



# the Condor

The official publication of the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association, Inc.

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[www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net)  
661.242.3788 . 661.242.1471 (fax)

The Super Bowl party is  
coming Feb. 7. Save the  
date!



# the Condor

The official publication of the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association, Inc.

VOLUME 38 . NUMBER 1 . JANUARY 2016

*Check out PMC's website at [www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net)*

## Wireless Devices Can Help In Emergency Situations

Plan for emergencies before they happen. Part of this plan should include a wireless communications device, which can add capabilities to help you get through an emergency.

Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers – police, fire and rescue agencies; power companies; insurance providers; family, friends and co-workers; etc. – and program them into your phone.

Here are other tips for using your wireless device as part of your emergency plan:

- Store the number of a person to contact in your phone book under “I.C.E.” (In Case of Emergency) so authorities know who to call in an emergency should you be unable to.
- Distribute wireless phone numbers to family members and friends.
- Forward your home phone calls to your wireless number if you will be away from your home or have to evacuate.
- If your wireless device has texting capabilities, practice sending text messages. (Most have texting capability, but check before you need it.)
- Set up all social media and email accounts for you, your family and friends on all wireless phones, tablets and other devices as a method of communication and means to alert contacts of your status and location.
- Develop a systematic evacuation and communications plan with family and friends that includes what to do, who calls who, where to go, and what supplies and items you will take with you. This may include updating social media sites to provide updates about your status or location.

### **Take care of your wireless devices:**

- Keep additional batteries charged and nearby.
- Keep car-charger adapters to charge your devices while on the road.
- Utilize a universal portable power pack with a micro USB connection to charge various types of devices.
- Use covers for devices to help protect them if dropped.

*‘WIRELESS’ Continued on page 13*

## El Nino Pattern Has Arrived: Wet Weather May Follow

So far, it would seem that the awaited El Nino has not had too much impact on the weather here in the mountain communities. However, weather agencies such as NOAA and weather.com warn that this El Nino ranks among the top three strongest on record so far, and its effects are likely far from over.

A recent report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said water temperatures in a key part of the equatorial Pacific were above average by as much as three degrees centigrade in November -- warmer than temperatures in November 1997 in the run-up to that winter’s record El Niño event. At the same time, east-to-west winds have weakened, allowing more of that warm water to reach the west coast of the Americas.

Those warm waters are setting up California — and Southern California in particular — for a wet, stormy winter. Here is information provided by major weather sources on potential winter/spring weather impacts.

**‘EL NINO’ Continued on page 12**

## New Regulations Now in Place Affect the Operation of Drones

*Mike Glenn, Vice Chair, PMCPOA Board*

Commercial and recreational remotely operated model aircraft and drones, now known as UAS (unmanned aircraft systems), were previously unregulated. However, recent events and the proliferation of these devices into the hands of the general public have created new issues.

Up through 2014, there were over 200,000 mostly model airplane operations conducted in fairly well-controlled circumstances. During this period, there were 238 reports of unsafe operations.

As both commercial and recreational drones became less expensive and more available in 2015, the FAA estimates that there are now more than 1.6 million small-unmanned aircraft. Their estimate is that 600,000 were sold this holiday season. As of Dec. 9, 2015, there were 1,133 reports of unsafe operations, including multiple operations in airlin-

**‘DRONES’ Continued on page 11**

# Tips for Safe Food Handling in a Power Outage

*Emergency Preparedness Committee*

## Here are steps to follow to prepare for a power outage:

- Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer. A thermometer with a remote readout and wire probe is best so that you do not have to open the door to check temperatures.
- Make sure the freezer is at 0 degrees F or below and the refrigerator is at 40 degrees or below.
- Freeze containers of water ahead of time for ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator or coolers after the power is out. Freeze gel packs for use in coolers. Keep some gallon-size emergency drinking water bottles in the freezer, they keep food cold and if they should melt, you will have drinking water.
- Have coolers on hand to keep refrigerated food cold if the power will be out for more than 4 hours.
- Group food together in the freezer -- this helps the food stay cold longer.

## Steps to follow after the power is out:

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- The refrigerator will keep food safe for about four hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours if the door remains closed.
- Discard refrigerated perishable foods after four hours without power.
- Food may safely be refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40 degrees F or below when checked with a thermometer.
- Never taste a food to determine its safety!!
- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, check each package of food to determine its safety. If the food still contains ice crystals, the food is safe.

## During snow and ice storms:

- During a snowstorm, do not place perishable food out in the snow. Outside temperatures can vary and food can be exposed to unsanitary conditions and animals.
- Instead, make ice. Fill buckets, empty milk containers or cans with water and leave them outside to freeze. Use this ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator or coolers. You also can pack snow in water-tight containers and use them to keep food cold.

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The PMCPOA Board of Directors meets on the third Saturday of every month at 10 am in the Condor Room of the Clubhouse. All members are invited to attend the open session. The executive session is a closed meeting for the discussion of and action on legal and personnel matters, third party contracts, and member-requested hearings.

