

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

Fall 2016

You Can Help

We encourage all of you who visit More Mesa to consider becoming "Citizen Scientists" ... especially with respect to the reporting of birds on More Mesa. For example, this month we talked about sightings of White-tailed Kites.



Photo by Doug Herr

These birds are vitally important to the preservation of More Mesa because they are a "California Bird of Special Concern" and it is imperative that we

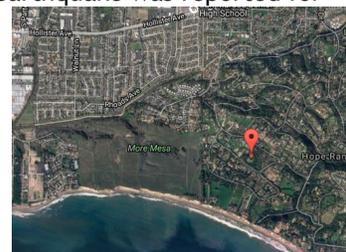
What's Happening With Potential Development?

All is quiet with respect to development.

Ask the President

Q: Have there ever been any earthquakes on More Mesa?

A: A timely question indeed! On the very first day of last month, at 8:42 in the morning, a magnitude 2.7 earthquake was reported for the More Mesa area. This event was incorrectly labeled in the press as the "Goleta Earthquake". However the reality is that the longitude and latitude of the quake epicenter placed it near a residence in Hope Ranch, about 1/3 mile due east of the edge of More Mesa, as shown in the aerial photo.



September 2016 Quake Site

Such low magnitude quakes are not unusual occurrences because our area, like most of California, is riddled with earthquake faults ... and tremors are very frequent. For example, there have been 97 events of magnitude 1.5 or greater in Santa Barbara during the last year. The geologic map of our area shows various faults in the immediate vicinity of More Mesa, with either black or red lines depending on the geologic deposits involved. Prominent among all the small faults shown, and at the north-eastern section of More Mesa, is the intersection of two larger faults, the More Ranch Fault and the Lavigia Fault.



We are indebted to the U.S. Geological Survey for providing a new and updated map of the Santa Barbara area, a map formulated with a major contribution from our

consistently document their presence on More Mesa. Kite sightings reports establish that they are still here and, while not wildly flourishing right now, they still call More Mesa their home. Look at all the wonderful kite images, read the articles about kites and fill out [Sightings Reports](#).

Thanks so much!

Valerie Olson
President, MMPC



"Go See a Kite Fly"
Photo by Larry Friesen

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all times. We've been at it since 2000.



Faults of the More Mesa Area

own Dr. Edward Keller of UCSB.

To learn more about the geology of More Mesa, visit our [2014 Symposium videos](#) and click on any of the titles. All Symposium videos will then appear on Vimeo. Geology is discussed in the talk titled "Ecology of More Mesa."

This Month on More Mesa

White-tailed Kites! Although sightings of White-tailed Kites have been rare in this fifth year of the drought, we are happy to report that a pair of these special birds have been seen, very recently, on both the eastern side of More Mesa, and on the western portion as well. While these two sightings may be of the same two birds, it is glorious news that even one pair is still here.

And as we explored sources of information about our iconic bird, it appears that a pair actually fledged two chicks this past spring. The fledging, on western More Mesa, was one of only two reported nests in the entire Goleta Valley for this year. This information reminds us, once again, how important More Mesa is to the survival of this "California Bird of Special Concern".

To learn more about our logo White-tailed Kites, visit two outstanding articles written by Lynn Watson and hosted on our web site. The [first](#) is a comprehensive description of everything you wanted to know about White-tailed Kites and illustrated with some wonderful images. The [second](#), titled "Vieja Kites" is the fascinating story of a year when there was plentiful rain and enough food for four nesting pairs of kites!



Photo by Lynn Watson

The Past - John Findley More Was a Real Character!

In past issues we have talked about the youngest More brother, John Findley, who was the last owner of More Mesa named "More". "King John", as he was dubbed by his contemporaries, was obsessive about the accumulation of land, the accumulation of money and most importantly, fiercely protective of his domain. His behavior and cantankerous personality were the source of many, many legends. We will be recounting some of these in the next few issues ... courtesy of "Goleta, the Good Land". As Walker Tompkins, the author of the book, relates it, "His name occupies many columns in the court records of the county; lawsuits seemed to be his hobby. He feared neither God, the Devil, nor the Board of Supervisors."

Our first legend concerns Hollister Avenue, which fronted the More Ranch. Hollister had been widened and planted with several tree species chosen for their esthetic appeal, and thus it became one of the area's most scenic country lanes. Unfortunately two of the ornamental tree species chosen were completely unsuitable for farming country. One species cross-pollinated with an important market crop of John More's and a second species sent a multitude of sucker roots into his orchards. More approached the County Board of Supervisors for permission to remove the trees at his own expense and was flatly refused.

So with a typical "King John" rejoinder, More took matters into his own hands. One weekend he sent his crew out to chop down every one of the offending trees. He was reported to have said to the Board of Supervisors, "Now sue me ... if you dare!" They apparently didn't.

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