

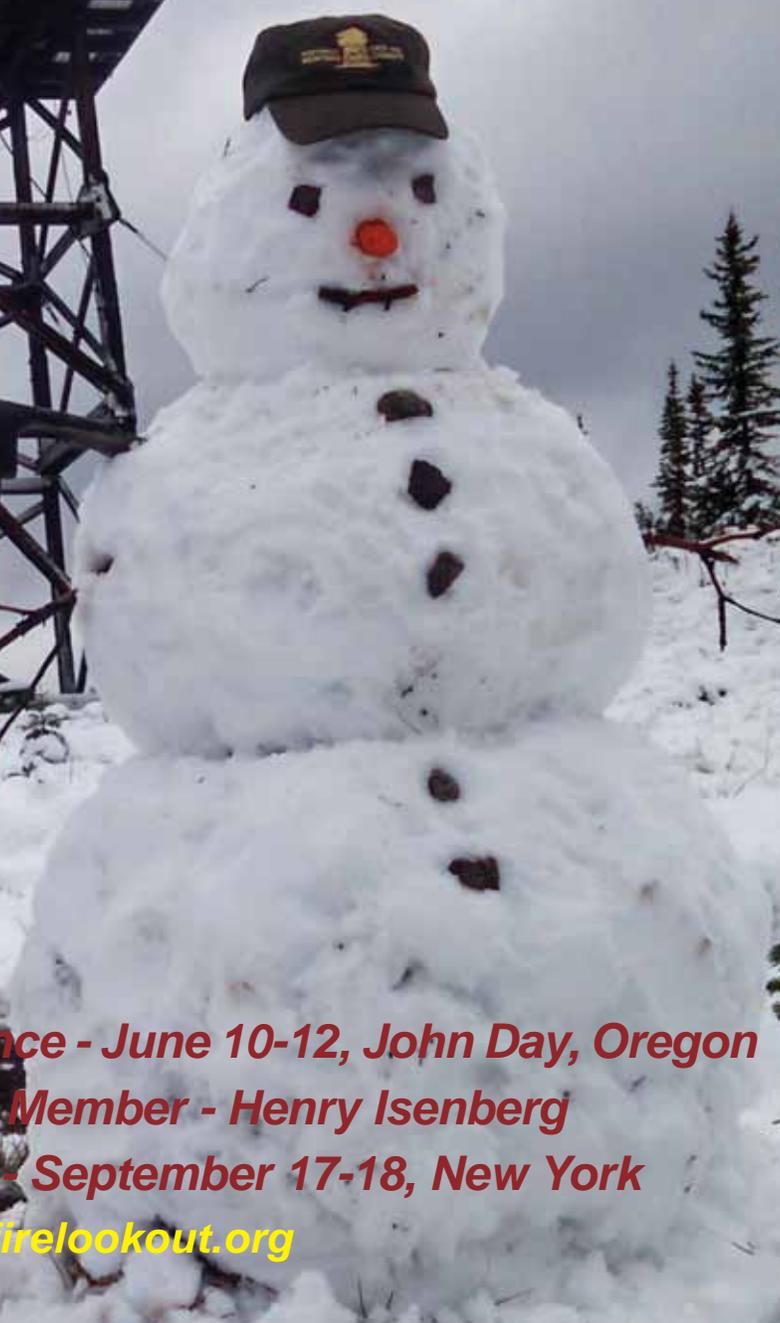


VOL. 26 NO. 4

WINTER 2015-2016

# LOOKOUT NETWORK

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION, INC.



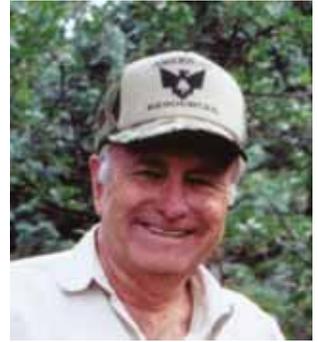
- *2016 Western Conference - June 10-12, John Day, Oregon*
- *FFLA Loses Founding Member - Henry Isenberg*
- *Northeast Conference - September 17-18, New York*

[www.firelookout.org](http://www.firelookout.org)



# ON THE LOOKOUT

From the  
**National Chairman**  
**Keith A. Argow**  
Vienna, Virginia  
Winter 2015-2016



## FIRE TOWERS IN THE HEART OF DIXIE

On Saturday, January 16 we convened the 26th annual meeting of the Forest Fire Lookout Association at the Talladega Ranger Station, on the Talladega National Forest in Talladega, Alabama (guess that is somewhere near Talladega!). Our host, District Ranger Gloria Nielsen, and Alabama National Forests Assistant Archaeologist Marcus Ridley presented a fine program including a review of the multi-year Horn Mountain Lookout restoration. A request by the radio communications



people to construct a new communications tower next to the lookout occasioned a review on its impact on the 100-foot Horn Mountain Fire Tower, an historic landmark visible for many miles. The Forest Fire Lookout Association partnered with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO - a partner in the National Historic Lookout Register) and the CCC Legacy Association representing the CCC enrollees who constructed the

tower, the adjacent picnic area, and the Talladega Mountain Scenic Drive in the 1930's.

At 10 AM we convened the Annual Meeting of the FFLA Board of Directors by tele-conference. Three officers - Chairman Argow, Treasurer/Editor Weber, and Secretary Grimes - were in attendance along with FFLA Alabama Representative Andrew Zerbe. A total of 16 Directors plus 3 members joined in on the phone. It was good meeting, a summary of which appears on p.3. The 2017 Board Meeting will be held near Savannah, Georgia on January 14, a very good time of year to visit southeast Georgia including parts of South Carolina and Florida.

Following the board of directors meeting and additional presentations, including an inspirational story of the restoration on Smith Mountain Fire Tower on a 17,000 acre block on the Lake Martin project woodlands, we were treated to a homemade Alabama stew (two varieties) prepared by hosting Ranger Nielsen. Nobody left hungry!

As we wrapped up the business we realized that we have nearly enough FFLA members in Alabama to form our newest chapter (minimum of 10 members), which we hope will happen soon. The list includes the new FFLA state rep, Andrew Zerbe; the former Alabama state rep, Tom Kaufmann, an historic architect with many NHLR nominations to his credit; a current

member of the Alabama Forestry Commission who had purchased and moved a fire tower to his woodlands; the project leader of the Smith Mountain fire tower restoration; the publisher of a travel magazine that promoted the restoration; a retired district forester with the Alabama Forestry Commission; a U.S. Forest Service District Ranger (our host), and a zone archaeologist for the Forest Service. Add just two more members and we will have the makings of a potentially very effective chapter in Alabama.

The rest of afternoon was spent with an inspection of the continuing Horn Mountain Lookout restoration project, plus visits



Jimmy Lanier, Willey McCollum, Gloria Nielsen, Keith Argow, and Mike Wilson at Horn Mountain Firetower

to other fire towers. Before Gary and I left Alabama, we had visited 42 fire towers, in addition to three in Georgia. In the southeastern U.S. it is possible to visit many standing fire lookouts. As they get older, fewer are used as radio facilities or landmarks for state forestry offices and become surplus. FFLA continues to find new homes for many of them, but we need more hands to lighten the load. Come join us next year, I think you will enjoy it.

**Keith A. Argow**

CEO/Chairman of the Board

[argow@cs.net](mailto:argow@cs.net)

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**Gary Weber, Editor**  
**2590 W Versailles Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815**  
**email: [weblookout@roadrunner.com](mailto:weblookout@roadrunner.com)**

cover photo: I always sleep better at night knowing there's a snowman with a Pulaski guarding my lookout (Baptiste Lookout, MT) - Chuck Manning photo

# Board Meeting Notes

The 2016 FFLA Board Meeting was held at the Talladega Ranger District office in Talladega, Alabama, on January 16. After local presentations, the meeting started at 1000.

Present were Chairman Keith Argow, Treasurer and North Idaho-Montana Director Gary Weber, Secretary and New Jersey Co-director Ray Grimes, Alabama FFLA member Andy Zerbe, host Talladega District Ranger Gloria Nielsen, Assistant Forest Archaeologist Marcus Ridley, Alabama Forestry Commission retiree Willey McCollum, and Jimmy Lanier and Mike Wilson of the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trails Association. Sixteen additional board members joined the meeting via conference call.



The Hollins Firetower cab now in front of the Talladega office

The meeting began with the formal approval of the minutes from last year's meetings as posted on the FFLA website.

The election results tabulated by Elections Officer Rob Hoeye were read; 28 ballots were received out of the 35 sent out, for an 80% return. The three incumbents, Chairman Keith Argow, Eastern Deputy Chair Mark Haughwout, and Treasurer Gary Weber were all re-elected.

A review of Executive Board actions since the January 2015 board meeting confirmed the following actions:

- 1) Discontinuance of membership to the Forest History Society
- 2) Appointment of Mike Finch, Jr. as Southern Deputy Chair
- 3) Elimination of the Life Membership category
- 4) Approval of the new California South Coast Chapter
- 5) Increase of PLUS Membership rate to \$25/year as requested by NWOA to cover costs of increased size magazine
- 6) Offer NWOA members a non-member subscription to LOOKOUT NETWORK for \$10/year

The preliminary Treasurer's Report that had been emailed to all directors was summarized; the FFLA continues to operate well into the black in all categories. The Membership Report was presented; there was a net gain of 52 members in 2015 for an ending total of 1009 paid members. In the Historian's Report, Ron Stafford noted that after getting all the files from Bob Spear, he now has everything on his computer, backed up on external hard drives and DVDs.

With one adjustment to publication costs, the proposed budget that had been sent out to all board members was approved

Webmaster Bill Cobb advised that on-line membership registration and payment is now up and running. Website traffic was up 13% with lookout rentals and lookout jobs being the big-ticket items. Other outdoor sites have linked the FFLA site to theirs; a lot of hits are coming from that.

Reports were given by the three deputy chairs; Eastern Deputy Mark Haughwout noted the conference being hosted by the NY Chapter in September, Western Deputy Howard Verschoor advised that the Western Conference will be held in John Day, Oregon in June, and Southern Deputy Mike Finch thanked previous Southern Deputy Ron Stafford for all his work

## 2016 Approved FFLA Budget

<b>Income</b>	
Balance Forward	\$10,723.60
Dues	\$14,000.00
Donations	\$ 500.00
Chapter Grants Pass-through	\$10,000.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 1,800.00
Interest	\$ 15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,038.60</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Publication	\$12,500.00
Chapter Distributions	\$ 2,000.00
Brochures	\$ 3,000.00
Restoration Grants	\$ 2,500.00
Emergency Stabilization Grants	\$ 300.00
Chapter Grants Pass-through	\$10,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 2,000.00
Merchandise Purchase	\$ 1,500.00
Operations	\$ 1,000.00
History/Archive	\$ 1,000.00
Website Upgrade	\$ 500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,300.00</b>
<b>Year-end Balance</b>	<b>\$ 738.60</b>

before moving over to the Historian position.

In old business, Chairman Argow went over the details of the FFLA finally obtaining liability insurance. Specifics as to any coverage limitations will be forthcoming.

New business included a proposal for recognition of lookout enthusiasts' visits to a certain number of lookouts in a given state. Details of this concept are to be worked out.

The idea of a "restoration guide" was also presented. This would include dos and don'ts and tips so others who would like to work on a lookout or fire tower would have some guidance on getting started and some of the things that might be encountered during a project.

Brief chapter reports were given by all present or on the call. Full reports are posted on the FFLA website.

The 2017 Board Meeting will be held January 14, 2017 (MLK weekend), with plans for again utilizing the conference call format. The Savannah, Georgia area has been targeted for the physical meeting site.

**Minutes and reports are available on the FFLA website**

## Before and After the Board Meeting

Prior to the meeting, everyone gathered at the ranger station at 8:30 a.m. After introductions, Marcus Ridley gave a presentation on the Horn Mountain project, including the role the FFLA played in the efforts to preserve the historic site. Willey McCollum had several interesting stories from his days with AFC and proved to be a great source of historical information. Andy Zerbe told of his quest to visit all towers and former sites in the state; he has a good start on that part of the state north of his home in Birmingham. After the meeting, Jimmy Lanier and Mike Wilson gave a presentation on the restoration of the Smith Mountain tower that Keith, Ray, and Gary just happened to have visited the day before and recognized as one of the finest tower restorations seen, especially in terms of providing for public safety. FFLA member and restoration specialist David Vana was involved in the project; Mike also worked with David on other tower projects to the point that David tried to lure Mike away from his Alabama home to come work full-time in New York! Following the delicious lunch provided by Gloria, it was off to visit Horn Mountain!

--- see Alabama Tower Touring in Spring issue ---

# FFLA NEWS

## Western Conference

John Day, Oregon June 10-12

The 2016 FFLA Western Conference will be held in John Day, Oregon the weekend of June 10-12 at The Outpost. The conference will again have the morning sessions Friday and Saturday, with afternoon lookout trips both days, as well as all day Sunday. For those arriving early, tours are also planned for Thursday, June 9. Out of the 25 lookouts within a half-day drive of John Day, host Howard Verschoor has a dozen identified for these tours. Further conference details will be in the Spring issue, but lodging/camping options are below.

