

MLIA
LAGUNA
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION

CABIN NEWSLETTER



NEWS FROM MLIA PRESIDENT JAY MOSER

I'm Jay Moser, President of the Mount Laguna Improvement Association. I was elected President on February 8, 2025, to fill a vacancy when the previous President, Elizabeth Dunn, stepped down.

By way of an introduction here is a little background. I've been a resident of San Diego County since 1970 when my father, who was a Navy Chief, was assigned to Naval Station San Diego. We moved here in time for the 1970 Laguna Mountain fire that burned all the way to Lakeside.

I grew up in Santee and then worked at Hartson's Ambulance as an Emergency Medical Technician, where I met my wife, Barbara. I later choose a law enforcement career with the City of San

Diego. We married in 1983 and bought our house in La Mesa the following year. While working, I earned a Bachelor's Degree from San Diego State University in Public Administration.

We raised two wonderful sons, Michael and Matthew. Both are Eagle Scouts. We were actively involved in Boy Scouts, in which I volunteered for over 20 years. We had many adventures with scouting: canoeing the Missouri river, retracing part of the Lewis and Clark journey, canoeing in the boundary waters, backpacking at the Philmont Boy Scout camp in New Mexico and leading crews on back packing trips at Philmont on four different occasions. I retired as detective sergeant in 2016 after a 33-year law enforcement career.



Jay Moser

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**Coming
Up
Soon!**

April 12th MLIA Board Meeting
Saturday 9:00 - 1100 am

Chili Cook-Off
1:00 - 5:00 pm

April 19th Fire Safe Council
Saturday 10:00am - Noon

President's News, continued from page 1

In 2021, Barbara and I drove to the Laguna area and wondered how does one get one of those cabins? This was not the first time we had pondered this question. We soon found a listing for an open house and stopped in and learned all about buying a cabin. Or, so I thought.

After looking at several cabins, we found our slice of heaven at 589 El Centro Tract in February of 2022. And ever since then, I have worked on the cabin - not an exaggeration. My favorite thing about the cabin is watching a thunderstorm roll in, and spending holidays with our whole family there.

One thing they don't tell you about the MLIA is the sense of community we have on the mountain. The people who own these cabins are a special bunch. We love the great outdoors and we want to protect it. The community events the MLIA puts on are fun and engaging. That's why last year I volunteered to have the Chili Fest at our cabin. We enjoyed it so much last year we decided to host it again this year! We have our Social Events Coordinator, Toni Cleveland, to thank for these events and she does a wonderful job.

There is so much happening on the mountain these days. I am very enthusiastic about our board and where we are headed. In the short time I've been president, I have appreciated all the assistance I've received from everyone. My challenge is to focus my message on the vital things that we want to do.

Ole tank refurbishment: On February 22, 2025, the MLIA board held an informational zoom meeting for our cabin community. The purpose of the meeting was to outline the need to refurbish the Ole tank and why it was urgent. Over the course of the meeting, I outlined the findings of three different reports and their recommendations to refurbish the tank. I spent about half the meeting answering questions from cabin owners and the following month answering additional questions that were not answered during the meeting. We published the questions and our answers in our attempt to be fully transparent.



Cabin attendees at the March 22 meeting.



MLIA Board signing the tank contract.
Front L to R: Bunny Krall, Meg Moore,
Jay Moser, Carl Sessions.
Back L: Frank Kalinoski, R: Per Martin

On March 22, 2025, a Special Election was held regarding the funding of the Ole Tank Project and the \$1500 assessment. Both ballots passed with 114 "Yes" votes with 126 cabins participating in the election.

First, let me say thank you to all the cabin owners who participated by voting and thank you to all the board members, past and present, who got us to this point.

We signed the contract with Superior for the tank following the meeting. Let me say this was a momentous occasion. Right now we are working on a timeline for the tank refurbishment.

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President's News, continued from page 2

As soon as we have the timeline firmed up, we will share it with all the Cabin owners so that you can know what to expect. Obviously, there will be more to follow.

Forest Service on Mount Laguna: It just can't get any better. I recently learned that the Descanso Ranger District won "District of the Year for Region Five." Among their achievements were their critical incident management during a blizzard of the horrific crash of a Marine helicopter near Cibbets' Flats; as well as all the other routine things that they're doing on the mountain like clearing brush and all the controlled burns. Have you noticed how dramatically different our Forest looks over the last few years? We already knew we have the best district.



