

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

mlemmonhoa.org

Upcoming Town Hall

Submitted by Linda Currin

Last month's cover story about the fire hydrant fundraiser generated more questions and no funds. Clarity for the project, timeline, cost, scope, and process became paramount in developing a worthwhile and sensible program. The MLHOA has volunteered to oversee an informational town hall in the next several weeks to include setting objectives and cohesive plan involving all stakeholders. This will include:

- Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District
- Mt. Lemmon Fire Department
- MLFF (Foundation)
- MLBEA
- Guthrie and adjacent neighborhoods
- MLWC Board
- MLHOA Board

Expertise, ideas, concerns, and resources will be generated to provide fundraising opportunities for the wider community, as some individuals have already pledged sizable sums of money, and the MLWC has planned to donate \$5,000 when this program is finalized. Over \$15,000 will be needed to purchase more fire hydrants on the mountain, beginning with the Guthrie Road area. Notice of the upcoming town hall will be publicized by the above entities. All are encouraged to attend.

The bottom line is reducing the risk of wildfire on the mountain. Putting many heads and resources together, this important project is doable!

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Trico Electric Cooperative Explains How Its Technology Reduced the Length of the January Power Outage

Trico Electric values transparency and knows the importance of keeping members informed. We want to summarize what happened during the Mt. Lemmon outages January 8–11, 2026, and how our SmartGrid reduced outage times. Trico used newly-installed Gridware GridScope smart devices to quickly identify damage on the distribution system, dramatically improving response and restoration times, safety, and restoration efficiency.



Conor Garcia at work

Just minutes after the January 8th outage on the West Slope, a GridScope sensor mounted on a pole detected a conductor had broken. Unlike traditional devices that detect only approximate fault locations, the GridScope sensor allowed Trico to move quickly to:

- Identify the exact pole where the problem occurred
- Capture photographs of the damaged conductor
- Provide a detailed description of the abnormal conditions
- Automatically transmit the alert to Trico's monitoring center
- Deliver a link enabling crews to see full details through a secure web based dashboard

This allowed Trico to immediately confirm what had happened and exactly where without sending personnel into hazardous terrain during the storm.

Over the next three days, line crews supported by helicopter access where terrain was impassable repaired damaged conductors on the West Slope, in lower Summerhaven, and near Soldier Camp. Power was restored to most members the evening of January 9, with the remaining outages resolved January 10 and the final segment re-energized by late morning January 11.

We appreciate your patience and support through these complex outages. Trico is proud to be your local cooperative, and pleased to see our SmartGrid and line crews able to effectively restore power.

These smart devices represent a major step forward in Trico's commitment to reliability, safety, wildfire prevention, and modernization of its electric system.



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

While we have had a nice series of winter storms recently, the issue of the mountain's water supply is top of mind as the traditionally dry spring approaches.

Our team has been meeting with the directors of Pima County's Wastewater and Parks & Recreation Departments, as well as County Administration, and discussing the county's role in the usage and management of this precious mountain resource.

We all learned last summer when the Stage 3 restrictions were issued how essential conservation efforts are to the village. The county was able to "give back" some 7,000 gallons of water each month not used in the community center's restrooms; not a trivial amount. The use restrictions also heightened the tensions between residential and commercial water users of your water district. We were contacted by concerned homeowners and found that as a board elected by its customers, our office and county administration do not have a role in overseeing the district's operations.

Where our office does have, and will be activating, a role is in working with Pima County Wastewater and your water district in innovating wastewater treatment and reclamation options. During our meeting with Wastewater Director Jackson Jenkins, he outlined industry advancements that, with appropriate funding, could contribute to the village's future water security. More near term, we are exploring water conservation measures the county can take now.

Of course, our team remains engaged in the evolving Pima County Wildfire Mitigation Plan and is gearing up to work with your Firewise team later this spring to support their efforts.

We expect to have an update for you on our legislative efforts to address wildfire danger mitigation, homeowners' insurance availability and affordability, and home title fraud next month



President's Corner
Sally Crum

It's hard not to feel grateful for the snow and rain we've had this winter. Could we use more? Absolutely. But on our mountain, we appreciate whatever we get and this year, we've had some real gifts.

