

# Arizona Chapter Report 2009

**Membership:** 24

**Carry Forward:** \$696.76

**Additional Expenses by Director:**

\$15.75 postage  
\$5.95 mailing material  
Total \$21.70

**Presentations:**

Director participated in a celebration and dedication of the North Zone Fire and EMS facility, a joint effort between the Grand Canyon National Park and the Kaibab National Forest. Four fire lookout towers were dedicated to the National Historic Lookout Register (NHLR) at the event.

Wrote article for the LOOKOUT NETWORK-GRAND CANYON: 100 YEARS OF FIRE SUPPRESSION.

**Lookouts added to the NHLR:**

4 Grand Canyon National Park  
7 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest  
Total 11

**Goals for 2010:**

Nominate the remaining standing lookout to the NHLR.  
Attend the western regional conference  
Assist the local National Forest in training of lookout as requested

# Arkansas Chapter Report 2009

## **Activities Statement**

As Arkansas Chapter Director, I have responded to more than a dozen requests for information on both the state and national level while continuing to add data to the Arkansas Lookout Inventory. I continue to work with the city of Hamburg, Arkansas, by providing and disseminating information on the Crossroads Lookout Tower. I have also continued to supply Donald Long of Lowgap, Arkansas, with plans & information for his two 100 foot LS-40s (they were the Majette and Vicksburg from the FL Panhandle) to Arkansas. We currently have six chapter members.

## **Financial Statement**

All photocopying and mailing of information, CDs, maps, and lookout tower and cabin plans has been paid for out-of-pocket as a donation to the Association. I have no expectations of requesting any Association funds for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted:

*/s/ Michael A. Pfeiffer*

Michael A. Pfeiffer  
FFLA Arkansas Chapter Director  
845 Cagle Rock Road  
Russellville, Arkansas 72802

# Northern California Chapter Report 2009

The Northern California Chapter has 39 current members.

Finances: A balance of \$1,624.00

--As Northern California Chapter Director, I responded to email and phone inquiries. To anyone who attempted to email me between September and late October, please resubmit. I experienced Internet server problems. Note my new email address.

--Sardine Lookout, Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest is scheduled to enter the visitor rental program sometime in 2010. The Diablo 4-Wheelers Club provided materials and much appreciated labor in August, along with many other volunteers, to get the tower up and running for year around visitor use. On Plumas National Forest, Black Mountain Lookout is slated to enter the visitor rental program soon.

--Site visits included Mills Peak Lookout, Plumas National Forest, West Prospect Peak Lookout, Lassen National Forest, and Sugarloaf Lookout, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

--FFLA brochures were distributed at various venues throughout the year, including the Plumas County Fair. They were available upon request to the 700+ visitors to Babbitt Peak Lookout, Tahoe National Forest, where I worked as primary fire lookout.

--Upcoming: McCloud Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest is looking for volunteers to assist in a lookout tower assessment survey.

--Continue to work on an oral history project, seeking out former fire lookouts for interviews. Know anyone who might wish to participate?

--In November 2009, I gathered in Redding, CA with fire lookouts from Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, and lookout researchers Ron & LaVaughn Kemnow, for an evening of pizza and stories.

--All phone, mailing, and other expenses incurred as FFLA Northern California Chapter Director were paid out-of-pocket and are to be considered donations.

--Looking forward to another good year. Be persistent in attempting to reach me. I'm often out of the office in mountainous terrain out of range of even the newest communication technology.

Enjoy!

Vickie Lamoureux

Redding, California

[VJCLamx5@yahoo.com](mailto:VJCLamx5@yahoo.com)

# Central California/Nevada Chapter Report

## 2009

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Central California/Nevada chapter currently has 29 paid members. The end-of-year balance for this chapter was \$1,140.35, up \$104.22 from last year. This reflects an overall increase in membership. We received 1,200 new brochures which will be distributed this spring to all CCA/NV members and staffed lookouts.

**RESTORATION:** Beginning in 2007, archaeological processes halted most preservation efforts on lookouts in Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument. Happily, the SQF is back in business operating under a Programmatic Agreement in compliance with SHPO, which allows for in-kind maintenance and repair. This got the ball rolling for **Jordan Peak**, where after a three year delay the lookout finally got a new roof. This was due in part to the efforts of volunteer and FFLA member Loren Ross, a long-time advocate for historic preservation of the remaining historic buildings on public lands. Loren also spent time traveling to other SQF guard stations and fire lookouts, providing his own labor and materials to maintain several of those facilities, including **Breckenridge** Lookout where he repaired components on the outrigger shutter system. SQF FMO Scott Williams initiated the inspection of the lightning protection system of all four of the Kern River RD lookouts and found that while Bald Mt was operationally sound, Breckenridge was not. The SQF has contracted for a complete **grounding system inspection** and necessary upgrades or repairs to be made on all 10 of its remaining lookouts.

Buck Rock Foundation volunteers spearheaded a complete restoration of the outhouse at **Delilah Lookout**. The High Sierra Trail Crew volunteers spent two days rehabilitating portions of the road and trail into **Buck Rock Lookout**. They also scraped and painted two storage outbuildings located at the base of the lookout. The Kern River RD is committed to repairing a leaky roof at **Bald Mountain Lookout** and brought **Oak Flat Lookout** back into the Recreation Rental system after the lookout was damaged in a storm in 2007.

On the Sierra NF, **Fence Meadow** restoration continued with the completion of the external and internal painting of the cab. At **Miami Lookout**, the weather station was torn apart and refurbished. The tower was dedicated as the "Joe Knowles Memorial Tower" and a monument was placed at the base of Miami in his honor. FFLA member Jeff May and his Miami cronies are going high-tech experimenting with Dragon Plot to help with pinpointing fires. They report good success. Jeff used Dragon Plot to recalibrate the fire finders at **Signal Peak, Shuteye and Fence Meadow**. Sierra Patrol Paul Waddell raised \$500 at a Smokey Bear Bike Run, which he will donate to Miami Lookout. The Sierra NF developed a Lookout Recreational Activity Guide for public information purposes.

