eat. A tasseled ear squirrel comes up on the deck rail to look at me and beg for some peanuts. The Stellar Jay is squawking in the trees ready to pounce on any food they can find. Occasionally I will see a Western tanager shyly perched in the trees.

Mountain Time means time to catch up on my reading and working jigsaw puzzles. It means getting together with friends just to talk and enjoy one another's company. There are walks to be taken or long lazy days of just doing nothing at all.

Mountain Time is calling to people as they walk by and ending up spending the evening together. It is the Women Club tea and meeting the people who have just moved to the mountain. It is strolling through the village and seeing all the mobs of people, and returning to the solitude of my cabin.

When someone asks, "But what do you do up there without golf courses and tennis courts and country clubs?" I just smile and tell them "It's my MOUNTAIN TIME."

Water CO-OP

*by Michael Stanley,
Operator/Manager*

Thank goodness for SNOW and RAIN. It is 18 degrees outside and there is 24" of snow on the ground. The last storm gave us 4" of rain and brought up the water table. Our springs were down to a total of 8 gallons per minute and are now at 35 gallons per minute. We are filling the tanks and they are almost full. The fire danger is less but we all need to work on creating a Fire Wise community. Please be careful with fire!

During the last meter read Clare Gay found a leak in Carter Canyon on a main line. This leak started back about New Years weekend and was intermittent. A valve top snapped out of the housing but left the gate in the body of the valve. The gate would slowly work its way out of the body and cause a leak. When the water was shut off or the pressure lessened the gate would slide back into the valve and shut off the leak. We looked for this leak for several weeks and now have it repaired. The system is recovering.

The rate increase is almost final and you will receive a notice next week in the mail stating the new approved rates. Our \$540,000 loan is in process and it looks like funds will be available in the spring. We will be adding a 1,000,000-gallon

tank to Sabino Canyon along with a filtration and treatment system. The water from the Sabino source has a low ph and is aggressive to the systems piping. A treatment system to balance the ph will be installed. A new 140,000-gallon replacement tank will be installed in Carter Canyon with a filtration system. The existing 30,000-gallon tank is beyond repair and Pima Department of Environmental Quality states that we must replace it. We will also be installing a new 6" ductile iron main line from Carter Canyon tank down Miners Ridge Road to Carter Canyon Road with fire hydrants. There are several other projects we are continuing to work on, the biggest is the installation of the 6" Ductile Iron main with fire hydrants, from the Loma Linda tank to the southeast side of the Loma Sabino area. We will be busy this summer.

As a reminder, please shut off your water meter when you leaving your cabin and have extra water stored for emergency situations. I hope to see you at the Annual Homeowners dinner.

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club News

by Luann Waldron, President

We are busy planning our activities for the 2003 year. If you have any suggestions regarding topics or speakers for future meetings please let us know. Our first meeting of 2003 will be held at Olga Pace's home in Tucson on Wednesday March 5th at 6:30 PM.

GFWC Southern Arizona District will be holding its Spring Meeting on March 22nd at the Tucson Woman's Club at 8 AM. If you would like to attend please contact Luann Waldron at 743-3034 by March 7th.

Suzanne Hensel's book "Look to the Mountain" should be printed and ready for sale at the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association Dinner on April 22nd. The cost of the book is yet to be determined. We all appreciate the effort Suzanne has put into collecting and documenting the history of the mountain.

This year's calendar of events are:

- March 5th -meeting in Tucson at 6:30 PM
- March 22nd -GFWC district meeting in Tucson at 8 AM
- April 2nd -meeting in Tucson at 6:30 PM
- May 7th -meeting in Tucson at 6:30 PM
- June 7th -meeting on Mt Lemmon at 1 PM
- June 21st -Annual membership tea on Mt Lemmon
- July 4th -Annual 4th of July parade
- August 2nd -meeting on Mt Lemmon at 1 PM
- September 6th -Annual family picnic on Mt Lemmon
- October 4th -meeting on Mt Lemmon at 1 PM
- November 5th -meeting in Tucson at 6:30 PM
- December 6th -Annual Christmas Brunch in Tucson

If you have any friends or neighbors who may wish to join please contact Fran Zimmerman 576-1333 or Luann Waldron 743-3034.

