



FSVA Newsletter

Fall, 2006

San Jacinto Ranger District

www.fsva.org

DISTRICT FIELD HAZMAT PROCEDURES

Here is an update from Laurie on what we cover in trainings.

For Field-going San Jacinto District Volunteers and Employees – Please implement the following procedures when you come across Hazmat in the field. 1: Isolate the area from others. 2: Contact San Bernardino Dispatch and advise them of what you have found. 3: Do not move the substance from the location. 4: From a safe distance look and report any markings on the container. 5: Volunteers and employees have the right to refuse any direction (from anyone) to move or transport any Hazmat from one location to another. 6: Patrol 58 is the Hazmat Specialist for the district, he will respond if on duty. **Please do not put yourselves at any risk, follow these procedures!!!!!! Do Not Bring Hazmat Back To The District Office Or To Fire Stations.**

Laurie Rosenthal, District Ranger

VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS COORDINATOR REPORT

As the San Jacinto Wilderness transitions from the busy summer season to the slower fall and winter months there will continue to be a need for our great volunteer wilderness rangers to be out there on patrol. The casual hiker will still need directions help and advice. The careless camper will still leave an illegal campfire burning unattended. The front office will still need first hand reports from the field. The wilderness will still need the benefits of our watchful eye. Wilderness day and overnight compliance will still need to be checked. These are just some of the reasons we need to be out there. With the cool clear days

and the snow to come the fall and winter season is a great time to hike. I enjoy the cold starts and the quiet trail. Garner Valley trails are a great alternative to hiking in snow during the winter. From time to time we need to patrol Garner Valley trails also. The FSVA wilderness rangers will be out there to serve the needs of the Forest Service, the visitors and the wilderness.

By the time you read this the volunteer appreciation party will be over. I would like to again thank all the hiking and equestrian patrol rangers for their great support and dedication on the projects and patrols this past summer. We had some firsts like the geocache situation, painting the historic Lake Hemet Bldg. and a "new homes for sale" blimp at Saddle Jct. Anything can happen or nothing can happen during day in the life of a wilderness ranger. We are ready.

See you out there.

Bob Romano

Volunteer Wilderness Coordinator

EQUESTRIAN TEAM NEWS

The Parade Unit took first place in Calico Days parade. We had a great time camping, and the weather was good. The riders were Mike McCann, Gale Salavati, Anita Mellott, Pattie Bottom, Linda Ibarra, Amira-Lee Salavati, Bobbie Schrader and myself. Our next parade will be in December for the Hemet Christmas parade.

Karleen Esparza, Parade Captain/Vice Pres.

INTERNATIONAL HIKER

News flash: Take your hats off, polish your hiking boots, hold those hiking sticks up high, stand at attention, and give a BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Joanne Pirelli, Wilderness 5-4 Victor, who has

recently returned from a very long trip to Tanzania, Africa and from successfully completing the ascent to the top of 19,321 foot Kilimanjaro. The trail is 55.5 miles long, the ascent is over the course of 5 days, but the descent is in one day with little or no sleep! Yes, Joanne, one of our longest serving wilderness volunteers of 12 years, has completed one of the most challenging hikes/climbs of her trail career and it was no simple feat. Joanne tells us it was 15 degrees below and 75 mile an hour gusts on top. She had a tassel on her cap that was sticking straight out in a picture at the top as proof. Joanne, who just turned 64 while she was on this amazing challenge, has also hiked the entire John Muir Trail in one setting. What is next for you Joanne? (Going to Disney World?)

Joanne did share with us that indeed she was the oldest woman in the group she was with, and as far as I am concerned, she was also one of the wisest because she had been training and hydrating for weeks and weeks leading up to the trip. While on the trip and before starting the ascent, others, who thought they were pretty smart, enjoyed all the libations offered with such a huge, catered trip and all the headaches that went with it, including altitude sickness and having to turn around before reaching the top. Joanne made all the way to the top with no problems. Way to go, Joanne!

*Dolores Hewitt
Wilderness 5-6 Victor*



**SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO
MTNS. NATIONAL MONUMENT -
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

November, 2006

Event: There's a National Monument in Your Backyard

Day, date, time: Tuesdays, November 7 and 21, 2006, 10 a.m.

Location and address: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 State Hwy 74, Palm Desert, Ca.