**THREATENED:** Based on an engineering assessment, the Forest has determined that **Bald Mountain Lookout** on the Sierra National Forest is "not worth the liability or repair." Using already-appropriated stimulus money, the Forest plans on removing the cab in the Spring of 2010, then restore the tower for use as an observation platform. As there is local support of volunteer groups to restore the lookout, the Central California Chapter representing the FFLA will propose that necessary steps are taken to ensure that the lookout remains standing in place as is.

There is no new known development on the dismantling of **Blue Ridge** Lookout. Local CAL-Fire personnel are still attempting to get approval to move the lookout to the Tulare County Fairgrounds, but the state bureaucracy continues to thwart their efforts.

**CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT:** The creation of a sub-chapter of the CCA/NV FFLA called the **Yosemite/High Sierra Chapter** was approved last year. Under the development of FFLA member Jeff May, this chapter is concentrating on the fire lookout towers in Yosemite National Park and the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake and High Sierra Districts. Lookout towers would include but not be limited to: Signal, Miami, Shuteye, Mt. Tom, Fence Meadow, Musick Mountain, Goat Mountain, Signal Peak, Henness Ridge, and Crane Flat. The purpose of the chapter is “to provide increased public awareness and appreciation of the history and benefits of the fire lookout towers and value to early detection and fire suppression activities; seek approval for historic designations by the National Historic Lookout Register; and to utilize the Forest Fire Lookout Association Tax donation status to encourage public and private sector donations or sponsorships of the chapter.” Jeff is working with Yosemite National Park on the placement of NHLR plaques at Henness and Crane Flat, with a dedication planned for Spring 2010.

**ACTIVITIES:** Discussions between Sequoia Forest Supervisor Tina Terrell and her staff and local lookout enthusiasts early in 2009 proved to be the impetus needed to move forward the arch process for continuing to restore Sequoia lookouts. During a lookout meeting in June at McNally's near Kernville, it was confirmed that management of **Baker Point Lookout** would be transferred from the Western Divide District to the Kern River District. The planning process for restoring Baker is in the beginning phase.

In May, I was invited to attend a lookout training session for the **Angeles Forest Lookout Association**. What fun to participate with Southern California Director's George and Pam Morey as they orientated newbie volunteer lookouts!

Our chapter continues to promote the importance of preserving and staffing lookouts through **community outreach**: participating in local events, attending meetings, establishing relationships with our local government agencies and other partners. The Buck Rock Foundation (BRF) publishes a quarterly newsletter for contributors to the Foundation and with compliments to FFLA board members and beginning in 2010, Central Ca/Nevada chapter members as well.

Through the Buck Rock Foundation, we are continuing to offer a **Lookout Training** program which is extended to paid lookouts as well as volunteers interested in working at a fire lookout. Our training program recruits top-notch fire, public relations and communication specialists to teach the classes, which span a two day period each Spring. Several of the volunteers who have attended our training have been hired as lookouts for both the Forest Service and BLM. FFLA members are welcome to attend!

#### **PLAN OF WORK FOR 2010:**

- RAC Grant proposal submitted 1-8-2010: Restoration work at Mt. Tom, Fence Meadow (SNF) and Delilah (SQF) [Partnership BRF and USFS]
- Begin the planning process for restoration at Baker Point (SQF)
- Southern Sierra Climbing Association partnership for project work weekend at Buck Rock in August 2010.
- Nominate Park Ridge Lookout to the NHLR
- Assist the new Yosemite/High Sierra Chapter with development, grant-writing and project work. Dedication of Yosemite Lookouts 2010.
- Celebrate lookouts in conjunction with 2010 Big Burn 100 year anniversary.

For more information on all the lookouts in this chapter, please refer to the “Central

California/Nevada Lookout Status Report.”

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ball Allison  
CCA/NV Chapter Director

# Attached Reports

## Nevada Fire Lookouts Status 2009

Notes: 5 total lookouts: 3 standing, and 2 still actively staffed.

**ELLA MT. LO** - BLM, Ely, NV District - built 1964 - 2 story –Built 1964; T 6S R 67 E Sec 2; **Still actively staffed**

**MCCLELLAN PEAK LO** - Built early 1930s by USFS, transferred to BLM in 1963, last staffed 1970, destroyed 1971.

**PEAVINE PEAK LO** - Built originally by Tahoe NF, later staffed by Nevada Division Of Forestry for a while, then abandoned in 1964 - was still standing in 1972. No longer standing, unsure of when it was removed.

**YELLOW PEAK LO** - BLM, Susanville, CA District, Washoe County NV, Sheldon Hart Wildlife Refuge – T45S R 21E Sec 9; Built in 1981, 9x9; **Still actively staffed**

**ZEPHYR POINT LO** - Built 1931 by Eldorado NF, later transferred to Toiyabe NF, later loaned to Nevada Division of Forestry then returned to Toiyabe NF, then later transferred to Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit – no longer used for fire, but still standing and used as a communications site.

### Status of Lookouts In Central California 2009

Updated 9/2009

FFLA Central California Chapter Area Covers the Territory South of I-80 and North of the Tehachapi Mountains, West to (but not including) the Los Padres National Forest.

\* Indicates NHLR Listing

#### **ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST**

1. Alder Ridge\* – **Recreation Rental**, *Placerville RD*
2. Armstrong Hill– **Abandoned**. *Amador RD*
3. Bald Mountain\* – **Staffed 7 days GS employee** *Georgetown RD*
4. Baltic Peak\* – **Abandoned**. Decommission granted through Forest Service channels. Removed. Will be relocated to Gold Bug Park. *Placerville RD*
5. Big Hill\*- **Staffed 7 days GS employees** *Pacific RD*
6. Bunker Hill\* – **Abandoned** *Pacific RD*
7. Leak Springs – **Staffed 7 days a week**. *Amador RD*
  
8. Lookout Mountain – **Removed (mid-2000's?)**
9. Robbs Peak\* – **Recreation Rental** *Pacific RD*
10. Slate Mountain- **Removed 2003** *Georgetown RD*

## INYO NATIONAL FOREST

1. Bald Mountain – **Standing, Not staffed in 2009**

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

1. Baker Point\* – **Abandoned** – Operational management transferred from Western Divide RD to Kern River RD. Restoration pending evaluation.
2. Bald Mt\* – **Staffed** 5 days with USFS GS employee. Kern River RD
3. Breckenridge\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee. Kern River RD
4. Buck Rock\* – **Staffed** 7 days: 5 days w/GS employee and 2 days with BRF vols Hume Lake RD
5. Delilah\* – **Staffed** with BRF volunteers as often as possible.
6. Jordan Peak\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee. Western Divide RD
7. Mule Peak\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee. Western Divide RD
8. Oak Flat\* – **Recreation Rental**. Kern River RD  
(Reservations: 760-379-5646 x-514)
9. Tobias\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee. Western Divide RD
10. The Needles\* – **Staffed** 5 days with FS employee. Western Divide RD

## SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

1. Bald Mountain – **Abandoned** and vandalized. Local 4 wheel drive club is interested in adopting. Boy Scout troop also showed interest. USFS plans

to remove cab and restore platform for observation only purposes.

