

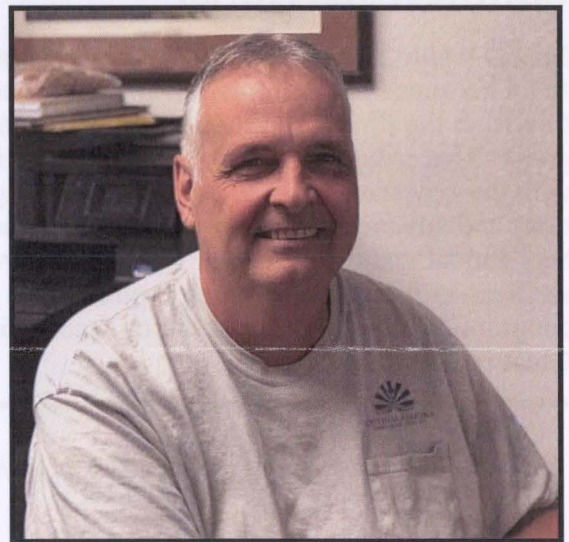
The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Harry J. Findysz

July 25, 1958 - January 12, 2020

It is with an incredibly heavy heart that MLFD must inform you of the untimely passing of Harry Findysz. Harry was with MLFD for a relatively short time towards the end of his fire service career, but his impact was far-reaching during his tenure. Harry was an instrumental part in the evolution of our fire district.

Harry began his career as a firefighter with Rural/Metro Fire, where he quickly moved up the ranks to oversee their wildland division. Harry built a brand of quality while he was there that would cement his legacy in Southern Arizona firefighting. While never big on recognition, Harry held titles of Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and Fire Chief throughout Pima and Cochise counties.



After the Bullock Fire in 2002, Harry was recruited to be a team member at MLFD. Harry quickly made his presence felt with his wealth of structure and wildfire knowledge. That knowledge would be put to the test on June 17, 2003 as the Aspen Fire began to rage. Harry worked tirelessly throughout the following months in capacities that cannot even be adequately appreciated. He is credited as being one of the last to evacuate the inferno and one of the first back in to fight the blaze. His efforts saved numerous structures, and his leadership was ever-present during the entire firefighting effort. After the fire, Harry, again, gave all his effort to the immense cleanup process that needed to take place. Harry oversaw the sawyer program that was put in place to remove dead-standing trees from private property throughout the community. During these trying times, Harry never wavered in his support for the residents atop Mount Lemmon.

Harry was passionate about everything he did. He dedicated an immense amount of time and dedication to mentoring upcoming fire service members. He ran the Rural/Metro explorer program, which has left a legacy in Southern Arizona. In total, Harry has mentored Chief Officers, Captains, Paramedics, Firefighters, and many others outside of the fire service. Harry helped develop MLFD staff members and recruit and train our volunteers. Not only did Harry assist us by helping fix everything imaginable, but he also helped build and maintain the radio system that kept our District functional.

After retiring from the fire service, Harry knew he would not be able to sit still. Beginning in 2005, Harry began to fulfill a dream that he had put on hold for many years while being a model public servant. By 2010 he had built a business from the ground up. Today, Southern Arizona Video Productions is a staple in the film

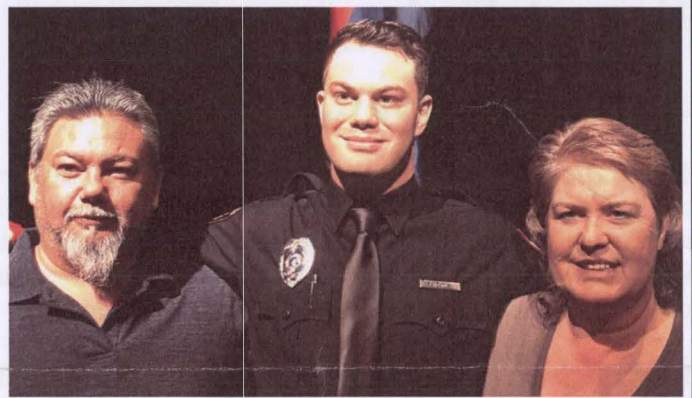
community and a market leader in their field. Raised a Tucsonan, Harry made sure his company was a local asset to the community. He was a long running supporter of the Tucson Rodeo and was always filming at Old Tucson Studios.

