

W I N T E R 2 0 1 3 - 1 4

# MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION CABIN NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2013

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*FRANK KALINOSKI, CABIN #504*

Two years ago, John Wallar talked me into becoming Vice President. I looked forward to working with John and when he took a leave of absence from the mountain and I had to step up and fill in. Filling in for John was a steep learning curve. Now I am President of the MLIA and looking forward to the challenge and the fun!

Our biggest challenge now is upgrading the infrastructure of our water system. We are taking several important steps to insure that our water system continues to provide safe and reliable water to our cabins.

We are in the process of replacing our transfer pump in the pump house located on Los Huecos Road just below cabin 504. The current pump installed in January 1976, is old and leaks, and not very efficient. This pump is responsible for supplying water to our 400,000 gallon Ole tank which in turn provides water to about 80% of MLIA cabins. Our plan is to install a state-of-the-art, vertical, stainless steel pump with a premium efficiency motor. The new pump/motor will be substantially more efficient, use less power lowering the SDG&E bill, and will be repairable if the need arises. A variable speed controller is also going to be installed to increase the lifespan of the motor and pump.

Next year we will pull the submersible pump on our well, inspect the well with a camera, and rehab the well to get our water extraction rate back to normal. This needs to be done about every 10 years and was last done in 2003. Finally, we want to construct a safe and secure structure around the wellhead.

These projects will cost us some money, and we use our annual dues and water fees to keep our water system in good working order. I will keep you informed on our progress. If you have any questions or need clarification, let me know. All of these projects are discussed at our quarterly Board meetings, and all cabin owners are welcome to attend.



Our November quarterly board meeting was just completed and we planned the social events and Board meeting dates for 2014. Check out the Events section on our website

([www.mtlaguna.org](http://www.mtlaguna.org)) for the dates and locations.

You don't want to miss the fun!

We also review MLIA water bills and discuss any problems related to them at the November meeting. Many times there is quite a list, usually due to undiscovered leaks. This year we only had 3 significant water bills and all were explainable. That means you are all doing your job water-wise turning off the water when you leave the cabin and checking for leaks and repairing problems as you find them.

Great job! Thanks!



## CABIN FEE ACT UPDATE

### November 20, 2013 Senate Hearing Update

On Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a public hearing on S. 1341, the Cabin Fee Act of 2013 (CFA). Very positive, encouraging, and clearly bi-partisan comments were made by four Senators speaking in support of the CFA. Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), ranking Republican on the Subcommittee, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) chairman of the full ENR Committee, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) all spoke in support of the bill.

It is very significant that the Chairmen of the major committees of jurisdiction in both the House, Doc Hastings (R-WA), and Senate, Ron Wyden (D-OR), are now on record in strong support of the Cabin Fee Act. *Chairman Wyden said explicitly that he wants the bill to move forward.* That will count for a lot as we press to get this done by years' end.

The Forest Service Deputy Chief, Leslie Weldon, also testified and stated openly *"the USDA Forest Service supports the bill."* This is the first time the Forest Service has spoken so clearly in favor of the CFA. We are all very encouraged because this is a major step forward towards passage of the bill. *No one opposed the bill or expressed any criticism.*



The next step will be a full Energy & Natural Resources Committee "markup" in December. We are pressing for a prompt markup and are hopeful the committee will approve the bill as introduced, without any changes. Rest assured we will be closely monitoring any possible changes to the review provision or the transfer fee provision.

It is critical that S. 1341 go to markup as soon as possible. Since we still must pass the review of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a markup and committee approval will be the quickest way to get a CBO revenue evaluation.

With a favorable CBO ruling, the bill will move to a Senate floor vote and possible passage in the House. Though time is rapidly passing, NFH and the Cabin Coalition 2 continue efforts to get this done this year. Please stay engaged and be ready to do your part, too.

Additional comments from NFH Executive Director, Ernie Atencio and links to the written testimony of both the Forest Service and the Cabin Coalition 2 can be found on the NFH website:

<http://www.nationalforesthowners.org/>.