1. Fence Meadow\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee
3. Goat Mountain\* – **Abandoned**. Talk of turning it into a Recreation Rental or Volunteer staffing program OR removing it.
4. Miami Mountain\* – **Staffed** 7 days a week with Volunteers
5. Mt. Tom\* – **Staffed** 5 days with GS employee
6. Musick Mtn – **Emergency use** only. Heavily laden with communications equipment
7. Shuteye – **Staffed 7 days** with GS employees
8. Signal Peak\* – **Staffed 7 days** with GS employees.

## STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

1. American Camp – **Abandoned**
2. Duckwall – **Emergency Use Only** (Needs repair, esp. wood stairway) *Miwok RD*
3. Mt Elizabeth – **Staffed 7 days** with GS employees. *Miwok RD*
4. North Mountain – **Abandoned**. Word is the cabin and tower are still standing, but it is not in use. However, in 2008, the North Fire burned near/around the lookout and it is not confirmed that the lookout survived. *Groveland RD*
5. Pilot Peak – **Staffed 5 days** a week with GS employee. *Groveland RD*
6. Smith Peak – **Staffed 7 days** GS employee. *Groveland RD*
7. Trumbull\* – **Abandoned but slated for restoration for rec. rental**. *Groveland RD*
8. Woods Ridge – **Abandoned**. Cabin and tower standing, not in use. *Groveland RD*

## TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST



1. Babbitt Peak\* – **Staffed 7 days** with GS employees. Needs repair

#### *Sierraville RD*

1. Calpine\* – **Recreation Rental**, *Sierraville RD*
2. Duncan Peak\* – **Staffed 7 days** with GS employee
3. Martis Peak\* – See CDF Truckee (*Truckee RD*)
4. Grouse Ridge\* – **Abandoned. Talk of turning into Recreation Rental**
5. Sardine\* – **Restored**. To be put into the Rec Rental system *Sierraville RD*
6. Saddleback\* – **Staffed 7 days** with contract lookout. *Downieville RD*
7. Sierra Buttes\* – **Abandoned. Talk of decommissioning** – At Truckee conference we had word that they had received a RAC Grant for Restoration
8. Verdi – **Abandoned**. *Truckee RD*

#### **TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**

1. Leviathan\* – **Not staffed**, but still standing

#### **SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK**

1. Milk Ranch – **Abandoned** for fire detection 1996. Utilized for communications links

#### **KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

1. Park Ridge – **Staffed** with BRF volunteers as often as possible

#### **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

1. Crane Flat\* – **Restored**. This lookout is now open to the public as an interpretive site but is not staffed as such. It is still used on occasion as a fire detection location during lightning busts.
2. Hennes Ridge\* – **Abandoned**. Some external rehab has been done, but Jeff May recently visited and reports there is increased sign of disrepair (leaky roof). Under the wings of the High Sierra/Yosemite Chapter FFLA.

#### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE 2009**

(Historically CDF has had as many as 77 lookouts located statewide. Due to budget cuts and “people driving through with cell phones and hampered visibility due to air pollution” CDF has stopped staffing most of its lookouts in California. CAL-Fire’s official position in 2009 is that it “no longer staffs or maintains any fire lookouts.” However, unofficially, local units have the option of utilizing a lookout as needed during high fire danger or lightning activity using prevention personnel or volunteers.)

#### **CAL-Fire Amador/El Dorado (530-644-2345)**

None of these lookouts were officially scheduled to be staffed for fire season 2009.

1. Mount Danaher\* – **Standing**; Plans to use for public relations.
2. Mt. Zion – **Standing and staffed as needed**.
3. Pilot Peak – **Standing and staffed as needed**.
4. Pine Hill – **Abandoned**, Heavily vandalized

#### **CAL-Fire – Fresno/Kings**

(No active lookouts)

1. Bear Mountain – **Abandoned** Land-owner’s have said they will leave the lookout in place.

1. Black Mountain – **Abandoned**
2. Cottonwood Pass - **Abandoned**
3. Owens Mountain - **Removed**

#### **CAL-Fire – Madera/Mariposa/Merced**

(No active lookouts)

1. Basalt Peak – **Standing**, used for radio used. May be abandoned.
2. Deadwood – **Abandoned**, still standing. Used for communications. May be preserved by local historian.
3. Green Mtn. – **Abandoned**, unknown if still standing.
4. Guadalupe Peak (Hwy 140) Foundation still there, lookout gone.
5. Penon Blanco – **Abandoned**, still standing.
6. Red Top – **Dismantled**
7. Williams Peak – **Abandoned, still standing.**

#### **CAL-Fire – Nevada/Yuba/Placer** (Auburn Hdtq. 530-889-0111)

All of these lookouts were staffed in some form 2009 – some are volunteers and others are prevention specialists who are CAL-Fire seasonals. It varies according to fire danger and other seasonal considerations.

