

Welcome Everyone.

George & Pam Morey



February, March and April have been busy. Vetter Lookout is open, work parties have



been rebuilding the trail to Slide, Bob Moore has been busy with fundraising for South Mt Hawkins and so on and so on. Thanks to Bob Gregg, Vetter now has it's own weather station. Bob put it in the fenced area where the old weather station was located and everyone is welcome to check it out.

THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard on the Slide trail. WE are now on the hiking trail itself. We will be spending Saturday nights at the lookout soon, by doing this we will be able to get more work done on Sunday.

Special thanks to Mary Wagoner for all the food she brought to our last Saturday of the month BBQ for the Slide work party. Slide Mountain has so many beautiful wild flowers. It also has it's own Poppy field. On Saturday nights we have a campfire so if you have nothing to do come and join us. We all try to top each other's stories. We have campfire games that get a little loud, and just enjoy the fire. You know you learn so much about people around the fire, some things you did not want to know.

WE NEED HELP. Need a few good men or women to help with trail clearing. You should be in good shape because you will be hiking and carrying your tools.



ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
Newsletter
CONTACTS

MAY 2003

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RECONNECT (if you haven't already done it)
Tuesday, May 6, 6:30pm @ the SO.



Fund Raising Campaign to rebuild South Mount Hawkins Fire Lookout. *Bob Moore*

Even though the official "kickoff" for our fund raising campaign is now set for mid-summer a lot of good things are happening. Of the needed nine leadership positions six have been filled. Pam and George Morey again have come forward to be coordinators. Bob Moore is Campaign Chairman, Laurel Wagner is Campaign Treasurer, Ric Opalka is Special Grants Division Leader and Kevin Copley is Public Relations and Special Fund Raising Events Division Leader.

Several people have come forward to help make us successful:

Grants: Hope Passero, Paul Passero, Bob Gregg, Kermit Eller –
P/R: Jean Clark, Deb Kure, Nick Rini, Chuck Mc Fate and John Kalandjian.

Division one: Richard Guzman and Dave Walker.

Keep up to date: www.anffla.org



So you say, what's holding us up? It certainly is not enthusiasm, we've got that. It is a permit obtainment problem. We are in the process of getting some paperwork straightened out and in order so that we can get our fund raising permits. It will take a few weeks to do that and then we're off and campaigning.

In the meantime Progress is being made and the Grants division is putting together a list of foundations for grant solicitation. This division is enthusiastic and full of good ideas and energy.



I have been through several fund raising campaigns in the past and experience tells me that there are two key ingredients to a successful campaign. The first is enthusiasm, the second patience. We have plenty of enthusiasm, people are ready to go. Just a little patience now and we will get started.

ANGELES LOOKOUT PEAKS. *a continuing series by Bob Gregg.*

San Gabriel Peak. Was named by the USGS in 1894. The Wheeler Survey saw the high point to the east from the Santa Susana Mtns. to the west of the San Fernando Valley. With all their gear to set up a triangulation station on that high point they realized after their arrival that there was a higher point by about 100 feet just east. They named the peak they were on Mt. Disappointment and moved to the top of what is now San Gabriel Peak (actually nearby Strawberry is a few feet higher). San Gabriel is derived from the name "Mission del Santo Arcangel San Gabriel de los Temblores". St Gabriel is the Angel of Consolation whose name

means "the Power of God". The Forest Service built a firelookout here in 1927 on a ten foot steel tower and a 14 by 14 cab. It was removed because of all the haze in the LA basin in 1937. Just north of here in the upper reaches of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River and just east of Red Box is Camp Hi Hill. It used to be called Opid Camp. Back on April 5, 1926 a severe rainstorm occurred and the United States record for a one minute rainfall occurred. In that one minute the rain gauge there, installed just a few months before by the US Weather Bureau, recorded 1.03". The caretaker said he was awakened about 2am by a tremendous roar up the canyon that drains San Gabriel Peak to the south. Most of the camp was washed away as were oak trees said to be over 150 years old. The rain fell so hard a flashlight could not penetrate it and it was hard to breath. The high water continued for four hours. In past years the highest he had seen water in the creek was 6 feet but this storm the level rose to 23 feet. In 1956 the one minute record was broken during a thunderstorm in Unionville, Maryland.

