

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

August 2017 Newsletter

President's Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

Trail Rhythms LLC

Here's an update on Trail Rhythms, LLC, the brainchild of your PMKCA neighbors & Steve and Rene Vujnovich. It's an interesting and energetic initiative, combining a unique blend of pursuing a personal avocation while also contributing to the stewardship of our land and natural resources. We told you three months ago about Steve's dream of turning the healthy and challenging sport of climbing and rappelling into something more; a way to protect and preserve our many gulches and remote waterways from the scourge of trash and other man-made pollution. Trail Rhythms, LLC was the result. Keep in mind that the Trail Rhythms project is just a tiny representation of the big picture island-wide and state-wide. There are thousands of waterways on this island that are suffering from neglect and intentional vandalism. Trail Rhythms is working with other clean up agencies

vandalism. Trail Rhythms is working with other clean-up agencies around the island to educate the public on this problem and how to mitigate it. Training people on how to get into and out of these gulches safely is part of Trail Rhythms GIVE BACK program.

They have been finding a lot of bags of trash. Lots in plain sight and some thrown off bridges and the rest just down and out of sight. It's mostly but not exclusively household trash and they have documented about 2 truckloads in the just the past month alone. The county Department of Public Works has been very helpful with picking up their collections at designated areas.

At the other end of the spectrum is the 4-door Nissan passenger car they discovered in a gulch recently! This is particularly bothersome for obvious reasons. All the oils, gas, and other toxic fluids in this car could eventually make their way down to the ocean. The VIN and Lic# were still on the car which they gave to the police, but the car had not been reported stolen. However, the owner had moved to the mainland some time ago so legal recourse was beyond the reach on the laws here. The state and county departments charged with responsibilities to look after the good of the island have said it's out of their jurisdiction to remove the car ... red tape galore. So Trail Rhythms undertook to remove the car at its own expense at an approximate cost of \$1500. Surprisingly, they get some responses like it's in the gulch and it's not an eyesore; and the many others will say, how can people dump a car in a waterway?

There is a solution, just a few miles away: the County's transfer stations. As consumers, we all have a responsibility to properly discard our rubbish. As for the abandoned and dumped cars, it costs approximately \$300 to take a car to a salvage yard so it's easier and a lot cheaper to just leave it for someone else to worry about. As far as Steve and Rene are concerned, there should be a system in place for (1) making owners directly responsible for the abandon vehicle by charging them with criminal littering, (2) making it more affordable for

unwanted vehicles to be discarded, and (5) giving the police the authority to make the field decision to have an abandoned car towed to a salvage yard and not just leave it there for pillagers to slowly dismantle it. There's a happy ending to this sad tale. On July 18th, Steve marshaled all the resources needed to remove that abandoned car from Sand Gulch. He rounded up Gary DeRego and his heavy crane equipment and crew to lift it out of the gulch, a tow truck to take it away, and a photo/video-capable drone and operator to monitor the operation remotely, as the dumped vehicle was not visible from the Sand Gulch road above.

If you haven't already done so, take a trip over to the [Trail Rhythms website](#) for an exciting virtual tour into Hawaii's beleaguered gulches and a way to discover them first hand.

Pa'auilo CERT

The Pa'auilo/Kalopa Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is going strong with plans afoot to bolster its training, add members and improve its communication capabilities. The CERT's mission, in the event of a major incident or large scale disaster affecting the Pa'auilo Community, is to provide rapid and safe care for one's self, family members, friends, and neighbors until trained emergency responders arrive, and to coordinate emergency management resources and spontaneous volunteers. Although not organizationally a part of PMKCA, its geographical area of responsibility corresponds with that of PMKCA. All of its members also happen to be PMKCA members and it is considered to be, for all intents and purposes, the PMKCA CERT

Enthusiasm and esprit are always high at each bimonthly CERT meeting owing to its lunchtime pot-luck scheduling and the dedication and enthusiasm of each of all its members. They have lost a couple of members in recent months through natural attrition and would welcome with open arms any interested new applicants (no age, gender or other such restrictions). They have recently cross-pollinated with their sister

CERT in Laupahoehoe in a mutually beneficial effort to share expertise, resources and ideas. Since communication is usually the weakest link in any organization, another recent initiative is to delve into the brave new world of HAM radio operations in a bid to take a step beyond its current walkie-talkie and cell phone technology. We are currently exploring the time and other resources needed to study and take the licensing exam for HAM operators.

PMKCA Annual Picnic

Hope you all had a good time at our Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic at Kalopa Park on Saturday, July 29th. In case you missed it, we were blessed with 1) a place to call our own! i.e. the Kalopa Park Pavilion free of interlopers and double-bookings! 2) some reasonably good weather amid all the rain and fog, 3) Ono potluck grinds, 4) interesting informational briefings by Valerie Poindexter, our County Council Chairperson/district representative and Mark Nakashima, our State Legislature representative, and finally, 5) a rousing BINGO! session, with many great prizes.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

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