

Campo/Lake Morena Calendar

May 14th Mon. **Mountain Empire Collaborative** 4 PM to 6 PM Campo Community Center
May 14th Mon. **Lake Morena Volunteer Fire Association** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
May 15th Tue. **Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character** 7 PM- 8:30 PM Campo Fire Station
May 17th Thu. **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary
May 18th Fri. **Youth and Community Services Subcommittee**, Back Country Revitalization Comm., 2 PM-4PM, Campo Community Center
May 19th and 20th Sat/Sun **Campo Fire & Rescue Roof Tear Off** starting at 10 AM
May 21st Mon. **Campo Fire & Rescue** - Community meeting and Board meeting - 7 PM Campo Fire
May 22nd Tue. **Lake Morena/Campo Sponsor Group** 7 PM - 9 PM Campo Community Center
June 2nd Sat. **Campo Elementary PTA "Sizzlin Summer Festival"** 1:30 P - 4:30 PM Campo Elementary
June 3rd Sun. **Lake Morena Upper Village Water District** 7 PM 29893 Canadian Honker Road
June 6th Wed. **Lake Morena Village Council** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
June 7th Thu. **Lake Morena Lower Village Water District** 7:15 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
June 7th Thu. **Mountain Empire Band and Choir End of Year Concert** 7PM Multi Purpose Room at High School
June 9th Sat. **Kiwanis Barn Dance**
June 14th Thu. **Mountain Empire Senior Graduation** 6 PM High School Football Field
June 15th Fri. **Mountain Empire Schools** – Last day of the school year
June 21st Thu. **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary.

MERIT Recycling Center Sunday 9:00 to 1:00, Monday 9:00 to 1:00

Campo Homemakers Thrift Shop Thursday 12:30 to 3:00 Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Mountain Empire Historical Society Museum 11:00 to 5:00 Saturday and Sunday

Mountain Empire Kiwanis Thursday @ Old Oak Inn, 6:30 AM

Campo Seniors Meeting and Potluck Dinner 5 PM on the third Monday in the month, Pancake Breakfast 7 AM to 10 AM on the second and fourth Saturday in the month

Adult Computer Class Every Tuesday 2-5 Campo Community Center



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M E R I T

Post Office Box 665

Campo, CA 91906

DATE CHANGE !! Sponsor Group Meeting Tuesday May 22nd at Campo Community Center at 7:00 PM

See inside for important information on Campo Fire & Rescue members meeting/By Laws vote

POSTAL PATRON
CAMPO, CA 91906

MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce

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Newsletter #15 - 17 May 2001

MERIT - MISSION STATEMENT

“The primary objectives and purposes of MERIT shall be to provide education and information that will 1) protect and maintain the natural resources, 2) promote responsible use of ground water, and 3) preserve the rural character of the community.”

MERIT OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Mike Thometz - President Pat Noblitt - Vice President Bev Esry - Treasurer Gary Watkins - Director Teddy Davis - Secretary

Campo Fire & Rescue is on a tear - will you be there?

This weekend and Monday and Tuesday is a very special time for Campo Fire & Rescue. Saturday May 19th and Sunday May 20th the volunteers in the department will be tearing off the old roof on the 1940 era building. This roof leaks like a sieve and can no longer be repaired. A new roof will be put on Tuesday May 22nd and the old one must be removed. We need your help to tear off the old roof. A tear-off is hard work. CFR can not afford to hire an outside contractor to tear off the roof especially since the ever increasing fuel costs and electricity costs have decimated their budget

MERIT has arranged for the donation of materials for the new roof and a professional crew to install the roof. If this entire job were to be contracted out the cost would be \$14,000. The entire annual contribution from the County for fire and emergency medical services for Campo is only \$18,000. MERIT contacted Premier Roofing in Spring Valley (619.667.3764), one of the finest roofers of commercial buildings in San Diego County. Their President, Steve Chamblin, along with Ken Price of Premier, worked with San Diego Roofing Contractors Association and they agreed to donate almost all of the materials, transport them to the site, load them onto the roof, and to donate their services to roof the building. The cost to the Fire Department is \$1,000. MERIT agreed to provide a box to haul away the old roofing to the dump. Ken Price also come out twice this spring free of charge to fix the leaks he could find and to determine what would be needed for the job. I am certain Mr. Chamblin of Premier would appreciate hearing from residents of the community who would like to express their appreciation for this help. Premier is at 9054 Olive in Spring Valley 91977. You can also come by during the work and say thanks and bring them a cold drink.

