

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

www.mtlemonhoa.org

Your Mountain Needs You

Every activity, task, event, project... *every whatever...* on the mountain requires volunteers. We have volunteer firefighters, auxiliary law enforcement, and volunteers who oversee our water systems. We *depend* on volunteers. Without them there would be no website, newsletter, pancake breakfast, 4th of July parade, chili cook-off, ice cream freeze-off, chipping days, or bunko.

In 2025, Dorothy Johnson relinquished her role as Firewise champion and neighborhood captain coordinator; Linda Currin is ready to turn over planning pancake breakfasts and annual meetings; there are old-time board members who need to step down for health reasons. Everyone had fun and cherishes the friends they made, but agree it's time for a younger generation to step up.

Yes, your mountain needs *you*.

Most volunteer activities require little effort or time. An hour here or there; more if you want. It's a flexible volunteer arrangement you tailor around your needs and interests. Spare an hour to take tickets at the pancake breakfast? Make a pot of chili for the cook-off? Help chip slash in your neighborhood once a year? Be a neighborhood Firewise captain? Attend a board meeting once a month? You can help out when, where, and for as long as you like.

Can we count on you this year? Mountain life has always been about community. Make some new friends and have fun while you're at it!

contact: Sally Crum at mlhoa@gmail.com

Be a Volunteer Hero

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District is restarting its volunteer program. The goal is to support our firefighters with volunteers to extend our resources.

We anticipate relaunching the volunteer program in the Spring once the snow is gone. By then we would like to have completed interviews (in-person or on line) and be ready to institute in-person training; however enrollment is by no means limited to this one time. Inquiries are welcome at any time following the launch.



Depending upon your physical capabilities and desire, volunteer activities could include: traffic control at an incident; retrieving equipment and supplies in an ambulance or engine for firefighters; helping provide first aid; moving a patient; patient assessment on the trail; patrol during fire restrictions; water handling; technical rope work; and driving.

For more details on the volunteer program, what is entailed, and what is expected of volunteers, please visit the Mt. Lemmon Fire District website (MLFDaz.org), click on "Volunteer Opportunities."

You may also contact Lou or John directly to discuss your interest and arrange for an interview.

Lou Crum: lou.crum44@gmail.com

John Perchorowicz: jperchorowicz@mlfdaz.org

Our firefighters (and community) are counting on you!

WHAT'S INSIDE: President's Corner 2 | HOA Membership Renewal & Calendar of Events 3 | MLHOA & Public Safety 4 | Fire Station News 5 | Firewise® 6 | From the desk of Supervisor Christy 7 | Insurance Blues 8 | Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club & Back in the Day 9 | Water District Update and USFS News 10 | Photos! 11



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President's Corner

Sally Crum



Welcome back everyone! And a *special* welcome to all our new members! We're glad you've joined our community and look forward to meeting you!

December and January saw the MLHOA board and the *Echoes* take a holiday break, but there was still plenty going on. There was the white elephant party (always a hoot!), the Woman's Club holiday brunch and coffees, an elegant Christmas Eve dinner at the Lodge, and a fun whiskey tasting dinner at the Sawmill! Hope you were able to be part of the festivities.

We are commiserating with our friends at Ski Valley. Mother Nature has been stingy with this year's snow fall. The lack of snow means water conservation remains a priority for all of us. Please keep using common sense conservation practices.

In December, I presented our Firewise® program and its successes at the Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Summit in Tucson. The summit was a remarkable opportunity to learn and network with experts from all over who shared valuable insights on grant information, insurance, and technology. Our Board is looking into a software package, presented at the conference, that coordinates, combines, and tracks Firewise® activities and progress. This would streamline processes and make us more efficient. You'll be hearing more about this during the year.

The one fact stressed over and over at the conference and by all participants was: *fire mitigation strategies work!*

We encourage everyone to get involved and remind you that Board meetings (third Saturday of the month at 10 am) are always open to the public and we welcome your participation and input.

I am looking forward to all the new year will bring! Get ready for a fun-filled Summer.

