



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

August 2011

SAVE THE DATE

**Monte Nido's Annual BBQ and Square Dance
Saturday, October 22, 2011**

**We're goin' back to our old stompin' grounds in
Fleeman's Meadow;
your chance to dust off your boots and Stetsons!!
Dinner 6-8 PM Dancing 8-10 PM
More details coming up.**

**Call to volunteer for set up/clean up committees
Joan Slimocosky 818 591-1082
(or she will call you!!)**

July 4th Celebration

Monte Nido celebrated Independence Day 2011 in our own inimitable style and a wonderful day was had by all. Evan Hardie submitted the winning theme this year, "Great Moments in American History". Our Fire Station 67 and Mark Mehner's fire trucks added to the festivities. Special vehicles and decorated equestrians, floats, and others brought together themes from prison breaks, to stage coaches heading to the wild west, to Paul Revere's Ride. All were most entertaining and everyone deserves a big thank you for participating with such enthusiasm and talent. The Board of Directors wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the following people who made this year's event such an overwhelming success. Thank you to: The Fleeman Family for welcoming us to their meadow once again; Tracy Bunetta for chairing the whole day's festivities; Rod Bergen for "MC"ing; Lois Love for organizing the parade; Cathy Sieling and Pony Club - food and drinks; Dayne Sieling - the Games; Sherry DaSilva - recycling and trash; Jane and John Cudworth - the raffle; Randy Goodman - the dessert table; Les Hardie - set up; Gail Lowe - ticket sales; Gregg Aftergood, Bonnie Ahouroni, Paul and Lynn Tade - judges; Yehuda Netanel for his great organization of the parade; All the young people who sent in such creative ideas for the theme! The Arson Watch team performed a great service in facilitating the road closures in the absence of the Highway Patrol. Thank you to them for all their efforts throughout the fire season. Please remember that all our neighborhood events are planned, prepared, and staffed by resident volunteers who generously donate their time and manpower for everyone's benefit and enjoyment. All community members are encouraged to volunteer from time to time to help preserve the unique character of our beloved Monte Nido.

Mountain Lions In Our Midst

There were two sightings of a cougar in July at a property on Crater Camp Dr. It had killed a deer there and was hanging around feeding on it for a few days. The resident called Fish and Wildlife but apparently they weren't available on weekends and as a matter of fact don't get involved unless there has been a livestock or human incident of some sort. So the call was funneled through to a Park Service Ranger who studies and tags cougars. Within a day or so, the lion reappeared at a property on Meadows End Drive. The dogs there alerted the residents at about 5:00 AM and when let out they ran up to where the cougar was, barking rather aggressively. The homeowners saw tracks but he was gone by then. The ranger visited and confirmed that there had been a collared (trackable) lion in the area but it had moved to the Lost Hills Road vicinity. This sighting was a 2nd lion, which doesn't have a collar. The Ranger wants to trap it and tag it with a trackable chip. The Ranger says they are in our back yards a much more often than we'd ever realize, usually without incident. The Ranger put out a road kill deer at the property on Crater Camp, hoping to lure and trap the uncollared cougar. Normally they release them back to where they were trapped but they would probably take this one away for its own safety. Rangers don't like to see the lions anywhere near each other unless they are mating because they try to kill one another. The Ranger said there are 18 lions in the Santa Monica Mountains and that they will inbreed themselves to extinction unless there is an underpass of some sort built for them to be able to cross the 101 and get involved with new breeding stock. He is in the process of trying to have this accomplished. Obviously his goal is preservation.