### LODGING

America's Best Value Inn, 390 West Main Street, John Day  
<http://www.americasbestvalueinn.com>, 541-575-1462

Best Western, 315 West Main Street, John Day  
<http://www.bestwestern.com>, 541-575-1700

Budget 8, 711 West Main, John Day, 541-575-2155

Dreamers Lodge, 144 N Canyon Blvd, John Day  
<http://www.dreamerslodge.com>, 541-575-0526

Elkhorn Country Motel, 755 S Canyon Blvd, John Day, 541-575-2111

John Day Motel, 250 East Main Street, John Day, 541-575-9000

Boulder Creek Ranch, Middle Fork of John Day River  
<http://www.bouldercreekranch.net>, 541-575-1827

Blue Mountain Lodge, 150 West Main, Mt Vernon  
<http://www.bluemntlodge.com>, 541-421-3031

Prairie Rose Guesthouse, 206 E. Front Street, Prairie City  
<https://theprairieroseguesthouse.wordpress.com/>, 620-2020

Riverside School House B&B, 28076 North River Rd, Prairie City  
<http://www.riversideschoolhouse.com/>, 541-820-4731

Historic Hotel Prairie, 112 Front Street, Prairie City  
<http://hotelprairie.com/>, 541-820-4800

Prairiewinkle Inn, 134 Front St, Prairie City, 541-820-4369

John Day Valley Rentals, John Day and Prairie City  
<http://www.johndayvalleyrentals.com/>, 415-748-8697

Pine Shadows Getaway Cabins, 25923 Green Haven Rd, Prairie City  
<http://www.pineshadowsgetaway.com/>, 541-820-3736

### CAMPING

Grant Co. Fairgrounds RV Park, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day  
<http://www.grantcountyfairgrounds.com/rvpark.php>  
541-575-1900, Full hookups, Tent, Showers, Reservations

Clyde Holliday State Park, 6 miles west of John Day, Hwy 26  
541-932-4453, Full hookups, Tent, Showers

Prairie City Depot RV Park, Main & Bridge St., Prairie City  
541-820-3605, Full hookups, Tent, Showers

Bates State Park, Middle Fork Rd., Bates 541-448-2585, Tent

There are several USFS campgrounds within 45 minutes of John Day

## Save the Date - Northeastern Conference

On the weekend of September 17th and 18th, the New York Chapter of the FFLA will be hosting the Northeastern Conference in the Adirondacks. Quite a bit of progress has been made; a location and schedule should be available for the next issue. Stay tuned for more details and keep that weekend open! If you have suggestions or would like to help out, please contact New York Director Laurie Rankin.

## New California - South Coast Chapter

With well over half of the membership of the parent Southern California chapter, the San Diego-Riverside local chapter inquired about becoming a full-fledged chapter. With the concurrence of Southern California Directors Pam and George Morey, this was approved. The chapter's area will follow the coast north and include the Los Padres NF. Before to this, SD-R leader Curt Waite had turned over that post to Scott McClintock, who accepted the interim Director position.

## Directory/Webpage Updates

New York Director Laurie Rankin has a new email:  
[lauriejrankin@gmail.com](mailto:lauriejrankin@gmail.com).

California Sierra/Nevada Director Bill Luedeke has a new FFLA-related email: [wluedekefflasnc@gmail.com](mailto:wluedekefflasnc@gmail.com).

FFLA California Pacific Director Bill Ulmer has a new website up for the Central California Western Region of his chapter's area [www.ffla-ccwr.org/](http://www.ffla-ccwr.org/).

FFLA member Tom Kremer's web page chronicles Minnesota's towers <http://minnesotafiretower.blogspot.com/>.

## Henry L. Isenberg

The FFLA lost another of its founding members when Henry L. Isenberg, 56, passed away from an apparent heart attack January 15. FFLA board members thought it strange when Henry wasn't on the board meeting conference call on the 16th, then learned why later in the day when word was received that he had died the night before. Henry had had health issues during the past several years.

Henry was born in Maine on February 8, 1959 to 17-year old single mother Mary Cummings, and was placed out for adoption. Henry became a fire tower operator for the Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control, and was well known as "Sharon Tower" until health issues forced him out of the tower several years ago. While a tower operator, most of his peers in the department thought he was the best lookout they had.

As Henry became interested in fire tower research, he sent inquiries to other states. His inquiry to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry was handed off to one Stephen Cummings (who it turned out was a distant relative), and the rest is history.... starting with that first meeting of the "Committee to Establish an Association of Lookout Enthusiasts" at Hopewell Fire Tower in January of 1990 where Henry, Steve, and nine others became the founders of what would become the Forest Fire Lookout Association. From the start, Henry was the Massachusetts Chapter Director, later that became the Southern New England Chapter, as Rhode Island and Connecticut were included. In 1993, Henry was elected as the first FFLA Archivist, but became the FFLA's second chairman on a write-in campaign in 1994, serving two terms. In 2004, he was elected to the Eastern Deputy Chair position that he held for two terms. Henry had a veritable wealth of lookout and fire tower knowledge, so was the FFLA's first "Answerman", responding to internet inquiries; he maintained that role until his death.

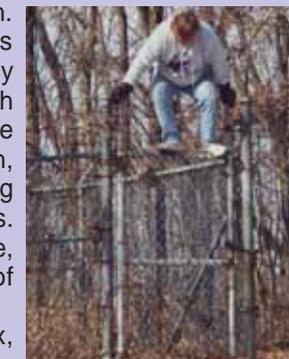
Henry was involved in various restoration projects, including early efforts at Beebe Hill, New York, with Mark Haughwout. He had a true passion for lookouts and research, and loved to work in the field looking for sites and visiting standing towers. He enjoyed visiting towers elsewhere, especially during several years of annual winter trips to Florida.

Henry was a gifted, complex, and sometimes contrary person; he liked to be involved in things, sometimes dramatically, but always with a love of lookouts in his heart!



Henry Receiving the Doug Newman Award in 2000

In 1993, Henry was elected as the first FFLA Archivist, but became the FFLA's second chairman on a write-in campaign in 1994, serving two terms. In 2004, he was elected to the Eastern Deputy Chair position that he held for two terms. Henry had a veritable wealth of lookout and fire tower knowledge, so was the FFLA's first "Answerman", responding to internet inquiries; he maintained that role until his death.



Fences couldn't keep Henry away from a tower!

Rest in Peace, Henry.

# Three Fingers Lookout has a New Roof

It is a challenge just getting to Three Fingers much less working on the roof of the 1931 L-4 lookout perched on a 6,854' pinnacle with sheer drop-offs, but FFLA member and Everett Mountaineers Lookout and Trail Maintenance Committee (LOTM) project leader Arthur Wright and his team of volunteers were up to it. Their September 6-14 project culminated in a new weather-tight roof on Three Fingers Lookout in the Boulder River Wilderness in Washington's Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

While work on the roof may have started in September, the project began more than a year before that with all of the detailed planning. Arthur, LOTM Chair (and FFLA Director) Forrest Clark, and others first had to determine everything that would be needed and then go about acquiring all of the materials, supplies, and tools. Decisions had to be made, such as the one to use yellow cedar shingles for maximum longevity. Projects such as this on National Forest lands (and in wilderness) don't come off without their share of paperwork - analyses, reviews, and approvals, that all take time.

Weather had the ability to be a deal-breaker in the airlift of the materials and supplies, but the chosen day, August 24, turned out to be clear and the slingload was perfectly delivered by the Snohomish County Sheriff's helicopter to the "back porch" of the lookout, where Arthur, FFLA member Don Sanderson, and Brian Berggren were waiting to receive it.

On the rainy morning of Sunday, September 6, Arthur, Gwen Tollefson, Matt Burton, and Skylar Esparza started off by bicycling nearly nine miles of uphill closed road and then hiking more than four miles of trail to camp at Goat Flats - all with 50-pound packs. The next morning, after waiting for the sun to help dry things out, they continued on, reaching the top by mid-afternoon. There were plenty of tasks to be done before tackling the roof - cleaning, painting, miscellaneous repairs,



and this time, adding support to the center beam to re-level the lookout that had developed a sag in the middle. (And the roofers weren't there yet, anyway.)

On an evening radio call with his wife Annie, Arthur found that their lead roofer had come down with the flu, so wouldn't be coming. On Wednesday, Matt and Skylar had to leave, but Dustin Wittmier (the second roofer), Don Sanderson, and Lois Peterson were on their way in.

Roof work began on Thursday with the removal of the old roof. As with most



tasks at Three Fingers, there were extra challenges - the old shingles had to have nails removed and then be sorted and bundled to be hauled out.



By Friday, installation of the new roof had started, but it was time for Gwen and Lois to head off the mountain, leaving



Arthur, Don, and Dustin. Don had to leave on Sunday, leaving Arthur and Dustin to finish up and head down on Monday.

When it was all over, the project took three days longer than planned - the old roof couldn't be removed before there was assurance that a roofer would be there to put the new one on, demolition of the old roof was tedious and took extra time to duplicate the nailing pattern and shingling details, and instead of two professional



roofers, there was only one. Over 400 hours of all-volunteer labor went into the project, one that likely would have never come to fruition without Arthur's leadership, organization, and hard work.

Thanks, Arthur!



Dustin - Finishing the ridgecap (above), Standing by the finished product (below)



(All photos courtesy of Arthur Wright)

For additional photos of the project, go to <https://picasaweb.google.com/Arthur.Wright/ThreeFingersReRoofSept6132015>.

Volunteer Gwen Tollefson's account of her part of the project is online at <https://bootsontail.wordpress.com/2015/10/27/re-roofing-the-top-of-the-world/>.

For more information on the Everett Mountaineers Lookout and Trail Maintenance Committee and the lookouts they maintain, go to [www.everettmountaineers.org/LOTM/LOTM.html](http://www.everettmountaineers.org/LOTM/LOTM.html).



One of the perks of working at Three Fingers

# Notes from All Over

## MAINE

### 2015 Survey

The 2015 survey of Maine's lookout inventory is now complete. Out of 143 known sites, **56 are still standing**, with 3 still staffed by volunteers. This is down by 1 from 2014. The reduction was due to **Mount Abraham**, which we lost due to high winds. The footings gave away and the tower toppled over. It remains on the summit.

### Squaw Mountain Update

Now that the rebuilt cab has been placed on the steel at the visitors center, we have moved onto constructing items that will go into the cab. Over the winter, we will rebuild a map table and search for vintage items such as a telephone and radio. Outside construction of a staircase to the cab and deck will restart in the spring.

### Mount Agamenticus Update

This year's Go Fund Me campaign raised over \$10,000 for the restoration effort, but other hurdles exist before any work can be done. Town officials and the York Volunteer Fire Department agree that a structural analysis be conducted before any restoration efforts begin. The town also needs to look into the tower ownership, which involves researching the currently expired state lease on the tower. And finally, the town and fire department still need to decide if the lookout still adds enough value for the effort to continue. If the project is given the green light, it will likely begin next summer.

**Bill Cobb**

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

During 2015 there were 98 fires in New Hampshire that burned 595 acres. Most of this activity occurred during April and May. On the White Mountain National Forest there were only a few small fires that burned less than one acre total. Bare ground conditions continued in many parts of the State through the end of the year but precipitation and colder temperatures reduced fire danger.

The State hired a competent contractor who did very good rehabilitation work at Mt. Prospect. There is still a bit more work to complete next spring.

The New Year started tragically when a retired Nashua, NH police chief died from smoke inhalation starting a brush pile burn on his property in central NH. In a news release by the Fire Marshall, "The cause of the fire was accidental in nature and included the use



of ignitable liquids in close proximity to an open flame."

Please be careful with fire this year.

**Chris Haartz**

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Forest Heritage Association

In November, the directors of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Association approved a name change to the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association. This will enable them to draw broader support for fundraising for the Museum site that Steve Cummings was able to secure on Highway 30 in Mischeaux State Forest.

## NEW YORK

### Adirondack Fire Tower Program

The Adirondack History Museum presented the Adirondack Fire Tower Program July 22 and August 12. The sessions, led by David Thomas-Train (FFLA member), were designed for children in the 4th to 8th grade level and began with a 1-2 hour class at the Adirondack History Museum in Elizabethtown, followed by a guided hike to the restored Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower in the nearby town of Chesterfield. The class examined Adirondack fire tower history and the natural history of Poke-O-Moonshine and its fire tower in protecting the surrounding forest. The mountain's informative trail brochure, the restored "fire finder" map, and the interpretive photographic panels in the fire tower's cab provided the background for this exploration.

NY FFLA Director Laurie Rankin, with her husband and two of their grandchildren, joined the August program; Laurie noted that it was a very thoughtful and educational presentation with information provided in an interesting and engaging manner to both the young and young at heart who attended. David also offers this to area school groups. As an educator himself, David took care to be certain that the presentation meets the current educational requirements of schools so that instructors find that it fits

in well with their programs and thus encourage attendance. ADK Fire Towers Interpretive Materials are available at <http://www.adkhistorycenter.org/edu/fire.html> in both a printable student booklet and the teacher's edition.

### Lighting of the Fire Tower

The Lighting of the Fire Tower Event with the Catskill Fire Tower Project went well on September 5th with lovely clear skies and all five Catskill towers plus Utsayantha in western Delaware County



lit up. This was a reminder to both local communities and visitors of the men and women who were watching faithfully over the lands from these towers for years.

## WISCONSIN

### Tower Staffing Discontinued

Following evaluation of how fires are reported and considering the age and condition of the state's network of fire towers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is implementing plans to remove the towers from service. Over the past year, the DNR conducted a broad evaluation of its work including the use of lookout towers for fire reporting and the costs to maintain, repair, or replace the 72 fire towers currently utilized throughout the state.

