

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

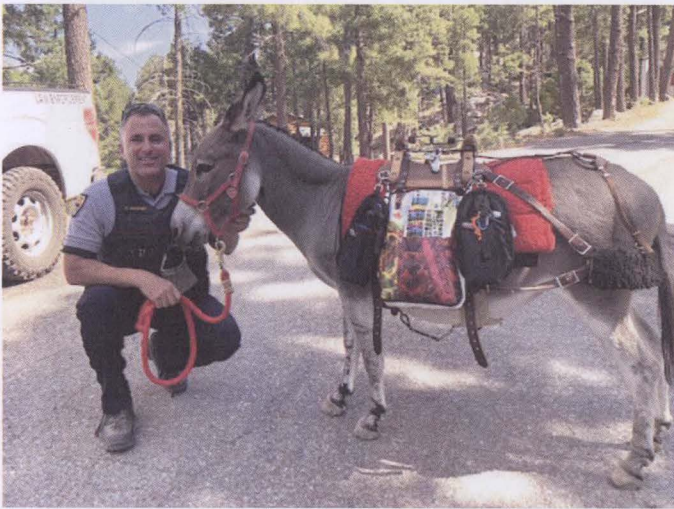
Aren't we spoiled having the mountain to ourselves for a while? Although we would love to be able to use the forest, we need to be patient and let the wildlife heal and readjust to their altered lives. Many of us who drive the road regularly see a variety of wildlife cruising on our road. Our local piano tuner saw a baby bear on his drive down one morning. On one of our drives up last week, my daughter and I saw a momma deer, standing in the middle of the road, looking both ways like a crossing guard. I stopped the car (put the double flashers on) and saw, in the shadow of the trees, in the middle of the road her two BRAND new babies! One still had the wobbly legs of a newborn. I took a few photos with my phone, but I didn't want to get too close and spook them. As the two newborns were walking toward Mom, the wobbly legged one had to plop down and rest, while its sibling stopped with it and watched us. Boy, I wish I had a better camera! Momma went over the guardrail and the babies walked right under, without even ducking! I've added a photo, but I had to enlarge it and it's kind of a "hard read." But what an experience-I am so glad my kiddo got to see this awesome sight!

Henry Johnson took these bird pictures recently around his cabin recently. The one on the left is a Painted Redstart fledgling. The one in the center is a Red-faced Warbler and the one on the right is a female Black-throated Gray Warbler. We really do have a wonderful view in our little "green oasis" as Henry phrased it. So keep looking out for the wildlife!



Pamela





Before we were evacuated, our goodwill ambassador Jasmine the Donkey got to meet some of the awesome people protecting our mountain!

August
2020



3rd Full moon

15th Third Saturday Zoom meetings
9 am MLWD Board
10 am MLHOA Board
1 pm MLWC

17th MLFD Board Zoom meeting 4 pm

September 1st Full moon



The Mt. Lemmon Community Center is part of Pima County's Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) department. The center is located in the heart of 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.

**Happy days are here again, the sky above is clear again,
we'll sing a song of cheer again, happy days are here again!**

by Michael Stanley, MLHOA president

Welcome back to summer! As of this writing, the forest is closed with no access to summer homes, picnic areas or campgrounds, pull-outs, restrooms or any other Forest Service facility. The plan is to reevaluate weekly, but hopefully the forest will reopen November 1st. The Highway is also closed to the public until repairs to some guard rail posts can be made. Pima County Administration, our Supervisor Steve Christy and Transportation Department personnel are working to get the road open for all traffic as soon as possible.

Property owners, workers and employees are allowed up the mountain with identification. It's great to see cars in the driveways and lights at homes. We are all grateful our communities were spared any major damage. Black appears around some structures, backburns were common, and some areas reflect wild hot fire. It will take time to heal. The Forest Service needs time to survey and repair damage to the infrastructure and trail systems. Our monsoons are here, and we pray for safety, no major flooding, and the fire to be out. The rain we have received is wonderful, and new growth springs from the blackened earth. We have so much to be thankful for including no major injuries and homes for our return.