The following information is copied from the Midpeninsula Open Space Regional District. More info is available at this and other websites. http://www.openspace.org/preserves/highlight_mountain_lions.asp

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOUNTAIN LION? There's been very little research on how to avoid mountain lion attacks. The following suggestions are based on studies of mountain lion behavior and analysis of attacks by mountain lions, tigers and leopards. **Do not hike alone.** Go in groups, with adults supervising children. **Keep children close to you.** Observations of captured wild mountain lions reveal that the animals seems especially drawn to children. Keep children within your sight at all times. **Do not approach a lion.** Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape. **Do not run from a lion.** Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact. If you have small children with you, pick them up if possible so they don't panic and run. Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the mountain lion. **Do not crouch down or bend over.** In Nepal, a researcher studying tigers and leopards watched the big cats kill cattle and domestic water buffalo while ignoring humans standing nearby. He surmised that a human standing up is just not the right shape for a cat's prey. On the other hand, a person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. If you're in mountain lion country, avoid squatting, crouching or bending over, even when picking up children. **Do all you can to appear larger.** Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it. **Fight back if attacked.** A hiker in Southern California used a rock to fend off a mountain lion that was attacking his son. Others have fought back successfully with sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools, and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal. **IMMEDIATELY REPORT ALL ENCOUNTERS OR ATTACKS.** If you are involved in a face-to-face encounter with, or an attack by, a mountain lion, contact a ranger or the District administrative office as soon as possible. The threat to public safety will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken.

Trails Report

Thank you to all the concerned neighbors who recently donated time and effort to perform maintenance on the Backbone Trail: Dayne Sieling, Josh Cudworth, Don and Jeanne Wallace, Donald and Margaret Ringe, Kimberly, Derek and Katelynn Gustafson, Bob and Sherry Dasilva, Bobby Persson, Julian Watkins and Debbie Dimascio, and State Park Resource Dale Skinner. To support our Corral 36 Trails Maintenance Program please send your contribution to Jeanne Wallace, 1710 Cold Canyon Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. For information call (818) 222-2560.

MONTE NIDO FIRESAFE COUNCIL

Our Council has conferred with Captain Dicks at Station 67. His comments: Wonderview and Meadows End need special attention, observable dead and dry materials we must clear on our own. Also, Piuma Road not to be used above Woodbluff for exit from fires- much too dangerous. Captain Dicks will be glad to address our MNVCA meetings, a General meeting or both. Watch this newsletter for dates and times. Call Joan Kay at (818) 222-2977 with questions.

Beware of Bottle Bombs

Neighbor and Culver City Fire Captain, Bill Bischoff, recommends that we become aware of a new menace appearing in cities around this country, Bottle Bombs. These homemade detonation devices appear harmless, are very easy to construct, and are very dangerous. For information, go to <http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp>

Mountains Restoration Trust

Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for Dogs

Individual training process takes app. 20 minutes

September 17th at Tapia Park

Space limited Reservations required

Register online at www.mountainstrust.org

or call the message center @ 818-591-1701 x2

MRT Special 30-year Celebration

MRT is inviting the public to join them in a line-up of activities that will be held throughout the upcoming months to celebrate the mountain experience. Hikes, restoration tours, youth and family programs, and the launch of Headwaters Corner open houses are among the events taking place. For more information, visit www.mountainstrust.org or contact MRT at (818) 591-1701.

Board of Directors Meeting

The July 12, 2011 Board Meeting at Heidi Stompe's house was called to order by Les Hardie at 7:09 PM. Present from the Board: Les Hardie, Dick Love, Jill Reiss, Marianne Cilluffo, Judy Goldin, Heidi Stompe, Carrie and Brent Baltin, Joan Slimocosky. Present from the community: Josh Cudworth, Stephanie Abronson, Jeannie Wallace