I will repeat again - we need some volunteers to help the fire volunteers. Call 478.5310 and volunteer. Even if you decide at the last minute to come out, please do so. No help will be refused. You will be helping the entire community.

The Fire Station is an original Camp Lockett building which is now owned by the County and leased to the Fire Department for \$1 a year. The roof is in terrible condition and would not have lasted another winter.

Campo Fire & Rescue - Members Meeting and By Laws Vote

This is a busy time for the Fire Department. On Monday evening May 21st at 7:30 PM under the stars (the old roof will be off, the new roof materials will be loaded on the roof but they will not be in place til the following day), the CFR Board will have its monthly meeting. In addition, revised By Laws will be submitted to the community to vote upon. The community are members of Campo Fire and must vote on new By Laws just as you vote for Board members. The old By Laws are antiquated. They are almost as old as the roof and needed to be updated and improved. A committee of community and fire department members met on the subject a number of times in the last few months. Now is the time to consider these new by laws. We need you there. Please come to the meeting May 21st at 7:30 PM at the Fire Station across from the Post Office.

Who is Your Fire Department?

Many residents of the Lake Morena/Campo area are confused when it comes to fire and emergency medical services. What is the difference between Campo Fire & Rescue and Lake Morena Fire? Are they the same department with a different location? The problems originate with the County. Unlike virtually every other County in the State, San Diego County does not have a requirement in its charter that they have to provide fire protection (and keep in mind that over 70% of the calls for the fire department are for different medical problems and do not involve fire). Essentially it is up to each area to provide its own fire protection for residences, homes, buildings, etc. California Department of Forestry is a State body and they are only charged with wild land fires. While all the fire departments work with each other and back up each other, since CDF has operated on the premise there is no wild land fire threat in the rainy winter season, they operate with a seasonal crew to supplement a small permanent staff and they close down during the winter months. There is a lot of discussion about this. In the aftermath of the Viejas Fire there are proposals to make CDF a year round department with their winter job, among other things, to do controlled burns so that the fuel conditions which led to the intensity and size of Viejas will be reduced. Many residents support this for the increased fire protection and for the beneficial effects to increase the wildlife population that result from burning the brush. You should also be aware that CDF intends to completely demolish the existing CDF station in Campo on Highway 94 and build a new station at a reported cost of \$3 million. The new facility will have more accommodations for fire fighters.

Back to the other part of the fire fighting efforts. Sometime in the 1970's the communities had the opportunity to decide how they would protect themselves. The Campo are decided to have its own Fire Department controlled and funded and domiciled here. They voted to set up a Community Service Area (CSA112) and Campo Volunteer Fire Department. The Board was selected by the community and selected the Fire Chief. The community all paid an annual fee to the Fire Department which funded the operations and the department was a volunteer department. Collecting the fee was difficult and eventually the County contributed a very small amount of your taxes to support the department. One reason for the revised by laws is the change in rules from that era. Campo is still entirely a department of volunteers. Boulevard and Mt. Laguna have similar departments also with a CSA.

Other areas of the Back Country like Jamul, Dulzura and Lake Morena, voted to all join a combined Rural Fire District. Rural Fire has a Board that is elected by a vote of the residents and they have a Chief, currently Dan McKenna, and some paid firefighters and some volunteers. In Lake Morena the fire fighters are all volunteers similar to Campo. Lake Morena has a Fire Association that raises funds and helps support the volunteers that operate their Fire Department but the control of the department is with the Rural Fire Board and the Chief.