March is the start of a very busy stretch for Summerhaven. One project we'll be watching closely is the FLAP grant work and the improved parking in the village. We're glad to see progress underwa, and we're eager to see the work completed so residents, guests, and local businesses all benefit.

As we gear up for the season, we also have some big shoes to fill. Several longtime volunteers are stepping back ("retiring" and well deserved!). We need others to step forward. We're looking for help coordinating events Linda Currin has so capably led, and we need a replacement for Michael Singervalt, who has been an outstanding MLHOA Treasurer. And last but not least we will be choosing a new MLHOA President at the Annual Dinner in April, because I am truly (really!) retiring from the position.

Another important topic we'll be working on together is the fire hydrant project. The MLHOA is eager to bring all stakeholders to the table to understand the nuances, talk through the options, and create a plan that satisfies everyone's needs. We can do this if we work together, stay constructive, and keep our focus squarely on the goal: improving safety and preparedness for our community.

And of course, the best part of a new season on the mountain is all the fun we get to share. Music on the Mountain at the Lodge, the 4th of July parade, the Women's Club speaker series, hiking, biking, picnics, and all the simple moments that make this place special.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back on the mountain and I'm especially looking forward to cheering on the new leaders who will carry our community forward.

MLHOA Annual Dinner

April 21

Skyline Country Club

\$60 per person

5:30 pm - Happy Hour (cash bar)

6:30 pm - Delicious Buffet

Prizes, Raffles, Door Prizes!



VALET PARKING



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write Annual dinner in the memo

Or mail check to: **MLHOA, P.O. Box 699**
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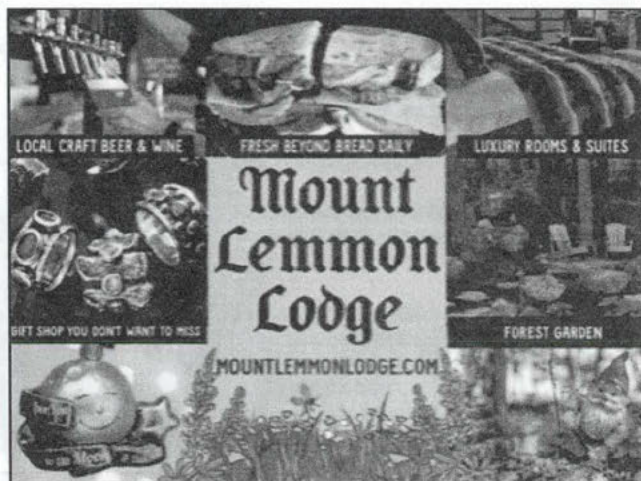
MLFD News
Dan Leade

While it would be nice if we were never faced with medical emergencies, the fact is, there is a very high likelihood that anyone reading this will, at some point, be faced with such an emergency. While these events are unplanned, there is something you can do to help forest responders.

After 911 is activated, Emergency Medical Services personnel will respond to treat/stabilize all life threats and transport patients to definitive care. At some point during all of this commotion, someone will inevitably ask you if you take any medications. Due to the stress of the incident or an inability to communicate, reciting every medication a person takes at that specific moment can be daunting, if not impossible. Because of this, it is highly recommended to be proactive and keep a current list of medications with you at all times.

This does not have to be a complicated process. A paper list is sufficient, but there are apps, online fillable forms and templates available by simply searching "my medicine list." The Food and Drug Administration does, however, suggest some critical information be included, such as emergency contacts, allergies and information about your prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and supplements that you take.

Additionally, make note of the reason for a prescription, dose strength, and when each is taken. Remember to keep your list up to date and with you. You can also keep a copy handy (on the refrigerator is a great spot) and give a copy to someone if they might be around during an emergency. While medical emergencies are trying events, keeping your medication list handy can relieve some stress and assist medical professionals in making informed decisions on treatment resulting in positive outcomes.