Truth be told, I could take up the entire Echoes newsletter writing about Harry's importance to others, integrity to self, and overall generous heart. As it stands, his accolades and accomplishments are simply too many to list. More importantly, Harry would hate to think people were reading this tribute; he was never a bragger. Still, I hope we have provided a glimpse into who Harry was for those that had not met him, and trust we drew upon many fond memories for those that did. Harry will truly be missed.

There is a memorial video on the SAVP Page: <https://www.facebook.com/southernarizonavideo/>
Harry remembering the Aspen Fire after 15 years: <https://www.kold.com/story/38462881/mt->

CONGRATULATIONS!

MLFD would like to recognize our very own Sean Matias on his successful completion and subsequent graduation from the Pima Community College Paramedic program. This arduous, one-year program provides Sean with the necessary tools to deliver life-saving interventions and advanced life support to both community members and all visitors to Mount Lemmon. If you happen to see Sean around the community, please take the time to congratulate him, as this is a major accomplishment. Great job, Sean!



CHEATGRASS: A Near and Present Danger by Lindy Brigham

Our cheatgrass season is approaching. Wherever cheatgrass grows, unwanted wildfires burn hotter, more frequently and disrupt fragile ecosystems. More to the point on the mountain, your cabin is at risk if there is dry cheatgrass near it. Around the end of March start looking for signs of cheatgrass. It is hard to identify before it goes to seed, but if you know where to look you will see it. After it goes to seed, we only have a short time to get rid of it, either by pulling or spraying. Once the seeds are ripe, they disperse easily, and pulling just spreads them more.

Remember, it is your responsibility to manage the cheatgrass on your property, so not only are you safe, but you won't keep infesting your neighbors. You can pull it or spray it. We will have more information in the coming weeks on options for tackling the cheatgrass and where to get necessary supplies.

If you know you will need help, PLEASE ASK! (Lindy: labrigham@msn.com) The Fire Department has graciously taken on the responsibilities of the 50-gal sprayer and the backpack sprayers. We will be asking folks to help them out this season, so be prepared.

Here are some pictures to get you going for the season!



Cheatgrass Seedhead



Cheatgrass clump

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

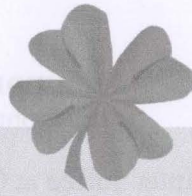
by Michael Stanley, president

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our MLHOA Echoes publication for 2020. There are several construction projects taking place this year that are exciting for our community. Finally, we will be getting a main water line to our fire station and a fire water supply to our District's Heli-pad. This project has been in the works for many years. Thanks to Gail Griffin our State District 14 Representative for helping with the funding for this major improvement to the community. Many locals have gone above and beyond for the initiation of this project. Construction work will begin the last week of August and continue for 2 months. We are required to complete this improvement by the end of 2020.

Another project is the Hotel/Bungalows. You have probably seen information in the news and other notices. This project will start in the spring. The 1st phase will be to develop the south lot in the village with bungalow type cabins. The plan is to have them ready for rental later this summer. Still another project is the Mt. Lemmon Lodge which will be across the street from the General Store. Construction is planned to begin this summer and be completed next summer. Last, but not least, is the possibility of a small coffee shop south of the Sawmill. These projects will help bring Summerhaven back to an economically viable community.

The MLHOA and the Business Economic Association continue to work on adding additional parking, solving some traffic congestion and getting trash service to better the community.

This summer should be filled with many things to do in the community. Remember our Annual Membership Dinner at the Viscount Suites on April 21st. Our monthly board meetings are held on the 3rd Saturdays at 10 AM at the Community Center.