Presenter and title: Bonnie Adkins, National Monument Ranger

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center, 760/862-9984

Description: Did you know there is a National Monument in your backyard? Take a photographic journey of the magnificent landscape, plants, animals, and places to visit in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Free.

Event: Amazing Adaptations

Day, date, time: Saturday, November 18, 2006, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Location and address: Tahquitz Canyon Visitor Center, 500 W. Mesquite just west of Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs.

Presenter and title: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and BLM Volunteer

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center 760/862-9984

Description: In the beauty of Tahquitz Canyon, discover the amazing survival strategies of native flora and fauna. Wear sun protection and good walking shoes. Free.

December, 2006

Event: Illustrated lecture: Countdown to Earthquakes

Day, date, time: Monday, December 4, 2006, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Location and address: Community Room, Rancho Mirage Library, 71-100 Highway 111 in Rancho Mirage, Ca.

Presenter and title: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and BLM Volunteer

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center, 760/862-9984

Description: Where we live is one of the most seismically active regions of the world! Viewing slides and animations, learn about the dynamic geological forces which are shaping our landscape and environment. Free.

Event: Nature Hike to Fern Canyon

Day, date, time: Friday, December 8, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location and address: Meet at Indian Canyons tollgate entrance to Indian Canyons, in south Palm Springs

Presenter and title: Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center 760/862-9984

Description: In the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs, hike past a wall of maidenhair ferns in a natural palm oasis. Moderate rating with 500' elevation gain. Entrance fee required.

Event: Nature Hike on the Art Smith Trail

Day, date, time: Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location and address: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74 in Palm Desert

Presenter and title: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and BLM Volunteer

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center 760/862-9984

Description: In the heart of the Santa Rosa Mountains hike a single track trail to see the Coachella Valley from a 2,500 foot high viewpoint. Strenuous rating with 1300 foot elevation gain. Free.

January, 2007

Event: Nature Hike to Vargas Palms

Day, date, time: Thursday, January 4, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location and address: Meet on Snow Creek Road at Highway 111, about three miles west of Windy Point (near the I-10 and highway 111 interchange).

Presenter and title: Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center 760/862-9984

Description: This five mile round-trip hike travels over a variety of terrain including creosote scrub, sand dunes, desert wash and through a native palm oasis. Cameras are a must. Rated moderate, with 300 feet elevation gain. Free.

Event: There's a National Monument in Your Backyard

Day, date, time: Monday, January 8, 2007, 10 a.m.

Location and address: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 State Hwy 74, Palm Desert, Ca.

Presenter and title: Bonnie Adkins, National Monument Ranger

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center, 760/862-9984

Description: Did you know there is a National Monument in your backyard? Take a photographic journey of the magnificent landscape, plants, animals, and places to visit in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Free.

Event: Wind Energy: an illustrated lecture

Day, date, time: Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 9 a.m.

Location and address: Bureau of Land Management South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs (just west of Pilot gas station)

Presenter and title: Claude Kirby, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management California Desert District

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: Bureau of Land Management 760/251-4800

Description: Experience the giants of Palm Springs as Claude Kirby, BLM Realty Specialist takes you on an armchair adventure through the windmills of the desert. How fast do they turn? Where does the energy go? Learn about these amazing facts, and more! Free.

Event: Nature Hike to Indian Portrero

Day, date, time: Monday, January 15, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location and address: Meet at tollgate entrance to Indian Canyons, in south Palm Springs

Presenter and title: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and BLM Volunteer

Sponsor: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Contact number: National Monument Visitor Center 760/862-9984

Description: Take an extended hike into the Indian Canyons to an area inhabited by the ancestors of today's Cahuilla. Travel through the world's largest palm oasis and climb to a high desert plateau. Rated strenuous, and recommended for well-conditioned and experienced hikers only. Entrance fee required.

Note: USFS and BLM are partners in the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, which offers classes, hikes, and events. Call or visit the Visitor Center, 51-500 Hwy 74, Palm Desert, 760-862-9984.

Via Email Tracy Albrecht, NM Interpretive Specialist. Call the NM Visitor Center with questions and to sign up, 760-862-9984.