Our businesses are suffering and need your support. Please visit, encourage, and help them out. We must keep our businesses alive. Shop generously! We all await the road opening which is crucial for the Mt. Lemmon businesses.

What wonderful 4th of July Parades. A really big THANKS to all those who entered the virtual parade. And a special thanks to the participants of the small but wonderful "live" parade, the visual editor, Matt Grossman and Parade coordinator, Susanne Drolet. That short, circular display was for ALL OF YOU at home wanting to be here. Even the Montana Fire Crew participated. The small makeshift show even provided a helicopter fly-over as tears were shed in both patriotism and overwhelming joy. We all love our community!

A true mountain pioneer, Gerry Hackney passed away on June 25, 2020. I met Gerry the week I moved here in 1980. He had a favorite place at the Alpine bar. Although he didn't have much to say to me, he seemed happy to have more folks on the mountain. It took time to engage him in conversation, but once he got to know me, he told many stories of the mountain and how it worked. Gerry's name appeared on many of the water co-op papers, and spring rights, sewer, and building and commercial development were just a few of his endeavors. Gerry and Eden's 4th of July mint julips were amazing, and as a true craftsman, he loved creating toys and woodworking items. Gerry's cool, calm demeanor will be missed.

Millicyn E. Kossow
Sales Associate

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Do you have something to add to next month's Echoes? Please email your contribution to the editor, Pamela Selby-Harmon, at selbyharmon@aol.com

About your Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's 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 traditionally held each year on the first Tuesday after taxes. Unfortunately, this event was canceled this year due to the current health crisis.

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 editor; and members-at-large John Mulay, Pete Krauss, Debbie Fagan, Mike Bernstein, Tom Thomas and Matthew 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.

Membership dues for the MLHOA are \$35 annually. To join or renew, clip the form below, fill out all the information and send it, along with a check to the MLHOA. If you have questions or concerns regarding your membership status, contact Linda, Curin, treasurer at 520-247-2582 or lcurren@q.com.

Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association

Annual Membership \$35 (payable to MLHOA)

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☐ Renter

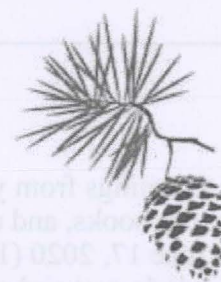
☐ Friend of the mountain



The MLHOA website provides access to information about a variety of issues concerning the mountain community as well as archives of The Echoes, history, current events, and instructions on how to join the Association, Nextdoor Summerhaven and the Mt. Lemmon listserv. Check it out at **mtlemmonhoa.org**

It is a work in progress, so leave suggestions and/or volunteer to help with its development.

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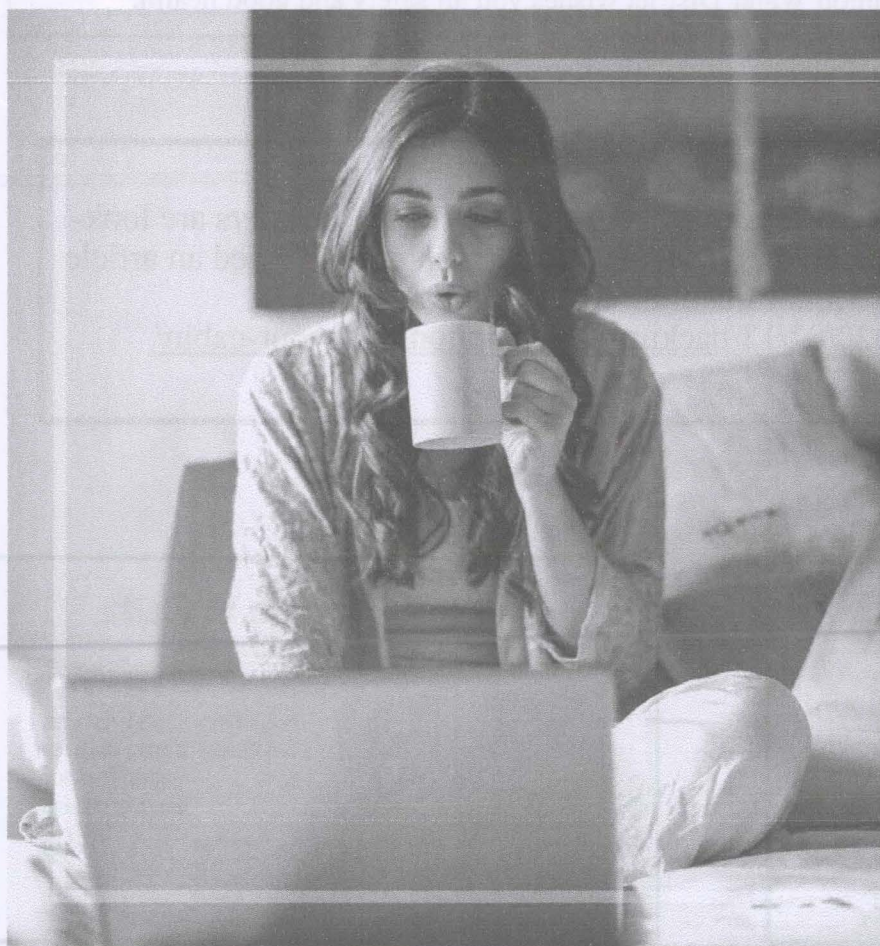