District Ranger
Kyle Smith

I invited Ranger Smith to contribute to our newsletter. We are discussing ways that cabin owners can assist the Forest Service. I am excited at the prospect of assisting the Forest Service in a reforestation project (planting trees) or perhaps removing invasive species near Shrine Camp possibly at the end of April or in May. It is my thought that the type of project is unimportant. What is important is that we support the mission of the Forest Service and foster a strong relationship with the personnel who serve our mountain community. I'm hoping we are able to make this an annual event.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Eugenie for 12 years of service to our newsletter. What a remarkable contribution she has made to our community.

~ Jay Moser

ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGE?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN UPDATE MLIAs INFORMATION BY YOURSELF? HERE'S HOW!

- OPEN a recent email from Mount Laguna Improvement Association.
- SCROLL to the bottom of the email and CLICK: "Update your preferences/profile".
- A new screen will appear.
CLICK: "Email me a link".
- Another new screen will appear that says "Email Sent".
- GO back to your email. OPEN the email from Mount Laguna Improvement Association with subject: Update Profile.
- CLICK: "Update your preference".
- TYPE in any new information and/or UNCLICK any Interests you no longer want to receive emails.
- SCROLL all the way to the bottom and CLICK: "Update Profile".
- SUCCESS! You have updated your information. *Do not click on Unsubscribe!* This will stop you from getting ANY emails from MLIA, except for billing.

Mount Laguna Improvement Association

Update your preferences

To update your preferences, click the button below.

For security, we'll send an email to your inbox that contains a link to update your preferences. The link expires after a while, so be sure to use it quickly.

Email Me A Link

"Nonprofit organizations thrive on the dedication and commitment of their board members."

From Foundation Group

MLIA BOARD TRANSITIONS

MLIA has been in transition this past 6 months. With dedication and commitment of the current board members, a strong core of individuals, volunteering endless hours so "Cabin Owners could continue to receive clean and reliable drinking water".

Jay Moser has willingly stepped into the President's role amidst an array of challenges. Jay joined the Board, less than a year ago, and had been engaged in the annual water meter reading and hosting MLIA's Chili Cook-Off. He has been out in the field helping to identify and troubleshoot infrastructure problems. Jay brings a sense of calmness and openness to the Board. **Daniel Morris** accepted the Treasurer appointment. He openly admits to learning the role, and seeks feedback on how he can do better. Daniel always brings his positive energy forward. **Per Martin** took on the role of Director of Communications and a lead on the Infrastructure Committee. Per obtained a D2 Water Operator Certification and is out in the field, identifying and managing the many challenges of the system while dealing with Communication requests.

I personally want to thank my peers for their dedication and commitment. **Carl** wrote the Ole Tank Business Plan and continues road access chores, chairs the nominating Committee, and follows-up on delinquent payments. **Meg** shares her knowledge of Roberts Rules and keeps us on track, assists with any assigned task, is engaged with the nominating committee and the baker for our meetings. **Frank**, with his endless years of experience, has stepped back in to help support board members and be The Project Manager for the Ole Tank Project. To the prior Board members, *Thank You* for the significant contributions you made.

Lastly, to the Mt Laguna Cabin Community, thank you for your support through engagement, patience with us as we learn, and belief in us to continue to bring you clean and reliable drinking water. I invite you to talk with us about how you can become involved and help support MLIA.

~ Bunny Krall



⚡ MLIA PRESENTS ⚡

CHILI COOK-OFF

APRIL 12, 2025 **BRING THE HEAT!** 1:00-5:00 PM

Hot Prizes for the Best Chili!

Jay & Barbara Moser's Cabin #589
East side Sunrise Highway,
south of the church.

\$10 CASH DONATION PER ADULT
ALL DONATIONS GO TO SUPPORT THE MLIA

Bring your favorite chili, bread, or salad to share.
Who will make the Best Chili of 2025!
50/50 Drawing
Corn Hole Crown Contest

MLIA will provide tea, lemonade and water, plates, utensils, napkins and cups.
Bring your chili in a crockpot to keep it warm and a ladle.
Please bring a chair for seating.
Service Animals Only. No Pets.

RSVP to Toni Cleveland
619-701-1519 OR
toni_cleveland@yahoo.com

Look for these first signs of spring



Wallflower



Rosa californica



Ceanothus



Checkerbloom

Fire Safe Council Getting Ready for Clean-up

The first 2025 MLFSC meeting is
Saturday April 19th,
10:00 am, at the Red Tail Roost.

