



VOL. 26 NO. 1

SPRING 2015

LOOKOUT NETWORK

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



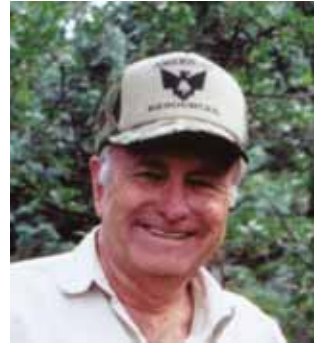
- ***National Historic Lookout Register #1000 Ceremony held***
- ***Northwest Summer Social, July 10-12, Spokane, WA***
- ***Western Conference, September 18-20, Kings Canyon NP, CA***

www.firelookout.org



ON THE LOOKOUT

From the
National Chairman
Keith A. Argow
Vienna, Virginia
Spring 2015



THE FOUR FACES OF FFLA

At 9 AM on Saturday, January 17 I had the pleasure of calling to order the 25th Annual Meeting of the FFLA Board of Directors at the Forest Supervisor's office of the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego, California. It was the third to be held in our new teleconference format and the most successful. There were fifteen Chapter Directors and National Officers calling, our largest participation ever. Attending in person, in addition to myself (Washington, D.C.), was Treasurer/Editor Gary Weber (Idaho), Secretary Ray Grimes (New Jersey), and Southern California Co-directors, Pam and George Morey.

Also around the conference table was a sight I had never seen before: six officers of our hosting FFLA Local Chapter in full lookout observer uniform with name tag, badge and shoulder patch. It was an impressive sight to see, and not missed by Forest Supervisor Will Metz and two of his staff also at the table.

As I write this I can imagine many of you turning several shades of grey (better make that several shades of pale)! You did not sign up for a para-military outfit. Since I have the privilege of knowing a few hundred of you I understand that. You love lookouts for the beauty, solitude, importance in forest protection, and historical significance. Clearly these are casual callings with casual attire. Most of us never need a uniform, but many of us do wear our cap and one of our shirts or T shirts when representing FFLA.

There are good reasons for this. First we want to convey an image that FFLA is a nationwide organization capable of achieving those things we commit to doing. Many of us served in the military and a positive appearance comes naturally. For me that feeling is reinforced with 20 years in the U.S. Forest Service, much of it as a District Ranger at a time when uniforms and appearance were expected forest wide.

THE FOUR FACES OF FFLA:

This brings me to the title of this quarter's column. These four faces are solid evidence of the diversity on our organization. Diverse groups and individuals working together for a common cause are the foundation on which FFLA is growing and achieving our ambitious goals. A year ago in this same column I described the development and rapid growth of our newly designated Local Chapters. Starting with the political science axiom that "all politics is local," I observed that most interest in fire lookouts is also local. Active local chapters and local lookout restoration and staffing projects go hand in hand. Don't be alarmed if you discover that you have more than one face. Nobody wants to be called "two faced" with good reason, it is not a compliment! However being recognized as a "multifaceted individual", capable of handling many issues, is high praise.

Here are the four faces that I can recognize. After reading them, many of you will discover that you can wear any of the

four as the situation arises. That is a big reason why I continue to enjoy serving as your chairman these many years.

1) Volunteer Observers: This face has been around since before FFLA was founded in 1990. Local citizens, landowners, and agency retirees have staffed lookouts for a long time, probably back into the 1950s. As money for staffing declined, their numbers have grown. An outstanding example is the host of the 2015 board meeting, the seventy-member San Diego/Riverside Local Chapter. Their role has been to restore and now staff two very important fire lookouts seven days a week for seven months. One of them, Boucher Hill Lookout in Palomar Mountain State Park has 15,000 visitors a year, requiring two staffers: one to interpret and one to look for fires.

2) The Historians: Perhaps FFLA's greatest achievement has been our ability to pull together the collective effort of many "lookout enthusiasts" who had a hobby of visiting lookouts as well as gathering pictures and historic records of when they were built and with most, when they were removed. FFLA was able to facilitate a remarkable collection of information with the assistance of a Challenge/Cost Share grant from the U.S. Forest Service. The gathering and archiving is an ongoing project that can be seen at www.ffla.org, www.nhfr.org, and www.fflos.com.

3) The Craftsmen: These are the yeomen (God bless them) who contribute thousands of hours maintaining, restoring, and sometimes rebuilding historic lookouts. Since our founding 25 years ago, FFLA members have taken the lead in dozens of projects and participated as members in an additional projects numbering in the hundreds nationwide!

4) Social and Continuing Interest: These include long time members who are no longer able to climb and work as they once did, but do remain loyal supporters and stay involved. They also include new members that found FFLA through a lookout rental or on the web with an interest to get involved as historians, observers, or working on restoration projects.

With a members like this, we have every reason to believe that FFLA has a very bright future.

Keith A. Argow
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LOOKOUT NETWORK (ISSN 2154-4417), is published quarterly by the Forest Fire Lookout Association, Inc., Keith Argow, Publisher, 374 Maple Ave E, in annual Forest Fire Lookout Association membership dues. Non-profit postage paid at Canton, OH and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Forest Fire Lookout Association, 2590 W Versailles Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8127.

Subscribers: Please send us your old address as well as your new address when you move. The Postal Service will not forward your newsletter unless you guarantee forwarding postage with your local post office.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
April 15, 2015

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cover photo: Live Oak Fire Tower, Crestview, FL (see page 9) - photo courtesy of Brian Hughes, Crestview News Bulletin

FFLA News

2015 Leadership Updates Southern Deputy Chair Vacancy

The new year brought in several leadership changes for the FFLA. With the election of officers resulting in Ron Stafford accepting the Historian position, the Southern Deputy Chair position is now vacant; anyone interested should contact Chairman Argow.

Southeastern U.S. Director

At the same time, Keith Argow announced that he was stepping down as Director of the Southeastern U.S. Chapter and appointing Ron Stafford to the position; it covers those southern states that do not have their own chapters.

California-Pacific Director

After the board meeting, Bill Ulmer agreed to accept the director position for the California-Pacific Chapter. The position had been vacant for over two years; the chapter area roughly includes the Mendocino NF to the north and the Los Padres NF to the south and from the Pacific Ocean to I-5 between Red Bluff and Sacramento and to Highway 99 between Sacramento and Bakersfield. Bill is currently the San Diego-Riverside Chapter CFO and the High Point Tower Leader.

New York Director

Laurie Rankin is the new New York Director. Laurie's father, Larry Baker, was a long-time Observer at Balsam Lake Mountain fire tower in the Catskills, where she grew up on the tower. Ever since Balsam Lake and other Catskill towers were renovated and reopened to the public in 2000, Laurie and her husband Tom have been volunteers there and for the last five years have been the volunteer coordinators. Laurie was also involved in the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower club, an organization that unsuccessfully tried to have the fire tower placed back at the summit. She has also been involved in restoration efforts at Utsayantha, Page Pond Hill, and Mount Adams fire towers. She and Tom are members of several outdoor organizations, and have served in various leadership roles. They are avid hikers who have climbed to over 150 fire towers, and have already gotten their two oldest grandchildren started on their fire tower quest by climbing to 13 to date, including all five Catskill towers and two in the Adirondacks.

Due to job time constraints, former director Bill Starr willingly stepped down, having met one of his goals in completing a history of New York fire towers. As best he can with his limited time, he should still be considered a "consultant" on different types/designs of fire towers.

Directory Updates

Other updates include new phone numbers for Northern California Director Vickie Lamoureux and Wyoming Director Buddy Washington, as both have gotten rid of home landline.

Virginia Director Krissy Scholetzky got married last fall and is now Krissy Reynolds, but her other contact information has not changed. Congratulations, Krissy!

Youth Outreach Coordinator Sam Chapman also recently got married; she is retaining her name, but her mailing address has changed. Congratulations, Sam!

See Directory (back page) for all the updated specifics.

Membership Category Dropped

The Executive Committee recently approved a proposal to eliminate the Lifetime option for new memberships. This will not affect existing Lifetime memberships, but will be reflected in new brochures and membership/renewal forms.

2015 FFLA Events Northwest Summer Social

Northwest FFLA members who would be unable to travel to the Western Conference in California have again expressed interest in a local summer get-together. The Fire Lookout Museum at Spokane, Washington will be the "Base Camp" for the informal weekend gathering the weekend of July 10th-12th. A significant number of FFLA members have said they have not visited the dozen lookouts in the Spokane and Priest Lake, Idaho area. This will be that opportunity for day trips on your own, or as a group. The BBQ grill will be on all weekend with burgers, brauts, and beans by the campfire. A limited number of tent campers are welcome on "Back 40" of the museum grounds. A state park campground, RV parks, and several hotels are within minutes of the museum.

Please contact Ray or Rita Kresek with your questions and intentions for the weekend, rkresek@comcast.net or 509-466-9171.

Western Conference

FFLA California Sierra-Nevada Director Chris Fabbro has scheduled the Discovery Room at Grant Grove in Sequoia National Park for the third weekend of September (18th-20th) for the 2015 Western Conference. The chapter is excited about hosting in Sequoia, not just because it's a stunning area with terrific options for the conference and extended vacation potential--the park is turning 125 in September and the Park Service centennial is in 2016, so there will be a buzz building about that, too. Perfect timing to have folks congregate there. Details and registration will follow in the Summer issue.

Feature Stories Online

Several "feature" stories from past issues of *LOOKOUT NETWORK*, as well as links to featured videos, are now posted on the FFLA website at *News and Events* ---> *Feature Articles*. Among the stories are Dolores Decker's "Diary of a First Year Lookout", Harold Keller's "Life and Trail Adventures in Powell Ranger District, Idaho", Gene Miller's "My Summer Experiences of 1956 at Priscilla Peak Lookout", and Austin Post's "Pyramid Mountain". Videos linked include Idaho PTV's "Eyes of the Forest", Clackamas County's "Pechuck Lookout", and the award-winning documentary, "The Lookout", featuring FFLA member Leif Haugen.

San Diego-Riverside Chapter Website

The San Diego-Riverside Chapter webpage, originally developed by former leader Brad Eells, has been resurrected and updated, and is available online at ffa-sandiego.org.

FFLA Local Chapters

Local chapters continue to be a source for "getting things done." Watch for new chapters, such as one to focus on the NHLR's 1000th lookout, Crestview Fire Tower, in Florida.

FFLA local chapters, leaders, and parent chapters are:
San Diego-Riverside, Curt Waite, Southern California
Northwest Montana, Chuck Manning, North Idaho-Montana
Yosemite-High Sierra, Jeff May, California - Sierra Nevada
Medicine Bow, Pat Lynch, Wyoming
Big Horn, Buddy Washington, Wyoming
Pacific Cascade, Forrest Clark, Western Washington
Colville, Rod Fosback, Eastern Washington
Southern Cascades, Dick Morrison, Western Washington
Southwest Virginia, Bob Wright, Virginia
Southern Kentucky, Michael Spanjer, Kentucky
Pillsbury Mountain, Bob Eckler, New York

Board Meeting Notes

The 2015 FFLA Board Meeting was held at the Cleveland National Forest Supervisor's Office in San Diego, California, on January 17. The meeting, which started at 0900, included a conference call.

Present were Chairman Keith Argow, Southern California Directors Pam and George Morey, Treasurer and North Idaho-Montana Director Gary Weber, Secretary and New Jersey Co-director Ray Grimes, San Diego-Riverside chapter leader Curt Waite and chapter officers Bill Ulmer, Ramon Thomas, Scott McClintock, Bill Luedeke, and Neil Cadwallader. Cleveland NF officials present included Forest Supervisor Will Metz, Partnership Coordinator Anabele Cornejo, and Fire Management Officer Brian Rhodes. Fifteen additional board members joined the meeting via conference call.



