

FSVA Newsletter



Summer, 2006

San Jacinto Ranger District

www.fsva.org



MULE DAYS PARADE BISHOP, CA. - MAY 27, 2006



The Equestrian Team riders who rode in the Mule Days (Bishop) parade were Karleen Esparza, Team Captain, Gale Salavati, Amira-Lee Salavati, Pattie Bottom, Linda Ibarra, and Liz White. **Special guest riders from Holland were: Dorine Baba, Hannah U-D Hoogen, and Annika Bofthumus.** We took first place and a special unit award.
Karleen Esparza, Captain



"Parade Horse Mounted Horse Group 2006"



To sum it up, “You ain’t seen nothing yet...” until you see the Mule Days Parade!

This annual event is probably one of its kind in the country. Hundreds of participants include costumed entries, pack mules, mounted groups, etc. – mostly consisting of mules. Our Equestrian Team looked outstanding at the judging - every piece of tack was in order, every piece of uniform on the riders was spotless, and they met the judges’ criteria under their scrutinizing eyes. The plaque/trophy and ribbons they received are evidence - their reward for hard work – we can be proud of them!

I was there not only to watch the parade but spent Saturday night at the Forest Service campground located on the outskirts of Bishop. A picture above shows some of the rigs. Some, however, camped in tents. The winds were horrific that night, and the temperature dipped making the

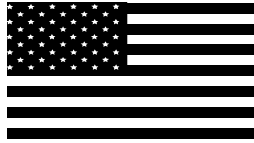
distant snow seem as if it was there. Sunday morning was calm and beautiful. The pictures above show some vistas taken from the FS campground.

Sharon Middleton, FSVVA Volunteer



Photo Credits: Page 1, Top (L) to (R) Sharon Middleton, “Sweetie” – Bill Snead, Sharon Middleton, Bottom (L) to (R) Cheyenne Ibarra, Bill Snead; Page 2, Top (L) – Cheyenne Ibarra; Top (R) & Bottom (L) & (R) – Sharon Middleton

MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END



Thank you for the great help over Memorial Day weekend. Including an estimate for the contacts Mike Taggart and Scott Huseth made at Humber Park, we contacted over 400 wilderness visitors this weekend. Andy Koperdak made at least 160 contacts over 2 days and Remco Brommet made 78 in one day on Deer Springs. I ran into some hikers on Sunday that had a wilderness permit because they had talked to Remco on Saturday. Just one example that educational contacts can make a difference.

Greg Rolfi came up midweek to help get the campgrounds ready for the weekend. He cleaned ALL the fire rings in the three campgrounds as well as picked up a lot of trash which was surely appreciated by the recreation crew as well as the campers this weekend. Unfortunately, he got sick and had to cut his stay short and miss out on a planned trip into the Wilderness.

John Edmiston started out the weekend with a trip up Spitler Peak Trail on Friday. Andy turned out to be the lone ranger overnight in the wilderness over the weekend. I talked to a lot of people camped near the Laws trail although I'm not sure that I found the people that Andy talked about. I looked for Mr. Grumpy who Andy had to deal with but fortunately for me he decided to cut his visit short and I missed him. Sorry you had to deal with him. Thanks for being the lone ranger overnight in the wilderness!

It was really helpful to have Mike and Scott at Humber Park. It sure helps with permit compliance!

Remco, it was helpful to both the FS and State Park to have you on the Deer Springs Trail. I think you had to contend with the most wilderness permit noncompliance!

Dolores Hewitt, Joanne Pirelli, Marsha Houle, and Geri Ortega also took time out of their holiday weekend to patrol on very busy days.

Everyone who worked over the weekend provided extremely helpful updates on trail conditions. It sure helps to get the reports back for the trail crew.

The help this weekend was greatly

appreciated. We had great coverage - thanks to all of you!

*Melinda Lyon, Wilderness/Trails Manager
San Jacinto Ranger District San Bernardino
National Forest; phone: 909-382-2929,
mlyon@fs.fed.us*

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow volunteers! In April, I had a chance to meet all of the local forest supervisors during a retreat they held at the University of California James Reserve. As many of you know, I've been working there for about four years and much of the research we do will provide new insights for forest management. If you would like to know more about what we do, please check out www.jamesreserve.edu.



(L-R Jeanne Wade Evans, Sup. – SBNF, Mike Taggart, Pres. – FSVA, Susan Swinson, Dep Sup. - Angeles NF, Jodi Noiron, Sup. – Angeles NF, Tina Terrell, Sup. – Cleveland NF.)