Members may request copies of the open Board Meeting minutes. These requests should be made in writing to the Corporate Secretary. There is a charge per page for making copies of the minutes.

## Tips on Driving in Snow and Ice

The roads in PMC and surrounding areas can get quite icy during the winter. Here are a few driving tips offered by the National Safety Council, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and Washington State Government Information & Services.

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.

Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared and that you know how to handle road conditions.

It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.

### **Driving safely on icy roads**

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should al-

low at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways such as bridges.

- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

### **If your rear wheels skid:**

- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
- If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to

steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.

- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

### **If your front wheels skid:**

- Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.
- As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

### **If you get stuck:**

- Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
- Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
- Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
- Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction.
- Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first — it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.

**Please note  
that Town  
Hall is dark  
this month.  
Town Hall  
gatherings  
will resume  
in February.**

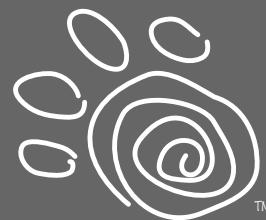
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## Golf Shop Hours:

**8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Every Day**

**Please call 242-3734  
for tee times.**

**Twilight hours/rates  
are available at 2 p.m.  
Contact the Pro Shop  
for details. Remember:  
For safety reasons, non-  
golfers may NOT be on  
the course during hours  
of daylight except for  
approved snowplay.**

**The editorial  
and advertising  
deadline for the  
February 2016  
Condor is Monday,  
Jan. 11, 2015.**

*A reminder that the  
PMCPOA staff and editor  
of the Condor newsletter  
do not endorse nor make  
any representations for any  
advertiser, and we strongly  
encourage all persons  
to perform their own due  
diligence in selecting  
with whom they transact  
business. The association  
will, however, keep tabs  
on those that do place and  
pay for ads in the Condor.  
If we see a negative trend  
in performance issues, we  
will exercise our discretion  
and remove such ads from  
future publications.*

## **Golf Course Snow Play Information**

During the winter months, the PMC Golf Course can be used for snow play if certain conditions are met. The following are rules for snow play:

1. There must be at least 6 inches of snow on the course for it to be open for play.
2. The driving range, fairways and rough between the fairways are the only areas to be used.
3. No play will be allowed on the Golf Course Greens (flat areas with flagsticks).
4. The Golf Shop and Golf Course Maintenance Personnel will make the determination if the course will be open for play.
5. Please call the Pro Shop or Business Office to confirm prior to snow play.

## **Save the Date!**

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\* Special Menu  
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— “Measuring Broadband America”  
Report, 2013 & 2014

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## PMC's Snow Berm Removal Procedure

During the winter months, our Association faces many weather-related challenges. The first priority in the event of a snow storm is clearing and sanding the roads of the community. In a nutshell, we have well-established and effective procedures that determine the order in which snow is removed throughout PMC.

The removal of berms from homeowners' driveways is provided as a courtesy to members who, in advance, have requested this assistance. In order to be added to this list, you need to present a current ADA placard or doctor's note at the Business Office.

This free service is only provided after snow removal from all Association roads and necessary sanding have taken place. As a result, it could be two or more days before the crews begin to remove berms.

As with the roads, this courtesy service has an established procedure in determining the order in which property owners' berms are removed.

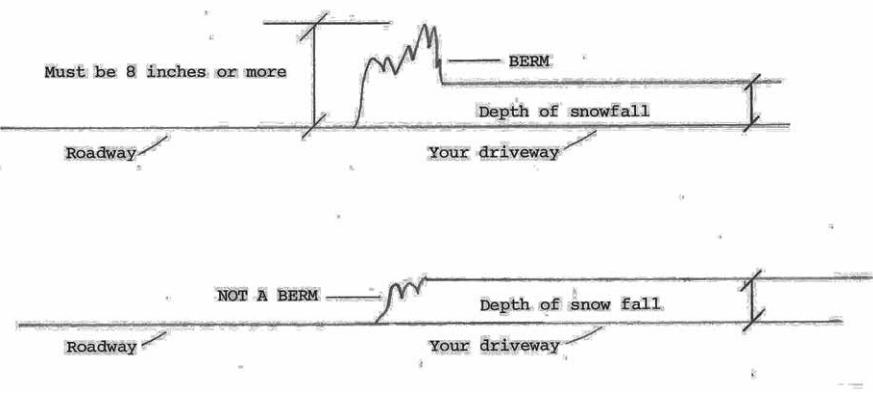
When crews are available to begin berm removal, they will follow the approved ADA berm removal list. Our berm removal list is quite long; and due to limitations of time, equipment and manpower, the process of removing berms for every property owner on the list can take several days, even after the snow has stopped falling.

The berm removal list is intended for the physically impaired.

