

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

Cabin Newsletter

Vol 22 No 90



Happening Soon!

Sunrise Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

June 14, 11:00am

Details on page 8

Fire Safe Council Meeting

**June 15, 10:00 am
Red-Tailed Roost**

MLIA Community Picnic

June 15, 1:00 pm
Details on page 4

MLIA Board Meeting

**Aug 3, 9:00-11:00am
Red-Tailed Roost**

PLEASE JOIN US. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

Your MLIA Board of Directors is a vibrant mix of cabin owners with varying skills and attributes. What we all share in common is a love of the outdoors, a desire to provide our cabin members with the best experience possible via our management of the water utility infrastructure, and a central channel for you all to get support for cabin owner questions and concerns relating to cabin life in the Mt. Laguna community.

We are currently seeking an energetic volunteer for an open Board position that needs to be filled at our upcoming annual meeting in September. Board terms are two years and duties include special projects such as annual meter reading but mostly, it is about sharing your thoughts and providing guidance to policy and process questions that arise from time to time. We only meet quarterly but there is much going on.

We need you!!



MLIA Board members, left to right, Carl Sessions, Bunny Krall, Daniel Morris, Elizabeth Dunn, Mary Ladewig, and Joanne Odenthal.

Please contact Carl Sessions at 619) 571-2284 or santeeduo@cox.net with your questions. I will help you complete the Candidate Statement for the upcoming ballot.

*~ Carl Sessions,
MLIA Vice-President*

~ CABINS ON MOUNT LAGUNA ~

1930's 1960's

Cleveland National Forest initially focused on watershed management and fire suppression. In the 1930s, the focus shifted to include recreation. Development of campgrounds, recreational residences, and programs for visitors increased dramatically.

Many cabins were built on Mount Laguna in the late 30s and early 40s. The New Deal brought funding for the development of forest infrastructure, including trails, fire breaks, roads, buildings, campgrounds and recreational residences. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) did a tremendous amount of work on the mountain in the 1930s.



CCC planting trees, 1941

WWII interrupted the pace of cabin building. After the war came a final push to increase recreational residences on the mountain. The Forest Service stopped developing tracts in 1951 and some surveyed cabin areas were abandoned or repurposed.

Existing “summer home residences” and camping opportunities were publicized actively during the 1950-60s. By the later 1960s Forest Service focus had changed again. Summer residences were no longer actively promoted and, when possible, cabins were “recaptured” to return the land to a more natural state.

Cabin tract history is interesting, showing the ebb and flow of land use on Mt. Laguna. Laguna Recreation Area now has eight tracts, and other use structures have come and gone.

For example, there was an Agua Dulce Tract that was originally surveyed for 64 lots. That was cut back to 39 lots in 1930. Only two cabins were constructed and the Forest Service designated the area for a walk-in camp in 1947.

continued on page 4

Important MLIA Email Updates Coming Soon

Over the past 18 months, as a part of the MLIA’s continued efforts to improve our service to you, we have been updating our technology suite. We have updated the website and added online payment for your water bill, among many other behind the scenes improvements.

We have a couple of improvements about our emails to announce.

You will notice is a change in the MLIA email address soon. As of July 1, 2024, emails from MLIA will be sent from MLIA@mtlaguna.org.

The current MLIA email address is through gmail (mliacabins@gmail.com) but gmail email addresses can be flagged as spam. Our new email is attached to our website domain and so spam should not be an issue.

The second improvement is that with our new email you can customize your email preferences and update your contact information online. By default, everyone will receive all communications. If you would like to tailor your email preferences, you can choose the kinds of MLIA emails to receive with the “update your preferences” link at the bottom of every email.

You will get more reminders about these changes as we get closer to the July 1 cutover, including a test email prior.

This is a really exciting option to be able to offer you. I want to thank all the volunteer board members who have been working so tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen. *Thanks!*

~ Elizabeth Dunn, MLIA President

MLIA Annual Fee information

Last year MLIA issued invoices for the annual fees, services and water use via email. All future invoices will continue to be sent by email. It is imperative that MLIA has an up- to-date, valid email address for each cabin that will be used for invoicing. (An easy way to keep your contact information current coming soon!)

Invoices will be issued around 1st October and will be due October. 31st.