The election results tabulated by Elections Officer Rob Hoeye were read; 19 ballots were received. Southern Deputy Chair Ron Stafford, Western Deputy Chair Howard Verschoor, and Secretary Ray Grimes were re-elected without opposition. With there having been no nominees for the Historian position, write-in votes resulted in Ron Stafford being elected to the position. Since no one can hold two officer positions, Ron Stafford then stepped down as Southern Deputy Chair and accepted the Historian position.

The Membership Report was presented; there was a net gain of 38 members in 2014 for an ending total of 955 paid members. The Treasurers Report was summarized; income from Dues, Donations, and Merchandise Sales was higher than estimated in the 2014 budget. Several budgeted expenditures did not take place, or came in lower than estimated with only the Merchandise Purchase line item exceeding the budgeted amount. Both reports had previously been sent to board members. The Historian's Report was summarized; the full report is posted on the FFLA website with the chapter reports.

Webmaster Bill Cobb advised that there has been a 214% increase in website traffic this past year. He also advised that efforts are still underway to get PayPal set up on the website to enable members and potential new members to more easily renew or sign up and pay for their memberships online. Henry Isenberg advised that the "Answerman" link from the website has been busy, with many of the questions received having to do with renting lookouts.

A brief update was given on the status of Steve Cummings' Pennsylvania forest fire research files that include fire tower information; it has been moved from his house in Chambersburg to the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum facilities. The material, stored in an unheated building, will not be gone through until spring, at which time the FFLA is invited to help.

At the 2014 Board Meeting, a committee was appointed (Bob Spear, Henry Isenberg, and Mark Haughwout) to seek the most appropriate means of honoring Steve Cummings. Bob

had recently circulated a proposal for creating the Keystone Preservation Fund to honor Steve and to help preserve historic lookout materials and research. Since Bob had not yet joined the call, Henry advised that he had been in contact with Bob and the fund was to be called the Steve Cummings Memorial Fund rather than the Keystone Fund. Creation of this fund was approved.

It was announced that National Historical Lookout Register certificates are now only being produced when requested by the chapter director or the lookout owner/agency. It was requested that directors be notified when lookouts in their area are accepted to the register from online nominations.

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

Chris Fabbro announced that the Western Conference will be held September 18-20 at Grant Grove, in the Kings Canyon portion of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, CA.

Howard Verschoor announced that there will be a Northwest Social July 10-12 at the Fire Lookout Museum in Spokane, WA. Ray Kresek advised that the museum will be the hub for the weekend for those who want to go out to visit area lookouts or to come and just relax and socialize.

The proposed 2015 Budget was presented to the board; it was approved with no changes.

2015 Approved FFLA Budget	
Income	
Balance Forward	\$ 8,303.31
Dues	\$14,000.00
Donations	\$ 300.00
Chapter Grants Pass-through	\$ 5,000.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 1,800.00
Interest	\$ 20.00
Total	\$29,423.31
Expenses	
Publication	\$10,000.00
Chapter Distributions	\$ 2,000.00
Brochures	\$ 3,000.00
Restoration Grants	\$ 2,500.00
Emergency Stabilization Grants	\$ 300.00
Chapter Grants Pass-through	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance	\$ 2,000.00
Merchandise Purchase	\$ 1,400.00
Operations	\$ 1,000.00
History/Archive/Preservation Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Website Upgrade	\$ 500.00
Total	\$28,700.00
Year-end Balance	\$ 723.31

The 2016 Board Meeting will be held January 16, 2016 (MLK weekend), with plans for again utilizing the conference call format. Alabama has been suggested as a possible location for the physical meeting site.

Following the meeting, Cleveland Forest Supervisor Will Metz and FMO Brian Rhodes discussed the evolution of the FFLA San Diego-Riverside Chapter and the value the forest sees in the efforts of the group. Statistics for the lookouts staffed by the chapter volunteers were presented, as well as for Los Pinos Lookout, staffed by CNF personnel. Chapter leader Curt Waite and his chapter officers also discussed the past season's activity and their future plans. Metz presented a plaque recognizing the service provided by the FFLA, followed by Argow presenting a Chairman's Award to the Chapter. (see next page).

Minutes and reports are available on the FFLA website

After the Board Meeting

Awards



Cleveland NF Forest Supervisor Will Metz presented a plaque to Curt Waite recognizing the service provided by the FFLA, specifically the San Diego-Riverside Chapter. Keith Argow then presented a Chairman's Award to the Chapter.

End-of-Season Recognition Lunch

FFLA board members attending the board meeting were treated well afterward by the host San Diego-Riverside Chapter when they were invited to attend the chapter's End of Season Recognition Lunch at the Valley Center Community Hall. In addition to feasting at the potluck, they had the opportunity to meet and visit with many of the volunteers, who were all in full uniform (below).

Touring

After the potluck, Keith Argow, Ray Grimes, and Gary Weber took advantage of the sunny afternoon to make the drive up to Boucher Hill Lookout in Palomar

Mountain State Park. It was a very different sight when compared to visiting five years earlier after the board meeting on a day when the fog was moving in and out the entire time. The bright white paint job on the lookout is quite an improvement over the old pale green!



On Sunday morning, local chapter officers Bill Ulmer and Ramon Thomas picked Keith, Ray, and Gary up at their Escondido motel for the day's adventures. The route led out through Ramona, where the 2010 board meeting had been held, and up the mountain through the historic town of Julian to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. At the park, the group gained access to the normally closed Cuyamaca Peak Fire Road to drive to the top of the mountain, where a lookout once stood and suggestions have been made that it would be a good place to re-build a lookout. One communication tower stood to the north of the lookout site, while another is under construction to the south, and has destroyed a portion of the steps leading up to the footings of the last lookout and



the "lookout rock", which has the outline of the Forest Service shield carved into it, along with names of past lookouts.



After the trip back down the mountain and a Lake Henshaw lunch stop, the group met Curt Waite at I-15 and went to the CalFire Red Mountain Fire Station in Fallbrook. From there, they were escorted up to the top of the mountain, where the shuttered lookout still stands. It was hoped to be able to access the second story of the lookout, but the shutters have been sealed and the stairs either removed or made inaccessible. That, coupled with the numbers of communication towers and vaults, answered the question of whether this was a lookout with the potential to be re-opened.



After that, the group broke up with Ray, Keith, and Gary being dropped back off in Escondido to head closer to their airports for Monday morning flights - Ray back to New Jersey, and Keith and Gary to Atlanta (see story, page 6).



Southeast Touring

The Southern California board meeting weekend wasn't quite enough for Keith Argow and Gary Weber; they headed to the Southeast from San Diego, flying in to Atlanta late Monday afternoon. But, it wasn't so late that they couldn't get to one tower before dark, the **Pike** tower (right) at the Georgia Forestry Commission county office near Griffin, south of Atlanta.



When Keith and Gary headed out Tuesday morning, they had two and a half days before needing to be in the Florida Panhandle for the Crestview NHLR ceremony scheduled for Thursday afternoon ... time to visit a few towers, and that they did!

Their first stop was for a quarter-mile hike up the hill to the abandoned **Lamar** tower that they had run out of daylight trying to reach the evening before. From there, it was on to **Hollonville**, another abandoned tower, and then to Thomaston,



to the **Upson** tower site to see if the tower, auctioned off last fall, had been removed - only the footings remain. Next, it was on to the **Talbot** tower, a relatively well-kept, fenced tower. Their next stop was the **Chatahoochee** tower (left) near Cusseta, staffed by the GFC, under a contract with the Army at nearby Fort Benning. While there, they learned that there was also a staffed tower on the base that neither had previously known of.

Gaining entrance to Fort Benning was easy, but finding someone that knew where the tower was proved to be a little more time-consuming. They were finally directed to the forestry office, where the **Harmony** tower (right) stands, and were also given directions to the **Buena Vista** tower. Forestry personnel would like to be able to also use that tower, but it stands near the edge of one of the firing ranges, with the ever-present danger of an errant round during firing exercises.



After the unplanned time on the base, the route for the rest of the day was adjusted with the plan to be in Florida by nightfall. There was a realtor sign at **Providence** tower, also abandoned and without glass; but it didn't indicate whether the tower was included or just the land. Next was another fact-finding mission, to see if the **Quitman** tower near Georgetown, also sold at auction last year, was still there - and it was, at a vacated GFC office. Their route to Florida went through Alabama, with the abandoned **Abbeville** tower, their

first in that state, followed by the **Memphis** tower (right) at the Houston County Alabama Forestry Commission office. Racing the last rays of daylight, Keith and Gary crossed into Florida in time to get low-light photos of the **Wrights Creek** tower ... eleven towers and one "set of stumps" ... not a bad day!



A foggy Wednesday morning greeted Keith and Gary as they headed to the **Youngstown** tower, at an active Florida Forest Service facility. The abandoned **Moody** tower was still in the fog, but the fog had given way to bright sunshine at the **Port Washington** tower, at a busy FFS compound.

The **Rock Hill** tower stands within a fenced compound on Eglin Air Force Base. After checking in at the designated building, Keith and Gary waited outside the fence until two civilian contractors came out, only to be told that the only person who could authorize access wouldn't be back for over an hour. As the pair went to go back in, Gary got out his camera to take a picture of the tower, less than 100 yards away, through the open gate. He was immediately told that his camera would be confiscated if he took any pictures. He put the camera away, with the thought that the two were just giving he and Keith "the business", since there were no signs or other such restrictions posted outside the fence - and didn't mention the shots taken through the chain link fence while they were waiting!

Next was the **Coldwater** tower, near an active FFS facility,



followed by the **Pace** (left) and **Philpot** towers, both at vacant FFS sites. The **Molino** tower is at an active FFS compound, but the FFS site where the **Oak Grove** tower stands was vacant. An FFS employee lives in the house at the **Allen** tower, but the site is not used for fire equipment. The **Munson** tower is in the compound of the headquarters of the Blackwater River State Forest. Once again, Keith and Gary

used all the available daylight, arriving at the **Laurel Hill** tower and meeting the onsite FFS county forester just before darkness fell. A dozen towers for the day!

Thursday morning's adventure for Keith and Gary started with a stop at the **Okaloosa** tower on Eglin AFB (no fenced compound there) before a planned meeting with the Eglin FMO at his Jackson Guard office next to the **Niceville** tower. He produced a map of the Eglin towers, two of which are in areas inaccessible to the public. He pointed out one along a main highway, and then gave the route over Eglin roads to another. Although that area was officially closed that particular day, he suggested that they try it, that if they weren't to be allowed in the area, they would be stopped in a certain spot. When asked about the previous day's experience at Rock Hill, he said that



was one tower that he didn't have anything to do with, and didn't know what goes on there - if there are fires in that area of the base, they have to be escorted at all times! Maybe the camera confiscation threat was real! After stopping at the **Ramer** tower, Keith and Gary followed the back roads (without being stopped) to the **Metz** tower (left). By then, it was time to return to Crestview to get ready for the **Crestview** tower NHLR ceremony (see page 9).

After leaving Crestview, Keith and Gary noted the Homosassa tower as they passed by in the dark on the way to Keith's Tarpon Springs residence where his wife, Lou, was wintering. On Friday, the pair drove past the Babcock tower on their way to meet David Vana and watch his crew finishing the removal of the **Lykes** tower near Labelle (see page 8). On the return to Tarpon Springs, they stopped at the **Palmdale** tower, the **Myakka** tower site (confirming that the tower had been removed), and the **Oneco** tower.