The conclusion of this assessment is that the towers are no longer a necessary tool, and built mainly in the 1930s and '40s, have safety concerns with the cost of replacement being prohibitive. The department has concluded that resources are best spent enhancing aerial detection. DNR Bureau of Forest Protection Director Trent Marty said that with the prevalence of cellphones and that more people live in areas that were once sparsely



Many of Wisconsin's towers have enclosed ladders rather than stairs.

populated, well over 90 percent of the forest fires that occur in the state are reported by citizens, unlike the 1930s when fire towers were the primary means of forest fire detection.

In the early 1930s, DNR had 119 fire lookout towers, mostly in the northern half of the state. Last year, the DNR staffed 60 fire lookout towers; in recent years these towers have only been staffed on average of 17 days per year through use of seasonal employees on a limited call-in basis.

Going forward, DNR fire control will rely solely on aircraft and citizen reporting for the detection of wildfires.

What will happen to the towers remains unclear, although some will likely be dismantled. Several are located on private property with easements from property owners that may dictate their disposition; the DNR will now be notifying private landowners and presenting options for the future of those towers and the sites. FFLA Chairman Keith Argow has been in contact with DNR officials regarding the future of the towers; it is hoped that positive outcomes can be found.

## CALIFORNIA

### Mt. Tom Maintenance

Buck Rock Foundation volunteers replaced the roof on Mt. Tom Lookout (Sierra NF) last summer. A new incinerating toilet was installed and the exterior of the cab, catwalk, and shutters were scraped and painted. The interior should be completed next summer. FFLA member Marta Kroger, the lookout, has been a great advocate and caretaker. There are great views from the lookout!

### Nordhoff Peak Outings

Craig Carey and his Cub Scouts returned to Nordhoff Peak (Los Padres NF) in October. They had a great time watching the Draconids, lounging atop the tower superstructure, and hiking Topatopa Bluffs, and even had a surprise visit from Condor No. 616 while atop the platform! In 2014, they had spent a service weekend there for a microtrash clean-up. More photos can be seen at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/umotamba/sets/72157646750798344/>.

### Hot Springs Cab Collapses

It was discovered last fall that the cab of the Hot Springs Lookout has totally collapsed. Hot Springs Mountain Lookout is located on the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation in northeastern San Diego County near Warner Springs. Hot Springs Mountain is the highest peak in San Diego County at 6,533 feet. The site is the oldest

of all lookouts in the Cleveland National Forest; the original tower went into service in 1912. A second structure replaced the original in 1928 and the current wooden lookout was built in 1942 with a 14 x 14 C-3 cab. When San Diego-Riverside FFLA members visited the site in 2009, they found the structure very weathered and open to the elements with the glass and interior furnishings gone and parts of the roof missing; since then, the cab continued to deteriorate and was partially collapsed in 2014.



## IDAHO

### Bell Mountain Removed

When FFLA member Luke Channer was planning a lookout trip to Southern Idaho last summer, he discovered that the BLM had continued with their program of removing unused lookouts. Bell Mountain Lookout, last staffed in 1998, had been demolished in September 2014.



## WASHINGTON

### Students Work on Heybrook

Students from the Seattle Parks and Recreation's Outdoor Opportunities program spent a week last fall on the Skykomish District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest working on a variety of recreation and trail projects. Under the direction of FFLA Director Forrest Clark, one of their main tasks was to provide maintenance on Heybrook Lookout, replacing old, graffiti-filled railings with new boards.

## MONTANA

### Granite Butte Closer to Rental

While restoration at Granite Butte Lookout was basically complete a year ago, the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest is now working through the bureaucracy, and has made the request for public comments on the proposal to add it to the cabin rental program.

Granite Butte is located on the

Continental Divide between Lincoln and Helena near Stemple Pass. The lookout is positioned directly adjacent to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and offers unobstructed views of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and the greater Helena valley. The lookout will have heat and basic amenities, but visitors will need to provide bedding, water and other personal effects. It will be available for rental year-round with drive-up access in the summer and early fall and over the snow access in winter with a rental fee of \$45 per night.

The Helena NF partnered with the Continental Divide Trail/Montana Wilderness Association in the restoration of the lookout with funding for the project also coming from the Missouri River RAC committee, private donors, and the FFLA. While CDT did not have a lookout work party in 2015, it did work on the trail



nearby and volunteers had the opportunity to check out the lookout.

## NEW MEXICO

### Barillas Tower Hatch Assist

A catwalk hatch assist was installed at Barillas Lookout last summer. While this may not mean much to many, it was a major improvement at Barillas. The two metal catwalk hatch doors weigh 45 pounds each, and are not easy to lift, making it easy to slip and get hurt. Lookout Barb Zinn pushed for this for 3 years, and Santa Fe NF engineering personnel Curtis Steinman, John Jordy and Steve Quintana assembled the counterweight system and got it installed in August! See the video at <https://youtu.be/HPaCkMpkW2k>.

### "Fire Lookout"

by C. Rod Bacon

*We plunge into the future,  
which changes much too fast.  
I sit atop a mountain,  
eyes trained upon the vast.  
Within a weathered structure,  
one of the very last.  
Built to protect the future,  
by a disappearing past.*

# New York Restorations Aboard

## Restoration ... Finally!

The St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers have sat neglected for decades, but not forgotten. To bring areas into compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, both fire towers were proposed for removal by the state Adirondack Park Agency in 2010. Ever since then, the Friends of the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower and the Friends of the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower have led efforts to restore the towers to their former glory and reopen them to the public. In November 2014, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation approved updated unit management plans that deemed the footprint for each tower a historic area. That decision meant work could begin on the aged structures, and that's exactly what happened last fall.

The St. Regis tower was built in 1918 and Hurricane in 1919. The state closed 62 of its 103 operational fire towers in 1971. Others followed, including Hurricane, which was closed in 1979. St. Regis wasn't closed until 1990, making it the longest operating fire observation station in the state. Both structures had been closed to the public ever since.

A big part of making everything come to fruition was the collaboration between the DEC and the Student Conservation Association's Adirondack Program. DEC staff provided guidance and also provided materials via a helicopter drop, but the SCA work crew performed much of the labor. DEC also provided half of the funding for the crew and AmeriCorps, a national community service organization, made up the rest.

## St. Regis Restoration Underway

The construction work group met in July to plan for creating a materials list for the project. FFLA member David Petrelli climbed the tower and took numerous pictures and measurements of various structural parts to facilitate the production of the materials list that was then presented to the DEC. Later on, the group used some modern technology – a drone was used to take photos of some of the areas of the tower that were a bit difficult to see; very helpful to someone not on site. The video from the drone is online at <https://youtu.be/gmxLfcSVr5s>.

On August 21, materials were prepared to be air lifted to St. Regis, Hurricane and Lyon Mountain fire towers. Specific to the St. Regis tower were the lumber for the steps, cab flooring and landings, and the fencing, hardware and

stair stringers. Four days later, three sling loads were airlifted to the summit of St. Regis Mountain.

September 21 was an historic day - restoration actually began! With seven Student Conservation Association members that camped on the mountain, six Friends of St. Regis volunteers, a DEC employee and a DEC/SCA intern, the first flight of stairs was installed and the group



started working their way up the tower. By Wednesday, everything was still on schedule; all the stairs and landings were in and railings were being worked on. The



SCA crew and Friends installed more railings, stairs, safety fencing and the floor of the cab on Thursday; the SCA worked overtime to wrap things up with plans to leave Friday.

After a nice late November hike, three of the Friends battled the cold, blustery wind to install one window panel divider. The metal was pre-cut, but needed to be drilled and bolted onto the frame after the old wooden frame was removed. The pieces fit perfectly, holes were drilled, and a template was made so that the other pieces can be pre-drilled.



A series of anonymous donations has allowed the Friends to contract with David Vana of Davana, LLC to remove the old roof, fabricate new parts and assemble them on the tower. The project is scheduled to take place early to mid-June.

The railing to be placed around the hatch opening is currently being fabricated at the DEC's Saranac Inn Maintenance Center (SIMC). It is being made from 1-1/4" pipe and fittings instead of angle steel. It is being modeled after similar railings produced by Vana. It will be easy to disassemble for transport and reassemble on site. The SIMC will also pre-drill the window framing steel using templates made on the November 24 trip.

The fire tower is not finished, and is NOT open to the public; the cab still needs safety railings, a new roof, and window dividers installed, and the full tower needs painting, but barring unforeseen circumstances, will be open in 2016.

See the Friends' website, [www.friendsofstregis.org](http://www.friendsofstregis.org), or their Facebook page (Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower), <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-St-Regis-Mountain-Fire-Tower-1402437943404006> for updates and photos.

## Hurricane Now Open!

It's been years in the making, but now the wait is over; the process of restoring and rehabilitating the historic Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower has begun and the tower is open!

New York State formally approved a plan to restore the tower for public access in the Fall of 2014, essentially affirming the grass roots campaign, led by Gretna and Melvin "Stub" Longware of Elizabethtown, to oppose the state's original decision to remove the tower. Thousands of local people joined the campaign, and local and county officials also chimed in with letters of support for the tower. Now the tower is listed on the National Register of Historic sites, and it sits on a quarter acre historic district carved out of the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness.

The DEC is overseeing the restoration project, with help from the Friends of Hurricane Mountain. Materials were delivered by a NYS helicopter during the August 25 airlift for this and the St. Regis and Lyon projects.



Late in September and early October, a Student Conservation Association crew, aided by Friends of Spruce Mountain volunteers, spent a week on top replacing all the wooden stairs and landings, installing protective fencing and adding support braces. By the first weekend in October, hikers were back in the observer's cabin on top of the tower! Work started on Monday, September 28; in the wind and rain, the crews got the first run of steps in place, and pre-cut more for the upper sections. Lugging the galvanized angle irons and tools up the mountain was



the hard part. On Friday, the sturdy SCA crew and Friends volunteers wrapped up their project on a cold, windy day; the tower stairs were all replaced, as were landings and the floor in the cab. Safety fence was installed and new bolts added.



Winter 2015-2016

Plenty of work still remains. DEC plans to install a new roof this spring, as well as the emergency services radio repeater called for in the State's restoration plan. This will fill a critical gap in emergency communications in the Eastern High Peaks. Replacing the windows, painting the entire tower, and cleaning up the site itself are also on the to-do list. While the state is shouldering most restoration costs, the Friends of Hurricane Mountain group is responsible for the interpretive materials, which means raising additional funds.

See the Friends' website, <http://www.hurricanefiretower.org/> or their Facebook page (Friends of Hurricane Mountain), <https://www.facebook.com/HurricaneMountainFireTower/> for updates and more photos.

### Opening of Spruce Mountain Tower

On October 8, NYS DEC Acting Commissioner Marc Gerstman announced that Spruce Mountain's rehabilitated fire tower and new trail in the town of Corinth, Saratoga County are open for public use. From the top of the tower, the public can now enjoy views of Vermont, Gore Mountain and the southern Adirondacks, previously unavailable from ground level. The 2.4-mile round-trip trail traverses through wooded gentle terrain with an elevation change of approximately 1,000 feet. Gerstman noted, "Throughout the 20th century, fire towers played a critical role in the protection of New York State's natural resources; now fire towers attract visitors and serve as both historic and economic assets to Adirondack communities."

Student Conservation Association (SCA) Adirondack members began restoration work on the fire tower in 2014 and DEC completed the remainder of the



work in 2015. The 73-foot Aermotor LS-40 tower, on the 2009-foot summit of Spruce Mountain, was built in 1928 and staffed until 1988.

New York State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) provided \$25,000 in support of the work on Spruce Mountain through a trail maintenance agreement with the Adirondack Mountain Club and a conservation stewardship agreement with the Student Conservation Association.

The Adirondack Mountain Club's Professional Trail Crew recently finished a reroute of the trail from private land onto Wilcox Lake Wild Forest and then onto Saratoga Preserving Land and Nature (PLAN) property. Access to the site had been restricted for nearly 20 years until the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors transferred county-owned land atop the mountain to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the state reached a cooperative agreement with Lyme Adirondack Timberlands to cross its land just below the fire tower. In accordance with that conservation easement, the trail is closed to the public during hunting season.

### Lyon Mountain Open

The DEC also announced that the Lyon Mountain fire tower is now open to the public. The 35-foot fire tower was erected in 1917, and remained in operation until 1988. Restoration of the tower began in 2005 and is now complete. Lyon Mountain is located in the northeastern part of Adirondack Park, west of Plattsburgh, NY in the Chazy Highlands Wild Forest; at 3830 feet, it is the highest point in Clinton County and the highest point north of the Saranac River. A new trail was also built to access the tower, it winds its way to the summit with an overall elevation gain of 1900 feet over the 3.4 miles.



## Stillwater Restoration

A volunteer group, Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower (FSFT), is working to restore the fire tower on Stillwater Mountain to make it a hiking destination again and to improve emergency communication at the remote location.

In 2009, the group began working on restoration of the historic 1919 tower, but the project stalled because of a lack of funding. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has an agreement with the group through 2020, and has money budgeted to help cover supplies. NYSDEC is also proposing to install a solar-powered repeater to improve radio communication among forest rangers and other emergency personnel. The tower is on private property owned by Lyme Adirondack Timberlands, but a conservation easement will allow for public access (except during big-game hunting season) once restoration work is completed.

