

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

The Parade We All Needed

Hundreds of people, every age, size, shape and background crowded the main street of Summerhaven for this year's Fourth of July parade. They came carrying flags, wearing red, white and blue, and ready to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

The Tucson Concert Band filled the village with patriotic favorites as people clapped in time, tapped their toes, and sang along. When the first notes of the national anthem sounded, the crowd rose as one. Hats came off. Hands went over hearts. Americans stood together in respect.

Then came the roar overhead. Four jets swept across the mountain sky in a dramatic flyover that brought cheers from the crowd and tears to more than one eye.

Nearly 30 parade entries made their way through the village, each greeted with applause and waves. Children squealed and scrambled along the curb, collecting candy and trinkets. Everywhere you looked, people were smiling.

It really was the parade we all needed.

For one beautiful morning, there was no "them" or "us." We were simply, neighbors, friends, families, and visitors... Americans... united to celebrate 250 years of freedom and democracy.

In a time when headlines tell us how divided we are, Summerhaven offered a different reality: a small mountain village filled with music, flags, laughter, and people standing shoulder to shoulder.

No matter what may happen in the big cities on the coasts, the heart of America can be found in places like ours during small-town parades where children chase candy, neighbors wave from decorated trucks, and everyone stands for the national anthem.

Together. United. Happy. Free. It may have been our best parade ever.

Thank you, Hazel!

For 53 years, the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club has sponsored the Fourth of July parade. Making the parade happen requires lots of coordination, patience, and energy.

For years, Hazel Rugg has taken on the responsibility, working tirelessly to organize the mountain's most beloved community tradition. This year, she outdid herself and put together a fantastic event!



Hazel insists this was her final year as parade organizer, but has promised to mentor Beth Peterson, a MLWC member who steps into the role next year.

We cannot thank Hazel enough for her years of dedication to the MLWC, the parade, and the entire community.



Grand Marshals Dennis & Maggie Cozzetti led the parade in a vintage Cadillac!

.....and the winners were:



1st Place Creative Category: The Haskell Family and Ms. Mt. Lemmon



1st Place Patriotic Category: Tucson Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



1st Place Service Category: Southern AZ Rescue Association

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From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

Hats off to the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club for a fabulous 53rd Annual Mount Lemmon 4th of July Parade! As always, the flyover was spectacular and the entries reflected the spirit of our mountain community to the delight of parade attendees. It's great that video of the parade is posted on the Mount Lemmon Radio Club's YouTube channel for those who weren't on the mountain that day.

We're pleased that our team was able to facilitate the opening of the new public restrooms at the recently-completed south village parking lot with the Transportation Department and our USFS partners in time for the Independence Day holiday visitors, as well as ensuring the receptacle was in place for the responsible disposal of their trash.

We just learned that the Sabino Canyon Park Road project is scheduled for a Spring 2027 start. The repaving will occur from Turkey Run Road, south through the village, to Upper Goat Hill Road.

While it seems like the Arizona Legislature just adjourned, it's already time to start work on Pima County's 2027 Legislative Agenda, the priorities list for our lobbyists. Your District 4 team will again push for legislation to address our concerns about the availability of home insurance in wildfire-prone areas, including increased notification for the cancellation of policies and greater transparency in underwriting, as well as affordability. The Mt. Lemmon Firewise community is widely regarded as the gold standard and the number of new Firewise communities has grown dramatically throughout District 4, those efforts should be recognized by the insurance industry and reflected in premiums charged.

Expect a Firewise-like mailing from your Supervisor's office soon, encouraging mountain residents to join your Mt. Lemmon HOA, the leading public-safety advocacy group on Mt. Lemmon. As a member, you already know the benefits. We believe it's crucial that your neighbors and friends learn that "Connection is Protection."



**Moving forward with
Kim & Joey**

It was the **BEST** Fourth of July ever! What a parade! What a turnout! We've got lots of shout-outs to give!

First, a HUGE shout-out to the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club for sponsoring the parade for more than 50 years. What an amazing achievement and an extraordinary gift to our community!

And a double-huge shout-out to Hazel Rugg, who pulled out all the stops during her final year as MLWC Parade Chair. Hazel, you rocked it! Thank you a million times over for the energy, patience and countless hours you devoted to making the parade so special.

Another big shout-out goes to the Mt. Lemmon Radio Club. The Grossman family live streamed the parade on YouTube and simulcast the event over our local low-power radio station, KLMN-LP. No matter where people were, they could join in the fun. This takes a tremendous amount of work; we are so grateful for the Radio Club.

