

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes



Running water in Molino Canyon photo by Pamela Selby-Harmon

History of Soldier Camp Area (Pre-Catalina Highway)

by Chuck Huber

Back in the olden days of yore, when the only way up the mountain was via the Oracle Control Road, Soldier Camp was significantly different. It was the headquarters of the USFS Ranger Station, and it was the telecommunications “hub” of the area.



Figure 1 – Soldier Camp
Historical Ranger Station, 1915

The road from the Control Road to Pali-sades followed much more closely the eastern branch of Sabino Creek and is much lower than it is now. In fact, if one starts from the Sunset Trailhead and follows the creek to the east, you will see the foundations of an old stone bridge used to cross the creek. You will also pass the foundations of an abandoned cabin that was once along the original road.

The meadow below the Sunset Trailhead was much larger and spread all the way across to the Butterfly Trailhead area before it was interrupted by the Catalina Highway. Historical pictures of the area show the meadow (Figure 1), and the official Soldier Camp Phone Booth (Figure 3), which were both located in this area.

Soldier Camp Lake was created by dam, constructed of stacked stone over 20' high in one of the natural rock formations on East Sabino Creek (Figure 2). Over the years, the lake (like most mountain lakes) silted over and has since turned into a meadow. With the growth of tall grasses and willow-like vegetation, the lake no longer sports the deep pool that once held fish. Summer pleasure seekers no longer woo their sweethearts in idyllic journeys in their small rowboats.

Times change, and the progress (primarily the Catalina Highway) that made both Summerhaven and our mountain what it is today can't be stopped. I hope you enjoy a few pictures of a simpler time.



Figure 2 – Soldier Camp Lake



Figure 3 – Telephone Booth
at Soldier Camp, 1920

Photos courtesy of USFS “Heritage Photo Gallery”



August

10th—13th

Perseid Meteor Showers
(peaking)

21st

Board Meetings
MLWD 8:30 am
MLHOA 10:00 am
Woman's Club 1:00 pm
2:30 Henry Johnson

Birds of the Catalinas & Tucson 2020

22nd

Full Moon

Mt. Lemmon

by Marty Mollo

I came upon the mountain
And left New York estranged
The Library, the fountain
The wise and the deranged

Here waiting for me on the mount
Their arms outstretched with love
I met the raven and the bear
I met the circled moon above

The stars and planets found me here
More than I knew existing
N.Y. memories hound me there
The yearn for culture persisting

Oh holy night, the moon is bright
Our very souls are glowing
Oh holy morn, with day glow light
The love of God is showing

Reprinted from the Echoes February 2006



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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Loves Weeds and Wildflowers

by Carol Niehoff

The rains have brought an abundance of wildflowers to our community. Along with the flowers, there are weeds, weeds everywhere! Many years ago, I attended a lecture during which the presenter questioned the difference between a weed and a wildflower. An astute attendee answered, "It depends on whether you like it or not." I suppose the answer truly relates to the view of the of the individual.

Much like the mountain landscape today, our club has many members with differing views of the organization. Most, if not all, "like" the club and indeed, view it as a flower. But just as a flower needs tending so as not to be lost to the weeds, our club needs active, involved individuals who work to maintain the integrity of the organization. From the treasurer to the president of the club, to those who work to keep us informed, track our contact information, schedule lectures and work behind the scenes at events, we have dedicated members ensuring our continued growth.



Linda Mulay – 2-Term Past President

At the luncheon in June, it was our pleasure to recognize the past presidents who continue to maintain their membership and support MLWC in so many ways.

Our history is tied to these individuals and we are fortunate to have them as an ongoing part of the club.

At the luncheon and our meeting in July, we welcomed many new members. After the meeting, Dorothy Johnson, MD enlightened us with riveting information from recent studies of Marijuana and its effects on children.

Robin Kirk has, once again, secured the fabulous venue for our Holiday Brunch. We will be celebrating on December 4th at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon.

co-presidents, Carol Niehoff and Tina Hanks



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.



