The Los Huecos Water Tank rehab project has been completed!! Superior Tank started dismantling the tank on Monday January 11th. By Wednesday the 27th, through the wind and the cold, the water tank was rebuilt on the existing footprint and ready to be filled with water. On the 31st the water sample came back from the lab as “Absent from Contamination.” With that clearance and we were ready to open the valves to allow the tank to be used by the cabins.

The “new” tank is steel bolted and 30 feet in diameter and 16 feet tall and holds about 75 thousand gallons. The old tank was steel bolted, 30 feet in diameter and 24 feet tall and held about 124 thousand gallons, but the bad fiberglass liner allowed us to use only about 20 feet. The tank interior is epoxy powder coated instead of a fiberglass liner. The tank exterior is polyester powder coated instead of painted.

The Los Huecos tank now has adequate venting and the proper kind of locked roof access. The external access ladder is caged and lockable. There is a new 4" input/output valve and piping for an upper fill line, a lower output line and a new Continued on page 2
President’s Update, continued

3" drain valve. Also a new overflow line with a flapper cover has been installed. The distribution line for the Los Huecos and Laguna tracts has a separate valve and meter directly off the tank. This tank will serve us well for many, many years.

I am making plans to attend the 2016 National Forest Homeowners Conference in Santa Clara, California on April 29-30. Hopefully there will be USFS representation from Region 5 - Southwest Region. Maybe the Cleveland Forest Supervisor will attend also.

It looks like the El Nino turned into an El Nono, so we can get back into our cabins and enjoy the Spring days on the mountain. I am looking forward to the get-togethers the Social Committee has planned for this year.

See you at the Chili Fest Social on April 16.

Frank

Dismantling the tank.

Bottom of the “barrel.”

New floor for the water tank.

Refurbished tank wall going up.
CHILI FEST SOCIAL

All Cabin Owners, Shrine Camp Owners, Private Property Owners, LMVA, Visitors and Guests Are Invited.

Your RSVP Needed ASAP!!

Saturday, April 16
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Mt Laguna Community Church and Conference Center
Sunrise Highway at the Desert Outlook turnoff.

$10.00 Gift Card or Cash Donation Per Person

Good Food!
Good Neighbors!
Lots of Fun!

Bring your favorite Chili, Cornbread, Salad or Dessert to share.

Vote for this year’s “Best Chili.”

Hand-crafted items are welcome for our “Opportunity Drawing.”

MLIA will supply drinks, plates, utensils and cups. Bring your chili in a crockpot to keep it warm and serving utensils for your dish.

Please bring a chair or two for seating.

San Diego County Regulations allow only Service Animals at functions serving food. No pets, please.

RSVP to Joanie Cochran at (619) 443-4105 or email: sassysilks8501@att.net so we have a head count and know who is bringing what!
Its spring and that brings clean up time to the mountain. The leaf dumpster will be back on the mountain again this year and will be placed near the brush pile on the old Air Force station property.

Hopefully the dumpster will be in place the week of April 4th. Many thanks to Jason Kraling of the US Forest Service and Bob Olsen for their efforts in getting the dumpster arrangements worked out. This is a very important asset for the cabin owners, so we'll go over the rules once again at our first meeting on April 16th.

On Saturday April 23rd 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Barona Creek Golf Club will host Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. See the flyer on page 6 of this newsletter for information.

All cabin owners and Laguna Mountain residents are invited to our first meeting of the year on April 16th 10 a.m. at the Red-Tailed Roost. Jennifer Cochran, R.N., will provide a CPR refresher course.

Stay current with MLFSC news and fire safety information on our website at mtlaguna.org/fire-safe-council.
Cabin Critter Sightings
Contributed by Nola Houston,
Cabin 807

Coyote Coffee
We awoke at dawn to a symphony of coyote howling and chatter. It sounded like they were right next to us on both sides of the cabin, calling to others we could hear answering from the forest. It’s bone chilling to feel to the anxious yips and barks so close. We tried to imagine how many there might be.

We were wide-awake, there was no going back to sleep. I walked outside to see if I could see anything. They saw me first . . . two large adults held their ground on the other side of the creek in the pines. One started to yip and howl - loud and piercing!

Snow Bird
This little chickadee lands on our hands, heads, woodworking tools, and kitchen door screen too. She followed me around during a big snowstorm we had.

She sat patiently in the tree above me while I took snow photos.

She’s old . . .
Her feathers are all ruffled with bare spots on her back. Her tail feathers are damaged, half what they should be - her wing feathers crooked . . . and her figure is, well, no longer sleek and young. She sits perfectly still for the longest time when she feeds - her tongue slightly sticking out.

The other hummingbirds are constantly looking around, darting, flitting here and there - not quite feeding completely. Still she sits silently, paying no attention to those nervous kids.
SATURDAY, APRIL 23
WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Keep your family, home, and business fire-safe!

San Diego families, community Fire Safe Councils, and business owners are invited to a FREE day-long fire safety forum. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. Bring the family, learn about fire safety, enjoy a free lunch, and even meet Smokey Bear!

Be sure to RSVP via email to jerrydavies55@gmail.com to ensure enough food and handouts for everyone!

Questions? Call Jerry Davies at 805-559-0082

Sponsored by the California Fire Safe Council, in partnership with Farmers Insurance and the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County.
MLIA Community Picnic

June 25, 2016
Horse Heaven Campground
Buttercup Section

11:00am - Pot Luck Picnic
2:00pm - Door Prize Drawing
50/50 Raffle
$100 Grand Prize

Bring your own meat to grill and a Pot Luck dish to share.
Soda and Beer furnished by MLIA.

Flyer coming soon with complete details!

Wine-A-Bit

August 20, 2016
3:00 – 6:00 pm

1. Cabins 802 and 803
   Hosted by the Jaceks and the Barahuras.

2. Beer, Wine, and Soft drinks will be provided.
   Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

3. Raffle, 50/50 Drawing and Auction Prize proceeds support Fire Safe Council & MLIA.

Watch for flyer with complete event information.
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.

www.mtlaguna.org

Water Maintenance
Please report any problems with the MLIA water system to Dan Fritz at (619)-405-1452.

Do You Have New Contact Information? Let us know!
Please send your email, phone, and address changes to Karen Motta at (619)-977-2083 or RKMotta@cox.net.

Eugenie Newton, Editor
Evn8@san.rr.com