If you have any questions regarding our snow plowing and berm removal policies, please call 242-3788 or come see us.

**Happy New Year to You and Yours from the PMCPOA Staff.**

## Sketch of Snow Berm Removal Process



## PMCPOA's Policy on Snowplowing

During winter storms, the Pine Mountain Club Maintenance Department's snowplow equipment will be dispatched as needed to maintain all roadways, cul de sacs and access roads within the PMC community.

This equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible after the snow begins to stick to the road surfaces, and plowing will continue until all of the roads are clear of snow.

Cinders will be applied when the Pine Mountain Maintenance Department deems it appropriate.

The streets in our community will be plowed in the following order: First, the main roadways. Second, all access roads. Third, all cul de sacs. And, when time per-

mits, attempts will be made to try to clear snow berms in driveways.

(Copies of this policy are available in the PMC Business Office and on the website under the "Business Office" menu.)

## New Year's Day Clubhouse Hours: Offices Closed

**Bistro Open**  
**Brunch - 10 - 2**  
**Dinner - 5 pm**  
**Limited Menu**



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# A Message from the Board Chair

I plan to keep this short, so I will ask that you look to the General Manager's report for additional details of the past month.

As we close out another holiday season along with the calendar of 2015, it is a time to reflect back on what the year has meant to all of us in some fashion. For Pine Mountain Club, we have had some challenges in managing our water resources, with the ongoing risk of a wild land fire, remediation projects in the Clubhouse and Pro Shop, street repairs and aging equipment.

While many members may not be aware of the steps taken to deal with those issues, they were done with the overall safety and functionality of your Association in mind. The Board of Directors thanks the membership and staff for their patience and assistance this past year. We know it was not always smooth.

The PMC Board looks forward to the New Year with great optimism in establishing new goals and achieving many ob-

jectives, starting with the survey results for our updated Five-Year Plan. Hopefully, this will occur with little disruption to our normal routines and with everyone's understanding.

I do want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of all those involved in making the Clubhouse a complete holiday package with decorations and events. A lot of personal touches and a little extra effort were put in by many.

For those of you who enjoyed the Dec. 11th Bistro and Lounge grand re-opening holiday event with Dave Silversparre, please take a minute to thank the entire Bistro/Lounge staff. Those who did the "heavy lifting" for that week include Recreation Manager Mandi Lyons and Maintenance staff Bill Bonn and Jack Gasparian, who worked with Food and Beverage Director Anita Stephenson and Board Director Sandy Browne to really do the place up right. I don't think the Condor Room has ever looked better than it did over this past holiday season.

With that, from the staff and Board of Directors, we wish you a Happy New Year and a great winter in 2016.

## Want to Talk With the Board Chair?

If you would like to speak with the Chair of the PMC Board of Directors, there is a way in which to do so. To book some one-on-one time with Chair John Dilibert, contact the front desk and schedule an appointment. Visits will be booked in 15-minute increments.

This is the members' chance to vent, inform, question, enlighten, propose a solution or put an end to issues and concerns they believe the Board should know about. Please call the Business Office to schedule an appointment.

## PMC Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

*Karin Shulman, Recording Secretary*

These are highlights of the Board of Directors Open Meeting of Dec. 19, 2015. Complete minutes are available at the Business Office or online at [www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net) after their approval at the next Board meeting.

In the Regular Open Meeting, Chairman John Dilibert called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Eight directors attended: Stephan Bates, Gary Biggerstaff, Sandy Browne, Susan Canaan, John Dilibert, Mike Glenn, Tom McMullen and Douglas Wilde. Garry Kemmer was excused. Also present were General Manager Rory Worster and Recording Secretary Karin Shulman.

The Board approved the Consent Agenda of the Board of Directors' meeting of Dec. 19, 2015, which included the Regular

Open Meeting Minutes of Nov. 21, 2015, and there was one Committee application approved. The Board acknowledged receipt of "Committee-Approved Committee Minutes for Board Review." There were no Environmental Control Committee Project Recommendations.

Chairman Dilibert presented the Chair's report.

General Manager Worster presented the General Manager's report.

Director McMullen presented the Treasurer's report.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

### BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

### NEW BUSINESS:

**RESOLUTION # 01-12-19-15, RESOLVED,** that the PMCPOA Board of Directors approve moving an estimated total

of \$18,556 for surplus equipment, plus the amount of the few remaining items to be sold or scrapped, from the Reserve Study and direct management to immediately transfer these funds from the Operating Fund and deposit this amount into the Reserve Fund. **MOTION** by Director Bates, **SECOND** by Director McMullen. **MOTION** carried. Unanimously.

**MOTION** by Director Dilibert, **SECOND** by Director McMullen, to discuss and provide guidance to the General Manager for developing the 2016-2017 budget. **MOTION** carried. Unanimously.

The Board sent and received 19 items of correspondence this month.

