



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 2, Issue 1
January 2010

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Volunteers	2
Winter Safety Tips	2
Snow Players	2
Big Pines History	3
Volunteer	4

Special points of interest:

- Visitors are reminded that the large area burned by the Station Fire and adjacent downhill areas remain closed.
- As a result of the recent rain and snowfall the fire danger is being lowered. On December 9th the fire level was downgraded from Extreme (Level V) to High (Level III).



Jackson Lake – Cattails Are Removed



It's the Season for "Snow players"...



Big Pines, CA – With snow still on the ground, snow players came out by the hundreds over the Christmas holiday.

Every available turnout was filled to capacity with automobiles. A large number of volunteers showed up over the weekend to help educate the public

about the Adventure Pass program and snow safety. While there were a handful of injuries, most the public seemed to really enjoy their snow play adventures.

The cold temperatures have caused Jackson Lake to freeze over. Every year people will venture out on the thin ice. This year hasn't been any different.

While Jackson Lake is at a record low level, there are still areas of the lake that are quite deep and could prove

disastrous should someone fall through the ice. Signs warning of the danger and asking the public to keep off the ice have been posted.

The USFS continues in its efforts to educate the public about the dangers of walking out on the thin ice.



Getting to know your Volunteers...



Bob Moore (Vol-17) was born in Glendale, CA. In 1947 his family moved up against the Verdugo Hills.

His Grandfather taught him to drive in the San Gabriel Mountains. Bob was always hiking, camping and exploring and grew to love the

mountains, wildlife, flora and scenery.

Years later Bob, along with his wife Maria, would go on to volunteer at the Chilao Visitor Center, working with Gerry Reponen and Todd Cook.

At the same time they volunteered for the Look-out Association. They staffed South Mount Hawkins, Vetter Mt. and Slide Mt. for some 10 fire seasons.

Bob is a Wrightwood resident and is well known to many PCT hikers.

Today Bob works out of

the Big Pines Visitors Center. He and Arnie Michels work at picking up trash, making repairs, painting over graffiti and staffing the station when needed.

"My most enjoyable volunteer work with the FS is with Doug Milburn as a volunteer archaeologist" says Bob.

Bob's expertise is in faunal analysis and he has a certificate in archaeology from UCLA. Doug Milburn has been busy putting Bob's talents to good use.

Bob also serves as a member at large on the FS safety committee.

"Trash in the forest is a major problem. I can complain about it, which I do, or clean it up. I choose the latter usually."

Bob Moore

Winter Safety Tips... Shoveling Snow

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

- Do light warm up exercises before beginning to shovel snow.
- If possible, "push" the snow in front of you. If you must lift it, pick up small amounts and lift with your legs.
- Do not toss snow over your shoulder or to the side.

Extra Trash Bins Installed...



Jackson Lake

A couple of new trash bins have been installed in the forest. One has been installed near the restrooms at Jackson Lake and a second one was added to the one near the bathrooms at Vincent Gap.



Vincent Gap

Big Pines History... The Swarthout Lodge



The Swarthout Valley Lodge

Big Pines, CA - The Swarthout Valley Lodge was the second building built in Big Pines Park (The first was the Big Pines Club house). It was completed between 1925 and 1926. Over the years it contained a store, restaurant, soda fountain and post office.

In July of 1941 the U.S.F.S would take over control of the structure and the building would become very important in keeping the history of Big Pines Park within her walls.

The lower level was used for storage and supplies while the upper level became administration and patrol offices. One of those offices belonged to Big Pines Ranger Doug Milburn, who over the years had become a Forest Service archeologist. Doug still works out of Big Pines today.

The Lodge was where nearly all of Big Pines history had been stored. Many of the items included early documents, official photographs and written records.

Around 4:30 am, February 17th, 1987 a fire began against a center wall of the upper level of the Swarthout Valley Lodge. The intense fire would cause the Lodge to collapse on itself and the firefighters put all their efforts into saving the surrounding structures. The blaze would take seven

hours to extinguish. Everything was gone. The fire caused an estimated \$300,000 in damage, but no price tag could be put on all the historical photos, books, papers and records that were destroyed.

Although the Los Angeles County Fire Department arson detail determined that the fire was accidental, the USFS Forest Service investigators including Doug Milburn and Ken Harp did not believe that to be the case. They would soon prove it.

Their investigation would lead to the arrest of Mark S. Hurst, a resident of Phelan. On February 10, 1988 Mark pleaded no contest to one count of arson. He was sentenced to four years in state prison and a \$400,000 fine in restitution was handed down.



Signs are up at Jackson Lake

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

Tjbranch91@msn.com

Wrong Number



"Good news! Another week of freezing temperatures!"



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/>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings
(3rd Tues each month)

Tues Feb 17, 2009
Tues Mar 17, 2009
Tues Apr 21, 2009
Tues May 19, 2009
Tues Jun 16, 2008
Tues Jul 21, 2009
Tues Aug 18, 2009
Tues Sep 15, 2009
Tues Oct 20, 2009
Tues Nov 17, 2009
Dec 2009 - No Meeting

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

Meeting Information:
(760) 249-5248



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 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