

## *A Message from Pam & George Morey*

Welcome back everyone. We as a group have accomplished so much. We have a lot of people working behind the scene. Thank you all. Everything is going great. Our uniforms will be ready soon and when they come in we will be handing them out. Our supersession was a great one. If you went away hungry it was not due to lack of good food. Everyone did a great job. Thanks Richard Harris for the map class. While you are in the lookout you can practice your township and ranges.

We do not have a supersession this month. We will be having an **August 25th field trip to Dispatch at Fox Field at 4503 W.**

**William Barnes Avenue in Lancaster. If you who want to go directly** to Fox Field, we will meet at **there at 10:00am**. Those who want to **car pool** will meet at the **Forest Office in Arcadia at 8:00am**. We will need a count of who will be car pooling by August 13<sup>th</sup>. We will also need to know who will be meeting us at Fox Field.

**(In either event, RSVP with Pam Morey by August 13.)** We will be taking a tour of Dispatch and if there are no fires we will get to see all the planes and chopper. Bring your camera. The tour will last about two to three hours.

### **IMPORTANT DATE**

Saturday, August 25 Field Trip to Dispatch.  
Fox Field, Lancaster

**RSVP with Pam Morey by August 13.**

**Directions to Gen'l Wm J. Fox Airfield**  
14 Fwy north to "G" Street in Lancaster.  
West to William J. Barnes (50th St) Ave.  
Right into Fox Field.

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

The gray-leaved, mat-forming Wright's buckwheat, found at both Vetter and South Mt. Hawkins, begins to bloom. Watch for, too, the trumpet-shaped flowers of the scarlet penstemons, which are so attractive to hummingbirds.

**Late August** brings touches of red to the mountainsides: shiny, scarlet hollyleaf cherries, crimson poison oak leaves, russet seedheads of California buckwheat.

**Seeds** from the golden grasses, acorns from the canyon live oaks, and nuts from the cones of the coniferous trees like bigcone spruce and Jeffrey pine are ripening.



The animals are very busy, either eating them to put on weight for hibernation, or storing them away

for winter use. The acorn woodpecker packs acorns tightly into granary trees. Jays, chipmunks and squirrels bury them in the ground to return to later in winter.

**The Full Moon** rises shortly after sunset on the third of this month. It is known by these descriptive names: Time When the Cherries are Ripe (Cheyenne), Moon When All Kinds of Animals Prepare Their Dens (Tlingit), and Red Moon (named for the heat and haze of the month). The Moon appears reddish when it rises because of the scattering out of the bluer light by Earth's atmosphere. Be on the lookout for the Perseid meteor showers around the twelfth.

*[See accompanying article on page 3]*

**Keep up to date: [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)**

## George Morey from Vetter

For those of you who were not able to come to our first supersession you missed some excellent food. The only problem we had



was the freeway noise. We met in the warehouse because of the large number of people who attended. We had about 2/3 of our volunteers show up.

Vetter has taken on a new look. Some of the trees blocking our views have come down. Thanks Gerry. I have also changed the inside a little. Since we give township and ranges now I have moved the map table to face the north side of the lookout. Come on up and see the new Vetter. I have added a bird feeder and another humming bird feeder; and Pam has installed a bird bath. The wild animals are abundant this year. We have a family of quail, a young bear cub and a snake that hangs out by the water tank and gets his water for the evening.

Where else can you serve the public and Forest Service and get a wild life adventure? This is the life!

### *Bob Gregg's Road Trip*

Today one drives up the San Gabriel River Canyon from Azusa on a nice two lane highway called State Highway #39. It was not always this easy. The canyon was originally called Azusa Canyon and the first white man in this region was Henry Dalton, an Englishman who purchased large land holdings from the Mexican owners in 1844.

*story continues on page 3*

## Pam Morey from South Mt. Hawkins



We are doing great. No more rock slides and the

road looks like it is well traveled. We have every weekend covered and a lot during the week. Our new volunteers are helping fill in on the weekdays. We are getting a lot of overnights this year. Do remember to let your team leader know and put it on the schedule so that we are all on the same page. Also remember if you are coming up the night before be extra careful; you may meet the volunteer coming down off the shift.

Our weather station looks great: thanks Bob Gregg. It seems Bob gets our big groups of visitors and I get to see the wild life. So far a young bobcat, deer, snake and hopefully we will have the sheep back. They were there in Oct. last year. We have a chipmunk who comes up and eats out of our bird house. What a trip just to pig out. I am afraid he will get stuck inside and can't get out. If that happens I hope one of us is up there to help him out. You guys are doing a great job.