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Monsoon Awareness

by Dan Leade, Capt/A-Shift



The monsoons have finally made it, and this proves to be a much better year than the previous two! As of July 13th, the National Weather Service reported that Tucson had already reported more monsoon-related precipitation than all of 2020. In fact, the gauge at the fire station has already recorded multiple 24-hour periods with over an inch or more rain to date. While this much-needed relief from constant drought is surely appreciated, that does not mean the monsoons are without danger.

Flooding dangers can usually be mitigated by simply avoiding flooded roadways. The National Weather Service concludes that flooding is the number one cause of death from thunderstorms. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over half of these deaths are a result of driving into hazardous flood waters. As the "Turn Around Don't Drown" webpage notes, "A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars, and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters."

As of 2019, the National Climatic Data Center points out that since 1996, there have been 82 injuries and 17 deaths from **lightning** just in Arizona. For those of us who might be caught near lightning atop Mt Lemmon, the Arizona Emergency Information Network offers these tips for reducing personal risk:

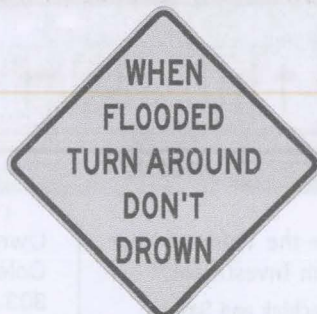
In a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.

In an open area, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley and be alert for flash floods.

If you feel your hair stand on end, lightning is about to strike. DO NOT lie flat on the ground. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet and place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees to make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.

Safety concerns related to driving include limited visibility, slick pavement, rock or mud slides, power lines blocking travel paths, heavy equipment clearing roadways, and increased stopping distances. While outside of a vehicle, besides lightning, be aware of rapidly dropping temperatures, hail, high winds, and vehicles (as they will be facing the above conditions). Of particular concern this year are issues related to the Bighorn Fire. Burned areas are susceptible to mud/debris slides, flash flooding, unstable terrain, and trees lacking structural integrity.

We desperately need the rain, so keep up the rain dances (they seem to be working) and enjoy the monsoons safely!



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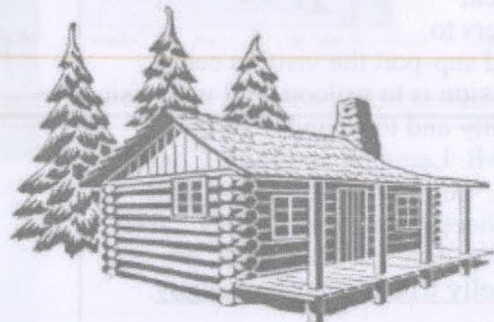
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****New email****

SelbyHarmon@aol.com



Important Notice Regarding Your Mt. Lemmon Echoes

One of the benefits of belonging to the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association is receiving your monthly copy of the *Echoes*. However, there are homeowners who are delinquent in payment of dues. Please check the mailing label on your copy of the *Echoes* to see if you are current or delinquent. This information is directly below your name. If you are current, the label will indicate: PAID THROUGH 2/1/2022.

Effective September 30, 2021, homeowners who have not paid their dues will be deleted from the *Echoes* mailing list. Thank you for your assistance in updating the list.

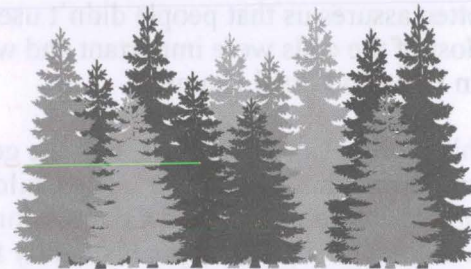


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Mountain Magic Memories

by Diana Osborne

Mary Childs Cotten was my grandmother. She tells our family's history in the creation of Summerhaven and what it was like in the good old days better than I can in this reprinted Spotlight article by Frances R. Morse from the June 5, 1979, edition of Echoes.

