

CABIN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 97



Jay' Notes

by Jay Moser, MLIA President

Clearing the chlorine out

On March 19, Dan Fritz began flushing our water system through the hydrants to reduce residual chlorine from the Ole tank disinfection process. At one high point, we measured chlorine levels at 3.1 ppm. While elevated, this remains below the State's maximum limit of 4.0 ppm. After filling the Ole tank and allowing for dilution, chlorine levels dropped to 0.94 ppm, representing a significant reduction across the system.

This improvement should enhance the taste and smell of your water. However, chlorine may still be present in lines at the ends of the system. To help clear these lines, we encourage everyone to run their water for an extended period (for example, watering a tree) until the taste and smell improve. For those at the end of the system, this may take a few hours. Flushing these lines is essential, and customer participation is a key part of that process. As always, running your water briefly before use helps prevent water from sitting in the lines.

Potential water system projects

I will be meeting with Ranger Smith in early April to discuss several upcoming projects. One priority is establishing an emergency connection between the MLIA water system and the Mount Laguna water system. This connection would allow one system to supply water to the other in the event of a failure, providing a reliable backup during emergencies.

We are also exploring the possibility of adding a third well. Well #1 was decommissioned decades ago, and we currently rely solely on Well #2, located near Laguna Loop.

We are proposing to evaluate a potential Well #3 near the existing pump house on Las Huecos Road. There is no current emergency; this is a proactive effort to ensure long-term reliability in the event of a pump issue, well failure, or other interruption.

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Save this date!
May 2nd

Board Meeting 9:00 am
Red-Tailed Roost

Sunrise Highway Cleanup
10:00 am
Desert View Picnic meet area

Chili Cookoff 12:00 - 4:00pm
Red-Tailed Roost

Jay's Notes, continued

The goal is to maintain uninterrupted water service through thoughtful planning.

Our system automation is moving forward thanks to Per Martin. Despite a short interruption in cellular connectivity due to an AT&T tower being blown down during high winds, we now have several ways of looking at water moving through our system. We can remotely start and stop our water pumps at the well and transfer station, and we can also remotely see our water levels at Los Huecos and Ole tanks.

Forest management activities

You may have noticed an increase in forest management activities on the mountain, including broadcast burns and pile burns. A prominent example is visible along Sunrise Highway near Kitchen Creek Road. These efforts are helping to clear brush, create a more open, park-like environment, and reduce wildfire risk. The Forest Service is also introducing drought-tolerant Jeffrey pines as part of a reforestation study in the Garnet Peak area. This proactive work is making a meaningful difference. Appreciation goes to Ranger Smith and the Descanso District staff for their continued dedication and excellent work.

Is there giant laser on Mt Laguna?

Fun fact: There is a giant laser mounted on a turret on top of Mount Laguna. Yes, it's true.

The NASA Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) Program operates a global network of eight ground stations that use laser pulses to accurately measure satellite positions, supporting important scientific work such as improving Earth models and satellite orbits.



Please help your local, neighborly meter reader!

Be sure your water valve box is clear of dirt and debris. If not, get your trowel and dig it out!

The meter reading team will be coming around during April to read our water meters for the annual billing.

Having the box clear will be a big help!



**2026 NFH Virtual Conference
Friday April 17 and
Saturday April 18**

**This year's theme is
Preservation and Progress:
Keeping Cabins on our Forests**

"Our online event is designed to be accessible for the entire cabin community across the nation. While we continue to love and host in-person events, our virtual events provide opportunities for many who cannot travel to attend."

(From the NFH website <https://www.nationalforesthowners.org/page/2026NFHVirtualConference>)

Tickets: Member \$55, Non-member \$65.
After April 9th tickets \$10 more.

MLIA RECEIVES NFH 2026 OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION AWARD

Barbara Bellini and Bunny Krall, both MLIA Board Members, submitted a nomination form to NFH for the 2026 Communications Award. NFH reviewed the nomination and awarded MLIA the 2026 Outstanding Communication Award. MLIA won this national recognition because of the many venues MLIA uses to keep cabin owners and community updated with the latest news and events.

The nomination spoke of Jay Moser's (MLIA President) commitment to being open and transparent as a foundation for all MLIA communication.

- **PHONE CALLS:** Board member, Meg Moore, calls new cabin owners, welcoming them to the mountain and sharing information about both MLIA and the Mount Laguna Firesafe Council.
- **NEWLETTER:** Cabin owner, Eugenie Newton, edits a quarterly MLIA Newsletter. These includes news updates from Board president Jay Moser, Board Members,



Barbara Bellini, Bunny Krall, Jay Moser

the Mt Laguna Fire Safe Council, cabin owners and the Forest Service plus about community events and NFH. New cabin owners provide a photo and write up about themselves so the community can welcome them.

- **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS:** Cabin owner and prior Board member, Laura Bier set up the MailChimp system several years ago that allows Secretary Bunny Krall to send on-going communications with photos and links. Cabin owners have the ability to update their data base via a LINK provided on each communication. Automation is also built into the system so new cabin owners receive an initial communication and then another six weeks later.

MailChimp allows communications to be tailored to the cabin community, Mt Laguna community and Forest Service personnel. Bunny monitors email on a daily basis responding to questions or information from cabin owners.