Hardie thanked everyone for his or her participation at the July 4 event. Old Business: Treasurer's Report: Goldin reported it is time to renew the CD, which happens automatically for 9 months unless we intervene. Hardie will be the designated second signature on our checks. The Treasurer's report was approved. Booklets: "What do I do in Fire, Flood, and/or Earthquake?" Abronson has additional 50 copies at her home. Motion was approved to publish in the newsletter that they are available; residents should email Stephanie Abronson to acquire one. Federation: Slimocosky reported. Redistricting (which is required after the census of 2010) is the most important issue. A Citizens Commission has been appointed to redraw maps of the whole state to include 750,000 people/district with areas of common interest. For 20 years this current district did represent people with common interests. The new district's proposed lines will remain in effect for minimum of 10 years. The new proposed district runs relatively north/south, whereas the former ran east/west. Kim Lamorie's take on how the new lines were developed is that these communities were "left overs" after other communities were organized together. Recently there was a hearing for public input and hundreds of people showed up. The Citizens Commission has decided not to take any more input; there will be no more meetings but there will be online visualization maps and online commentary will be taken. Final decision will be made July 28. Motion was approved to write a letter to the redistricting commission, supporting the position and proposals taken by the Federation, which are alternative maps for the 3 districts being redrawn. Slimocosky will draft letter and submit to Hardie. North American Trail (Name derives from former bank owner of land) aka Cold Creek High Trail: Jeannie Wallace requested a donation to restore this trail. Trail runs from Stunt Rd. past Water District Preserve, and ends on Cold Canyon near Smith residence. It is a rugged trail, runs roughly 1.6-2 miles, and has existed since at least 1974. Big rains wipe it out until someone reopens it. The reasons it is worthwhile to reopen it are that it's a great scenic trail and MRT has purchased 78 acres there for \$2.5 million, which is almost the entire trail. Where the trail crosses private property, the owners are very happy to allow the trail through. There are 2 master trail builders, Ron Webster, who won't accept the job, and Bruce Heckel, who has agreed to see if he can reroute a missing face in the trail. Heckel has already rerouted the landslide area and is owed money for that. There's also another area that needs rerouting. When finished, the Trails Council wants to link it to the Backbone Trail. MRT will match any funds we commit and Trails Council will also contribute. MRT does not have the funds to rebuild the trail. Motion was approved that Monte Nido contribute

\$1000 directly to Bruce Heckel for his work in rebuilding the trail. Request for Jeannie Wallace to give us a map to publish so community knows what the donation went for. The Edge: Slimocosky reported. Coastal Commission declined to issue a permit for the development. Corrections to May 2011 Minutes: Letter to Coastal re: Edge was not tabled – rather agreed Slimocosky would draft a letter to submit to Coastal agreeing with the Federation in opposition to the development. Motion to accept changes and new business agenda carried. New Business: Square Dance: Loves will be away Aug – Oct. Tapia Park has a day use area that is flat, partially paved, and has cooking space but does not have power. We would need a generator. Costs not yet figured out. Biggest problem is that it will all have to be done via correspondence because Loves will be out of town. Doing it at King Gillette was too expensive and we lost money on the event last year. The question was raised as to whether Fleeman's Meadow is a better locale but there are concerns because it's too dusty. There were questions as to whether we will have the event at all if it is a money loser every year as expenses go up and attendance goes down. Joan Slimocosky will be chairwoman for Square Dance. The consensus is to hold the event in Monte Nido, preferably in Fleeman's Meadow. Date will be Oct. 22. Details on food to be decided. July 4 Parade: Dick Love reported. Arson Watch members did road patrol. Does anyone know where the banners and flags are today? Attendance was not as great as previous years. The theme should be published earlier next year. We need better signage to publicize the event. There were 15 horses and 3 donkeys in the parade – more than have participated in a long time. Loves will provide a list of people who should be thanked for their help in organizing. Highway Cleanup: List of people to thank: Bob and Joan Bruhn, Les Susan Hardie and son, Yehuda Netanel, Heidi Stompe, Mary Helen Young. Further discussion postponed to later meeting. Arson Watch: wants to do membership drive. Dick Love will put an article in the newsletter.

Next meeting September 13 at Reiss house. (backup at Baltins or Cilluffo)

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Reiss

*All neighbors are welcome
and encouraged to attend Board meetings.
We welcome your interest and involvement!*

How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.