SEE YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN!



Shannon & Mitch are long time Mt. Lemmon residents. They're ready to install, fix, or troubleshoot your garage door!



Did you know Mt. Lemmon was once home to the nation's highest golf course?

HOA Membership 2025

It's time to re-up your membership in the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association. Not a member? Well then, you're missing out on all the benefits enjoyed by your neighbors!

- A voice in amending HOA Bylaws and choosing board members who will address your concerns.
- Direct support and advocacy from the County Supervisor for issues important to homeowners, e.g., Insurance!
- Easy access to USFS personnel on concerns such as Firewise, pile burning, broadcast burning, FS restrictions and policies.
- Annual subscription to the *Mt. Lemmon Echoes*, Summerhaven's most trusted news source!
- Law enforcement/Fire Department updates.

But **MOST OF ALL** you benefit from being part of a 100+ year old community devoted to preserving and enhancing life on the mountain!

If you are a **NEW** HOA member, please send the form and a check so we gather your contact information

February Calendar

2nd

Groundhog Day

12th

MLWC Coffee

10 am

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library

14th

Valetine's Day

Check out the specials at the Lodge

15th

MLHOA Meeting

10 am

Community Center

17th

President's Day

Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2025

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA

(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA

P.O. Box 699

Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name _____

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City/State/Zip _____

Mt Lemmon Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mt Lemmon Phone _____

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Check One

☐ Property Owner ☐ Renter ☐ Friend of Mountain

Use Zelle to **RENEW** your MLHOA membership!

zelle

Here's how:



Scan the QR code!

Find your bank and click enroll. Easy peasy!

Be sure to use MLHOATRES@gmail.com as the Send/Recipient

MLHOA Meeting

The next MLHOA meeting will be held Saturday, February 15th at 10 am in the Community Center.

This year the Board's priorities are:

Recruiting new Board members
Homeowner Insurance
Water Management
Firewise & Risk Reduction

Come join us!

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Mexican Spotted Owl restrictions begin **March 1**. No outdoor use of power tools (including battery powered). No outdoor construction, No chainsaws.

Keep those owls happy!

Fire Department Reports

December

1 - EMS/Rescue
4 - FIRE

January (1st - 20th)

5 - EMS/Rescue
1 - FIRE
1 - False Alarm/
Cancelled



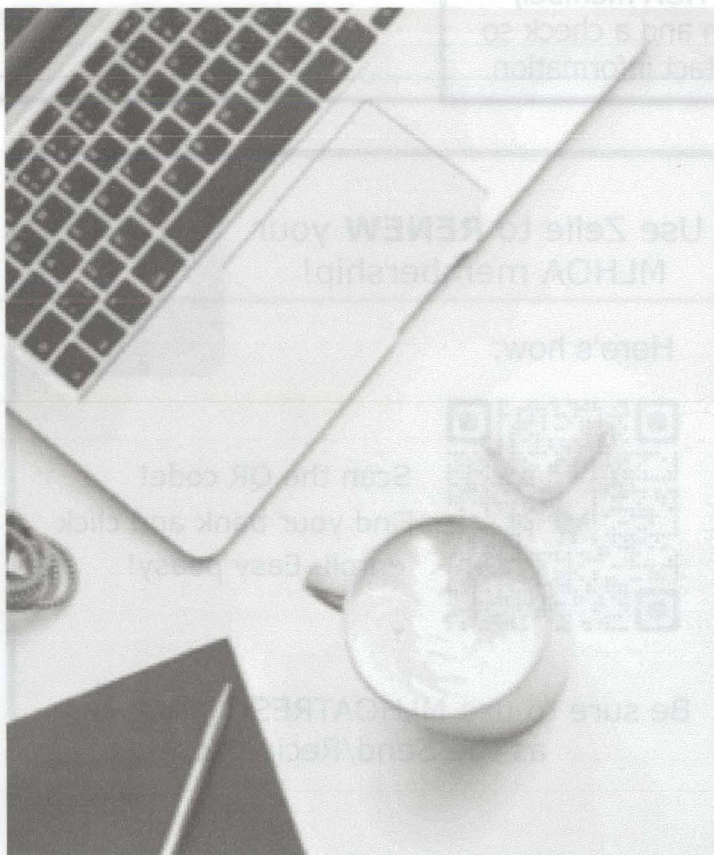
Sheriff Department Reports

December

1 Accident
1 Reckless driver
3 Found/lost property
2 Check welfare
8 public assist
6 USFS calls
5 Search and rescue
3 Calls were in
Summerhaven

