



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Swing Your Partner at the MNVCA Annual BBQ/Square Dance Sat., Oct. 23

**Place: King Gillette Ranch
(Mulholland at Las Virgenes)**

**Dinner starting at 6PM
Dancing at 8PM.**

**\$25 per person (adults and children!)
DEADLINE for reservations Oct. 16 FIRM
(NO exceptions due to caterer's lead time!!)**

Menu: BBQ chicken, pork baby back ribs, tri-tip, beans, rice, corn on the cob, salad, dessert, water, coffee, soft drinks, BYOB

Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up. Please contact Lois Love at ??????? if you can help.

This doesn't just happen, folks! And \$25 does NOT cover the total cost of food, table/chair rentals, insurance, ranger on site, supplies, etc. This is your homeowner's association dues at work!!!

RSVP REQUIRED! with number of persons and check made out to MNVCA to Joan Slimocosky, 25632 Buckhorn Dr, Calabasas by Oct. 16

Trails Report

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.

Ad Executive Still Needed!!

You can do this! We are still in need of a new volunteer to take on this assignment. Approximately once every one to two months, the ads for this newsletter must be organized into printable format, and fees must be collected and forwarded to the MNVCA treasurer. Although it does not require a great deal of time or effort, it is a very important and valuable assignment, as the ads fund the printing and distribution of this newsletter! Please consider helping the community in this capacity. If interested, contact Joan Slimocosky at 818-591-1082.

MNVCA Board of Directors/Community Meeting September 2010

The Sept 14, 2010 Community meeting at Carrie and Brent Baltin's home was briefly called to order and then the board meeting was suspended at 7:13PM.

Present from board of Directors were Joan Slimocosky, Marianne Cilluffo, Carrie and Brent Baltin, Joan Kay, John Low, Yehuda Netanel, Heidi Stompe, Jill Reiss, Judy Goldin. Numerous members of the community (roughly 40) were also present.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to pay some bills passed. Cilluffo and Slimocosky reported net proceeds from July 4 were positive. Monies are owed to Bunetta and Pony Club: payment was held over until Oct. when Bunetta can provide exact details. 66 people have paid their 2010 membership.

Oct. BBQ event is confirmed. The committee is working on it, and it will probably be at King Gillette again. There may be some expenses to homeowners.

Slimocosky introduced the speakers panel from Forestry, Abigail Bok from Arson Watch, Katie Zeeman from CA Fire Safe Council, firefighters from local Monte Nido station, and Rebecca Goldfarb from T-CEP (Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness).

The first presenter was Katie Zeeman: She introduced Mike Wilson and Jay Lopez from different agencies. Zeeman works with Joan Kay on the Monte Nido Fire Safe Council. They are working to prepare for WHEN the next fire occurs. It takes a whole community to become safer. The goal is to form the new Fire Safe Council and get a foothold with it in the community. Lopez displayed a large scale, aerial view community map and an elevation map. The purpose of using a map such as these is to identify whose property is whose,

pools, where can fire trucks go, where can cars turn around etc. When a fire occurs, fire engines arrive at station command and the first 25 teams to arrive get these maps, but later teams use Thos. Bros. maps, which lack detail and can be difficult to interpret in our neighborhood. Once we produce the local maps described above, we can have them available to share with firefighters during fire. We can also use these maps for planning to identify problem areas, where work has been done and needs to be done, to mitigate fire hazards. Google earth and zillo are good sources for maps. Other community groups have added layers of GIS (geographic information systems) to ID houses with pools, with dogs, etc.

The biggest fire in recent history was in 1993.

Street Captains and our local newsletter are key to information dissemination. A community survey should be conducted. W. Hills did one and got good responses. They sent it to all homeowners with basic questions about their properties and to determine what residents want to know/what the council could do for residents. If we conduct such a survey we should consider a 10% response rate pretty good.