There are several new things in the works with FSVA that I hope will stimulate membership growth. Idyllwild Cycling is interested in working with us to help patrol some of the mountain bike paths that are shared with bicycles, hikers and horses. While we already do a variety of patrols (hiking, horseback and vehicular) adding bicycles will certainly provide another avenue for those wishing to contribute to our mission. We're also still looking for someone to manage our small store at the Ranger station. In addition to books, maps, pins and patches, we want to expand our sales and begin selling items such as clothing and hats. If you or someone you know has experience in retail merchandising and could contribute one day-per-week, please contact me. The Lake Hemet Visitor's cabin has been re-roofed and painted. A bunch of us are planning to clean out and refurbish the inside

on 19 August. If you would like to help out, please contact Bob Romano or myself. We're also looking for two new board members. If you would like to participate in the management of FSVA, please contact me or one of the other board members.

During this past year, I've been helping my parents prepare their Orange County home for sale. My dad's health is not so good and they are planning to move in with my sister in Seattle. I bring this up because FSVA is a different kind of organization. Most of our members have full-time jobs and often contribute time to other volunteer groups. This usually means that when a family situation comes along something has to give. I want to thank all of you who have been so understanding this past year while I have been a bit preoccupied. Take care.

Mike Taggart, President

HIKES & WORKSHOPS

The Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (NM) has an exciting program schedule for the upcoming Fall, Winter and Spring. Slide show presentations, nature hikes, and workshops will be presented at the NM Visitor Center in Palm Desert and at a wide variety of other sites. Working with partnership groups such as the Mt. San Jacinto State Park, Idyllwild Nature Center, U.S. Forest Service, and city libraries, the public will be informed on the human and natural history of the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains. The schedule's highlights include seven guided nature hikes, an invasive plant eradication workday on September 23, a living history presentation on October 24, a fire safety workshop January 24, a wildflower workshop February 5, and an Open House at the Visitor Center on February 17. A great variety of nature walks & workshops at the California Desert Nature Festival in April are planned, www.californiadesertnaturefestival.com. To get on the NM mailing list, contact Tracy at Talbrech@ca.blm.gov. To view the schedule, visit the NM website at www.blm.gov/ca/palmsprings then click on the NM.

Thanks to Tracy Albrecht, NM Interpretive Specialist

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....

1. How long have you been an FSVA volunteer?
3 to 3.5 years

2. How many hours have you contributed since becoming a volunteer?

Approximately 700 hours

3. What time of year do you volunteer (summer, winter, all year, etc.)?

All Year

4. Why did you decide to become a volunteer?

After many years of hiking/backpacking I found it a way to help pay back the enjoyment I received. I also wanted to become more involved with the Forest Service and make some kind of difference. Besides what kid does not dream of becoming a forest ranger some day. This was a way to achieve a childhood dream.

5. Of which volunteer accomplishment(s) are you most proud?

**Performing wilderness ranger duties.
Performing wildlife endangered species,
Mountain Yellow Legged Frog,
monitoring.**

6. What do you enjoy most about volunteering for FSVA?

What I enjoy the most are the people I meet on the trail. There are some real interesting people out there and just a chance to hear a little bit about their life experiences is very rewarding.

7. What, if any, are your goals as a FSVA member?

To keep broadening my knowledge of the Forest Service both locally and nationally as it pertains to wilderness preservation.

8. Do you volunteer with any other organizations?

**In 2000 I did volunteer trail work at Lytle Creek Ranger station.
During the fire season of 2005 I volunteered with the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA). I was a fire lookout at the Black Mountain fire lookout tower.**

9. Any special skills and/or awards we should know about?

I am a HAM radio operator. For those who are interested my call sign is KG6SHO. I used to belong to Toastmasters, a public speaking organization, for about 10 years. While a Toastmaster I served as a Club President,

District Sgt. At Arms, and an Area Governor.

10. What improvements would you recommend for the FSVA?

I wouldn't know if this would be considered an improvement but I would like to see the FSVA to continue to grow in membership both locally and nationally. What I mean by national growth is to see the FSVA have chapters in other parts of the U.S.

11. If currently employed, what is your occupation? Semi-retired?

Retired?

I am currently employed as a Computer Scientist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Norco, CA.