MLIA has set up Zelle if you would like to pay electronically. The advantage to using Zelle is that payments are made bank to bank, the vagaries of USPS mail delivery are avoided, and administrative effort is reduced.

To make a payment with Zelle, indicate *Mount Laguna Improvement Association* at MLIA@mtlaguna.org as the payee. *The Zelle email has changed so you may need to update your Zelle information!*

MLIA will send cabin owners more specific instructions this summer before the billings are sent on how to use Zelle. Thank you for considering Zelle as a payment method.

Payments by check are still accepted and check should be sent to: MLIA, P.O. Box 91. Mount Laguna CA 91948.

~ Mary Ladewig, Treasurer

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Community Family Picnic

Let's celebrate the Red, White and Blue!



MLIA welcomes all Mount Laguna families.

Saturday June 15, 2024

Hosted by Carl & Vicki Sessions
Cabin 716 in Boiling Springs Tract


1:00 pm – Potluck Picnic
50/50 Raffle
Games & Cornhole Championship

Only Service Animals are allowed at functions serving food.

Bring a potluck dish to share, your meat to grill and beverage.

MLIA will provide grills to use, iced tea, lemonade and water, paper products and utensils.
Please bring your own chairs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



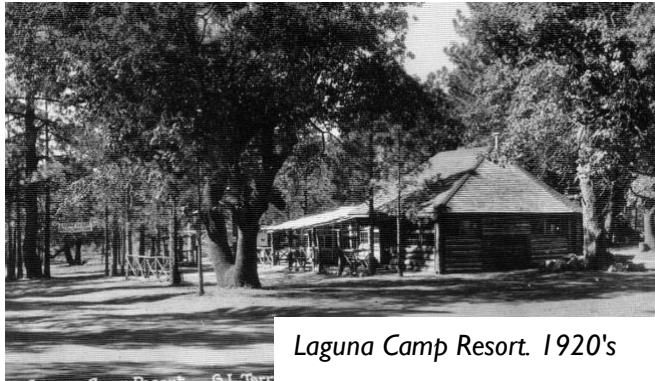
The MLIA has installed four smart water meters in our water system. The new units monitor water usage similarly and also monitor usage by time and date. This allows our water utility operators to watch usage from any cell phone or computer by going to the website and coding in. This system has been very efficient in other mountain communities with the same elevation and weather patterns.

We made this choice to avoid as much hiking through snow and mud to monitor the MLIA water system! We will get a more precise understanding of when and where water is moving. and of course, this will help us reduce any lost water between the well and the cabin in a faster and more efficient way.

~ Elizabeth Dunn, MLIA President

CABIN HISTORY, *continued*

When the permits of the two existing cabins expired in 1968, the cabins were recaptured and removed so the land could “go to a higher use.”



Boiling Springs Tract is the largest with 74 cabins most built by 1940. Expanded after WWII, 34 more cabins had been built by 1959. In the late 1940s, the Boiling Springs Improvement Association formed to help provide water to the cabins.

Burnt Rancheria Tract was laid out originally for 31 lots with 11 cabins developed by 1938. Some of the tract lots were combined to become the Mt. Laguna Lodge and the Blue Jay Lodge.

By 1930 **El Centro Tract** had approximately 20 cabins, by 1940 40 cabins, and eventually 49. El Centro now has 48. Other special use areas such as the First Methodist Church camp, Y.M.C.A. camps, and the Presbyterian Church were part of El Centro.

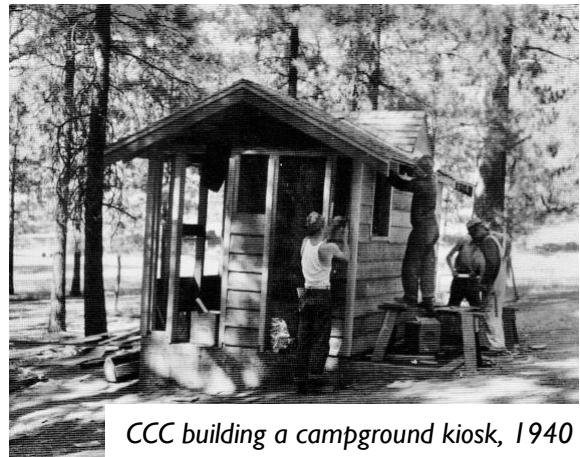
Escondido Ravine Tract was surveyed to include 66 lots, but only 4 cabins were ever built. One old log cabin already existed in the ravine when the plot map was developed. By 1947 eliminating the tract for a “higher use” was discussed. In 1967 the original log cabin was slated to be removed and the other four cabins were placed on annual permits so they could eventually be recaptured. Those 4 cabins remain.