January (1st - 20th)

2 Accidents
1 Domestic
4 Public assistance
1 Reckless driver
1 Search and rescue
2 USFS calls
5 Calls were in
Summerhaven



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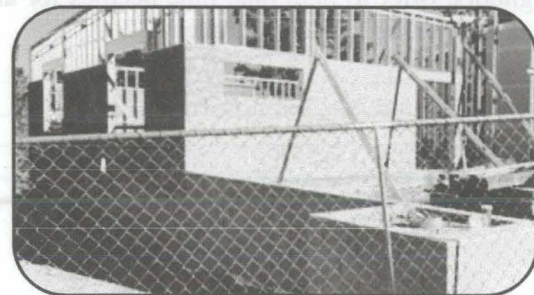
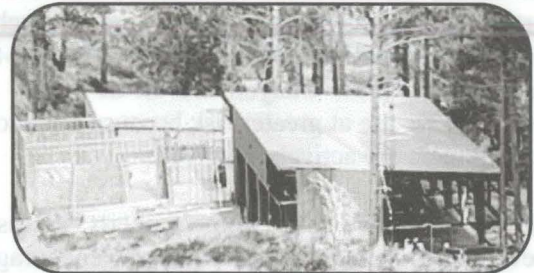
Fire Station News

Dan Leade

As the new year has begun, it is time for our annual "state of the fire district" update. While we still remain plenty busy running calls, training, and providing public education, the most exciting update is progress on the fire station construction.

If you have not been by to see the project in its various states, the progression has been nothing short of remarkable. See photos left. All the siding and roof was initially taken off, leaving what looked like a skeleton just in time for Halloween. Literal tons of block were used to build the retaining wall to support the station addition, and the footprint has been expanded. Concrete has been poured in the interior while the new siding/roofing is being secured in place as this is written. There still is much to do in the coming months, beginning with the completion of the exterior. The interior will follow, with finishing touches hopefully on time for us to start the moving in. It has been a thrill to watch this expansion/remodel develop and we look forward to its successful completion this year.

In addition to the station update, we would like to announce the re-launch of our volunteer program. If you are interested in volunteering, or just wondering what the program is all about, I encourage you to read the story on the first page in this issue of the *Echoes*.



Photos of the Fire Station construction in progress

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FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

The devastating fires in Los Angeles were a sobering reminder of what it means to live in the wildland-urban interface. Many mountain residents remember all too well how the Aspen fire destroyed most of Summerhaven and the sustained effort it took to rebuild our little village.

If you have not followed best practices to harden your home and create a defensible space around it, perhaps recent events will convince you of the wisdom of the Firewise® program.

This is not an individual effort. We are Firewise®-certified *as a community* and we need much more resident participation. Summerhaven, Greater Soldier Camp, and Willow Canyon are all at risk – *all the time*. And we are at greater risk because not enough of our neighbors are actively involved.

This Spring, have your home/property assessed for Firewising. If you actively Firewise®, encourage your neighbors: offer to help rake pine needles for an hour, cut down saplings, or clean gutters.

It happened here once and it can happen here again.
But if we work together to put common sense practices into place, we can mitigate the risk, save our homes, and keep our mountain.

If you are not actively Firewising, please consider starting by doing just one small task to protect your cabin.

The QR code takes you to the Fire District's "Request an Assessment" form. *Please* schedule an assessment, it takes less than a minute



Welcome to the team!