Saturday morning saw Gary leaving Keith and Lou, starting his route back toward Atlanta, but not before making another (unsuccessful) attempt to gain access to a privately-owned tower east of Orlando. Salvaging that leg of the trip, he stopped at the **Deer Park** tower before turning north. Back in Georgia, he stopped at the **Brooks, Lanier, and Berrien** (right) towers, all at GFC offices, before running out of daylight, although a drive-by in the dark showed that the Tift tower, visited in 2011, was still there.



Sunday started bright, sunny, and cool as Gary started with the **Worth** tower at the GFC county office, followed by the abandoned **Aultman Still** tower. The **Lee** tower appeared to be in decent condition standing in front of a commercial business on the outskirts of Leesburg while the rusty abandoned **DeSoto** tower stands across the road from a country church. Following visits to the **Sumter** and **Webster** towers, each standing at their respective GFC county offices,



Gary was off on another discovery trip, to see if the **Schley** tower (left) was still standing near Ellaville, after having been auctioned off last fall ... it was still there at the vacated GFC facility. The **Montezuma** tower at Oglethorpe is at the Macon County GFC office, the **Taylor** tower is at that GFC county office at Butler, and the **Crawford** tower is behind that county's GFC office.

With ten towers before lunch, Gary then started his afternoon with the "decabitated" **Peach** tower before crossing over to the east side of I-75 where the towers on his list for the day were going to take a little more driving. After a quick stop at the **Twiggs** tower at the GFC office in Jeffersonville (also visited after the 2011 board meeting), it was on to the **Wilkinson** and **Sandersville** towers, both at active GFC facilities. The **Jefferson** tower is at an abandoned GFC facility, but the **Johnson** tower (right) stands behind the active GFC county office near Wrightsville. By this time, the sun was lowering to the west, so the race was on to get down south of I-16 to the **Treutlen** tower.



Gary got to the GFC facility before dark, but by the time he left, all traces of daylight were gone. Another day of maximizing daylight - and getting to seventeen towers!

Whether Gary over-exceeded expectations Sunday or had just not planned well, he had an hour's drive Monday morning



to get to his first tower Monday morning, one he was not even sure would be there. Like some of the others that had been auctioned off last fall, the abandoned **Wrens** tower (left) was still standing. The **Glascocock** tower is a few miles to the west, also abandoned. The **Hancock** tower stands at a vacated GFC office. The **Hopewell** tower, another without its cab, now serves as an antenna holder. The **Jones** tower (below left) is at an active GFC facility. After backroads led to the lone USFS tower visited on this part of the trip, the **Mathis** tower (below center) on the Oconee NF, next it was discovered that a "sold" tower had actually been removed - at the **Monticello** site the brush that used to hide the tower's base had been cut and the tower was gone, leaving only the footings. The last tower on Gary's list for the day required a short bushwhack up the hill to the **Jasper** tower (below right), standing sans roof or windows.



With that, it was time for Gary to conclude his cross-country lookout touring and head for the Atlanta airport for the flight back to Idaho, where for the second year in a row he would find warmer temperatures than what he left in Georgia!

New Life for Lykes Tower

Removed after Fourth Sale

People in Hendry County, Florida, near Labelle, are missing a piece of the area's history now. The Lykes firetower was finally removed in January. The 100-foot International Stacey tower, believed to have been erected about 1960, was regularly

staffed until about 20 years ago and was still used on an as-needed basis up until about five years ago.



After the tower was totally phased out, it was first put up for bids by the State in November 2012, but no award was posted. The re-bid process for the tower resulted in an April 2013 award for \$1,331.99. However, a year later, Lykes was again put up for bids, this time on the GovDeals website (www.govdeals.com) and brought a high bid of \$4,085.00 in April 2014. Six months later, the tower was again listed on GovDeals. A November 17 high bid of \$4,376.00 brought about the award to Brimstone Recreation, a northeastern Tennessee outdoor recreation retreat. With previous bidders defaulting and losing their payments, the State of Florida came out well on the sale of the Lykes tower!

Brimstone owner Mark Love intended to have his crew dismantle the tower and move it to the location north of Knoxville to be part of a recreation destination based on the area's natural beauty and the "allure of the past", but another obligation came up and got in the way of the timeline to get the tower down, so he hired Davana LLC Fire Tower Restoration (FFLA member David Vana) to dismantle and package the tower for shipment and to oversee the re-erection.

As Vana prepared for the job, his search for International Stacey tower blueprints came up empty, forcing him to create his own during the process. The design looked to be much simplified over the Aermotor LS-40 series; the tower parts all had their numbers stamped in the steel and were sequenced. He found the tower to be in very good shape with no rust or structural problems.

The Davana crew, crane, and man lift arrived on Monday, January 19 to start the take down. The top of the tower was

lifted off and placed on the ground where the ground crew stripped it down, while the steel crew disassembled the remainder of the standing tower.



By the time Keith Argow and Gary Weber showed up about noon on Friday, not much of the tower was standing, but still enough for them to watch the final stages of the take down and to finally meet Dave in person.



Tower Sales (and Defaults)

Fire towers put up for bids with awards posted online seem to increasingly be re-listed or at least still standing months later. While details are generally unknown, it is assumed that the successful bidder has defaulted, leaving the tower standing and the money in the State treasury.

Of the three Florida towers listed during the past two years, Lykes was finally removed after the fourth listing, Myakka after being listed twice, and the fourth listing of Tomoka has an April 1 closing date.

Six Georgia fire towers were sold on GovDeals in the past 18 months. Gary Weber visited five of the six sites in January (see p. 6), and found the Quitman County, Schley County, and Wrens towers still standing, although Schley has just been re-sold in March. Upson and Monticello had been removed, although it took two listings last fall for Monticello.

Florida requires towers to be removed within 45 business days after issuance of the Buyer's Certificate. The language on the Georgia tower listings only gives winning bidders five days for removal after the auction closing, although it is hard to believe that this unrealistic timeframe would not be modified.

Again, without knowing the details, one has to guess that some of the successful bidders didn't really know what they were getting into - and didn't realize that the purchase price may be only a small part of the total cost to dismantle, move, and re-erect a tower.

When Billy Bob, Cousin Joe, and their two teenage sons arrive with their pickup, tool box, and case of beer, it may not be a successful tower dismantling project. (But, if it's Dave, his dad Ray, and a lawn chair, it might all work out!)

According to David Vana (Davana LLC Fire Tower Restoration), taking down a 100-foot tower with the intention of putting it back up can easily run up toward the \$10,000 range with the cost of equipment such as cranes and man lifts, a skilled crew, and insurance (required on most tower sales by state agencies). And putting the tower back up is an entirely different story...

Vana has taken down over 20 towers and has been involved in many other assessments and restoration projects. He is widely recognized as an expert in steel tower restoration and refurbishment, and a good source of information, although since this is his current livelihood, there may be a limit to "free advice".

NHLR #1000 Ceremony

Live Oak Fire Lookout, Crestview, Florida

Over 30 people gathered at the McMahon Environmental Center in Crestview, Florida, on January 22 for a dedication ceremony recognizing the Live Oak Fire Lookout (cover photo) as number 1,000 on the National Historic Lookout Register. Crestview City Councilman Mickey Rytman spearheaded the nomination last year when the city seemed poised to have it demolished. The 100-foot Aermotor LS-40 tower, built in the early 1950s, was named after the nearby Live Oak Cemetery, even though it was listed on inventories as the Crestview tower, since there is a Live Oak tower in the city of that name.



The dedication did not come without discussion at a City Council meeting earlier in the month when two council members questioned whether placement on the register created obligations and could tie the hands of the city in the future. Even after being assured that the register was not a government program with legal obligations, the vote on whether to hold the dedication ceremony narrowly passed, 3-2.

Mayor David Cadle opened the dedication by expressing his pleasure that the city of Crestview honors its past and its beginnings. He also saluted Rytman for the steps he took to get the tower listed. Mickey credited retired forester John McMahon, for whom the environmental center is named, for helping preserve the landmark, noting that McMahon had basically saved what is on the site today. McMahon was disappointed that he couldn't attend the dedication due to illness, but was represented by his wife, daughter, and grandson.

Keith Argow presented the registration certificate to Councilman Rytman and Mayor Cadle, and said that as the register neared 1,000, it had to be a very special tower, and Crestview's landmark was chosen for the honor.

After the dedication, several made the climb up to the top of the tower and remarked on the structure's soundness and that the oak steps felt real solid.



NHLR Founder and Chairman Keith Argow presenting NHLR certificate #1000 to Crestview City Councilman Mickey Rytman (left) and Crestview Mayor David Cadle (right)

The Crestview Kiwanis Club has taken on the refurbishment of the McMahon Environmental Center as a community project; one idea includes incorporating the fire tower's base into a new museum and education center.

Retired forester John McMahon's contributions to his city, state and country were recognized when Mayor David Cadle proclaimed McMahon's 90th birthday, Wednesday January 28, John McMahon Day in Crestview.

Drafted into the Army in World War II, McMahon fought in the 1944-45 Battle of the Bulge. After earning a degree in forestry from the University of Oklahoma-Stillwater, his career in Florida forestry began in 1951, but perhaps his largest local impact came upon his retirement when he founded the Hub City Environmental Center in 1989. The center contains more than 100 native species of trees and plants, as well as a natural history museum and pavilion used for picnics and educational presentations. The 2-acre park at the site, formerly occupied by the Department of Forestry for its lookout tower, was later renamed the McMahon Environmental Center in his honor. As recently as last fall, McMahon would delight in guiding school groups and organizations through the park.

John McMahon died Monday March 9 at age 90.

NHLR

100th California Listing

California became the third state to hit triple digits for numbers of listings, behind Oregon and Idaho.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| NHLR #1034 VA #14 | Groundhog Mountain Tower |
| NHLR #1035 VA #15 | Crafton Gate Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1036 VA #16 | Blackstone (Nottoway) Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1037 VA #17 | Bedford Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1038 VA #18 | Alton Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1039 WY #14 | Monument Ridge Lookout |
| NHLR #1040 SD #05 | Rankin Ridge Lookout |
| NHLR #1041 CA #99 | Armstrong Hill Lookout |
| NHLR #1042 PA #16 | Clarks (Gobblers) Knob Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1043 MT #60 | Minton Peak Lookout |
| NHLR #1044 RI #06 | Pine Hill Lookout |
| NHLR #1045 CA #100 | Slide Mountain Lookout |
| NHLR #1046 RI #07 | Shannock Hill Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1047 OH #19 | Tar Hollow (Brush Ridge) Lookout |
| NHLR #1047 AL #59 | Beaver Mountain Lookout |
| NHLR #1048 NC #24 | Anderson Mountain Lookout |
| NHLR #1049 IN #08 | Henryville Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1050 IN #09 | Hartwell Fire Tower |
| NHLR #1051 VA #20 | Hayters Knob Lookout |
| NHLR #1052 NC #25 | Hibriten Mountain Lookout |
| NHLR #1053 FL #07 | Mound Lookout |
| NHLR #1054 KY #10 | Black Mountain Lookout |
| NHLR #1055 WI #05 | Phelps Military Hill Lookout |

For details on how to nominate a lookout to the register, see: http://www.nationalforestry.net/NHLR_App.htm.

The NATIONAL HISTORIC LOOKOUT REGISTER is a project of the American Resources Group^(R), 374 Maple Avenue East, Suite 310, Vienna, VA 22180, (703) 255-2700, www.american-resources.org



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in

Lookouts

National
Historic



Lookout
Register

Notes from All Over

NEW HAMPSHIRE

2014 had less fire activity than 2013; there were 112 wildland fires (versus 137 in 2013) which burned 72 acres (83 acres in 2013). The largest fire was 24 acres.

Towers were operated in April and May but there was not enough fire danger the rest of the season for more than a few days of operation. The State is conducting an assessment of work that needs to be done on the towers and several tower cabs have been identified for replacement. Red Hill was again in operation staffed by Ed Maheux.