Pete Bailey  
C2 Steering Committee

### PHONE EMERGENCY ALERTS

Receive fire and emergency alerts regarding your home and cabin on your cell or home phone. Register your phone number at <http://readyalertsandiego.org/alertsandiego>.

CONTRIBUTED BY:  
BROCK HOUSTON, CABIN #807  
MLIA BOARD MEMBER



## Road Access Committee Report

The access committee has been active in 2013. We spread over 100 tons of Class II road base on cabin access roads. The largest project was nearly 100 yards long at the north entrance to Lower Boiling Springs. Our materials vendor had a sale recently that allowed us to purchase an additional 50 tons of road base material. This was distributed to staging areas for future work.



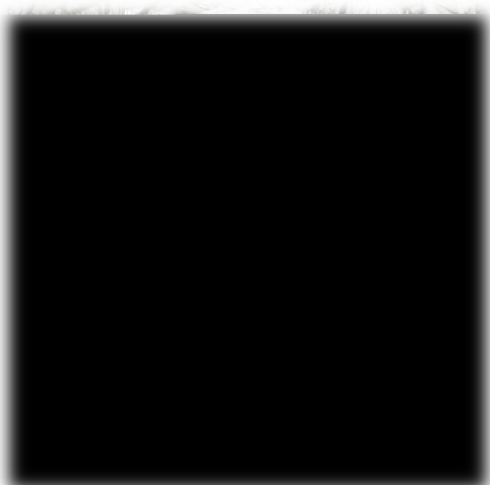
Cabin owners in the vicinity of the materials have already helped in getting some problem areas repaired. You are free to utilize the staged materials if you see a need to repair access roads near your cabin in order to provide better ingress and egress for yourself and emergency vehicles.

I would personally like to thank the numerous volunteers that stepped up during the year to assist in work parties: Dave Keller and Ken, Al Clarkson, Bob Olsen, Joe Cook, Ken Krauss, John Czajkowski, Frank Kalinoski, and George Adkins. I apologize to anyone I might have missed. You are all appreciated.

MLIA is in need of some items to continue our road improvements in 2014. 16" culvert material is sorely needed to replace existing pipes that do not adequately clear during heavy rains. We will also need machinery to install the pipes as well as assist in the laying of new and upgraded water lines throughout our community. Ideas on how to fill those needs will be

developed as we head into 2014. In the meantime, enjoy your cabin in our special place on earth. See you around!!

**CARL SESSIONS, CABIN #716  
MLIA VICE-PRESIDENT**



# 2014 MLIA Calendar of Events

<b>FEB</b>		<b>BOARD MEETING FEB 8, SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00</b>	
<b>MAR</b>			
<b>APR</b>	<b>CHILI FEST SOCIAL (TBD) RED TAILED ROOST</b>		
<b>MAY</b>		<b>BOARD MEETING MAY 3, SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE DINNER JUNE 21</b>		
<b>JULY</b>	<b>MLIA ANNUAL PICNIC JULY 19 HORSE HEAVEN CAMPGROUND</b>		
<b>AUG</b>	<b>WINE-A-BIT AUGUST 16</b>	<b>BOARD MEETING AUGUST 2, SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00</b>	
<b>SEPT</b>			<b>MLIA ANNUAL MEETING SEPT 20, SATURDAY 10:00 - 12:00</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>OKTOBERFEST (TBD)</b>		
<b>NOV</b>		<b>BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 1, SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00</b>	



## MOUNT LAGUNA PLANT LORE

## WORMWOOD

*Artemisia spp*

Sometimes the most nondescript seeming plants are the most powerful! One of my favorite groups of plants is the *Artemisia* species, with over 50 subspecies. Most look a bit scrubby and unkempt, although a few have become garden cultivars. Look for slightly hairy, gray-green leaves with toothed margins. The growth habit is often woody or spreading. They all share a sharp sage or camphor-like aroma when crushed.