President: Les Hardie 818-222-0661

Vice Pres: Carrie Baltin 818-224-4696

Treasurer: Judy Goldin 818-983-1910

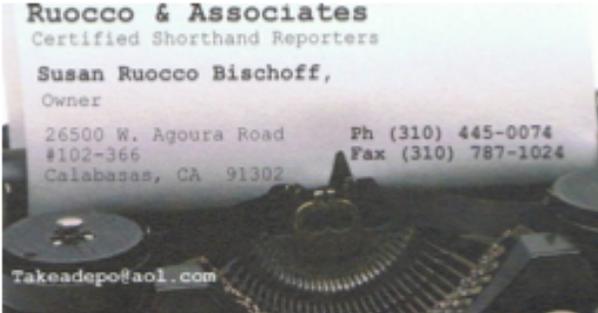
Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD
www.montenido.org August 2011**

<p align="center">DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor (818) 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p align="center">REAL ESTATE Specializing in Selling Monte Nido Properties for more than 22 years Top Awarded Coldwell Banker Agent Tracy Bunetta (818) 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com All questions welcomed Call for a complimentary market analysis.</p>
<p align="center">MONTE NIDO ARCHITECT All residential projects large and small www.dbbarchitects.com Gary Bardovi, AIA (818) 222-0313</p>	<p align="center">Sunday brunch at SADDLE PEAK LODGE. Mimosas, tasty comfort food and an elegant patio. What more could you ask for on a Sunday afternoon? 10:30am-2pm every Sunday Saddle Peak Lodge 818.222.3888 419 Cold Canyon Rd. Calabasas CA 91302 www.saddlepeaklodge.com</p>
<p align="center">PET SITTING BY MIMI Daily or overnight pet care. Dog walking and feeding while you are away. Reasonable rates! Mimi (818) 222-6627</p>	

Ruocco & Associates
Certified Shorthand Reporters
Susan Ruocco Bischoff,
Owner
26500 W. Agoura Road Ph (310) 445-0074
#102-366 Fax (310) 787-1024
Calabasas, CA 91302
Takeadepo@aol.com



shewhisperer **Jill Breitner**
Animal Behaviorist/Trainer
Creating Joy, Respect and Compassion Between You and Your Dog
SheWhisperer.com
Jill@shewhisperer.com
707 601.3332



KIMBERLY BYRON

Phone: 310-503-7997
Fax: 818-222-1530
email: kbgingi@aol.com

PRIVATE COLLEGE COUNSELING SERVICES

- College Applications
- Essay Development & Editing
- Academic Counseling
- College Search

HELPING YOU REACH YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

Your Ad Here

MNVCA Bulletin Board is be E-Published Monthly at montenido.org and via e-mail list.
PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFIED ADS Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month;
Monte Nido residents only. To place an ad: 1. Send payment to:
MNVCA at P.O.Box 8054, Calabasas, CA 91372. 2. Email Ad copy to mnvca@charter.net

Monte Nido Valley Community Association
PO Box 8054
Calabasas, CA 91372

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
CANOGA PARK, CA
91304
PERMIT No. 307

Please deliver by August 29, 2011

POSTAL CUSTOMER
RURAL ROUTE NO. 1
CALABASAS, CA 91302

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tues, Sept 13, 7PM
at the home of
Jill Reiss
1066 Meadows End Drive
818-222-1995

ETI Corral

Board Meeting & Seminar
Tues, Sept 6, 6:30 PM
at Pony Cross Farm
Stephanie & Chuck Abronson
543 Cold Canyon Rd.
818.222.7669.

Out-of-Doors - Presentation of horse drawn carriages
and harness. How to harness safely. Board meeting to
follow.

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, Sept 15, 7:30PM
Diamond X Ranch
(Off Mulholland)

A Course in Miracles Study Group.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6362

Zen Meditation

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Rosemary Taylor Alden
222-2936