U.S. Forest Service employees past and present, along with HistoriCorps, joined in accomplishing much needed restoration work on the Fabyan Guard Station during the summer of 2014. Stone foundation piers were installed and sill logs replaced as well as restoration of a door and the windows. In the process of excavating for the piers and new sill logs, some broken children's toys were found somewhat confounding the archeologists who had no record of a family ever occupying the cabin. Built in 1923 by Clifford Graham who later became Forest Supervisor, the Fabyan Guard Station was likely the first of about 14 such stations used on the Forest and is the last one remaining. There is no known connection with a late 1950's pop singer with a similar name. FFLA member Dave Govatski, a former Forester on the Ammonoosuc Ranger District assisted on the project. He and retired Forest Heritage Coordinator Terry Field discovered and unearthed two porcelain enamel metal signs once used to identify the building.

In August the Forest announced, "Smarts Mountain Firetower is currently closed to the public until critical repairs can be made for safe public access." I have been unable to find out the "critical repairs" referenced. I visited the tower following the closure and could see no changes to the structure. For many years the Dartmouth Outing Club, in conjunction with the Pemigewasset District has done a good job of making repairs to the tower and nearby former Watchman's cabin now used as a shelter. The only issues are the tower guy cables which have been in the same condition since the tower was acquired as part of an Appalachian Trail land purchase many years ago. One cable is functional but the other three are not. Hopefully an engineering survey in 2015 will result in prompt replacement of the deficient cables and reopening of the tower to the public. **Chris Haartz**



MAINE

Squaw Mountain Update

In early September 2014, the Maine DOT loaded the original steel frame, which was flown off the summit in 2011, onto a flatbed truck and transported it to the Charleston Correctional Facility where the restoration will be taking place. A January update from the Charleston Correctional industrial shop shows that the restoration of the steelwork has been



Squaw Mountain steelwork stripped and painted (Sam Bradeen photo)

completed. Shown in the photo is the tower steel all cleaned up and painted looking like new! In the next few months, the cab will be rebuilt in the woodshop using the original Maine Forest Service plans from 1958, which is the last generation of cab design the tower had before removal. Once both steelwork and cab are complete, both will be returned to the Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) / Greenville Visitors Center on Route 15. The tower will be re-erected there and open to the public. **Bill Cobb**

NEW YORK

Hurricane and St. Regis Plans

Plans are moving forward for the restoration, interpretation and management of the Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain fire towers. After

the NYSDEC issued final Unit Management Plans for the Historic Areas in November that allowed the restoration of both towers, the Friends of Hurricane Mountain and the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were designated as the lead volunteer groups to work with the DEC; each will operate under a Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA). Both groups have been advocating for preserving their towers for several years; they have each partnered with Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the nonprofit historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park, and will be able to collect tax deductible donations under AARCH's 501(c)3 status.

The St. Regis group held a public meeting March 3 at the Paul Smith's College Visitors Interpretive Center, led by co-chair (and FFLA member) Dave Petrelli, to begin laying the groundwork for the restoration process, which they hope to complete this summer, and to recruit team leaders and volunteers. Volunteer efforts have been divided into four categories: Construction, Fundraising, Web site and Social media, and Education and Interpretation.

For more information, or to get involved, visit the websites for the groups, www.friendsofstregis.org and www.hurricanefiretower.org. Both groups also have facebook pages.

Helen Ellett Celebrates 101st

On February 16th, Helen Ellett turned 101 years of age. She was the fire



Helen Ellett with granddaughter Linda (left) and daughter Connie (right)

observer at Dickinson Hill Fire Tower in Grafton NY from 1943 to 1953 and from 1959 to 1965 and was the subject of the book *I Remember When: The Untold Story of Helen Ellett* (see Books, page 22). Helen was the first female fire observer in the area at the time and the fourth female observer in the state. It is an honor to still have her with us and to hear the many stories she has to tell. **Randy Kneer**

WASHINGTON

Grant to aid High Rock Restoration

The White Pass Country Historical Society in Packwood has received a \$2,000 grant from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation through the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. The funds will be used to restore the exterior of High Rock Lookout, including catwalk, siding and windows.



Jumpoff Stabilization and Repair

Jumpoff Lookout stands at 5,745 feet, at the end of a 13-mile four wheel drive forest road overlooking Rimrock Lake and Highway 12, west of Yakima. The R-6 Flat, seven steps above the ground, replaced a D-6 Cupola in 1961.

In 2010, it was realized that vandalism and neglect were slowly destroying the structure. Broken windows and missing shutters allowed snow to accumulate inside the lookout and the floor was showing water damage. Copper thieves had removed the lightning protection with catastrophic damage to the roof covering. FFLA member Mike Hiler and the "Friends of Jumpoff" began that summer to stabilize the lookout. Since then, the roof covering has been repaired and is now water tight, shutters were



repaired and replaced, the cabin was cleaned and an effort was made to keep the structure tidy and hospitable. All of these volunteer efforts have resulted in a more stable lookout that receives respect from visitors: graffiti has slowed, structural

damage has been stabilized, and the floor has dried out. Many features of the lookout are still in good repair.

While the Forest Service is studying the future work needed on the lookout, the "Friends" plan to focus on the following needs this year: The floor covering is badly damaged and needs replacing with matching materials. The interior walls need scraping, primer, matching paint and graffiti protection. Exterior shutters need further repair and painted inside and out.

The "Friends of Jumpoff" are not asking for funds or a finalized management "Plan of Use" for the lookout at this time. They do not have a favored long term management goal for the protection of the lookout, but hope that it can be returned to functional public use.

Big Butte Update

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (Old Smokeys) has recently approved a grant of \$1,150 to help rehabilitate the Big Butte Lookout cab. The grant, through the Eastern Washington FFLA Chapter, is expected to cover the cost of re-shingling the roof as well as painting of the interior of the cab.

Project Coordinator (and Assistant Umatilla NF Archaeologist) Jill Bassett's goal for this year is to restore the interior and furnishings along with installing propane lights and heater. She has YCC youth lined up again this year to help with interior painting. Next year, she hopes to get the tower back up and the cab back in place. A big project for sure.

In looking at a future role for the FFLA, Eastern Washington Director Rod Fosback is hoping a "friends" group of FFLA members who live close by can be organized to continue stewardship and possible volunteer lookout duty, or even help with developing Big Butte into a self-sustaining lookout rental down the road.

If interested in this stewardship opportunity, contact Rod (see directory) or Jill (jbassett@fs.fed.us).

Friends of North Mountain

The Friends of North Mountain (FNM) is a division of a local non-profit, Darrington Strong, which in turn had its genesis in another local non-profit, the Darrington Area Business Association. Their first meeting was March of 2013, when they started with, "Hey, we should do something with this lookout...but what?"

Coordinator Roselie Rasmussen reports that since that time they have determined to pursue getting a Special Use Permit with the USFS, modeled on the Jersey Jim Lookout in Colorado, giving long term control over the maintenance and rental of the lookout and helping

ensure its longevity after it is repaired. A facilities inspection was done by the Forest Service, giving a list of specific needs that must be met in order to offer the lookout to the public. They have also learned that there is no lead paint or asbestos in the lookout and therefore no mitigation needed. The lookout received a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, meaning that the work done on the lookout has to be done according to Standards.

FNM has created an organizational plan for the project and gotten their own bank account and received contributions from individuals and groups, including the Darrington Historical Society, the Everett Mountaineers Lookout and Trail Maintenance Committee, the FFLA, and the Snohomish County Sportsmans' Club. They have started organizing an indiego fundraising campaign, including a professional quality video and the basic outline and reward strategy. They have a logo, have created a 3' x 12' banner that is hanging on the lookout, and had an info both at the Suiattle road opening event in October.

They have registered their domain northmountainlookout.com, and email info@northmountainlookout.com. In addition they also have a webpage at www.darringtonstrong.org/divisions/darrington-strong-divisions/friends-of-north-mountain. There is also a North Mountain Lookout facebook page.

There are lots of opportunities for involvement; contributions may be sent to: Darrington Strong, Attn: FNM, P.O. Box 822, Darrington, WA 98241

Mebee Pass Trail Crossing

Although no work took place on Mebee Pass Lookout last season, project leader John Scurlock and Dave Adams went to Granite Creek in October to take a closer look at the precarious bridge situation. The upper log has broken, dropped, and wedged between a large rock and the lower log. It seems likely that this spring's flooding will rotate the log and carry the whole thing away. The remaining log is also in a very uncertain condition, likely rotten as well, and also subject to the effects of high water. It is doubtful that it will last very long.

It seems that a cable bridge would probably be the most economical and durable, but that would require a lot of review, planning, scheming, and fund raising amongst all interested parties.



MONTANA

Pints for Preservation

The Northwest Montana Chapter benefit brew event held January 20 in Kalispell was a joyful success! The chapter welcomed several new members, made new friends and had the joy of sharing lookout stories and brews. Kalispell Brewing Co. hosted the gathering and donated a dollar to the chapter for every beer sold. With the sale of t-shirts, donations to projects, memberships and the beer donation, the chapter was able to start a nice nest egg for this summer's projects. A second brew event was to have been held in Llby later in the spring.

The Northwest Montana Local Chapter has expanded beyond the Flathead NF to include projects at lookouts in Glacier Park, Kootenai NF, and the Swan Unit of the Montana DNRC. Tentative projects for this year include:



NWMT-FFLA Projects

Little Napa Lookout - This drive-to project on the Swan Unit of the MT DNRC will involve four work days on site for a crew leader and three volunteers to replace the lookout cab stairs.

Mud Lake Lookout - This "hike-to" project in the Bob Marshall Wilderness will involve an eight - ten day commitment for a crew leader and four volunteers to develop a water source, remove staples, paint and repair shutters. 3 days to hike in / 3 days on site / 3 days to hike out. Pack support will be provided.



Jumbo Lookout - This "hike-to" project in the Bob Marshall Wilderness will involve an eight - ten day commitment for a crew leader and two volunteers to develop a new outhouse site, paint/oil cabin, caulking, glazing and gathering firewood. 3 days to hike in / 3 days

work on site / 3 days to hike out. Pack support will be provided.

Huckleberry Lookout - This "hike-to" project in Glacier National Park will involve a five-day commitment for a crew leader and two volunteers to do general maintenance and g u y - w i r e replacement. 1 day to hike in / 3 days on site / 1 day to hike out. Pack support will be provided.



Sex Peak Lookout - This "drive-to" project on the Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai NF, will involve 5 days on site for a crew leader and two volunteers to assist with the replacement of two walls of the cabin.



Lookout Condition Assessments - These two "hike-to" condition assessments in Glacier National Park will involve a day hike to Apgar Lookout and a two-day backpack trip to Mount Brown Lookout for two volunteers to assess current conditions and identify maintenance needs.

For more details and dates, visit the NWMT-FFLA chapter website, www.nwmt-ffla.org/

Guided Glacier Lookout Hikes

Glacier Institute is offering guided day hikes to lookouts in Glacier National Park. This four-part series of increasing difficulty is designed for those who want to reach the high points of Glacier by foot while learning about the natural and cultural history of Glacier's fire lookouts along the way. In addition to fire ecology and fire management discussions, the stories left behind by the colorful cast of characters that staffed these lookouts over the past 75 years will be shared. Visit www.glacierinstitute.org/, go to Adult Outdoor Education Courses, and find details on the four lookout hikes: Apgar Saturday June 20th, Huckleberry Saturday July 18th, Numa Ridge Sunday August 9th, and Mount Brown Saturday August 29th.