March Calendar of Events

1	Mexican Spotted Owl Season NO outdoor power tools on Forest Service land
10	Election Day
17	St. Patrick's Day
20	FIRST DAY OF SPRING!
21	8:30 am Water Board meeting 10 am MLHOA meeting EVERYONE WELCOME
29	Palm Sunday

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association Dues 2026

Annual dues are \$45. Only \$40 if paid before Annual Dinner.

Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA
P.O. Box 699
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mountain address _____

Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

Email _____

MLHOA News

Submitted by Linda Currin

The Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association 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 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. Pima County has said the MLHOA is the strongest and most respected homeowners' organization in the entire county. The major publication of the MLHOA is the monthly Echoes which provides information and interest to its members.

The MLHOA board met this month with a full agenda and a shared theme: how to reach more people who own property on the mountain and increase the MLHOA membership roll. Several interesting suggestions included having the Echoes mailed to ALL property owners (500+) this spring to promote interest to new owners. Another would be to provide clear signage/banner at the MLCC this spring to advertise membership. Finally, create a Friends of Mt. Lemmon non-profit such as Friends of Sabino Canyon or other similar organization to promote membership and interest in the MLHOA and Summerhaven. This is another work in progress to improve interest and communication to our community.

MLWC Happenings



The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club met for coffee and treats at the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Members were excited to meet two new mountain residents: Dani and Lori were warmly welcomed into the group. We were delighted to see you!

In March, The MLWC will hold its meeting at the Murphy-Wilmot Library. Stay tuned for news about this season's exciting Speaker Series!

The MLWC is a service organization open to all women on the mountain. Every month the club sponsors a "done in a day" project in support of a local non-profit organization. Club projects last year provided necessary resources to organization helping women escape domestic violence, reunite foster children with their siblings, and provide gift cards to families in low-income school districts.

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Water Improvement District Updates

The MLWID Board shared good news and then got right to work at its February meeting, making real progress on several important concerns.

The latest operations report: our three largest storage tanks remain in strong shape for this time of year. Current readings show Miners Bridge at 93%, Sabino at 94%, and Loma Linda at 85.6%. With winter moisture on the mountain, source flows have also improved another encouraging sign as we look ahead to the warmer months.

The Board also took a major step forward on the new tank project in Loma Linda, voting to approve Smyth Engineering for the engineering and design work. Three firms were evaluated, proposals were compared in detail, and board members emphasized the importance of selecting a team that understands the project site and can deliver a complete set of plans with few surprises later.

While the engineering work gets underway, the Board reiterated that construction will still be competitively bid once the drawings are complete. As part of Smyth's scope, the MLWID will receive updated construction cost estimates as the design advances.

Work continues on the Guthrie Road project, including coordination tied to the installation of three new fire hydrants. The hydrant locations have been identified and next steps include finalizing easements/permissions and getting construction bids so the MLWID can confirm true costs (hydrants involve more than the pipe and hydrant itself, items like bollards, concrete work, and County standards can add to the total).

For fundraising, the efforts includes a \$5,000 pledge from the Mt. Lemmon Women's Club (to be released once the project plan is more fully defined, plus additional individual donations, and a matching gift offer up to \$5,000 once the fundraising timeline is set. The Board discussed the importance of aligning all stakeholders on schedule and process so donors receive a clear plan and so funds can be held appropriately until the project is ready to move.

Finally, the board returned to a key lesson from last year's Stage 3 water curtailment: the policy needs clearer guidance for businesses. The proposed update would require businesses to follow the same restrictions as residences unless they submit a curtailment plan to the MLWID outlining steps to reduce usage during Stage 3 (and potentially Stage 4). Board members also discussed the value of setting a measurable reduction target so residents can see everyone is working toward the same conservation goals.

The MLWID plans to reach out directly to businesses for input before finalizing the language, with the goal of keeping the policy fair,

Cozzetti Construction Scales Back on New Projects

Dennis Cozzetti has announced he will not be taking on new construction projects on the mountain. He plans to complete his current projects and retire.

Dennis and Maggie want to thank the Mt. Lemmon community for its many years of support and friendship.

Editor's note: Maggie is happier about this than Dennis.

Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 4

3 - EMS/Rescue

1 - FIRE



PCSD calls: 25

4- Search & Rescue

1 - Suspicious person report

2- Accidents.



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

The Firewise USA Steering Committee is shifting to a new outreach model, one designed to better support our neighborhood Firewise Captains and spark wider participation in this essential effort to reduce wildfire risk across the mountain.

A key part of this strategy is improving how we communicate. We're continuing to build a more complete email list for mountain residents, because we need to reach beyond what *The Echoes* and Nextdoor can do on their own.

How we'll be getting the word out:

- Website
- Pima County mailing to property owners
- Community gatherings, including the MLHOA Annual Meeting and the Firewise Block Party (May 23)
- Business cards for committee members & neighborhood caps.
- Firewise booth/table at community events
- *The Echoes* and KLMn-LP 106.9 FM
- Direct contact through the Fire District, Firewise Captains, and the Steering Committee with extra focus on Forest Service communities
- Billboard(s)
- Email (still a work in progress, right now we have addresses for only about 60% of property owners in some areas)
- Handout/brochure (including extra copies of the county mailing)

Along with broader communication, we're also leaning into something that works especially well in small communities: neighbor-to-neighbor outreach. We're asking committee members, Firewise Captains, and pro-Firewise residents to spread the message directly—especially about two key steps:

- Schedule a Firewise assessment
- Keep the 5-foot area around your cabin absolutely clear

If you're willing, please reach out to a new neighbor (or someone you don't know well yet) and encourage them to schedule an assessment. A simple conversation can go a long way to reinforce that Firewise is a community effort.

March is Women's History Month

March is officially recognized as Women's History Month in the United States, a designation it has held annually by presidential proclamation since 1995 to honor the contributions of women to American history, culture, and society. It began as a local celebration in 1978 and now includes International Women's Day on March 8th.

Origin: Started as "Women's History Week" in 1978 in Santa Rosa, California, to highlight the lack of women in educational curriculum.

National Recognition: In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation for National Women's History Week. Congress later declared the entire month of March as Women's History Month in 1987

Significance: The month is dedicated to recognizing the specific achievements of women in various fields throughout American history.

What will Summer Bring?

Arizona is heading into spring with some familiar warning signs: lingering drought in many areas, stretches of warmer-than-normal weather, and a generally dry pattern that can speed up how quickly grasses and other fine fuels dry out. While parts of the state — especially southeast Arizona — can still benefit from periodic storms that offer short-term relief, the broader concern is that warm, dry weeks add up, and those cumulative impacts can increase wildfire potential as we move through March and April.

The Climate Prediction Center's outlooks reinforce that caution. Current projections lean toward above-normal temperatures for Arizona into spring, along with below-normal precipitation across much of the Southwest. In the nearer term, the CPC's Weeks 3-4 outlook also points to increased odds of drier-than-median conditions in our region. None of this guarantees an "extreme" season, but it does suggest a spring where fuels may cure earlier and fire risk can build sooner than we'd like.

Looking a bit farther out, the bigger issue for late spring and early summer is what happens in the mid-to-higher elevations if snowpack is light and melts early. When there's less snow on the ground — and it disappears sooner — mountain fuels dry earlier, and the fire season can start sooner and stretch longer. In other words: we'll take every storm we can get, but if the spring stays warm and dry, we should be prepared for an earlier ramp-up to Arizona's 2026 wildfire season

BACK IN THE DAY: Tucson Daily Citizen May 16, 1952

Boosters For Mt. Lemmon Envision Great Resort Area

By RICHARD OLSON
(First of Two Articles)

SUMMERHAVEN, Ariz.—Potentially one of the best year-round resorts in the United States lies undeveloped in the fragrant pine forests surrounding this small mountain community.

That's the opinion of a handful of devoted people here

who envision a great future for Mt. Lemmon and this portion of the Santa Catalina mountains.

One of them is Hurst Amyx, "B" owner of the Mt. Lemmon lodge and the real pioneer in the development of Mt. Lemmon as something more than a sleepy summer retreat.

