

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association January 2018 Newsletter

President`s Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

PMKCA General Meeting

The general membership meeting for the Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the Pa'auilo School Cafeteria. The meeting starts at 7 pm and is expected to last about two hours. Anyone may attend. Attendees from Paauilo Mauka and Kalopa will be encouraged to join the association.

This meeting is mostly business. Several guest speakers have been invited to attend, including County Council Chair Valerie Poindexter, District 1 State House Representative Mark Nakashima, Officer John Kari (our Hamakua community police office), and Kevin Balog and Marius Ellis, representing the two partners of the Pa'auilo based company Hawaii Forest, Edwin De Luz Trucking and Forest Solutions.

Our elected representatives will brief us on county and state activities that affect our district and will be able to report on the progress of solutions to local issues that have come up in the past. I regularly get the HPD Community Newsletter for the Hamakua Coast. I have noticed that recent issues show a great increase in the proportion of criminal activity in the Honokaa area. Officer Kari will perhaps be able to clarify the reasons for this increase and also be able to answer questions from members.

In the past, the two main commercial uses of Hamakua land were sugar cultivation and cattle ranching, which has now transitioned to forest plantations and even more cattle ranching. It looks like both uses will be with us for many years to come.

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Kevin Balog and Marius Ellis will be attending the meeting in a fact-finding capacity. It is very premature for them to discuss any future operations of Hawaii Forest, but they both want to hear our reactions to the recently completed cycle of harvesting and trucking by the former lessee of Kamehameha Schools timberland. This will be a good opportunity for members of the community to voice whatever concerns they have about past forest production and harvesting practices.

Winter Solstice Curiosity

We are just past the winter solstice (December 21, 2017) and the days are now getting longer. Like most people, I knew that the solstice is the shortest day of the year, but I had noticed that even before the solstice, sunset seemed to be getting a little later each week. I looked up local sunset times in an online calendar and found that the earliest sunset was actually in late November. I then saw that the latest sunrise was not until January 18th. This was somewhat mysterious to me.

It turns out that because the earth's orbit is not perfectly circular and because its axis is tilted, the time from one solar noon to the next solar noon is not a constant. The length of the solar day varies slightly throughout the year, but rather than change the hourly length of the day, which would be very inconvenient, we let the position of the sun drift away from where it should be by the clock.

That's the short version of why the earliest sunset and the latest sunrise are not on the shortest day of the year. One can while away too many hours trying to figure out the exact nature of the long version (it involves the Equation of Time). I know I did. Planetary mechanics can be fun, but it gets complicated very quickly.

Next PMKCA Meetings

The next quarterly meeting of the PMKCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th, 2018, at the Vanilla Factory. At this meeting we'll firm up plans for our biannual General Membership meeting to be held at Pa'auilo School on January 30th. You don't need to be a board member or committee chairman to attend these Board meetings. They're open to all members and we welcome participation and contribution by all.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

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