



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

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Special points of interest:

- Wood Permits will not be issued until the second or third week of May, due to many roads still being closed because of heavy snow.
- They have begun stocking Jackson Lake. Planting began the first week of April.



Fire Danger



Wrightwood, CA – The month of May will bring hundreds of men and women through our part of the Angeles National Forest as they traverse the Pacific Crest Trail.

From Blue Ridge many will make their way down the Acorn Trail into Wrightwood to re-supply, make contact with family, and get a good meal and a hot shower.

Wrightwood is spoken of very highly in books about the PCT and in hiker's journals. It is known to be a very friendly town where people go out of their way for the PCT hikers.

There are several in town, including our own USFS volunteers Bob and Maria Moore who are known as

"Trail Angels". They open up their own homes so as to offer PCT hikers a comfortable place to relax, rest up and get a hot shower.

Trail Angels also supply water for the hikers at Guffy Campground and other areas along the trail.

While most people will hike the PCT in sections, finishing it over a period of years, approximately 300 people will attempt to "thru-hike" the entire trail from Mexico to Canada each year. Of those who make such an attempt, only about 60% are successful.

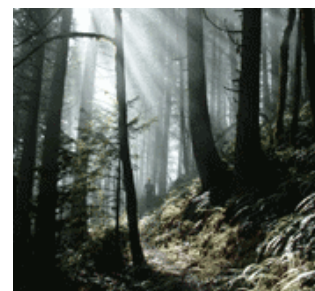
The PCT zigzags its way from Mexico to Canada passing through three states; California, Oregon and Washington, and covering some 2,650 miles.

It is truly a trail of extremes and diversity passing through six out of seven of North America's ecozones including low and high desert, old growth forest and artic-alpine country.

The Pacific Crest Trail climbs nearly 60 major mountain passes, descends into 19 major canyons and ambles past more than 1,000 lakes and yarns. It traverses 7 national parks, 3 national monuments, 24 national forests and 33 federally mandated wildernesses.

The PCT was first envisioned by a successful oilman and avid Boy Scout, Clinton C. Clarke in the 1930s. It would take millions of dollars, 60 years and thousands of hours of labor, but eventually Clarke's dream would be realized.

In 1993 at a golden spike ceremony in Soledad Canyon, California, the PCT was declared officially completed.



The PCT Trail

Getting to know your Volunteers...



Paul Jones (Vol-338) It was about ten years ago when Paul and his wife Jean first visited Wrightwood when their younger son Scott had taken a job at Edwards AFB.

They had talked about how they would love to retire here, so when an opening in Paul's comp-

any came up for a District Manager to cover the southwest US and northern Mexico a little over a year ago, they took the opportunity to make the move early.

Paul and Jean both grew up in Upstate New York, in the Rochester area. They have two sons; Eric, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio with his wife and son and Scott, who resides in Wrightwood with his wife and son.

The decision to move to Wrightwood wasn't hard to make. For the past four years they have lived in Jackson Miss-

issippi, living previously in Cleveland and Dayton Ohio. The many relocations relate to twenty some years in the rubber industry. Paul enjoys the outdoors and likes to take in a good car show or other actives like camping, boating or motor cycling.

Shortly after moving into their home in Wrightwood, Paul and Jean discovered the Angeles National Forest and the opportunity to become volunteers.

Paul now divides his time between Big Pines and the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center where he also serves as the Treasurer.



Inspiration Point



Interested in becoming a Fire Lookout with the ANFFLA? It's probably much easier than you may think. It takes just three classes of training (which are quite fun!).

Training classes have now been scheduled for the month of May. Go to <http://www.anffla.org> for more information.



Safety Tips... While hiking...

How to avoid becoming fatigued

- Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water, even on cool, wet days.
- Stay warm. Becoming cold reduces your awareness.
- Ensure adequate calorie intake – don't wait until you feel hungry.
- Get in trail shape *before* the hike. Fatigue often leads to injuries.
- Take more frequent rest breaks, but not so long that you begin to stiffen up.
- Watch out for other members of your party getting fatigued and take appropriate action and care.

Big Pines History... The Animal Park



BABE AND BOB, BISON AT BIG PINES ZOO

Big Pines, CA – Big Pines Park was opened to the public in 1924 and instantly it was very popular with city visitors.

The attractions that brought unbelievable amounts of crowds were the ski jumps, the ice rink, lake skating, the many toboggan and sled runs, the Recreation Hall and its entertainment, the swimming pool and a small Animal Park. Many called it the Big Pines Zoo.

Legend has it that the animals there made a "Great Escape" in 1932 during heavy snowfall. This is not exactly true.

When 1931 came around, interest in the Animal Park had waned and soon the reindeer and elk were taken from the center, as was the mountain lion.

Finally, in late summer of 1932, the only animals left were a dozen black bear and the American bison. Frank Bogert and Jimmy Prince were hired by the Big Pines Park officials to transport the remaining zoo animals to their new place of residence in the Griffin Park Zoo in Los Angeles.

During the move the bears did escape

from their cages while being transported but they were all quickly recaptured. Thus "The Great Escape"; from such incidents "folk lore" is spun.

(From Notes by Terry Graham)



Remnants Remain today

"Big Pines Park's famous ski jumps, its many specially designed toboggan runs, its refreshing pool and the ice skating rink, are all gone now.

But the ruins of the Big Pines Animal Park still stand, a mute testimony of the bygone glorious years of Big Pines Park...the last piece of old Big Pines had made its final great escape."

Terry Graham

Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day...



**Smokey Bear at
WDAD 2009**



Wrightwood, CA – For the past three years the USFS Volunteers out of the Big Pines station have been involved with the Wrightwood Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day activities.

In 2007 and 2008 the volunteers had their own booth, separate from the Angeles National Forest Booth. Last year the two booths were combined into a single “Angeles National Forest, Big Pines” booth.

The booth was manned by both paid

employees and USFS volunteers to answer any questions that the public had about our area of the forest. On display were USFS vehicles used in the field as well as posters with pictures of what is going on in the forest and showing what the USFS Volunteers do.

This year's Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day will take place on **Saturday, May 8, 2010**. Stop on by and say hello.



WDAD 2009

Fun Facts about the Pacific Crest Trail...



Eric Ryback 1970

- Fewer people have “thru-hiked” the PCT than have climbed Mount Everest.
- The PCT crosses the world-famous San Andreas Fault three times.
- The trail doesn't actually end at the Canadian border but continues for another nine miles into Manning Provincial Park, British Columbia.
- Eric Ryback, popularly known as the first person to hike the entire length of the PCT, carried an 80 lb pack on his 1970 “thru-hike”. He had only 5 re-supply packages on the entire trip and was loaded with 40 lbs of food at the start of each leg. He often ran out of food and had to forage or just go hungry.
- The PCT passes the three deepest lakes in the nation; Lake Tahoe (1,645 ft.), Crater Lake (1,932 ft.), and Lake Chelan (1,149 ft.).
- Most “thru-hikers” start at Mexico and head north. In this way they are more apt to successfully negotiate the snow / runoff / heat and dryness / and early winter storm windows.
- It takes 6 to 8 months to plan, train and get ready for a PCT “thru-hike”; longer than to hike it.
- Most “thru-hikers” start in April and finish in August or September, average 20 miles a day and spend between \$3,300 and \$6,500 for equipment, food, travel costs and gear replacement.



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>

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