*Artemisia absinthium*, native to Europe, is the plant used to make the liquor absinthe. *Artemisia annua*, native to China and now naturalized around the world, is a valuable anti-malarial plant. It is grown in cultivation to supply parts of the world with anti-malarial treatments. Many plants in this group also go by the common name Wormwood, indicating the ability to purge parasites, if used properly.

In our mountains, we have two subspecies, both important medicinal plants. *Artemisia douglasiana*, also known as California mugwort, grows in canyons and meadows near a water source. *Artemisia tridentata*, or Great Basin Sage Brush, grows in dry open meadows and along roadsides. There's a typical specimen along Los Huecos Road on the north side about ½ mile from Sunrise Highway.

Both these plants have been used as traditional herbal medicines by native peoples. The leaves were brewed into a bitter tea to treat colds and flu, as well as stop internal bleeding. This tea could also treat stomach problems or menstrual irregularities. A wash made from the leaves could be used to disinfect wounds. The branches were used in sweat baths. *Artemisia* was always avoided during pregnancy, due to its ability to bring on menstruation.

*Artemisia douglasiana* is thought to stimulate vivid dreams. To use it this way, place a fresh or dried cutting of the plant near your bed. Some dream pillows include mugwort as well as other herbs like chamomile and lavender. Try it and see if it works.

As with all plants, *Artemisia* shouldn't be used internally unless you are working with someone trained in herbal medicines. These unassuming looking plants pack a powerful wallop and demand our respect. But the next time you walk by the *Artemisia tridentata* on Los Huecos Road, take a look and crush a leaf to smell the typical aroma. You'll start to notice more and more of them as you walk our trails. Enjoy!



JOANNE ODENTHAL  
CABIN #505



# NEWS from the FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the members of the Al Bahr Shrine Camp as they deal with the aftermath of the Chariot Fire. Our Board member, Bob Stangman, Assistant Manager of the Shrine Camp lost his home, his possessions and treasured family mementos. Carol Dean, our Secretary and her husband, Winston's Cabin 14 survived but they and the remaining cabin owners are still out of water and have issues with ingress to their cabins. The MLFSC has met with the Officers of the Al Bahr Shrine, pledged our support, and agreed to take direction from the Shrine Public Relations representative on how best to help. We thank the representatives of the USFS, CALFire and the BLM who have attended all our FSC meetings following the Chariot Fire.

The annual 100-foot fuel reduction around homes and cabins was considered a big success this year by the USFS. Our pilot program using dumpsters at Camp Ole to dispose of leaves went smoothly. We are now in the process of finding ways to continue the program. A committee representing all stakeholders on the mountain will meet with Jason Kraling, our USFS Battalion Chief, in early 2014 to finalize the project. In the meantime a Request for Proposal (RFP) is being sent out to all waste disposal companies serving the East County. We thank Bob Olsen, member of the MLIA Board, for chairing this initiative. Funding continues to be an issue. We thank the MLIA for hosting social events that help fund these and other projects. All donations to the MLFSC are tax deductible and will targeted for this project.

On November 16, 2013 the Officers and Board members of the MLFSC were elected. They represent all stakeholders in the community: private property owners, cabin owners, and the Shrine Camp.

Fire danger on the mountain is still high. Fuel moisture is very low at 7%.

**If you notice a bonfire, fire in a trashcan, or other questionable fire, please call  
USFS dispatch at 619-557-5262 or  
CALFire dispatch at 619-442-1615.**

CALFire dispatches fire and medical emergencies for the Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department. Please put these numbers in your cell phone contact list for easy access.