A lot of work was needed on the 47-foot Aermotor LS-40 tower, including wire brushing and painting, installation of new flights of stairs, railings, landings and wire fencing, and concrete repairs. FSFT just got reorganized and began holding work days in late September, but in only two weekends, got an amazing amount of work accomplished. Their first workday saw 21 volunteers including Boy Scouts from Lowville's Troop 162 and their leaders and people from several nearby towns and cities enjoying a gorgeous fall day. Concrete piers were repaired, two sets of stairs reset and pressure treated treads installed, fencing and steel trusses wire brushed, scraped and painted, a new



first landing installed, the cab painted in and out, windows removed, nuts removed from treads on six staircases, and the trail cleared. Their last work weekend of the season was another huge accomplishment; twenty one different volunteers got all of the stair treads replaced, most of the tower painted, and the concrete piers finished. Volunteers even came from New Jersey and Massachusetts. When asked how FSFT got so much done in such a short time, the answers were, "Because they had so



many volunteers they were practically crawling all over each other" and "Because every landing had a volunteer working their butts off." All the jobs that had to get done were made easier and more efficient because they had the right tools and people who knew how to use them. Two DEC employees transported a locking "job box" that was kept at the tower to store material and tools. They transported materials like cement, paint and lumber, and authorized FSFT to use an ATV and trailer to transport heavy equipment needed on workdays. They also secured permission from Lyme Adirondack Timberlands to use a logging road that is not part of the easement.



Thanks to the 34 volunteers, work is way ahead of schedule and will continue in May to replace six more landings and floor of the cab, paint the stairs after the fencing is removed, install new safety fencing, and paint the roof. The tower is still officially closed, but barring unforeseen delays, should be open by the 4th of July.

Visit the group's website, [www.friendsofstillwaterfiretower.com](http://www.friendsofstillwaterfiretower.com) or their Facebook page (Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower) <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Stillwater-Fire-Tower-234801852849/> for updates and additional information.

## Sterling Fire Tower

In September, the Sterling group had a very successful organizational meeting and their work began when engineers secured the tower and began the first footing repair work. While



volunteers were in short supply, work continued through the fall; by November, two footings had been repaired and three landings replaced. As the nice fall weather hung on, they were able to get in three workdays in November and one more in December. Unfortunately, high winds one day prevented getting some of the planned work done, but progress was made with three new tower landings and the removal of the porch floor that was in desperate need of replacement.



## Lookout Items on Zazzle

Oregon FFLA member Elaine Broskie has a wide variety of products featuring Oregon lookouts available on [zazzle.com](http://zazzle.com), including posters, note cards, stamps, calendars, shirts, coffee mugs, envelopes, postcards, and more. Elaine will donate profits from the



lookout items to the FFLA. Visit her zazzle store at [www.zazzle.com/ebroskie1234/](http://www.zazzle.com/ebroskie1234/) and navigate to "Fire Lookouts and occasional guard station". The Bald Butte Sunset image above is available on several products.

# Passport in Time and HistoriCorps Projects

## Big Hole Peak

Phase three of restoration on the historic Big Hole Peak Lookout on the Plains-Thompson Falls Ranger District (Montana-Lolo NF) continued in July and August. Under the direction of Lolo West Zone Archaeologist Erika Karuzas, the accomplishments were a combined effort involving YCC students, Passport in Time



volunteers, Forest Service heritage specialists, the Wild Horse Plains Backcountry Horsemen, and Forest Service retirees.



The last of the rotted logs were replaced, shutters and gable ends were repaired/replaced, and the entire building was painted, now a bright white spot on the mountaintop.

The plan for the final Phase 4 in 2016 is to complete the interior tasks - floor, ceiling, rat-proofing, furniture. The idea is to add the lookout to the rental program after restoration is completed.

Molly Morrison, the last person to staff the lookout during the summer of 1971, again visited her old home during the project for the second year in a row. FFLA member Libby Langston once again produced a short video of the project, with the musical score provided by Molly: <http://youtu.be/dHbRE47ZaS0>.



## Devil's Head

Devil's Head Lookout is one of the best-known fire lookouts in Colorado. Each year, over 15,000 visitors hike up a 1.5-mile trail to the 143 stairs leading up the granite face to the lookout. At the base of the stairs is the ranger's cabin, built in 1951 and still in use. Bill Ellis has staffed Devil's head for over 30 seasons; he and his wife Margaret raised six of their nine children in this two-room cabin.

In 2013 and 2014, HistoriCorps completed the first phases of rehabilitation work on the lookout in partnership with Passport In Time, Forest Fire Lookout Association, State Historical Fund, and the Pike and San Isabel National Forest. Last June, HistoriCorps partnered with Denver's Mile High Youth Corps to repair



the ranger cabin's deteriorating roof. Youth corps members learned to remove roof shingles and underlayment down to the roof deck, remove and replace metal flashing, and install cedar wood shingles.

## Blackhall Lookout

The current R-6 Flat lookout on Blackhall Mountain, perched on a rock outcropping in the Medicine Bow National Forest, was constructed in 1963 to replace a smaller 1916 wooden cab. From 1916 through the late 1970s, the lookout was staffed for detection by firewatchers, like 19 year-old Virginia McIntyre who was stranded with her 12 year-old cousin on the peak during a 1955 forest fire.



During two weeks of last July and August, HistoriCorps staff and volunteers began work on the Wyoming lookout in preparation for it becoming a rental. They rehabbed the windows and doors, replaced deteriorated catwalk decking, repainted the railing and catwalk, and repainted interior paneling. Work will continue this year.

## Hahns Peak

Hahns Peak, traditionally known as Old Baldy, was named after Joseph Henn who discovered gold on the mountain in 1862, but died of starvation and exposure in 1867. Constructed in 1912, the Hahns Peak Lookout is a testament to early construction; it required more than a ton of cement and building materials to be packed up to the 10,759 foot-high site on the Routt NF! The foundation was constructed of broken rocks laid in cement, and the doors and windows were framed dimensional lumber. Hahns Peak has been named one of Colorado's Endangered Places, a program of Colorado Preservation Inc.

HistoriCorps returned to Hahns Peak for a third season, spending four weeks in September continuing to stabilize and restore the structure. HistoriCorps Operations Manager Chris Frank led volunteers and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps members in tasks including replacing roofing material, rehabbing floor structure and wall framing, laying tongue and groove fir flooring, re-framing window and door openings, and rebuilding stairs and railings.



A fourth season is planned for 2016 in partnership with Historic Routt County and the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.



See <http://historiccorps.org/> for upcoming projects and other information.

# Busy Times in Northwest Montana

2015 was an exciting and extremely successful year for the Northwest Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (NWMT-FFLA). Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of their volunteers, members, partners and donors, they completed six projects, with 1000 volunteer hours valued at over \$22,000. Indispensable partners, Backcountry Horsemen and Salmon Forks Outfitters, supported their efforts with time valued at over \$15,000, for a total combined value of over \$37,000 of work contributed to partner Agencies.



The scope of their work continued to grow; in March, Glacier National Park and the NWMT-FFLA signed a cooperative agreement to work together to promote restoration and preservation of the Park's lookouts. These structures are exposed to extreme weather conditions, and the Park's grizzly bears often try to gain access. In May, they completed a Challenge Cost Share Agreement to work with the Kootenai National Forest for the common goal of maintaining and preserving fire lookouts for the next five years. Several upcoming projects partnering with ranger districts on the Kootenai are anticipated in the next few years.

Varied fundraising efforts during the year brought in more than \$4500. A real highlight was the reminiscences of Jeanne Kellar Beaty, author of the 1953 book *Lookout Wife*. Programs such as "Pints for Preservation" and "Brews for Benefits" were a fun way to raise a glass, meet new friends and talk about lookout visits past and future. Thanks to Kalispell Brewery and Cabinet Mountain Brewing Company for hosting these events. NWMT-FFLA also participated in Give Local Flathead, an on-line giving event in May, raising \$770 in 24 hours.

## NWMT-FFLA Receives First Grant

On September 3, Toyota Motor Sales, USA and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), announced a \$4,950 grant award to the NWMT-FFLA. "NEEF and Toyota Motor Sales, USA award grants across the country to local groups who are getting their communities involved with our public lands, which helps ensure the wellbeing of the earth and its people," said Carol Watson, Senior Vice President for Programs for NEEF. "When each of us

plays a role in supporting our environment, all of our actions add up to big impact." The grant will be used to improve NWMT-FFLA's operations by upgrading technology, expanding outreach and engaging in strategic planning. A laptop, QuickBooks, and membership/donation management software were some of the first uses of the funds and the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan to guide future efforts has begun. NWMT-FFLA is very grateful to NEEF for this grant to help us take their organization to the next level!

## Jumbo Lookout

In early August, NWMT-FFLA volunteers Zoe Zander, Nancy Cronin, and Mark Manning spent three days in the Bob Marshall Wilderness on Jumbo Lookout above the confluence of Youngs Creek, Danaher Creek and the South Fork of the Flathead River. Pack support was provided through Northwest Montana Backcountry Horsemen, including Andy Brelund, Chuck Allen, Robert Eversole, Tina Mae Weber and Tim Weber. Zoe, Nancy and Mark joined up with Spotted Bear Ranger District's Backcountry Facilities Manager, Andy Nelson to work on a number of maintenance and improvement projects including digging a new privy hole, constructing a new hitching rail, cutting firewood, rebuilding



a stone wall, painting trim and shutters, and patching the roof. Thanks go to all the volunteers who participated in this remote project and to Amy Pearson, who was staffing Jumbo Lookout, for her hospitality.



## Baptiste Lookout Picnic Table

While it might seem like a simple task, it took plenty of careful planning and logistical support by NWMT-FFLA's great

partners Rick Mathies, Pam Stocks, and Dawn Brennan from the Backcountry Horsemen to get an unassembled picnic table six miles up the trail to the ridgetop perch of Baptiste Lookout at the edge of Bob Marshall Wilderness. The table, stained by Debo Powers, was reassembled by NWMT-FFLA volunteers Rick and Marli Davis.



## Mud Lake Lookout

This restoration project was 23 miles into the heart of the Bob Marshall Wilderness at Mud Lake Lookout, built in 1932. It required a rock solid partnership between the USFS, Back Country Horsemen, Salmon Forks Outfitters, and volunteers from the NWMT-FFLA. They repaired the cabin, hung new shutters, scraped and painted the structure, installed a wood stove and generally dialed in the interior to make Mud Lake Lookout



a more viable tool for fire management in the Bob. Back Country Horsemen volunteers Chip Beck and John Peine packed supplies and materials into the Salmon Forks cabin. Janis and Mark Moss along with Gordon Gibbs of Salmon Forks Outfitters "bumped up" the food and materials from the South Fork of the Flathead to the worksite. They also went the extra mile and carried a load of gear to the Meadow Creek Trail Head at the end of the hitch. This project was facilitated through the cooperation of Spotted Bear Ranger District managers Seth Carbonari



Mud Lake Lookout 1945 (USFS photo)



and Andy Nelson. This project would not have been possible without the volunteers, Tom Caughlan, Malcolm Brooks, Cole Brooks, Zan Deery, Doug Morehouse and NWMT-FFLA board member and project coordinator, Rick Davis.

### Huckleberry Lookout

NWNT-FFLA volunteers Kathy Butterfield, Greg Evans, and Scott Murphy teamed up with Nick Leritz, Glacier National Park Maintenance, and spent several days last summer at Huckleberry Lookout. Accomplishments included



painting the exterior of the lookout structure while repairs consisted of glazing and painting the many windows that surround cab in addition to securing the guy wires that hold the structure to the mountain top.



### Sex Peak Lookout

In August, NWMT-FFLA volunteers, Cathy Calloway, Daniel Revell, Doug Berglund, Doug Lang, and Chuck Manning participated in the group's first renovation partnership on the Kootenai National Forest. The project, done under the guidance of Jason Cooper and Les Raynor of the Cabinet Ranger District, included repairing two walls, cleaning the



cab ceiling, removing old loose glazing, re-glazing, priming and painting 76 window panes, and removing the door and windows that open for ventilation to be repaired, re-glazed, painted and rehung later in the fall by district employees who were also going to repair the roof, rebuild one window, and replace the shutters.



### Lookout Assessments

Condition assessments were completed on Mount Brown (left), and Apgar (right) lookouts in Glacier National



Park, and Meadow Peak on the Kootenai National Forest. These assessments will be used to determine maintenance schedules in the future. Thanks go to Mark Hufstetler, Molly Tingley, Terry Richmond, Rick Davis, Chuck Manning, Scott Murphy and Sue Paulson for participating in these trips.



### Unexpected Delays

A planned project at Little Napa Lookout in the Swan State Forest was delayed until 2016 to allow for more detailed engineering on some aspects of the needed work; this has been completed, and the project is set to proceed. Some projects were delayed due to weather, or to the vagaries of last summer's busy fire

season; meetings with partners this winter will help determine how to best accommodate this in future years.

### Moran Patrol Cabin Update

In the fall of 2014, NWMT-FFLA purchased siding and trim to support the Moran Patrol Cabin refurbish project. Under the direction of Leif Haugen, Hungry Horse/Glacier View Ranger District employees installed the material. In September, NWMT-FFLA members Steve and Barb Penner lead a group of fellow lookout friends to the site to share the new look; unexpectedly the group shared the four-mile climb with members of the Flathead Hotshot Crew packing new flooring lumber to the cabin site, climbing the trail with smiles on their faces. The sweat and efforts of the hotshot crew and Leif Haugen in saving this historic cabin are



much appreciated! The new siding makes it much easier to spot from the trailhead.