ESPERANZA FIRE NEAR SILENT VALLEY

Just want to let you know I am home & OK – but a bit shaken up. Our beautiful mtn. from Poppet Flats Rd. is completely burned down to the bottom of the hill. We were evacuated several times to

other sections of the park – one RV had a generator & we were able to watch the news on TV. They also used S.V. as a place to bring people from Poppet Flats & Twin Pines. More than once I heard it said that we were at a very safe place. This morning I noticed the fire had burned all around us. There are still fires going on in different places & smoke that has put a lot of ashes in Hemet.

I slept with blinds open last night & clothes on. The winds were horrendous – you could see big billowing red clouds & flames on various ridges during the night. I heard a loud crash nearby. This morning we saw a tree that had landed on an expensive new motor home. He just got it out of the shop from Aug. winds to the tune of \$25K & now this. Luckily they were not inside.

I can't say enough how amazing the firemen are. They drove around our section all night long protecting us. They fought the flames in horrendous winds during the night. When I went down the hill, dozens of fire vehicles were still coming up. We're not allowed back up the hill. When we are, I need to go up & close up my trailer. Did not want to deal with it this morning. Need to take a hot shower – breakfast. Hope they catch the s.o.b. that started this & caused 4 firefighters to lose their life.

Sharon Middleton, Email written 10/27/06.



(Bottom – L to R) Julie Beauchat, Brad Eells, Sharon Middleton, Melinda Lyon. (Top – L to R) Bob Romano, Mike Worden, Linda Parsley, Ron Lawson, Mike Taggart, Dave Heveron, Norma Romano.

Photo by Gail Heveron

WORK PARTY AT LAKE HEMET

We had a good turnout August 19 and accomplished a lot in revitalizing a building that was possibly formerly used as a pump

house for the Lake Hemet reservoir and dam in the early 1900's. There also has been past usage by the FSVA and we hope it will fulfill future needs.

Many thanks to the great drywall/repair crew of Mike Worden, Scott Huseth, Mike Taggart, Ron Lawson, Brad Eells, and Dave Heveron who installed new insulation in the walls and ceiling – they had sore arms from reaching overhead. The furniture was cleaned after lying dormant for many years, and the file cabinet was repainted. There were weeds to be pulled and the windows were cleaned. Many thanks to the speedy cleaning/repair crew of Julie Beauchat, Tami Eells, Norma Romano, Barbara Haines, Kathy Bowman, Sharon Middleton, Linda Parsley, and Shelley Morgan. Thanks to Norma, Julie, and Mike T. who made supply runs, and Mike W. and Dave who brought tools. Thanks to Bob Romano who assisted with the preliminary work, helped Norma shop for food/beverages, and came after he got off work. Ron L. and Mike W. returned later to do more on the drywall.

Thanks to the FSVA for the refreshments and to the Forest Service for the cleaning/repair supplies for this challenging endeavor. A great time was had by all!

Gail Heveron & Sharon Middleton



Before and.....



after.

Photos by Brad Eells

BEAR CANISTERS NOW FOR RENT IN IDYLLWILD



Bear canisters are now available for rent at Nomad

Ventures in Idyllwild. The rental rate is \$3.00 per day, very reasonable.

Nomad Ventures is a quality hiking and climbing equipment store on North Circle Drive. The manager, Bruce, was very responsive to our request to rent bear canisters. They also are available for purchase, \$75.00.

As most of you know, there were bear sightings in the San Jacinto Wilderness early this summer. Our Wildlife and Wilderness staff talked, and we would like to prevent bear and camper run-in problems, so please request Wilderness campers to use canisters, it's a big education process that is important to do.

An alternative is hanging food, but it is not as much a sure thing. One problem is sometimes people leave the ropes hanging in mid-air over our trees, which does not give the next person the Wilderness experience they want and we are required to manage for. Nomad Ventures does have books that show people how to hang food properly.

Nomad Ventures will give a 10% discount

to FS staff and volunteers who go in uniform. Thank you.
Via Email from Gail Heveron



FIRST AID & ADULT CPR CLASS

We received our Red Cross cards after the informative class under the capable instruction of Gail Heveron, Red Cross Instructor, on September 10 at the Idyllwild Ranger Station. Those that took the class were: Marshall and Julie Beauchat, Brad Eells, Sharon Middleton, Kathey Knorr (Sharon's friend), Shelley Morgan, Steve Ricker, Bob Romano, and Shirley White. If you haven't taken a CPR class yet, I'd recommend that you do so. This life-saving information is very valuable. *Sharon Middleton, Editor*

JUST FINISHED THE HIKE?