Enjoy the holiday season and please join us for our next *Fire Safe Council Meeting on March 15, 2014 at 10:00am at the Red Tailed Roost.*

*PAT DEASY-SPINETTA, CABIN #1117  
PRESIDENT MT LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL*



## WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- **TURN OFF THE PROPANE WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR CABIN**
- **INSTALL SPARK ARRESTORS ON OUTSIDE CHIMNEYSSTACKS. SPARKS CAN AND DO CAUSE FOREST FIRES.**
- **PLACE LIVE COALS FROM FIREPLACES OR STOVES IN A GALVANIZED COVERED CONTAINER. DO NOT BURY THEM. BURIED COALS CAN SMOLDER FOR DAYS AND THEN IGNITE.**
- **CHECK AND REPLACE FRAYED, WORN OR IMPROPERLY USED ELECTRICAL CORDS.**
- **CHANGE BATTERIES IN SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS. THEY CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.**

## HARP STRING BUSINESS THRIVES ATOP LAGUNA

By J. Harry Jones

*Edited from UTSanDiego.com online article Nov 1, 2013*

Three million people visit Mt. Laguna every year to camp, hike, or play in the snow, yet virtually none of them realize they have driven right by one of the most exclusive and renowned harp-string businesses in the world. Just off Sunrise Highway, not far from the general store, is an unmarked building that looks like any other cabin. But inside, each year, roughly 150,000 hand made harp strings are produced by five employees at Robinson's Harp Shop.



The business has been in operation since 1967. It is strictly mail order and sends strings to all corners of the world to a loyal customer base. There are only four such businesses in the United States that will make custom ordered strings for folk harps — and three of the four are connected by blood. Those all began with Roland “Robby” Robinson and a chance walk down a Brazilian street. “He fell in love with the sound and bought two Paraguayan harps and had them shipped back here where he took them apart and learned how to make them,” said Susan Raimond, the manager of Robinson’s.

Once retired from government work, Robinson, then 47, and his wife Phyllis, then 23, moved to Mt. Laguna in 1966 and opened up a business making folk harps of all sizes and from all cultures. Robinson and his business became famous in the harp world — he was considered a leading authority on the instrument. In 1993, Robby Robinson was killed while riding a moped he had bought three months earlier. Phyllis, who was the postmaster of the tiny Mt. Laguna post office, vowed to continue on with the business, which today employs three of the area’s 57 permanent residents.

Inside a filing cabinet Raimond displays thousands of “maker books” detailing dimensions and specifics about every harp for which they have made strings. On average, each day the business will get about 30 emails with orders for any number of strings, another 15 or so phone calls, a few faxes and even some orders via snail mail from people who live in countries where computer access is limited. The strings are made, one at a time, on “string machines” created specifically for the business. In most cases a very thin piece of nylon string is attached to the machine and then other types of string are wrapped around it. Each string, depending on the type, sells for somewhere between \$4.50 and \$8.

“We see all the elite names come through here. These people are on TV and on stage and perform before the president. Every time I turn on the TV set and someone’s playing a folk harp, the odds are those strings came from this shop. And I probably made them. And that’s kind of neat.” Folk harps are different in every culture. In the United States, C strings are colored red and F strings are colored blue. “Every country has a different color code and every country has a different culture of sound,” said Raimond, 59, the manager. “We have accumulated a lot of knowledge.”



Raimond is also the longtime assistant chief of the Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department and runs a separate business for which she travels the world offering harp enrichment therapy to animals.

Occasionally famous harpists will visit the business but otherwise it operates in virtual anonymity. “We don’t want people coming and taking up our time,” Phyllis Robinson said. “We keep a low profile and that’s the way we like it.”



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## MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1935, the Mount Laguna Improvement Association acts as a liaison between cabin owners and the Forest Service addressing water, roads and wood removal.

### Water Maintenance

If you have any problems with the MLIA water system,  
Please report it to Dan Fritz at 619-405-1452.

### Have you moved?

Send your address or email changes to Karen Motta  
at [RKMotta@cox.net](mailto:RKMotta@cox.net) or call (760) 440-9554.



Visit our website at [www.mtlaguna.org](http://www.mtlaguna.org)

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