What would the Fourth of July be without a few John Philip Sousa marches? A heartfelt thank-you to the Tucson Concert Band, whose music has become such a special part of this celebration.

Big thanks also go to Tom McNurlin for facilitating the flyover. It was a meaningful moment in the parade, especially this year. Thank you to Christina Grossman and Susan Miller-Cochran for serving as terrific parade emcees, and to our new deputies, Deputy Noon and Deputy Ramirez, who ably served the mountain and lived to tell the tale of their first Mt. Lemmon Fourth of July!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the parade participants who made the day so colorful and fun, and all those who traveled up the mountain to celebrate with us. It truly was a great day!

Catching our breath after the parade, it's hard to believe we are halfway through \ summer and what a summer it has been. The theme on the mountain this season seems to be transition.

We have new MLHOA officers, a new MLWC president, a search underway for new Firewise Steering Committee members, longtime event chairs passing the torch, and exciting upcoming news from the Mt. Lemmon Lodge. Dear friends are selling their cabins; new families are arriving to make their mountain memories.

Change and transition are all around us. And you know what? It is all good.

It is part of a cycle that has repeated itself on Mt. Lemmon since the early years of the 20th century. A slow eventual turnover where beloved traditions are carried on by the energy of a new generation of volunteers.

Get ready—good things ahead for all of us!

Kim & Joey



MLFD News
Dan Leade

With the arrival of monsoons, and this year predicted to be what meteorologists refer to as a Super El Niño, it is easy to get excited about cooler temperatures and much needed precipitation. While always a welcome time of year, this season presents some unique hazards.

Flash flooding, as the name indicates, occurs very quickly and often with deadly results. If you are planning to be outside during monsoon season, it is crucial to check local forecasts for flash flood watches/warnings. If caught in flooding conditions, never attempt to drive or walk through the flood waters. These waters are fast-moving, murky, full of debris, and difficult to gauge the depth.

Lightning is another major concern during monsoon season. Lightning strikes are a frequent occurrence during monsoons. Per the Arizona Emergency Information, if you are in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees, while you should go to a low place such as a ravine or valley and be alert for flash floods if caught in an open area. 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.

Other safety concerns to be aware of are rapidly deteriorating driving conditions, dropping temperatures, falling trees, downed power lines, and rock slides. Be especially cautious in burned areas.

Although this list is not all-inclusive, the safety tips listed are always worth an annual review. Enjoy the monsoons with all their positive advantages, but please do so safely

EVERYONE SHOULD JOIN GOOGLE GROUPS!

To subscribe to the MLHOA Google Group, simply send an email to:

mtlemmonhoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

You will receive a confirmation email.

Be up-to-date emails on important mountain matters and get reliable information from MLFD.

August Calendar of Events

1	11 - 3 pm Kid's Art Contest - Comm. Ctr. 1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL 5:30 - 7:30 Live music - SawMill Run 7:30 pm Guided Stargazing - MLL
2	12 -2 pm Paint & Sip - MLL
7	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike**
9	1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL Dragoon Beer Tasting - SawMill Run
14	8 am Naturalist-led Hike* 8 - 12 Birding w/ Naturalist - Palisades Visitor Ctr 6:30 BUNKO! - Comm Ctr.
15	8:30 am Water Board meeting 10:00 am MLHOA Board meeting 12 - 2 pm Paint & Sip - MLL 1 pm MLWC meeting 2 pm MLWC Speaker Series - Comm. Ctr. 6 pm BINGO! - Sawmill 7:30 - Guided Stargazing/Meteor Shower - MLL
16	1-4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL
17	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike** 6:30 pm BUNKO! - Comm. Ctr.
21	8:00 am Naturalist-led hike**
22	12 -2 pm Paint & Sip - MLL 5:30 -7:30- Music at SawMill Run
23	1- 4 pm Music on the Mountain -MLL 5:30-7:30- Music at SawMill Run
29	1 - 4 pm Music on the mountain - MLL
30	1- 4 pm Music on the Mountain -MLL

** See page 9 for details

MLHOA Report

From a possible road race on Catalina Highway (like the one on Pike's Peak) to plans for several late-summer gatherings, the latest MLHOA meeting covered both serious community concerns and a little fun.

The HOA's treasurer reported an ending balance for the month of \$17,710.65, with an additional \$10,358.53 held in the a certificate of deposit.

