



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

24537 Angeles Crest Hwy, Wrightwood, CA 92397 (760) 249-3504

Volume 2, Issue 2
February 2010

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Volunteers	2
Camp ELK Trivia	2
CHP Driving Tips	2
Big Pines History	3
Volunteer	4

Special points of interest:

- When fueling up the USFS vehicles in Wrightwood, the odometer reading is now required to complete the transaction.
- As a result of the recent rain and snowfall the fire danger is being lowered. On January 24th. The fire level was downgraded from High (Level III) to Low (Level I).



The Big Pines Camping Association...



Big Pines, CA – The Big Pines Camping Association is comprised of fourteen active organizations that include Churches, Youth and Service Organizations, Recreational Clubs, Private Forest Service Lessees and government affiliated organizations.

All associated organizations are lessees to the Department of Agriculture and have contracts for the maintenance and development of their properties.

There are also honorary members that are not directly involved with the Big Pines area.

The BPCA was established to be a billing agency for the trash and water services provided by the USFS. Constraints restrict the Forest Service from collection on fees for these services. BPCA Facilities on Table Mountain and Blue Ridge use water from the Big Pines Water System; Camps surrounding Jackson Lake use water from the Jackson Lake Water System. Some camps operate on their own wells and are only billed for trash service.

As the BPCA evolved it became an organization the works in cooperation

with the USFS to enforce all regulations in regard to sanitation, fires, public health and recreation, and to protect the property and resources in the interest of the Association.

Most of the camps have caretakers living on site in the forest who have been an asset to the USFS by reporting illegal and dangerous activities that would go unnoticed otherwise. The BPCA meets a minimum of four times annually and volunteer officers act as liaisons to the USFS throughout the year.

Getting to know your Volunteers...



Tom Delgado (Vol-337)

was born in Bellflower, CA and raised in Pico Rivera and Montebello. He was two months old when his family took him on his first camping trip in the Desert. Tom spent a lot of his childhood at the Montebello YMCA and YMCA Camp Whittle in Fawnskin, CA. He's always loved the

outdoors and was particularly attracted to the mountains.

Tom spends his free time hiking, fishing, mountain biking, boating and loves to ski, snow board, and snow shoe in the winter.

Tom began volunteering at the Montebello YMCA at age 14. He worked at the swimming pool, was a Counselor in Training and a Counselor for their summer camps. At age 17 he was certified as a lifeguard and he joined the Marine Corps Reserves after High School. In 2002 Tom returned to YMCA Camps

Whittle and Round Meadow as a lifeguard and met his wife to be, Lori. Tom moved to Big Bear and worked full time at the Los Angeles YMCA camps from 2004 to 2007.

In 2007 Tom accepted a job with the San Gabriel Valley YMCA Camps E.L.K. and he and his wife moved to Big Pines.

Tom also volunteers with the California YMCA Youth and Government program and the United States Adaptive Recreation Center at Bear Mountain where he teaches snow sports to people with disabilities.

"I love living in the Mountains and have no intention of moving back down the hill. Living here gives you the best of both worlds."

Tom Delgado

Camp ELK and Camp Coulter Pines TRIVIA

Many don't realize that Camp E.L.K. is not named after one of North America's largest mammals and Camp Coulter Pines is not named for the Coulter Pines that are present in the area and around the property.

E.L.K. is actually an acronym using the initials of a former CEO, Edward L. Kopszywa. Camp Coulter Pines is named after a long time

board member, Fred Coulter.

Before being named Camp Coulter Pines the camp was known as "Camp Kassab" and "Girl Scout Camp Manzanita" before that. E.L.K. used to be known as "All Nations Camp". A lot of maps that are handed out still show the old names of Camp E.L.K. and Camp Coulter Pines.

Winter Safety... CHP Driving Tips

- Start your day with a full tank of gas
- Wear layered clothing. Carry a jacket and sturdy, closed toe shoes.
- Carry snow chains, no exceptions!
- Carry a two day supply of any medications you need to take daily.
- Touch base at home; let someone know where you are, where you are going, and what time you expect to return.
- Carry a Survival Kit which includes: extra water, blankets, food, matches, collapsible shovel, good jack, map, tools and a cell phone with car charger.

Big Pines History... The "Big Plunge"



"The Big Pines Plunge"

Big Pines, CA – In the 20's and 30's, Big Pines Park was "the" playground for Angelinos in both the winter and summer. It had a recreation hall, lodge, restaurant, zoo, campgrounds, skiing, ice skating rink, and yes, an Olympic size swimming pool.

In 1926 construction began on the first swimming pool in the area. Known as the "Big Pines Plunge" the pool was located near the Arch just off the road going up to Blue Ridge. For over ten years it was a favorite with visitors to the park and locals alike.

In 1938 the pool suffered a leak and was closed. That same year the area was hit with horrific rain storms and

flooding. The pool was buried under mud and rocky soil, never to be used again.

Over the years the area would become a meadow. During the 50s and 60's Wrightwood residents would come to the meadow in the evenings to watch the deer come down out of the forest and feed. A place that had once been a bustling location filled with swimmers just a couple of decades before was now a place of solitude.

In time the meadow would succumb to "progress" as Mountain High would begin developing it's West resort. Today the location serves as overflow parking for Mountain High West.



Site of the Big Plunge Today

Doug Milburn, Barbara Van Houten and Terry Graham are trying to restore the history that has been lost. If you have any photos, postcards, letters or documents of the past, please make contact through this email source:

Tjbranch91@msn.com





OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?



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



*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



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 Methodist 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

Loren Lake, President lorenll@verizon.net