The next Regular Open Board Meeting will take place on Jan. 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Condor Room.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

# Treasurer's Report

## Prepared by Todd Draa

Pine Mountain Club POA, Inc  
 Treasurer's Report and Y-T-D Financial Statement  
 Year to Date Through November 30, 2015

Operating Fund	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Variance	
<b>Revenue</b>				
Current Year Assessment Revenue	1,682,367	1,683,160	(793)	
Operations/Maintenance	58,473	81,680	(23,207)	
Social Activity	254,536	317,776	(63,240)	
Interest Income (Operating)	822	2,500	(1,678)	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,996,198</b>	<b>2,085,116</b>	<b>(88,918)</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Operations/Maintenance	1,419,415	1,478,265	(58,850)	
Social Activity	507,463	551,023	(43,560)	
Operating Projects	21,961	24,581	(2,620)	
Designated Fund Projects	6,308	0	6,308	
Worker's Comp Safety Incentive	0	0	0	
Bad Debt Expense	13,500	0	13,500	
Reserve Contribution	150,000	150,000	0	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,118,647</b>	<b>2,203,869</b>	<b>(85,222)</b>	
<b>Net Operating Revenue Over Expense</b>	<b>(122,449)</b>	<b>(118,753)</b>	<b>(3,696)</b>	
	<b>2015/2016 Assmt Billing</b>	<b>YTD Assessments Collected</b>	<b>YTD Assessments Receivable</b>	
<b>Assessment Collection Update</b>	<b>4,039,584</b>	<b>3,866,723</b>	<b>172,861</b>	
<b>Payroll Summary</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	
Payroll Wages	717,874	727,955	(10,081)	
Payroll Benefits	141,126	134,373	6,753	
Taxes and Worker's Compensation	113,730	114,832	(1,102)	
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<b>972,730</b>	<b>977,160</b>	<b>(4,430)</b>	
<b>Reserve Fund Update</b>	<b>Beginning Balance July 1, 2015</b>	<b>Interest and Contributions</b>	<b>Less YTD Trnsfrs and Purchases</b>	<b>Ending Balance November 30, 2015,</b>
	<b>2,354,709</b>	<b>157,995</b>	<b>200,485</b>	<b>2,312,219</b>

Respectfully Submitted



Thomas McMullen  
 December 16, 2015

Operating Fund Cash Balance	2,982,370
Reserve Fund Cash Balance	2,312,219

# -----General Manager's Update -----

Rory Worster

I would like to wish everyone the best of everything in the New Year.

We had a little taste of winter weather in December with some very cold temperatures. The amount of calls we received for sanding/cindering the roads was shocking. Please let me remind the members and guests that putting down cinders is not a replacement for chains or other traction aids, and we cannot possibly make the road red every time the snow stops. In the snow and ice event in late December, we went through about 75 tons of sand and cinders. When we place cinders and sand down, it might get covered up with a small dusting of snow. The cinders and sand are still there and will do their job. The roadway will not have every spot of white covered with a cinder product.

If it had snowed for 3 or 4 days, we would not be putting out cinders until the storm was largely over. This means that a lot of you who called in and demanded cinders so you could go somewhere would wind up being stuck. It is in your best interest to be able to drive in the snow and ice. To do this safely, you should have the proper vehicle with the proper snow and ice tires, and -- as the signs coming into PMC state -- chains, Spider Spikes or cables are required. As far as snow and ice tires go, all the major manufacturers have a type of tire for this purpose.

Also, please remember that the association staff cannot put chains on non-association equipment or vehicles, nor will they be able to stop by and check them for you if there is snowplowing operations or sanding and cindering tak-

ing place. You should be prepared to install your particular traction aids prior to needing them.

YouTube has dozens of videos showing how to do this for various types of chains, cables, Spider Spikes, etc.

## Association Projects

We are continuing to work on the last few holes of the golf course and have it ready for spring. We hope to have a huge snow pack so that we have enough water to keep the remaining grass areas green most of the summer.

In between cutting and splitting firewood, we will be sweeping streets to recycle some of the cinders we spread during winter. We also continue to maintain the green belts and take down hazard dead trees for cleanup later if required.

We are starting to work on the budget for the coming year. Committees should be getting ready to turn in projects for consideration.

Please note that the PMCPOA offices will be closed Jan. 1, 2016 in observance of New Year's Day.

The Bistro, however, will be open at 10:00 a.m. for brunch service, followed in the evening by a limited-menu dinner service.

As always, please look in the lobby for flyers with more details.