Mary Childs Cotten

"I was the phone girl. They chose me because I could leap over the rocks and get the people to the phone quickly. I don't remember the exact year, but I was just a girl. The Forest Service put one of the phones outside our cabin on a big pine with a little roof over the phone. People in Summerhaven had two hours that the phone could be used to make outgoing calls. During the other times the phone could only be used for incoming calls or by the Forest Service. It was my job to answer the phone and get the person called there as quickly as possible. I took my responsibility gravely and practically flew to get the people to the telephone."

Mrs. Cotten assures us that people didn't use that phone just to chat. Most of the calls were important and were for important people in Pima and Pinal Counties.

E.W. Childs, Mrs. Cotten's father, was the gentleman who originally put Summerhaven together. The Childs family lived in Mammoth where he was a Road Commissioner. He was looking around for a cool place to put his family for the summer, and he found Mt. Lemmon. Again, Mary Cotten wasn't sure of the exact date, but can place times by some of the big events. She remembers her brother going to the mountain to visit in 1910 and getting involved with fighting the big forest fire that year. Apparently, the Forest Service drafted all the volunteers they could get.



Mary Childs Cotten 1941

So, apparently it was prior to 1910 that Cotton's father first nurtured an interest in developing a colony on Mt. Lemmon. And in 1915 he finally had enough backers to get Summerhaven Land & Improvement Co. started. These men were John F. Hankins, F.E.A. Kimball, Ira E. Huffman, B.F. Morris, Charles A. Thomas, John B. Ryland, R.B. O'Neil, J.B. Toohey, J. Edward Owen, and of course E.W. Childs as president. So on September 26, 1916 the incorporation papers were filed, the Frank Weber homestead was purchased and the name changed to Summerhaven. Three cottages were built almost immediately, one of them the Child's cabin.

In 1917 the sawmill was purchased from Jim Westfall and 20 more cabins were scheduled for completion. The first cabins rented for \$35.00 per month and each had its own outhouse.

According to Mrs. Cotten, the only people she remembers from Mt. Lemmon when she first came were Leta and Jim Westfall. Later she got to know the Huntsmans in Marshall's Gulch and Kitts in Soldier's Camp. Pauline Kitt and Nancy Huntsman were her companions and the walk from Summerhaven to Marshall's Gulch to Soldier's Camp was nothing.

Continued



Mrs. Cotten , continued

Mrs. Cotton remembers the mountain as an unbelievably lovely place back in those early days. There were beautiful butterflies, and the flowers were everywhere. Streams were much more numerous, and water seemed to "ooze from the ground every place you went. Shooting stars, purple violets, and lilies of the valley grew all over the mountain."

She also remembers the trip up the mountain. They came up the back side as far as Bob Leatherwood's orchard. There they parked the car and walked up. And the females had to wear high laced, hobnail boots.

Mary Childs Cotten spent every summer on the mountain until 1926 when her father died. She has many memories from this time. She remembers driving from Mammoth to Tucson with her family and the washboard dirt roads between the towns. By the time you reached Tucson, you were almost sick. She remembers riding horseback around the mountain and Mr. Kimball bringing the mail up every week. Even though the Childs' family had their own spring, Mary remembers bathing and washing clothes almost daily. She didn't have to haul water, but she did have to heat it over a wood stove.



Mary Childs Cotten
1979

With her father's death, Mary Childs moved to California. Her mother had died at her birth, and now her father was gone. Her stepmother was nice, but Mary felt it was time she left. In California Miss Childs met a friend of her brother's from Tucson and soon became Mrs. Lamar Cotten.

When the Cotten family moved to Tucson several years later, Mary again spent her summers on the mountain. At first she stayed in the old family place which now belonged to one of her stepsisters. Eventually she built her own cabin on the mountain, where she stayed with her children Janis and Jerry. During this time she remembers the building of the front road. Even before the front road was completed, cabin owners were using it to get to their cabins. A gate was set up at the old prison camp, and a ranger had to let travelers through. Eventually, she had her own key to the lock because she used the road so regularly.