12. Is there anything else you would like to share with the general membership and public?

13. Are there any questions you would like to ask Melinda Lyon, FSVA Liaison? Please list.

Scott Husseth, FSVA Volunteer

Note: This is a new column and we hope to publish the answers in future newsletters. Feel free to only answer those questions that you want to and, if possible, please submit a digital picture (close-up) to include with the article. By your submission, you authorize us to use your name and picture. Besides giving us insight, we will get to know you better. Please Email to ofcpro.sm@verizon.net. Thank you! *Editor.*

"HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE"

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves:

- By coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.
- A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.
- A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep

the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital. Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives!!

Via Email to Sharon Middleton

BAD WEED FOR HORSES

Yellow Starthistle. This weed, an introduced European annual (non-native), infests cultivated fields, pastures, and wastelands in California. Horses may eat it during dry, poor-growth years and come down with "**Chewing Disease**". They end up unable to eat, and starve to death. http://www.blm.gov/ca/bis_hop/weeds/plants/yellowst_arthistle.html



VOLUNTEER PATROL STORY

Part 1: Hi Bob and Melinda, I really goofed up this morning. I was in a rush to get to the barn, saddle up and pick up Marsha (*Houle*). Didn't cross my mind until just ready to load my horse in the trailer that I hadn't sent you both an email or faxed the front desk that we were going out. Guess I had to forget once! I called on my cell phone to the front desk and they put us on the board.

We staged at the Pacific Crest Trail on Hwy 74. About 1 mile north we met a PCT hiker, Zack, who is going the entire route to Canada. Nice young man from Georgia, hiking alone, and he asked us to report to you that at 9:00 a.m. today there were 6 off-road motorcycles that left Hwy 74 and drove on the PCT southward. He did call the Forest Service, but he wanted to make certain that everyone is aware of what was going on. Such an (*illegal*) activity on the PCT could cause great harm to equestrians, equines, and hikers. We rode to the short cutoff onto Penrod Canyon Rd. and then on down the old mining road to Garner Valley. Lovely day, lots of new, green growth, and the PCT was in great shape with water crossing in several spots. Sorry for the flubb this morning. And I did remember to check out with the front desk when we returned. Geri

Email by Geri Ortega, volunteer equestrian patrol

Part 2: Geri, Thank you for the report on today's ride. Things like motorcycles on the PCT are a perfect example of why we go out on patrol. Our presence does reduce some of this. In a perfect world it would be great if we could have someone out on every trail on the district at least once a week. This would give us a good picture of what is going on out there. As it is we are very grateful to have the help we have with your contribution and the others in the FSVA. We do make of difference and you two are a part of that. Again Thank You.

While it is important to let me or Melinda know about your rides you got the most important part right by calling the office and letting dispatch know you are out there. They are your safety net if something goes wrong. I look forward to getting your next email about an upcoming ride. When I get them I wish I could be out there to instead of working indoors in Riverside! Thank you for your support. Bob

Email by Bob Romano, Volunteer Wilderness (& Field) Coordinator

Part 3: Hi Bob & Geri, Thanks for the report. And as Bob said, thank you for being out there as it helps to discourage this type of behavior. It turns out that the PCT hiker was able to get a plate and take a few photos. The motorcyclists told him they were riding to Julian! BLM was also notified and hopefully intercepted them. But at the very least, we should be able to at least cite the ones we have plates on. Melinda

Email by Melinda Lyon, Wilderness & Trails Manager

FULLER RIDGE TRAIL WORK

Nice message from Pete Fish on trail crew's participation in the recent project at Fuller Ridge! Pete leads the PCTA (volunteer) trail crew for the San Jacinto mountains PCT area. Mid-June they camped at the trailhead yellow post site and worked on the Fuller Ridge Tr. from the road to the first junction southeast, using horses for packing equipment.

Melinda - I want to thank you for the water buffalo (*large water tank trucked up*), and for making the trail crew available. **We really enjoyed working with Tommy, Amanda, and Eric. All our crew are impressed with them, they pitch right in, work hard, and are willing to do anything to**

help. We got lots of practice with Pionjar and Boulder Buster this time. But also found rock splitting techniques starting with a Rifting hammer and finishing with 12" pins and feathers (holes drilled with Pionjar) to be very effective on steep rock surfaces where it is not possible to seat the Boulder Buster. We really appreciate the 14+ work days your crew put in. Pete Fish *For PCTA info go to pcta.org.*

ADVENTURE PASS UPDATE

Volunteers do not check for the A.P., but we thought you might be interested in this info. If the public has questions, please direct them to staff (front desk or field), there are more details than will fit here. Volunteers who work 100 hours or more in a year receive a free annual A.P.!