Amyx first saw the pines of Mt. Lemmon in 1945, when he made the torturous climb from Oracle on the north slope. The air force pilot fell in love with the country and promptly bought the 40-year-old lodge, then being used as a barn.

AMYX SAYS the 32,000 people who flock to the mountain on a peak day represent only the beginning of a resort trade.

"This mountain area is situated geographically almost as no other region in the world," Amyx said. "It's right in the center of desert country, giving it a dry, rarified air. Yet its altitude makes it cool and free from pollen."

Amyx predicts that someday Mt. Lemmon will be known as one of the most healthful resorts in the country.

"We have another great advantage," he said. "With the wonderful winter climate on the desert, the Tucson-Mt. Lemmon area can appeal to tourists the year around. We can offer more variety in the winter, and in the summer Mt. Lemmon can appeal to people who otherwise would travel elsewhere for the hot months."

"MT. LEMMON business is Tucson business," he said. "Everything up here comes from Tucson."

"If we could really get Tucson behind us to make this a definite part of the city's economic development, there would be no stopping us."

**Mt Lemmon Community Educational Resources at
KLMN-LP 106.9 FM**

Submitted by Christina Grossman

At the start of the year, we added a new element to our website: the Mt Lemmon Community Educational Resource page. To serve our diverse community needs, we will offer resources for people homeschooling their children who would like to know about free online resources, online art classes available throughout the year, continuing education, and free resources to study for a Ham Radio license.

In addition, as part of our collaboration with the Woman's Club Speaker Series, sessions will be recorded for broadcast over the radio and made available on the Mt Lemmon Community Educational Resource page for viewing. We feel it essential to make these sessions available to the community as a form of outreach and connection.

As each of us share a significance in the thread of the history on Mount Lemmon, we are embarking on a new project of interviewing our dear community members to document stories and recollections from the past and present on our beloved Mount Lemmon. This will be our goal for Winter 2026 and so named as the Mt Lemmon Community History Talks.

We are here for the Mount Lemmon Community! Whether you are homeschooling, or looking for online resources at any stage of life, KLMN-LP has the resources for you to start you on your path. To discover the resources that are available to you, go to www.klmn-lp.org and click on "Education", located near the "Donate" button. For questions, or comments please email me at programming@klmn-lp.org.

**Listen to the Lemmon!
KLMN-LP 106.9 FM**



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Mount Lemmon



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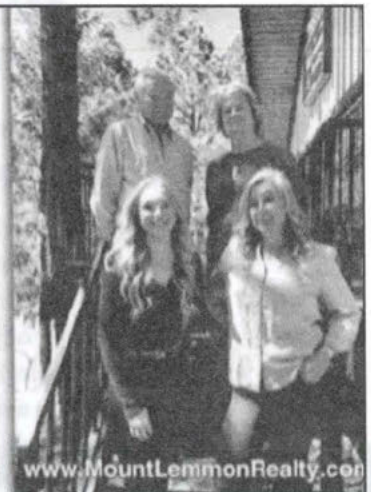
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Annual MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 18, 2026
11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Casino del Sol Resort

- 9 a.m. – Registration opens
- 9-11 a.m. – Informational booths and Workshops
- 11 a.m. – Meeting starts
- 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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Cody and the Lodge Guest

Cody's tail wouldn't stop wagging, even though he was trying to look calm. Luna noticed. "Still wagging," she teased.

"I am... thinking," Cody said.



Luna's whiskers twitched like she was smiling. The Ponderosa pines whispered overhead, and the sun warmed the rock they sat on.

After a quiet moment, Luna stood and stretched. "I should go—before my sisters decide I've vanished." Cody's ears dipped. "They worry?"

"They boss," Luna said. Then she looked back at him, "I'll see you soon."

"Soon," Cody promised, nodding too fast. Luna flicked her tail goodbye and slipped into the trees. Cody stayed a moment, feeling fizzy and proud all at once. Then he smelled it: Cinnamon. Sugar. Butter.

He followed his nose downhill toward the Lodge and found a man, a guest, sitting on a rock with a paper bag. The man looked up and chuckled. "Well hello there, curious fellow."

Cody sat up straighter. "Yes."