Both departments are seriously underfunded. Campo Fire applies for numerous grants and relies on donations from the community. Special funding from the County has gotten a new engine for Campo last year and has resulted in a new building for Lake Morena currently under construction on Oak Drive. In addition to the small amount of property taxes that go to the Fire Department, all new building pays a Fire Mitigation fee of about 14 cents per square foot (it varies according to the type of building and how fire resistant the construction is) and those fees can be used to purchase capital equipment such as the new Campo water tender (which is available to rent at a very reasonable cost - call the Fire Department).

To determine which department is yours you need a map. These maps can be seen in Campo or Lake Morena at the fire department. If you live in CSA112 your tax bill should reflect that. In general the dividing line is about a mile south of Lake Morena Village but it extends south along Lake Morena Drive almost to Buckman Springs Road, then north on Buckman Springs with the west side Lake Morena and the east side Campo, and then jogs north and east toward the SEALS facility where it extends north. La Posta is in the Campo Fire area and west of that is Lake Morena. The area around Buckman Springs and I-8 is Pine Valley Fire.sta.

In either case your volunteers do a wonderful job and have earned our thanks and our respect. And if any one has a propane kitchen stove that you would like to donate to the Fire Department, please call them. The stove they have no longer works.

Lake Morena/Campo Sponsor Group Meeting

This months meeting is **TUESDAY** May 22nd at 7 PM at the Campo Community Center. The normal schedule for the meeting would be Monday May 28 but that would conflict with Memorial Day so the meeting has been rescheduled. The Agenda for the meeting includes:

- V. CORRESPONDENCE and ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 - A) Announcement of briefing on Tecate Port of Entry at June 25, 2001 meeting.
- VI.. COMMITTEES:
 - A) Community Character: G. Webber/J. Foster.
 - B) PromiseLand Ranch: S. Driscoll (Committee not seated as of this date).
- VIII.. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A) Appointment of Interim Secretary
 - B) Proposed City Reservoir System Tour (M-F, approximately four (4) hours, set date thirty (30) days in advance
 - C) Update on PacBell Building across from the Old Oak Inn on Hiway 94.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A) Report on May 5, 2001 Steering Committee Meeting.
- X. PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

MERIT has been advised by SVDP that they will be making a presentation on PromiseLand Ranch at the June Sponsor Group meeting and that there will be an opportunity for the community to ask questions.

Spring Festival and Old Time Days

This was a very nice event May 5th and 6th with lots of people out to visit and ride the train. The SD RR Museum volunteers did an outstanding job and, if you did not come, you missed a good time. The music was outstanding and many concerts could not match up to the excellent quality of the groups on stage.

Wildlife Distemper

A sick fox was trapped on La Posta Road two weeks ago and was found to have canine distemper. Those of you who have animals that might be susceptible should consider protecting your animals. The disease is contagious.

Recycling Center Now Open

MERIT Recycling is open for donations every Sunday and Monday 9AM to 1PM. The center sells the recycled goods and contributes all revenues in excess of expenses to the community including Campo Fire, Friends of the Library, various Mountain Empire youth activities and to MERIT to offset costs of publishing this newsletter. No money is paid for materials donated. MERIT members volunteer their time to work at the center. We hope that the community will participate and help make this a success.

MERIT Recycling accepts: **Aluminum cans**, **glass containers** including both clean food containers and beverage containers, **newspaper**, **mixed paper** which includes junk mail, magazines, telephone books, **cardboard**, **PET plastic** bottles which are the ones used for Pepsi, Coke and similar soft drinks as well as bottled water and which have the recycling symbol on the bottom with a **1**

inside the arrows, and **HDPE plastic** bottles which have a **2** inside the arrows and include items like milk containers, large bottled water containers and detergent containers.

We sort out the materials for you so you can put the glass and plastic and aluminum cans together. Very simple and very easy. No line, no check in, no money to pay, you are in and out in a flash. Come see us and bring your recyclables.