Mrs. Cotten has seen much happen to the mountain since the original subdivision by her father. She sold her cabin years ago when the children were grown and she was alone. When the old Childs cabin burned down in the early 70's she had mixed emotions. For a time she came to the mountain to visit friends, but now her doctor tells her she must not even do that. So she spends her time trying to put together a little history of her family. She also reads quite a bit. She really doesn't mind not visiting the mountain because to Mary Childs Cotten everything has changed...Even the flowers are not as pretty anymore.



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Local businesses' Summer hours

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Sawmill Run Restaurant 520-576-9147

Wednesday & Thursday: 10:30 am —4:00 pm

Friday: 10:30 am—8:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am—8:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am—5:00 pm

ML General Store 520-576-1468

Monday—Friday: 10:00 am—6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am —7:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am —6:00 pm

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Seven days a week: 11:00 am —5:00 pm (oven shuts off at 4:30 pm)

Living Rainbow 520-576-1519

Seven days a week: 11:00 am —4:00 pm

Sky Island Trading 520-861-0161

Friday, Saturday, Sunday (and any other day you see the flags out) 11:00 am —4:00 pm

Ski Valley 520-576-1321

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 10:30 am —4:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 am —4:30 pm

ML Community Center 520-576-9614

When the US Flag is flying; generally Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Palisades Visitor's Center

Seven days a week: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

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of each month: 4:00 pm

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ML Water District 520-576-1538

ML Fire Department 520-576-1201

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Water, Water Everywhere!

by Michael Stanley

July 28, 2021 All of our prayers have been answered for return to our regular monsoons. Since the 1st of July we have received about 13 inches of rain. The first week was a little lackluster but the rest of the month made up for all of last year and this year may break records. Sabino Creek did not start to flow until last week with 3 days of rain. In those days we were blessed with almost 6 inches of needed rain. Sabino's water table was slow to rise and we wondered if storms would fizzle like last season. The high and low pressure systems moved into position which brought in steady precipitation. The forecast looks favorable for continued moisture. Some minor flooding is expected due to the exceptional drought we have been experiencing. The west has suffered for many years and our hopes are to see weather patterns better situated for relief.

Now on to our curtailment situation, we have been in Stage 2 since October of last year. This stage is a 50% voluntary reduction of water use. Our source inflow was reduced to 5 gallons per minute and storage was down to just over 1 million gallons. We reserve 500,000 for fire-fighting needs. The lack of storage and low source flow, coupled with very high customer usage, created the need for conservation measures. You, our customers, along with the district's continued diligence in finding and repairing leaks, slowed the usage and outflow. The source is now producing over 20 gallons a minute and by the end of this week we will be filled to capacity. Our return to normal status depends on continued rain for summer and on into autumn. Today, these goals look optimistic, they demand keeping an eye out for continued drought situations, water leaks and over usage. Please keep informed of changes with the water system by staying tuned to the Echoes, MLHOA Google Group and Nextdoor for updates.

Do your part in conserving precious resources for our use.

Greetings from your editor

As the rain fell, we rejoiced! I wish the weather could be blamed for the delays with getting you the *Echoes*, but really it's on me and my mediocre computer skills. (My computer gave up the ghost, without my having backed up my data recently and I had to recreate this issue from scratch on the day it was supposed to be sent to the printers—I hope I didn't miss anything!).

Generally, I enjoy this, but when things go awry or I miss things I feel bad. Like I forgot to let you all know that those awesome pictures with last month's article on the Flycatchers were provided by Henry Johnson and his Mt Lemmon AZ Images; they were excellent!

