



CABIN-NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAD & DIEING TREES - ALERT!

As I drive around the mountain, I see more and more trees are dieing. We've had incidences where trees that looked alive, fell over and one even hit a nearby cabin. To our eyes it looked green, but to someone knowledgable, they can tell what trees are distressed from lack of water or disease and in a wind can break and fall. We are actually quite lucky that more structure have not been damaged.

Even as I write this, it's raining. We do need the water badly but for many or our trees it's too late. It will take several seasons of above average rainfall to make up for the years of drought. Please take care to trim branches and remove dangerous trees that are near your buildings. This will help save from both fire and damage.

The Fire Safe Council "DeadWood Gang" still has remaining 50/50 funds to help with cost sharing on these projects. But funds won't last forever. Please contact me today, for more details.

*John Wallar, Cabin # 718
MLIA President
949-361-5572 mwallar@cox.net*

★ **DEADWOOD GANG** ★
BACK ON THE TRAIL!

The Dead Wood Gang has
 50/50 funds for hazard tree removal.
 If you have a dead tree or branch that could fall and
 damage your cabin or surrounding areas,
 contact John Wallar today
 at 949-361-5572 or email mwallar@cox.net.

POWER LINE SAFETY

Recently Mount Laguna experienced a small brush fire behind a cabin. It was caused by a downed power line. Trucks from 3 departments (Federal, CDF, and Mt. Laguna Volunteers) responded with force and quickly put it out.

PLEASE exercise every precaution when trimming trees near power line and be on the continual alert to avoid fire hazards when using power tools. Thank you.

WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG

2008 CABIN PERMIT RENEWAL

PLEASE HELP THE FOREST SERVICE WITH A SUCCESSFUL 2008 RENEWAL PROCESS

Your OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN is now due to the Forest Service. It's very important that you complete and submit the document that you received in the mail, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE is the size of cabin, sheds, decks, etc. under Section II. If these are not listed, the process will be delayed and could effect your permit renewal.

REMEMBER, before beginning any alterations, repairs, maintenance, reconstruction, changes, etc. to the recreational residence structures or lot, the permit holder must obtain written approval from the Forest Service.

During fiscal 2008, the district will ONLY process proposals relating to change of ownership or issue of public health and safety concerns. Please defer all non-essential modifications to your cabin or lot until this important permit renewal process has been completed.

If you are planning to sell your cabin, please contact the the district office BEFORE contacting a realtor. It's important the you and the buyer understand the Forest Service expectations before the sale. Permit transfer inspections will be conducted ONCE per month.

If you have any questions, please contact Susie DeSonia, Recreation/Land Assistant, at 619-445-6235, ext. 3441.

WATER & MAINTENANCE

Reminder, if you have any problems with the MLIA water system, please report it to Dan Fritz at 619-405-1452 or 619-749-4553.

**MT. LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP
 WITH WORK PARTIES
 PLEASE CONTACT STAN JASEK AT
 619-691-1423 OR STANJASEK@YAHOO.COM**

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

We express our sympathy to all those affected by the devastating wildfires of October 2007. At the same time we are very grateful that the Mt. Laguna community was spared. Let this serve as reinforcement for all the activities on the mountain that private property owners, cabin owners, the SDSU Mt. Laguna Observatory and Al Bahr Shrine Camp as well as our partners in the USFS and BLM do to reduce fuel and work to minimize the threat of fire.

In the midst of the October wildfires, we did have a fire in Boiling Springs. Workers on Monument Peak spotted the fire and called 911. Because most governmental and city and county services were shut down, local residents were the first on the scene followed by a quick response by the Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department. While the fire was being contained, USFS firefighters who were returning back to Camp Ole after 36 hours on the Witch Fire stopped to help. Crews from the BLM were passing by and did the final mop-up work. Without the quick, effective and coordinated response of local residents and the Mt. Laguna Volunteer FD with support from the USFS and the BLM this could have developed into a major fire. We thank Tom Mc Way, his nephew TJ Mc Way and Les Barrior of the Mt. Laguna Lodge, Tom and Sue McNicols, Lance Gromme, Mike Jacobs, Lindsey and Marjean Williams and Lani Grote as well as the crews at the Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department, the USFS firefighters from Camp Ole and the firefighters from the BLM.

To reduce the risk of fire, we remind everyone to dispose of ashes from fireplaces, wood burning stoves and barbeques with care. Dispose of all ashes in a covered metal container. Ashes can remain hot for many days and ignite other combustible materials. Improperly disposed ashes greatly increase the risk of fire on the mountain.

As Spring approaches, we need to make plans to do our annual fuel reduction and maintain the 100 feet of defensible space around structures. The County of San Diego has developed a series of pamphlets that clearly outline what needs to be done. The pamphlets are divided into Zones: Access Zone - signs, roads, driveways; Defensible Space Zone - trees, plants and shrubs; Structure Zone - outdoor structures and storage, decks, roofs, gutters, windows, eaves, vents and sidings; and Interior Zone - fire extinguishers, fireplaces, wood burning stoves. Information is also provided on Personal Preparedness. This material is available at all Fire Safe Council meetings or you can access the County website at www.wildfirezone.org or call 1-877-357-7705.

Fire Safe Council Meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Tail Roost on Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May. 17

We have funding coming from the US Forest Service through a grant from the California Fire Safe Council to do a 65 acres fuel reduction project in Morris Ranch contiguous to a 4000-acre fuel reduction project planned by the USFS. Together both projects are designed to help further protect our Mt. Laguna Community.

We thank all the members of the community for your ongoing support of the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council and our activities. A special thank you to Shirley Potter for her donation.

*Pat Deasy-Spinetta, Cabin #1117
President, Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council
619-589-1789 pspinetta@cox.net*

**MT. LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OF
SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2007
A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**



1ST ANNUAL MOUNT LAGUNA CHILI SOCIAL

A great chance to get-together, socialize, welcome back and honor past MLIA Presidents and FSC Facilitators.

Saturday, February 16th

Shrine Camp Dining Hall
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chili, Cornbread, Desserts, Drinks
AND A LOT OF FUN!

Bring your favorite Chili, Cornbread, or dessert to share.

A crock pot would work great to keep it warm.
We'll have all the plates, utensils and cups.
\$5.00 donation \$1.00 tickets for door prizes.

All proceeds will go to the Fire Safe Council.

This is an opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors. All cabin owners, Shrine Camp cabin owners, and private property owners are invited. Come out and have some fun!

RSVP 619-691-1423