1. Banner Lookout - **Standing and staffed using community volunteers**
2. Mount Howell – **Standing**, staffed on occasion.
3. Oregon Peak – **Standing and staffed using community volunteers**
4. Wolf Creek Mountain – **Standing and staffed using community volunteers**

#### **CAL-Fire San Benito/Monterey**

(No active lookouts and no plans for future use per Chief Robertson convo. 3/08)

1. Call Mountain – **Abandoned**, Bad shape will most likely be removed.
2. Calandra\* – **Abandoned**; Heavily vandalized/ talk of preservation
3. Chalone Peak\* – **Abandoned**; Still standing, no plans to rehab
4. Sid Ormsbee – **Abandoned; Targeted for preservation** by land-owner (Santa Lucia)
5. Smith Mountain – **Abandoned**; Still standing, no plans for rehab

#### **CAL-Fire Tahoe/Truckee**

1. Martis Peak\* – **Standing, staffing unknown**; Owned by Tahoe National Forest, managed by Cal-fire and in 2008, was staffed 5 with Paid employee (paid by North Star Community) and 2 with volunteers. Unknown if staffed 2009.

#### **CAL-Fire– Tulare County**

(No active lookouts)

1. Blue Ridge\* – **Abandoned**, Still standing, in disrepair. Cal-fire employees actively seeking relocation to Tulare County Fairgrounds.
2. Shadequarter – **Abandoned**, Still standing, starting to deteriorate. Used as a communications site and for training exercises.

#### **CAL-Fire - Tuolumne/Calaveras** (Capt. Allen Columbro convo. 3/08)

1. Blue Mountain – **Staffed** as needed. (*Calaveras County*)
2. Fowler – **Abandoned**. Targeted for preservation. Used for antennas)
3. Rushing (Big Hill) – **Abandoned, still standing**

4. Sierra Vista (Quiggs Mountain) – **Abandoned, metal tower.**
5. Valley Springs - **Removed**

#### **TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT**

1. Angora Ridge\* – **Abandoned.** Unstaffed during the devastating Angora Fire of 2007.
2. Stateline – **Removed, interpretive sign at location.**

**Stats – Approximately 48 federal lookouts and 30 state lookouts remain standing in Central California for a total of 78. Approximately 30 confirmed staffed for fire detection.**

# Colorado / Utah Chapter Report 2009

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

43 current members  
8 new members  
7 dropped members  
3 transferred in

## **FINANCIAL BALANCE:**

\$596.53

## **LOOKOUTS:**

Six lookouts were staffed in Colorado:

- 1) Devil's Head Lookout was staffed by USFS. This was the twenty-eighth season for Bill Ellis to work on this lookout on the Pike National Forest.
- 2) Deadman Lookout on the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest was staffed by volunteers from the "Friends of Deadman Lookout."
- 3) Benchmark Lookout in the San Juan National Forest was staffed by USFS. This was the eleventh season for Barbara Zinn to serve as lookout.
- 4) Zenobia and Round Top Lookouts were staffed in Dinosaur National Monument. Daniel Hazen was lookout on Zenobia where he has been the past five years. Phil Shultz completed his twentieth year as lookout on Zenobia.
- 5) Park Point Lookout in Mesa Verde National Park was staffed by Dani Long, a first year lookout under the direction of Allen Farnsworth.

## **RESTORATION OF LOOKOUTS:**

Fairview Peak Lookout located on the Gunnison National Forest continued to have major renovation under the direction of archeologist, Justin Lawrence. A team of Passport in Time and local volunteers packed in to the tower and spent a week working on various projects at the challenging elevation of 13,214'. Fairview Peak is the highest lookout in America. The stone work is complete which stabilized the walls up to the roof. A new door and temporary windows were added. Permanent windows are ready to be installed. Sadly, at this time, budget constraints make further work by USFS bleak. Other funding sources are being explored.

Squaw Mountain Lookout, 11,500', on the Arapaho National Forest continued to have additional work under the direction of Daniel Lovato, Clear Creek District Ranger. Two work days were held with a crew of volunteers from our local chapter as well as the Colorado Forestry Association and USFS. A new floor was installed in the lower level apartment as well as a new door to cab plus other maintenance projects. Vandals caused major damage which was repaired. A new USFS staff member, Nicole Malandri, will spearhead the renovation project in hopes of having the lookout on the rental system the summer of 2010. Our local chapter wrote a grant to the Colorado Historical Foundation for shutters for the lookout. Unfortunately, the funds were not granted.

Chimney Rock Lookout in the San Juan National Forest may be moved or demolished due to the significant archeological findings in the area where the lookout now stands. Our chapter has requested that the lookout be moved to another location to become an interpretive Visitor's Center. No decision has been made at this time.

#### **LOOKOUTS ADDED TO THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL LOOKOUT REGISTER:**

Three more lookouts were added to the NHLR this year: Fairview Peak, Benchmark and Park Point. Dedication ceremonies were held at all three locations in June. In addition, a nomination for Round Top Lookout was submitted for consideration. A new book was published entitled: "Guarding Dinosaur" by Jean Polhamus. She and her husband served as lookouts on Round Top in 1951.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

An Annual Meeting was held at El Rancho Restaurant on April 25, 2009 with approximately twenty-five in attendance. Speakers, displays, a business meeting and lunch provided an enjoyable and productive day. The highlight for many was a DVD presentation by Margee Kelly of her time as a lookout on Needles Fire Lookout in Sequoia National Forest in California.

#### **WEBSITE:**

A new webmaster, Susan Epstein, added significantly to the information begun by Tim Worth, Mark Nelson and Mark Roper. Many new photos, historical information and an updated map have greatly enhanced our lookout links especially in the S.W. corner of our state. Susan has also begun research on Utah lookouts and included information on the website as well.

Sondra Kellogg  
Colorado/Utah Director, FFLA

# Northern Idaho/Montana Chapter Report 2009

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

121 Current Paid Members (44 Plus)

Includes: 6 Membership Renewal Past Due

Net gain of 4 members: 11 New, 6 Dropped, 1 Transferred out

62 Complimentary Memberships (agency personnel, etc.) varies by issue

Chapter finances decreased, with an ending balance of \$4429.22, down over \$2000.00 dollars from the start of the year, in large part due to contributions to the Mineral Peak restoration project.

## **LEADERSHIP:**

Leif Haugen is now the Deputy Director for the Flathead-Glacier region of Northwestern Montana.

