

CABIN NEWS



Mount Laguna Lodge Webcam
March 30, 2023

**MOUNT LAGUNA
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**SPRING, 2023
VOLUME 21 ISSUE 85**

~ Coming Soon ~

Chili Fest

April 15
1:00 – 5:00

RSVP ASAP
Details page 3

Fire Safe Council

April 15
10:00 am
Red-Tailed Roost

MLIA Board Meeting

April 29
9:00 – 11:00
Cabin 916

“Sez the Prez . . .”

Frank Kalinoski

If you think it is Spring, look at the Laguna Lodge web cam - SNOW. This has been quite the rainy and cold and snowy winter and it is not over yet even though spring has begun. The trees are loving it. Boiling Spring ravine is bubbling with water.

I can't wait for the weather to warm and the opportunity to watch the mountain explode in flowers and pollen and bugs and grasses and weeds and acorns and pine cones and birds and rodents and predators.

Hopefully when we get a chance to get back into our cabins there will not be too much damage from snow load or water flows or leaks. There will be lots of leaves and needles to clear and weeds to whack this year.

We will need to work on the cabin access roads. The County's Los Huecos Road a mess! Hopefully it will be reconditioned in the Spring.

Our MLIA water system has a leak problem also. In early March

(Continued of page 2)

The Prez, continued.

when we pumped 13 feet of water [65,000 gallons] into the Los Huecos water tank, a few days later half of it was gone. At first we suspected an open valve and water leak at a cabin, which has happened before. But it was not the case this time. The problem is either in the supply line from the well to the tank or in the supply line from the tank to the pump house.

With the weather being so poor and the ground saturated with snow and rain, we have not been able to locate the problem. We are able to pump water into the tank and supply the cabins in Los Huecos and Laguna tracts. It may take a while to find the leak. In the meantime, it will take a bit more effort to manage the water system.

Our water system is now being overseen by the State Department of Drinking Water instead of San Diego County. I have attended an introductory session with them and a webinar. It has been surprisingly quite helpful; better than the County. There may be more water testing or more scrutiny. We will see.

Our two new Directors are jumping right into the fray. Bunny Krall has taken over [from me] as the Cleveland NF National Forest Homeowner Outreach liaison and she has been quite forthcoming with ideas to improve our organization. Bunny helps with new cabin owners by contacting them. Elizabeth Dunn has been joining Dan and I to learn the water system. Her interest is most welcome.

The Social Committee of Kerry Anderson, Bunny Krall and Toni Cleveland are working on the spring Chili Fest. Hopefully things will warm up and dry out by April 15th. Our MLIA social events are really important to sustaining our mountain community. Who needs an excuse for good company and good food and drinks and some cornhole? It is not difficult to get involved. Many hands can make the work load lighter and quicker and easier.

And YOU don't have to be a Director to get involved. Feel free to volunteer!

The NFH Annual Conference is happening in Lake Tahoe on May 5-6. It would be worth the effort to attend to see what the NFH is about, meet other cabin owners, share your cabin memories and joys and problems and successes. The theme is Resilience, which is noteworthy since Tahoe was threatened in 2021 by the nearby Caldor Fire, where many cabins were lost. Fire and its aftermath will part of the conference information.

The Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council will be starting up again on April 15 at the Red-Tailed Roost. Hopefully some will find the time to attend a meeting to keep up on how to keep the mountain safe.

Our District Ranger, Bob Heiar, is on a detail to the Tonto NF as the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor. We now have an Acting District Ranger, Kyle Smith.

*See you on the mountain !!!
Frank*



Instead of building a snowman we built a parking place. We had to dig our way to the door. It was gorgeous. We've owned the 100 year old cabin (one of the few with no power/electricity) for about 20 years. Our family thinks this is the highest build up we've seen . . . about 3 ft at our door.