### Snowman Goes Viral

(cover photo)

By September 6, everyone was SO ready for a change to the fire season, but volunteers Nancy and Chuck Manning, who were staffing Baptiste LO, never imagined the change would be so quick and dramatic! The result of the change in the weather was the photo that graces the cover of this issue; it was posted on the NWMT-FFLA Facebook page and was a big hit with 111,563 views, 1073 shares, and 510 comments within a week or so!

Visit <http://www.nwmt-ffla.org> for more information on this very active and extremely successful chapter! Watch the next issue for their 2016 tentative projects.



# The Konocti Fire Lookout Tower Story

by Bill Ulmer



At the FFLA Board Meeting, January 2015, I agreed to accept the Director position for the California-Pacific Chapter. The position had been vacant for over two years with a chapter area that includes the Mendocino National Forest on the north to the Los Padres National Forest to the south and from the Pacific Ocean to I-5 and Highway 99.

The following week an all-out search began to locate existing fire lookout towers in my area to determine the owner. The first chore was to find the status of the tower (private owner, removed, relocated, etc.) and then list the towers that no longer existed. The remaining towers needed to be researched and then make contact with the owner to determine the feasibility of restoration if required and/or possibility of staffing with an FFLA volunteer staff. Many late night finds became exciting and enlightened only to be dashed the following day with the owner's (Cal Fire) typical mind-set of 1980's, **"with cell phones, satellites and video cameras, fire lookouts are no longer needed"**.

Months pasted with the same story line of the 80's, until in early May I received a link for Wolf Mountain Fire Tower, Grass Valley, CA, *Wanted: Volunteer lookouts to staff California fire towers*. Only weeks later I found a link for a news story on the staffing of Copernicus Peak Fire Tower by Cal Fire. These links were forwarded with an introductory letter to many Cal Fire Battalion Commanders with limited results. Then on May 27, I found that "needle in the haystack" that I had been looking for, **Konocti Fire Lookout Tower**.



Now the challenge was for me to know as much of the history of Mt. Konocti Tower and Kelseyville as possible (amazing what's on the internet). I found

that Lake County had a five-year lease with Cal Fire and had purchased over 500 acres surrounding the tower. Lake County developed this property as a park and recreation area.

With many emails and phone calls to Cal Fire, most of the issues were resolved.

1. Memo of Understanding (Cal Fire/FFLA) - In final review
2. Workman Compensation - Cal Fire Volunteer in Prevention (VIP) program
3. Tower Electricity - Generator would be re-installed by Cal Fire
4. Base Radio - Cal Fire to furnish
5. Overnight in the tower - Not at this time, to be reviewed
6. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector in Cab - Open
7. Insulators for Bed Legs - Open
8. Short Stool w/insulated Legs - Open
9. New Map for Osborne - Open
10. Walk-out Kit - Open

With most of the items listed needing further discussing, I agreed to drive to Kelseyville for a two-day meeting (August 17-18) with Lake County and Cal Fire and other members of their staff. I departed August 16 for the 585 miles (12-hour) one-way trip with only one stop for gas. Cal Fire offered the Kelsey-Cobb



Fire Station as "room and board" for several days and I accepted without hesitation. Of course, I re-named the station the Kelseyville Hilton. I had the Captain's quarters and food the Hilton would be proud to serve.

It was a very productive meeting with Cal Fire, except one issue was still unanswered: **How to recruit new volunteers?** Thinking back to 2013 when FFLA San Diego/Riverside Chapter Chairman Curt Waite stepped in front of a camera begging for new volunteers, I had the answer: a Lake County News

story, **Volunteers sought for effort to staff Cal Fire tower on Mt Konocti.**

On my return trip home, I detoured to Morgan Hill and met with Cal Fire's Fire Prevention Specialist regarding the Copernicus Peak Tower on Mount Hamilton. Cal Fire has three towers in Santa Clara County and would like to restore the other two and staff all three. The Copernicus Peak Tower has been staffed by Cal Fire a total of five days this fire season since it was restored.

Within days of returning home, there were 48 names and phone numbers on the list of individuals interested in volunteering for the Konocti Tower. Now the challenge was on my back and mindboggling, how do I properly train and certify the new volunteers 585 miles away? (*Sometimes you get more than you asked for.*) I set out to modify the SD/R training program into a one-day classroom training with extra days of in-tower training. The training dates were established for September 12th and 13th. Recognizing my task was overwhelming, SD/R Chapter member Shane Harris agreed to travel to Kelseyville and help with the training.

On September 11, Shane and I started the 585-mile journey to the Kelseyville Hilton. Greg Bertelli, (Cal Fire Battalion Chief), met us after dinner and we discussed training of the new recruits, which was to be held on September 12th. The Kelseyville Fire Department set up for the training and the local crew was



great and gave us assistance setting up tables and chairs for whatever we needed.

Training went well until 1330 when the three Cal Fire Firefighters giving the Fire Shelter training were suddenly interrupted with a message of "Return to Duty". Shane Harris stepped up and completed the Fire Shelter training process. Within five minutes of the initial call, approximately ten of the class attendees received calls that their house was burning or a neighbor's property was on fire. With permission for them to leave,



we continued with those remaining. This was the beginning of what is now the well-known "Valley Fire" which burned 73,700 acres, destroyed 585 homes and hundreds of other buildings, threatened 7,473 other homes, displaced 13,000 people, injured four of the 4,096 firefighters fighting the fire, and had three confirmed deaths.

Shane and I returned to Kelsey-Cobb Fire Station and were informed that the Cal Fire station we were staying at was three miles from the fire, and CHP had already set up a roadblock 100 feet up from the station. We packed our gear, secured the station and drove towards Kelseyville as we plotted our strategy. The massive column of smoke was impressive and we watched Pyrocumulus clouds form. Shane called the Kelseyville Fire Station and told them the situation and they told us to come down and they would find us beds. We offered our assistance to the crew and then we went and bought pizzas to feed ourselves and the crew. Cell and internet reception was almost nil as thick smoke enveloped the area, so we decided it was pointless to try and email people to cancel the second day, and we would just wait and see who showed up.

We woke on Sunday to the air thick, choking with smoke, and ash drifting in the air like a light snow. About 15 people showed up (all expecting the day to be cancelled). From 1330 Saturday until 0800 the next morning the fire had grown to 20,000 acres, needless to say our in-tower training for September 13th was cancelled. In an attempt not to lose the momentum, we developed a new plan for in-tower training. One of the new volunteers (Randall Grindle) who has over 25 years of experience as a fire lookout, eight of those years at the Konocti Tower, volunteered to do all of the in-tower training using our current manuals and procedures.

Mother Nature made her intentions clear that weekend, but all things considered, it was a successful training course. I'm very pleased on getting this new chapter up and running (almost) and hope to have many more soon.

<http://www.ffla-ccwr.org/>

## North Mountain Lookout

Perched atop North Mountain, near the rustic town of Darrington, Washington is North Mountain Lookout, a tower once prominent in The North Cascades, but presently a ghost of its former eminence and is in need of some tender loving care. A plan has been implemented by a group of enthusiastic folks who want to restore the lookout to its former golden heyday.

**Friends of North Mountain** is a grass roots organization that is building community and preserving history through the restoration of the North Mountain Lookout. It is their vision that restoring the lookout will foster pride among townspeople in Darrington, impacted by the tragic mudslide near Oso in 2014. Upon completion, the North Mountain Lookout will be available for nightly rental, bringing visitors to this rural town and providing local residents with an opportunity to share their unique history and culture.

Their goal is to have the lookout ready to rent by Spring 2017. Guests will have use of propane for heat and cooking as well as panoramic windows and the wraparound catwalk to take in the world-class scenery. With over 2,000 volunteer-hours to date, beams have been replaced to make the tower structurally sound, a new roof was installed on the cab, and the outhouse has been rebuilt. After the initial investment and once restoration is completed, the rental system should cover maintenance and operating expenses for years to come.

Work is planned to continue at North Mountain; the first 2016 workparty is scheduled for April 15. Go to their facebook page (Restore the North Mountain Lookout), [www.facebook.com/northmountainlookout](http://www.facebook.com/northmountainlookout) or their website, <http://northmountainlookout.com/> for updates and more information.

### CROWDFUNDING UPDATE!

On March 7th, the Friends went public in a 40-day indiegogo.com internet campaign designed to raise \$50,000 to fund the next phase - the big stuff - lightning arrestor system, gravel, interior structures, propane lines and the acquisition of an Osborne Fire Finder. This has been all volunteer community effort thus far and will continue to be so. Meeting this monetary goal will ensure that the tower is prepared for nightly rentals. Please share the enthusiasm of this dream with friends and colleagues, and better yet, donate to this most worthy cause! <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/restore-the-north-mountain-lookout--2#/>

## Out from under the Glacier

Photos taken at the top of Mount Adams, Washington in early October show much of what remains of the lookout. This is the most in anyone's memory that the D-6 lookout cabin, built in 1918 and abandoned by the USFS in 1925, has been exposed from beneath the 12,276' summit glacier. **Ray Kresek**



### Firewatch Video Game

Several FFLA members have noted the new video game, Firewatch. Firewatch is a first person adventure video game developed by Campo Santo and published by Panic for Microsoft Windows, OS X, Linux, and PlayStation 4. It was the debut video game by both companies. Firewatch takes place in the Wyoming wilderness in 1989. Players take on the role of Henry, a fire lookout who is assigned to his own tower in the Shoshone National Forest. Through exploration of the surrounding area, Henry uncovers clues about mysterious occurrences in the vicinity that are related to the ransacking of his tower while out on a routine patrol and a shadowy figure that occasionally appears watching him from afar. Henry's only form of communication is a walkie-talkie connecting him to his supervisor, Delilah. Players may choose from a number of dialog options to interact with her when players discover new interactive objects or environments, or refrain from responding. The player's choices will influence the tone of Henry's relationship with Delilah. As the story progresses, new areas will be opened up for players. The game also features a day-night cycle, but time will only shift if players successfully complete all the objectives set for that period of time.

If you're a gamer, check it out!  
<http://www.firewatchgame.com/>

### Electronic Copy of LOOKOUT NETWORK

LOOKOUT NETWORK is available electronically, in pdf format. If you would like to receive the pdf version by email, either in place of, or in addition to the printed copy, please notify Editor Gary Weber at [fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com).

# On Pigeons, Lightning Strikes and Learning the Ropes: A Fire Season in the Ute Fire Tower

By Clare Boerigter

I watched as lightning threaded down behind Hogsback-a butte so named because of a red swathe of rocks stretching down its southern flank-and I traced it as it rushed across the peaks of the High Uinta Mountains. When a ground strike flashed down into nearby Half Moon Park, I felt the breath catch in my chest. A few minutes later, I watched as a plume rose south of the strike. I examined it with cautious excitement but it was only a truck's high floating dust trail.

Last summer was my third fire season on the Ashley National Forest in northeastern Utah, but my first as the lookout at the Ute Fire Tower on Ute Mountain. As the summer fires began raging in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, my old crew and most of my fire buddies disappeared for two-, three-, sometimes four-week-long stretches, while I remained behind at the Ute Tower.

During previous seasons on the Kings Peak Fire Module, I'd suffered through a death march with my crew-10 miles with a 75lb pack. I'd been handed a drip torch, and once a flare gun, and been directed to put fire on the ground-a lot of fire. As an on-the-spot birthday present when I turned twenty-one, I was given a radio without warning and instructed to call in a helicopter's cargo drop. Tower life, after days like these, was an adjustment-but one that I was ready to make.

Completed in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Ute Fire Tower was the first fire lookout in Utah to be built with above-ground living quarters. Today, it is the last remaining lookout tower in the Beehive State. Closed in 2008 due to overwhelming wood rot in its spindly legs, it underwent a complete restoration and was reactivated for service, after a closure of seven seasons, this past summer.

On my first official day as lookout, I discovered with a frisson of excitement that it was the 78th anniversary of the tower's completion. Signed into a wood panel were the names of the C.C.C. workers who had built the tower. At the top in big cursive letters: May 17, 1937. I was the first firefighter to be stationed at the tower as a lookout since 1969. I was the only lookout in the entire state of Utah. This was a new and different sort of challenge, and I had a lot to learn.

My supervisor, Assistant Fire Management Officer Nathan Shinkle, took a progressive approach to the Ute Fire Tower: not only was it an active fire-watch, it would also serve as a living historic monument. My job, then, was two-fold. I was to learn the ways of lookoutry while versing myself in the historic past of the Ute Fire Tower.

I visited nearby Round Top Lookout in Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado, where Phil, a lookout with 26 years of experience, gave me a crash

course in all the basics. I read a binder compiled over the last 30 years with an extensive amount of information about the Ute Tower: everything from blueprints to proper grounding techniques to a far-reaching history of the Ashley National Forest. I even embarked on the exciting, and potentially disastrous, "Homing Pigeon Project." Through this project, Nathan and I sought to re-create a communication technique used by firefighters in the 1920s, in which homing pigeons were used to send messages across difficult terrain. This idea originated with the US military, who successfully deployed carrier pigeons during WWI. After weeks of planning and discussion,



we adopted a small flock of homing pigeons and I began the work of "homing" them to Ute Fire Tower.