Samsara Chapman continued in the Deputy Director position for Central Montana.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Restoration of the 53' L-4 Mineral Peak tower (Lolo NF, MT) continued with a weeklong project funded primarily by chapter funds and an FFLA Restoration Grant. Certified climbers from the Clearwater NF re-tightened all tower bolts and applied preservative to the tower structure. A refurbished door was also installed, with door latch parts donated by the chapter. Member Libby Langston is coordinating the project. The chapter supported continued restoration efforts at Mallard Peak Lookout (St. Joe NF, ID). A project at Square Mountain Lookout (NezPerce NF, ID) involving replacement of period lightning protection was completed.

Deputy Director Sam Chapman arranged for the loan of a firefinder table for Granite Butte Lookout (Helena NF, MT). Efforts were being made to ready the 20-foot R-6 flat top for staffing while Stonewall Lookout was receiving repairs from winter damage.

The chapter was asked for input, advice, and involvement in the potential relocation of Jack Mountain Lookout (Deerlodge NF, MT). The forest is considering a future airlift of a portion of the lookout.

The chapter declined when offered the task of removing Scenery Mountain Lookout (Kootenai NF, MT) given the lack of access. The chapter's request for salvage was turned down, being told that the removal of the structure would then be put out for bid. A short time later, Forest Service crews removed the cab off the concrete block foundation, using the forest helicopter to transport the materials off the mountain. Liscom Butte (Custer NF, MT) was also removed under a demolition contract. These were the only two lookouts in the area lost in 2009.

Deputy Director Leif Haugen has been involved in readying Thoma Lookout (Flathead NF, MT) for staffing in 2010 after having been vacant for over 30 years. Several other lookouts have been receiving upgrades, at least two (Middle Sister and Hughes Ridge (Idaho Panhandle NFs) are expected to be ready for 2010 staffing.

ARRA (Stimulus Program) funding was allocated for several facilities maintenance projects that included lookouts on the Kootenai NF (MT) and the Clearwater NF (ID). The potential exists for adding additional lookouts to the cabin rental program as a result of this funding. Restoration activities are expected to continue at several sites in 2010, with various levels of support from the chapter.

The chapter will host the 2010 Western Regional Conference in Grangeville, ID June 24-27.

Gary Weber  
FFLA-North Idaho/Montana Chapter Director

# Kentucky Chapter Report 2009

**Membership:** The Kentucky Chapter has nine members down some from our charter days.

The Kentucky chapter is growing slowly. Michael Spanjer is now director of the southern chapter. This should help improve our ability to recruit new membership. Michael has been a great resource .He attended the 2009 FFLA eastern conference Asheville North Caroline. I am looking forward to working with Michael in the future.

## **Restoration**

We added several addition towers to the NHLR in 2009.Stearns, Bald Knob and Curry Hollow. Bring the total to eight towers on the lookout register in Kentucky.

## **Tater Knob Tower**

We had a set back in 2008 when Tater Knob Tower suffered a fire. We pulled several groups together in 2009 to host a benefit concert to help repair Tater Knob. Local fire departments, forestry agencies and community leaders came together to raise funds to repair the damage. The Kentucky chapter of the FFLA displayed fire tower artifacts during the event. The national chapter awarded a \$500.00 grant in support of our efforts to restore the tower. We have raised around \$2000.00 toward the project. We plan to visit the site this spring with USFS personnel and local community leaders, one of which is an engineer to survey the site prior to restorations efforts. The fire was arson. The Bath County grand jury indicted two individuals in October for their role in the fire that badly damaged the cab of the tower. If you would like to learn more about our efforts to restore the tower go to <http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2009/todays-news/kentucky-residents-raise.html>

## **Chapter Development:**

The Route 377 Volunteer Fire Department continues to support the Kentucky Chapter as the charter agency. Membership should increase in 2010 with the addition of the sub chapter.

## **Fire Tower Documentation:**

We continue to document current and former fire towers sites in Kentucky. This is important work. Historically Kentucky has a long proud history with its fire towers. Trenton Girard with Land between the Lakes fire management has research and documented LBL towers. Michael and Brenda Spanjer continue to visit tower sites in southern Kentucky documenting conditions of towers visited. Dwayne Anderson with the Kentucky Division of Forestry is also helping document fire towers in the Northeast District.

Submitted: Danny Blevins KyFFLA



# Maine Chapter Report 2009

We continued to have an active year, though restoration efforts have been very slow. This year we focused on research, archive collection, and field trips. We continued to keep the Maine tower inventory up to date as there were changes, new discoveries and updates. The findings are below –

## **Tower Survey**

Data as of 12/30/2009

Summary:

Total Known Tower Sites – 143

Total Towers Still Standing – 63

Total Towers Gone or Removed - 80

Of the 63 Standing Towers:

Standing Steel Only, No Cab – 19

Standing Steel Converted to Observation Deck - 6

Standing Steel and Cab – 37

Standing Wooden Enclosed - 1

Average Condition of the 38 Standing Towers with Cabs:

Good Condition – 14

Fair Condition – 12

Poor Condition – 7

Bad Condition – 5

The full tower summary list can be found on the FFLA Web Site on the Towers page under the Maine section. We will continue to update these lists as new information is found.

**Tower Losses** – There were 2 tower losses this year.

*Priestly Mountain* – This tower, which had no cab and housed some state radio systems, was removed in July. The US Department of Homeland Security built a new radio complex here, including shelter and a new steel tower. The state will also share space at this site.

*Dedham Bald Mountain* – This Aermotor tower was in disrepair and growing unsafe. The current landowners decided that it was not safe, and due to liability reasons, sold the tower to a private individual in November. The tower will be restored and re-erected on private land in Canada in the spring of 2010.

**Planned Removals** – The following towers may be removed in 2010:

*Bigelow Mountain* – This tower is being recommended for removal by the Maine State DOC

*Mount Abraham* – This tower is being recommended for removal by the Maine State DOC

We are also researching other possible removals – West Kennebago, May Mountain, and Debouille Mountain.

### **Membership**

Current membership in ME is at 23 members. We are down one member from last year.

Membership continues to be an issue with the Maine Chapter. Locating interested parties to become members has been challenging.

### **NHLR**

11 Total Entries. There were no new NHLR nominations for 2009. There are 2 targets for 2010 that are being investigated.

### **Research / Archives**

We continued this past year with significant research on tower sites. We continued the focus on the Federal Towers on Mount Desert Island and many of the other little known lookouts in Maine.