An invitation and meeting agenda will be emailed out prior to all meetings. Meetings will continue to be monthly on the 3rd Saturday through November. Changes to meeting dates or time will be emailed to all members.

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

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the community only brush pile and dumpster will continue to be at the Old Air Force Station.

Open seven days a week, 8:00am to 6:00pm **only**.

The dumpster will be placed in May.

Brush pile is open now.

Mt Laguna community members only,
no contractors allowed.

No trash, bags or construction debris are allowed.

Follow the posted signs to and from the brush pile and dumpster **only**. No access to other areas allowed; drive slowly.

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 1st.
- 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

Fire Safe Council, continued from page 5

GAS POWERED EQUIPMENT

- \$20 for 1 or 2 day -
Weed whackers, Trimmer, Pole saw.
- \$30 per day -
Wood splitter

Contact one of our equipment managers, **Jack Splinter** @ 858-472-4368 or **Richard Willis** @ 619-990-1404, to schedule equipment usage.

Thank you to 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

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

~Doug Reed

NFH is looking forward to seeing many cabin owners at the

**NFH Annual Conference
May 2- 3, 2025
Friday and Saturday
in Pasadena, CA**

Look for sessions about

- Upcoming Permit Re-issuance
- Cabin Program Restoration Act
- Insurance
- Fire hardening

Early bird registration now open!

<https://www.nationalforesthomeowners.org/page/UpcomingEvents>

Thank you to Elizabeth Dunn

The MLIA Board would like to thank Elizabeth Dunn for her 3 years of Service on the MLIA Board.

Elizabeth had recently purchased her cabin when she was approached about interest in serving on the Mount Laguna Improvement Association Board. Elizabeth was elected into the Director role and in the next two years, she independently learned all she could about the water system. Elizabeth took classes, walked the field, obtained her D1 Water Operator Certification and networked with folks in the community.

When the president position was vacated, Elizabeth stepped forward to fulfill that role. Elizabeth emphasized the business aspect of MLIA to be a "water company". She initiated automation (smart meters) for some aspects of the system, started the infrastructure committee, established MLIA's mission statement of "Providing Cabin Owners with Clean & Reliable Drinking Water", challenged Board members to come out into the field to become more familiar with the water system and started work on plans for OLE tank replacement.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your many hours of service on MLIA's behalf.

~ Bunny Krall

CABIN SAFETY - A HEAD'S UP!

If you think your cabin has been tampered with, **call the San Diego County Sheriff.**

(619) 938-8400 (Non-emergency)

or

Emergency at

SHERIFF DISPATCH 911-(858) 565-5200

NOTE: Important Fire and Safety contact information is listed on mtlaguna.org at <https://mtlaguna.org/contacts/>

LAST CHANCE SURVIVAL SEMINAR WORKSHOP

I would like to thank Dan Krall, Jay Moser and Morgan Doili (Fire Safe Council of San Diego County) for all their hard work to arrange, schedule, and conduct a fantastic Last Chance Survival Seminar Workshop on March 15th.

I would also like to thank all the speakers and experts who shared their first-hand experiences and knowledge of wildfire behavior, firefighting practices, survival techniques, wildfire notification and tracking websites with all the attendees.



L to R: Morgan Doili, Thomas Shoots, Saul Moreno, Rex Hambly, Stan Hill, Richard Bowen, Cindy Petrich



Presentation by Thomas Shoots, CALFire.

Our thanks to: Rex Hambly and Saul Moreno, Bureau of Land Management, Thomas Shoots, CALFire, Cindy Petrich and Richard Bowen, US Forest Service, and Stan Hill, Fire Safe Council of San Diego (FSCSDC).

The workshop included slide presentations, short films of actual fire behavior, wildfire survivors' stories, wildfire situational awareness technics and informational handouts.

These handouts will be included with the MLFSC April 19th meeting agenda.

~ Doug Reed, MLFSC President

NFH Outreach News: Cabin Program Restoration Act (CPRA) Is Now the Right Time?

*From Desiree La Maggiore, NFH Field Director
Submitted by Bunny Krall, NFH Liaison*

Recently, we've received questions from cabin owners about whether now is the right time to pursue legislative action supporting the cabin program. The short answer is that passing a bill takes time - it's a marathon not a race. Staying focused on our goals means staying the course to protect permit holder rights.