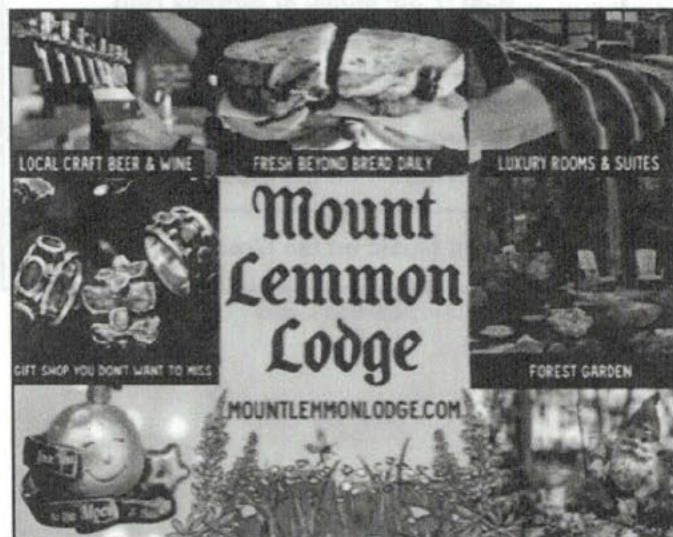
The U.S. Forest Service has received a request for a special-use permit for a professional hill-climb-style automobile event on Catalina Highway. The preliminary concept could require closing the highway in four-hour intervals, possibly in spring or fall. Board members agreed there are too many unanswered questions including emergency access, traffic, effects on local businesses and the length of road closures to take a position until a detailed written proposal is available. There's a lot to consider here.

Beth Borozan from Pima County reported the stretch of road from Turkey Run down to the newer pavement is scheduled for reconstruction, with work expected to begin in Spring 2027. This is terrific news!

The HOA continues work to improve community communications through its website and Google Groups, making it easier for mountain residents, property owners, and renters to receive alerts and updates. If you haven't signed up for Google Groups...whether you belong to the HOA or not - please do! Connection is important!

Several popular community events are in the early stages of being planned. The Ice Cream Freeze-Off is tentatively set for the weekend of August 15-16, pending confirmation of the Community Center's availability. The annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, September 6 at the fire station, with pancakes and some surprises! The Chili Cook-Off is tentatively planned for Sunday, September 27, at the Community Center. Watch for confirmation and complete details.

And if you've got any new ideas for events or want to pitch in, please come to our next meeting August 15 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center. We'd love to have you!



MLWC Happenings

Submitted by Christina Grossman

We are now 103 members strong! This year's theme is transition, while strengthening and maintaining our multi-generational membership. It is a year of mentoring and support.

Hazel Rugg gave us an update that she will be passing on the torch for next year's 4th of July parade. Many thanks to Hazel for her years in leadership. She will be a mentor to our two new parade co-chairs, Beth Peterson and Andrea Martin.

Sally Crawford, who organized the Cabin Tours for over two decades, is also passing on the torch. She spearheaded the tours to build a sense of community and hope after the Aspen Fire. What resulted over the years is a deeper sense of community that our mountain has always needed. We are tremendously grateful for her leadership. We are looking for two members to co-chair, who will also have a mentor and support throughout the process.

For the 2027 June luncheon, we are pleased to welcome Dani Ragel and Sandi Triplett as co-chairs. We cannot wait to see what they have in store for next Summer!

Our Done in the Day project for July was for More Than a Bed. It was heartwarming to see all the toys our members brought for the children. They are always in need of toys throughout the year, not just the holidays.

In August, our Done in the Day focus is for Youth on Their Own. YOTO continues to support unhoused youth in achieving high school graduation and success after high school.

The next meeting is set for August 15th at 1:00 pm at the MLCC. The community is invited to attend the Speaker Series at 2:30pm. Dr. Leigh Combrink, from the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the UofA, will provide updates on her project with the Faul Preservation Area.

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Water Improvement District Updates

Recent rains have brought some encouraging news for Summerhaven's water system, but Water District officials say it is too soon to lift Stage 3 restrictions.

Just under four inches of rain increased the flow into the system from 4.6 gallons per minute to slightly more than 11 gallons per minute. Storage levels were also in fairly good shape, with the district's five tanks ranging from 68 to 94 percent full.

Officials explained a brief burst of rain is not enough to change the community's water status. The district generally looks for approximately two weeks of steady rainfall, followed by another two weeks of monitoring, to determine whether the increased spring flow will hold steady.