OREGON

OldSmokey Grant aids Wildhorse

A grant of \$2,680 from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (Old Smokeys) paid for the cost of the October 2014 excavation as well as more than half of the cost of the first concrete pour for installation of a new vault toilet for the Wildhorse Lookout currently being



Wildhorse outhouse project, October 18, 2014. (Sand Mountain Society photo)

restored on Rogue River-Siskiyou NF. The vault toilet is an essential part in the project to return Wildhorse to service as a part of the cabin rental program.

The Sand Mountain Society has partnered with the Forest on the project since the first steps in 2008 - removal of the lookout's cab which was crushed by snow during the previous winter. They disassembled the remnants and salvaged what they could; parts of the cab were hanging over the side. Second was the repair of the tower, since several members were damaged by the impact of the cab coming down. Next was the outhouse, completed early in November. The final step will be reconstruction of the cab.

WYOMING

Kennaday Peak Rehabilitation

This past August and September, HistoriCorps and Passport in Time volunteers worked for three weeks to restore and repair the Kennaday Peak Lookout on the Medicine Bow NF in southeast Wyoming. The 50-year-old R-6 Flat lookout sits at 10,810 feet at the northwest corner of the Snowy Range. The effort was part of a memorandum of understanding between the Forest Service, the FFLA, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and HistoriCorps to restore 16 lookout towers by 2016.

HistoriCorps staff Chris Frank and Jon Williams managed and supervised the project; volunteers included the FFLA's Joe Luck and Pat Lynch. In spite of weather that was at times very cold, cloudy, and windy, the teams completed a variety of repairs including repainting walls, evaluating and repairing wood catwalk and railing, re-roofing the tower with rolled asphalt roofing and the vault toilet with cedar shingles, rehabilitating windows and doors, and installing gathering furnishings. The lookout was rehabbed with the goal of making it available as a

rental, much like the popular Spruce Mountain Lookout nearby.

Spruce Mountain Facelift

FFLA member Joe Luck spent September 27th through 29th working on Spruce Mountain Lookout. The Forest Service partnered Joe with Dave Goodburn (right), who had been volunteering for several years. Although there were several minor tasks that need attention, Dave and Joe decided that a new coat of paint was the major item of business. Starting with the cab, they painted the exterior of the cab, catwalk and rails, all the window shutters, the propane tank, outhouse, fire tool



box, all the step handrails and all 62 steps. For safety reasons, they didn't paint beyond their reach nor did they extend ourselves beyond the safety of the catwalk rails. They decided it was one thing to be an enthusiastic volunteer, but an entirely other thing to be dead enthusiastic volunteer!



At the end of each day's work, Dave returned to his trailer in the valley, while Joe got to stay in the tower. Not only did he get to inspect the cab's supplies and condition, but he also gave it a good cleaning from ceiling to floor. He decided that it was worth all the effort to be able to have the wind rock him to sleep each night and see the stars from a much closer view!

VICTORIA

Jimna Tower Struggle Continues

The group fighting to have the Jimna Fire Tower repaired and re-opened to the public says that "new information" has come to light which should help their cause. Dave Wright, secretary of the Jimna Forest Action Group Inc (JFAGI), said the recent re-opening of the Mt. Allan Fire Tower in the Conondale National Park, was made possible by the replacement of decayed sections of its wooden legs "exactly the same problem encountered with the proposed installation of stabilisation collars and sway wires to the Jimna Fire Tower".

Wright said previous State Government advice that the replacement

timber poles were no longer available had been proven incorrect as had the previous assumption, that the expertise to do the work was no longer available. He said a previous departmental determination that the extra cost of work on the Jimna Fire Tower was not warranted, also had not been professionally evaluated, nor had alternative funding been considered.

JFAGI will be seeking a letter of support from all elected representatives at all levels of Government, along with all stakeholders throughout the Somerset Region and beyond, for presentation to the relevant incoming State Government Ministers.

PENNSYLVANIA

Tower Replacement/Rehabilitation

In Phase One of a project, the PA DCNR is seeking engineering consultants to prepare plans, specifications, and cost estimates to restore/demolish 48 fire lookout towers located in various state forest districts across the Commonwealth. The scope of work includes design of repair/rehab/replacement/removal of steel tower truss members, cabs, stairs, and concrete foundations, provide specs and determine the scope of painting tower steel truss members, and the design of security fence improvements. The tasks will also include field inspection of all 48 towers to identify towers that can be restored through repair/replacements, and identify towers which are beyond repair and need to be demolished.

Restoration Grant

Horn Mountain, Alabama

The third FFLA Restoration Grant for 2014 has been awarded to the Friends of the Talladega National Forest for restoration work on the Horn Mountain Fire Lookout Tower. The grant will be used in conjunction with other funds to provide supplies for the fire tower restoration activities, either for the contract to replace stair treads or when painting the tower. A Passport in Time project was planned for late March to begin work at the site.

The 100-foot International Derrick steel tower with a 7x7 cab was erected by an African-American junior enrollee CCC company, completed in 1938. The tower was one of several 'ridgetop' fire towers erected by the CCC along the highest points of the mountain range throughout the extent of the Talladega National Forest. After the tower was no longer used for fire detection, the lookout's dwelling was sold and removed in 1969, and in 1979 an adjacent communications control room was constructed, an antenna



placed on the tower, and a chain-link fence constructed to prevent the public from climbing the tower. In 1997, in lieu of building a new telecommunications tower on the site, an agreement was made to place additional antennas on the fire tower. Since then, the condition of the fire tower and the surrounding area has deteriorated over time. The floor of the cab and the two bottom stair sections were removed to discourage visitor use; the remainder of the wooden steps have not been replaced in several years.

The restoration work is planned as mitigation for a new telecommunications tower that is scheduled to be built at the site; the plan to lessen the impacts of the new tower to the NRHP-eligible site was crafted with input from the Alabama Historical Commission, CCC Legacy, and the FFLA. The goal of the cooperative effort is to begin partial restoration of the tower starting with the refurbishment of the stair treads and continuing with the proper prep and repainting of the fire tower, and the removing of the unneeded antennas and cables.

Lookout Adventures

If you have a lookout passion and enjoy biking....a perfect combination:

http://www.adventurecycling.org/default/assets/resources/20141001_Lookouts_Teasdale.pdf

5 Years of Bikepacking Lookouts:

<http://greencasey.blogspot.com/2013/01/5-years-of-bikepacking-lookouts.html>

Skiing The Last Best Lookout:

<http://greencasey.blogspot.com/2013/03/skiing-last-best-lookout.html>

Bikepacking Yaak's Fire Lookout Towers:

<http://greencasey.blogspot.com/2014/09/bikepacking-yaaks-lookout-towers.html>

Huckleberry Lookout Restoration - Project Conclusion

by Don Whyde, National Smokejumper Association

Year two (2013) at Huckleberry Lookout started on a Sunday when the crew assembled at Blackrock Ranger Station and Work Center about eight miles east of Moran Junction, Wyoming. The crew included several NSA members from 2012: Fred Cooper, Doug Wamsley, Don Whyde, Jamie Schoen and JP Schubert from the Bridger-Teton NF in Jackson. The four new members were: Jack Sterling, Jim Scofield, Dennis Kissack (our cook), and Bill Hesketh (FFLA member Joe Luck's cousin, representing FFLA). We met with Jack Hatch, our packer, and dropped off our gear and tools for the project. There was the usual check of personal gear, and a tool inventory. We met briefly with Tom Matza, the District Ranger. We drove to Flagg Ranch. After dinner we met in the parking lot at the Lodge to discuss the project details and established a time to meet in the morning. Then we set up camp for the evening.

In the morning we gathered at the trailhead by 8:15 AM, and hit the trail at 8:45. The climb out of the Snake Valley to 9,000 feet did not seem as tiring this year. Maybe we were in better shape or perhaps the pace was just about right.

The packer passed us about 3 miles in. We all thought "Great - our gear will be at camp when we get there. We will have the afternoon to set up our camp facilities and get everything ship-shape." Ahhhh - the best laid plans of mice and men. We arrived at camp at 12:30 PM. The first surprise was "No packer, no Jamie, and no gear". We waited at our campsite until 2 PM when we sent out two search parties. We found Jamie and our gear about 500 yards south of our campsite along the base of Huckleberry Rim. They had gone too far south before cutting west toward the rim and missed the campsite. That is a nice way of saying, "mixed up, turned around, and confused." Now we had to decide if we should establish camp where the gear was or move to our designated campsite. The drop point was not a good site, undergrowth, trees, a weak water source, and 500 yards from the Rim trail. Don, the crew leader, decided that we would move to the designated campsite. The move was upslope, grueling and tiring. The last load was at camp by 5:30 PM and the crew was plain tuckered out. No facilities had been constructed except the latrine that Bill and Don set up. Neither swore to its functionality. On the upside, Dennis had dinner ready by 6:30 and provided all with

a much-needed dose of calories. He also had a most welcome campfire going. Some of the crew did not eat dinner, just pitched a tent and hit the sack.

Tuesday broke cool but the sun already promised a lot of heat for the day. It was not a false prophet. The kitchen crew was at work getting their area set up. Jim was busy setting up the shower and the water crew was at the spring improving it, and filling bags. They would have made a Marine sergeant proud. Breakfast was pancakes, eggs and kielbasa. I don't know where Dennis got the recipe for kielbasa and eggs but it was a very good lumberjack breakfast.

We loaded up our gear and tools and hit the Rim trail at 8:30. It was just 20 yards from camp. The trail itself was not so welcome - steep, rocky, and nasty for about 300 yards to the rim, then easy money to the lookout. There was the usual lookout appraisal before turning our



focus to the window arrangement and how to remove them. Bill did a little screwdriver and hammer work and says "Yeah - they come out like this". Hmmm, that flatlander might be handy to have around! We split into two groups, saw crew and the shapers. You can figure out what the saw crew did. The shapers smoothed the logs on two sides so they fit flat when stacked. Sounds easy but that crew had to center the log, mark the two sides that would be shaped for fit, and then shave the sides with axe and drawknife. It was precise work and Fred, Jamie, JP, and Bill did that job professionally. Doug and Don were the sawyers and Jim and Jack were the lookouts. More than once during project they demonstrated sharp eyes and sound



knowledge about falling. And they were great relief partners when Doug and Don were tired. The fallers cut three trees, bucked them to fifteen-foot lengths and, with help from the shapers, hauled the logs to a work station where the shapers could go to work. Now folks, a fifteen-foot log nine inches in diameter on one end and up to twelve on the other is not a load that you just walk away with. We had three



log haulers so we had a six-man team hauling the logs and that made the job much easier.

We headed off the ridge at 4:30 and had a dinner of pasta with meat sauce and veggies at 6 PM, a hearty fare for a hungry crew. After supper, Doug broke out his traditional grape beverage and goblet and Jamie kicked in with some Jack Daniels. The campfire was a most welcome evening affair. The bugs were light, the stories all true, and the laughter robust. A satisfying end to a good day.

Wednesday broke cool and promised some relief from the heat. The saw crew began scouting for logs. They cut four trees, measured them, and bucked them to length. 156 inches someone said and that was what we cut. Now let's do some quick mental math here because we didn't do that at the time. 156 inches is not 15 feet. Dumb! So we ended the day with four logs, two at fifteen feet and two at thirteen feet which is somewhat of a mystery. Where the hell 156 inches came from remains shrouded in secrecy. Somebody knows but they ain't talkin'! The upshot is that we ended up two logs short.