Also excellent was the small gathering in celebration of Marty Mollo, held at Duane Durham's cabin. Quite a few of us got together, shared some food and some stories. Former Postmaster, Mark Hopkins, made the trek up from Willcox. Marty's niece, who lives in Sedona joined us. And Marty's brother Michael (in from North Carolina), along with *his* son Mikey (from California), performed a great song that Marty wrote. The family resemblance with Marty and his brother, both in appearance and in voice, were joyfully creepy-like Marty was there with us in the flesh.

Sadly, now we have another former mountain resident to say goodbye to, as Howard Bernstein passed away a few weeks ago. I know the community sends deep condolences to his wife Sandy and the rest of their family.

Coming up with content for this little publication is the hard part for me. If anyone would like to contribute to the *Echoes* (stories, photos or more), email me at selbyharmon@aol.com
Ever onward! Pamela

Important USFS Updates

By CJ Woodard, USFS Santa Catalina Ranger District

The Santa Catalina Ranger District has a seasonal closure in effect for Charaleau Gap, Red Ridge Trail and Peppersauce campground for public health and safety due to an active monsoon season.

Additionally, we have closed the Control Road due to rock slides affecting the road and will be working to clear the debris as soon as possible. Please remain vigilant during the active while recreating on the Santa Catalina Ranger District.

Monsoon season is here!

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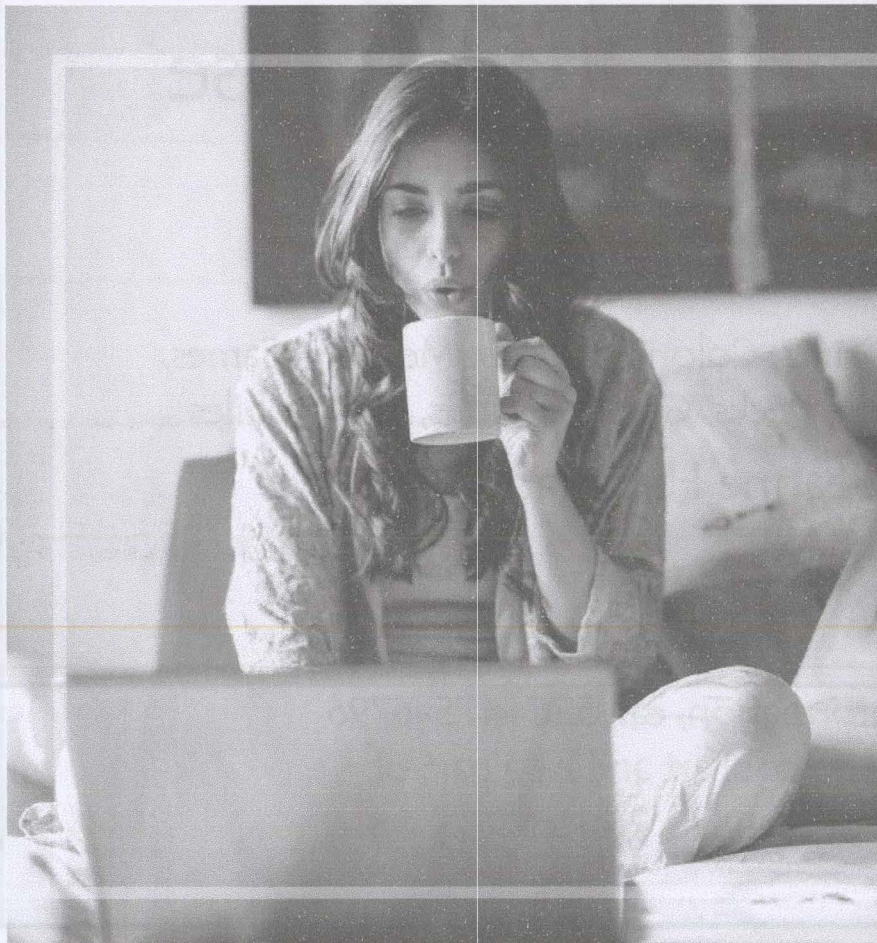
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From the Desk of Steve Christy, via Beth Borozan

by Chief of Staff Beth Borozan

"This is a day I will never forget." - Liz Borozan. The event was the Mt. Lemmon HOA's Fourth of July celebration at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. It was an amazing gathering with lots of familiar and new faces, great grub, and over-the-top mountain hospitality.