Last Sunday turned out to be kind of a long day...I decided to leave my regular pack at Admin., don my fanny pack and retrieve the abandoned pack on the PCT. Along the way, I found and dispersed a fire ring/campsite and stopped occasionally to admire the view...It was early morning and I had plenty of time. I found the pack on the trail approximately one mile south of Desert View #3.

It appeared to me that the pack had been looted at some point as there was no cooking gear, water bottles or food. A heavy sleeping bag more suited for slumber parties than backpacking was still strapped on, as well as an even heavier tent; otherwise there was nothing much of value, mostly dirty clothes and other personal items. I repacked everything properly and headed back to Admin.

I quickly adopted a slow pace, as that pack was the most ingenious torture device ever invented by man. The waist belt felt like a vise and after the first mile I was convinced the

shoulder straps were strung with piano wire. And to top it all off, every time I took a step the frame would squeak. It was VERY annoying. No wonder the guy dropped his pack.

I realized that I now had two packs in my possession, and after mulling it over while hiking along in time with the pack squeaks to the Guns 'N' Roses song "Welcome to the Jungle" that was in my head, I decided that I would leave my pack at Admin, hike down with the evil device I was wearing on my back like a malignant tumor and return the following week for my own pack. Good plan.

When I got back to Admin, I took a Clif bar, my beloved M&M's, a full water bottle and a headlamp out of my pack for the trip down. A Wilderness Ranger must always be prepared. I stashed my pack in the shed and off I went. The trip down the Slide took a while, as I twice encountered and thoroughly admonished people cutting switchbacks, came upon a gentleman hiking down very slowly, looking as if he was in distress and learning that he'd had a stroke the previous year. Further down, I encountered a very elderly gentleman who had fallen down and skinned his arm but refused my offer for first-aid, which was good because my first-aid kit was in my pack at Admin. He had first hiked the slide in the fifties and had some fascinating stories. I love chatting with old people. And then I encountered two very attractive and flirtatious young ladies. Not one to neglect my duties, I gave them a complete history of the area and the Forest Service in general, threw in a few war stories and gave them a trail map with suggestions for future hikes. I stopped just short of offering them a candlelight dinner of baked salmon and Chardonnay. After all, I was in kind of a hurry.

As I reached Humber Park with my car in sight, beaming with the knowledge that I was a master of Wilderness Time Management Skills, I suddenly realized...back up at Admin...in my pack...were my keys and wallet.

I found my headlamp to be quite useful.
Steve Ricker, Volunteer, Wilderness 5-16
Victor



OUTDOOR LORE

- On a windy day you can use thumbtacks to keep a tablecloth in place. They can also be used to secure a paper plate when eating. Pack them safely by poking them into the edge of a small piece of cardboard and putting with your gear.
- “Find true north by using the Big Dipper to point to the North Star.” It’s true! The two outer stars of the Big Dipper point directly to the North Star which is located about four times the distance between the two stars. Polaris, or the North Star, is always in the true north position.
- “Moss only grows on the North side of a tree.” Actually, in a dark, damp forest, moss will grow almost anywhere. However, in a more open area where this fungus flourishes it is more than likely facing north.
- Remember, a small plastic bag filled with your favorite cereal, some pretzels and raisins makes a great trail mix.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....



Brad Eells

1. How long have you been an FSVA volunteer?
I started in July with classroom training.
2. How many hours have you contributed since becoming a volunteer?
66 since July
3. Why did you decide to become a volunteer?
I have been very active in the outdoors since growing up in Idaho. I was doing lots of time with Scouting until my boys grew up and moved on. The FSVA gives me an opportunity to continue with my passion for hiking and backpacking and maybe I can pass along some of that accumulated outdoors wisdom...
4. Of which volunteer accomplishment(s) are you most proud?
Finishing training! The initiation and graduation hikes were tough – thanks, Bob!
5. What do you enjoy most about volunteering for FSVA?
I’m just starting but I have been able to see most of the San Jacinto Wilderness and meet some great people in the organization. The visitor contacts have been generally friendly and enjoyable.
6. Do you volunteer with any other organizations?
Not currently.

