



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

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"100 years of Caring for the Land and Serving People"

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Special points of interest:

- On January 7th the fire danger was lowered from High to Low due to all the rain and snow the forest received in December.
- "Forest Aid: Angeles" will be hosting a Restoration Supervisor Training session on Saturday, Feb 5th from 9am to 2pm. If interested visit: www.forestaids.net
- Interested in becoming a U.S. Forest Service Fire-fighter? There will be an Open house on Feb 5th. For more information, open this link: [Open House](#)

A Fond Farewell...



Aaron Katona

Big Pines – After 3½ years of service with the USFS as "Rec-34" Aaron Katona has moved on to pursue his career as a Geologist. His last day was January 20th.

Aaron brought a lot of skills to the position, even being responsible for testing and chlorinating the water supply throughout the district. He had just recently received his Certification from the state.

Aaron moved from Michigan to California right out of high school to study music. While studying music he also enlisted in the Army Reserves. Aaron's unit was deployed to Iraq and he

spent about a year there.

While in Iraq he became engaged and shortly after returning to the states he married his girlfriend Leah.

Having been a lover of the outdoors in Michigan, Aaron became a volunteer with the Forest Service in the San Gabriel District of the Angeles National Forest.

While going to school and pursuing his degree in Geology he wasn't very happy with the job he had and started looking for an opportunity to actually be employed with the USFS.

Through the STEP program Aaron was hired by the Forest Service in June of 2007. STEP stands for the Student Temporary Employment Program. This program provides an opportunity for students to earn money, train with professionals and gain on-the-job experience while continuing their education.

One of Aaron's duties upon being hired was to supervise the volunteers working out of

the Big Pines station.

Aaron and Leah bought a home in Oak Hills where they live with their son Noah, who is three years old and their daughter Scarlett, who is just a year and a half in age.

Geology is what Aaron loves and upon receiving his degree he immediately found work as a Geologist working for a drilling company based in Santa Barbara County. While Aaron's new job will take him all over the west coast he's delighted that he and his family will be able to remain in Oak Hills.

Aaron plans on submitting his Volunteer paperwork so that he, on occasion, can continue to work as a USFS Volunteer out of the Big Pines station. He hopes that, perhaps in the future, he can again work for the Forest Service, but this time as a Geologist.

Aaron said that he is really going to miss the forest but admitted: "I'm not going to miss picking up the trash or doing the bathrooms."

The Forest under Siege...



Downtown Wrightwood



County Line



Highway 2



This year's great snow conditions have brought the skiers, snowboarders and snow players out by the thousands on the weekend.

Mt. High has been selling out and Hwy 2 and all the turnouts have been jammed with parked cars from Wrightwood to Inspiration Point. No doubt the Station fire closure on the other side of the

Forest and the closure of highway 330 to Big Bear have had a lot to do with the tremendous turnout.

While our forest always has a large turnout of families wishing to bring their children to the snow to sled, toboggan and throw snowballs when snow conditions are good, past year's turnouts pale in com-

parison. The CHP, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Forest Service have been very busy in trying to keep the roads clear and flowing.

Bumper to bumper vehicles from Big Pines all the way back to Hwy 138 and the I-15 Freeway have prompted CalTrans to issue delay warnings and the CHP to post traffic advisories for the area.

Unfortunately, the snarled traffic in the resort community of Wrightwood has caused local residents a lot of headaches and inconvenience. Shopping and Post Office runs need to be done very early or during the week. Many residents prefer to just stay off the streets.

Photos courtesy of WWCalif.com

Safety Tips... Winter Storms and Extreme Cold...

Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can be hit with a major snowstorm or extreme cold.

If you are outdoors:

- **Avoid overexertion:** When shoveling snow, overexertion can bring on a heart attack – a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside..
- **Cover your mouth:** Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth when outdoors. Try not to speak unless absolutely necessary.
- **Keep Dry:** Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat away from the body very rapidly.

- **Watch for signs of frostbite:** These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in the extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

- **Watch for hypothermia:** Signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, drowsiness slurred speech, and apparent exhaustion.

If hyperthermia is detected:

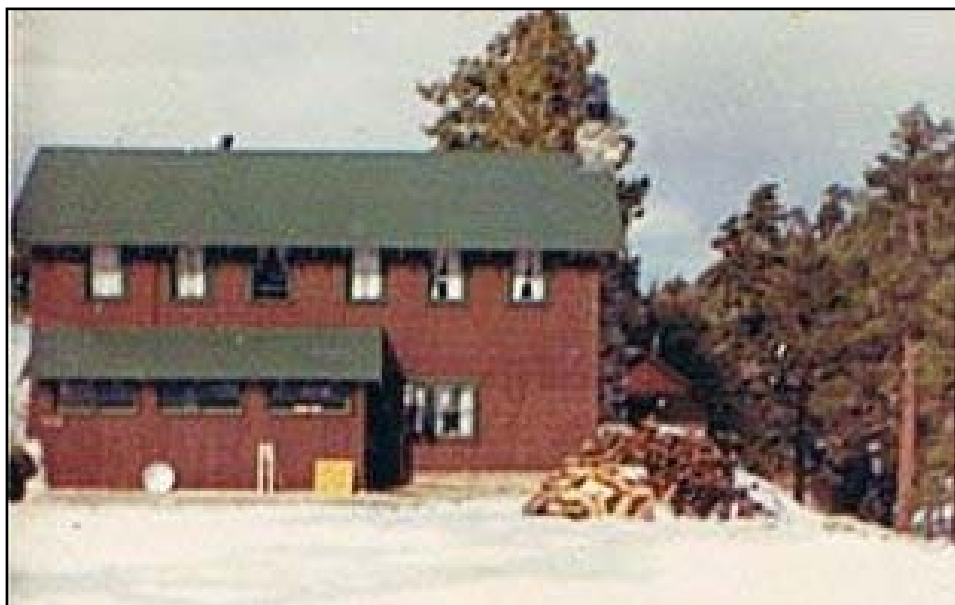
- Get the victim to a warm location
- Remove wet clothing
- Get them into dry clothing and wrap their entire body in a blanket
- If conscious, give warm fluids
- Get medical help immediately