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Mt. Lemmon Water District Update

By Doug Mance, MLWD board chair

Greetings from your Mt. Lemmon Water District. The Bighorn Fire is fading into the Mt. Lemmon history books, and unlike the devastation of the Aspen Fire, it will be more about the miracle of Thursday, June 17, 2020 (17 years to the day of the Aspen Fire invasion) when the fire roared north on red flag winds past and not into the village of Summerhaven.

Both Michael and Nate were on site and working our system during the entire duration of the fire. Thanks to both of them and so many others. One verbal description of Michael's was of Goat Hill running up to Phoenix Avenue being a mass intersection of hoses running every which way, serving the sprinklers that the Type 1 structure protection crews had set up to protect our "values."

So the very short story is that MLWD supplied almost 200,000 gallons (roughly 20% of our storage capacity) for use on the Bighorn Fire, and Mother Nature has already refilled our tanks to full capacity at 15-16 gallons per minute from our undisturbed watersheds. Another Bighorn Fire miracle.

As you all come back to your cabins and chase off the Miller moths, please understand that with your residential service lines sitting still for almost a month, there may be a little rust in your water for a short while. We are flushing lines as fast as we can, but if that is your biggest problem in these historic times, I congratulate you on your incredibly good fortune.

In all, we are blessed, and the Mt. Lemmon Water District wishes you all safety and good health.

Since the Bighorn Fire caused prolonged power outages, more cabin owners are looking for information on electric generators. Matthew Grossman has published an article on backup power options on the Mount Lemmon HOA website at <https://mtlemmonhoa.org/index.php/2020/07/13/backup-power-options-for-your-cabin/>

Sky Island Construction

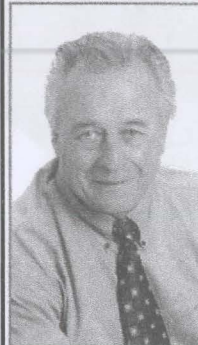
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From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

As we go to press this month, we are finally able to say “Adios, Bighorn” with the fire now reported to be 100% contained.

What hasn't been contained is the ongoing economic damage to village businesses. While we are beyond grateful that no structures were lost in the blaze, road infrastructure was damaged extensively, something not unexpected when the highway itself is used as a firebreak.

The unexpected news came when we learned that the company customarily contracted by Pima County for guardrail repair was not accepting new jobs due to COVID-19 related labor and materials issues.

Thanks to the creative efforts of Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis and his Dept. of Transportation team, work is underway with not one, but two teams performing the work. Additionally, the highway is being crack-sealed and restriped.