Talking Points

1. The Idyllwild Ranger Station sells Adventure Passes, as do some local vendors. To find an Adventure Pass vendor near you, go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/ap or contact the nearest Forest Service office (*Idyllwild Ranger Station*).
2. Since the Adventure Pass program began back in 1997, the focus has been educating our visitors about the need for the pass. Rather than issue citations, the FS emphasis has been education and to issue Notices of Noncompliance (NNC) to anyone that does not display a valid Adventure Pass or Golden Passport (*sold at the ranger station*) on their vehicles when parked in fee areas (*such as Humber Park, etc.; ask Gail for a list or to email it to you*).
3. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act was (*passed by Congress and*) signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447). The Adventure Pass program is being implemented under the Federal Law.
4. The forests are now transitioning into a new phase of compliance with the adventure pass. Those who do not display the Adventure or Golden Pass on more than one visit to "Recreation Fee Areas" violate 36CFR 261.17. Beginning in June 2006, persons who repeatedly fail to pay the recreation fee may receive citations.

5. Forest officers will now have discretion to issue citations (rather than warnings) any time a visitor repeatedly fails to display a pass. This can result in a fine of \$100.00 for the first conviction. A second conviction for the same offense could result in more serious penalties.
6. Don't take a chance on receiving a citation — buy the Adventure Pass before the next visit.

Questions and Answers

Q. Why is the Adventure Pass needed? A. The number of visitors to the Southern California National Forests has steadily increased during recent years, while at the same time Forest recreation budgets have remained at low levels and costs have increased. All of these factors have stretched us beyond our ability to provide basic recreation services like cleaning restrooms, maintaining trails, picking up trash, and removing graffiti. Additional funding is needed in order to meet the tremendous demand for recreation services in Southern California. Numerous surveys have shown people are willing to pay for services as long as the revenue is returned to the location where the fee was collected. *If purchased at the Idyllwild Ranger Station, 80% of the pass fee stays on the San Jacinto Ranger District.*

Q. What changes were implemented as a result of the new legislation? A. *In June 2005, Congress said only part of the forest requires the pass, so now only 20% needs it, 80% does not. Previously all 100% of the forest had needed the pass.* In order to meet the (2005 changes in) guidelines established under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act the Forest Service reduced the area in southern California where fees are required. The Adventure Pass is still required in most popular locations. The non-fee areas are more remote, have fewer visitors, and experience fewer impacts from visitor use than fee locations. Many popular developed picnic areas still require an Adventure Pass and campgrounds will continue to charge camping fees. Visitors should check with the Forest they plan on visiting to determine where the fees are charged.

Q. How do you spend money collected from the Adventure Pass? A. The four forests have been working hard to provide the services that visitors

have said they wanted most. Restrooms have been cleaned more frequently, popular facilities and trails have been repaired, signs have been replaced, graffiti is being removed, vandalism is being repaired, abandoned campfires have been extinguished, and interpretive signs have been built. Also, hundreds of tons of trash, discarded cars, and appliances have been removed from your National Forests.

Compiled/noted by Gail Heveron, gheveron@fs.fed.us

WILDERNESS COORDINATOR REPORT

Norma and I are enjoying living full time at Lake Hemet. The evenings are cool, the mid weeks are very quiet, and the best part is having a direct view of Tahquitz Peak and the desert divide from our windows. Having the lake shore about 30 yards from my doorstep allows me to throw a line in the water even when I only have a 1/2 hour or so. Catching fish is not guaranteed. Stop by and see us sometime if you are in the area. Our phone number for contact is 951 323-9409.

As some of you know, the FSVA will be cleaning out the Lake Hemet area building and using it as a base for patrols in the Garner Valley (Spitler Peak Trail, etc.) and Santa Rosa Mountain areas. Norma and I are only just over 1 mile from the building so can keep things current and radios ready. A cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 19. Details will follow. If you would like the convenience of this location please plan to participate. We could use everyone's help.

The wilderness is very inviting this summer with lots of water in the creeks, lots of wild flowers and trails that need your visit. Please plan some hikes on a wilderness trail this summer to support the wilderness and the FSVA. I would like to thank Steve Ricker, John Edmiston, Andy Koperdak, Kris Leasher, Greg Rolfi, Dolores Hewitt, Tom Diaz, Scott Huseth, Mike Taggart, Joanne Pirelli for being out in the wilderness the last few months. Also thank you to the Equestrians including Marsha Houle and Geri Ortega, and Tom and Cathy Firth for patrolling Garner Valley and packing the wilderness. Thank you for all the others for your help. Your help has been very valuable in our quest to be the eyes and ears of the Forest Service on the San Jacinto Ranger District.