The summer passed quickly. We had a fairly uneventful fire season on the Ashley-to my chagrin, I did not call in one single wildfire-yet the Ute Fire Tower managed to keep me more than busy. I received an average of 26 visitors a day at the historic lookout tower, once welcoming 78 people in one 6-hour span. After a handful of deliveries I recited my interpretive program effortlessly: "In 1980, the Ute Tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This spurred the first of two restoration projects..." And as the summer began to wind down, I started to take the tower's homing pigeons out on training flights.



There were days when I resented the 48 steps to the tower cab, the rattling windows and the perpetual buzz of flies who were inextricably drawn to my glass room on stilts. There were days when I leaned against the railing, watching the rains blow in, noting the contours of the mountains, mouthing the names of ridges and lakes so that I would not forget them. There were days when I felt overwhelmed by the never-ending stream of visitors. Or days when I would sit in the silence of a calm afternoon and feel intensely, wonderfully alone.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for me to realize was that the Ute Fire Tower was not mine and that it never would be. It was hard not to feel possessive with my maps on the table, my books on the shelf, my oatmeal in the cupboard beneath the bed. The tower was the stable point from which I watched the forest change. Safe yet silent, it had a presence all its own. I'd latch back the trapdoor, pull open a sticky window, laugh or sing or talk out loud to myself, always aware of the tower, as though the two of us were keeping each other company.

But here's the honest truth: I was just one of many lookouts to have spent their days looking out through that wall of windows. I was one of many people who had worked on the tower, who had cared for it, repaired it, supported it in one way or another. I could lay no valid claim to the Ute Fire Tower, no more than anyone who had come before me, or anyone who would come after.

What I do have, however, are a season's worth of memories and tower knowledge. I now know the view from the tower so intricately that it may as well have been seared into my eyelids. I know the usual shape of the weather-how it fans from west to east-and how the waters of Sheep Creek Lake become that much more visible when the afternoon light hits just right.

I know now that, at night, the only constant light comes from the town of Manila to the north, and that on the Fourth of July I can just make out fireworks as they clear Death Valley so that, for a brief moment, the window panes spark and glow.

Clare Boerigter is an editor for *First Class Lit*, a journal that publishes handwritten fiction, nonfiction, poetry, reviews and other experimental forms that can fit on a postcard. For more of Clare's writing, including essays about her time as a wildland firefighter, visit [clareboerigter.com](http://clareboerigter.com).

## The Cross Shot

Do you have follow-up information, corrections, or comments to a story in *LOOKOUT NETWORK*? "The Cross Shot" was initiated just for that. Send responses to [fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com).

### Indian Hill Follow-up

In the Autumn issue, we reported on two lookouts that received fire damage last summer. We received the following information on Indian Hill (ID), but never heard whether temporary repairs were able to be made at Buck Mountain (WA) before winter set in, although it was known that the DNR had it on their radar.

*At Indian Hill we replaced the two horizontal members that were completely burned through. We braced up the two horizontal braces that were partially burned. The rest should be fine until we complete the repairs next summer.*

*Travis Mechling, PE  
North Zone Engineer  
Forest Service*

*Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forest*

### The Creation of "Linda Lookout"

Keith Lundy recently told us about the original "Linda Lookout" as well as how his new 50th anniversary edition of the book came to be (see New Books, p. 23).

*I did "The Story of Linda Lookout" when I was a mere "pup" on Mt. Holmes Fire Lookout in Yellowstone National Park. Originally I came up with the Linda Lookout cartoon character when I spent my first summer on lookout for the Washington State Dept. of natural Resources on Weatherwax Ridge in the southern foothills of the Olympics, where most of the other lookouts were older women.*



*The original 1965 "Linda" booklet was a 32-pager, selling for 65 cents and was fairly successful. I was really surprised when Naturegraph Publishers contacted me early last year and said they wanted to do a 50th Anniversary edition. They wanted to enlarge it to more than double its original size, so I suggested including some of the early 1960's "Linda" cartoons that had appeared in a lookout newsletter for the DNR lookouts on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. In a way, the new edition became sort of a "memoir" of my earliest summers on lookout, and although most of the folks who manned those lookouts are gone, those remaining still remember "Linda" fondly. A 92-year old member of the FFLA, Marianna Kearney, of Vancouver, WA, kept contacting me while I was working on the book, asking when it would be available, saying she didn't have "all the time in the world to wait for it." I told her I didn't have "all the time in the world to get it done, either" - but now it's out!*

*After eleven summers on lookout, I was lucky to become a permanent Park Ranger for the National Park Service, where I continued doing cartoons and other artwork for a few more decades. I'm currently busy with a book of my NPS cartoons in time for our Centennial, August 25, 2016.*

*Incidentally, I was a ranger for a year or two at Saguaro Nat'l Park near Tucson, AZ, so I enjoyed the article you ran a couple issues back about lookouting there. I've been meaning to send you a photo of the lookout the author mentioned was going to be built. I took the photo while on one of my backcountry horseback patrols. My Chief Ranger at Saguaro had been my boss also at Yellowstone, and he offered to write the Foreword for "The Story of Linda Lookout", which is in this edition as well.*

*Yellowstone currently mans only Mt. Washburn Lookout, which I was on summers of 1970 and 71, but the park has taken care of the lookout structures on Mt. Holmes, Mt. Sheridan, and Pelican Cone. Mt. Holmes is in better shape today than it was in 1963-1967, when I was there. A state of the art, steel lookout tower, Divide Creek Lookout, between Old Faithful and West Thumb, was removed in the 1990's, but the others remain.*

*I always look forward to receiving "Lookout Network", and am hoping to get to some of the get-togethers and conferences sponsored by FFLA in the future.*

*All the best,  
Keith*

# Johnston Hill Fire Tower, Bremen Maine

## Memories of Lucille Bangs, watchman 1953

In July 1953, I replaced Roscoe Hinkley of Waldoboro as watchman at this tower in Bremen, on the coast of Maine. To reach the tower, one must park at the side of Rt. 32 opposite the Medomak turn, and hike less than a mile up a woods trail that was once an old logging road. The tower is a shaft of steel, 65 feet high, reached by climbing six flights of stairs which come up to the tower through a trap door in the floor. Large glass windows completely surround the tower and give an excellent view of the area for 15-20 miles in each direction. I could see a wide expanse of the Atlantic Ocean dotted with green islands and the white sails of boats, the lush green meadows, the dark green wooded tracts, the cultivated fields, the farm homes and the white church spires, while soft sea breezes kept the tower comfortable even on very hot days. Standing there, I could easily understand how the person felt who wrote upon the metal wall of the tower:

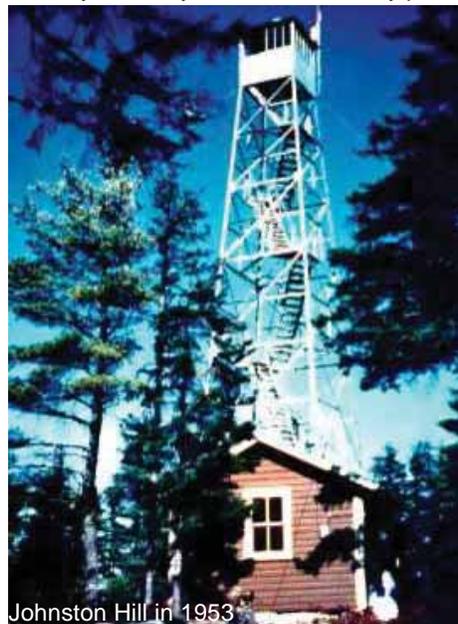
### HE WHO STANDS HERE

### HAS BEEN A BIT NEARER TO HEAVEN

In the center of the tower, there was a big, round table about 30 inches in diameter. On the table was a felt mat of the same size as the table top. Over the mat was a thickness of drawing paper and on top of this was a topographical map of the surrounding county. A plate glass cover one-fourth of an inch thick fitted over the map. An alidade was fixed onto the map table. This instrument has two sightings to look through to spot the exact location of the fire. Other instruments close by were binoculars, the telephone and radio used for Forestry Department communications if help was needed in pinpointing a smoke or blaze. During unusually dry periods, lightning caused many fires. A lightning strike may not show for two or three days after the thunderstorm, for it sometimes smolders underground for a long time before it breaks forth and becomes visible from the tower. Intimate knowledge of the area surrounding the tower was an invaluable aid when dense fog, wet and clinging, rolled in from the ocean and settled over the district for days at a time, blotting out the entire surroundings. The most important duty of a watchman is to keep a constant vigil for new smokes, because speed and accuracy in spotting smokes can save much damage and destruction. When a fire danger is low and a watchman is not headed to the tower, there are many other duties to perform. Property of the

Maine Forest Service must be kept in good repair, the cabin and grounds neat and clean, and the trail cleared. The cabin was outfitted with three beds, a cookstove, Indian pumps and equipment for any emergency. Public relations is another phase of a watchman's work. Visitors are always welcome. They came from many states because the tower was easily reached. To people who were interested, I explained the details of the Forest Service and pointed out the places of interest in the surrounding area. I enjoyed handing out descriptive leaflets to the children to take back to their classrooms so they could tell about their visit to the fire tower, and the valuable services provided by the Maine Forest Service. I told them that although a watchman's chief duty is to watch for fires, he also helps people. One day as I was explaining to a family about a fixed smoke in Thomaston, I was interrupted by a shout of, "Hello, the tower." I rushed to the open window through which the sound came and I shouted, "Where are you?" The answer came back that they were lost. I then shouted, "Is anyone hurt?" A loud "No" came back in reply. So, the shouting match continued until the group was in sight of the tower. The family prepared to leave so that the newcomers could come up into the tower. They were from the Boy's Camp in the valley and had tried to make their way by coming straight through the woods. On the way, they had to go around a large swamp and lost their sense of direction. Because the tower is so high in the air, they could have easily located it if they had only known that, at any place

they could have seen the tower if they had helped a tall boy climb up a tree. They had never heard of such an easy way to find all directions and never thought about trying it. I called the camp director and he assured me that a bus would pick them up at the end of the trail when they came down from the tower. Luckily the boys were near enough and the wind blowing in the right direction so that I could hear their shouts through the open windows, otherwise they might have been lost for a long time. Edward Ifill, a lame man who walked with crutches, was a watchman at the tower before Roscoe Hinkley took over the position. I was told that during a bad fire, Eddie has to make his way on crutches down through the strange woodland because the trail was no longer usable. It was reported that he was very lucky to have made his way out of the woods alive. When the watchman at Mountain Hill Tower in Jefferson had a day off, I had to go up to take his place. That tower served as a weather observation station. Instruments used there to determine the wind velocity were a great improvement over the early method used by watchmen to estimate such conditions. With the use of this and other instruments, day-to-day observations of the area's weather is accurately recorded and reported to the Augusta office. The weather station at the Johnston Hill tower was discontinued as the weather there was too varied and changeable to be considered reliable. A watchman could be enjoying cool sea breezes while others were sweltering in the hot sun. Fog which often enshrouded the tower could make the weather sticks register moisture as if it has rained. The Mountain Hill tower, usually referred to as the Lookout, was familiar to many as a picnic area with tables and fireplaces for public use maintained by the State Highway Commission, making it possible for people to drive directly to the tower. On clear days when the visibility was excellent, they could plainly see the White Mountains in New Hampshire. In the autumn during a terrible hurricane, salt spray from the ocean lashed the Johnston Hill tower and left a coating of salt so thick that I could brush it off with my hand. Weather here, hear the ocean, could be wild or wonderful, but there were occasionally days that were calm and peaceful. So each day held a new adventure, something to look forward to, something to be remembered. **Lucille Bangs, 1996**



## Lookout Show 'n Tell #7 1914 Osborne Firefinder

In 1914, the second year of commercial production by Leupold & Volpel Co., William B. Osborne modified his Fire-Finder; only slightly changing the front and rear upright sights, but



Osborne Front Sights 1913 (L) & 1914 (R) Osborne Rear Sights 1913 (L) & 1914 (R)

discarding the center-pivot bar in favor of a circular ring around the outer rim of a newly designed 14" cast iron plate. This



offered a more accurate azimuth reading on a far distant smoke. It was a transition that would prevail with all new Osborne Firefinder models of the future into the 21st century of production.

**Ray Kresek**  
Fire Lookout Museum  
Spokane, WA

## Fire Tower Lego Set Gathering Support for Smokey Bear/Fire Tower Legos

One of the Smokey Bear/Forest Lego sets being considered is a fire tower.

10,000 supporters are needed to have LEGO consider making the sets available for purchase. Lego requires you to log on and create an i.d. so that they have a legitimate e-mail address so someone cannot just vote over and over again. The link is <https://ideas.lego.com/projects/99422>. There are still six months left, but much more support is needed! Your help can make this a reality!



## Buck Rock Foundation

Buck Rock caps, t-shirts, pins, tote bags  
[www.buckrock.org/giftshop2.html](http://www.buckrock.org/giftshop2.html)

## A North American History of Forest Fire Detection

By C. Rod Bacon

Chapter XXXXI

### LIGHTNING TRACKING

The previous chapter looked at the beginnings of fire patrol by air.

This chapter looks at the beginning of tracking lightning activity.

The Digital Age is a major contributor to the detection and suppression of wild fires. Improvements on the ground to fire finders, GPS as well as infrared scanning from space and remote sensing are recently added firefighting and detection tools. Many new ways to incorporate digital technology are ongoing in tests and implementation. The most widely accepted technological advance has been the system to track lightning activity.