Campo Hills

Local realtor Pete Dart has told residents that this project for 222 mobile homes/modular homes for seniors that is located at the north end of Sheridan Road has been sold by the current owner and is in escrow to a large developer. Monday May 6th a D8 bulldozer was on site and made a series of roads throughout the parcel. We do not know who the developer is and of course everyone will be interested. Campo Hills has been an approved project for many years. One of the conditions of the project is that the developer must upgrade Sheridan Road which is the access to the project. The upgrade and repairs to Sheridan Road have been an issue recently before the Back Country Revitalization Committee and the Sponsor Group and a recommendation to the County is still pending. The County owns land along Sheridan Road and at last report planned to remove the storage containers used to store County records and vacate that space. We will report more information as we find it. Obviously this project would have an important impact on Campo.

AD Hoc Committee

This group has been working hard on a statement of community character for Lake Morena/Campo. Meetings were scheduled for May 12th and May 15th and a final statement may be ready for distribution to the Sponsor Group at the May 22nd meeting. The Committee hopes to have a final statement for adoption by the community and the Sponsor Group at the June 25th Sponsor Group meeting. Any meeting dates after May 15th will be posted on the MERIT site community calendar. You are encouraged to attend and to contribute to this important document.

Mountain Empire High Band

The band members and their director, Ms. Bloomquist, having been working night and day to increase membership in the band and to raise money for repairing instruments, buying additional instruments and for field trips and other activities. Eventually they would like to get uniforms. They have had a spaghetti dinner and sold tickets for the SDRR Museum Moonlight Train Ride. The Kiwanis collects money at every meeting. The Band's goal is to play and march with pride both here in the community and in local band contests. They have demonstrated the musicianship. They need the instruments. You can help with contributions and support.

New Casino on the Campo Indian Reservation

There has been a lot of discussion recently about how there is a need for jobs in the community. However, most people do not see this need and many of the residents in this area moved here for exactly the opposite reason. We wanted to escape where all the jobs were, to escape the hustle and bustle and frenzied activity where there are lots of people and traffic. We wanted a place that was dark at night and wanted to live some place that was quiet and peaceful and full of nature and scenery. Now we will have a new Casino just a few minutes east of Campo on Interstate 8 that will open this summer. The Union Tribune reports employment will be 500. Will local residents be hired? Will area unemployment be eliminated? Will residents change from jobs in the City? Since this project was built ten times larger than originally proposed and there is not yet an environmental analysis available, what will be the impact on water in the area? Many residents are expressing concern about this very large project being dropped down in the Back Country and its impact on the way of life in this area.

Community Calendar

As a regular part of our newsletter we will publish a calendar. This newsletter is always printed on the third Monday of the month. Any community meetings and activities that groups in the Lake Morena/Campo area wish to be publicized should be turned in to MERIT by the third Monday for the following month. Call 478-9549 to leave a message, mail information to PO Box 665 or email to thometz@sciti.com. We will do our best to produce a complete and accurate calendar.

MERIT also publishes the Community Calendar on the Mountain Empire Net. This calendar is updated regularly. As soon as the information is submitted the calendar is updated. The Community Calendar can be accessed at www.mtnempire.net/Merit.html. On the Mountain Empire Net site click on Community Events, then on Campo and then on the MERIT logo. The current newsletter is published on line on Tuesday before the mail delivery and can be found at www.mtnempire.net/MeritLetter.html

Campo Library

The \$120,000 Community Development Block Grant for County fees and site preparation was approved by the Board of Supervisors. Yes to build a new County Library you have to pay fees to the County. An earlier grant of \$50,000 funded the design work. A grant application for \$65,000 to complete all work up to pouring of the slab will be submitted in August. A second application will be submitted for Proposition 14 money to build the structure when the State releases the forms. Friends of the Library will finance a Summer Reading Program with crafts and storytellers and clowns and prizes for the participants. Sign up your children and grandchildren.

Second Annual "Sizzlin' Summer Community Picnic"

Sponsored by Campo Elementary PTA and held at Campo Elementary Saturday June 2nd 1:30-4:30 PM with admission being a can of food for a local food bank. Games, entertainment, contests, food (prepared by renowned Chef Sam Hinds) all included in the cost of admission and water and sodas for a small charge. You can even check out the model of the new Campo Library.