We are at the beginning of a two-year congressional session and are off to a constructive start. Our leads, U.S Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Senator James Risch (R-ID), remain onboard and we have verbal commitments from their bi-partisan co-

sponsors. The CPRA bill language, initially drafted by Rep. LaMalfa's staff last year, is currently being finalized and we anticipate its introduction soon. Once introduced, we will be asking you to contact your U.S. Representative and Senators to request their support for the CPRA. Stay tuned—that time is approaching.

NFH, advocating for all cabin owners, is a politically bi-partisan organization. Our experience is that bipartisan supported action is often welcomed at times when finding agreement on the Hill is challenging. While passing legislation is never easy, we believe it's achievable.

Mt Laguna History: Overview

The history of Mount Laguna as part of the US Forest Service began in the 1900's. Prior to that the i'Pai people spent thousands of years in this region moving from coast to mountains to desert. Their lives on the land were interrupted by the arrival of the Spaniards in the late 1700s. The Spanish established missions, ranches and colonies throughout the region and used the indigenous population as labor.

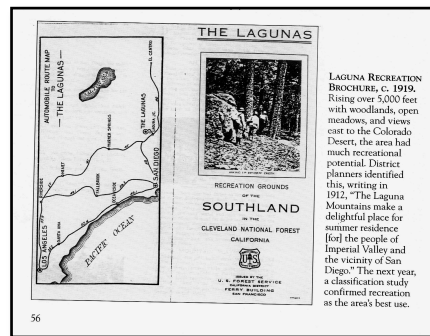
The gold rush and California statehood changed the balance of power once again. The environmental movement of the late 19th century was key to setting aside lands that became the Cleveland National Forest in 1908.

In the 1920's the cabin program began in Mount Laguna. In addition, businesses began here and some have continued to this day. The Post Office was established, a community

church and a schoolhouse (today the Red-Tailed Roost) were built, the Blue Jay Lodge and Mount Laguna Lodges as well as the Pine House Café were also built.

A key person in much of this history was Clay Stuart, an early resident of Mount Laguna. The San Diego History Association houses the Stuart family records, with a wealth of information about Mount Laguna.

This series of articles will focus on key personalities and institutions on the mountain. Clay Stuart and Tom Lucas (Kumeyaay) were early residents. The school, church, lodges, and post office are key to the Mount Laguna story. The remaining area of the Lucas property is an important part of the story also.



The Lagunas recreation opportunity

Stay tuned for more...

~Joanne Odenthal



Tired of having to dig out your meter box from rude, annoying, and disgusting gophers and squirrels?

As we approach our volunteer meter reading season, we have a solution for you to consider. It will save you time and effort when you want to turn on your water and our MLIA volunteers time digging out your valve and meter. Additional benefits may be avoiding attacks by spiders and stink bugs as you put your hand in the box!

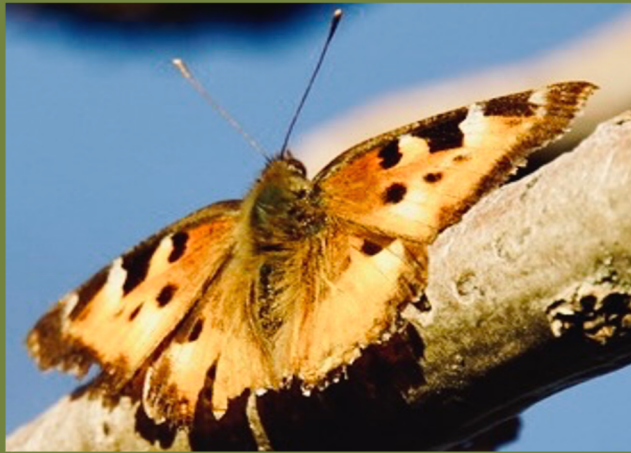
Although not guaranteed, I came up with a way to avoid the dirt hassle for most enclosed valve vaults. It consists of hardware screen, plastic ground cover, and long spikes. So far it has worked for me. If you would like a very reasonable quote to have this installed in your meter box call Jeff P. at (442) 305-9227.

Our meter reading volunteers will thank you!!

~ Carl Sessions

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

mtlaguna.org



Appreciation and thank you for the photographic talents
of our MLIA cabin owners

- Nola Houston
- Mike Margolis

- Dan Krall
- Joanne Odenthal

- Daniel Morris
- Doug Reed

Water System Issues?

Report immediately. Contact
Dan Fritz, MLIA water system
operator
(619) 405 - 1452

Keep MLIA Up-to-Date!

Have you moved recently?
Changed email or phone number?

Use the "update preferences" link
at the bottom of any MLIA email
to make changes!

PS For tips on how to do this, see page 4.

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