Source: "Fire Management" Summer 1972, Vol. 34, No. 3, "Lightning Sensors Tested" by Peter Kourtz.

Because lightning causes so many fires, scientists in Canada are testing the effectiveness of lightning sensor design. One of the sensors will be selected for testing based on a computer model in 1973.

It is standard practice for most forest protection agencies to supplement their existing detection system with additional visual air patrols in areas thought to be hit by thunderstorms.

Sophisticated combinations of weather radar and spherics equipment capable of accurately tracking storms over large areas are available, but their costs are too high.

Another approach now seems feasible. The concept involves a dense network of inexpensive, limited range, electronic lightning sensors. These sensors would be located at existing forestry weather stations and field offices and would provide a count of the number of lightning flashes that occurred within their range. Such counts would be relayed, possibly along with weather data, to central collecting points where storm tracks would be plotted and detection patrol routes determined.

In 1971 the Forest Fire Research Institute began a program to develop a storm-tracking network based on this concept. The initial phase of this work involved the testing of a research instrument on loan from and designed by Project Skyfire of the USDA Forest Service.

Early in 1972 the Institute contracted the construction of four designs of lightning sensors. These were placed at

a site located on the Central Research Forest of the Canadian Forestry Service near Ottawa. None of the sensors were capable of distinguishing between cloud-to cloud and cloud-to-ground flashes.

During the thunderstorm season of 1973 it is planned to test the storm-tracking concept in a large area of Ontario. The plan is to place 20 to 25 sensors at existing forestry field stations. Each morning the sensor counts will be radioed into the center where a plot could be made of the thunderstorm paths and special lightning patrol routes planned.

Source: "Fire Management Notes" Fall 1981, Vol 42, No 4, "The Fire Management Electronic Age" by Fred McBride.

This summer, the USD1 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will test an electronic system for fire suppression in Vale, Oregon using existing lightning detection equipment, remote automated weather equipment, and existing computer fire behavior models. The new system will provide local fire managers with the information necessary to make accurate judgments on how to respond to a potential fire threat.

In 1974, as part of an effort to improve fire suppression capability, BLM launched a campaign to detect more of the lightning fires. By 1978, BLM had a basic lightning detection system in place. This system covered the entire western United States and Alaska. Lightning data were being sent to every BLM office in a near real-time operation. Other agencies were being provided with the information on a request basis.

The amount and accuracy of the information the lightning system provided was astounding. The fire suppression organization was receiving more information than it could efficiently handle. The number of interested users far exceeded the distribution capability. Early in 1979, the Fire Management Branch of BLM, Scientific Systems Development Division of the Denver Service Center, and the Boise Interagency Fire Center began an analysis of what would be required to make the lightning system the valuable tool that was indicated. By February 1981, the design had been refined to the point that we could proceed with the test of the integrated system in Vale, Oregon. The new system was named the Initial Attack Management System, (IAMS).

# Fire Towers for Sale

## FIRE TOWER RESTORATION CURRENTLY HAS FIVE FIRE TOWERS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

These five towers are all located at owner David Vana's base of operations in Saranac Lake, New York.

The towers currently in stock for sale range in height from 20 feet to 120 feet with cabin sizes ranging from 7' x 7' to 14' x 14'. They will work with any buyers to assure that all parts are in the package. The original bolts are included with each Fire Tower. A sheet of original assembly drawings is included. All will require serious efforts and a serious amount of funds to safely and properly re-assemble as a DIY project. They can also offer a complete installed price for any of these Fire Towers.

DAVANA LLC has saved, restored, and re-erected over twenty towers to date. They also restore towers in situ. New structural steel components and cabin sheet metal packages are available to meet or exceed original specifications. New A325 bolt packages for any Fire Tower are also available. They offer bolt-on options for the taller 100- to 120-foot MC-39 Fire Towers, including flagpoles, restored or new alidades, interior cabin paneling, mid-point deck and railings, as well as a catwalk and railings around the observer's cabin at the top.

Luverne, Alabama - \$24,000.00 This 100-foot tall Aermotor MC-39 tower was taken down in Crenshaw County, Alabama in 2011. It is in fair to good condition, all structural materials are sound. The 7' x 7' Observers Cabin is currently disassembled; a new roof is suggested. The entire tower could be painted or given a totally new hot dipped coating of zinc, which would give the structure a 30 to 50 year no-maintenance finish. All the original frame bolts are present.

Green Cross, North Carolina - \$28,000.00 This 100-foot tall Aermotor MC-39 tower was taken down in Bertie County, North Carolina in 2010. It is in good condition, all structural materials are sound. A few hand railings will be replaced. The 7' x 7' Observers Cabin is assembled; a new roof is suggested. The entire tower could be painted or given a totally new hot dipped coating of zinc, which would give the structure a 30 to 50 year no-maintenance finish. All the original frame bolts are present.

Carpenter, Alabama - \$38,000.00 This 120-foot tall Aermotor MC-39 tower was taken down in Baldwin County, Alabama in 2013. It is in good condition,

all structural materials are sound. A new set of all the X-Braces and small dimension infill structurals has been fabricated and hot dipped. The 7' x 7' Observers Cabin is currently disassembled; a set of new wall and roof panels are needed. The remaining heavier structurals of the tower should be given a totally new hot dipped coating of zinc, which would give the structure a 30 to 50 year no-maintenance finish. All the original frame bolts are present.

O'Neal, Alabama - \$28,000.00 This 60-foot tall Aermotor MC-39 tower was taken down in Limestone County, Alabama in 2011. This tower is in great condition and can go up "As Is". All structural materials are sound; this tower has original expanded metal mesh stair treads and landings. The tower was well-maintained and has been painted several times during its life. The 7' x 7' Observers Cabin is currently assembled, a new roof is suggested. The entire tower could be painted to refresh the tower although if installed "As Is", it will appear to have been there forever in great original condition. All the original frame bolts are present.

Moosehead Mountain, New York - \$15,000.00 This 40-foot Aermotor LS-25 tower was located in St Lawrence County, New York. It was obtained from the person who took it down in 1978 and never used it. It was built in 1916 with a ladder access; an internal tower stairway was added later. The Observers Cabin will require a new set of wall and roof sheet metal panels, roof framework and needs windows. The structural steel is in

**e x c e l l e n t** condition. They will fully inventory and can fabricate any missing parts to assist the buyer. All the original frame bolts are present.

Please call with any questions about these specific Fire Towers or the process of restoration and re-erecting a Fire Tower.

Davana LLC  
Fire Tower Restoration  
393 Fletcher Farm Road  
Bloomingdale, New York 12913  
518-891-4802 home/office  
518-354-0763 cell  
[firetowerrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:firetowerrestoration@gmail.com)



## TWO TOWERS AVAILABLE IN WISCONSIN

Wisconsin FFLA Representative Tom Baer has two 100-foot fire towers for sale at his location in Manitowish Waters, in the northern part of the state. The towers are disassembled, with some new parts. They came out of Florida; at least one is an Aermotor LS-40 model. After



they were delivered to Wisconsin they were gone thru with new pieces made for the damaged or rusted ones. The cabins have been all redone like brand new. The only things missing are the wood for landings and stairs, bolts (new ones are recommended, anyway) and glass for windows. Baer is asking \$20,000 each. Contact Roger Crass, 715-617-2608.



## Lookout Lightning Protection



Montana FFLA member Mike Kuefler is a certified lightning protection specialist; Kuefler Lightning Protection, Inc. has been

used by the Forest Service for several lookout projects. KLP is based in St. Ignatius, Montana, but also has offices in Florida, Georgia and Minnesota. Visit their website, [www.kuefler-lightning.com/](http://www.kuefler-lightning.com/), email [mkuefler@kuefler-lightning.com](mailto:mkuefler@kuefler-lightning.com), or phone 406-745-3800.



# FFLA MERCHANDISE

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 (<https://www.paypal.com/>)



Payable to [fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com)

## FFLA CAPS

Embroidered FFLA logo caps are now in stock, available in two styles, both adjustable to fit. For those preferring the stand-up, shaped style, structured caps are available. The unstructured style is available for those preferring soft, low-profile caps. Both styles come in charcoal gray or forest green. Specify structured (left) or unstructured (right) style. \$15.00 each + \$3.00 shipping/handling

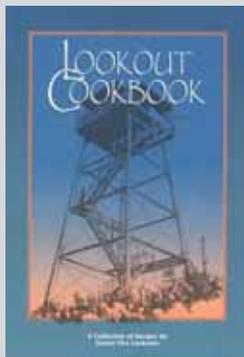


## LOOKOUT COOKBOOK

**A Collection of Recipes by Forest Fire Lookouts**

by Libby Langston

*Lookout Cookbook* is a blend of recipes, history, personal stories, and over 100 photographs bringing together the lookout staffers, their stations, and their creativity. *Lookout Cookbook* is a cooperative venture between the North Idaho/Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Lolo National Forest and the Museum of North Idaho.



\$14.95 each + \$4.00 s/h for first book, \$1.00 s/h for each additional book to same address.

### FFLA Logo Decals

Full-color FFLA logo vinyl decals with rear adhesive. Three sizes are now available, the large is 5" across (3-3/4" per side), the medium is 3-1/2" across (2-1/2" per side), and the small is 2-1/2" across (1-3/4" per side). The small decal is ideal for hardhat applications, the medium is the same size as the popular FFLA multi-colored patch.

Large (5") decals, \$1.50 each, Medium (3-1/2") \$1.00 each, Small (2-1/2") \$0.75 each. Shipping: \$.50 per order

### FFLA CAN COOLERS

**Keep your drinks colder longer while displaying the FFLA logo!**

The crisp white FFLA logo outline stands out on two sides of the royal blue foam can cooler. The coolers are made of polyurethane foam with a no-slip grip. 2 for \$5.00 + \$2.00 s/h



### FFLA PINS and PATCHES

**New larger size pins!**  
 New FFLA logo lapel pins are now in stock! The new larger sized pins (right) measure 1 inch across (3/4" per side).

Multi-colored embroidered FFLA logo patches (lower left), measuring 2-1/2 inches per side (3-1/2" across), are also available.

The pins and patches are \$5.00 each, including shipping/handling.



### FFLA Brochures

The bright orange-colored FFLA membership recruitment brochures will be reprinted this spring. Brochures will be available to anyone with access to lookouts or other places to make them available to prospective new members. Contact Gary Weber or your chapter director to arrange for a supply.



Black/white design w/4-color FFLA logo on Ash color shirts

**Wide range of sizes available!**

- T-shirts (short-sleeve) S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$13.00
- T-shirts (long-sleeve) S, M, L, XL, 2X \$15.00
- Sweatshirts (long-sleeve) S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$20.00
- Shipping/handling: t-shirts \$3, sweatshirts \$5 (additional shipping for larger orders)

### NEW T-SHIRT Small Logo

FFLA Logo on Left Chest short-sleeve Forest Green S, M, L, XL, 2X \$15.00 + \$3.00 s/h



### LOOKOUT NETWORK CD

The entire collection of LOOKOUT NETWORK issues is now available on CD. Each issue, beginning with Vol.1, No.1, has been scanned and saved as a .pdf file. An index is also included to easily search for past articles. As a bonus, a variety of local/regional editions produced prior to the advent of central printing/ mailing are also included! \$20.00 each, includes shipping/handling

### Cornell Hill Tower Patch

The patch commemorating New York's Cornell Hill Fire Tower and Camp Saratoga (Spring 2011 issue) is still available. The 3-1/2" x 4" patch may be ordered from "FFLA-Gary Weber", \$10.00 each (includes s/h).



# Books

## **FIRE LOOKOUTS OF THE NORTHWEST**

**Lookout Inventory - Revised 2015** by Ray Kresek. Nearly 500 of the 3,344 lookout sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana are updated with the latest status compiled in this 86-page book that complements *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. Proceeds go to the non-profit Fire Lookout Museum. \$20.00 check or money order to: Fire Lookout Museum, 123 W. Westview, Spokane, WA 99218, 509-466-9171, [rkresek@comcast.net](mailto:rkresek@comcast.net), [www.firelookouts.com](http://www.firelookouts.com).

**FIRE LOOKOUTS OF THE NORTHWEST, Third Edition** by Ray Kresek, [Check for Availability](#) from Fire Lookout Museum.

**FOUR-ELEVEN! Pulaskis, Planes & Forest Fires** by Rich Faletto. Four summers around Lake Chelan on Washington's Wenatchee NF in the early 1960s. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1452892903

**A VIEW FROM THE TOP: Maryland's Fire Towers** by Barbara M. Garner, Descriptions of all of Maryland's fire towers - 46 locations. Dozens of maps and photos. \$16.95 + \$4.00 s/h from Barbara Garner, 608 Norhurst Way, Baltimore, Maryland 21228, 410-788-3767.

**BETWEEN LAND & SKY: A Fire Lookout Story** by Dixie Boyle. Former FFLA director's experiences from twenty years as a fire lookout. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1432704397

**BETWEEN FOREST AND SKY: A Fire Tower Journal** by Sharon Stratton. A fire tower journal of several seasons in northern Alberta. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1894974166

**STANDING WATCH: The Fire Towers of Arizona** by Eileen Moore. Features the state's eighty-one fire towers and cabins and includes 115 photos. \$13.99 plus \$3.00 s/h from [www.mortenmoorepublishing.com](http://www.mortenmoorepublishing.com).