The **Laguna Tract** is adjacent to the Laguna Meadow and originally had 34 lots. By 1926 there were seven cabins and by 1939 there were the 13 that there are today. There was also a resort, called Lash’s Resort, in the Laguna Tract. It closed in 1942 and the buildings were removed in 1952. The Forest Service has noted that the cabins in this tract “may be recaptured as needed.”

Los Huecos Tract was surveyed for 100 lots. Only 16 cabins were built, the first in 1918 and the last around 1939.

The **Piedra Tract** only has 10 lots designated. The Sunrise Highway extension removed three of the lots. One cabin was built in 1935, and a second in 1940. They are the only cabins in the tract.

Shrine Camp Tract was originally part of the now-defunct El Prado tract, established in 1926-27. By 1955 there were 17 cabins in the Shrine Camp Tract. The 2013 Chariot Fire destroyed or damaged many of those cabins. Currently seven cabins remain in the Shrine Camp Tract.



The cabins have changed dramatically over the years, even if the exteriors have remained somewhat the same. My family’s cabin, 505, had one room, no fireplace, a table, a couple of beds, and an icebox, *not* a refrigerator. It had electricity, but the only source of heat was a kerosene stove. There was an outdoor water faucet, but no cabin plumbing. We did dishes in a plastic dishpan with water heated on the stove. The outhouse was up the hill. So, it was a lot more like camping than it is today. It was definitely for summer use only!

Stay tuned for the next installment on how our cabins got water.

~ Joanne Odenthal, Cabin 505

Built 1926, rebuilt with plumbing early 1970s!

Many thanks to James Newland, Historian for the Cleveland National Forest. His *Historic Resources Survey & Evaluation Report: Recreation Residences: Descanso District, 1995*, is a wealth of information about our cabins and Mount Laguna. Contact Meg Moore megamods@gmail.com for a copy of the survey. All photos in this article credit to James Newland. 4

This month's MLFSC meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 15th at 10:00 am at the Roost. Our meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Roost through November. A notification of each meeting will be emailed prior to the meeting along with the meeting agenda.

Forest Service and Cal Fire inspections start right after Memorial Day week-end.



Inspections are scheduled to be completed by July 4th.

Your defensible space clean-up helps to reduce the wildfire fuels in our beautiful forest and community.

The Fire Safe Council has just received a Safe Grant award of \$7365.00! Thanks to The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, Fire Safe Council of Greater San Diego County, SDG&E and the San Diego River Conservancy for their generous award.

Thanks to the Mount Laguna Community, US Forest Service, CalFire and the MLIA for their continued support of the Fire Safe Council.
~ Doug Reed, MLFSC President

How long did it take?

Please email your name, house number, dates and total hours, and hired help hours, for yard clean-up to moutlagunasafe@gmail.com

Thank you!

Your donation helps to sustain the Fire Safe Council now and for the future. If you wish to make 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

The Basics

- Open seven days a week, 8:00am to 6:00pm
- Or lock has yellow tape around it.
- Always close and lock the gate when you enter and leave.
- Use only dumpster and designated brush pile area.
- Access to other areas is not allowed.
- Drive slowly!
- No trash bags or construction debris allowed.
- Mt Laguna community only; no contractors.
- Keep site clean.

Dumpster

- Leaves, grass/weed cuttings, pine needles and pine cones only.
- No dirt, rocks, wood chips or bags allowed.
- Unload to the back & up to the top 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, and only from the Mt. Laguna community.
- No dirt, wood mulch, rocks or bags.
- Unload to the right and toward the back of the brush pile first.

[Click for Dumpster Status](#)

NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS KEY NOTES

I participated in the NFH ZOOM Leadership meeting on April 17th and the NFH Annual Conference webinar. The information here is some of what was discussed.