7. Any special skills and/or awards we should know about?
I'm a Jack Of All Trades...and Master Of None!
8. What would you like to see FSVA do better?
Hard to say, because I'm the new kid on the block. No complaints!
9. What do you do for a living?
I have the honor and privilege of managing a staff of 75 photographers for a national school portrait company.
10. Is there anything else you would like to share with the general membership and public?
I've told my family for years that I was going to run away one day and become a Forest Ranger. Well...now I have found a way to do it!
Thanks FSVA!

Brad Eells, Volunteer, Wilderness 5-12 Victor

SAFETY HUNTING SEASON IS HERE



With hunting season already upon us, it is important that we remain focused on Safety. As field-going personnel, the chances of working in areas that are popular for hunting are great. Some of these areas include, but are not limited to: Black Mountain, Thomas Mountain, Rouse Ridge, Quinn Flat, Garner Valley, and the recent wildfire/prescribed burn areas such as Baldy Mountain and Apple Canyon. With seasons ranging from Archery to Rifle, etc, and with the variety of wildlife inhabiting this area, it is extremely important that we be aware of our surroundings and be familiar with the areas we are working in. Be extremely cautious about cross country travel in areas open to hunting, make a lot of noise, and wear lots of orange. Below is a list of hunting seasons relative to this area:

Deer – General – October 7 – November 5
Quail – General – October 21 – January 28, 2007
Dove – General – Nov 11 – Dec. 25
Coyote / Fox is open for the majority of the year.
Via Email from Melinda Lyon

NEW RETAIL ITEMS & NEW HELP WANTED

I have a lot of fun doing the inventory, ordering, stocking, pricing, and display for the FSVA retail outlet books, maps, Smokey goodies, etc. I will soon be doing other things, however. **So, we are looking for someone to take over this fun position. If you would like to do so, please contact President Mike Taggart at taggart@ieee.org. If you have questions, either Mike or I will be happy to talk with you.**

The FSVA retail outlet in the ranger station lobby is a big fundraiser for the FSVA. As volunteers, we get a 15% discount on all the 175 items.

New items include a brand new pin design – the USFS logo with Smokey Bear standing – this is the first pin that incorporates the two together, \$5.00.

We have a new design in warm, yarn Smokey hats – green or red with a black band, \$13.95. We have nice washed-khaki Smokey baseball caps, \$13.95.

A set of seven thin, soft cover books on local birds, mammals, and reptiles written by a local couple are now on our shelves, \$4.95 each.

One of our wilderness packers, Tom Firth, has two fun books about his escapades on horseback in the mountains of the west. We carry both, *A Perplexing Addiction* is the newest, \$12.95.

Remember all our goodies for Christmas gifts, including coffee table books. Happy reading! *Gail Heveron, retail outlet volunteer*

FSVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mike Taggart
Vice President and
Equestrian Parade Unit
Captain: Karleen Esparza
Treasurer: Denise Edmiston
Secretary: Barbara Haines
Wilderness Coordinator: Bob Romano
Assistant Wilderness
Coordinator (non-board
member): Dolores Hewitt*
Board member : Gale Salavati
Board member: Tom Unwin
Website Coordinator: Scott Huseth
Volunteer Hours Coordinator: Scott Huseth
Uniform Coordinator: Scott Huseth
Photography Coordinator
(non-board member): Brad Eells
Newsletter Coordinator
(non-board member): Sharon Middleton

*Inadvertently omitted from summer newsletter

USFS CONTACT INFO

Idyllwild Ranger Station: 909-382-2922, -2923,
or 951-659-2117 then 5. Open 7 days, 8-4:30.
Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino.
Melinda Lyon: mlyon@fs.fed.us, 909-382-
2929, FSVA Liaison, District Wilderness and
Trails Manager

THANK YOU

My thanks to Mike Taggart, Melinda, Karleen and others that helped to make the showing of "The Parade Horse" documentary a success at the Appreciation Party. And a special thanks to Sharon Middleton who gave me the idea for the subject.

View it on fsva.org, those using high speed or DSL should view the film within a few seconds; others using dial-up may have to wait several minutes. Sorry, our technology isn't the same quality as the big guys.

Stay tuned next year for another look into the continuing saga of the FSVA Equestrian Parade Unit at Bishop, CA.

I would like to express my personal condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the men on Engine 57 who lost their lives protecting the lives and property of others. Their sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

Wm. Snead, WEB Master

A Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever flames may rage
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age
Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
Please bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.

Anonymous



AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU