



## Big Pines Volunteers

# Volunteer NEWSLETTER

Angeles Crest Hwy, Wrightwood, CA 92397 (760) 249-3504

Volume 1, Issue 12  
December 2009

*"Caring for the Land and Serving People"*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Volunteers	2
Winter Safety Tips	2
No Water?	2
Big Pines History	3
Arch Jail Tower	4
Volunteers	4

### Special points of interest:

- According to CalTrans Angeles Crest HWY from La Canada-Flintridge to Wrightwood should be open to motorists by late November or early December, weather permitting.
- The Sheep Fire Forest Closure Order (Order #09-6 Occupancy and Use San Bernardino National Forest) is still in effect.
- Fire Conditions:



## Some Staff and Volunteers of Area 12



### This "guzzler" is for the birds...



**Big Pines, CA** – Recently a wildlife guzzler was installed at Ball Flat.

In cooperation with the USFS and the BLM, Quail Unlimited Partners have been building these "watering holes" in the Angeles National Forest in hopes of increasing the

Quail population in the area.

According to their website:

#### Water Site Development:

"Throughout the western quail range, providing water sites in the arid and semi-arid habitats is the single most important activity performed by Quail Unlimited chapters.

"Many biologists and chapter members have found that if a dependable water source is provided, the quail will thrive

in an area where they formerly could only exist marginally.

"Much of the water site work is performed by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands under the challenge cost-share agreements."



## Getting to know your Volunteers...



**Bob Morgan (Vol-334) and David Morgan (Vol-340)** are brothers. They know this area of the Angeles National forest very well, as their family has owned property in

Wrightwood since the 1930s. During the 1960s they would live fulltime in Wrightwood with their grandparents throughout the summer.

While both have been volunteers with the USFS and the CDFG in regards to the Bighorn Sheep ground counts since 1990, Bob has been a volunteer with the USFS out of the Big Pines station for the last four years. David has worked out of Big Pines

for about a year now.

Both of them have families and live fulltime off the hill in Burbank, CA. They get up to Wrightwood on the weekends to get away and volunteer in the forest.

Ironically both have had long careers with Gelson's Markets, Bob has 36 years and David has 34 with the company. Both currently work in the IT/MIS dept.

## Winter Safety Tips...

Cold weather can be very challenging when working in the Forest and performing your volunteer duties. The following precautions should be taken:

- Wear loose layers of clothing. As you warm up, take the layers off. The goal is to prevent yourselves from being too warm and perspiring. Sweat turns very cold when you stop moving around in cold temperatures.
- Wear a hat. Half your body temperature can be lost through an uncovered head.
- Beware of frostbite. Wear warm socks and continue to move your toes to check for mobility or cold setting in. Gloves should be used to keep the hands and fingers warm.
- Drink plenty of water. The body gives off a lot of water via evaporation in high elevation and cold weather.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf during extremely cold weather to protect your lungs.

*"Do something  
for others  
when and  
where you can  
and your  
reward will be  
in knowing  
that the  
influence of  
your deeds  
lives on"*

A. Nielen

## Where did all the water go?

**Grassy Hollow– CA** The well at Grassy Hollow normally supplies water to the Jackson Flat group campground and the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center.

Water has not made it up to Jackson Flat all summer. Now there isn't

enough water being pumped to provide water for Grassy Hollow. Where is all the water going? Has the well run dry? Is there a leak in the line?

The well head was removed and modifications were made to determine what the problem was. It

turns out the electronic well saver was at fault.





## Big Pines History... The Davidson Arch



Keep Copies with you

**Big Pines, CA** - The arch was designed and erected by William Davidson and donated by him and his associates to the County of Los Angeles. The arch served as a pedestrian crossing over the park highway. There was a stairway inside the tower that led to an arched doorway, opening onto the arch. In 1926 the Arch was dedicated in a special ceremony on Sept. 5, just 2 years after "Big Pines Park" opened.

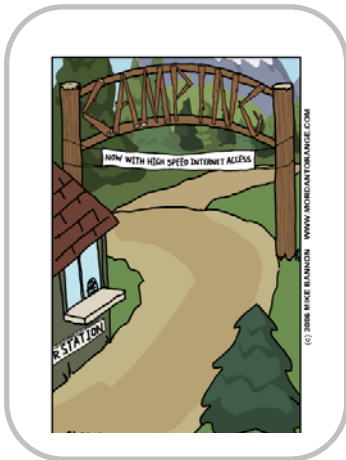
Although the year is not known, the Big Pines Arch was removed in anticipation of a road widening project. It was believed to be around 1955, as the new Angeles Crest Highway was being cut through the back country of the Angeles, through Vincent's Gap and then emptying into Big Pines.

The Arch and the south tower were completely removed. The north tower still stands today, to give mute testimony to the "Arch" that was once the famous landmark of Big Pines Park. The Arch center stone is still displayed at the "Reflection Pool" just east of the Big Pines Visitor Center. The anticipated road widening project never happened. - *Terry Graham notes*-

Did the tower house a Jail? Answer on Pg 4



The Arch Today



### Arch Jail Tower?

*It has been rumored that the North Tower of the Davidson Arch served as a "Jail" in which lawbreakers in "Big Pines Park" were incarcerated.*

*It is just that... a rumor, though it is true that the small room at the base of the tower would serve as a holding area until the Sheriff could arrive.*



c. 1925



c. 1930

### Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:

Aaron Katona: [akatona@fs.fed.us](mailto:akatona@fs.fed.us)

Todd Cook: [mtcook@fs.fed.us](mailto:mtcook@fs.fed.us)



*The Wrightwood Communications Group has a disaster preparedness net each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm.*

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>



*Wrightwood CERT has weekly FRS Nets on Sundays at 5:30 pm.*

<http://www.wrightwoodcert.com>

### The Volunteers of the Angeles...

*Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the United Methoist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.*

**Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest**  
 Wrightwood, CA  
<http://www.grassyhollow.net>  
[grassyhollow@hotmail.com](mailto:grassyhollow@hotmail.com)  
 Loren Lake, President [lorenll@verizon.net](mailto:lorenll@verizon.net)