



Mountain Ember Team 2021 Year-in-Review Report

Annual Membership Meeting-February 26, 2022

Hello everyone. Welcome to our annual meeting – thank you for joining us today. What a crazy year 2021 with COVID-19 having an impact on nearly everything we did last year. We ended the year with the wettest December on the books for our area and then saw some of the lowest rain totals ever for January and February 2022.

I want to first thank the community for it's awesome support both in the form of financial donations and volunteer activities to complete roadside maintenance, chipping, clearing and burning. MET volunteers racked up a stunning number of hours in 2021!

Upcoming in today's meeting, are reports from David Dellinger, the MET Treasurer, Jenny VanSeters, our Marketing and Membership Officer and Phil Seymour, Co-Chair of the Community Defense Team.

Changes in the MET Board Directors

This year saw some changes in the board itself. In February 2021 the MET membership elected Frasier Kersey to the board, I assumed the role of president, and Dennis Clegg took over vice presidential responsibilities.

Midyear, with a goal of equalizing responsibilities among board members and increasing our efficiency, we broke the secretary's role into three separate positions: Jenny VanSeters became our membership & marketing officer; Linda Murphy took over as secretary and a paid position was created to provide secretarial support.

The primary responsibility of the secretarial support position is to take minutes at our monthly board meetings and to distribute and post minutes and board agendas. Breanne Norberg has wonderfully performed this duty for us for many months, but will be "retiring" following our February meeting. We are, therefore, actively, and fervently, seeking another MET member in the community to fill this role. The position pays \$15 an hour and requires approximately 4 hours a month. Please contact Jenny VanSeters if you're interested.

Further changes are in our future. Linda Murphy is retiring from the board; her seat will hopefully be filled at this year's election. I want to thank Linda for her valuable input and dedication to our group. She brought so much to our team as a board member and as secretary and keeper of our documents.

And I, after ten years of donated time and involvement with the community I am stepping down as president of the MET board in order to make more time for myself and my family. I will continue to serve on the board.

Equipment Retrieved, Acquired, & Project Funding

We were successful in our efforts to retrieve the radios and hoses that had been donated to The Guadalupe Firefighters Association by the former Painted Cave Volunteer Fire Department.

In late 2020 the MET secured a grant in the amount of \$2639.83 from Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. The funding was not received until 2021 when it was used to purchase electric tools for our roadside mitigation program.

And, thanks to Dennis Clegg, we were awarded a CAL FIRE grant in the amount of \$12,964 to support specific projects over a 3-year period (January 2022 to March 2024) in three major areas: weed abatement, the elimination of ladder fuels and chipping brush. Great job Dennis and on behalf of the Community, THANK YOU!

Disaster Averted

MET Patrol 2 was put to task extinguishing a fully involved vehicle fire on Painted Cave Road, preventing it from extending into the nearby brush. Patrol 2 was on scene within five minutes of the call, and nearly 20 minutes before County Fire arrived. This emphasizes the benefit of having one of our patrol trucks stationed in the Painted Cave community proper, and one in the lower loop,

In-Telligent Emergency Alerts

Our continued partnership with the makers of the In-telligent phone app this year made it possible for the MET to alert the community about road closures, drift smoke, and fires. We're grateful for the generous donation of their services to the MET. Download the app if you haven't already!

Strategic Planning

In fall 2021, the MET was awarded a \$4,960 grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, thanks to Lauren Winnewisser and Chloe Kirk, who are part of the MET fundraising committee. The grant

has allowed the MET to retain third-party expertise to guide us in completing a multi-year strategic plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify key organizational objectives that are to be prioritized for implementation each year and to help build long-term financial sustainability.

The MET board of directors selected Aware & Prepare as the organization to retain for this purpose due to the knowledge and experience of their leadership in nonprofit management and organizational capacity building as well as the close alignment of missions in support of community preparedness and disaster readiness. The principal consultant, Barbara Andersen, carried out individual interviews with each member of the board and led a productive board retreat. This retreat had a formal agenda prepared by the consultant that facilitated discussion of the recurring organizational priorities that emerged from these interviews as well as additional capacity building priorities that necessitated further dialogue prior to inclusion in the strategic plan.