**CLIMBING THE LADDER LESS TRAVELED, Adventures, Insights and Life Journeys** by Joe Bill. \$15.00 (includes s/h) from Mountain Forest Publishing, 12240 N. Barrel Cactus Way, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

**BUCKSKIN LARCH AND BEDROCK** by Mike Hiler. Collection of poems and passages from the Central Washington Cascades. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1453844074

**HIGH-MOUNTAIN TWO-MANNER** by Frank Fowler - A Montana smokejumper's memoir based on letters home to his mother. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1599269570

**LOOKOUTS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION** is available online: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/handle/1957/9577>.

**FINDING FIRE: A Personal History of Fire Lookouts in Lane County, Oregon** by Doug Newman. From bookstores - ISBN: 0964843439 or [www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/)

**FIRE LOOKOUT HIKES IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, Second Edition** by Mike Potter, \$24.95 (US) includes s/h, to Luminous Compositions, 2815 Lionel Cres SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 6B1. e-mail: [luminouscompositions@shaw.ca](mailto:luminouscompositions@shaw.ca). Also available from bookstores. ISBN: 0969443854

**EYES OF THE FOREST** by Vivian Demuth. Novel set in the boreal forests of Canada. ISBN: 9780968562352. Available from bookstores.

**FIRE WATCHER** by Vivian Demuth. Collection of poems written at a Canadian fire tower. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1550716964

**I REMEMBER WHEN: The Untold Story of Helen Ellett** by Randy Kneer, The story of the courageous Dickinson Hill Observer in Grafton, New York. \$9.95 + \$2.00 shipping/handling from: Podskoch Press, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424, 860-267-2442.

**HIKING NORTH CAROLINA'S LOOKOUT TOWERS** by Peter Barr. Guidebook to the lookout towers in western North Carolina. [peterontheat.com/hiking-north-carolinas-lookout-towers/](http://peterontheat.com/hiking-north-carolinas-lookout-towers/), \$15.00 (includes s/h), or email Peter at [pjbarr@gmail.com](mailto:pjbarr@gmail.com). ISBN: 0895873567

**NORTHWEST MONTANA FIRE LOOKOUTS: A Hiking Guide** by Steve Rains. Hiking guide to 30 lookouts includes trailhead directions, route statistics, and photos. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0988948001

**BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, Harney Peak and the Historic Fire Lookout Towers** (Images of America Series) by Jan Cerney and Roberta Sago, Over 200 images of Black Hills lookouts. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0738583707

**GUARDING DINOSAURS** by Jean Burt Polhamus. The 1953 adventures of a young couple serving as fire lookouts on Round Top in Dinosaur National Monument. Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

**THIS IS OUR FOREST: A Collection of Stories from a Lookout-Smokechaser Who Worked in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana and Idaho** by Harold E. Coffman. Out of print, may be available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) or other used bookstores. ISBN: 0971554005

**LONELY ON THE MOUNTAIN: A Skier's Memoir** by George M. Henderson, Memoir of growing up in Montana and Idaho logging camps, as an Oregon lookout and smokechaser, and as a pioneer in the development of skiing on Mount Hood. \$23.00 + \$3.00 s/h, from Donna Henderson, 14050 Maxfield Creek Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361, [dnnhndrsn@gmail.com](mailto:dnnhndrsn@gmail.com). Also available at the Government Camp (OR) General Store, or bookstores. ISBN: 1412082331

**MOUNTAINS OF MEMORY: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness** by Don Scheese. Available from [www.uiowapress.org/](http://www.uiowapress.org/) or from bookstores. ISBN: 0877457840

**LOOKING OUT FOR OUR FORESTS, the Evolution of a Plan to Protect New Hampshire's Woodlands from Fire** by Iris W. Baird, \$20.00 + \$2.00 shipping from: Iris W. Baird, 11 Richardson Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

**A FIELD GUIDE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE TOWERS, second revised edition** by Chris Haartz and Iris W. Baird, \$5.00 + \$1.50 shipping (same address as above).

**FROM YORK TO THE ALLAGASH, Forest Fire Lookouts of Maine** by David N. Hilton. Limited number of copies still available at [www.firewackerworld.sellorfind.com/store/products/](http://www.firewackerworld.sellorfind.com/store/products/), or at bookstores. ISBN: 1890454044

**THE FIRE OBSERVATION TOWERS OF NEW YORK STATE, Survivors That Still Stand Guard** by Paul Laskey. Available in bookstores. ISBN: 0974620408

**FISH CREEK: A Western Adventure** by Robert Lodder - Working on Fish Creek Lookout, near Grangeville, Idaho in 1960 and 1961. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1420861301

## Les Joslin Books

**UNCLE SAM'S CABINS, A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West** by Les Joslin. Revised and enlarged edition of *Uncle Sam's Cabins*. The original edition, long sold out, contained the stories of 75 historic ranger and guard stations. This new, revised, enlarged edition has 92 (including the one that's served its purpose at three locations since 1933 and inspired this book). The 333 pages include 260 historic and current photographs and eight maps. \$20.00 (includes s/h) from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708, 541-330-0331, [www.wildernessheritage.com](http://www.wildernessheritage.com).

Other books by FFLA member Les Joslin are also available from Wilderness Associates: **TOIYABE PATROL: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s**, \$14.95 (s/h included), **RANGER TRAILS: The Life and Times of a Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger in the West on the La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes National Forests, 1907-1913** by John Riis, prologue/epilogue by Les Joslin, \$15.00 (s/h included), **WALT PERRY: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon** by Walt Perry, edited by Les Joslin, \$20.00 (s/h included).

## Marty Podskoch Books

**ADIRONDACK 102 CLUB, Your Passport & Guide to the North Country** by Martin Podskoch. An attempt to get people to visit and get to know all the 102 towns and villages in the Adirondacks. Autographed copy, \$20 + \$3 s/h, info at [www.adirondack102club.com](http://www.adirondack102club.com).

Other books by former FFLA NY Director Marty Podskoch are featured on another of his websites, [www.adirondackstories.com](http://www.adirondackstories.com): **ADIRONDACK CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMPS: Their History, Memories and Legacy**, \$20.00, **ADIRONDACK STORIES, Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK STORIES II, 101 More Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Northern Districts** \$20.00, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Southern Districts** \$20.00, **FIRE TOWERS OF THE CATSKILLS, Their History and Lore** (reprint with new cover design) \$20.00. Add \$3.00 s/h (for 1 or more books). Send check or money order to: Podskoch Press, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424, 860-267-2442.

**MORTON PEAK** by Jack Dietz. Novel set at Morton Peak Lookout in the San Bernardino NF. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1441511938

**FIRE WATCH, A Summer to be Remembered** by Ham Rideout. The "Summer of 42" on two Wenatchee NF lookouts. \$15.25 + \$3.00 shipping, online at: [www.steilacoom.net/rideout/](http://www.steilacoom.net/rideout/).

**HOW TO RENT A FIRE LOOKOUT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST** (2nd Edition, 2005) by Tish McFadden and Tom Foley. Available in bookstores. ISBN: 0899973841

**FIRE TOWER** by Jack Kestner (republished in 2007) online at [www.clinchmountainpress.net](http://www.clinchmountainpress.net)

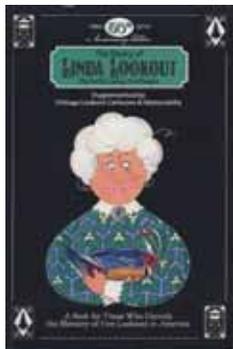
**FIRE SEASON: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout** by Philip Connors, Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0061859362

## New Books!

### THE STORY OF LINDA LOOKOUT (50th Anniversary Edition)

by Keith Lundy Hoofnagle (FFLA Member)  
Naturegraph Publishers, 2016, paperback,  
72 pp. ISBN: 0879612835

This anniversary edition supplements the original 32-page booklet, published by Naturegraph fifty years ago, with vintage lookout cartoons and memorabilia. This history of lookouts through cartoons, humor, and information gives knowledge of what living high on an isolated mountain top 24-7 in a lookout was like, including the terrifying thunder and lightning storms. Fires were spotted and reported, the lingo was a set of basic codes, brief and to the point sent by radio. This is a book for those who cherish the memory of fire lookouts in America.



Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

### Coming Soon!

#### Fire Lookouts of Oregon (Images of America Series)

by Cheryl Hill (FFLA Member)  
The story of Oregon's fire lookouts and the effort to save the ones that are left.



Publication Date: March 28

### Other Recent Books

Richard H. Holm, Jr. Books

**BOUND FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY II, A History of Airstrips in the Wallawas, Hells Canyon, and the Lower Salmon River**, FFLA member Holm's second volume on backcountry airstrips provides a comprehensive history of more than forty of the isolated airstrips of west central Idaho and eastern Oregon. Interesting stories, maps and over 250 photographs are included. \$29.95 + \$6.00 shipping from Cold Mountain Press, c/o Richard Holm Jr., P.O. Box 294, McCall, ID 83638 or online at [www.coldmountainpress.com](http://www.coldmountainpress.com).

Other books by Holm, available at Cold Mountain Press, are the first volume, **BOUND FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY, A History of Idaho's Remote Airstrips**, a comprehensive history of nearly one hundred of Idaho's isolated airstrips, with 560 pages and over 1,000 photos, \$59.95 + \$6.00 shipping, and his first book, **POINTS OF PROMINENCE, Fire Lookouts of the Payette National Forest**, \$16.00 + \$3.50 shipping.

### BLUE RIDGE FIRE TOWERS

by Robert Sorrell (FFLA Member)  
Arcadia Publishing, 2015, paperback, 144  
pp. ISBN: 1626198179

Fire lookout towers have graced the Blue Ridge Mountains for more than a century. By the 1930s, states and the federal government had built thousands of towers around the country, many in the Blue Ridge. Many of these towers still stand as a testament to their significance. Author Robert Sorrell details the fascinating history of the lookouts in the Blue Ridge forests. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).



### WALKING ON TREES

#### Views from the Back Country

by Russell Drew Hanbey  
Third Place Books, 2014, paperback, 152  
pp. ISBN: 0991494008

This collection of stories details the author's working journey through the wild lands of the North Cascades of Washington and beyond, sketching out a seasonal life working a variety of jobs in remote locations, including fire lookout, smoke chaser and wilderness ranger. He was a caretaker for Green Mountain Lookout throughout the 90's. Available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) or [www.thirdplacebooks.com](http://www.thirdplacebooks.com).



### Vicky MacLean Books

**A HOME IN THE WOODS, Montana's Westside Ranger Stations**, the second of two volumes covering the history of Forest Service ranger stations west of the Continental Divide in Montana. These facilities range from small backcountry guard stations to extensive facilities with housing for staff as well as seasonal crews. This book provides information about the facilities and helps preserve Forest Service history. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). ISBN: 1503164454. Other MacLean books are the companion, **HOME ON THE RANGE, Montana's Eastside Ranger Stations**, Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1494367041, and **The HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, The Early Days**, Helena NF History includes a chapter on lookouts. \$16.95 from the Montana Discovery Foundation, 406-495-3711.

### FIRE IN THE FOREST

#### Forest Service Fire Fighters

by Philip G. Smith (FFLA Member)  
Synopsis of fire incidents, events, and training in Arizona and California in the early 1970's, a time of not always being politically correct. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). ISBN: 1492887013

### SMOKECHASER (Third Edition)

by Warren Yahr (FFLA Member)  
New pictures and two chapters added to the original 1995 edition, telling the story of a Wisconsin teenager's lookout experiences during the 1940s on the remote Bungalow Ranger District of Idaho's Clearwater NF. Available thru [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and other bookstores. ISBN: 1467595225

### FIRE LOOKOUTS OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

#### (Images of America Series)

by David R. Butler (FFLA Member)  
The story of the rise and fall of the extensive lookout network that protected Glacier National Park, including those still operating today. ISBN: 1467131148. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

### BAKER BUTTE JOURNAL 2010 Plus Some Pretty Good Recipes

by Shirley Payne (FFLA Member)  
Journal of the 2010 summer at Baker Butte Lookout in Arizona's Coconino NF watching for forest fires, with 99 recipes. \$20.00 + \$5.00 s/h (for one or more books); ordering information at [www.berryqueenpress.com/](http://www.berryqueenpress.com/)

**THE ENCHANTMENT OF NEW MEXICO: Local Stories of the Land & People** by Dixie Boyle Stories include a section on the fire lookouts of the Cibola National Forest and more. Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). ISBN: 1499129297

## DVD

### THERAPY

#### Life at Tope Creek Lookout

**Therapy** is a documentary created by Tope Creek Lookout owner, renovator, and savior, Brian Wizard. Time: 2:56.

It follows his life at Tope Creek Lookout for the first ten years after he purchased it in 1991. You see him make the rundown, shot up, abandoned property into a beautiful park-like setting. You see Brian making art, playing music, plowing snow, as well as spotting, calling in, and putting out forest fires. He lives the dream!



"This is the life you could be living"

The unabridged video contains a few seconds of naked man scenes, including peeing over the edge of a 103-foot tall tower from a man's point of view.

There is also an abridged edition without the fun bits (no naked man).

Visit [www.brianwizard.com](http://www.brianwizard.com) to order; look under Store Menu for Therapy DVD. Purchase item securely through Paypal, specify original or abridged version. \$20, plus s/h.



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