



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 2, Issue 3
March 2010

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

Help Needed to Count Bighorn Sheep...

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Special points of interest:

- Nearly 1,500 Adventure Passes have been sold out of Big Pines and Grassy Hollow since the snow players have descended upon the forest.
- South Fork Group Campground reservations for 2010 start March 1st.



Fire Level



Big Pines, CA – Volunteers are needed to help count Bighorn Sheep. 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.

Several Volunteers out of Big Pines will be heading over to the San Bernar-

dino National Forest to help out. 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, which made the San Gabriel population the largest of desert bighorn sheep in California. The population declined over 80 percent through the mid 1980's but appears to be on the increase, with recent estimates showing approximately 350 bighorns.

No survey experience is necessary but volunteers are required to attend a mandatory orientation at 5:00 PM on Saturday, March 13th at Day Creek Intermediate School, located in Rancho Cucamonga.

Participants are encouraged to camp and hit the trails early Sunday. Volunteers should bring binoculars or spotting scopes. Please call the Lytle Creek Ranger Station at 909-382-2875 no later than March 5th, to sign up and receive an information packet.



Getting to know your Volunteers...



Jim Wilkins, a former San Bernardino Co. Fire Captain and a Forest Service Information Officer, is one of our newest Volunteers out of the Big Pines Station



Mike Worshum (Vol-332) has worked full time for a Department of Defense funded Corporation that provides research for the military and law enforcement for the last 25 years. Much of his work involves designing and machining products that support the

tests, ballistics, involving kinetic and penetration testing, as well as weapon reliability testing. He also tests non-lethal weapons designed for civil unrest situations for correctional facilities and law enforcement.

Mike & his wife Kerin (Vol-333) bought their future retirement home in Wrightwood in Dec. of 2005 and became involved with Community activities.

Both are avid Ham radio operators and met each other while volunteering at Air Shows communications. Mike and his hiking buddy Bob Morgan de-

cided to get involved with the USFS and help with activities in the Big Pines area in November 2006. Mike is usually on patrol three weekends a month and on all holidays.

Mike is also a traffic volunteer for the Manhattan Beach P.D. and is still is on call with them.

Mike enjoys many hobbies including motorcycle riding (he has raced motorcycles since he was 10 years old), hiking, long distance precision rifle and tactical handgun shooting, photography machinist work, and playing "Blues Music" on the guitar.

Upcoming Projects in the Big Pines Area...

Rec-34 and the Forest geologist will be conducting a survey of all local mines in the area, both working and abandoned. They are asking for the public's help in locating these mines. The reason for the survey is to update the "Special Use" fees. Many of these fees have not been increased since the 1950s.

A parking lot will be constructed next to the Big Pines station on the location of the Old Swarthout Lodge that burned down in 1987.

Trail signage is to be improved along with restoring barrier rails at Camp Guffy, Blue Ridge and Lupine.



New Signs have replaced the old ones at Jackson Lake

Wood Permits Available May 1st... AX Safety Tips

- Never use a dull ax. They are dangerous. Keep it razor sharp.
- Always carry your sheathed ax at its point of balance near the head with the edge down.
- Carry the ax on the downhill side if walking on a slope.
- If you fall or trip, throw the ax away from you.
- Carrying an ax on your shoulder is asking for trouble. Don't do it!
- Never lay an ax down in the open or against a tree where the edge is exposed. Always lay it with the edge toward a solid object.
- The poll of the ax is used for counter balancing of the edge. It is not to be used for pounding objects like stakes or wedges.

Big Pines History... Ol' Man Vincent



"Vincent's Cabin c. 1963"

Vincent Gap, CA – Just off the beaten path on the way to the Bighorn Mine, you'll find the restored remnants of what Tom Vincent used to call home 100 years ago in Vincent Gulch.

Known as Charles Tom Vincent, he was a rough, grouchy old man who made only a few friends, while others he had no problems chasing away with his ever present large single shot Remington Rolling-block .50 caliber.

He preferred to live a solitary life in the high elevations of the San Gabriel Mountains and for forty years Tom Vincent lived in seclusion.

One day, while hunting the bighorn sheep which roamed the mountains, he discovered gold on the east slope of Mount Baden-Powell. He named the find after the sheep he was hunting at the time, and later sold his Bighorn Mine to developers who turned it into the largest gold mine in Los Angeles County, with miles of tunnels spanning six levels. He would also discover the Blue Cat Mine further down Mine Gulch.

On another hunting expedition, this time accompanied by a rare friend, they were attacked by three bears that they had surprised. Vincent managed to shoot and kill two of the bears, but when his gun jammed before he could get off another shot, he attacked and killed the third with just a knife.

Sickness forced Tom off the mountain and as he lay dying in an L.A. hospital in 1926, he told his doctor he had a confession to make. He said his name was actually Charles Vincent Dougherty, and he was a wanted man. Many years earlier, he and a mining partner in Arizona returned to their cabin after a day of working their claim to find three men ransacking their home. They shot the three men dead and buried them on the spot. Then, fearing the repercussions of the law, they fled.

Vincent died in 1926, never realizing that he had run and hid in seclusion for no reason; in 1868, claim jumping was cause for justified homicide. Arizona law was never after him.



**Tom Vincent
1838 - 1926**



**Built of cedar and
lupine, roof shingles
were hand-hewed and
the small one-room
cabin had one stone
fireplace, one door and
just one window. The
Forest Service restored
the cabin in the 1980s.**



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 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>

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