Are you "Neighbor-Wise"?

by Judy Epstein,
Chairperson of Building a
FireWise Community



You've been asked if you're "FireWise" (which hopefully you are or will be VERY SOON!). The next question is are you "Neighbor-Wise"? Do you know your neighbors and is your neighborhood (those cabins surrounding you) FireWise? The more we learn about FireWise, the more we learn that it isn't what one person does, but what EVERYONE does. We are all in this together!

To help further our preparedness, the MLFD and your FireWise committee is in the process of creating Neighborhood FireWise groupings. Each group will have an active representative to ensure communication and cooperation within their "FireWise Neighborhood." To successfully achieve this, representatives must be identified ASAP and neighbors need to get together and cooperate for the benefit of their "FireWise Neighborhood." In many cases, you already know whom within your grouping would best serve you. Please let us know what you already know by contacting any or all of the individuals designing this project:

Bob Zimmerman at 576-1333 or at bobzim@mindspring.com
Judy Epstein at 760-2802 or at nRichLife@aol.com
Joe Gunia at 576-1202 or at joe@mountlemmonfire.com

The focus this **SPRING** is to propel our community's FireWise status and readiness as much as we can **BEFORE** the fire season flares up. Waiting until summer may be too late! Remember that the Bullock Fire (where we were SO INCREDIBLY LUCKY) started BEFORE Memorial Day!

FireWise information specific to Mt. Lemmon was sent out to everyone by the MLFD. If you did not receive yours or would like additional copies, they are available at the station and at various businesses in the village. The back of the pamphlet, "It Can't Happen To My Home!" has a form for filling in pertinent EMERGENCY information. A simplified magnet version has been created for placing this info on your cabin's refrigerator. You can get your FREE copy from Judy Epstein at any FireWise meeting and at the fire station and the Mt. Lemmon General Store. Please be sure to fill out the form with all necessary information!

Upcoming FireWise Meetings

Wednesday, March 19, 2003—10:00 a.m.
at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center

Saturday, April 12, 2003—10:00 a.m.
at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station

Key FireWise Points Reviewed

Also found on pages 4–8 in your FireWise pamphlet, "It Can't Happen To My Home!"

Remember: FireWise - "Will It Survive Embers?" (More info on page 3 of FireWise pamphlet)

- Clear pine needles a minimum of 10 ft. from all structures and flammable materials
- Clear rain gutters and roof of pine needles and clip branches overhanging the roof
- "Thin & Limb" - Eliminate ladders fuels and thin trees within 30 ft. of your cabin
- Reduce flammability of cabin – apply self-extinguishing flame treatment such as Flame Stop as needed and when re-roofing, replace with metal roofing

CALENDAR

Women's Club Meeting

March 5, 6:30 pm @ Olga Pace's

April 2, 6:30 pm -meeting in Tucson

Bingo

March 8, 7-10 pm at the Alpine Lodge (Bar Area)

Water Co-Op Meeting

Mar 16, 10:00 am @ Dennis Haynes

Next FIREWISE Mtg

March 19, 10:00 am at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center

April 12, 10:00 am at the MLFD

FWC Southern District Annual Mtg

March 22nd 8:00 am @ Tucson's Women's Club

Annual Homeowner's Dinner

April 22, 6:00 pm at Hidden Valley Inn

Basic Wildland Course

May 17-18 9:00–5:00 pm MLFD

2003 membership dues are due. 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 association membership for \$20. Send your checks to MLHO, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association. It's one of the benefits of being a member.

Board members are Ross Quigley, Franny Crowe, Kathy Shields, Carrie Reitz, Fran Zimmerman, Florence Wilhoite, John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Tom Thomas, Don Underhill, Jim Connolly, Larry Waldron; David Ostapuk and Gordon Hunter. The editor of the Echoes is Gordon Hunter. If you have any suggestions or comments, I can be reached at 298-5971 or 576-4377 or by Email at gnhunter@mindspring.com.