From this stage in the process, the consultant will be continuing interviews with designated external stakeholders to gain more insights on how the MET can better serve the community and position itself for long-term success. The consultant will help the MET draft a strategic action plan that will identify organizational goals and financial milestones.

Thank you Volunteers!

We want to give a shout out and our heartfelt thanks to MET members who have regularly volunteered their time, energy and strong backs to help in the MET's work to keep our community safe. I am sure that I have missed someone, and if I did, I apologize.

Ted Adams	Von Staden Family	Bre Norberg
Tracy Adams	Casey Fitzpatrick	Erik Norberg
Mike Baker	Scott Flanagan	Kurt Olsson
Ina Brittain	Larry Gale	Laurence Sloan
Phil Brittain	Doug Hatt	Rex Stephens
Randall Buck	Bud Keeley	Alan Struebing
Dennis Clegg	Chloe Kirk	Jessica Tunney
Patty Clegg	Uwe Kleinschmidt	Gianni Vallino
Michael Cruse	Sam Kryder	Christian Winnewisser
Maureen Byers	Mel Lindsey	Lauren Winnewisser
Tom Dudley	Michael Miller	Seyburn Zorthian
Krista Erickson	Josh Munsch	

Thank you Donors!

We received 59 donations totaling \$17,758.85 from the donors listed below. A number of donors gave more than once. We deeply appreciate the support for the MET provided by these generous donors.

Tracy & Ted Adams	Angela & Michael Grabiec	Reana Story
Dan & Karen Adler	Roger Haines	Larry Tower
Anonymous	Doug Hamilton	Gianni Vallino
Kristin Antelman	Lynn J. Hawks	Ann Wainwright
Katherine Atchley	Sam Kryder	Gary & Susan Wilcox
Eve Bodnia	Melvin E. Lindsey	Christian & Lauren Winnewisser
Robert Bosnak	Cathy Mehl	David & Lynne Zell
Phil & Ina Brittain	Lloyd & Joanna Michel	Seyburn Zorthian
Phil Brittain	Michael Miller	
Craig Chisholm	Krista Ohannesian	
Kim & Jeff Citro	Laura Ortiz	
Cameron Clegg	Nic Proctor	
Ellen Clegg	Natalie Sampila	
Barry Clegg	Dennis Sanders	
Dennis Clegg	Bill Seegert	
Jeanie Cornet	Phil Seymour	
Michael Cruse	Laurence Sloan	
Carla D'Antonio	April Smith	
Rick Dison	James & Wilhelmine Smith	
Scott Flanagan	Torben von Staden	
Larry Gale	Sharon May Stewart	

Thanks to these volunteers and donors, and to all of our MET members for your continued commitment, trust and faith in the MET. On behalf of the board, we're grateful for your support, input, and involvement. Without community involvement, we would not have achieved our goals.

2022 Proposed Goals & Priorities

- Establish and implement a long-range, strategic plan, giving full consideration to the recommendations for implementing organizational and financial goals identified at the Strategic Planning Retreat. Which recommendations should be adopted and in what order of priority? Create a process for implementation.
- Discuss potential partnership with the Water Company to address adequate water supply and pressure at all fire hydrants.
- Establish formal relations with the "Firewise program" through SB Fire Safe Council. This will strengthen further grant applications and open discussion on homeowner fire insurance policies.
- Work with the county to further assess evacuation route safety.
- Establish either monthly communications or bulletin board postings (at mailboxes) to highlight MET accomplishments for the MET membership.
- A Reinvigorated MET Fundraising Committee will implement a 2022 fundraising campaign. Also create MET/community open, in person forums, picnics and fundraising events.
- Investigate potential for structural/procedural changes to improve meeting efficiency, improve communication, and provide a stable environment for discussion/debate on issues under consideration.

We're looking forward to another fantastic year, and hopefully a safe and healthy one.

MET 2021 Financial Report

The MET did well financially in 2021. We received \$17,759 in donations and \$2,435 in membership dues, including a \$70 early payment for 2022 dues. Of the donations, \$10,732 was for general support and \$7,027 was earmarked for particular uses. We received two grants -- \$2,640 from the Santa Barbara Co. Air Pollution Control District LEEF program (to replace gas-powered equipment with battery powered equivalents), and \$5,000 from the Santa Barbara Foundation (to obtain strategic planning consulting services). Our total 2021 income from all these sources was \$27,834. (We also were awarded a grant of \$12,964 from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CAL-FIRE] for fuel mitigation work, but the start date for this grant is January 1, 2022, so it is not included in the financial report for 2021.)

Total expenses for 2021 came to \$26,291, which was slightly less than the income. Most of our spending (\$20,915) was on items directly related to our mission: \$3,839 for vehicle-related expenses, \$16,279 for equipment and supplies for the Ground Defense Team and Vegetation Management, and \$797 for radios and related equipment. Administrative, IT, outreach, insurance, and other general expenses came to \$2,897. Finally, we paid \$2,480 for strategic planning consulting services.

The balance in our checking account at the end of 2020 was \$10,143.50. At the end of 2021 it was \$11,686.21. A little less than half (\$5,633) of that total is in our general operating account, which means that it is not from donations that were earmarked for a particular purpose. The remainder (\$6,053) is divided into four "restricted" accounts: \$800 for Ground Defense equipment for the East Ogram / Alta area; \$2,520 for Strategic Planning Consulting; \$733 for Chipping; and \$2,000 for CDT equipment.

MET 2021/2022 Membership Report

2022 Membership Count (as of 2.22.22):

90 Members

YTD Revenue Generated from Membership Fees: \$3,100

36 - Household memberships (x2= 72 members)	New Memberships vs Renewal Memberships
18 - Individual membership	11 - New Members
2 - Hardship Assistance memberships	79 - Renewals

2021 Membership Count (as of 12.31.21):

95 Members (90 Members at time of 2021 Elections)

Annual Revenue Generated from Membership Fees: \$2,435.00

37 - Household memberships (x2= 74 members)	New Memberships vs Renewal Memberships
21 - Individual membership	
2 - Hardship Assistance memberships	
	16 - New Members
	79 - Renewals

MET Community Defense Team Report

The Community Defense Team is focused on hands-on activities to protect our community from wildfire. The two principal areas of operation are (1) vegetation management (reducing fire fuels in and around our residential areas; and (2) training, preparation and equipping community members who will stay to defend the community during a major wildfire. All CDT members are volunteers. The following is a summary of CDT activities in 2021.

Firefighting Capability

Past experience has taught us that not enough professional firefighting forces will be available to protect our community when a major wildfire comes, especially if a fastmoving wildfire starts near our community. Consequently, saving our homes will depend in part up our ability to combat ember-caused spot fires and flames that make it past the community fuel breaks or individual defensible space, until help arrives. The CDT currently has the following resources available for this task.

Mobile Response: The CDT maintains two brush trucks, i.e. pick-up trucks equipped with pumps, water tanks, hose and firefighting equipment. The vehicles may be used for quick response to small local fires, structure protection for outlying residences, or as mobile pumping

stations to augment our ground defense ember stations. These vehicles are also used for backup control of pile burning operations. One of our vehicles responded to a significant car fire on Painted Cave Road in 2021, quickly suppressing the fire and preventing any spread to nearby brush until County firefighters arrived.

Ember Stations. Within the central Painted Cave community, the CDT and participating members have equipped 11 “ember stations” with pumps, hose, water supply and supporting equipment intended to combat any wildfire, including ember showers, that reaches the community. Three new stations (Rim Road, Glenn Road and west Lookout) were added in 2021. These will be more fully equipped during the 2022 fire year. Additional hose and equipment was added to several of our existing ember stations through donations from block residents, supporting MET donors and receipt of surplus hose and equipment from outside firefighting agencies.

Personnel. Our CDT “fire team” consists of 23 members who have received firefighting training and are committed to staying to defend their homes and neighboring homes in the event of a fire. Training conducted in 2021 included radio use, vehicle use, fire behavior and safety, hose and equipment use, and block readiness drills, plus live fire experience burning brush piles. Nine new community members received initial fire defense training in 2021.

Vegetation Management

Chipping. Brush chipping days are scheduled to help homeowners eliminate dead brush or other vegetation cleared on their properties. There is currently no charge for this service, but donations are requested to pay the costs of operating the chipper, which is borrowed from the Wildland Residents Association. The CDT conducted six chipping days in 2021, with a total of approximately 70 brush piles chipped and 200 volunteer hours logged.