We are honored to announce that Doug Mance, AWM, CFP® has joined the Schaefer Present Corte Mance Investment Group as a full partner and financial advisor. Doug has distinguished himself as a top industry wealth advisor for 43 years, a community leader and a friend. Together, we offer diverse talent and perspectives, providing our clients with decades of experience and knowledge. We remain focused on creating lasting relationships built on trust, commitment and integrity.

Join us in welcoming Doug to the team.

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24-TU-02340 (08/24)



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

submitted by Beth Borozan

Watching the Los Angeles-area wildfire news reports has been both captivating and horrifying to all of us. Like everyone else, I constantly ask myself what I would do if this tragedy happened to my family and me. I'm obsessively creating inventories in my mind of what items of value, belongings, and other material treasures I would grab on my way out, madly trying to avoid such a disaster. And we know it can happen here, because it has.

Adding further anxiety to the reality of wildfires is the very real concern of home fire insurance coverage cancellation or skyrocketing premiums. This matter is all too real and is happening to residents of Mt. Lemmon right now, and I am hearing the same from constituents throughout District 4.

We have previously relayed news of our office's advocacy efforts, via the Pima County 2025 legislative agenda and that of the Arizona County Supervisors Association.

Recently, the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions created the Resiliency & Mitigation Council. This body is investigating the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance in Arizona's forested areas and wildland-urban interface, the impact that natural disasters have on the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance, and strategies local communities may adopt to mitigate the risk of property loss.

Pima County is the **only** county government with a council member, and we are fortunate our representative is Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis. The council first met in December, and will continue to meet monthly through September. It will then report its findings to the Governor and Legislature in December.

Your Mt. Lemmon HOA President Sally Crum and Beth Borozan are auditing the live-streamed Phoenix meetings and will be providing updates and as required and appropriate, activating grass root advocacy efforts.

**Join us in celebrating 80 years of
dependable service to our Members**

TRICO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 5, 2025
Casino del Sol Resort
5655 W. Valencia Rd.



- 9 a.m. — Registration opens
- 9-11 a.m. — Informational Booths and Workshops
- 11 a.m.-12 p.m. — Meeting will last one hour
- Please bring a copy of your bill for fast check in
- Win raffle prizes (must be present to win)
- Trees will be available for purchase

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Did you know years ago, birth announcements were listed in The Echoes under the heading "Lemon Drops"?!

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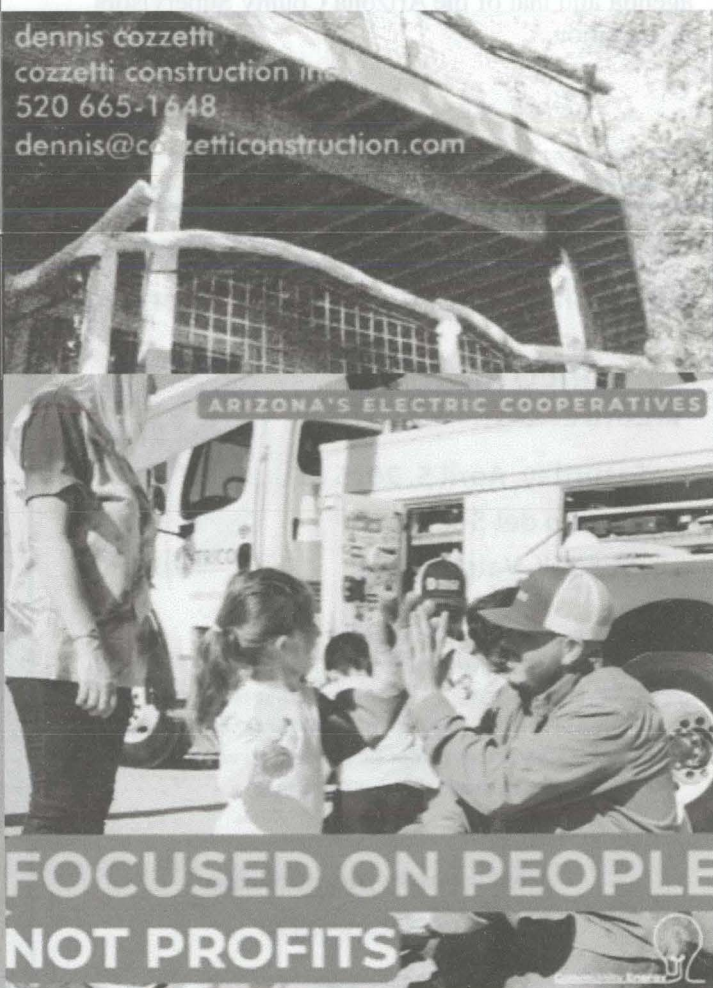
We are hearing from more and more residents who have had their insurance dropped or costs increased.