Planning is moving forward on a large new storage tank at the Upper Loma Linda tank site. Engineering began in March and is expected to take about eight months, followed by permitting and an estimated year of construction. The project is expected to cost approximately \$800,000. Representatives of the Loma Sabino HOA expressed concern about protecting the mature trees surrounding the site and asked to remain involved as plans develop.

The district is also continuing work on the Guthrie Road water-line project and exploring whether additional mountain springs could become future sources of water.

District finances ended the fiscal year approximately \$46,000 under budget. The district has also hired a new employee, Hunter, who will be trained on the job in utility operations.

But it rained a lot! Why are we still in Stage 3?

Summerhaven's water supply depends primarily on mountain springs and not every rainstorm helps those springs equally.

The rainfall that matters most is the rain that falls high on the mountain, particularly near Ski Valley, the University of Arizona SkyCenter and the upper canyons feeding the district's water sources. A heavy rain in Summerhaven or Soldier Camp may be welcome, but it does nothing to increase the flow into the village water system.

Even when rain falls in the right place, the effect is not immediate. The water must move through the ground before reaching the springs. District officials generally look for about two weeks of steady rain and then monitor the spring flow for another two weeks to see whether the improvement lasts.

The district harvests water from the springs, stores it in tanks at Miners Ridge, Sabino, Carter Canyon and Loma Linda, and then delivers it through community water lines.

Because spring flow can fall quickly when the rain stops, storage and conservation are especially important. The district is planning an additional storage tank and investigating the utility of several springs donated to the district. Those springs may eventually provide another source of water, although officials must first determine how much water they produce and how it could be fed to the existing system.

Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 15

EMS: 9

Fire: 5 (2 campfires, 2 smoke alarms,
1 downed line)

Public Assist: 1



PCSD calls for the month: 9

Accidents: 3

DUIs: 1

Suspicious persons/activity: 2

Burglary: 1

Trespassing: 2



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

According to the National Interagency Coordination Center, nearly 41,000 wildfires have burned almost four million acres across the United States so far in 2026. More than 20,000 firefighters and support personnel are currently assigned to wildfire activity nationwide.

The enormous wildfires burning in Canada have also sent smoke across the border, affecting air quality throughout much of the Midwest and Northeast. Even communities hundreds or thousands of miles from an active fire are experiencing its consequences.

Here on Mt. Lemmon, wildfire and its consequences are never far from our minds. We have been fortunate to receive some good rain, reducing our immediate fire risk and giving both the forest and our nerves a welcome break.

But we know this respite is temporary. Sooner or later, the sun will return, the winds will blow and the forest will begin to dry out again.

Firewise preparation is not something we do only when smoke is in the air or flames are visible on a nearby ridge. The work we do now: clearing pine needles, removing dead vegetation, trimming trees, and maintaining defensible space can make an enormous difference when the next fire threatens.

Enjoy the rain. Be grateful for the greener forest. But do not let down your guard. On Mt. Lemmon, the time to prepare for wildfire is always *before* the fire begins.

Insurance tip:

If your cabin is held by a Trust....make sure your cabin insurance is in the name of the Trust...not you or a partner.....otherwise, in the event of a claim, you could be denied! Check with your agent.

KLMN-LP 106.9 FM: Broadcasting, Streaming, and Video
Submitted by Christina Grossman

The Mount Lemmon Radio Club successfully broadcast the 53rd Annual Mount Lemmon 4th of July Parade over our radio station, KLMN-LP 106.9 FM. This was the first year of broadcasting audio and we could not be more pleased with the success. The broadcast included music from the Tucson Concert Band, directed by Arno Dittrich; as well as the commentary from the MLWC emcees from the Mount Lemmon Community Center hub.

Since the launch of the Mount Lemmon Radio Club in 2016, we have been offering livestream and video of the 4th of July parade since 2018. Each year brings new ideas, logistical challenges, and excitement for planning for the upcoming year ahead. It is worth the time and effort to make this available to the entire Mount Lemmon community and public.

Many thanks to the Mount Lemmon Woman's Club, Hazel Rugg, and the volunteers in making this parade happen. It is a privilege to be of service in preserving the memories for our community. To view the replay of the parade, go to www.klmn-lp.org and look for the video on the main page.

For comments and questions, email them to programming@klmn-lp.org. If you would like to donate to our 501c3 organization, go to the main page of www.klmn-lp.org and look for the "Donate" button on the top right. We appreciate you!

