



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

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Volunteer Appreciation Party...



Special points of interest:

- On November 19th, 2010 the Fire Danger Level on the Angeles National Forest was lowered from "Very High" to "High".
- Jackson Lake has been drained for a second year in a row, so as to take out the cattails.
- The Angeles National Forest has a new Website.

"Big Pines, CA – On November 13th, the USFS held a "Volunteer Appreciation Party" for the volunteers and partners of the Santa Clara Mojave River Ranger District.

The event took place at the historic Recreation Hall in Big Pines. Fifty-five people were in attendance, including "Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest" which work out of Grassy Hollow, the volunteers that work out of the Big Pines Station, members of the Wrightwood Fire Safety Council, Wrightwood His-

torical Society, The Pacific Crest Trail Association, Fisheries Conservation Corp and Habitat Works.

Some 75 Awards were given out to Volunteers in recognition of their work. There were also door prizes. Gift cards were donated for the event by the following Merchants in Wrightwood: Mtn. Hardware, Grizzly Cafe, Evergreen Cafe, Woodcutters Grill, The Village Grind, Blue Ridge Inn, Cinnamon's Bakery, Split Endz Hair Salon and Mt. High Resort.

One of the highlights of the evening was when Bob Moore (Vol-17) received the "Lifetime Volunteer Award" in recognition of some 10 years of

volunteer service to the USFS.

Bob started out as a volunteer at Chilao on the Los Angeles River Ranger District. He has also worked as a "look-out" with the Angeles National Forest Fire Look-out Association.

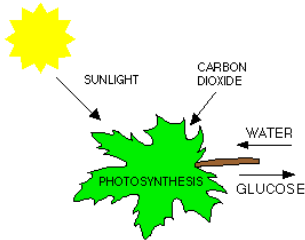
Now, living in Wrightwood, he spends more time working out the Big Pines Station. Besides the usual Volunteer duties, he works as a Volunteer Archeologist under the direction of Doug Milburn and serves as a "member at large" on the FS Safety Committee.



Bob Moore and District Ranger Bob Blount



Why so Late this Year?...



Big Pines, CA – The fall colors were a little late in coming this year. Usually the trees start turning in early to middle October. This year the first week of November the trees were at their best.

No doubt the trees turning color a few weeks later than normal had a lot to do with our mild weather in September and

October.

Three things influence a change in the color of the leaves; longer night time hours, cooling temperatures and, of course, water.

Trees respond to the decreasing amount of sunlight by producing less and less chlorophyll. Eventually, a tree

stops producing chlorophyll. When that happens, the carotenoid already in the leaves can finally show through. The leaves become a bright rainbow of glowing yellows, oranges and browns.

Anthocyanins give leaves the bright, brilliant shades of reds and purples. They allow the tree to recover nutrients from the leaves before they drop.



Why don't evergreen trees freeze?

They are covered with a heavy wax coating and fluids inside the cells contain substances that resist freezing.

Safety Tips... Walking on Ice is not nice...

Some 16,000 Americans die each year from falls. The number of injuries or deaths caused by falls during winter conditions is not kept by the National Safety Council, but safety experts agree that many injuries result from falls on ice-covered surfaces.

Here are some helpful hints that will help reduce the risk of falling when slippery conditions exist.

- **Use appropriate footwear:** Use boots or overshoes with soles. Avoid walking in shoes that have smooth surfaces.
- **Walk consciously:** Be alert to the possibility that you could quickly slip on an unseen patch of ice. Do not run.

- **Walk "small":** Avoid an erect, marching posture. Look to see ahead of where you step. Take short, shuffling steps and walk as flatfooted as possible.
- **Walk cautiously:** Your arms help keep you balanced, so keep hands out of pockets and avoid carrying heavy loads that may cause you to become off balanced.
- **Remove snow immediately:** Do not let it become packed or turn to ice if possible. Use granules that are designed to melt ice.

Falling Safely

- If you do fall; tuck-and-roll.
- Raise your head and avoid trying to break the fall with your hand, which can cause a wrist injury.

Big Pines History... The Winter Playground



Blue Ridge Rope Tow (WHS Photo from the Marica Myers Collection)

Big Pines, CA – Before there was Mountain High West, there was “Blue Ridge”. Before there was Mountain High East, there was “Holiday Hill” and before Mountain High North there was “Table Mountain”.

The Big Pines area always had a lot to offer during snow season, from its opening in 1924 to present day. By the winter of 1929 the west slopes of present day Mountain High West supported a huge 1150 foot ski jump to announce the 3rd Annual Winter Carnival. Over 19,000 people attended the three day event.

Scattered through the Park were toboggan runs and five other small ski jumps, but it was this big jump that brought the spectators and professional ski jumpers.

The massive ski jump and outdoor hockey rink was also meant to send a message to the Olympic Committee that

Los Angeles’ newest playground was ready to tackle the 1932 Winter Games. So why didn’t Big Pines Park get the Olympics? Was it lack of snow that forced the games to Lake Placid, NY that year? *(Answer in the next Newsletter)*

“Holiday Hill” was established in 1948. It received its first chair lift in 1950. The double chair lift was 6800 feet long, from 6600 to 8300 feet in elevation. – Contributed by *Terry Graham*



WHS Photo



Holiday Hill Postcard



WHS Photo from the Marica Myers Collection

Toboggan runs were very popular in the 20s and 30s at Big Pines



Holiday Hill Postcard

News and Updates...

"I wanted to be a forest ranger or a coal man. At a very young age I knew I didn't want to do what my dad did, which was work in an office."

**Harrison Ford
Actor**

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

November 2010

Low: 29th 15°

High: 4th 76°

Wind: 21st 47

Precipitation: 1.41in



Big Pines, CA- The "supply shed" at the entrance to Mountain High West is a building with a lot of history. It was built in the early 20s



Before

This building actually served as the Ranger Station for Big Pines Park and continued to serve as such when the Forest Service took over control of the area in 1941.

The building consisted of an office area for the Rangers as well as stables that housed the horses they used on patrol.

Recently, the building suffered damage when a truck backed into it. On November 3rd, the damage was repaired by Aaron Katona (Rec-34), and Volunteers Clark Fletcher and Arnie Michaels.



After

RAWS Weather and New Signs...

RAWS stands for Remote Automated Weather Stations. The RAWS stations are an inter-agency network whose data is to assist land management agencies with a variety of projects monitoring air quality, rating fire danger, and providing information for research applications. The Big Pines RAWS is located behind the station.



Acorn Trail

Volunteers continue to do a lot of work on the trails in the Big Pines area. Some of that work includes repainting and installing new signs. This new sign at the Acorn Trail and Blue Ridge Road will give PCT hikers an idea of just how far they still have to go.



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net



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
 Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
 Ron Heinig: rheinig@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>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 19, 2010
 Tues Feb 16, 2010
 Tues Mar 16, 2010
 Tues Apr 20, 2010
 Tues May 18, 2010
 Tues Jun 15, 2010
 Tues Jul 20, 2010
 Tues Aug 17, 2010
 Tues Sep 21, 2010
 Tues Oct 19, 2010
 Tues Nov 16, 2010
 Dec 2010 - No Meeting

7pm, at the
 Wrightwood Museum
 6000 Cedar St.
 (Old Fire Station)

Meeting Information:
 (760) 249-5248



Current Fire Danger

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
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