Recent events around the country suggest the situation could get worse before it gets better.

If you receive, or have received, a non-renewal notice there is information that may help you on the State Department of Insurance and Financial Institution's (DIFI) website. Here's the QR code.



dennis cozzetti
cozzetti construction inc
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**FOCUSED ON PEOPLE
NOT PROFITS**

MLWC Update

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club will begin regularly scheduled meetings again in March. In the interim, the club is sponsoring coffees to give members a chance to catch up and plan for the coming year.

The next coffee get-together will be held at the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library (Bear Canyon & Tanque Verde) at 10 am on Tuesday, February 12. All women are invited to attend, if you're interested in becoming a member, this would be a great way to meet people and make new friends.

The March regular club meeting will be held in a meeting room at the Wilmot Library.

Beginning in April, the club will resume its monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month at noon in the Community Center. We anticipate another year of fun and service to our community.

Valentine's Day at the Lodge!

Room Discount 10%! Ask for the "Sweetheart Discount" 2-night minimum Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday
Dip strawberries in the chocolate fountain - \$10 for a half dozen! 11am-6pm Friday & Saturday

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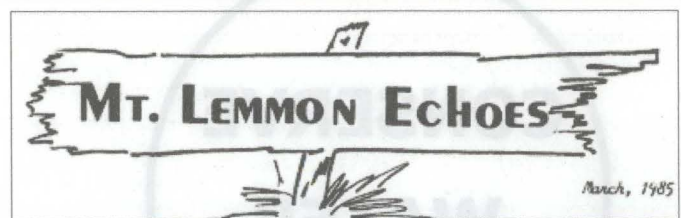
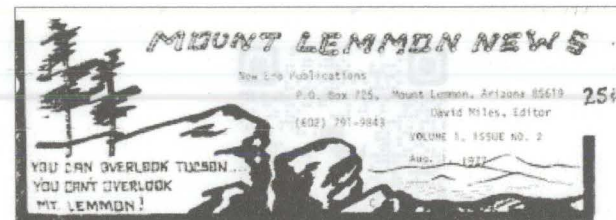
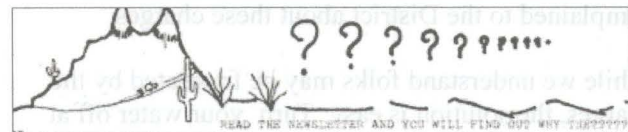


BACK IN THE DAY....

The Echoes Over the Years

The Echoes has evolved over time and many editors. The name has also changed. The newsletter started with no name, then was called Tall Pine Tales; it's been the Mt. Lemmon News, the Mount Lemmon Echoes, and the Mt. Lemmon Echoes. The format has varied from a couple of pages to 16 pages. Sometimes color, sometimes not. The Echoes was published "periodically", every 3 months, and finally 10 months a year. Before personal computers, the Echoes was typed on a manual typewriter and any artwork was hand drawn.

Issues are archived as part of the Arizona Memory Project. Taken as a whole, the archive is a historical record of the people and the community they built.



The Arizona Memory Project is part of the Arizona State Library and Archives. It is a fascinating website to visit. Here's the QR code.