## PMC Patrol Recap

During the month of November, Patrol responded to 59 calls for service. Observations and calls included the following:

Enforcement: 33

Public Assist: 25

Call / Suspicious Incident: 1

## EC Office Recap

EC Officer Approvals of Minor Projects (No KC Permit Needed): 29

EC Letters Written: 27, resulting in 1 citation

### **CONSUMER ALERT**

*When considering hiring a tree professional, we suggest you ask for written proof of workers' compensation, liability insurance and commercial vehicle insurance via a currently updated insurance accord certification binder. We are more than happy to add you (our client) to our policy as an additional insured for free -- just ask and we will hand you a copy before we start the job.*

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- We install, service or replace the following: Fences, decks, irrigation systems, retaining walls, ponds, patios, driveways and landscape lighting.
- Our crews are very professional, courteous and the hardest and most efficient landscape laborers on the mountain. We specialize in high-elevation hardscaping and planting and we guarantee our plantings for one year with installation of our drip system.

## Snow Play Travel Tips

The Forest Service offers helpful tips for those who plan to play in the snow in the surrounding mountains. If a winter storm is approaching, Los Padres National Forest officials remind the public to plan accordingly if they intend to visit any of the popular "snow play" recreation areas. Storms can bring snow-covered and slippery roads, rock slides, trail washouts, possible flash floods and other hazards.

The Forest strongly encourages visitors to take the appropriate steps to ensure personal safety, including:

- Contact the Forest Service office nearest your destination for current conditions. Many forest roads are closed during significant weather events; some are closed for the winter. Locally, Cerro Noroeste Road is closed until Spring, and Mt. Pinos Road has a chain requirement, and closes due to weather as needed.

- Check local weather reports.
- Take a map of the area with you and know how to read it.
- Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of fuel.

- Check your tires and windshield wiper blades.

- Make sure to carry chains.
- Bring an extra set of dry clothes, a warm jacket and hat, gloves and appropriate footwear.

- Pack extra food and water.
- Bring a flashlight with fresh batteries, a first aid kit and a shovel. These items could prove critical in the event of a change in weather, a vehicle breakdown or other unexpected situation.

- Leave your itinerary and expected time of return with a family member or friend.

- If you become lost or injured, stay calm and get out of the wind if possible. Stay put! Do not wander. Searchers have a better chance of finding you faster if you remain near your planned route.

- Cell phones are helpful, but do not work in many areas of the forest.

- Visitors are reminded that an Adventure Pass is required for all areas of the local forest.

To contact the Mt. Pinos Ranger District (Frazier Park), call (661) 245-3731.

## Tips on How to Shovel Snow Safely

While shoveling snow can be good exercise, it can also be dangerous for optimistic shovelers who take on more than they can handle. The National Safety Council offers the following tips to help you get a handle on safe shoveling:

- Individuals over the age of 40, or those who are relatively inactive, should

be especially careful.

- If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel without a doctor's permission.
- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow! Shoveling (like lifting weights) can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically; so pace yourself. Be sure to stretch out and warm up before taking on the task.

**'SHOVEL'** continued on page 13

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### Real Estate Agents

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### Tree Service/Arborist

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Landscape & Tree Service  
High-Elevation Specialists  
(661) 245-1147 (Lic. #825188)

All Seasons Real Estate  
Carole Swanston (Lic# 01241300)  
(661) 242-3752/16311 Askin PMC

Lewis W. Larmon  
Tree Service Contractor  
(661) 242-2979 (Lic. #852182)

**Professional Services ads are \$5 per line per month, two line minimum, when paid by the year. Otherwise, \$6 per line per month. No refunds. The fee includes the name of your business and phone number. PMCPA does not guarantee the accuracy of the information nor does it endorse any business or service listed here. To place an ad here, call 242-3788.**

# **COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS**

*PMCPOA welcomes your input. Drop ideas off in the CCC Box in the Clubhouse Lobby, or click on the "CCC Box" menu item on PMC's website at [www.pinemountainclub.net](http://www.pinemountainclub.net).*

Thank you for your submissions to the Complaints, Concerns and Compliments Box. It takes a village to run a village, and your care and concern help keep PMC the wonderful place we love.

Look for responses in the Condor. Please be sure to include your contact information. While your name will not be published or posted, we don't respond to anonymous submissions.

If you have a concern that involves maintenance, sanitation or safety issues, or is of a confidential nature, please contact the Business Office immediately at 661-242-3788. Thank you!

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## **COMPLIMENTS**

- I really appreciated the generous offerings at the refreshment table during the Tree Lighting Ceremony last month. The cups of hot chocolate were bigger than ever and the cookies were of a higher quality than the last two years. I also noticed more trees seemed to be decorated. Good job!

**Response:** We are glad you loved the tree lighting event. We think this one was the best and biggest in the past six years and we had a great time putting it together for the membership. Just wait until next year: We are going to top this one somehow. A great big thank you to Rick and Linda Rivette for leading the caroling.

- Whoever decorated the Christmas trees this year did a beautiful job. The display of lights is outstanding!

**Response:** Please see above response.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

- My wife brought portable speed bumps to my attention. They could be used during the summer only and then removed for the plows. We could even pay for one for ourselves in front of our house if we had permission. Anyway, just an idea to keep the speed down. Thanks, PMC looks great these days.