See you out on the trail.

Bob Romano

Volunteer Wilderness Coordinator

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Soon you will be able to take American Red Cross First Aid and CPR classes. There will need to be a charge for materials, but I will try to keep it to a minimum. Dates will depend on when I can reserve the manikins. I will send out an email when I know further. I recently finished the Instructor training, so am looking forward to using it.

Gail Heveron

CAMP SMOKEY

If you will be up north, you may want to attend this exhibit:



WHAT: "Camp Smokey" - An interagency fire prevention & education effort

WHEN: August 11 through September 4, 2006

WHERE: Cal-Expo California State Fair in Sacramento

THEME: Pathway To Prevention

EQUESTRIAN TEAM NEWS

We will be patrolling for fire at the Idyllwild Renaissance Fair on July 22, 23-29, 30 and at the Jazz Fest on August 26-27. Training sessions will start in August for the team.

Live long in the saddle.

Karleen Esparza, Captain



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, FSV Liaison, District Wilderness and Trails Mgr.

FSVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TICK AWARENESS

BE SAFE AND CHECK YOURSELF FOR TICKS OFTEN! I can not say it enough, you need to realize you work in areas **that do have ticks** and you need to really pay attention to all **signs & symptoms**. If you are bit by a tick and it had to be removed from your body you need to report it (*to Melinda or Gail*), if you do start developing any **signs & symptoms within 30 days** you need to fill out a CA-1 (*on-duty injury*) form and seek medical attention. If you choose to have your tick tested you may, but California Department of Health Services is not recommending it because it is not that accurate.

By David C. Edgar, Forest Safety Officer/Hazmat Specialist & Forest Service Chief Accident Investigator

IDYLLWILD VACATION PACKAGE RAFFLE

FSVA, in partnership with the Idyllwild Bureau of Tourism, is raffling off an Idyllwild Vacation Package. The raffle proceeds will benefit the May Valley Trails Project. The May Valley Trails Project is evaluating 25 miles of non-system trails in the May Valley/Herkey Creek area for inclusion in the Forest Service trail system as non-motorized multiple-use trails. The trail system will offer a

diverse range of loop trail opportunities near Idyllwild and Hurkey Creek County Park. The package includes a three-day, two-night stay at the Cedar Street Inn between Sunday and Thursday; a guided mountain bike and horseback ride in May Valley; a guided hike; and dinner for two at a local restaurant. All proceeds benefit the project and will be used for trail signing, trail maintenance, trail maps and trail information. Tickets are available at the Idyllwild Forest Service Ranger Station, the Bike Route, and the Cedar Street Inn. Tickets are on sale for \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00 through August 27.

OUTDOOR LORE



“Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning; red sky at night, sailor’s delight!”

A change in humidity and atmospheric pressure is what causes changes in the weather. This little sailor’s ditty is an excellent way to help you predict the possibility of a coming storm.

“A campfire can help you predict the weather.”

Just add some damp leaves to your campfire and watch what happens, if the smoke hugs the ground as it rolls away, a storm is coming. If the smoke rises straight up from the fire, clear weather is ahead.

“You can weather-proof eggs in five seconds.”

It’s called blanching. Dip eggs in boiling water for exactly five seconds and let them cool. The heat creates a film inside the egg that makes it airtight and keeps it fresh. You can finish cooking the egg when you’re hungry.

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE DURING ELECTRICAL STORMS

ELECTRIC STORMS & COMPUTERS

Power surges from a thunderstorm can damage or destroy your computer and surrounding peripherals. Electrical storms are especially common during “Lightning Season,” which extends from mid-April to mid-September.

The following steps can help prevent damage to your computer during an electrical storm:

- Unplugging all computer and peripheral cables, including the telephone line for the modem, from the wall before an electrical storm is the best way to help prevent system damage. Be sure to shut down your computer and turn off your peripherals before unplugging them from the wall.
- Using a **surge protector** can also help prevent damage to your system from a power surge in many cases. Some surge protectors have telephone jacks for added phone line protection.

Via Email from Dell Computers 7/5/06.

The next newsletter will be out approximately September 15, 2006. Please have your articles in by September 1. Use Times New Roman, 12 font, with justified margins. Thanks! *Editor*