

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

April 2017 Newsletter

President`s Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Mahalo for Bridge Repairs

Three bridges were recently repaired on Paâ€™™ auilo Mauka Road by county maintenance crews in addition to another over Waikaâ€™™ alulu Gulch on Kaâ€™™ apahu Road. The three on Paâ€™™ auilo Mauka are bridges that my wife and I walk over several times a week on our daily constitutional, so we get used to their rustic look and the sound they make when cars or horses or dogs cross over them. We ponder the many decades of traffic they have seen since being installed so long ago (some since the 19th century). We have gotten kind of attached to them.

We also get a chance to see their slow deterioration over many years. We saw the bridge over Waikaalulu gulch re-decked in the late 1980s, almost thirty years ago, and it has functioned well since then. But when the bridge underwent maintenance last month, all the wooden timbers

the bridge underwent maintenance last month, all the wooden timbers needed to be replaced, including the support beams, so we now have a brand spanking new bridge to walk or drive across. Even the decking fasteners were upgraded from simple spikes to more robust lag screws and washers.

I know that the wooden bridges in our community are a hassle for the county to maintain, at least in comparison with concrete bridges or culverts. I want to thank everyone involved in the oversight and maintenance of our wooden bridges for keeping them well maintained and serviceable, but especially for keeping them just the way they are. Mahalo.

Gulches on Agenda for Next PMKCA Board Meeting

Our next association board meeting is April 13th, 7:00 pm, at the Hawaiian Vanilla Company building on Pa'auilo Mauka Road. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate. PMKCA is an entirely volunteer organization, so we always need volunteers to help with association activities. Anyone seeking a bit of adulation from me and the other members of the association can come to our next board meeting and volunteer. We especially need someone to help out as treasurer and another person to become chair of the roads committee.

Adventurous volunteers may want to come to the meeting and hear a presentation from Steve Vujnovich about exploration and protection of our gulch streambeds. Steve has developed methods to safely enter and traverse the paths of deep gulches in our community. In a recent column, I described the effort he and several friends made in cleaning out motor oil and other debris from Kalopa Gulch. I encourage anyone interested in helping protect our gulches to come and hear Steve's proposals.

Presentation to CERT on Emergency Communications

Carl Pinhas, from our local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) reports that Doug Wilson attended their March 15th meeting

and gave an extensive presentation on optimizing emergency communications in our area. Wilson, who lives in Volcano, is well versed in the practicalities of radio communication during times when normal communication channels are disrupted, as they were during recent tropical storm Iselle.

Our local CERT members heard about the training, licensing and costs associated with the latest versions of HAM radio equipment and are very encouraged about the possibilities for getting a number of members licensed. The expectation is that several CERT members will take that step in the near future.

Bob Holmes and the Direct Wireless Internet Fiasco

I introduced Bob Holmes to our membership at the summer 2015 general meeting. At that meeting Holmes made numerous promises about the speed, cost and other benefits of obtaining internet connectivity from his company using direct wireless technology. Despite almost two years of waiting, I am not aware of anyone in our community who has actually received service from him.

Many of us who made substantial deposits for service are extremely disappointed, to put it mildly. I encourage anyone who has made a deposit with Mr. Holmes to contact me directly to discuss the project status and consider options for the future. Since I was the one who introduced Holmes to our community, I feel a distinct obligation to help out. My contact information is on our website at PMKCA.org.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

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