### **Activities**

#### **Squaw Mountain Project**

This project has been particularly challenging to get off the ground. After we suffered a delay due to the loss of state helicopter support (budget issues), we lost our local sponsoring group due to delays and timing. Given this event, we are effectively starting over again. We will be searching for another local sponsor group so that we can get this project off the ground.

#### **Delorme Gazetteer Project**

Last year, FFLA teamed up with Delorme to update all of the Maine Fire Tower locations in its new Gazetteer scheduled for release sometime this year 2009. The atlas was delayed and was released in August 2009.

#### **Dave Hilton Website**

Dave Hilton, FFLA Maine Historian and author of *FROM YORK TO THE ALLAGASH, Forest Fire Lookouts of Maine*, previously maintained a Fire Lookout website on Geocities. After Dave died suddenly in 2003, this website became inactive and unmanaged. In October 2009, Yahoo assumed control of all Geocities websites and eliminated all free website space. The site then went off the air. Since that time, we have secured permission from the Hilton family to host and use the material on that website. The Maine Fire Tower portion of Dave's website was posted on the FFLA. The fire-based portion of the site will be posted in early 2010.

#### **Archive Drive 2009**

The Maine chapter launched Archive Drive 2009 this year, which was an outreach effort aimed at locating any old Maine Fire Tower photos, stories, memorabilia, and other related material. We advertised in the Maine Department of Conservation newsletter, CCC Alumni Newsletter, historical outlets, and the Maine DOC FaceBook Page. We unearthed many old photos, bits and pieces of info, and a few older watchmen, who we interviewed. The effort was a success and will be considered again in the future.

#### **Other Projects**

Rocky Mountain Tower – We were able to get up to Rocky Mountain tower to check out its condition. The cab needs a new floor and likely some roof work. The steelwork should also be painted. We were not able to put together a repair mission this year. Rocky Mountain is in

the most northern, extreme northwest section of Maine. Its 20 – 25 miles away from most civilization, so it's difficult to get any help with projects this deep in the woods. We will work with the current group that is maintaining the tower to see what is possible moving forward.

Carr Pond – This tower has been in a collapsed state for many years, though the tower itself is salvageable. A project to move it to private land began in 2009, but was put on hold due insurance issues. This will attempt to start up again in 2010.

Indian Hill – A project to restore the wooden tower on Indian Hill is under discussion once again. The land has changed hands again, so we will be discussing this with the new ownership this year to see what the possibilities are.

### **Southern Maine Activities and Status**

All 3 volunteer towers in York County (Aggie, Ossipee, and Hope) have continued to operate during 2009. The towers were active during the few dry spells, but this year was largely a washout.

Jason L'Heureux, watchman at Ossipee had over 500 individual visitors and several school classes from Waterboro including home schooled children. He started in May, was there minimally in June due to 23 days of rain. July was slightly better weather wise. August, September and October days were manned regularly. The tower needs some maintenance work and Pam L'Heureux is looking for some funding to assist with this effort. John Heseltine, watchman at Mount Hope reports that much of the spotting season was washed out due to the weather. No major upgrades at the tower other than to have the state fire frequency added to the radio. Mt Hope tower closed for the year on Oct. 14. For next season, we will be looking to recruit one or two more volunteers. At Agamenticus, the lookout continues to be manned when possible, but this year there was a shortage of volunteers due to illness and a limited number of lookout days due to a largely wet season.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Cobb, Maine Director

# **New Hampshire Chapter Report 2009**

2009 was the 14th wettest year on record in Concord, NH with 47.21 inches of rainfall, 9.61 inches above normal. As previously reported the summer months of June, July and August were the fourth wettest on record and the wettest in the last 112 years.

Statewide 281 fires burned 159 acres; all were human caused. No lightning fires were reported. These numbers include 1 fire on the White Mountain National Forest which burned five acres.

Most of the fire activity occurred in the Spring with a few fires in late August and early September which was the only other period of dry weather during the year. In contrast the State of Vermont reported only 83 fires but the 191 acres burned exceeded the acres burned in New Hampshire.

In March the State downgraded lookout personnel from permanent part time employees to temporary employees. With this conversion retirement benefits, health insurance, and leave were lost. Further, lookouts were only allowed to work on Fire Danger Class 3 and higher days instead of a full season. After Memorial Day lookouts only worked a few days in the autumn due to the wet weather. Most of the lookout personnel have other jobs or are retired but this situation may result in a loss of experienced employees in the future. Hiring of State Forest Rangers and other Forests and Lands positions has also been affected.

Despite the extremely tight State budget which resulted in these cutbacks, Forests and Lands was able to replace the tower cab on Croydon Peak and perform some limited maintenance at other towers.

This year for the first time the State of New Hampshire and the White/Green Mountain National Forests sent crews to Alaska in July to help with fire suppression.

New Hampshire Chapter membership increased by 10% during the year with two new members joining. Currently there are 20 paid members and 2 complimentary memberships. FFLA brochures are available at the new White Mountain National Forest facility in Campton which houses the Pemigewasset Ranger Station and the Forest Supervisors Office. This new complex which opened in October, has an excellent visitor center with some photographs of lookouts on display.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Haartz

# North Carolina Chapter Report 2009

The North Carolina chapter had another successful year in 2009. Success was had in membership, fundraising, awareness, access, and preservation.

The greatest success of the NC chapter involved the successful lobbying for funding to preserve USFS towers in western North Carolina. The USFS received \$734,000 in funding as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by the Obama administration. These funds will be used to rehabilitate and restore lookout towers in North Carolina national forests. Towers planned for rehabilitation include the Wayah Bald, Albert Mountain, Joanna Bald, and Panther Top towers in the Nantahala National Forest and the Green Knob lookout in the Pisgah National Forest.