**Response:** Thank you for the suggestion. We are looking at the speed bump and other ideas to help us in locations where drivers continue to speed. We know people are able to read the speed limit signs, but it seems like a good percentage of them ignore the posted limit.

## **COMPLAINTS**

- Everyone in the dining room was complaining recently about how long it was taking to get food. We are used to that! Although it's very tough to watch serving staff week after week spend their entire shift apologizing. We observe it every time we come. The Cream of Spinach Soup was like warm water with some spinach. The Parmesan Tilapia was the worst; was it from a bag and then dropped in the deep fryer? The pasta served by mistake was awful as well, no taste. Please work on a fix!

**Response:** We are sorry that you continue to have a less than stellar dining experience in the Clubhouse. We have had some extraordinary struggles with being able to staff all shifts at the proper numbers to deliver exceptional service and food. We continue to advertise for kitchen bar and service staff. To help us in our efforts to deliver a nice experience, we ask that you talk with the manager or shift supervisor on duty at the time of the unsatisfactory experience. This will allow us to correct issues rapidly and help in identifying root causes for issues or lapses.

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**'DROONES' continued from page 1**

er approach corridors to busy commercial airports. Interruptions of firefighting and other public safety operations are well-documented.

CAL Fire has documented 12 separate intrusions this past fire season, where drones interfered with firefighting aircraft and helicopters, forcing them to land their aircraft due to collision concerns, thus preventing the aircraft from disbursing fire retardant onto burning homes and wild land fires.

The U.S. Forest Service has some rules regarding UAS operations from forest lands. The rules include disallowing operations within protected sanctuaries and wildlife areas.

California lawmakers are proposing measures to regulate privately operated drones around police and emergency operations. SB 167 would establish a \$5,000 fine and up to six months in jail for operating a drone that interferes with emergency operations. SB 168 would provide immunity to public safety crews who take down a drone that poses an imminent threat to emergency personnel.

Per public law under CFR 49, the FAA regulates all air safety from the

ground up to 60,000 feet, and normally restricts operations of manned piloted aircraft to 500 feet above ground level. Licensing, testing and regulations control pilot operations and education. Restrictions over sensitive and high-profile areas are generated daily, and published as Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR's).

On Monday, Dec. 14, 2015, the FAA implemented a rule regarding mandatory UAS vehicle registration and marking. Operators are now considered to be pilots per the definitions imposed by Federal Aviation Regulations. The FAA goal is control and education of the operators of these vehicles to allow safe integration into public airspace. Registration of the owner of a recreational UAS is a key component.

This new Federal rule provides the following requirements for operation of a recreational UAS:

1. Vehicle must weigh 55 pounds or less and be identified per FAA requirements.
2. Owners must be registered with the FAA via online registration with a \$5 fee, renewable every 3 years.
3. Owners must be at least 13 years old and be citizens of the United States.

4. The UAS must be operated in Visual Line of Sight only with unassisted vision (no binoculars).

5. May not operate over persons not involved in the operation of that UAS.

6. Daytime operations only.

7. Maximum altitude of 400 feet to keep below the lowest threshold of manned aircraft operations.

8. Operations may not be conducted within 5 miles of an airport or inside of a published TFR area.

Penalties for non-registration could reach \$27,500, and the possible criminal penalties for a negligent incident could reach as high as \$250,000 and up to three years in prison.

The PMCPOA area has restrictions pertaining to the operations of UAS.

The Chumash Wilderness surrounds most of Pine Mountain Club, and therefore by U.S. Forest Service rule, UAS cannot be operated within that area.

The PMC EC code, section 5.6, prohibits nuisances, noxious activities, annoying activities, etc.

While the POA cannot enforce the FAA requirements, the local law enforcement will evaluate each reported incident and take action as appropriate.

One of the worst possible scenarios would be a Life Flight helicopter inbound to our local helipad having to wave off and not land due to UAS interference, and causing a major health issue to a person.

Having to halt airdrop operations in a forest fire situation could be disastrous, both to persons, property and the community.

Please be conscious of the PMCPOA CC&Rs as well as State, FAA and Forest Service requirements, and ensure any operations of UAS vehicles are in compliance.

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**Happy  
New Year!**

## 'EL NIÑO' Continued from page 1

First, keep these two things in mind:

1) El Niño is not the sole driver of the atmosphere at any time. Day-to-day variability in the weather pattern -- including blocking patterns, the effects of climate changes and other factors -- all work together with El Niño to determine the overall weather experienced over the time-frame of a few months.

2) No two El Niños are exactly alike. The intensity matters in terms of impact.

Keeping this in mind, when looking only at the five previous strong El Niños, there are some general commonalities to note heading into winter. Californians may remember the flooding that struck the state during the strong 1997-98 El Niño. In February 1998, a series of storms caused an estimated \$550 million in damage and killed 17 people in California. A total of 35 counties were declared federal disaster areas. This fits into the bucket of the wetter-than-average winter you would typically expect in a moderate or strong El Niño.