The saw crew found two trees earlier that contained very good logs but were joined together at the stump. The cut angle was high and the arrangement looked dicey so they passed them. Now, however, they looked do-able so they decided those were the logs to get because they were close to the shaping station. The first was easy to figure out but the second was big and straight up which made the fall angle difficult to figure. The first was cut and we calculated where the second would fall. This is where our two lookouts came in big time. Jack

proved to be an accomplished wedge man and forced that tree over to where we wanted it to go. It started to fall but hung up. In a flash three actions occurred: Doug removed one saw handle plus all its parts, Jim finished the job with a few short strokes, and Dennis picked up a Paul Bunyan sized pole and levered the tree precisely to where we wanted it to fall. Everyone headed for the escape routes. When we put the saw back together, the wingnut was missing. It had been dropped along the escape route. There we were, six guys combing the duff and soil looking for a wingnut. We never did find it. We blamed it on Doug who felt badly but we still nicknamed him "Wingnut!" JP came to the rescue. He used a nut off one of the log haulers and it fit perfectly. We fixed the log hauler with "100 mile an hour tape", and were back in business.

We left at 4:15 PM for camp. After supper, as had become customary, Doug had his box of liquid refreshment set up but the evening was capped with a cold alcoholic beverage from our spring. Elixir from the Gods! The fire was warm, banter keen, laughter hearty, but the "Fact Checker" may have had trouble with some of the stories.

Thursday morning was sunny, and already warm. We hit the trail for another day in paradise. The logs had been cut so this was a day for shaping and hauling logs to the lookout. We decided to have a 6th log, just in case, so the fallers located one and quickly had it cut and bucked to length. Jamie, JP, Fred, and Bill centered and marked the logs then everyone set about making chips fly. To get the logs to the lookout with the log haulers and six men, we adopted the old line "bump up" method to change out tired arms. We finished at 5:15. According to Jack's pedometer, he logged a total of 6.59 miles that day. Astonishing, but up, down and around, up to the lookout and back, it all adds up.

We headed down the ridge to dinner; the pots were scraped clean and we were looking for more. The fire was welcome, the stories superb. Some may have made a con man blush but insofar as this writer could determine, they were all factual! There was Doug's favorite beverage to finish off and Jamie's JD. Those were polished off with gusto. Two beers were left. I don't know who got the last one but Bill got the other. It was a most satisfying day on a project well done.

Friday morning we awoke to the smell of fresh coffee, which will rouse the most ardent sleeper. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, and hash browns were the perfect

beginning for a hike out. We were ready to head out at 9:45 AM. The packer had not arrived so we waited until 10:45. Still no packer, so we hit the trail. Jamie stayed behind to help the packer and come out with the string. He kept a radio so he could keep us updated. JP had the other. We met the packer about a mile from camp and figured about an hour wait for him after we reached the trailhead.

We met a family about a mile from the trailhead, three teenagers, two girls and a boy, mom and dad. We all noticed their attire: shorts, tank tops, sandals, one in flip flops, no visible water, no jackets, rain gear, bear spray, map, and likely no GPS or compass. They wanted to hike a trail in the West before heading to Yellowstone. They intended to walk as far up the trail as they could, then turn around and be back by nightfall. We wished them well and reminded them to be careful.

We hit the trailhead at 1:30 PM. Long sleeves came off, t-shirts went on, boots came off and sandals appeared, long pants came off and shorts appeared. There was one exception. Jim wore the same set of shorts and t-shirt the entire project. It was rather difficult to describe them and even more difficult to describe his bitten, scratched, and bruised legs. Someone wanted to take a picture for posterity but something in Jim's voice indicated that wouldn't be prudent. Don had a few Gatorades left and they quickly disappeared. At 1:55 the family we met arrived back at the trailhead. They had hit the steep part of the trail and realized how unprepared they were. They made a wise choice in coming back out.

No packer by 2:30 PM (seemed to be the norm for this trip) so folks began to wander off. Jamie finally arrived at 3:15 without the packer. A young mule had broken loose and they had one hell of a time catching him. The same mule acted up again while they were loading which cost more time. The packer finally arrived and by 5:30 everything was unloaded and everyone had their gear and we said our goodbyes. A good gear headed for home.

Year 3 - 2014

Crew members: Jack Sterling, Bill Hesketh, Jack Sisco, Dennis Kissack, Don Whyde, Bob Beiermann, and Jamie Schoen and JP Schubert from the B-T NF.

Huckleberry Lookout occupies a rocky site on the southern end of Huckleberry Ridge at 9500 feet. It is a lonely site in the Teton Wilderness that possesses a commanding view. The lookout was built in 1938 by the CCC and one can ponder about the process and the men who built it. 76 years later,

another group of men from the NSA completed a stabilization project that started in 2012. Perhaps 76 years hence, others will wonder about the men who worked to stabilize the lookout with no more than hand tools. Fitting isn't it?

Our charge this year was to remove the windows and remove and replace the rotten logs on the west wall of the upper level. There was some concern that we could not finish the project in the time we had. Jamie Schoen, the FS lead, worried about "what is the "go-no go" point where I shut this down so we can prepare and leave the structure in a stable condition if we cannot finish."

The crew hit the trail early on Monday and reached the camp site about noon and the pack string arrived right on time. Bob Beiermann arrived about 1 PM packing his gear and food all the way in! That feat impressed the crew! After our camp was set up, we hiked the half mile to the lookout and went to work. Jack, Bob, Bill, and Jamie Schoen made up the deck crew and Jack Sisco, JP, and Don made up the ground crew.

By 5 PM we had the entire window system removed and all the pieces marked. That put us about a half-day ahead of schedule. Of course removing the windows revealed other problems that needed to be repaired. The header plate above the windows had separated from the roof sill plate log and the roof on the west side had a U sag. We had noticed the window separation last year and had packed in two scissor jacks in case we needed them. That was a smart move!

The next morning Hesketh, Sterling, and Beiermann cut two posts to length, placed the jacks on the posts beneath the header plate and jacked it up. They had



that gap closed, the frame leveled and secured with L clamps in no time. As an added bonus, most of the roof sag was eliminated as well. Sometimes luck is better than planning! By late afternoon, all the logs were removed down to the footer log. We were committed then, there was no longer a "go-no go" decision to be made. We had to get it done. With that

(concluded on p. 17)

A Circle of Life and Fire

by Bill Moore

Nestled back in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area is a mountain that has a great following of like-minded Wilderness loving people. At 7424 feet elevation it is not even close to being the highest peak in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness but it is loved by many. It is hard to pinpoint what makes folks appreciate a particular peak as it is not an unusual mountain in a wild area where all mountains are spectacular.

While such Mountains have long been precious to Native Americans its history with the Caucasians most likely started in 1918 when a tent camp lookout was located there and staffed by a



McConnell Mountain cabin 1937
(Bud Moore Archives)

lookout/smokechaser. In 1922 a residence cabin was added and in 1937 an observatory was constructed. By the mid 1950's the lookout was no longer staffed and the mountain went back to being visited by hunters, trail crews, firefighters and other folks who go to the wilds to drink from the fountains of solitude and wonder in such places.

This is the tale of a man whose character, thoughts and actions were shaped to a large degree by this place. The mountain had a great deal to do with the making of the man.

The year is 1935. Picture if you will a young man of 18 who is assigned to the furthest back lookout on one of the furthest back districts in the forest service. This fellow is already a mountain man of some skill. He is wise in the ways of the woods and the bounty they provide. This assignment holds no fear for him only the challenge of doing a good job for the ranger he considers a man among men.

The job is both detection and suppression oriented. He is a lookout/smoke chaser and his job is to quickly and accurately locate lightning caused fires and if so ordered to shoulder his fire pack and go put them out. It is a challenging and noble endeavor.

However problems soon arise. When the hot lightning storms come over the mountain he cannot go out to the rock pile where the exposed map board is located.



Owen Johnson (Bear Mountain lookout) at
McConnell mapboard 1937
(Bud Moore Archives)

He must wait in the lightning protected and weatherproof residence cabin until the storm abates to go find out what has happened. Meanwhile, his fellow lookouts in the area have gotten most of the "first discoveries" and are in the process of calling them in or heading out to put them out. In order to solve this problem he constructed a small observation cabin out on the rock pile so that he could stay out there during the storm and do his job. He acted on his own and then had to wait for a visit from the Ranger to see how his idea would fare. Upon later arrival the Ranger went directly to the small structure without even stopping to talk. The young man walked up and joined him and



Bud Moore at McConnell Mountain
observatory c.1970 (Bud Moore Archives)

explained what he had done. "Good idea Son" the Ranger replied, "let's go measure her up for windows and lightning protection." And after that it was very hard for another lookout to get a "First" in any area visible from the Mountain. And the area was even safer from the ravages of fire.

The rule of the day was "All fires controlled by 10:00 AM the day after being located" and the times were glorious for those who fought fire. The mountain remained back pretty much the same but the man was in a process of great change. He went to war and when he returned became the Ranger on the very District where the mountain was located. Now those who staffed the lookout on the mountain worked for him. Those were good times and the standard for performance was set by the actions of the man who was now Ranger – just as it had been when he started.

The man continued his Forest Career through the 1950's and 60's and as he moved up the ladder he moved away from the District where he had spent so much time. But in 1969 he returned to Missoula, Montana as Director of Fire and Aviation for the Forest Service's 29 million acre Northern Region 1.

Along the way forward thinking legislators had passed the Wilderness Act in 1964. And the Mountain was now a resident of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. And the man was in charge of fire control of the whole shebang.

But the man was a mountain man and a wilderness man and well as a highly placed land manager. His beliefs were shaped by decades of backcountry experience among the mountains and what he observed in them. Fire was aggressively fought in the Wilderness still but he had concerns that in itself fire suppression was an unnatural event in an area dedicated to the idea of being "untrammled by man." With the help of others who shared his vision the policy in the Mountain's wilderness was changed from one of "Controlled by 10:00 AM next" to one of "Prescribed Natural Wildfire". Naturally occurring wildfire was once again allowed to play out its role in the wilderness when circumstances were right. Over time this became the policy of the land. It grew smokey at times over the mountain and the country took on a new mosaic more like the times the Mountain had seen before the Forest Service came.

Thunderstorms and lightning are part of the Selway Bitterroot and on July 18, 2013 a hot strike came down about 5 miles from the Mountain. Jumpers were sent, but conditions were such that it was allowed to burn as a naturally occurring Wilderness Wildfire. Such were the circumstances that it took the fire most of the month to work its way to the flanks of the mountain. And on July 29, 2013 it crested the peak and burned the old



McConnell Mountain - California Point Fire post-burn (USFS photo)

observatory and residence cabin. The sole witness to its demise was a still staffed sister lookout about 5 miles away.

The man had previously passed on, and both he and the old lookout are mourned by all who knew both. But the mountain is still there and I am confident the man would not be upset for the story is a lesson about the circle of life in the Wilderness world.

Go some day to T35N – R 12E – S23 – NE ¼ of the SE ¼ and visit McConnell Mountain. Or better yet find a mountain of your own. “Take time to Wonder”. Rejoice in wild places.

The cast of characters for this tale:

McConnell Mountain

Powell Ranger District

Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, Idaho

William R. (Bud) Moore

McConnell Mtn. LO 1935 – Region 1 Director Fire and Aviation 1974

Ed McKay

District Ranger Powell Ranger District 1926 – 1940

The 10:00 AM Policy

Major Evan Kelly, Regional Forester 1929-1944

The Wilderness Act

1964

Wilderness “Prescribed Natural Wildfire” Policy

1972-2000

The Men and Women of the United States Forest Service

Lookouts Past and Present

The California Point Fire

July 18, 2013 – Season Ending Events 2013

Huckleberry Lookout Restoration

(continued from p. 15)

in mind, we headed back to camp for dinner and an evening of stories and libations.

The next morning, the footer log had to be removed and replaced. It was below the floor level and was spiked into the logs that held up the floor. The deck crew coaxed it out with heavy tools, sweat, and jumper sweet talk! The new log had to be cut and notched precisely because the fit was tight. The crew hoisted and removed that log three times before it finally slid into place with a most satisfying thump.