Mt. Gleason. Ravenna City, today two miles southwest of Acton on Soledad Creek had a small gold rush in 1868. One of it's leading figures was George Gleason, who was it's first postmaster and superintendant of the rich Eureka Mine which was near today's site of Acton. Seeking timber to shore up the mine, he built the first road to the top of of what would become his namesake, 4 miles south, and accidentally discovered gold high on it' s slope in 1869. It is believed his brother, a map maker, named the peak for him. Mining ended by 1870 and George Gleason left for the Sacramento Mining District in Arizona. In 1904 a resort was planned for the summit but was never built. A lookout tower and stone cabin was here from 1925 to 1948. In 1971 to 1976 the Army had a Nike missile installation here with a radar site. The actual missiles were just east where today the county has a fire station.

Mt. Josephine. Named for Josephine Lippencott, wife of a USGS surveyor, Joe Lippencott who climbed this elevation for a triangulation station in 1894. In 1903 thru 1921 he helped build the three dams on the Santa Ynez River (Cachuma, Gibraltar and Jameson) for the water needs of the Santa Barbara region. He then became thehydraulic engineer on the Owens Valley Aqueduct in 1919 for the City of Los Angeles. A lookout was built in 1936 and burned on November 23, 1976. The foundation still remains.

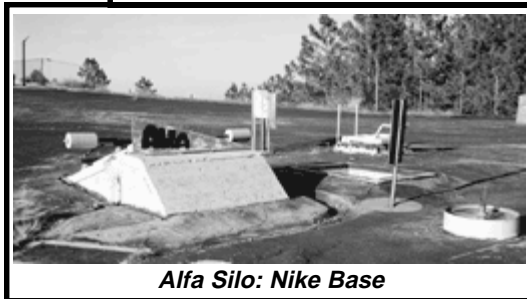


San Gabriel Peak from Mt Disappointment

east from the Santa Susana Mtns. to the west of the San Fernando Valley. With all their gear to set up a triangulation station on that high point they realized after their arrival that there was a higher point by about 100 feet just east. They named the peak they were on Mt. Disappointment and moved to the top of what is now San Gabriel Peak (actually nearby Strawberry is a few feet higher). San Gabriel is derived from the name "Mission del Santo Arcangel San Gabriel de los Temblores". St Gabriel is the Angel of Consolation whose name means "the Power of God". The Forest Service built a firelookout here in 1927 on a ten foot steel tower and a 14 by 14 cab. It was removed because of all the haze in the LA basin in 1937. Just north of here in the upper reaches of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River and just east of Red Box is Camp Hi Hill. It used to be called Opid Camp. Back on April 5, 1926 a severe rainstorm occurred and the United States record for a one minute rainfall occurred. In that one minute the rain gauge there, installed just a few months before by the US Weather Bureau, recorded 1.03". The caretaker said he was awakened about 2am by a tremendous roar up the canyon that drains San Gabriel Peak to the south. Most of the camp was washed away as were oak trees said to be over 150 years old. The rain fell so hard a flashlight could not penetrate it and it was hard to breath. The high water continued for four hours. In past years the highest he had seen water in the creek was 6 feet but this storm the level rose to 23 feet. In 1956 the one minute record was broken during a thunderstorm in Unionville, Maryland.



old Mt Gleason mine bldg c 1976



Alfa Silo: Nike Base



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STONY RIDGE OBSERVATORY. *Bob Moore.* Last December, Kevin Copley and Pam Seble invited Maria and I to visit Stony Ridge Observatory (SRO) and to view the night sky. Pam is a member of the SRO and was very hospitable, informative and energetic. Our evening started at 5:00 p.m. and lasted into the cool, clear night - until about 11:00 p.m.



A little about this observatory. It is located three miles east of Vetter Mountain at 5,675 feet. It was built by and for amateur astronomers. Construction started about 1957 by some fifteen amateurs and it was opened for business in 1963. It is a wonderful concrete building, with a rotating roof and one half dome slot opening to the sky. There is a facility adjacent that serves as kitchen, bedroom, and lab. But George Carroll (d. 1983), a telescope maker, was responsible for the 30 inch reflector telescope and the SBIG ST6 CCD Camera.



The SRO telescope is optically considered one of the finest instruments of its size in the world. In 1963 the telescope was the eighth largest in California and probably the largest amateur telescope in the world. To give you a feel for the size of the scope, in order to view through the “prime focus” you are required to utilize an elevator lift that can raise you to a height of sixteen feet. It is an awesome sensation to be that high and peer into space at another galaxy while looking out the “slot” at tree tops growing on the slopes of Devil’s Canyon. Fantastically moving!



When you’re out and about go see the layout for yourself. Take the road to the right past Vetter’s key box.

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CHILAO FLATS - VETTER MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT *Colin T., Troop Historian*

(from Troop 101 website at <http://www.incaglendale.org/inca/scouts66.html>)

September 20-22, 2002. Troop 101 Campout at Chilao Flats. 12 Scouts and 3 adults camped at



Chilao Flats campsite in the Angeles National Forest. On Saturday we hiked to the Vetter Mountain Fire Lookout. (8 miles round trip)

Incarnation Boy Scout Troop 101 spent a recent weekend camping at Chilao Flats in the Los Angeles National Forest.

Chilao Flats is a quick drive up the Angeles Crest Highway. Soon after hustling from our cars and pitching tents on Friday, it was dark. On Saturday morning, we left camp early and hiked for what seemed like forever along the highway. Finally, we reached the road to the Vetter Mountain Lookout Tower. Along one of our stops was a group of people from Montrose. They had a whole

table of pastries and invited us to have some. We stampeded to their table and ate our fill! Feeling refreshed, we started the trek up to the fire-lookout tower. We arrived about noon and filled up our water bottles. Two fire lookouts told us about their job, and we read about fire safety. The view from top of the tower was breathtaking. You could see the entire mountain range encircling us.

Heading back to camp, some scouts took longer than others because of poor directions. Thanks to our leader, Mr. Doyle, some of us scouts got a car ride back to the campsite after taking too long to get back. The rest of the day was spent playing and relaxing in the great outdoors.



FACTOID In 1916, the last known Grizzly in Southern California was shot



and killed in Los Angeles County. By 1933, bears of any sort were already extinct in the mountains of Southern California. That year, in an attempt to reintroduce bears to the Los Angeles area, rangers from Yosemite National Park introduced 11 California Black Bears to the San Gabriel Mountains near Crystal

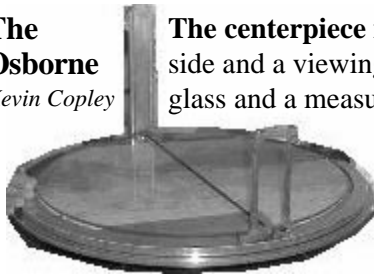
Lake. Biologists estimate that there are now about 150 to 500 Black Bears roaming Angeles National Forest.

Source: <http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/Environment/ev15c.htm>



The Osborne

Kevin Copley



The centerpiece in any historic lookout is a round metal object with crosshairs on one side and a viewing piece on the other. Located on this metal device is a map, a piece of glass and a measuring unit. What is this device? The Osborne !!!!

The Osborne Fire Finder has been the standard instrument used by lookouts to pinpoint potential fire locations for over 80 years. Originally designed by W.B. Osborne in 1920, it is accurate, and requires no power to operate it. The original manufacturer of the Osborne was the Leupold-Volpel Company, based out of Portland, Oregon.

To use the Osborne, one turns the top ring on the instrument until they can look through the eyepiece, see the crosshairs and align that crosshair upon the potential fire, or smoke. Along the outer ring of the Fire Finder is a degree mark. The degree is actually a compass setting, with 0 or 360 being due north. At the base of the eyepiece you will find an arrow. The arrow points at a number. That is the degree you will report to Dispatch. (Township and Range, found on the map, is also a way of reporting the smoke)

Back in the days of yore, when there were several lookouts in the Angeles, a smoke was reported by a tower and the degree was given. Other lookouts that could see the smoke also gave their degree mark. By putting these different views of the potential fire together, Dispatch could triangulate the exact location of the fire.

Osbornes are making a comeback! San Dimas Technology & Development Center is currently working with a manufacturer to build two complete reproduction prototype units. Large scale development begins soon! (If you would like to buy some for your friends, prices begin at \$2400 a piece when ordering 12 or more!)

Coming Events

A day trip across the Old Hwy 99 (Ridge Route) will be coming up this summer. We feel this will be good info if you work Slide Mtn., you can see the hwy from the lookout.



along the Old Ridge Route

Everything else: www.anffla.org

FIRE & RAIN.

March and April rains should yield a normal spring green-up, thereby averting an overly active early fire season. Overall fire danger could remain above average due to long-term drought, the likelihood of above normal temperatures, low amounts of winter snowpack at the mid-elevations, and widespread vegetative dieback due to insect and disease damage. Look for normal initial attack activity through mid-May, with a possible increase from late May to early July. Annual and perennial fuels should undergo a normal spring green-up and become available to carry surface fire as they cure during the typical dry late spring and early summer period.