

## OPEN LETTER from Pam & George Morey

Welcome everyone to the first of many Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout News letters.

First, we want to thank every one of you for your dedication to the program. The support you have given us is overwhelming. We are proud to be part of your group (or can we call it the lookout family?). We are all here with the same purpose, to save some of our history, teach our forest visitors how they can preserve some history also and all have fun doing it. You will never know how much you have given to us. The words of wisdom, the positive thinking, the hugs, and so much more, are worth more than you will ever know.

We would especially like to thank Mike McIntyre. Mike you are truly special. You put your trust in us and went with it. We know it was a major decision to believe in us. (We don't know how you didn't hang up on Pam when you heard her voice. She was a pest at times. For those of you who may not know this, Mike has been working behind the scene. Thanks to his long hours and hard work we have new manuals, area maps for the lookouts and so much more I won't list them. When you see him just give him a word of thanks. Also Mike is the reason Vetter and So. Mt. Hawkins are still with us today so you can blame him for the fun we are having.

There are so many more people here in the Angeles Forest that have supported us and you know who you are and we thank you. The list of people goes on and on, but we had better leave room for more articles. We don't want to make this a George and Pam thank you news letter. But we do Thank You.

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## Things to "look out" for this month by Jane Strong

### The arrival of the summer monsoons



heralded by the "afternoon buildup", the appearance of large puffy white cumulus clouds over the eastern end of the range...lightning from these thunderstorms often strikes the area around Big Pines.

**The feeding of the fledgling birds by their parents.** The young birds display a peculiar posture when begging for food...they hunch down and spread their wings and tails and squawk.

**The minute pinkish flowers** of the California buckwheat will be in full bloom attracting many butterflies and insects...particularly the small "blue" butterflies and the hair-streaks which have iridescent colors.

Later in the month, **the rare and beautiful Lemon Lily** in Big Cienaga will open its yellow trumpet flowers.

**Reptiles rule the day**...watch for the very dark gray Western Fence Lizard perched on rocks doing his daily exercises [pushups].

### IMPORTANT DATE

**July 17, 6:30pm.**

**Supersession & Potluck Dinner.**

**Angeles National Forest Headquarters**

Maps: Townships & Ranges.

Conducted by Richard Harris.

Bring food items; dishes & utensils provided.

RSVP with Pam Morey.

New uniforms can be ordered and new manuals can be picked up at this session.

**Vetter** Vetter Mountain has a new schedule system. Chuck McFate is doing the scheduling on the computer. The schedule can be



accessed via a link from our website ([www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)). Log on and pick your days and sign up. Vetter is trying this out, we figure it will save on phone bills and you can see what is available at the click of a mouse. If you have any problems please call George and he will get it taken care of.

**Bob Gregg's Vetter Notes.** On the original topo map of 1904 Vetter was called Pine Mtn. It was renamed by US Forest Service surveyor Don McLain in 1933 for Victor Vetter, a dedicated Forest Ranger and fire dispatcher. Vetter won the USFS Bissell Medal for outstanding work in forest conservation in 1930.

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## 26 and counting

By the time you read this we will have at least 26 **new** volunteers. The classes went well and Eddie from dispatch joined us for our Operations training. (Thank you Eddie for taking time out of your busy schedule to join us!) Dispatch wants to utilize us more this year. Also they would like you to call a fire in using township and range so you'd better take a second look at that Supersession notice on page 1 and note it in your calendar!

## South Mt. Hawkins

**Bob Gregg's Notes**

South Mt. Hawkins was named by Jack Bascom of the Sierra Club in 1941 so as to have a named destination for hikers. The



name Hawkins originated where Coldbrook Camp is today. This spot was originally a hunters camp until a R.W. Dawson filed a claim in the 1880s. In 1900 he leased the flat to Doc Beatty for a resort. Beatty built a rough road up from Camp Rincon and opened a rustic hostelry he called Squirrel Inn in 1901. The Inn was a hit from the start, particularly because of a beautiful waitress named Nellie Hawkins. From 1901-6 she charmed and attracted miners, hunters and campers. Her name was given to Mt. Hawkins just north of the lookout. In 1904 Dawson took over from Beatty and changed the name of Squirrel Inn to Coldbrook Camp and had a post office here. He built a hotel in 1907 with numerous cabins and tents. One could find dinner parties, dances, masquerade balls, tennis and campfire programs. It was sold in 1913 to three men who brought in electricity from the water power of the falls above the camp. After the 1920s things slowed down and in 1935 the CCC with 150 men stayed here during Forest Service related projects. That ended in 1937 and then came along the flood of 1938.

### **Uniforms can be ordered at [July 17 Supersession](#)**

**BASIC UNIFORM:** Beige shirt; Forest Green logo; white name badge with Forest Green lettering. Short sleeve - \$30.00. Long sleeve -\$33.00. Sizes 2XL (Add \$2.00), XL, L, M, S.

**EXTRAS:** Forest Green windbreaker - \$30.00. Baseball caps - \$8.00.

Additional shirts: short sleeve - \$21.00 . Long sleeve - \$24.00 . (Add \$2.00 for 2XL).

## Jane Strong's Nature Notes

### *The Anna's Hummingbird*

When I would come to Vetter weekday mornings last summer, a female Anna's hummingbird would be perched on the railing, waiting for the feeder to be refilled. If I neglected to fill the feeder first thing, she would buzz at the window repeatedly until I had accomplished that chore.

The Anna's is the most common hummingbird in southern California. It is also the largest, around three inches.

The adult male has a metallic green back, iridescent rose-red crown and patch of throat feathers, called a gorget, and grayish underparts. The adult female also has a green back, but no red head and the throat has just a few red spots or a small irregular blotch. Young of both sexes look like the adult female, but have whitish throats. Seeing the iridescent coloring of the rose-red crown and gorget or the metallic green back depends on the angle between the sun, the bird, and you. If you are not in the right position, the head and throat appear to be black.

### **NAMES you should know**

Coordinators	George and Pam Morey
Secretary / Treasurer	Dee Lee
Training Coordinator	Ken Ketman
Webmaster	Don Kyle
Ast. Webmaster	Ric Opalka
Newsletter Editor	Ric Opalka
Ast. Newsletter Editor	Don Kyle
Uniform Coordinator	Richard Harris
Field Trip Coordinator	Mike McIntyre (temp) if any one is interested please give Pam a call
Fundraising	Chuck Mcfate
Vetter Mtn. Team Leader	
	George Morey
Asst.	Kermit Eller
Tower scheduler.	Chuck Mcfate
So. Mtn. Hawkins	Team leader
	Pam Morey
Asst.	Richard Harris
Asst.	Dick Wagoner



Anna's often perch on the tip of a high branch constantly turning their head or preening. The males will sometimes sing while on these perches. His song is a series of squeaky phrases. It is the only hummingbird in California that has a "song". Both sexes emit a simple toneless "chip" sound, like a baby chick, while they move from flower to flower to feed. This call is recognizably different from other hummingbirds. Male territorial display involves a long, steep, J-shaped dive with a loud "pop" at the bottom.

The name, Anna's, is a tribute to Duchess Anna Massena (1806-1896), wife of the Duke of Rivoli [in northern Italy], for whom Rivoli's Hummingbird was named.

Large numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds migrate from California to spend the fall in southern Arizona. Additionally, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds commonly occur as fall migrants (as early as June) in the mountains. Both of these have a coppery-orange metallic sheen to their wings, rump and sides and are smaller. This results in a great concentration of hummingbirds at the feeders during September. What a circus! Or is it "The Hummingbird Wars"?



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