Water District News

Stu Schacter provided us with news after the Water District Board Meeting held January 18.

Gray Carpenter was appointed to fill the vacant Board position. The Board is now at full strength. Thank you Gray!

Stu also relayed that the new smart meters are installed at every cabin and allow the District to monitor water use in real time. Over the winter, the District did detect several vacant cabins that left water running, but the number was lower than in years past. Great job everyone!

According to the Customer Service Agreement, owners whose cabin is vacant but have left the water on can be charged for leak mitigation and shutting off the system. A few cabin owners have complained to the District about these charges.

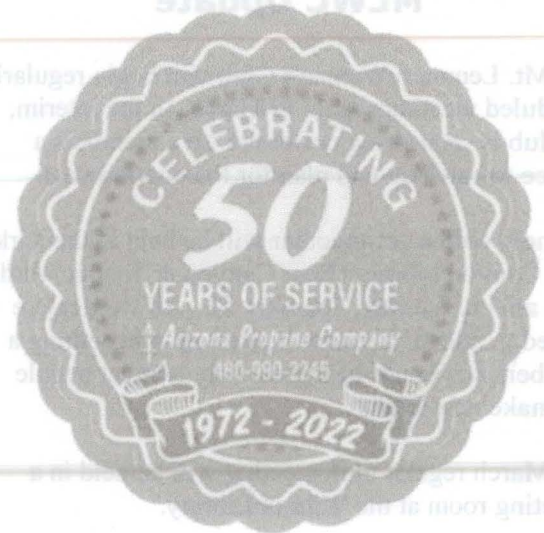
While we understand folks may be frustrated by the charges, the solution is easy: Turn your water off at the meter when you leave your cabin for any length of time.

To subscribe to receive news and alerts via text or email from the water district fill out this short form with your contact information.



**CONSERVE
WATER**

every drop matters



Forest Service Update

By Amanda Adams, USFS

Greetings from the U.S. Forest Service! We have two important projects scheduled early in the season: maintaining the Gibbs Wash Bridge on the Control Rd and reconfiguring the Gordon Hiyabayashi area.

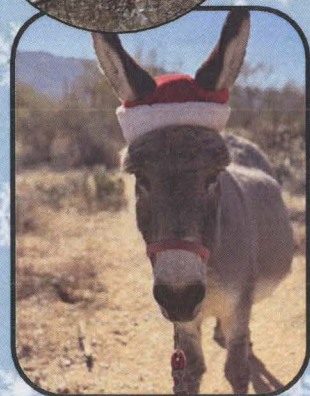
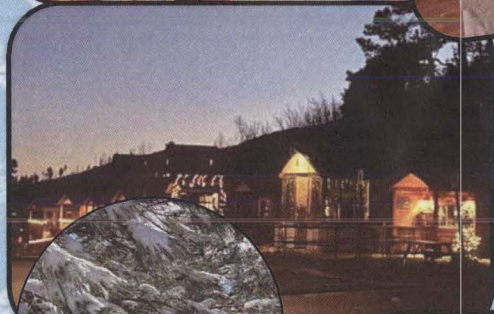
The Gibbs Wash Bridge project has two maintenance projects scheduled. The Control Rd. will be closed February 20th - March 5th, five days past the typical March 1st opening. The scheduled closure occurs mostly during the seasonal closure to minimize effects on recreation and access. The project will add culverts to the Gibbs Wash Bridge to minimize erosion from heavy rain. The second project is still in the National Environmental Protection Act process and involves the upper Control Rd.

The Gordon Hirabayashi reconfiguration project begins mid-February. The goal is to convert the current mixed recreation area by establishing defined areas for day use and campground use. This project will address current concerns visitors have using the area: unclear parking, day use parking in camp spots, hikers entering the trail through campsites, trail connection confusion, and vandalism/damage to historic structure remnants.

These projects will protect our mountain and improve the user experience for visitors!

Winter Activities and Scenes on the Mountain

*Thanks to
everyone who
shared photos!!*



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