Shoveling snow burns approx 408 calories an hour, enough to burn off...

2.0 Cans of Coke
1.5 Starbuck's Lattes
1.5 Snickers Bars
0.5 Big Mac w/Cheese

Big Pines History... The Big Pines Ski Club



Big Pines Ski Club Lodge – c.1968 (Photo: Archives of Kirsten Anderberg)

Big Pines, CA – The Big Pines Ski Club was quite the social ski club in its heyday of the 1930s and 40s. According to the book, "Wrightwood and Big Pines", by Pat Krig and Barbara Van Houten, the Big Pines Ski Club was formed on January 2, 1932.

Harlow "Buzz" Dormer was one of the founding members (and built the first rope tow on Table Mountain in 1937). It is reported it became one of the largest ski clubs on the West Coast and by 1939, it had 200 members. Its purpose was to create interest in outdoor/snow sports in the Southern CA area. The history of the area as a skiing draw began in the end of the 1920's to early 1930's, when the area was opened for skiing and recreation, in hopes of hosting the 1932 Winter Olympics in Wrightwood and Big Pines.

According to the Wrightwood Historical Society, the Big Pines Ski Club Lodge was originally used as a lodge for visitors to the Big Pines Park animal park. After the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation closed the animal park, the building was turned over to the Big

Pines Ski Club, with Harlow Dormer leading the way. Money was collected from the members and the building was improved and became the Big Pines Ski Club Lodge. The Big Pines Club house had a large lobby with a fire place, lots of ski storage racks, a bench for preparing skis, room to sleep 16 on the second floor, and two smaller sleeping rooms, showers and storage lockers. - Contributed by Kirsten Anderberg and Terry Graham



Upstairs Dormitory – c.1968
(Photo: Archives of Kirsten Anderberg)

Today

(Photos courtesy of Kirsten Anderberg)



*"The clearest way
into the Universe is
through a forest
wilderness."*

John Muir

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

January 2011

Low: 4th 18°

High: 17th 72°

Wind: 19th 31

Precipitation: 0.75 in

Volunteers Needed to Count Sheep...



Lytle Creek, CA – Volunteers are needed to help count bighorn sheep. On Sunday, February 27th, volunteers will hike to observation sites in the San Gabriel Mountains and count and record all bighorn sheep observed.

Each volunteer group will be led by an experienced observer from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or USDA Forest Service.

Survey participants must be at least 16 years old and capable of hiking one mile on rugged terrain, though

most hikes will be longer. Most of the hikes are not on trails, and may involve scrambling over boulders, climbing steep slopes, or bush-whacking through chaparral.

The CDFG, Forest Service, and SCBS have been conducting annual surveys for bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel range since 1979. The mountain range once held an estimated 740 bighorn sheep. The population declined over 80 percent through the mid 1980's but appears to be on the increase, with recent estimates showing approximately 400 bighorns.

No survey experience is necessary but volunteers are required to attend a mandatory orientation at 6:00 PM on Saturday, February 26th at Day Creek Intermediate School, located in Rancho Cucamonga.

Call the Lytle Creek Ranger Station at (909) 382-2870 no later than February 16th, to sign up and receive a volunteer information packet.

Got Snowshoes?...

Grassy Hollow – The Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest offer a snowshoe hike on Saturdays when there's enough snow. Snowshoes are provided free of charge, though they only have 11 pairs, so bring your own if you have them. Reservations by email should be made at least 24 hours prior to the hike.

The hike takes off from the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, beyond Mt. High on Hwy 2 at 11 am and lasts about 2 hours. Be sure to allow plenty of time to get to Grassy Hollow as "snow traffic" can cause considerable delay as seen by the pictures in the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

You'll need a valid Adventure Pass for your vehicle. Also bring water and wear appropriate clothing and shoes.



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net

To reserve your snowshoes send an email to: d.a.mclain@verizon.net. Provide your name, phone number and number of people in your group, their ages and the how many snowshoes you'll need.

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike: This month, snow permitting, a Full Moon snowshoe hike will be offered on Saturday, February 19th at 7:00 pm.





c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
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/>



The Wrightwood CERT Team is hosting an Earthquake and Disaster preparedness Seminar on February 24th at 6:50 pm at the Sunrise Church, Hwy2



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 18, 2011
Tues Feb 15, 2011
Tues Mar 15, 2011
Tues Apr 19, 2011
Tues May 17, 2011
Tues Jun 21, 2011
Tues Jul 19, 2011
Tues Aug 16, 2011
Tues Sep 20, 2011
Tues Oct 18, 2011
Tues Nov 15, 2011
Dec 2011 - 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 Methodist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest

Wrightwood, CA

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