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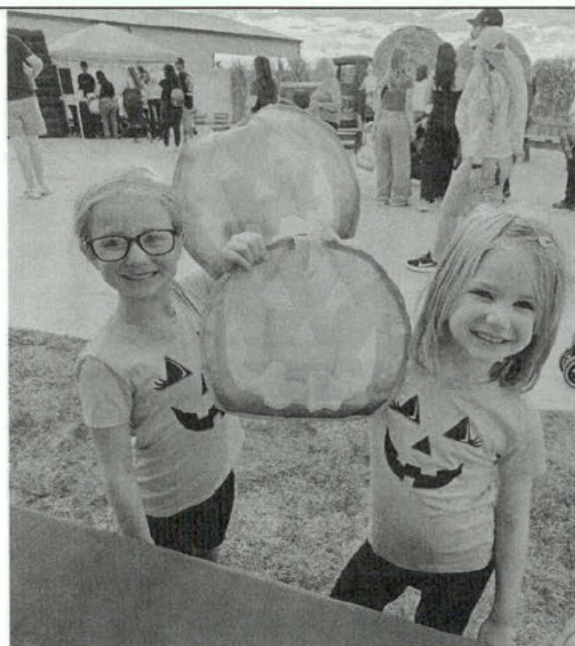
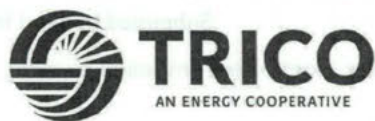
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Good News for Forest Service Cabin Owners

Our mountain neighbors in Greater Soldier Camp and Willow Canyon recently received some welcome news. National Forest Homeowners, the advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 13,000 recreation-residence cabin owners nationwide, announced that the U.S. Forest Service has agreed to increase the standard cabin permit term from 20 to 30 years. The change will begin when permits are reissued in 2028. Cabin owners must meet Forest Service requirements and be in compliance with their current permits to qualify for a 30-year permit.

The longer permit term is part of a broader initiative National Forest Homeowners has pursued for several years: the proposed Cabin Program Restoration Act. The legislation would provide additional protections for cabin owners, including preventing arbitrary limits on annual cabin use and creating clearer, fairer paths for rebuilding or receiving an alternative lot when a cabin is destroyed by wildfire or another disaster.

Tactics Against Thorny Locusts

Submitted by Ford Burkhardt

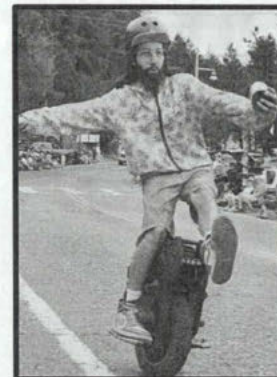
Here's a tip for cabineers facing thorns from unwanted invading locust plants: give them a dose of vinegar.

So say the experts at the U of Arizona's Master Gardner program.

They advise clipping off the locust at about 2 inches from the ground. Then scrape off the surface of the plant and paint the exposed inner tissue with vinegar, using a soft small paint brush.

The vinegar treatment beats trying to dig out the pesky roots of the plants, which can burrow their way down 2 or 3 feet.

The New Mexico Locust is opportunistic after a forest fire and thus we have seen many of them near our cabins. You can find more info on locusts at the web site bernalillo@nmsu.edu. Info is also available at the UA Campus Arboretum web site.



Did anyone figure out who this guy was?

Cody Visits Marshall Gulch

Cody ambled down toward Marshall Gulch, following a familiar path through the village. But when he reached the bottom, he stopped dead in his tracks.

"What happened here?"

All the trees were gone. In their place were wide stretches of concrete and rows of parked cars.

Cody looked around. He understood. More parking meant more people could visit the mountain, walk the trails, shop in the village, and enjoy the cool air. That was a *good* thing.

Still, as he scurried across the pavement and headed toward the old school, Cody remembered the trees that had once stood there, the shade they gave, the birds in their branches, and the way needles whispered when the wind blew.

He had passed them hundreds of times without giving them much thought. Somehow, he had believed they would always be there.

Cody paused at the edge of the parking lot and looked back.

Cody's Lesson: you don't know how much something means to you until it is gone.

Cody continued on his way, paying a little more attention to every tree he passed.