Kay displayed a photo from L.A. Times of the San Bruno gas blowout in early Sept. and asked for a comment from Lopez re: the clear demarcation between burned and saved houses. Lopez responded that gas as a fuel source is very unique but there are some similarities to a brush fire in that the flames spread from house to house. So the San Bruno conflagration became a combination of brush and structural fire. The houses that survived were saved were because of firefighter intervention. In San Bruno, the gas line was a main line to San Francisco, located in a wind tunnel corridor. 20-30 mph winds fanned the flames. Also, the main water line was blown out by the gas line explosion. In contrast, the pressure in our local hydrants is very high. Hydrants marked with red or red ring are high-pressure lines and our pumps have backups in case of power failures. This area is pretty well maintained for firefighting. Local homeowners' 1.5 in fire hoses may not hold up to the high pressure from the red hydrants (even yellow hydrants are high pressure). Firefighters don't hook hoses directly to hydrants. The local owners could use a device called a "double one and a half" and only open the hydrant vent partway to reduce the pressure flowing through the smaller hoses. However, when firefighters arrive on the scene, they will disconnect the local homeowners' hoses.

A question was fielded from a resident about the natural gas situation here: how does it shut down? Each appliance has its own shutoff valve: the gas main outside each home has a shutoff valve and the gas co. can shutoff the street valves. It is not necessary to turn each home's valve off at the main during a brush fire.

The following are instructions about what to do when we must evacuate: Leave all lights on so firefighters can be guided to house. Take blinds down from windows so radiant heat can't ignite them. Bring patio furniture and other combustible materials on the patio inside the house or garage. It is a personal decision whether to lock the house or not. The fire dept. will get in if they need to, even if it's locked, but dishonest people might enter and many of the fire workers on the

lines are felons (in orange jump suits). It is important to prominently display a street number at every house (important also for medical emergency).

The point was made that there are hundreds of local horses that need time to be evacuated, and the question arose as to whether the fire department has our emergency evacuation booklet.

Slimocosky stressed that the role of Street Captains is most importantly to be aware of what's happening in the neighborhood and who has to be evacuated, who is infirm, elderly, needs help etc.

Rebecca Goldfarb from Topanga Fire Safe Community Council was the next presenter. She made the point that everyone must have an emergency plan and must practice it. The flaming front of the fire as well as flying embers are very dangerous. So make your house as fire safe as possible, then the house next door, then the space between houses etc., to protect from embers. In Topanga, which is in a different water district, water is not set up for wildland fires, only for potable use and house fires. Topanga's backup generators, which power the water pumps, must be delivered as necessary; they are not on site at all times. She encouraged us to inquire if our water situation is better, not in terms of water pressure, but of adequate supply during emergency.

The role of her organization, which was formed after '93 fire, is information gathering and dissemination/ networking. Her goal is to get people to prepare, make a plan, practice the plan, and evacuate. She stressed that self-reliance is key in case there is not adequate evacuation time (need 6-8 hrs to evacuate Topanga).

T-CEP.org has a neighborhood network button and is an excellent website/place to get started. There are templates in Word she made available on site. She encouraged attendees to go home and talk to friends and neighbors to recruit them. We should develop a communication tree (template available for this) and local maps, and publish them for all people on the tree. For instances when there is no time for a traditional phone tree, you can purchase a very inexpensive message delivery system at call-em-all.com.

We need someone to coordinate and host small street meetings and someone to coordinate a plan for local street/area. Not everybody will join up but we should do it anyway.

Families should create their own plan first. Topanga disaster survival guide has instructions on creating it at topangasurvival.org. The county has a generic version for unincorporated areas being mailed early 2011.

Get safety gear. There is a program to make an inventory of your own house at iihomeinventory.com. You need a copy of your home insurance policy so you have proof of your coverage. Create a buddy system in case you're not home; who will get your pets, horses etc., where are your shutoffs for earthquake? Make a "to do" list for your neighbor buddy in priority order. Develop a method to indicate how neighbors will know if someone has or has not already done the 'to do' list?

What if fire starts in the middle of the night? Residents should get FRS radios (walkie talkies) and practice using

them with neighbors and family. HAM radios have become very small and user friendly (need to take ham radio test but questions and answers are all provided before the test). With Ham you can hear all fire/emergency dispatch, so you get the info you need by yourself.