March 2020

9th - Full Moon

17th - St. Patrick's Day

21st - MLWD -

Board Meeting - 8 AM

- MLHOA -

Board Meeting - 10 AM - MLCC

- MLWC

General Meeting - 1 PM - MCC

Don't Miss These Firewise Events

- ◇ March thru May - Cheatgrass Removal
- ◇ May 2nd - Community Preparedness Day
- ◇ May 4th - Chipping Crew Day
- ◇ May 23rd - Firewise Block Party/
Education
- ◇ June 20th—Firewise Celebration at
MLCC

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From your editor:

In last month's Echoes I did not give credit where credit is due. Most of the photos from the front page were submitted by the Cochran family, out enjoying the mountain over the holidays. A few others were mine and the awesome bobcat (from a few years ago) was taken by Carol Niehoff. The one of me on the back/address side was taken by Debbie Fagan.

Submissions for next month's Echoes issue are due March 15th. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club News

by Connie Taylor, President

February 10- We had our winter coffee at Coffee X-Change. It was good to see everyone. We had 26 ladies attend.

March 14 –The Southern District Spring Convention will be held at the Tucson Woman's Club. The theme will be Spring Training, so wear your favorite jersey. The arts and craft judging will occur next year (every other year). The collection of Toys and Games for the Done in a Day Project will be for Team Lizzie Bell, a 501 © (3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of donating blood and registering bone marrow for kids.

March 21- Our first Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club meeting for the year 2020. We will meet at 1:00PM at the Mt Lemmon Community Center.

WINTER MT. LEMMON

Early morning sullen fog
Shrouds our snowy mountain.

Later, sudden comets of sunlight
Stream through ponderosa pines
To glint off corn snow.

Susan Benson
Upper Loma Linda Road January 2020

Robert T. Zimmerman
Broker

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Be it ever so beautiful, we're ready for spring!

Winter Restaurant hours

The Cookie Cabin 576-1010
11:00 - 5:00 seven days a week

The Iron Door 576-1321
Monday/Thursday/Friday 10:30 - 4:30
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 - 5:00
Breakfast 9:00 - 11:00
Don't forget the free sky ride with any
breakfast on weekends!

The Sawmill Run Restaurant 576-9147
Monday - Thursday 10:30 - 4:00
Last seating is at 3:45
Friday 10:00 - 6:00 last seating 5:45
Saturday 10:30 - 8:00 last seating 7:45
Sunday 10:30 - 5:00 last seating 5:00

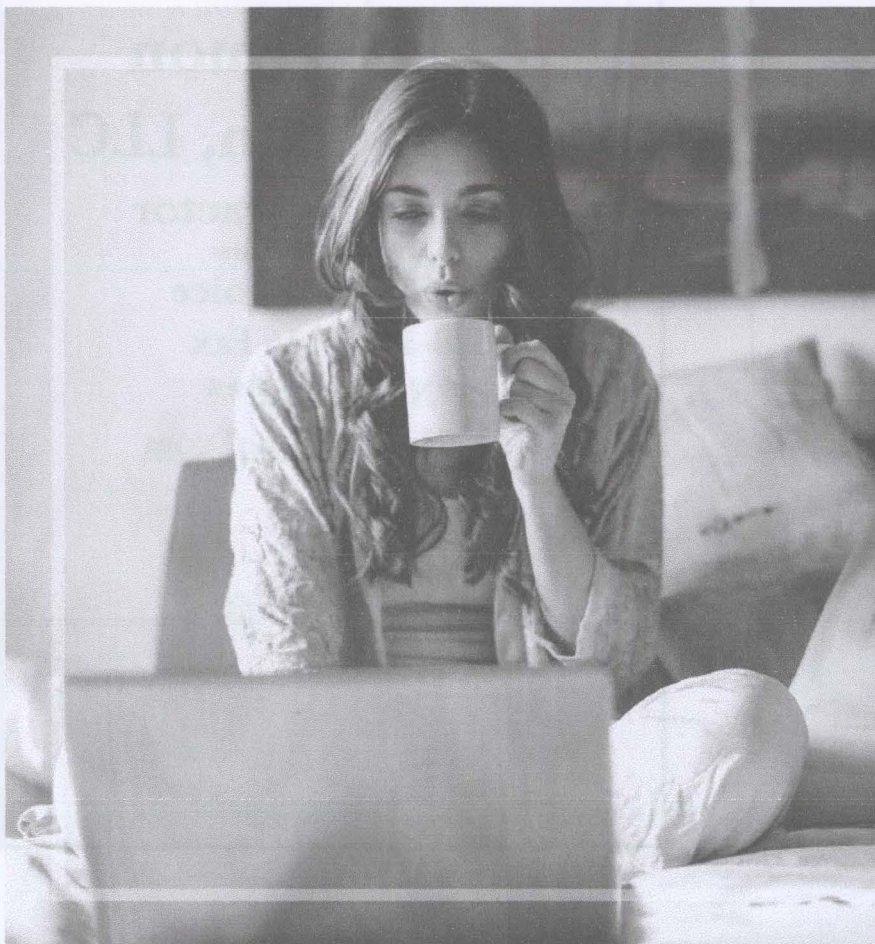
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weather, call ahead.

Newspaper Delivery

Jenni Zimmerman will provide the Sunday
newspaper for residents at a price of \$2.50, pay-
able in advance. Please contact Jenni at Mt.
Lemmon Realty to place your order 576-1333.
Your papers will be available 11:30 on Sunday
mornings at Mt. Lemmon Realty.

The Shrine to Mary, Undoer of Knots

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From the Desk of Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy

I am delighted to report to you that the Osborne's Mount Lemmon Lodge project came before the Pima County Board of Supervisors on February 18th and was approved by a unanimous vote, 5 to 0. We were very impressed by the mountain officials and residents who came and spoke to the Board about the project. It was clear to all that the Lodge has been carefully crafted to create a structure and operation harmonious with the village. I look forward to the groundbreaking ceremony.

We understand a public meeting is scheduled for the other major Summerhaven development, the Mount Lemmon Hotel. We will be following the Hafner's project as it advances through the Pima County Development Services process.

All of this construction activity, along with the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department water line project, will certainly impact travel on Sabino Canyon Parkway. We will all realize long-term benefits from this vital redevelopment long after the short-term inconvenience passes. It is most gratifying that your District 4 office has been able to play a big part and an integral role as these major projects move forward.

Have I mentioned that I love being your Pima County Supervisor?

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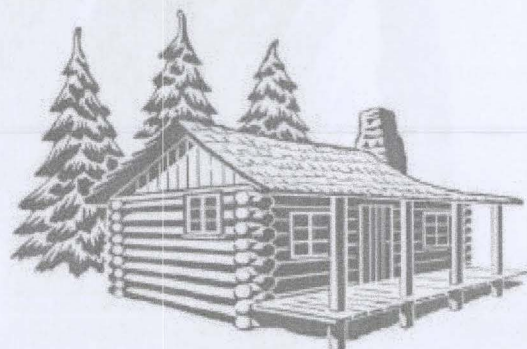
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The Mount Lemmon HOA gratefully thanks all who paid \$35.00 dues already. These dues help cover the cost of the monthly Echoes and provide valuable information posted on the Mount Lemmon website and listserv. Dues are payable on February 1, 2020, so please clip the handy coupon in this month's Echoes and complete the important information for our database. Please note your mailing address on this Echoes "paid through" reminder date. If you're not receiving the monthly Echoes (February-November), it's probably because you haven't paid, or we don't have your current mailing address! Contact Linda Currin, treasurer, at lcurren@q.com or 247-2582 if you have concerns or questions. See you on the mountain.

Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association

Annual Membership \$35 (payable to MLHOA)

Mail this form and your check to MLHOA, PO Box 699,
Mount Lemmon, AZ 85619

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Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mt. Lemmon street address _____

Home Phone _____

Mt. Lemmon Phone _____

Email address _____

Check one:

☐ Property owner

☐ Renter

☐ Friend of the mountain

Santa Catalina Ranger District Welcomes New Fire Management Officer

by CJ Woodard, District Ranger

The Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest welcomes Ian Morgan, Fire Management Officer of the Catalina-Rincon Fire Program. Ian will begin his permanent assignment on March 1, 2020 and brings a wealth of experience and leadership in complex fire programs.

Ian holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington in 2001. Ian's focus in school was Geography with an emphasis in geographic information systems and urban planning. Upon graduation, Ian began his career with the Forest Service in North Bend, Washington, working as an engine crewmember for the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Throughout Ian's career he has worked on seven National Forests in six states and four Forest Service regions, serving as a hotshot, fuels technician, and assistant fire management officer. Most recently, Ian worked as the assistant fire management officer for the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest.

The majority of Ian's career has been focused as an interagency hotshot crewmember fighting fires throughout the West, spending half of his career working on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in central Washington State. Ian and his wife, Breanne, have a 5-year-old daughter named Ani and live in the Tucson area.

Mt. Lemmon Water District

Doug Mance, Board Chair

In a letter dated June 15, 2015, the Mt. Lemmon Fire District board and then chief Randy Ogden, made a formal request to the Mt. Lemmon Water District for a water line from our existing system to the MLFD facilities and the adjacent U.S Forest Service helipad.

Since that time almost five years ago, it has been a MLWD goal to help find funding and logistical mechanisms to enable this improvement. It is important to note that we were always aware that this would never be a water revenue driven endeavor. The only additional metered customers would be the MLWD facilities and the USFS access if helipad water access was ever utilized for fire suppression. From the 2015 letter forward, the common-sense benefits for the MLFD, the safety aspects for the public, and the greater good of the mountain community were the reasons for this water system addition. We were, as a board and a district, driven by benevolence and goodwill, and we remain so motivated.

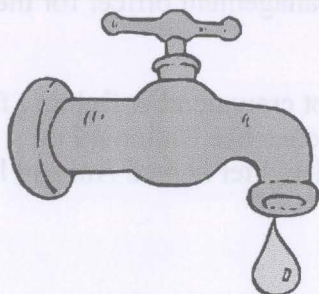
With those public service goals firmly in mind, we had meetings with congressional representatives, local contractors (also friends of Mt. Lemmon), Arizona legislators, and Pima County elected and appointed officials from 2 or 3 election cycles. Throughout the years MLWD and MLFD were fully engaged in all the efforts towards this goal.

In late 2018, at a community meeting with Arizona Senator Gail Griffin, one of our board members, Gordon Hunter, had a "by-the-way" moment with Senator Griffin, which gradually led to heroic efforts on her part along with many other community members' efforts to obtain a funding source from the general budget via the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to the MLFD for \$750,000 for this project.

At this writing, the mountain snow remains on the ground, and your two mountain districts are on the verge of signing an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), hiring a National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) contractor, gaining USFS and Pima County DOT approvals, and polishing preliminary engineering and project development plans. Our window for project construction remains late summer/early fall (post owl season) of 2020. Oh, and by the way, our state funding window ends in 2021.

So we hope your mountain thoughts and energies are urging us along, as your Water District and your Fire District herd all the cats, line up all the ducks, and finally get the dirt flying to complete this long-desired project on time and within budget.

Thanks for everybody's support in 2020.



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FIREWISE SAVE THE DATES

by Sally Crum, Firewise Chairman

Many thanks to the members of our Mt. Lemmon Firewise Committee who have begun planning this year's events and activities. More information will be provided as it becomes available; but for now, here is what's being planned:

March, April, May:

Cheatgrass removal – pull or spray. It is critical that this is completed before the plants go to seed.

Request/complete Firewise Assessment. Contact your Neighborhood Captain or MLFD

May 2 - Community Wildfire Preparedness Day

Move slash to designated chipping points

Move properly bagged pine needles to MLFD Slash Pile for burning

Taco Bar dinner at MLFD following neighborhood clean-up

May 4 – Chipping Crew Day

Lunch for Chipping Crew – MLWC

May 23 – Firewise Block Party/Education Day @ Mt. Lemmon Community Center

9:00 AM – Continental Breakfast

10:00- Noon – Firewise Informational Sessions, Children's Program, Raffle Prize Drawings

June 20 – Firewise Celebration @ Mt. Lemmon Community Center

Dorothy Johnson will be notifying Neighborhood Captains of upcoming meetings, training etc.

Please continue to do your part in reducing the risk of wildfire in our wonderful community. If you'd like to be a part of this important effort, please contact Sally Crum @ sbc602@gmail.com or 520-419-8204.



I'm being followed by a moonshadow...

by Carol Niehoff



I have no doubt that many of our readers have been followed by a moonshadow. The most interesting part of this lyric is that it speaks to the stunning beauty and enchanting quality of the moon itself as it casts shadows behind those who behold its light. Often, we are breathless as the enormous full moon suddenly appears, just beyond the hoodoos after Windy Point. We are fortunate to have the best seat in the house along Upper Loma Linda Road and at Loma Linda Picnic grounds to witness one of Nature's greatest sights, a moonrise, with the added excitement of anticipation! Check the Echoes calendar each month for the Full Moon dates. This month's Super Worm Moon is on March 9th, rising just as the sun sets. Enjoy!

MLHOA Annual Dinner – Tuesday, April 21
Viscount Suite Hotel
4855 East Broadway, Tucson AZ 85711

Mark your calendar for the first big social event of 2020. Everyone looks forward to this fun meet-and-greet, so don't miss this special evening. The Viscount Suite Hotel once again welcomes the MLHOA community and will provide an excellent buffet menu at \$37.00 per person. Cash bar opens at 6:00 PM, dinner following at 7:00, so come early and enjoy renewing friendships and making new ones. The buffet menu will include beef and chicken entrees and a variety of salads, vegetables, breads and of course dessert.

Please clip the coupon provided on the back of this issue and send in your reservations ASAP. Your check (no cash accepted) is your reservation. Deadline for reservations is April 15th! Make checks payable to MLHOA and remit to PO Box 699, Mt. Lemmon AZ 85619. If you have questions, please contact Linda Currin 247-2582 or lcurren@q.com. See you there.

About the MLHOA

Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association (MLHOA) 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. Being organized, having a legal fund and having active local voice participation enables the Association to accomplish most of its goals. The Association organizes social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles, enabling owners to mingle. The Annual Dinner and Meeting is held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes.

Pima County has said the MLHOA is the strongest and most respected homeowner's organization in the entire county.

Members of the board of directors are Michael Stanley, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Linda Currin, treasurer; Sally Crum, secretary; Pamela Selby-Harmon Echoes editors; and members-at-large John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Debbie Fagan, Mike Bernstein, Tom Thomas and Matt Grossman.

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is the primary communication arm of the MLHOA. It is published monthly, from February to November. Advertising in the Echoes for one year (10 issues) is \$100 for a proportional business card, \$250 for a quarter page and \$500 for a half page.

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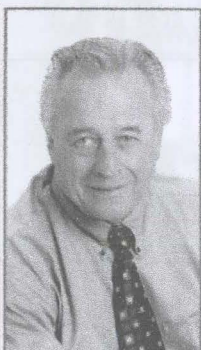
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Mt. Lemmon Fire District Wants You!!!

The Mount Lemmon Fire District is in need of two dedicated community members to fill vacancies on our Fire Board. We are currently saying goodbye to two amazing board members. We cannot be more thankful to Jim Rollins and Sally Crum for their service, and we hope to fill their shoes with equally passionate individuals. Does this sound like the type of Mount Lemmon resident you would like to be?

If so, please contact Fire Board Chairman John Perchorowicz at jperchorowicz@mlfdaz.org. Our community thanks you for your consideration.

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Mount Lemmon Community Center

The Mt. Lemmon Community Center (MLCC) is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) department. The center is located in Summerhaven. The facility is dependent upon local volunteers to staff and support the visitors center. The mission is to welcome all who visit the facility and to promote Summerhaven, Mt. Lemmon and Pima County, Arizona. To reserve the MLCC, call Kelly Cheeseman, Pima County Parks and Recreation, 520-724-5208, or email Kelly.Cheeseman@pima.gov.





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March Mountain History 76 Years Ago

by Chris McDoniel, Friend of the Mountain

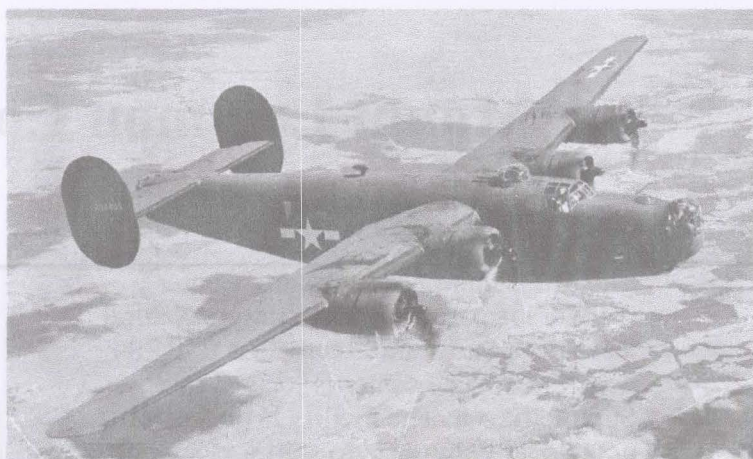
On March 18, 1944, B-24H bomber, serial number 41-28874, with full combat crew, took off from Phoenix AZ headed to Texas. After Texas, the bomber was scheduled to continue east, eventually reporting for combat duties overseas.

As the B-24 passed over Tucson, severe weather, limited visibility and icing conditions were encountered east of the Catalina Mountains. The crew attempted to fly out of the weather and return to Phoenix, but the B-24 crashed in the Catalina Mountains, killing all 10 men on board.

According to the Army Air Forces mishap report, the bomber's lower right rudder struck a mountain peak in the area ENE of present-day Gordon Hirabayashi Recreating area. The plane disintegrated in flight, scattering debris for approximately 4 ½ miles. During WWII, the aircraft accident committees didn't have black boxes, cockpit recorders, and detailed weather information. As a result, Army Air Forces personnel had to hike into the crash site to determine the cause of the accident by looking at remaining debris.

Since the mishap report did not provide any information (photos, maps, or documentation) indicating which peak the B-24 may have struck, there is a possibility that the B-24's rudder may have fallen off in flight during the violent storm. In 1942, another B-24 crashed east of Florence AZ after one of the rudders fell off after encountering severe weather. Also, weather conditions were so bad at Davis-Monthan Field on March 18th, flying was called off until conditions improved. While we may never know the cause of the accident, ten men lost their lives: Judson T. Holmes, Randolph Aspinwall, James P. Smith, Merle O. Norlie, Lloyd G. Kadel, William A. Scully, I. Rybinsky, Harlin S. Darby, Howard W. Binne, and Charles Bishop.

At one time, debris from the big bomber could be seen from Windy Point scattered across the mountain. Salvage operations approved by the Forest Service in the 1950's resulted in much of the wreckage



USAF photo of a B-24 in flight, similar to the one that crashed

being smelted into aluminum ingots and packed out. However, due to a combination of rough terrain and a large debris field, small parts of the wreckage remain. On one visit to the crash site, I came across the identification dog tag of James P. Smith, Bombardier of the B-24. After a few years of searching, the dog tag was returned to Smith's family.

The B-24 was a four-engine bomber. Due to the shape of the fuselage, it was nicknamed the Flying Boxcar. Over 18,000 B-24s were built to support the war effort. One is on display at the Pima Air and Space Museum.

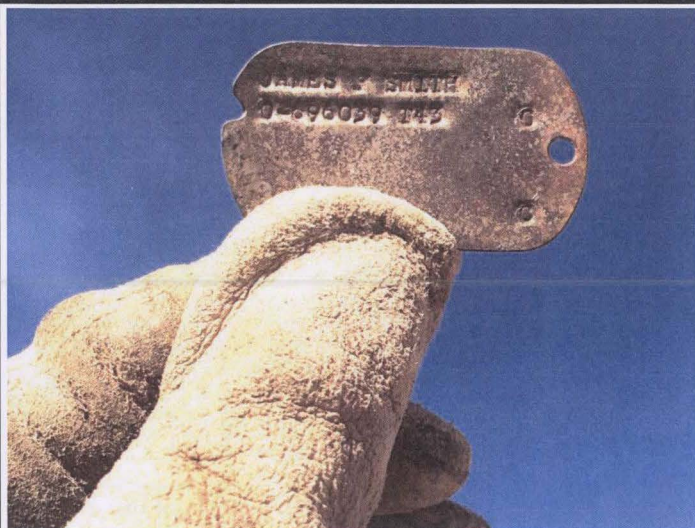
Chris McDoniel has visited seven crash sites in the Catalinas, but there are still a few others he'd like to track down. One day, he hopes to build a more permanent exhibit or museum in the mountains of Arizona honoring aircrews involved in crashes. For additional information, visit www.AerospaceArchaeology.com

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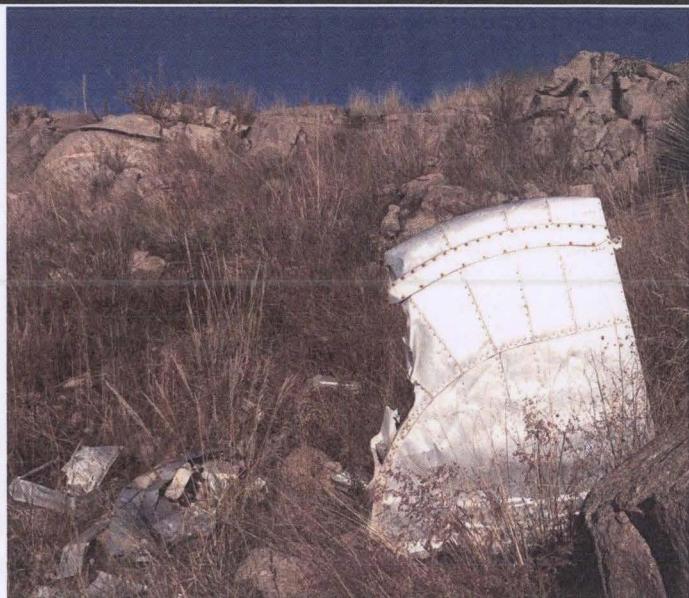
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Dog tag found at the crash site and returned to family



One of the damaged rudders from the B-24



.50 caliber bullets still at the crash site

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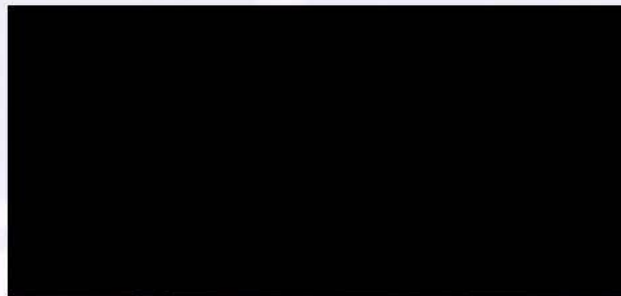
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