Interestingly, during the previous winter, there was also major flooding in California and it was even more costly, with a total price tag of \$1.8 billion, according to a consulting meteorologist in California. However, El Niño was not present that winter, and rainfall for the season was near average. The flooding was the result of excessive rainfall that fell in a short time period combined with snowmelt from late December to early January.

While we all hope that this El Niño will

bring drought relief in the Golden State, we cannot draw a concrete conclusion that significant rains are ahead in any El Niño year. As of early December 2015, a large swath of the West, including California, the Great Basin, the interior Northwest and parts of the northern Rockies, were in drought. In California, the multi-year drought has been exceptional, with reservoirs receiving little, if any, recharge from the paltry Sierra snowpack last winter and spring. This followed the driest year on record for the Golden State in 2013. Snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains acts as a natural reservoir and typically provides a third of the water the state uses in an average year. Thus, snow pack is crucial to drought relief.

The good news is that when examining

each month individually during strong El Niños, it is significant to note that in California, precipitation typically picks up in January and continues into March. In fact, a dry December has happened in California preceding a wet El Niño winter. So, there is still hope that the subtropical or southern-branch jet stream -- typically turbo-charged during strong El Niños -- will deliver long-awaited relief for at least some of the West.

NOAA forecasters say nearly all of California should prepare for above-average precipitation over the next three months. Although it's unclear how much of that will fall as rain or as snow in the parts of California key to the state's water supply, officials with FEMA said California needs to be ready for the possible effects of El Niño.

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**'WIRELESS' cont. from page 1**

- Keep phones, Smart Phones, tablets, laptops, batteries, chargers and other equipment in a dry, accessible location. For example, if you are concerned about severe weather or flooding, it is a good idea to put them in a re-sealable plastic bag.

***Know and use special wireless services:***

- Weather applications and alerts provide users with a variety of information about weather conditions, such as radar images, forecasts and severe storm warnings.

- Location-based services provide peace of mind, so that you know where your family members are located. Specialized devices can provide single-button notification services for medical or other emergencies.

***Wireless tips to stay connected and informed:***

- Limit non-emergency calls to conserve battery power and free up wireless networks for emergency agencies and operations.

- Send brief text messages rather than voice calls – often text messages get through when wireless networks are overtaxed during a crisis.

- Check weather and news reports available through many Internet-connected wireless phones, and through other wireless phone applications, when power is out.

- Download apps and subscribe to alerts from aid and relief organizations such as the American Red Cross' apps for first-aid, hurricane and shelter and FEMA's Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS).

- In extreme conditions when your battery is running low and you are unable to charge it, consider conserving battery life:

- Establish an "on air" time as part of your emergency communications plan with family and friends during which you power up your wireless device to take calls or messages during designated times.

- Turn off background data applications or Wi-Fi search services if you have a wire-

less device that is capable of these communications. (Note that your device will not receive alerts while data is turned off.)

**Want to Receive Your Condor by Email?**

Would you like to receive your Condor newsletter by email? Printed versions are still being sent through the mail to those who prefer it. However, online versions come earlier and save the association as much as \$2.50 per copy in mailing and labor costs.

If you are interested in an online version, please email the Condor editor at [rwlde@pmcpoa.com](mailto:rwlde@pmcpoa.com) or contact the Business Office in person or by phone at 242-3788 to let us know. Please provide us with your name as it appears on the property title, tract and lot number if possible, and your property or mailing address, phone number and email address. Save money, trees, and postage costs!

**'SHOVEL' continued from page 9**

- Shovel only fresh snow. Freshly fallen, powdery snow is easier to shovel than the wet, packed-down variety.

- Push the snow as you shovel. It's easier on your back than lifting the snow out of the way.

- Don't pick up too much at once. Use a small shovel, or fill only one-fourth or one-half of a large one.

- Lift with your legs bent, not your back. Keep your back straight. By bending and "sitting" into the movement, you'll keep your spine upright and less stressed. Your shoulders, torso and thighs can do the work for you.

- Do not work to the point of exhaustion. If you run out of breath, take a break. If you feel tightness in your chest, stop immediately.

- Dress warmly. Remember that extremities, such as the nose, ears, hands and feet, need extra attention during winter's cold. Wear a turtleneck sweater, cap, scarf, face protection, mittens, wool socks and waterproof boots.