*Sarah & Scott Way
and Grammy Betty Hill, Cabin 495*





MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Chili Fest Social

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



Saturday, April 15

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Mt. Laguna
Community Center
(The Haven)**

Sunrise Highway at the
Desert Overlook turnoff.

**\$15.00
Cash Donation
Per Person**



Good Food! Good Neighbors! Good Fun!

Bring your favorite chili, bread,
salad or dessert to share.

Vote for the Best Chili of 2023!

Silent Auction ~ 50/50 Drawing
Corn Hole Contest

MLIA will provide Mountain Water and lemonade,
plates, utensils and cups. Bring your chili in a
crockpot to keep it warm and serving utensils
for your dish.

Please bring a chair for seating.

Service Animals Only. No Pets.

RSVP to Toni Cleveland

How many are in your party and
what you are bringing.

toni_cleveland@yahoo.com or (619)701-1519

Welcome Toni Cleveland as MLIA Social Coordinator!

Toni is taking over from Kerry Anderson as the MLIA Social Coordinator. Thank you, Kerry, for the exceptional social events you orchestrated for our cabin community.

Toni and her husband, Bill, became part of the Mount Laguna cabin community in January 2019.



They had frequently trailer camped in the Laguna Campground and strolled the meadows, always looking at the cabins, dreaming of having one some day. Dream became reality with cabin 315 in the Laguna Tract.

Toni explained that she and Bill looked forward to getting to know their neighbors, but moving in when they did (Covid years), made it a challenge. Toni would like to make up for lost time and looks forward to meeting fellow cabin owners at the MLIA social events.

This year, Toni and Bill will be married 49 years, have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Toni retired from teaching middle school and Bill retired from manufacturing head gear to keep kids and adults safe. The Cleveland's' primary residence is in Rancho San Diego.

Toni is very enthusiastic in taking on the Social Coordinator role and she has creative ideas she has for engaging folks in the social events. Please welcome Toni to her new role at the April Chili Fest.

~ Bunny Krall

What is under all that snow?

As soon as the snow stops and we can find the **access roads** again we will do inspections on them. We will evaluate what all the snow and water did and what needs to be worked. I will have more in the Summer newsletter.

The **Nominating Committee** has been busy seeking candidates for one future open position on the MLIA board come August 2023. A couple of candidates are in the consideration stage and will provide Candidate Statements for all to consider, along with returning Director candidates.

Anyone interested in running for Director or getting information about Director duties or open Committee positions, please contact me at (619) 571 2284 or any Board member at mliacabins@gmail.com.

~ Carl Sessions, MLIA-VP



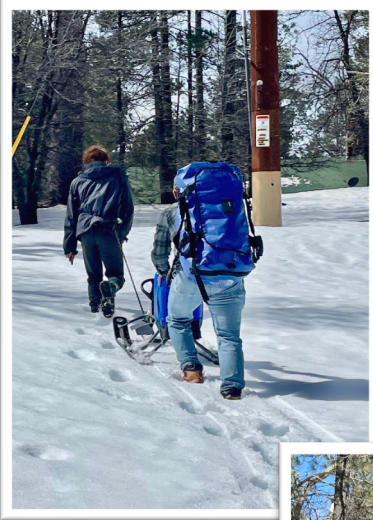
Photo by Kevin Schaefer

Sunrise Highway *after-the-snow* Cleanup

May 6, 2023 at 1:00 pm
meet up at the
Desert View Parking Lot
Refreshments after!



The snow of snows



Jasper & Tom Bier
sledding gear to the
cabin with car stuck
in the snow.



Photo by
Elizabeth Dunn



Tom next to huge old
oak downed by the
storms.

Photos by Laura Bier

Photo by
Suellen Butler



Photo by
Dan Fritz





Photo by Kevin Schaefer



Photos by
Dan Fritz

Cabin 318 owner Matt Vellone walked to the cabin from the Laguna Campground to check on the cabin. He got in from the front porch and shoveled snow from inside the kitchen door to access the back.