The community has taken a one-two punch from COVID-19 and the Bighorn Fire and is still standing. My office has been the strongest voice advocating on behalf of our local businesses during the pandemic, and that advocacy does not stop at 4,000 ft. above sea level. We are working with members of the MLBEA on short-term tactics as well as long-term strategies for when business interruptions occur in the future, because, sadly, we know they will.

Our hats are off to Carmine and his team for endeavoring to get the highway open to the public as quickly and safely as possible.

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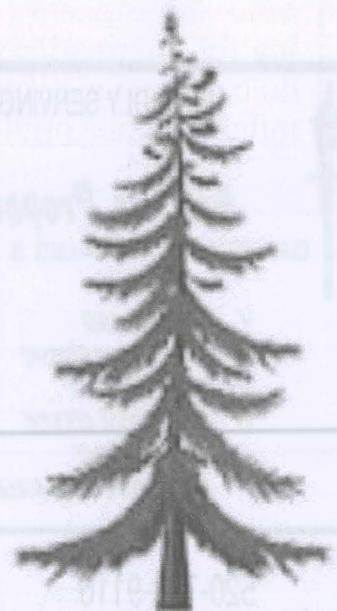
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Post-Fire Safety Briefing

by Dan Leade, Capt/A-Shift MLFD

Now that the Bighorn Fire has moved sufficiently far enough from residences to allow community members to visit the mountain, it is important to take the time to address some of the specific safety issues that come along with a fire of this magnitude.

Most of the safety issues this time of year stem from the monsoons, and this year the monsoons will again be a major factor. As always, the monsoons will bring lightning, wind, and rain, but the impact of the Bighorn Fire will bring some significant increases to the traditional monsoon issues we have become accustomed to. Heavy rain will pose a much greater flood threat as water races through burned areas. Debris has the potential to clog areas allowing water to rise rapidly. This same debris and flooding may cause roadways to become compromised.

The fire has damaged many of the trees surrounding our community. Heavy rain and winds can readily cause these trees to fall at a moment's notice. Trees falling, wind, or a damaged power pole has the potential to knock power lines to the ground. Always assume a wire is live, even if you do not see it arcing! In addition to trees, the scarred landscape will be even more prone to rockslides than usual. These are truly unpredictable events, and because they can occur anywhere on the mountain, it is recommended to drive with vigilance. Speaking of driving with caution, there are quite a few stretches of highway where the guardrails are damaged. There will be heavy equipment driving around making repairs, so exercise extreme caution when heading up or down the mountain. Even animals may be seen more frequently along the highway and in neighborhoods as they seek out new habitat and food sources.

There is no doubt that the Bighorn Fire threatened our community. It is important to remember that even though the visible flames have subsided, dangers still lurk. Both wildfire and our monsoons have their benefits and downsides. Stay safe and enjoy the rain as our mountain greens up and starts to heal.

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A Very Different Return

by Laura Mance

What a wonderful homecoming on the mountain July 10th. After quickly returning the things taken down with us during evacuation and refilling the frig, most of the weekend was spent on the porch enjoying the view and rejoicing. The next day felt right for me to go through a box of memories the former owners had given us. They had experienced a very different return in 2003. They rebuilt their cabin after the Aspen Fire, and we purchased it in 2010.

The box contained all the newspaper articles from that fateful summer, many photos, plans for the new cabin and much more, even an essay written by one owner about what it felt like to return that day and to have lost so much. Below are some excerpts from that essay. In contrast, we were able to celebrate the fact that no "values" were lost in the Bighorn Fire.

"After the initial shock and tears when we turned into the village we arrived at our cabin. It was pretty much as we expected. Two thousand or so degrees don't leave much. After hugging and sharing tears with our neighbors we peered into our basement. The mangled remains of our cast iron wood burning fireplace, bedsprings (one of four), and a propane bottle from the barbeque were all that remained. Then we found one of the crosses from a collection on the wall. It was lying on a pile of ash intact. (it hangs in our cabin today) At the bottom of our road stood an older cabin and the owners had been there some 30 years. They would come up most weekends and sit on their porch. On the fourth of July they'd drive their antique car up and 'do the parade.' They are a symbol of the mountain to me. As we searched through the internet for pictures of our property, we also looked for theirs. When I learned both were gone my heart broke for them too. As we came down the hill on Thursday, I couldn't believe my eyes. There they sat in their lawn chairs in front of their destroyed cabin. I jumped out of my car in tears to greet them and what they said set my heart free. 'Honey, don't you worry about us. Just as soon as we get our insurance check, we're gonna rebuild.' After leaving my favorite couple in their lawn chairs we drove on and stopped when we saw others digging through their ashes. They found only three items: a yard ornament, a birdbath and a cross. I learned of a third cross later that day. The message was clear to me. We are supposed to keep the faith. Your own special brand is okay. Just keep the faith."