- **WEBSITE:** The MLIA website, *mtlaguna.org*, is managed by Board member Per Martin. The website contains information for both cabin owners and community members from NFH, Fire Safe Council, and about hiking trails, restaurants, and MLIA just to name a few. Cabin owner, Aaron Duggan maintains the vendor listing.

- **BOARD MEETINGS** are held quarterly. Zoom is always available for cabin member participation if in-person attendance is not possible.

- **SOCIAL EVENTS:** Cabin owner, Toni Cleveland, organizes twice a year social events: a Spring Chili Fest and a Fall October Fest Picnic.

Per Martin created a video about MLIA communication that will be shared at NFH's Virtual Conference in April.

by Bunny Krall, MLIA Secretary



**Gear up to be
fire safe in 2026!**

The first 2026 MLFSC meeting is set for Saturday April 18th, 10:00 am, at the Red Tail Roost. A meeting agenda will be emailed out prior to all meetings.

Fire Safe Council meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Saturday each month through November.

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

"Thank you" to the US Forest Service for having the brush pile and dumpster located at the Old Air Force Station.

Open seven days a week
8:00am to 6:00pm
Mt Laguna community only.
No contractors.

Follow signs to dumpster and brush pile.
No access to other areas.
Keep the site clean.

*Doug Reed, MLFSC President
ohio0411@hotmail.com*

MLIA PRESENTS
**CHILI
COOK-OFF**

May 2, 2026 12:00-4:00 pm

Directly following Board Meeting

BRING THE HEAT!
Come Join Our Chili Contest

Win A Prize!
Corn Hole And Games

Judging begins at approx 12:15

Red Tailed Roost

West side of Sunrise Highway,
South of the town

\$10
CASH DONATION
PER ADULT
ALL DONATIONS GO TO HELP
FUND THE OCTOBER FEST

MLIA will provide iced tea and water, plates, utensils, napkins and cups.

Bring your chili in a crockpot to keep it warm with a ladle
Bring a chair, Please.
Service Animals Only. No Pets.

*Please help us feed the gang by
Bringing your favorite chili or bread, or salad to share.
We will supply dessert
Who will make the
Best Chili of 2026!*

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

~ GAS powered equipment ~

- \$20 for 1or 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.

~ Brush pile now open ~

- Native shrubs, brush and branches up to a maximum of 6" in diameter only,
- Unload toward the back of the brush pile first.

No trash, bags or construction debris are allowed in brush pile or dumpster.

~ Dumpster available ~
late April - May

- 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.

An Ultra Runner's Paradise Giving Back to the Mountains

Long distance runners may seem like an insular bunch. You may notice us out on trails alone, or with friends, heads down, ensuring that our feet stay respectful of the natural obstacles along the path. But even if we are looking down to save ourselves from falling, our hearts are looking up at how lucky we are to have these mountains to share with all who love them. It's a paradise, where we can let our feet wander and feel at ease, even if we're completely out of breath.

You may have seen the San Diego Ultra Running Friends (SURF) name at the new footbridge across the meadow, which was facilitated by the San Diego Mountain Bike Association (SDMBA).

SURF is a twenty-plus year non-profit organization that came together over a mutual understanding that trails don't maintain themselves. Through our TrailFit initiative, led by the indefatigable Ken Bonus, we have seasonally maintained miles and miles of trails at Mount Laguna, including large swaths of the PCT. SURF and TrailFit have worked together to get runners to give back to the trails they love, fostering a deeper appreciation for each challenging footstep.

With hundreds of volunteers throughout the years, we consider what we've contributed to be successful, and know that our contributions will be ongoing as long as we're given the grace to do so.

We appreciate what Mount Laguna has to offer all of us. Some runners live for adventures on the PCT, sometimes spending 3-6 hours running up and down it, or turning it into a big loop by connecting to the meadow from Penny Pines. Other runners love local races, like the San Diego 100, Mount Laguna Trail Marathon, or the PCT 50, that bring the community together.



TrailFit teams
at work.



The latter race wouldn't be what it is without a Mount Laguna cabin: *Per's Cabin Aid Station* helps runners stay hydrated, cool, and focused each year. You can keep up to speed on all we do at the TrailFit Facebook page or our [Instagram](#).

So far this season, we've maintained quite a bit of the PCT near Dale's Kitchen, Burnt Rancheria, Garnet Peak, and near Penny Pines. We've also worked on Big Laguna near Monument Peak trailhead, and have so much more planned!

If you see us out there, say hi!

*Caryn Sandoval, President San Diego
Ultra Running Friends*

Submitted by Per Martin



Sunrise Highway Clean-Up May 2, 2026

MLIA has Adopted Sunrise Highway from Mile Marker 23.5-26 for Clean Up.

Give back to your Mountain Community by picking up trash along Sunrise Highway on May 2, 2026.

Meet at Desert View Picnic Area 10 am.

(Head over to the Chili Cook-Off after)

Evelyn will give out vests, trash bags and pickers. Teams of 2 will go out to assigned areas.

**RSVP to Evelyn Fraser
at evendon@cox.net
with your questions or willingness to
volunteer!**

SPRING 2026

MOUNT LAGUNA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Providing cabin owners with clean and reliable drinking water.

MLIA website: mtlaguna.org



Eugenie Newton, Editor
evnewton8@gmail.com

**Moved?
New email?
New phone?**

Keep MLIA up-to-date!

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

Water system problems?

Immediately call

**Dan Fritz
MLIA Water Operator
(619) 405-1452**