The man lifted a golden cookie. "Trade you. Bring me something interesting, and you get this." Cody's eyes widened. A mission. A mystery. A cookie.

"What counts as interesting?" Cody asked.

The man smiled. "I'll know it when I see it."

Cody's whiskers quivered. "I accept." And he trotted into the forest, tail high, already hunting for the mountain's best secret.

To be continued next month...

Mt Lemmon MARCH MADNESS



Sign of the Times by Kermie

Support our Local Businesses



The Mt. Lemmon Fire District is hiring!

If you're interested in career that
makes a difference contact:

Chief Joe Gunia
jgunia@mlfdaz.org

The Forest Service Cabin Program on Mt. Lemmon: What it is, how it works, and why it matters

What many of us casually call the “cabin program” is officially the U.S. Forest Service Recreation Residence Program a century-old arrangement that blends family recreation, public-land stewardship, and a fair number of rules. Established by Congress in 1915, the Recreation Residence Program was created to encourage family recreation experiences on National Forest lands.

Here’s the basic model:

An individual owns the cabin structure and improvements (the building itself is private property).

The land remains public, managed by the Forest Service.

Cabin owners hold a Special Use Permit, typically 20 years, renewable and pay an annual fee for use of the lot.

Permits come with restrictions and responsibilities designed to protect the forest and guide appropriate use of public land.

In other words: it’s not private ownership, and it’s not a typical lease. It’s a long-running partnership, private cabins on public land, with shared expectations for stewardship.

On Mt. Lemmon, most of the cabins that people think of as “Forest Service cabins” fall within these established cabin communities:

- Lower Soldier Camp
- Upper Soldier Camp
- Fern Ridge
- Bear Wallow
- Willow Canyon

These are not just names on a map, each tract has its own history, layout, access quirks, and neighborhood culture. Taken together, they’re part of what makes Mt. Lemmon such a unique patchwork of public lands and close-knit communities.

Nationally, the program is substantial: nearly 14,000 cabins across 800+ tracts on 114 National Forests in 24 states, plus Puerto Rico. Over time, cabin owners have also formed 160+ local cabin associations (often representing one or more tracts) to share information, coordinate projects, and help owners work together in a forest setting.

In the USFS Arizona/New Mexico Region 3: Coronado National Forest has 243 lots in 12 tracts. More than double the number of any other national forest in the region. That’s a lot of cabins and a lot of shared responsibility to care for the forest.

Beyond recreation residences, Mt. Lemmon also has historic cabins that served Forest Service operational needs, ranger housing, administrative functions, and more. Some of these are now available for the public to rent.

Two examples in the Coronado include:

Palisades Ranger Residence Cabin: once used by rangers and now part of the public rental program.

Sollers Cabin : a large two-story cabin named for forest ranger Carl Sollers, built for Forest Service use and also available for rental.

Whether you live in one of the cabin tracts, own a home in Summerhaven, or simply love spending time on the mountain, the cabin program is part of what makes Mt. Lemmon so special: small communities embedded in a working National Forest.

And with that uniqueness comes a shared responsibility, especially as wildfire risk, erosion, and extreme weather reshape how forests are managed. The Recreation Residence Program is ultimately about recreation, but it’s also about stewardship: living lightly, respecting permit requirements, maintaining defensible space, and remembering that these cabins sit on land that belongs to all of us.