How to get a head start on 2028 Permit Re-issuance

All cabins (minus those in the El Dorado Forest) are due for permit reissuance in 2028.

The best advice is to prepare early! First, review your Permit and your Operations and Maintenance Plan, and second, insure you are in compliance with all that is stated in these documents.

When to pay your FS bill this year. It matters!

As part of the Cabin Fee Act that NFH got passed 10 years ago, monies from Cabin Fees will start coming back to the Cleveland Forest in 2025.

The "USDA Forest Service (FS) Bill for Collection" (our annual bill forest service lease payment) will be mailed out later than usual this year. It will come to cabin owners in December, not November as it usually does. Please pay your bill after December 20th. Paying after December 20th will support our cabin fees going into the retained fees pot for 2025 and not in the 2024 general budget pot. This will only happen in 2024, and will not occur in 2025.

Retained Fees Recommendations for Association Leaders:

- Prioritize your tract needs annually. Cabin owners reach out to your board and share your thoughts on what monies should be used for – within the guidelines identified in the Cabin Fee Act.
- Submit your priorities for spending retained fees in writing to your Forest Supervisor.
- Request an Annual meeting with the Forest Supervisor, District Ranger and Permit Administrator to discuss priorities.

Cabin Owners Right to Appeal

NFH is introducing a bill into Congress to support cabin owners' rights and address the decline in cabin numbers across the nation. New permit language is worded in such a way that a cabin owner has no appeal if their permit taken away. More information on this will be available in coming months

If you would like any further detail of the leadership meeting, the NFH Conference or have questions for NFH, please contact me at ekrall415@cox.net or 858-663-4390.

LEARNING FIRE SAFETY THEN AND NOW



1930's



2024

~ Bunny Krall, Director and NFH Liaison



Wildfire Clearance & Fuels Reduction Important Information

Fire prevention is mandatory. Cabin owners are required to fire proof our lots per terms and conditions of our cabin Special Use Permit. An inspection of our lot, has been/or will be, conducted by a Forest Service agent. If the lot is not in compliance a cabin owner may be subject to a fine and/or permit revocation.

Your **Mt Laguna Community** is here to help you if you have difficulty clearing your lot properly because of the following circumstances. We have volunteers willing to help you in the following instances:

1. Probate pending a sale or transfer.
2. Cabin vacancy or non-occupancy.
3. Inability to physically perform fuels reduction tasks.

Send your request for help to jpcochran@hotmail.com and a representative will contact you.

ALL requests for assistance require a detailed description of your circumstances and an on- site inspection of the scope of work needed to attain compliance. These are needed in order for us to validate your specific needs and to establish an appropriate response to support the effort.

If you are simply looking to hire a clean-up crew, please go to the Resource Guide at mtlaguna.org to find recommendations & contact information.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. We ask your support in our mission to do everything possible to mitigate wildfire risks to our Cleveland National Forest community and maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of your cabin permit. Thank You.

Need equipment to do cleanup?

Contact Fire Safe Council equipment managers, Jack Splinter @ 858-472-4368 or Richard Willis @ 619-990-1404, to schedule equipment pick-up and return.



Gas powered available:
 weed whackers, pole saw \$20 for 1-2 days
 trimmers \$20 for 1 day
 wood splitter \$30 for 1 day.

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers Wanted

Come join the community in Sunrise Highway cleanup, get some exercise, and meet new friends!!

Denise and Arthur of Cabin 715 are coordinating the **Spring/Summer Sunrise Highway clean up on Friday, June 14 at 11am.** Volunteers are needed to help.

Please contact Denise (619-457-2317 or mtngoatl@cox.net) to let her know your availability to help.

Meet at the church property next to Desert View for staging. Stay for the refreshments post cleanup at the Desert View Campground.



Moonrise over Mount Laguna

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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.

**Stay current with the mountain and
your cabin.**

**Visit our website at
<https://mtlaguna.org>**



Keep MLIA Up-to-Date!

**Send contact changes
to
Joanne Odenthal at
mliacabins@gmail.com**

Water Maintenance Issues?

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

*Eugenie Newton, Editor
evnewton8@gmail.com*