The author in July of 2003 also said that a lot of warriors live on Mount Lemmon. "people with a true love of the mountain. Rugged people with strong spirits live there." We still do, Margie. We still do, and we are filled with gratitude today.



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THANKS FOR FIREWISING!!!

by Dorothy Johnson, Firewise Captain Coordinator

Treasuring the beauty of our preserved mountain homes, I write to express my gratitude for everyone involved in FIREWISING: for Mt. Lemmon HOA, Loma Sabino HOA and Willow Canyon Boards for funding the dumpsters and chipper; for the leadership, grant writing and logistical magic of Firewise Chair Sally Crum; the steady support of Mt. Lemmon Fire Department Chief Joe Gunia; for all Mt. Lemmonites who worked hard firewising this spring; and especially for the **Mt. Lemmon Firewise Captains** [see table], who since 2018 have responded to the request for service with a YES that has far exceeded expectations. *[To help the Firewise Captains contact you, please use the table to share with your neighborhood Captain your phone and email. If you're not sure which neighborhood you're in, email your name & mountain address to me, DJ, at spiritdancertrl@gmail.com.]*

Special thanks to Bernadette and Matthew. Bernadette Blatt contributed many long days to writing and adapting our Firewise guidelines to fit repeated changes required by the Covid-19 pandemic and the early fire season. In addition to her articles in the Echoes, her updated Firewise guidelines are the core documents on **MLFDAZ.org**. *[Please use them!]* Matthew Grossman, the mountain's Communication Tech guru, has distributed firewising and fire messaging to everyone on the MLHOA listserv and website that he maintains. *[To make sure you are included, please email mtlemonhoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.]*

Thanks for the innumerable hours of work by so many of you, clearing cords of wood, mounds of slash and bags of needles and cones in firewising your lots and helping neighbors with theirs. *[Please report your contributions on the Time Cost Materials Report Form for Firewise 2020 (google document 6 or 7 on Resources/Firewise at MLFDAZ.org).]* Sally Crum and the Firewise Captains led the Mt. Lemmon community in filling 8 huge dumpsters with bags of pine needles: three by LSHOA (Middle Sabino and Upper Loma Linda residents); three in Willow Canyon; and two by MLHOA. Thanks to Paul Gelsinger for personally transporting all the bags to the latter from Summerhaven and Soldier Camp. Thanks to Dennis Cozzetti for chipper driving and subsequent pick-up of too-small-to chip slash, and to Chief Joe Gunia, Henry Werchan, Lou & Sally Crum and all the others who operated the chipper.

Firefighters protecting the Carter Canyon, Upper Loma Linda and Willow Canyon neighborhoods against wind-driven fire expressed great appreciation for the extensive firewising they found here, which helped make those properties defensible. And since structure fires tend to spread like dominoes, the prevention of fire in these cabins at the wilderness interface was key to protecting all our interior cabins.
THANKS!

THANKS to each of the Firewise leaders and to each of you who have been committed to firewising your own properties. Keep up the good work – or join in! We are the stewards of hard-won treasure that is always vulnerable to fire. Firewising matters!

