



FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION, INC.

San Diego – Riverside Chapter

30645 Spring Deep Terrace ♦ Menifee, California 92584 ♦ 661-747-5517

Email: highpointlookout@yahoo.com ♦ Web: www.socalfirelookouts.org

2009 Annual Report

History:

The San Diego – Riverside Local Chapter was formed in January 2008 under the FFLA Southern California Chapter led by George and Pam Morey.

Purpose:

The San Diego – Riverside Chapter was formed for the purpose of restoring and staffing the remaining fire lookouts on and around the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County, California.

Lookouts:

Seven lookouts remain standing; High Point and Boucher Hill on Palomar Mountain, Lyons Peak, Los Pinos, Hot Springs Mountain, Estelle Mountain and Red Mountain.

Cleveland National Forest Partnership:

The first anniversary of the CNF – FFLA partnership passed on Dec 5, 2009. We accomplished our major goal of restoring and staffing High Point Lookout. We look forward to successfully maintaining our relationship for the remaining 4 years of the agreement and beyond.

Accomplishments:

- Restored the cab of High Point Lookout Station to a 1964 standard.
- Trained 31 fire lookout volunteers.
- Re-opened High Point Lookout for fire detection on June 13, 2009.
- Staffed the lookout 81 of 171 possible days.
- \$40,000 construction grant awarded by San Diego County Board of Supervisors.
- Contributed 1000's of hours to Forest Service volunteer program.
- Continued archiving historic lookout photos and documents.
- Chapter was the subject of several significant local media stories.
- Inspected Lyons Peak and Hot Springs Mountain Lookout sites.
- Maintained relationships with the Forest Service, BLM, CDF Museum, California State Parks and other California fire lookout volunteer programs – SBNFA, ANFFLA, BRF and Miami Mountain Lookouts.
- Continued discussions with California State Parks regarding Boucher Hill Lookout.
- Developed local Email list of over 200 people with restoration and fire lookout interests.
- Developed monthly Email newsletter.
- Participated in the San Diego County Fair and Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival for public information and recruiting purposes.
- Registered chapter with The Presidents Volunteer Service Awards program for volunteer recognition.
- Entered into discussion with REI Stores to educate public on fire lookouts and fire detection.
- Registered 8 former fire lookout sites on the national registry site: www.firetower.org.
- Provided a presentation to The San Diego Archaeological Center.

Media:

- August 2009 – The Boulevard Magazine: *"Volunteers Restore and Staff Fire Lookout on Palomar Mountain"*.
- July 2009 – North County Times: *"PALOMAR MOUNTAIN: Restoration sparks renewed interest in fire lookouts"*.
- July 2009 - San Diego Union-Tribune: *"Smoke detectors--Volunteers, renovated lookout tower on Palomar Mountain take fire watch to higher level"*.

- July 2009 – Riverside Press-Enterprise: “*Volunteer fire spotters put Cleveland National Forest tower back into service*”.
- June 2009 – KGTV San Diego Channel 10: “*Fire lookout towers play a critical role*”.
- Numerous articles – Forest Fire Lookout Association: “*Lookout Network*”.

2010 Plans:

- Pursue grant funds and materials donations for current and future restoration projects.
- Establish Chapter structure and grow membership.
- Host Annual FFLA National Board of Directors meeting.
- Complete Cooperative Association Agreement with California State Parks.
- Encourage completion of reconstruction work at Boucher Hill Lookout by Cal Fire.
- Open Boucher Hill Lookout for fire detection and public interpretation.
- Continue restoration work plan for High Point Fire Lookout Station.
- Open High Point Lookout for public interpretation.
- Continue to encourage the Cleveland National Forest and Descanso Ranger District staff to consider the restoration and staffing of Lyons Peak Lookout.
- Continue to explore a potential project at Hot Springs Mountain Lookout.
- Maintain communication with Cal Fire – Riverside Ranger Unit regarding the status of Estelle Mountain Lookout located at Hemet Air Attack Base.
- Schedule work and training dates.
- Revise training manual and program as needed.
- Identify and train volunteer Fire Lookout Volunteers with chapter staff.
- Create and produce Fire Lookout Host uniform components with chapter specific logos.
- Staff High Point everyday during the fire season.
- Continue historic document and image acquisition.
- Continue to develop website and produce newsletters.
- Pursue all additional media opportunities.
- Continue participation in the San Diego County Fair and Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival for recruiting and public information purposes.
- Invited participant: 45th Annual San Diego/Imperial Counties Congress of History Conference.
- Establish relationship with local REI Stores for the purpose of ongoing recruiting.

Conclusion:

The San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter had an extremely busy year that saw us accomplish the major goal of restoring and staffing High Point Lookout Station.

We look forward to continuing and expanding a successful Fire Lookout Volunteer program in Southern California for our residents, visitors and agency partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Eells,
San Diego-Riverside Chapter Chair

January 23, 2010
Menifee, California