BEWARE Mountains & Roads



Slippery When WET

Signs of the Times by Kermie

Upcoming Mt. Lemmon Hikes Guided by Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists

All hikes start at 8 am from the stated trailhead. Hikes are not nature walks; rough and often steep terrain can be expected. Hikes are free and guided, with no reservations required. Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch for longer hikes. We will stop for a short lunch break. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking poles, and rain gear are recommended

Friday, August 7: Palisades Trail from Bigelow Trailhead. Meet at milepost 19.5.. 3.5-mile hike will be a nice ramble along Organization Ridge Road to the Palisades Trail, then along the trail with a possible steep detour to a beautiful spot along a creek. We might be allowed to explore the Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp on the return trip. Elevation gain of approximately 500 feet.

Friday, August 14: Incinerator Ridge from Bigelow Trailhead. Meet at milepost 19.5.. 3.9-mile hike up the Bigelow Trail and then over the unsigned Kellogg Trail to the Incinerator Trail, where we'll stop for a bit of history. We'll continue to a good spot to stop for a snack. Steep in a few spots. Elevation gain is about 800 feet. Old Ski Run from Sunset Trailhead

Friday, July 17: Turkey Run, Aspen Draw from Summerhaven Meet at milepost 24.7. A 5.2-mile hike starting on the paved Turkey Run Road past cabins, then up the Aspen Draw Trail to the top of the ski lift. Elevation gain of 1100 feet makes this hike great exercise along with the beauty of nature.

Friday, July 21 Aspen Draw to Radio Ridge from Ski Valley. Turn right at milepost 24.6.. 3.6-mile hike follows a shady trail up to the top of the ski lift. Lots of switchbacks and an elevation gain of 1100 feet make this a good exercise hike. Nice downhill on the return!

Friday, July 28 Fire Lookout/Meadow from Summit Trailhead. Turn right at milepost 24.6, then drive 1 mile past Ski Valley parking lot. A 3.0-mile loop hike thru the lovely alpine meadow at Mt. Lemmon's summit, then on to the historic Fire Lookout House, where we'll stop for lunch before heading back up a jeep road. Approximately 500 feet of elevation gain.

Mt. Lemmon Lodge Ready to Take It to the Next Level

Transition has been a recurring theme throughout this edition of *The Echoes* and the Mt. Lemmon Lodge is preparing for a transition of its own.

The Lodge has hired a new manager and new events coordinator. What makes this team especially noteworthy is they are married, have an 18-month-old daughter they hope to raise on the mountain, and have direct family connections to Summerhaven. They bring extensive experience in upscale hospitality and event planning to the Lodge.

Their arrival is expected to have a significant effect on Lodge operations, programming, and special events; taking the Lodge to next level of refinement.

So, who are these intriguing newcomers? You'll have to wait until next month when *The Echoes* sits down with them for a full interview.

For now, get ready. The Mt. Lemmon Lodge is kicking things up a notch or two. Another good thing for all of us!



BACK IN THE DAY: Tucson Citizen, May 31, 1958

Summer Evening And Mt. Lemmon Services

Both Union Summer Sunday Evening Services and Mt. Lemmon Community Church Services again are planned this season by the Tucson Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dr. Hayden S. Sears, pastor of the Catalina Methodist Church and former president of the council, will lead off the Sunday evening series June 8.

The Sunday evening services will be held at 8 o'clock in the patio of First Christian Church, 740 E. Speedway.

The Mt. Lemmon Community Church Services will be held in the Mt. Lemmon store at Summerhaven with Bible school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m.

The schedule of services was made to run from June 8 to Sept. 7.

However, the warm May 30th weekend caused Mrs. Ruth Irving

to announce a special worship service to be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow in the store. Mt. Lemmon traffic is expected to be heavy.

The Rev. Emil Carlson will be the speaker for June 8, Clermont D. Loper for June 15, the Rev. Robert A. Geller for June 22, and Chaplain Calvin W. Roy of Davis-Monthan for June 29.

Meanwhile plans to erect a Protestant community church for Santa Catalina Mountain residents are going ahead under a committee supported by the Tucson Council of Churches.



Sally Crum sent us a picture of the "Mt Lemmon Old Timer's Hiking Club." They're taking new members.....

Deadline for the September issue of *The Echoes* is August 19h.

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.

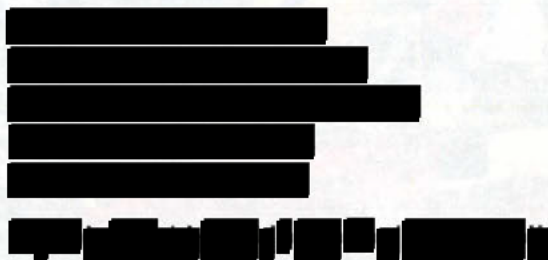
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