Mom Liz enjoyed meeting so many of the folks she has heard me speak of over these past four-plus years. I overheard her telling more than one person, "Of course she loves the mountain, I've been bringing her up here since she was 5."

And it was truly stunning when the rain stopped and clouds parted just in time for the fly-over at noon. That pretty much knocked her socks off. The virtual parade was a hoot and a half. Kudos to the team who made that happen. The raffle, chock full of coveted creative prizes, well...

On behalf of Supervisor Christy, I thank you for recognizing our efforts to secure funding for the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department. We were able to impress upon the other Supervisors the critical public safety mission of the department, and the measure passed 5 - 0.

On behalf of my mother, I thank you for making her feel so welcome. (She's talking about buying some land.)

And, as always, I thank you and Supervisor Christy for the opportunity to be of service.

Art Show and Open House

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About your Mt. Lemmon Home Owner'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, but the mountain community in general. Full membership with voting rights is accorded to private owners and leased land holders upon payment of yearly dues; renters and friends of the mountain can be non-voting members. 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.

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: Sally Crum, president; Jenni Zimmerman, vice-president; Anne Skelley, treasurer; John Osborne, secretary; Pamela Selby-Harmon, Echoes editor; and members-at-large Linda Currin, 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 Anne Skelley at 520-429-9199 or email sgca891@gmail.com



Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association

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Important News You Can Use

by Matt Grossman

There are four online resources available to keep Mount Lemmon residents up-to-date between Echoes editions:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association maintains a website at <https://mtlemmonhoa.org/>. Check it out, get informed, and contribute.
3. A neighborhood group has been set up on Nextdoor.com. Sign up using your cabin street address to be connected to the Mount Lemmon group. If you already use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, you need to sign up for Mount Lemmon under a different email address, since only one neighborhood is permitted per email address at this time. This venue is important for general information, worthwhile educational benefits and timely communication, especially during critical concerns such as fire danger and road closures.
4. MLFDAZ.org is the web-address for our Fire Department. On their home page, under the Resources tab is *Firewise*. This tab takes you to the compilation of the important Firewise information and forms. This includes an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and even more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.



MLHOA Celebrates July 4th and Monsoon!

by Sally Crum, president

Welcome to Monsoon! As of mid-July, we've had nearly or over 13" of rain on the mountain, depending on location. What a welcome relief and hopefully we will be receiving more over the rest of the summer.

The 4th of July Celebration was a huge success. Not only did we have LOTS of rain, but we enjoyed time visiting with our neighbors and meeting many new ones. The fly-over was wonderful (thank you Dennis Winsten and the 162nd Wing of the Air National Guard), and we raised over \$1400 for the MLFD. Chief Joe Gunia has said the funds will be used to purchase helmets. John Perchorowicz, chairman of the MLFD Executive Board, provided us with an update on finances and plans for the department. It was truly a time of celebration. Thank you to all who helped and contributed raffle prizes.

We are currently making plans for the Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 5th. Watch Nextdoor and MLHOA listserv for more details.

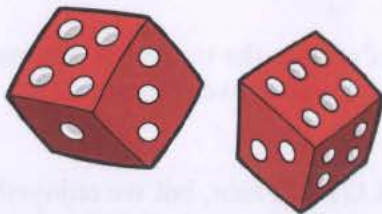
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Enjoy our wonderful mountain and stay safe!

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Bunco is back!

Join us August 20, September 17, and October 15th at 6:30 PM for another fun night of Bunco at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. Bring a snack to share, your own beverage and be ready for some exciting fun! Watch Nextdoor and MLHOA listserv for updates.