FIREWISE CAPTAIN NAME & NEIGHBORHOOD	FIREWISE CAPTAIN E-MAIL
Carol and Joe McCullough - Florence	
Tami Arthur - Casa Grande	
Marie Ahmann - Loma Linda Extension	
Marty Herde - Goat Hill-Tucson Ave.	
Bernadette Blatt - Retreat-Tucson Ave.	
Dorothy Johnson - Sabino Canyon Parkway	
Diana Osborne - Loma Sabino HOA	
John & Louise Lynch - Loma Sabino HOA	
Craig Orozco - Loma Sabino HOA	
Jenni Zimmerman - Turkey Run	
Matt Grossman- Phoenix	
Carol Bender - Phoenix	
Paul and Mickie Gelsinger - Carter Canyon	
Chuck & Linda Huber - Soldier Camp	
Les & Bonnie Correy - Willow Canyon	
Sandi Triplett - Willow Canyon	
Firewise Chair - Sally Crum	
MLFD Firechief - Joe Gunia	



When you can, thank our advertisers for supporting the Echoes and support our local businesses for enhancing the village.

Even before the evacuation, they were struggling with the Covid-19 restrictions. Until the mountain is open to the public again, we're all they've got to keep them afloat.

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ML Realty	576-1333
MLPO	576-1427
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Giving Thanks

As we drive up the Mt. Lemmon Highway headed to our homes and cabins, we can't help but reflect on ALL of the people who helped protect our piece of paradise. One of those critical organizations is our very own Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighters who came close to losing their station on June 17th. We are working hard to raise funding to replace our WWII era generator which provides power for the station and its critical equipment and communications systems.

Here is how you can help and say THANK YOU:

Purchase Jim Click 'Millions for Tucson' **Raffle tickets**. Tickets can be picked up at the Mt.

Lemmon General Store during regular business hours or by appointment. They are \$25 each or \$100 for 5. ALL monies remain with the Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation. Check out the awesome prizes on the Jim Click Millions for Tucson website.

www.millionsfortucson.org.

Make a **direct donation** to the Mt. Lemmon Fire Fighter Foundation, P.O. Box 652, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. MLFFF is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN# 46-3448807.

Purchase **Bighorn Fire T-shirts** from the Mt. Lemmon General Store. Proceeds benefit Training and Equipment for our firefighters and volunteers.

Say thank you, from a safe distance of course, the next time you run into one of our fire fighters or volunteers. Mail **thank you cards** to Mt. Lemmon Fire District, P.O. Box 759, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619.

Reach out to your friends and neighbors in town who also enjoy this wonder recreation area and who are supported and protected by the Mt. Lemmon Fire District.

To date we have raised over **\$8,000** of the approximately \$40,000 needed to replace the generator. Together **WE CAN DO THIS!** A crowd-funding site will be set up shortly to make it easier for you to donate and support our Mt. Lemmon Fire District. Information will soon be posted on Nextdoor and in future Echoes. THANK YOU for your generosity.

by Sally Crum



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Mount Lemmon Woman's Club

Carol Niehoff and Tina Hanks, co-presidents

I recently read an article written by Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The luminous article spoke to the importance of membership in that institution. I like to imagine that he was speaking to our Mount Lemmon Woman's Club members as well. Our new treasurer, Katie Ammon is currently collecting dues. Let's remember the importance of each contribution that extends beyond the dollar amount to the compassion, help and support for many members in our mountain community and beyond. Thumbing through the scrapbooks, I find a history of mountain friendships enhanced by shared experiences and understanding. The value of this closely knit community is most evident in difficult times such as the recent Bighorn Fire. We know each other well enough to understand the deepest fears we harbor along with our greatest joys. We are indeed, "out of the woods" for the moment, just like the MLWC women who wended their way out of the woods, complete with masks, for the 4th of July Virtual Parade. Our celebration is, in part, a reminder of the exhausting work done by the Firewise Committee and residents who trimmed, raked and bagged. The club is proud to have supported the parade for the past 45 years and grateful for the work of Susanne Drolet in coordinating the event.

Carol Niehoff



Mount Lemmon Woman's Club Parade July, 1981



Robert T. Zimmerman
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Our first ever 4th of July Virtual Parade as well as our spontaneous LIVE 4th of July Parade mark 2020 as the year our Mt. Lemmon community adapted and survived during the Coronavirus Pandemic concurrently with the Big-

horn Fire! This would not have been possible without participants and video footage from the past as well as a mountain of creative individuals then and now. One can say that not only as a village of ever-ready determined residents do we survive, but thrive.