**Don’t forget to buy your
Annual Dinner tickets.**



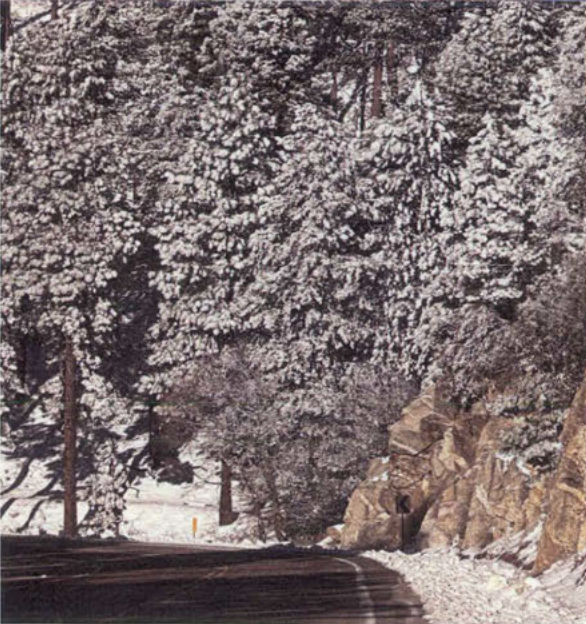
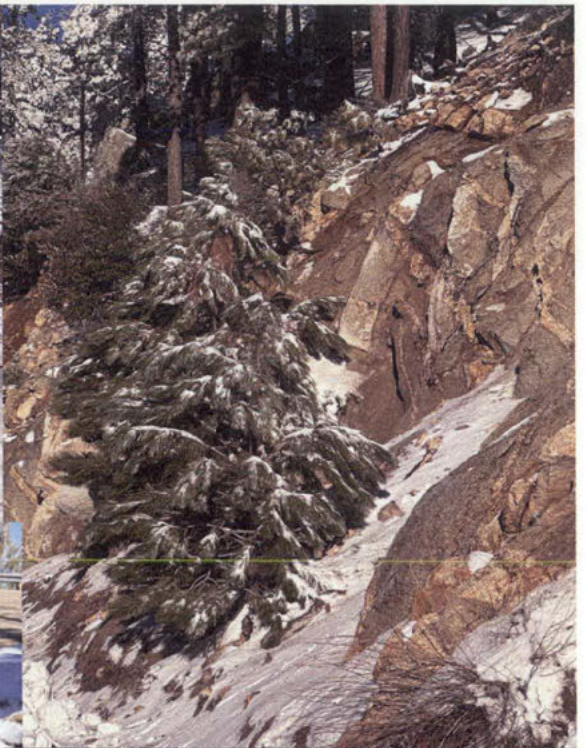
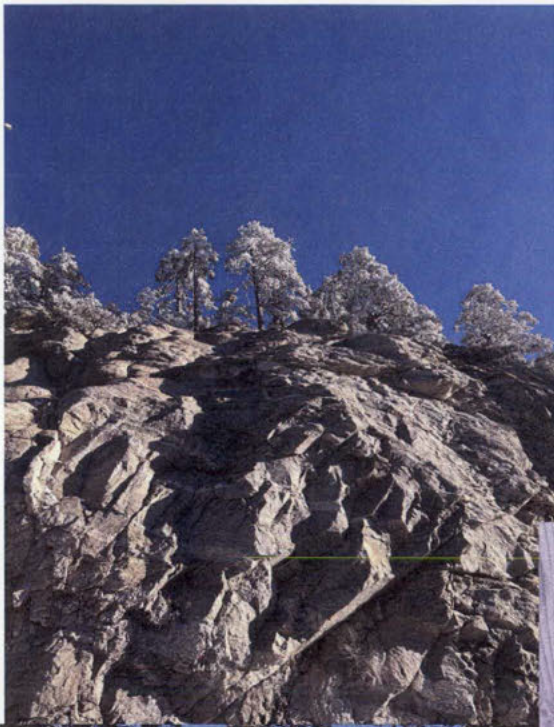
**Deadline for submission to the April issue of
The Echoes is March 20.**

The *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* is a publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners’ Association. *The Echoes* is published monthly February through November.

Reader submitted stories, letters, photos, ideas, and comments are always welcome.

You may submit submissions or comments to:

mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com

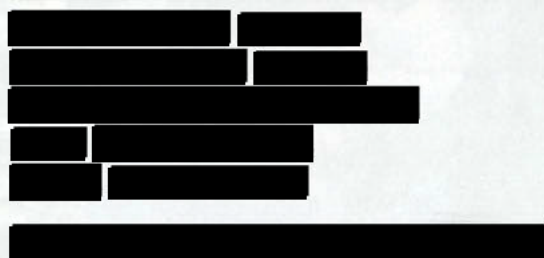


The mountain
Saturday,
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