The 2009 Eastern Summer FFLA conference was hosted by the NC chapter and held during June in picturesque Asheville, NC. The conference was attended by about 30 people including several members from eastern chapters as well as representatives from the USFS. The conference was composed of a day of slideshow presentations and discussions involving southeastern lookout towers and fire tower preservation and a day of traveling beautiful western North Carolina to visit multiple lookout towers. FFLA member Lloyd Allen hosted a tour of the restored and re-erected Little Snowball tower at the Big Ivy Historical Campus in Dillingham, NC. FFLA member and tower operator Orval Banks gave a tour and demonstration at his Chambers Mountain lookout tower. The group also visited towers on Green Knob in the Pisgah National Forest and Mt. Mitchell at Mt. Mitchell State Park.

Over \$700 was fundraised for the restoration of the Shuckstack lookout tower. The preservation and restoration of this tower remains one of the chapter's primary goals, and fundraising for this project will become a central focus in 2010. An open dialogue regarding this project was established with the NPS for the first time and included the primary archaeologist and landscape architect from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A group hike was organized to the tower to visit it in person, evaluate its condition, and discuss its future as well as opportunities for rehabilitation. At that time, the fire tower was dedicated into the NHLR on-site.

In addition to Shuckstack, several other western NC lookout towers were dedicated into the NHLR with presentations of plaque/certificates on-site by NC chapter member Wes Greene. These included the Little Snowball tower and rededications at the Duckett Top and Panther Top lookouts.

The Duckett Top lookout tower in Madison County received an emergency stabilization grant from the national FFLA fund which was put to use by chapter member Wes Greene to rehabilitate its exterior. Wes spent several weekends, including nights camped in the tower, repainting it in its entirety. Combined with the NCF's replacement of the tower's roof, Duckett Top now looks fantastic.

The NC chapter continued to grow in size and has increased to 31 members in addition to 6 USFS/NPS memberships. It is the goal of the chapter to exceed 40 members by the end of 2010.

Chapter director Peter Barr continued to promote fire towers and their preservation in western North Carolina with his book, *Hiking North Carolina's Lookout Towers*. He performed several more slideshow presentations at various locations throughout the state as well as a speaking opportunity at *Appalachian Trail Days* in Damascus, VA.

The *Lookout Tower Challenge* (LTC), cosponsored by the FFLA and the Carolina Mountain Club, got off to an excellent start following its 2009 initiation. The program generated a significant interest in fire towers among hikers and was featured in several newspaper articles in the region. An astounding five people completed the challenge program in just its first year. Completers were recognized and rewarded certificates and an embroidered hiking patch in October at the CMC's annual dinner banquet.

The NC chapter continued its online presence by converting to an easily updateable blog format. Its new location at <http://nclookouts.blogspot.com> enables frequent news and stories involving NC lookout towers to be shared with members and interested parties in a quick fashion. Site visitation has increased dramatically with the new format.

NC chapter director Peter Barr received the 2009 Doug Newman Award, presented by FFLA chairman Keith Argow at the Eastern Summer Conference. Peter Barr also assumed the role and duties of FFLA Eastern Deputy Director in July 2008 for the remainder of 2009 and ran for reelection at the end of the year.

A dialogue was extended with USFS district rangers of the Nantahala and Tusquitee districts in the Nantahala National Forest to establish access dates for restricted lookouts at Albert Mountain, Cowee Bald, Joanna Bald, and Panther Top. Two access dates were facilitated by the USFS at the Panther Top tower in October (in coordination with peak fall foliage season) and were well attended. It is the goal of the NC chapter to continue these access dates at this tower and establish new dates at other towers in western North Carolina next fall.

Lookout towers as scenic outdoors destinations were featured in the cover article of *Blue Ridge Outdoors* magazine in October, a publication with a circulation in excess of 100,000 issues distributed throughout the southeast and mid-Atlantic. The article was composed following much lobbying from the NC chapter. Both NC chapter director Peter Barr and FFLA national chairman Keith Argow were interviewed for the article. The story featured an insert involving the preservation of the Shuckstack lookout tower.

The NC chapter continued to grow and increased membership by 40%. The chapter now has 31 paid members in addition to 6 comp memberships. It is the goal of the chapter to exceed 40 members by the end of 2010.

NC chapter director Peter Barr will be thru-hiking the 2,178-mile long Appalachian Trail in 2010 from March through August. During the trip, he intends to visit over 25 lookout towers in various states as well as meet many FFLA members. His goal and that of the chapter will be to fundraise \$2,178 for the restoration of the Shuckstack tower from the interest generated from his journey – one dollar for each mile hiked. The establishment of an information and dedicated giving site at <http://www.saveshuckstack.com> will also be a chapter goal in 2010.

Peter J. Barr  
Director, NC Chapter  
Forest Fire Lookout Association  
<http://nclookouts.blogspot.com>  
<http://www.saveshuckstack.com>  
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# Restoration Grant Program Report 2009

Five Restoration Grants (\$500 each) and one Emergency Stabilization Grant (\$150) were awarded in 2009, for a total of \$2650:

## **1 - Mineral Peak Lookout, Montana**

The first FFLA Restoration Grant of 2009 went toward the continued restoration of Mineral Peak Lookout (Lolo NF, MT), a 53-foot tower with L-4 cab, under the leadership of FFLA member Libby Langston. The FFLA grant, along with North Idaho-Montana Chapter funds, was used to pay for certified climbers to re-tighten all the bolts and apply preservative to the entire tower.

## **2 - Mosley Hill Fire Lookout, Louisiana**

The second restoration grant was awarded for the continued restoration of the Mosley Hill Lookout on the Kisatchie NF's Catahoula District. The grant will be used to replace the glass in the cab, repair metal window frames, and clean and waterproof the cab, under the direction of FFLA Director Mark Gutzman.

## **3 - Berry Hill Fire Tower Facility, New York**

The local Berry Hill FFLA Chapter was awarded the program's third grant of the year. Fred Lamb, FFLA-NY member, is chairing the project. The \$500 grant will be used to begin restoration of the observer cabin, including installation of a new porch floor and porch railing, repairs to the roof, cleanup of the interior with a fresh coat of varnish to be applied, installation of vintage photos illustrating the history and development of the New York State fire towers, and the implementation of a public interpretive program.