That afternoon, we enjoyed the company of some folks from Tennessee who rode horseback to the lookout. The looks on their faces when the crew hoisted a 15-foot, 10-inch diameter log over their heads and the deck crew pulled in into place was worth a million bucks! Later two reporters from the Jackson Hole News and Guide arrived, then Rita Ayers and Angelica Cacho arrived from the Bridger Teton Public Affairs office. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act so Jamie Schoen showed the press around and explained what we were doing. It was the first time any of us had seen Jamie in uniform and he took a devilish ribbing about that.

After the footer was in place, it was a matter of the ground crew cutting the next log to length, notching it, shaping two sides and hoisting the log up to the deck crew. The deck crew lined each log with a sealant, placed a foam material atop the sealant, drilled holes and inserted the end bolts, then spiked the log into place. The



last log was placed Thursday at mid-morning. It required a great deal of shaping work so the window plate fit level and the window supports fit snugly. The windows were in place about 5 PM and the crew headed to camp. A quality job completed by a quality crew and we all knew it.

This was the conclusion of work on Huckleberry Lookout; there are no plans to paint or upgrade it further. The objective was to clean it, stabilize it, and leave it for the wandering souls to find. On that, I believe we have met our goal.

Joe Luck

FFLA Zazzle Stamps and More

In addition to stamps, two more custom FFLA items are now available through Zazzle! A trailer hitch cover bearing the FFLA logo is now available and comes in two sizes to fit 1.25” (small) or 2” (large) receivers.



FFLA sticky notes are also now available. Post-it® Notes with the FFLA logo come in pads of 50 in a 4” x 3” size.

There are now eight FFLA postage stamps available: The newest features the historic Slate Point (Montana) crow’s nest tree lookout visited during the 2014 FFLA Western Conference. Others



include Sundance Mountain (ID), Monjeau (NM), Lookout Butte (ID), Sterling (NY) - celebrating the Twenty Year Anniversary of the FFLA, Duckett Top (NC), High Point (CA), and Arid Peak.

To order Zazzle items, go to the FFLA website, www.ffla.org, and click on the link. While the items are available directly from the Zazzle website, the FFLA will receive a greater portion of the net proceeds if orders are placed from the link on the FFLA website. Discounts are offered for orders of multiples of items.

Big Hole Lookout 2014 Restoration Video

FFLA member Libby Langston again produced a video of Phase Two the Big Hole Lookout Restoration Project on the Lolo NF near Plains, MT. The 6-minute video of the second year Passport-in-Time project can be viewed online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqG3BF4iqzY>.

Memories on the Mountain

Memories of Growing up on Two Maine Lookout Mountains

Gasping for breath, the unseasoned climber will ask, "How much further to the top?" And from one who's been there before the answer invariably is, "We're almost there." Such an exchange is all too familiar to anyone who has ever taken a group of friends on a mountain climb. I am not exactly sure of the first year on Hedgehog Mountain when my dad, Walter Patchell, was the watchman, but I believe it was 1949 and I was about 8 years old. My dad would begin his work with the Maine Forestry Department around the first of May as the men would have to leave Portage on foot as there were no roads like there are now. They would walk the telephone lines to Carr Pond, to all the sporting camps, Fish River Falls, and to Deboullie Mountain where the lines ended at the top. They did this to remove all the debris that would have fallen during the winter and to repair all of the phone lines to the Portage Headquarters of the Fish River District. Maurice Bartlett was the chief warden at this time. Memorial Day was the long weekend that we would go up and open the camp and move some of our stuff in before we went up to stay for the summer. The highlight of the summer would be July 4th when the rest of the family would all come up for the day, great food and chat. Seemed like a long ride back then. The first few years we lived in the smaller cabin at the foot of the mountain and there was a ladder in the center that we had to pull down and climb to the loft where we slept. Then my dad made bunk beds in the bedroom and then we only used the loft for storage. The only communication that we had was the "crank phone" that would go to the store house in Portage and with a flip of the switch from the operator you could talk to Carr Pond and Deboullie towers. We had no transportation at that time, so mom would make a list and they would pick up

the food that we needed and deliver it. The only water supply was from the spring at the picnic area and we all had to take our turn and carry it by the pail full to the cabin. Only lights we had were kerosene lights and the only cooking was done with a wood stove. A lot of afternoons I would go up with my dad on the tower. I would climb up in a chair, crank the phone, and tell him I was coming up. He would be watching for me. Up the ladder I would go, him telling me to take my time and be careful through the trap door in the floor that he would open and help me up. I learned how to watch for fires, line up the map in the center of the tower so we could pin point where any smoke was coming from. His boss, Maurice Bartlett, asked me one time "What does your dad do while you are up in the tower with him?" My reply was "Oh he sleeps on the floor while I watch for fires." That was always so funny and was laughed about for years. My dad was very creative. He didn't have a lot to work with but would always come up with something. And those tower cabs weren't that big, but to a skinny little girl they were pretty roomy. I had no problem wandering around all afternoon stepping over dad as he slept on the floor! He built this comfy chair with arms on it and it hung from the ceiling of the tower cab. It used some kind of wires and it would swing so I imagine the wires would begin to wear a little over time. He could sit in this and turn and watch from all angles. My dad smoked but he made his own cigarettes by hand out of zig zag papers and Prince Albert Tobacco in the can. I even got so I could whip one of those up for him. My brother Bernie didn't spend as much time with us but this one day he was in the tower with dad and dad was in his comfy chair rolling one of his famous cigarettes looking around and the wire he used for the comfy chair broke!! Down came the

chair, dad and the tobacco and cig went flying all over the tower. No one got hurt and the chair did get fixed back up, but Bernie couldn't stop laughing about this and telling it. My dad also made the Maine Forest Service sign on the front of Hedgehog Camp and part of it is still there. My sister, Christine, was a couple years younger so she could not do all the things I did. She always had a fire in the fireplace every night at camp with wood she got from the woods and my brother and I would call her an Indian. In 1953, the new camp was built in front of the smaller one. It had two rooms and a porch where we kids slept. By the end of that summer we moved into it. The smaller camp was used for storage and a workshop.

In the year 1954, dad was transferred to Deboullie Mountain and we spent that summer there. I was 12 years old, but I don't remember too much about that year. My dad, mom, sister, and two brothers were up there and the cabin was very tiny. We fished every day and every morning we had fish for breakfast. My two brothers, Fred and Bernie spent more time up on the tower with dad. Fred found all that Dad did in that "little small box" with the map in the middle, the 2-way radio, and crank phone more interesting than my brother Bernie. Bernie would go exploring on the rocks and where ever he could find a trail. I guess he used the pond as a land mark to get back. He would be gone for hours and every once in a while you would hear him yell so mom knew he was ok. Was always back at meal time. Fred spent his time learning what dad was doing because the next year he graduated and enlisted in the Air Force. Everyone fished at night until dark. Mom had a special place she fished and the boys always wanted it, but she never gave it up. Bed time was early and we did have a battery operated radio that we listened



Hedgehog watchman's camp in 1953 (Pat Lovely photo)

Deboullie watchman's camp in 1954 (Pat Lovely photo)

to. Mom's Red Sox games were first, but at night we had one story that we all listened to all huddled into that one small bedroom and I believe the name of it was "Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons". It was like a soap opera continued on for a week and they always found the lost person. That was the biggest family thing we did at Deboullie. I was not allowed to climb that mountain because mom said I was too little. But every night we walked to the rock slide and met dad when he would come down from the tower. The only way to get to that cabin was walk across the dam at Pushineer, through the woods trail or by boat. We always walked. The only road in there at the time was by St. Froid Lake in Winterville and into the Red River Camps. Again a list of food we needed had to be made and brought in by plane or boat. That was the summer my uncle, Chester Robinson, was the watchman on Hedgehog and when we had to move back home because the kids had to go back to school, he went up to Deboullie with his new bride. She left to return home and left a cigarette burning and burned the camp down. Nothing anyone could do. Lots of stuff and lots of memories went up in smoke. The next year the camp on top of the mountain was built. We went back to Hedgehog where dad stayed until about 1962. As I got older, I would find jobs for the summer so I didn't go up with them as much, but it was an experience I will always treasure. I don't remember ever being bored growing up there, always something to do. My mom worked in the summer at the Portage Store House with the crew that was working on the spruce bud worm project. But this was after we had left the "nest". Don't remember what it was called now. She worked there even after Dad got done with the Forestry. My dad got a job that he could work year around and that is when he got done there. My mom was not happy about it but it was full time employment. I have family history with some of the area towers. On Squa Pan Mountain, my great uncle Leonard Furlong was watchman there years before my time, my Uncle Monroe Robinson was also on Squa Pan at one time. My brother, Bernard Patchell I think was on Round Mountain and my uncle Chester Robinson was watchman on Hedgehog and Deboullie mountains for a bit. There are so many things I remember when I am reliving my life there. My bucket list has for me to climb Deboullie Mountain and Jen at Red River Camps says I can do it just need to take my time. We will see next year!

Pat Patchell Lovely

Lookout Show 'n Tell #4 World's Tallest Lookouts

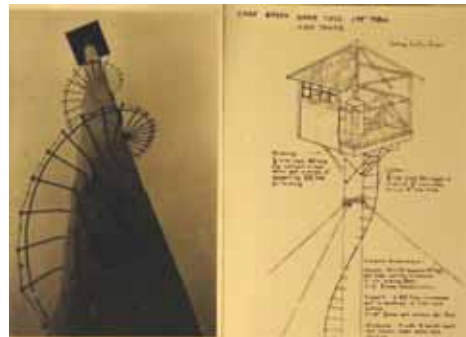
Perhaps the crudest and scariest fire tower ever, was at Promontory Point in central Arizona's Sitgreaves NF. Built by splicing small poles together to create a rickety platform 121' tall, it served its purpose from 1913 until 1923, and was the tallest firewatcher's perch in the nation during its time.



Woodworth Fire Tower, near Alexandria, Louisiana is a 176' tall steel tower, manufactured by the Aermotor Company. Hundreds of other Aermotor towers between 21' and 120' tall once stood across America (a few dozen of them are still staffed), but this was the tallest.



Cook Creek Spar Tree, on the Olympic coast of Washington, was the tallest lookout ever constructed in the U.S. It consisted of a single douglas fir tree, topped at 179', encircled with hand-forged



iron rod steps driven in the trunk, and fitted at the top with a wooden observation cab. It stood guard over the Evergreen state's finest forest from 1927 until 1955.

The tallest metal lookout structure in the world is the 200'



Beard Tower, a few km east of Pemberton, Western Australia.

Western Australia is also home to the tallest and arguably the most incredible of all lookouts. Diamond Tree (191'), Gloucester Tree (200'), and the Warren Bi-Centennial Tree (225.6'), all near Pemberton, have towers with cabs erected atop huge karri eucalyptus trees. Each is accessed only by step pegs driven into the tree. Warren, the tallest, is staffed yet today.

Ray Kresek
Fire Lookout Museum
Spokane, WA

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.

Jon Winter's Story

I was pleased to read Jon Winter's description of the cloud carpet after a thunder storm. I saw a very similar thing but it was dense fog. I was told to go to the tower no matter that I couldn't see anything on the ground. When I climbed the tower, same as Jon, I was above the fog layer. It was dazzling sun and pure white cloud tops with only the taller green Hill tops rising above. Like Jon, I had no camera and never saw anything like that again. I was the lookout on Cicero Peak on the Black Hills National Forest.

Now how about some of you old lookouts telling stories about "strange" encounters. I will be sending in mine about the encounter with the Martians! More to come.

June Johnston

Devil's Head Red Ale

So much for proof-reading ... we were alerted by one member who is an avid home brewer that in reading the article about Devil's Head Red Ale, he was taken aback that the recipe called for a blend of Crystal, Chocolate, and Victory "salt". Those ingredients are "Malts", the grains that are key ingredients in making beer. He noted that he will leave the salt out of his next batch!