The access road had become a creek!
Connie & Lynn Baer



Photo by Dan Fritz

With this much snow, just imagine the coming mountain wildflowers!



Photo by
Richard Willis



Hello Mt. Laguna Community Members!

The first MLFSC meeting of 2023 is set for Saturday April 15th, 10:00 am, at the Red Tail Roost. An invitation and meeting agenda will be emailed out prior to all meetings. Our meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Saturday of each month through November. If there are any changes to the date or time of these meetings, an email will be sent out to all members.

It is time to start planning for your annual clean-up, weed abatement and brush trimming. The Forest Service will do their inspections of the permit cabins and surrounding area, and Cal Fire will do these inspections for the private land owners and their property.

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the community-only brush pile and dumpster continues to be located at the Camp Ole Fire Station. The Fire Station is **open for our use seven days a week from 9:30am to 4:30pm only. The dumpster will be placed in May.** The brush pile is open now. A change in location for the brush pile and the dumpster is in the planning stages. An email will be sent out regarding these changes when we know more.

The following FSC equipment is available for use by our community members.

1. Gas powered weed whackers, gas powered trimmer, gas powered pole saw for \$20/1 or 2 day to use.
2. Gas powered wood splitter for \$30/day to use.

Please contact Jack Splinter @ 858-472-4368 or Richard Willis @ 619-990-1404, our equipment managers, to schedule equipment usage.

Thanks to the Mount Laguna Community, US Forest Service, Cal Fire and the MLIA for their continued support of the Fire Safe Council.

~ Doug Reed, MLFSC President (ohio0411@hotmail.com)

Thank you to those members who donated to the MLFSC in the past.

If you wish to donate a tax -deductible contribution to the Fire Safe Council, please mail your check to:
Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council
P O Box 292
Mount Laguna, CA 91948

Ann and Chester Watts, Cabin 745



Ann shared that she and Chester had owned a large home on 4 acres in Julian for 12 years which they recently sold. They looked for something smaller to get away to on weekends and escape the Brawley heat and purchased cabin 745 in the Boiling Springs Tract.

Ann is employed, managing a staffing agency for travel nurses and Chester is retired from the California Highway Patrol.

They look forward to attending MLIA Social Events and getting to know their cabin neighbors.

Welcome to the mountain, Ann and Chester!

~ Bunny Krall

Bob Dixon, Cabin 572

Bob has always been an avid backpacker and hiked Mt Laguna' many trails prior to purchasing his cabin this past year in the El Centro Tract.

He was looking for the tranquility that the Mt Laguna environment offers, a change from the hustle/bustle of his San Diego home. Bob hopes to spend 80% of his time at the cabin and the other 20% in San Diego.

Bob owns a small back packing company that makes roller back packs. He said he's designed backpacks with one wheel that can be taken on the hiking trails and lightens your load.

Welcome to the mountain, Bob!

~ Bunny Krall

The National Forest Homeowners (NFH) Connection

I hope you have had the opportunity to visit the NFH website at <https://www.nationalforesthowners.org/>. NFH is the cabin owner's voice in Washington, advisor and advocate for recreation residences throughout the country.

The NFH National Conference is at Lake Tahoe May 5 & 6th, 2023.

Break out sessions include the following topics:

- Advocacy 101: How to influence where your permit dollars are spent (Beginning in 2025 Permit Dollars will be channeled back to the forests to support the Recreation Residence Program)
- Organizing for Emergencies and Fire Preparation
- Permits and Reissuance: A 2024 Preview: El Dorado Forest is in their permit reissuance timeframe.
- Sharing a Cabin: Is your family prepared?
- Stewardship using iNaturalist

Be sure to check out the NFH website and see what is happening.

~ Bunny Krall

Tom Hodges, Cabin 704



Tom is a long-term San Diego resident and has lived in the Del Dios area for 44 years. He is employed by the Del Dios Water Board, doing their finances.