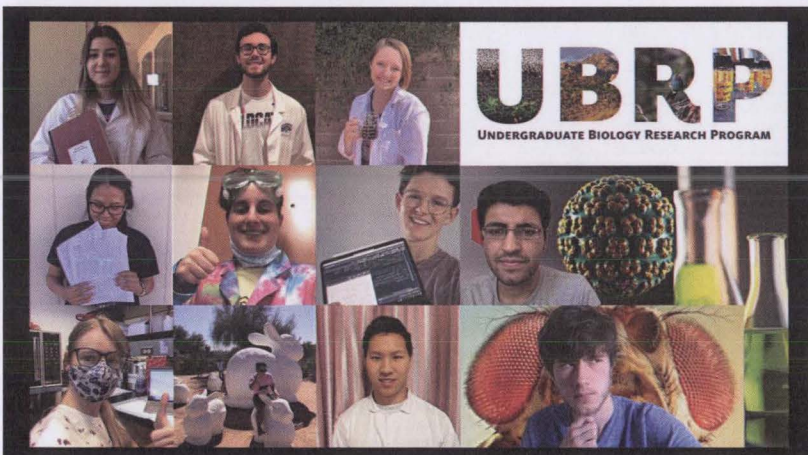


A special thanks and gratitude for leaders like Matthew Grossman who pulled together everything necessary to create two YouTube videos, one for our virtual and another for the live 4th of July Parades. He ingeniously added news clips from KGUN 9 (E.W. Scripts), ABC 15 (E.W. Scripts), KVOA 9 (Quincy Media), SWICT 2 PIO and KOLD 13 (Gray Television) as well as entity logos!

Dennis Cozzetti's 2017 footage, Dennis Winston and Tom Moore's Flyover footage, the University of Arizona represented by UBRP (Undergraduate Biology Research Program) and their Assistant Program Director; Marisa Lester, MS. The Virtual 4th of July Parade was narrated as in previous parades by Michael Stanley. These are among the talented and professional members of our community who provided substance when needed most. Young people also made significant contributions: our Sky Island Kids Club led by Christina Grossman were remarkable in front of their tepee reminding us that while our beloved mountain has been around for millions of years, future generations will continue to cherish it. Who can ever forget the conclusion of our virtual parade with Pam Haskell's entry of the Mt. Lemmon Blowhards & the Walketts starring Phoebe Haskell and Presley Gyuro directed by Clay Haskell. Our parade sponsors, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club, literally came out of the forest practicing social distancing and wearing face masks, so appropriate for 2020!

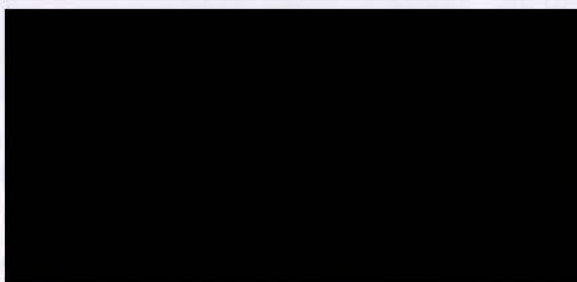
The highlight of July 4, 2020, of course, was the LIVE parade with the Helicopter Flyover and Color Guard tractor proudly presenting the American flag! Coming up the hill representatives of our priceless volunteers shoveling invisible sandbags and another dragging a firehose followed by the best surprise of all: our Mt. Lemmon Fire District Paramedic and Fire trucks with flashing lights, with a cadre of other essential fighters of the Bighorn Fire, the Deputy Sheriffs' vehicle, and the distinct green of the Forest Department truck all reminding us of the massive team with firefighters from across the country, the brave pilots and all those who risked their lives giving us hope that another day will dawn with awesome beauty on our Island in the Sky!

By Susanne Drolet



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We all missed being able to watch it live in the village, but the patriotic spirit was still on major display in this year's unique Independence Day Parade!