***The Wine Room Gallery***

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**Saturdays 1 to 7 p.m.**

**Sundays Noon to 5 p.m.**

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**Fitness Schedule**

**Tai Chi** • 9:30-10:30 am  
Monday . Wednesday .  
Friday

**Gentle Stretch** •  
9:30-10:15 am . Tuesday .  
Thursday

**PMC Yoga & Pilates** .  
10:15-11:00 am . Tuesday .  
Thursday

**Classes in PMC  
Clubhouse**  
Check the office for fees.

*The Beer of the Month for January will be announced soon depending upon availability. The wine and drink specials have been discontinued.*

**Family Dining is available in the Condor Room on Friday and Saturday nights pending other events.**

**Bistro on Greens Monthly Dinner Specials**

Jan. 2

*Baked Chicken Zitti*

Jan. 8

*Chicken Wings three ways*

Jan. 9

*Honey Garlic Shrimp*

Jan. 15

*Beef tips in Mushroom Sauce*

Jan. 16

*Shrimp Scampi*

*For reservations, please call 242-2233.*

**Recreation Room Hours:**

**3 - 6 p.m.**

**Mon, Wed, Fri**

**11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Weekends**

**Rec Room open  
11-6 on all school  
holidays**

**Arts and Crafts Day  
Every Wed 3-5 p.m.**

**Winter-themed  
crafts this month**

**Homework Club**

**Tues/Thurs  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**(No Homework Club  
on school holidays,  
including the week of  
New Year's.)**

Jan. 22

*Prime Rib*

Jan. 23

*Grilled Chicken Caprese*

Jan. 29

*Fried Flounder*

Jan. 30

*Spaghetti and Meatballs*

*Happy New Year!*

**Entertainment Line-Up:****Saturday Nights**

**7 to 11 p.m.  
(unless otherwise  
noted)**

**Jan. 2 -- Joe Croyle  
(Classics) Jan. 9 --  
Tsunami Surfers (Mix  
of Rock, Oldies and  
Country)**

**Jan. 16 -- Saggy  
Bottom Boyz  
(Classic Country &  
Rock )**

**Jan. 23 -- New  
Daddy (Mix of Blues,  
Rock & Americana  
Music)**

**Jan. 30 -- Bandit  
(Mix of Classic Rock,  
Blues & Country)**

**Sunday Jams:**

**Jan. 10 and 24  
2-5 p.m.**

**Menu available from  
Bistro**

**Celtic Jam: 6-9 p.m.  
Every Tuesday night**

**Bring your own instrument  
to play or just come enjoy the  
music and have fun.**

**Jams in Condor Room**

# Activities

## Mondays

12:45-4:00 pm . Bridge .  
Condor Room

## Tuesdays

10 am . WOW . Pool Pav.  
6-9 pm . Celtic Jam . Condor Room

## Wednesdays

12:45-4:00 pm . Bridge .  
Condor Room

## Thursdays

11:30 am . Skins Golf  
7pm . Pine Mountain  
Gardeners . Pool Pav (3rd  
Thursday, odd months)

## Fridays

6 pm . Amateur Radio  
Club . Pool Pavilion  
(3rd Friday)

## Saturdays

4 pm . Pine Mountain  
Gardeners . Pool Pav (3rd  
Saturday, even months)  
7 pm . Music . Lounge

## Sundays

2-5 pm . Sunday Jams (2x  
per month) . Lounge

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# COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All committee meetings are open to  
PMCPOA members in good standing.

*Friday, Jan. 1 First Friday)*  
**DARK Greens and Ground** Golf Shop

*Saturday, Jan. 2 (First Saturday)*  
**DARK Governing Documents** Pool Pavilion  
1:00 pm **Planning** Condor Room

*Thursday, Jan. 7 (First Thursday)*  
10:30 am **Recreation Committee** Lounge

*Friday, Jan. 8 (Normally First Friday)*  
2:00 pm **Environmental Control** Condor Room

*Saturday, Jan. 9 (Second Saturday)*  
8:00 am **Equestrian Committee** Pool Pavilion  
9:00 am **Emergency Preparedness** Condor Room  
10:00 am **Communications** Pool Pavilion  
10:00 am **CERT** Condor Room

*Wednesday, Jan. 13 (Wednesday Before Board Mtg)*  
5:00 pm **Finance & Budget** Pool Pavilion

*Saturday, Jan. 16 (Third Saturday)*  
10:00 am **PMCPOA Board of Directors Mtg.** Condor Rm

## Transfer Site Hours:

**8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Every Day**

## Bistro Hours

**Mon-Sun -- 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Thurs -- Dinner 5-8 p.m.**  
(Condor Lounge)

**Fri-Sat -- Dinner 5-9 p.m.**

**Sun -- Dinner 5-8 p.m.**

**Pizza Served Thurs/Sun!**

**Bistro -- 242-2233**

## GUILD ACTIVITIES

**Every Monday**  
9-3 . Lace Guild . Pool  
Pav

**Second/Fourth/Fifth  
Wednesdays**  
9-3 . Quilt Comfort Zone .  
Pool Pavilion

**First Thursday**  
6:30 pm . Quilt Guild  
Business Meeting . Pool  
Pavilion

**Every Friday**  
9-2:30 . Quilt & Chat &  
More . Pool Pav

**First/Third Saturdays**  
1-4 . Knitting Guild . Pool  
Pav