A North American History of Forest Fire Detection

By C. Rod Bacon

Chapter XXXVIII

COMMUNICATIONS

The previous chapter looked at communications by radio.

This chapter continues with radio communication development.

Source: "Radio for the Fireline, A History of Electronic Communication in the Forest Service, 1905-1975" FS-369, by Gary Craven Gray, March 1982.

Advancement in the design of radios continued with emphasis to reduce frequency overload and to improve portability.

Lookout observers were an important link in the communications from the field personnel to administrative offices by relaying messages



Figure 73. Type T, model D, located in base of fire finder, Pepper Lookout, Mt. Hood National Forest, Ore., July 1940. (NA:95G-397920)

between the two. The first Radio Relay Station, (RRS), was installed on Mt. Diablo in California in July 1941.

The RRS was a composite of earlier vhf sets operating on standby until a carrier frequency turned on both the receiver and transmitter. Its introduction heralded a new era in Forest Service communication planning.

The selection of Mr. Diablo was significant, giving the Regional office an opportunity to establish point-to-point communication with any outlying vhf radio within visible range of the repeater. If a system of strategically located repeaters could be placed throughout the State, it would eventually be possible for the Regional office to make contact with anyone in sight of a repeater.

The RRS also had a significant impact on radio for the fire line aside from the inherent possibilities of vhf repeaters

for administrative use. One criticism of vhf portable radio had been its inability to overcome the limits of intervisibility. A smoke chaser who happened on a fire in a location where mountain ridges and the absence of a visible lookout tower hampered vhf communication was no better off than earlier smoke chasers who had to rely on the telephone. To make contact, both had to leave the site. But with one or more vhf repeaters at strategic locations throughout a Forest, the smoke chaser could now get his message out by sending his communication via the RRS link.

Portable and semi portable sets were then designed with at least two transmitting channels. The first channel could be used on a Forest network when intervisible transmission was possible. The second channel would be the RRS link. Thus the anomalies of transmission would not keep fire crews, smoke chasers, work crews, mobile units, or lookouts from establishing communications through one of the frequencies. This design eliminated the last major objection to vhf use.

Osborne Fire Finder Featured on Belt Buckle



This limited edition, numbered, pewter 2011 Smokey buckle from Dawn Fazio's Woodland Enterprises includes this inscription on the reverse: "The Osborne Fire Finder was invented 100 years ago by William Osborne, a Forest Service employee in Portland, Oregon. It has been serving in lookout towers nationwide since 1915." \$23.50 plus shipping and handling from www.smokeybeargifts.com or call 208-882-4767. Dawn and Jim Fazio are long-time members of the FFLA.

Lookout Items on Zazzle

Oregon FFLA member Elaine Broskie has a wide variety of products featuring Oregon lookouts available on 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/ and navigate to "Fire Lookouts and occasional guard station". The Bald Butte Sunset image above is available on several products.

Lookout Jewelry

Firetower Dangle Jewelry

Lightweight, yet durable, these shining fire lookout earrings, necklaces, and label pins are laser cut and etched, plated in silver or gold, and are slightly curved to better reflect the light from different angles.

- Earrings 1/2" by 1", \$18.00
- Necklaces 1-1/4" by 1/4" with 20" chain, \$18.00
- Label Pins 1" by 1/4", \$9.00
- Shipping \$2.00



To order, email Oregon Chapter Director Howard Verschoor at lookoutoregon@gmail.com. Proceeds go to the Oregon Chapter for Oregon lookout projects.

Western Heritage - FFLA Items



FFLA logo available on any GEAR, WOOD, or APPAREL item

Apparel: Outerwear, Shirts, Caps
Gear: Bags & Duffels, Lights & Lenses
Wood: Wall Clocks, Desk Accessories, Nametags

<http://westernheritagestore.com/>

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/, email mkuefler@kuefler-lightning.com, or phone 406-745-3800.

Merchandise from other partners at: www.firelookout.org/store.htm

FFLA MERCHANDISE

Order all items on this page from:
 FFLA - Gary Weber
 2590 W Versailles Dr
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
fflatreas@gmail.com
 Make Checks Payable to FFLA or
 Pay through PayPal
 (<https://www.paypal.com/>)



Payable to 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

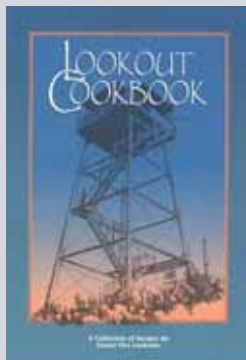


LOOKOUT COOKBOOK

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 are still available. The six-panel tri-fold brochures are 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.



FFLA SHIRTS!



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 2012 by Ray Kresek. Nearly 400 of the 3,303 lookout sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana are updated with the latest status compiled in this 84-page book that complements *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. Proceeds go to the non-profit Fire Lookout Museum. \$15.00 check or money order to: Fire Lookout Museum, 123 W. Westview, Spokane, WA 99218, 509-466-9171, rkresek@comcast.net, 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.

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/

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. Also available from bookstores. ISBN: 0969443854

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

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

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/, \$15.00 (includes s/h), or email Peter at pjbarr@gmail.com. ISBN: 0895873567

POINTS OF PROMINENCE, Fire Lookouts of the Payette National Forest by Richard H. Holm, Jr. ISBN: 1448609992 \$16.00 + \$3.50 s/h from: Richard Holm Jr., P.O. Box 294, McCall, ID 83638; online www.coldmountainpress.com.

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 DINOSAUR 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 or contact Jean Polhamus, johndandjean@gmail.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 \$11.95 + \$2.95 shipping/handling from: HalMar Publications, 10453 W Highwood Ln, Sun City, AZ 85373-1947. 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. 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/ 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/, or at bookstores. ISBN: 1890454044

THE FIRE OBSERVATION TOWERS OF NEW YORK STATE, Survivors That Still Stand Guard by Paul Laskey \$19.95 + \$2.00 shipping, from: Mary Laskey, 5019 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, CD-ROM and .pdf versions available. Also available in bookstores. ISBN: 0974620408

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.

Also available from Wilderness Associates: **TOIYABE PATROL: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s** by Les Joslin, \$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).

HOME ON THE RANGE, Montana's Eastside Ranger Stations by Vicky MacLean. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1494367041

The HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, The Early Days by Vicky MacLean. Helena NF History includes an entire chapter on lookouts. \$16.95 from the Montana Discovery Foundation, 406-495-3711.

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/.

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

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

FIRE TOWER by Jack Kestner (republished in 2007) online at www.clinchmountainpress.net

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

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

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, the history of the Black Range, and more. Available from www.Amazon.com. ISBN: 1499129297

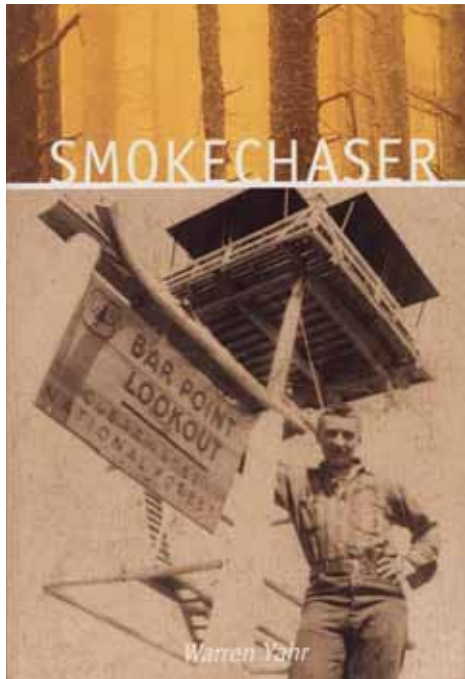
NORTHWEST MONTANA FIRE LOOKOUTS: A Hiking Guide by Steve Rains. This hiking guide to 30 lookouts includes trailhead directions, route statistics, and photos of the lookouts and the views. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0988948001



SMOKECHASER Third Edition

by Warren Yahr (FFLA Member)
Burton & Mayer, Inc, 2013, paperback, 269 pp. ISBN: 1467595225

Originally published in 1995, this third edition features many new pictures, as well as two additional chapters. Long considered one of the best books telling the story of life as a lookout, *Smokechaser* is the account of a Wisconsin teenager's lookout experiences during the 1940s on



the remote Bungalow Ranger District of Idaho's Clearwater National Forest and provides a firsthand view of what it was really like!

Available from Burton & Mayer thru www.Amazon.com and other bookstores.

FIRE LOOKOUTS OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK (Images of America Series)

by David R. Butler (FFLA Member)

Fires in the 1910s and 1920s led to the construction of Glacier's permanent lookouts, first as wooden pole structures and subsequently as a variety of one- and two-story cabin designs. Flathead NF and Blackfoot Indian Reservation lookouts helped provided coverage. Many of the lookouts were decommissioned and eventually destroyed. This volume tells the story of the rise and fall of the extensive lookout network that protected Glacier National Park, including those still operating today.



Available from www.Amazon.com.

BAKER BUTTE JOURNAL 2010 Plus Some Pretty Good Recipes

by Shirley Payne (FFLA Member)

In 2010 Shirley Payne kept a journal of her summer at Baker Butte Lookout in Arizona's Coconino NF watching for forest fires. With no television or internet access there's not much to do besides read, quilt, and cook. Shirley has used her evenings to develop and refine recipes, 99 of which are included.

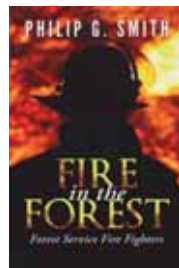


\$20.00 + \$5.00 s/h (for one or more books); ordering information at www.berryqueenpress.com/

FIRE IN THE FOREST Forest Service Fire Fighters

by Philip G. Smith (FFLA Member)

Fire in the Forest is a synopsis of the training, fire incidents, events, and photos occurring in the early 1970's. Most of the events occurred on the Tonto, Prescott and Angeles National Forests. This book reflects a viewpoint from the 1970's, not always a time of being politically correct. ISBN: 1492887013



Available from www.Amazon.com.

ADIRONDACK 102 CLUB Your Passport & Guide to the North Country

by Martin Podskoch (FFLA Member)

Marty's latest book is an attempt to get people to visit and get to know all the 102 towns and villages in the Adirondacks. The hard cover book will help to capture your experiences as you travel. Autographed copy, \$20 + \$3 s/h, info at www.adirondack102club.com.

Former FFLA NY Director Marty Podskoch's other books are featured on another of his websites, 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.

BOUND FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY A History of Idaho's Remote Airstrips

by Richard H. Holm, Jr. (FFLA Member)

A comprehensive history of nearly one hundred of Idaho's isolated airstrips is combined with stories of homesteaders, runway owners, boaters, hikers, outfitters, hunters, firefighters, pilots, and airplanes. 560 pages with index and over 1,000 photos.

\$59.95 + \$6.00 shipping from www.coldmountainpress.com.

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.

This documentary covers the moment of Brian's arrival to his newly purchased estate, the Tope Creek Lookout, and follows his life there over his first ten years. You see him take the rundown, shot up, abandoned property from close to its demise into a beautiful park-like setting. The tower is stronger now that the day he bought it in 1991. You see Brian making art, playing music, plowing snow, as well as spotting, calling in, and putting out forest fires. He lives the dream!

The unabridged video contains a few seconds of naked man scenes: cartwheeling, kicking and beating an empty 3500-gallon metal drum with mallets, bare bum moon, and the 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 to order; look under Store Menu for Therapy DVD. Purchase item securely through Paypal, specify original or abridged version. \$20, plus s/h.



"This is the life you could be living"

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