On cell phones, if you text 66247, type in firewatch and hit send, when there's a fire they will send you a text. It's not always timely info but you do get it.

When should you evacuate? If you see embers, it's too late – you need to stay in a protected area. Wear non-synthetic fabric, no rubber soles, a mask (also in car), hoses inside, turn off A/C. Fireetc.com has used firefighter equip for sale.

Give yourself homework: go to one of these sites and start getting ready! Set a deadline so you get it done.

Abigail Bok from Arson Watch was the final presenter. She said maps are really useful. Residents should consider, in advance, possible escape routes and think outside the box. Her neighborhood has negotiated access to the fire road. It is important to find safe places to go locally. At every stage of planning, involve county agencies/officials so they know your plan and make sure it doesn't conflict with their plans. Then fire officials can target your safe areas to keep them protected. Zev Yaroslavsky's office initiated collaboration between community and responder agencies; they want to help and are a good resource. Identify neighborhood members of Arson Watch and Ham radio operators because Arson Watch volunteers may have radios or know where they can get one locally, so they can scan fire broadcasts. Brush fire flames can reach 200 feet in height, reach 1500 degrees (in San

Bruno firefighters couldn't get closer than ½ block away because of the intense heat), the ground can heat to 300 degrees, tires can melt so you can't drive, there's no oxygen so you can't breathe, and it sounds like freight train. So, DO evacuate. If you stay, more houses will be lost because firefighters' priority is to save your life, not your house. But if you MUST stay because the roads are blocked or something else makes it impossible to leave, be prepared.

One resident shared the story of her own house burning 3 years ago and 911 was busy so she had to drive to the firehouse to report the fire. She lost her house. The direct number to the Monte Nido firehouse is 818-222-1099. Keep it handy.

Joan Slimocosky indicated that Rod Bergen has volunteered to give a second presentation in a couple of weeks if there is interest from the community. Bergen is a sheriffs' deputy and knowledgeable about equine evacuation. She will create a flyer to distribute to the community to determine the level of interest.

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: Joan Slimocosky 818-591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 818-224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 818-876-3019

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

October 2010

<p>DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE Residential real estate specialist for Monte Nido, Malibu and Malibou Lake. Respectful and professional negotiations for purchase/sale/property management. It is my pleasure to reside and complete competent business in our community. Gail A. Lowe 310-317-8363 office, 310-938-3984 cell Coldwell Banker Colony, DRE# 01115332 gailalowe@gmail.com</p>
<p>REAL ESTATE Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 yrs. How much is your house worth? Call for a complementary market analysis. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>	<p>ARCHITECT Custom homes and Remodels Gary Bardovi 222-0313</p>
	<p>CUSTOM FURNITURE & CABINERY Unique patinas on wood and metal. Roger Savatteri 310-625-2887 www.savatteridesigns.com</p>
<p>New from the SADDLE PEAK LODGE</p> <p>“We Love Our Neighbors” Happy Hour on the patio every Wed/Thur/Fri from 4 to 6pm Half price on handcrafted cocktails, daily wine tastings, plus a variety of small plates from Chef Adam. DINNER WED–THURS 6-9, FRI 5:30-10, SAT 5-10, SUN 5-9 SUNDAY BRUNCH 10:30-2 See our website www.saddlepeaklodge.com click on Menu, Happy Hour. 222 3888</p>	

NOTE: NEW 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 lynnben@charter.net (Lynn Benjamin)*
Please include your residence address for our records.

*Payment must be received by MNVCA Treasurer prior to ad publication.
Any questions please call Lynn Benjamin, 818-222-2568 or email as above.*

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 October 8, 2010

POSTAL CUSTOMER
RURAL ROUTE NO. 1
CALABASAS, CA 91302

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tues, Oct 12, 7PM
at the home of
Heidi Stompe
871 Malibu Meadows Dr.
818-222-8711

ETI Corral

Corral 36 Meeting Board Meeting
Tues., Oct. 5, 7:00 PM
at the home of Art & Shawn Carvalho
24639 Mulholland Hwy.
(818) 224-4775

**Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation
Meeting**

Thursday Oct 21, 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