

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Mt. Lemmon Lodging Options Contribute to Community

by Stacey Cochran and Susan Miller-Cochran

Two new major lodging options in Summerhaven, the Mt. Lemmon Hotel (opened in 2021) and the Mt. Lemmon Lodge (opened in 2023) have changed the landscape of the village, providing new ways for visitors to extend their stays on the mountain. But perhaps most importantly, they have provided anchors for the community, hosting events and providing more dining and shopping options for visitors and residents alike.

Both establishments are operated by members of the Mt. Lemmon community. John and Diana Osborne have been life-long Mt. Lemmon residents, and their recent events at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge have been highlights of the holiday season (see pictures from the White Elephant party on page 11). Justin and Andrea Hafner, owners of the Mt. Lemmon Hotel, permanently relocated recently to Tucson and Mt. Lemmon with their growing family. We had a chance to catch up with Justin recently to learn more about the Mt. Lemmon Hotel and their recent move.

MLE: So, you're a couple years into development and management of the Mt. Lemmon Hotel. Looking back over the past couple of years, how has the experience been?

Justin: The experience has been wonderful. Many of our team members have become family friends. We try to take care of our employees, and we've only lost one employee in nearly 3 years. It's important to take care of people and show them you are genuine and that you genuinely care. (continued on page 3)



Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Merle and Sandi Triplett) pose for a photo at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge holiday event on December 16, 2023. (photo courtesy of Patty Thomas)



Hafner family (photo courtesy of Justin Hafner)



Mt. Lemmon Hotel (courtesy of website)

Mt Lemmon Woman's Club

by Sandi Triplett, MLWC President

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club (MLWC) celebrated the holidays with a wonderful Winter Brunch on Saturday, December 2, 2023. We owe a huge 'thank you' to Robin Kirk for planning and organizing a lovely event that morning at the Ventana Country Club. At the brunch, we collected donations for two local organizations. Linda Mulay led the efforts for one of our "done-in-a-day" projects by gathering donated items for the annual Christmas party at the Santa Rosa Care Center. Luann Waldron collected donations from MLWC members for an under-resourced local elementary school. Robin Kirk led the group in a rousing guessing game designed to help us get to know our neighbors. We even enjoyed a visit from "Santa," in the form of a bearded and costumed Rose Mary Hinsch, who delivered handmade commemorative ornaments to all of the ladies in attendance.



MLWC members also met for a coffee at Coffee Xchange on Tanque Verde and Camino Principal on January 16. Our next coffee will also be at Coffee Xchange on Wednesday, February 21 at 10 AM. These coffee gatherings are wonderful ways to get to know others in the community.

MLWC will hold its next meeting at the Wilmot library in Tucson at 1:00pm on Saturday, March 16 at 1 PM, and we have an exciting agenda planned. All members will want to attend!

(above) Members of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club gather on December 2, 2023 at the Ventana Country Club for their annual winter brunch. Photo courtesy of Tami Arthur.



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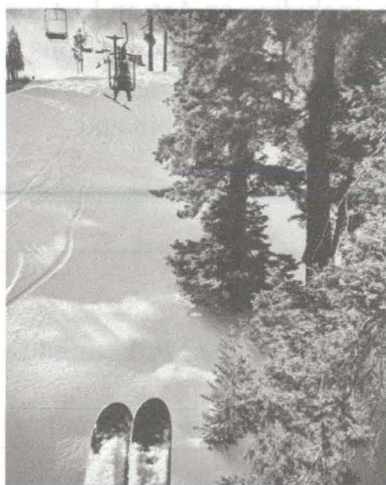
Opening Day at Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley

by Susan Miller-Cochran

Opening day on the slopes of Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley for the 2023-2024 winter season is Friday, January 26. The ski area is able to open because recent weather brought approximately two feet of snow to the slopes, according to employees at Ski Valley. The recent snow provides enough of a base for skiing and snowboarding to commence safely.

Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley is the southernmost ski area in the contiguous United States. The resort has 200 skiable acres, according to their website, with 21 runs.

Ski Valley is open Thursday-Monday and closes Tuesday and Wednesday. Rentals open at 8:30 AM daily, and close at 2 PM. For up-to-date information, visit their website at <http://skithellemmon.com>, or call the snow information line at 520-576-1400.

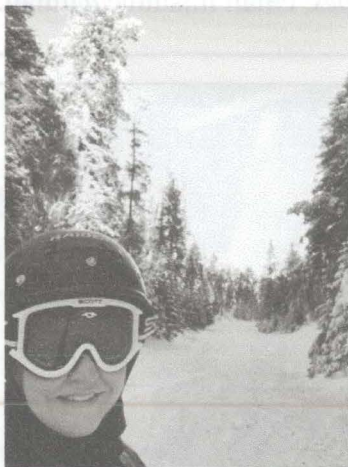


Preparing to ski down the slopes at Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley. The chair lift is visible in the upper left corner of the photo

(photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

The author prepares to head down one of the runs on the west side of Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley

(photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)



Mt. Lemmon Lodging Options

(continued from page 1)

MLE: You recently made the move back to Tucson with your family. How has that affected your ability to manage the day-to-day operations of the Mt. Lemmon Hotel?

Justin: Not much has changed except for having some peace of mind when it snows... we have very quick access from living in the Tanque Verde Valley and we're traveling just a little bit less so that we can spend more quality time with family.

MLE: What are some of the changes you have in store for the future that you can share with readers of the Mt. Lemmon Echoes?

Justin: We know Mt. Lemmon is a small community, and we can't give away all of our secrets, but we're young and energetic and look forward to being a part of the community for a long time. We hope to have our family cabin up and running this year.

We wish the best in this new year to these two businesses and the families that run them! We're grateful for what they contribute to our community.

Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2024

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA

(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

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February and early March Calendar

2/17

- ML Water District Board, Zimmerman School, 8:30 AM
- MLHOA Board, Zoom, 10 AM

2/19

- ML Fire Board, Fire Station and via Zoom at mlfdaz.org, 4 PM

2/21

- MLWC coffee, Coffee XChange, Tanque Verde and Camino Principal, Tucson

3/2

- FLAP Grant Meeting, Wilmot Library, Tucson, 1-3 PM

Note: February 18 is the deadline for submitting items for the March 2024 issue of the *Echoes*.

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information

By Matthew Grossman

Here are online resources to keep Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of *The Echoes*:

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 Homeowners' Association maintains a website at mtlemmonhoa.org. Get informed and contribute to the community.
3. Sign up at Nextdoor.com, using your cabin street address. If you use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a new email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This offers general information and important communication, especially with wildfires and road closures.
4. MLFDZ.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the home page, under the Resources tab, is Firewise. This takes you to important information and forms, including an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published 10 times a year, February through November, by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association.

To contribute stories, photos and calendar items, or for additional information about the *Echoes*, email Editor Susan Miller-Cochran at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

To get advertising rates and reserve ad space in *The Echoes*, email mjsintuc@gmail.com.



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Continue Your Firewise Efforts--They're Paying Off!

by Sally Crum, Firewise Chair

Hopefully you are all enjoying the cooler weather and even the much-needed moisture we've been receiving. Your Firewise Team is already at work, planning for our 2024 activities. Dorothy Johnson continues to work tirelessly to recruit and train our Neighborhood Captains and gather information for our website (mlfdaz.org Firewise).

Thanks to the hard work of our community, we submitted our 2024 Firewise Community Renewal Application, and it has been approved. We removed over 400 cubic yards of hazardous fuels and were credited with nearly \$52,000 in money and hours spent in Firewise efforts, well over the minimum requirement. Thank you SO MUCH to Karen Burrows for assisting me with gathering and posting all the information you provided.

With the cooler weather, this is also a good time to begin thinking of limbing up/trimming your pine trees, before the bark beetle 'season' begins.

Here are some of the important dates for the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community:

*3/30 FIREWISE ASSESSOR TRAINING

5/5 FIREWISE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

5/25 FIREWISE COMMUNITY EDUCATION and BLOCK PARTY DAY

Late July or early August FIREWISE APPRECIATION POTLUCK

*This training is open to ALL. If you are a cabin owner who is interested in specific training on steps you can take to reduce the risk of wildfire to YOUR property, please join your Neighborhood Captains for classroom and hands-on training. Please contact Dorothy Johnson at dj.dorothyjohnson@gmail.com and let her know you are interested. There is no cost for the training.

Deep Thoughts...

from Linda Currin

If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous, or is it no longer poisonous?

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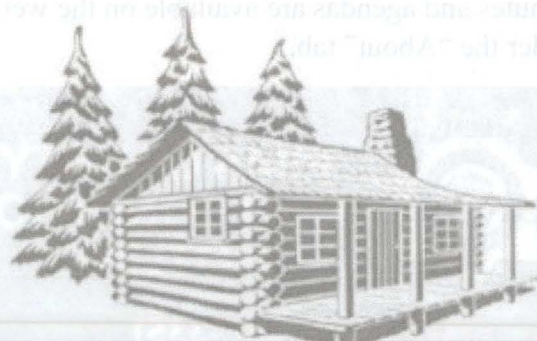
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Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board Vacancy

by John Perchorowicz
Chair, Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board will have a vacancy effective November 2024. If you're interested in running for the position at that time, here is some background information: The term is 3 years. The board's responsibilities include oversight of the Chief and the budget. The monthly board meetings, conducted in person and/or virtually, are open to the public. You must have an address and be registered to vote within the district, however you don't need a Summerhaven PO box. You may have your ballot sent to another address (in Tucson for example). Board members are required to participate in statute-mandated periodic trainings.

I encourage anyone interested in running to attend our board meetings or meet with any of the current board members. Contact information can be found at <https://mlfdaz.org> under the "About" tab. Our meetings are open to the public and currently occur on Monday afternoons at 4 PM. Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of the month, subject to change around holidays. Past minutes and agendas are available on the web site under the "About" tab.



Winter Warming Tips

by Dan Leade, MLFD

Winter is traditionally one of the times when the Mt. Lemmon Fire District experiences our greatest call volume of the year. The cold weather and rapidly changing, adverse weather conditions lead to a multitude of calls such as falls on the ice, sledding/skiing injuries, motor vehicle accidents, traffic control on Catalina Highway, downed power lines, and trees blocking emergency access that require removal.

Some of the calls that concern us the most, however, are how safe our residents are when trying to stay warm in their cabins. The U.S. Fire Administration states that, "From 2013-2015, an average of 45,900 home heating fires occurred in the United States each year and 29% of the non-confined home heating fires (fires that spread past the object of origin) happened because the heat source (like a space heater or fireplace) was too close to things that can burn." Given the importance of staying safe while heating your home, here are some suggestions to help keep you safe and warm this winter:

- Keep all flammable materials away from heating sources
- Make sure your chimney is clean and that you only burn what it is intended for
- Know where the gas shutoffs and the electrical panel are in your cabin
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (change batteries as necessary)
- If you have an alarm monitoring company, check that you are up-to-date
- Know where your fire extinguishers are and be sure they are operational
- Close your doors when you are sleeping (closeyourdoor.org)

Mount Lemmon Fire wants all of our residents to stay safe this winter. Please be cognizant of your heating practices so you can enjoy another one of our amazing seasons!

MLHOA President's Report

by Sally Crum, president

We've been enjoying rain and snow and celebrating the arrival of moisture on the mountain! I hope many of you have been able to visit and enjoy the changing seasons. As I write this, there is more rain and snow predicted; hopefully, the precipitation will help alleviate the water shortage and accompanying restrictions.

Your MLHOA Executive Board is taking a few months off but will begin our regular meetings again in February. In the meantime, here is the latest on recent and upcoming events:

--Our annual White Elephant Party was well attended (we maxed out the seating at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge). The food and fellowship were great, and the White Elephant exchange itself included a lot of stolen presents and laughter.

--A Town Hall meeting about the Federal Lands Access Program/FLAP Grant is scheduled for **March 2nd from 1-3 PM at the Wilmot Library** in Tucson. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in August 2024. The US Forest Service, Pima County Planning, and DOT, as well as other involved agencies/departments, will be in attendance to provide information on what is included in the final plan (new restrooms, additional parking, etc.) and to answer questions. Hopefully, we will be able to schedule these 'Town Hall' meetings on a quarterly basis, covering different topics of concern. Thanks to our friend, Beth Borozan of Steve Christy's District 4 office, for working with me to help pull all the pieces together!

--It is heartening to see that you are all reading your Echoes and have responded to our request to get your MLHOA dues paid on time (they are due in February 2024). You're taking advantage of the discounted rate for paying your dues no later than our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for April 16. Save the Date!

--Pima County DOT has responded to our recent snowstorms and has purchased additional equipment to meet our needs. When the roads are closed to everyone but residents and employees, please think carefully before coming up. This closure is used to allow snow removal equipment to clear the roads and make them safe. Please contact the PC Roads hotline @ 520-351-3351 to check on road closures. If any issues come up during the winter regarding snow removal in a particular area, please contact our POC, Mitch Cusolito @ 520-409-8368.

I continue to reach out to our membership for anyone interested, willing and able to assist us in seeking solutions to diminishing access to homeowner's insurance on the mountain. Please contact us at MLHOA@gmail.com if you are interested.



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Summerhaven Snow Cream

a recipe

While I know it might not be for everyone, a fresh snowfall at our cabin often calls for a batch of snow cream.

Ingredients:

8 cups of clean, fresh* snow
10 oz. can of sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix in a large bowl. While I suppose the leftovers could be stored in the freezer, we've never had any left to store!

** by fresh, I really mean fresh!*



Moonlight on snow (photo courtesy of Stacey Cochran)

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Maple Syrup Snow Candy

a recipe

When I read *Little House in the Big Woods* as a girl, I was mesmerized when Laura made maple syrup candy in the snow for the first time. Here's how it's done!

Ingredients:

A bed of clean snow, packed on a baking sheet or other flat surface
1/2 cup of real maple syrup

Pour syrup into a sauce pan on the stove and heat until boiling. Keep boiling until it reaches the "soft ball stage," or 235-240 degrees Fahrenheit (if you have a candy thermometer). No worries if you don't have a thermometer, though. If you boil the syrup past the "soft ball stage," the candy will just be crunchy rather than chewy.

Remove the pot from the stove and VERY carefully, pour short lines of syrup onto the snow. The syrup is very hot! As the syrup cools, it will harden into a candy consistency.

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Trico Electric Co-op Awards POWER Grants to Six Local Non-Profits

by Roberta Lopez-Suter, Trico

Trico Electric Cooperative has awarded a total of \$35,000 to six non-profit organizations providing critical services in southern Arizona. The grants are part of Trico's POWER Grants program and are awarded twice a year to charities throughout southern Arizona.

Non-profits are selected through an application process and reviewed by a six-person committee made up of Trico employees, Members, and Board Members.

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation received a \$2,000 grant. Receiving grants of \$5,000 each were Gabriel's Angels, Literacy Connects, and Wheel Fun "FUN." Hard Hitters for the Kingsom, Inc. received a grant of \$8,000. Junior Achievement of Arizona received a grant of \$10,000.

Since 2008, the POWER Grant program has awarded \$805,000 in grants. For more information or to apply go to www.trico.coop/power-grants.

Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving nearly 50,000 Members in Marana, Corona de Tucson, Saddlebrooke, Mt. Lemmon, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Three Points, Star Valley and Arivaca.

Trico is dedicated to making a difference in the communities we serve by providing our Members cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions. For more information about the cooperative, visit www.trico.coop or follow them on social media at facebook.com/TricoelectricAZ or instagram.com/TricoElectricAZ.



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A Name Change for the Mt. Lemmon Cordilleran Flycatcher

by Dr. Charles van Riper, III

In July 2023 the American Ornithological Society North American Classification Committee (NACC) recommended that the Cordilleran Flycatcher (the species we have on Mt Lemmon), be submerged back into the Western Flycatcher taxonomic group. The NACC evaluates the latest scientific developments in the classification, nomenclature, and distribution of North and Middle American birds. Since 1887 members of this Committee have produced an official Check-list of North American Birds as well as annual supplements to the latest edition, which are published in *Ornithology*. The Committee recognizes the controversy over species concepts in ornithology, but it generally adheres to the principles of the Biological Species Concept.

TAXONOMIC HISTORY ---In 1989, the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) was split into the Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) and the Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) that we know on Mt Lemmon. This split was based mainly on research by Ned Johnson and his students at UC Berkeley, who identified differences in vocalizations and allozyme frequencies, differences that were maintained across a small contact zone in California. At that time this was enough evidence for the NACC to agree to split the Western Flycatcher into the Pacific-slope Flycatcher that resided on the western slopes of mountain ranges from British Columbia, the Cascades, and through to the Sierra Nevada mountains. The Cordilleran Flycatcher was assigned to the eastern slopes of these ranges, and the Sky Island mountains that we know in the Southwestern United States and Mexico.

TAXONOMIC CHANGE ---In 2023 the American Ornithological Society's NACC reviewed a proposal by W. Alexander Hopping & Ethan Linck to merge the Pacific Slope and Cordilleran flycatcher species. To briefly state Hopping & Linck's argument for lumping, they felt that the two flycatchers were so much alike that they did not meet the criteria for falling under either the Biological Species Concept, that requires reproductive isolation, or the Phylogenetic Species Concept, that requires separation based on differences in appearance and/or vocalizations. The genetic evidence published by Link et al. showed significant interbreeding, while Hopping's analyses of vocalization spectrograms in the northwest hybrid zone e.g., western Idaho), found insufficient differences between the two species. They argued that the Pacific Slope and Cordilleran groups were so similar that they could not be identified by sight, and the vocalizations among birds in both groups varied to such a degree that many birds could not be assigned exclusively to either species.

Utilizing this new information, the NACC decided to place the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers back into a single species named "Western Flycatcher." This is a change that was anticipated by many based on the new genetic and vocalization information, and welcomed by many birders who had difficulty telling the two flycatchers apart.

The Cornell University eBird program will soon make these changes and will assign all formerly identified Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers to Western Flycatcher which will now be the only choice in eBird for these flycatchers. For those of us on Mt Lemmon who have struggled for years on how to pronounce Cor-dill-air-an Flycatcher, our worries are over. Western Flycatcher will be much easier to pronounce, and the present "COFL" network will now be renamed the "WEFL" network. And the birds that arrive back this spring from Mexico to nest on our mountain, buildings, and platforms will probably not be at all phased by their new name.

Dr. Charles van Riper III, Emeritus Professor and ST Scientist, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, US Geological Survey Southwest Biological Science Center, University of Arizona, 520 N Park Ave, Tucson, AZ 85719 –



The Cordilleran Flycatcher, now known as the Western Flycatcher.



*Group Photo at the White Elephant Party
(photo courtesy of Matthew Carrier)*

2023 White Elephant Party

by Sally Crum

The Annual White Elephant Party for 2023 was hosted by Diana Osborne at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge on December 16. The event was a sell-out, with every seat filled with festive party-goers of all ages. We enjoyed an excellent dinner, beginning with delicious appetizers, followed by a full soup and salad buffet and tasty Beyond Bread pastries. During dinner, the crowd enjoyed live music. Dinner was followed by our White Elephant exchange. There was a LOT of stealing and laughter going on! Our thanks to the Osbornes and the staff of the Mt. Lemmon Lodge for helping to make this event a huge success.

The lucky winner of the White Elephant, which makes her next year's host, is our very own Deputy Sloan. She was a little surprised as this was her first White Elephant Party, but she has lots of volunteers to help her plan next year's event.



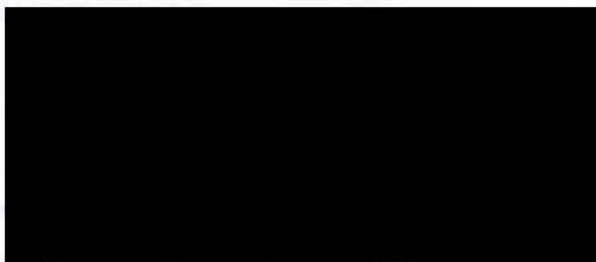
*John and Linda Mulay
at the White Elephant Party
(photo courtesy of Matthew Carrier)*



*Live music at the White Elephant Party was provided by Susan Artemis (piano and vocals), Fred Hayes (drums) and Ed Friedland (bass)
(photo courtesy of Matthew Carrier)*

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