Bob has always wanted a place in the mountains. He and his 3 generations of family purchased cabin 704 this year. Tom states: "the place is a real fixer upper, but we have plenty of time and plan to fix it from the ground up."

Tom and his family look forward to meeting their cabin neighbors.

Welcome to the mountain, Tom and Family!

~ Bunny Krall

Dumpster and Brush Pile Do's and Don'ts

- **Dumpster: Leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones ONLY.**
No dirt, rocks or bags allowed.
Unload to the back and up to the edge of the dumpster first.
Please close the doors when done.
- **Brush pile: Native shrubs, brush and branches up to a maximum of 6" in diameter ONLY.** Unload toward the back of the brush pile first.
- Please keep the site clean.
- No trash, bags or construction debris are allowed at this site.
- Mt. Laguna community use ONLY. No contractors allowed.
- Follow posted signs to and from the brush pile and dumpster.
- No entering of any buildings and drive slowly while in the Fire Station.
- While on this Government facility, COVID-19 precaution masks are required to be worn at all times.



NFH Supports Cabin Owners A personal story

by Bunny Krall

Representatives from NFH represent cabin owners in Washington and support the recreation residence program.

I'd like to share our experience with NFH staff recently.

My husband Dan and I bought our cabin in August, 2021. We knew upon purchase that it had a failed septic system that needed replacement. We heard that the process could take up to a year, but that it was possible. Never did we dream that we would be on a very challenging 19 month journey with the United States Forest Service (USFS).

We submitted our septic system request as part of our use permit application. We received our use permit quickly, but received no word on the septic system. We waited, and we waited. We emailed, left voicemails and stopped at the USFS Office, seeking answers about our request and how we could help facilitate the process.

The USFS acknowledged that they had no process and they stopped communicating with us.

We contacted National Forest Homeowners (NFH) seeking support. Their Executive Director

and President advocated for us with the USFS. They felt that taking the time to assist us would also benefit those submitting a request after us. NFH frequently communicated with us. The NFH Executive Director played a key role in facilitating meeting with the District Ranger and Forest Supervisor to identify next steps and obtain timeline commitments. NFH helped us understand USFS workings, have realistic expectations, and mentored us so we were the ones communicating with the USFS.

Fast forward to March 24th 2023, we have a new septic system in place. We are elated, have learned lessons and established relationships



On site meeting with Luke Ostrander, Engineer, Ed Mercado, La Posta Tribal representative, Bob Hejar, USFS, Brian Williams, Archaeologist, and Dan Krall.

that would not have been possible if we had not gone through this process. We became familiar with NFH staff, the Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, ASM Archeologists, local Native Americans and a wonderful septic contractor, all who hung with us through this drawn-out process.

The District Ranger stated we were the

“guinea pigs” in defining the process and subsequent requests will move quicker. We want a follow up meeting with the USFS to provide input into the process and ensure it is finalized. An essential step is having all key players (cabin owner, contractor, USFS, archeologist and Native American representative) *meet early in the process* to establish a common set of expectations and knowledge.

We firmly believe a more collaborative approach to similar requests, with Forest Service Staff and Cabin owners supporting each other is essential so processes can move forward.

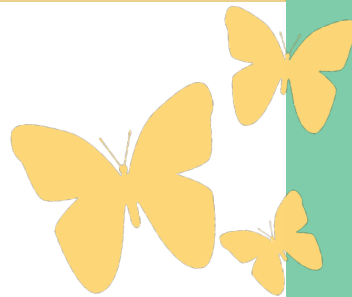


MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SPRING, 2023

Thank you to all the cabin owners who contributed photos and stories for this newsletter issue.

*Eugenie Newton, Editor
evn8@san.rr.com*



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

Water Maintenance Issues?

Report immediately to
Dan Fritz
at (619) 405-1452.

Keep MLIA Up-to-Date!

Send your contact
changes to

Joanne Odenthal at
mliacabins@gmail.com



www.mtlaguna.org