## **4 - Pinnacle Mountain Lookout Tower, Tennessee**

The "Partners of the Cherokee National Forest" received the program's fourth award for the year, for restoration of the Pinnacle Mountain Lookout Tower, a 40-foot steel tower with 14' x 14' live-in cab. Sam Brocato, Executive Director of the Partners, is chairing the project. The grant will be applied toward the second of three phases of the project, which includes rehabilitation of the two flights of stairs, replacement of stair treads, installation and upgrade of hand railings, and installation of additional steel supports to strengthen the structure.

## **5 - Tater Knob Fire Tower, Kentucky**

The final restoration grant for 2009 was awarded for the restoration of the Tater Knob Fire Tower, near Cave Run Lake on the Daniel Boone National Forest. The tower was badly damaged in a December 2008 arson fire. KY FFLA Director Danny Blevins is leading the effort; in addition to the USFS and the KY FFLA, other local groups from Rowan, Bath, and Menifee counties are partnering in the effort. Cost estimates range from \$3000 to \$5000.

## **A - Emergency Stabilization Grant - Duckett Top Lookout Tower, North Carolina**

The first ever grant from the emergency stabilization fund was awarded to Duckett Top's new official lookout steward, FFLA member Wes Greene. The \$150 grant assisted in the

purchasing of supplies for the repainting and maintenance of the two-story live-in lookout tower. Wes funded the remaining expense of paint and supplies. NCFS had replaced Duckett Top's roof in 2008. Duckett Top is one of the leading examples of the synergistic partnership between the FFLA and the Forest Service.

Gary Weber  
Treasurer



# Vermont Chapter Report 2009

2009 was a quiet Year here in Vermont. There are a number of repairs that need to be done including roof repairs at the following Tower Sites: Okemo (near Ludlow), Bald (near Westmore), and Stratton (near Bondville). Cabin work needs to be done at Bald Mountain as well.

The most exciting News is the proposed Restoration of the Stratton Mountain Tower in 2010 by the combined effort of the USFS and Green Mountain Club which will include Cabin Restoration and Wood Treading on the Tower itself.

Thanks to Mark Haughwout and Kevin Williamson for input to this Report.

Sincerely,  
Peter Hayes

# **Virginia Chapter Report 2009**

Since becoming the Virginia Director, I have reached out and contacted the members in the district. Return communications have been slow, but Rick Butler and I have carried out extensive correspondence. My wife and I plan to visit his office at the Virginia Department of Forestry in early May 2010. He reports that he has a tower located in his area. My hope is that this will open the way for additional towers in the Old Dominion.

Bob Wright

# Eastern Washington Chapter Report 2009

**MEMBERSHIP:** 46 paid members.

15 complimentary members; Agency Personnel (Colville-Okanogan-Wenatchee-Umatilla NFS's, DNR NE and SE Regions, Washington State Parks, Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Yakama Nation), Butler Fund Administrator.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Ending Balance of \$953.37.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

A change in Chapter Leadership occurred during the year as Dave Bula stepped down as Chapter Director to be more fully involved in his role as Western Deputy Director. A job he has excelled at.

The 2009 Western Conference was hosted by the Western Washington Chapter in Snohomish. The Eastern Washington Chapter was able to lend a hand by taking care of registrations for the event and contributing to the purchase of the new FFLA Western Conference Banner. W. Wash. Director Forrest Clark more than reciprocated in kind by contributing a portion of the surplus funds raised at the Conference into the E. Wash. Chapter Account. The grand finale of the Conference was an outstanding lookout tour within the Yakama Nation. Yakama Fire Dispatcher, Bonnie Spencer, organized crew and vehicles to transport those FFLA members on the tour. It was an incredible day.

New FFLA Brochures were distributed to the NE Wash. Fairgrounds Ag-Center Building in Colville. The fairgrounds is the site of the relocated DNR lookout; Stranger Mountain LO. This facility is used for many local functions, including last summer's 150 Year Anniversary of the Military Fort Colville. Brochures were also distributed to the new Kettle Falls Information Center. This info center is a joint project between the Kettle Falls Chamber of Commerce, Colville NF and the Coulee Dam NRA/National Park Service. It serves as the Eastern Gateway for the Sherman Pass National Scenic Byway.

## **LOOKOUTS:**

Reports were received that Salmo Mountain and Timber Mountain Lookouts on the Colville NF had new lightning protection installed and nearly all repairs complete in preparation for entry into the Cabin Rental Program. However, transfer and retirement of key agency personnel put this project off for yet another year.

Word was also received, through the grapevine, that Leecher Mountain Lookout on the Okanogan NF was refurbished and placed back into service.

Restoration of Columbia Mountain Lookout on the Colville NF began and will be completed next summer. The Colville Local Chapter was represented during the first week of this Passport In Time project that involved hand hewing timbers after a 3 mile hike.

Flat Top LO's cab made its return when volunteers got it rebuilt at the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center at Entiat. The effort to save this unique lookout spanned over a decade. Constant intervention by then Wash. Director Ray Kresek, saved it from the torch. Our National Director Keith Argow and Southern Cascades Local Chapter Leader Dick Morrison were then able to remove the cab and safely store it for several years. When the new home was found, more volunteers joined Keith and Dick to reconstruct the cab. These included; W. Wash. Director Forrest Clark, Joe Chessie, Laurie Cange, Kimmarie Ryan, Leroy Beckwith and Stan Whithouse. These FFLA members contributed 316 hours of work.

Documentation of former lookouts on the Colville NF was made of: Togo Mountain LO where written in the concrete of one footing; C.C.C. "33" was noted. Addy Mountain LO, a CCC era rag camp which was subjected to a WWII Japanese Balloon Bomb attack. Marble Mountain LO where a surprise discovery of the 1942 privy was made. The privy is in pristine condition and includes the names of the builders inside. The structure was unknown to CNF agency personnel and now will be protected because of historical and cultural values.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Plan of work for the coming year includes aiding with the removal of the collapsed garage at Timber Mountain LO to help get this lookout into the Cabin Rental Program. Continue to document former lookout sites with notes of interest.

Organize a fund raiser by enrolling in the Washington State Department of Transportation Free Coffee Program at the Horn School Safety Rest Area during a WSU home football game.

Picnic with the W. Wash. Chapter this summer somewhere in the middle of the State.

Rod Fosback  
E. Wash. Director