Fuel Breaks and Pile Burning. Our first line of defense against wildfires is a system of community defensible space (fuel breaks) and individual defensible space around individual homes. “Defensible space” is an area where flammable vegetation has been thinned (not completely removed) to reduce potential fire intensity to manageable levels, i.e., where it can be safely contained by firefighters and poses no major risk of directly igniting homes. Cut vegetation is eliminated by chipping or burning. Work in 2021 focused on our northside fuel break, which provides protection from wind-driven fires originating along East Camino Cielo or elsewhere to the north. [The Santa Barbara County Fire Department cleared most of our southside fuel break in 2019, although numerous small piles of brush remain to be burned there.] Over 275 volunteer hours were logged on CDT fuel break work and roadside vegetation management (see below) in 2021, and 17 major brush piles burned on the fuel break on other properties around the community.

Roadside Clearing. Under an agreement with the Santa Barbara County roads department, the CDT clears dead grass and weeds along Painted Cave Road to reduce chances of fires started by vehicles or careless visitors.

2022 CDT Goals & Priorities

- Education and training for new CDT volunteers.
- Continued Fuel mitigation and pile burning on northern fuel break.
- Continued Weed abatement, trimming of ladder fuels, and chipping to realize goals of a program funded by Cal Fire.
- Complete outfitting for unfinished ember stations.
- Establish block captains and schedule block meetings to lay out hose, assess water sources and test pumps.

The MET Board holds monthly public meetings via Zoom, with minutes posted on the MET website, www.mountainemberteam.com. As always, we welcome input and involvement from the MET community.

Sincerely,

The 2021 MET Board of Directors

Nic Proctor, President, Co-Chair Community Defense Team

Dennis Clegg, Vice President

Linda Murphy, Secretary

David Dellinger, Treasurer

Jenny VanSeters, Membership & Marketing Director

Carla D'Antonio, Director

Lane Clark, Director

Al Flinck, Director

Frasier Kersey, Director

Mountain Ember Team

2021 Financial Report

Prepared February 17, 2022

Prepared by David Dellinger, MET Treasurer

Income

Donations		
Unrestricted	\$10,731.53	
Restricted	\$7,027.32	
Total donations		\$17,758.85
Membership dues (paid in 2021 for 2021)		\$2,365.00
Membership dues (paid in 2021 for 2022)		\$70.00
Grants		
SBCo. APCD LEEF Program	\$2,639.83	
Santa Barbara Foundation	\$5,000.00	
Total grants		<u>\$7,639.83</u>
Total income		<u>\$27,833.68</u>

Expenses

Capital expenses

Ground Defense equipment & storage	\$1,550.00	
Vegetation Management (tools)	\$5,512.15	
Total capital expenditures		\$7,062.15

Program expenses

Vehicle fuel, repair, & maintenance	\$1,074.54	
Ground Defense & Vegetation Management (Equipment, repair / maintenance, fuel, etc.)	\$9,216.47	
Membership postcard printing and mailing	\$212.20	
Radios and radio equipment	\$796.51	
Total Program expenses		\$11,299.72

Management & general expenses

Vehicle registration & insurance	\$2,764.28	
I.D. Cards for CDT members (unreimbursed amount)	\$33.00	
Banking / Paypal expenses	\$94.79	
Government filing expenses	\$50.00	
Directors & Officers Insurance	\$765.00	
General Liability Insurance	\$350.00	
Professional Liability Insurance	\$560.00	
Office expenses	\$319.91	
Website expenses	\$512.12	
Strategic planning consulting	\$2,480.00	
Total management & general expenses		<u>\$7,929.10</u>

Total expenses		<u>\$26,290.97</u>
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Mountain Ember Team

2021 Financial Report

Prepared February 17, 2022

Prepared by David Dellinger, MET Treasurer

Cash Assets

Checking account balance at close of 2021	\$11,686.21
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Restricted Donation Account Balances

Ogram / Alta CDT	\$800.00
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Strategic Planning	\$2,520.00
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Chipping	\$733.48
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CDT Equipment	\$2,000.00
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Total restricted funds	\$6,053.48
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Unrestricted Account Balance

Unrestricted funds	<u>\$5,632.73</u>
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Total internal account balance	\$11,686.21
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