***A Vetter Mtn 4th of July.  
Picture provided by Bob & Maria Moore***

### *Catch a falling star by Jane Strong*

There are many rewards to being a fire lookout host, among them the opportunity to stay overnight in the tower. You can see sunsets, fireworks and the night sky from a vantage point rarely equaled down below.

Near the middle of August, overnights will be

treated to the annual Perseid meteor showers, one of the densest and most reliable of all the meteor showers. On the average, you can see about one a minute.



**What day to watch:** Watch for Perseid meteors in the night skies from July 23 to August 22. The most intense showers will be the nights of Saturday, August 11/12 and Sunday, August 12/13.

**What time to watch:** Normally the best time to view meteors is after midnight, when the earth is heading directly into the stream of meteors. But this year, because a half-moon rises over the horizon after midnight making the dimmer meteors difficult to see, the best time to look will be in the evening before the moon comes up.

**Where to look:** After sunset, the constellation of Perseus will be about halfway above the horizon in the northeast sky. This is above Mt. Waterman from Vetter and above Mt. Baden-Powell from South Mt. Hawkins.

**How to look:** Lay on your back with your feet facing due south and look straight up. The shooting stars will appear to be coming from over your left shoulder. Looking directly at the constellation causes the meteors to appear faint and slow-moving.

**What are they:** The “falling stars” of the Perseid meteor shower are caused by comet debris, dust and rock fragments, left behind by the Swift-Tuttle comet. When the comet nears the sun, solar radiation melts the ice, causing dust particles and rock fragments to separate from the comet nucleus, making a visible tail, which we can see, and, also, a debris trail marking the comet’s path. When Earth passes through the debris trail, these particles are turned into gases by friction with the Earth’s atmosphere, creating a brilliant glow. Each dust particle is smaller than a single grain of sand and travels through the atmosphere 50-60 times faster than a rifle shot.

**Next meteor showers:** Orionids, October 21, and Leonids, November 16.

**Learn more at:** [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)

### *Bob Gregg’s Road Trip (continued from page 2)*

He built a ranch home at the mouth of the canyon with adobe brick walls three feet thick. A road ran from the San Gabriel Mission to his ranch. In 1856 an adobe building was built for the ranch foreman one mile further up the canyon. From here trails led up the canyon. In the 1880s roads were built to haul timber out of the mountains and to haul mining equipment in. By 1891 a new era began as the canyon was becoming a recreation center crowded with hunters, fisherman and recreation seekers. A huge flood in 1889-90 washed out everything. These ‘roads’ were always being rebuilt and were terrible to travel on. After the devastating fires of 1919 and 1924 the Forest Service saw a need for better roads. People were told to store their cars in Azusa and take the stage up into the canyon. It crossed the San Gabriel River 19 times getting to Camp Rincon. Of course each years floods required the road to be rebuilt. The road was finally paved by Los Angeles County to the Forks (East and West Forks split) in 1925. With plans for two major dams, a new higher road had to be built and work began in January, 1932 being equally paid for by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, City of Pasadena, Forest Service and the State of California. It was paved and open to the public in 1935 to the Forks. A dirt road had been constructed up the North Fork from 1924 to 1931 to Crystal Lake. After World War II the road became State Highway 39.



*Pam Morey’s Road Trip*

The fire road from Crystal Lake to South Mt. Hawkins was built in 1936.

## Woody McCauley's VETTER MTN. GOLF

A day in a lookout offers wonderful opportunities to enjoy the scenery, weather and antics of the animals. Welcoming the guests and chatting with them is also fun. Mid-week days when the visitor count is low and the radio traffic slow, however, offer opportunities to be creative between your scans for smoke and other duties.

Vetter Mtn. Lookouts know that this site attracts a fairly large number of flies especially in warm weather. As some of these flies expire, they fall to the floor and must be sweep out periodically to keep things neat.

One particular afternoon in 1998, I was working the tower solo. I had no visitors, the radio was silent and I noted that the floor needed a sweep. I thought for a moment and wondered if the flies could be pushed out the door with the fly swatter swung as a golf putter. I experimented and found that, while not easy, it was possible to putt the flies out the door. It was then that I coined the term "Vetter Mtn. Golf" to describe my newfound method of cleaning the floor.

To be sure the fly swatter is not much of a club, but that just makes it more interesting. Considerable experimentation yielded some rules and a par for various shots. Before explaining the rules, I should add that no part of this sport should ever preclude us from performing our lookout duties. Looking for smoke and other duties comes first.

### **RULES** *(in the obligatory fine print):*

1. Only the lookout furnished fly swatter will be allowed as a putter – no brooms or other devices are permitted.
2. Each swing of the putter will be counted as one stroke.
3. The flies must clear the threshold completely to be counted as out of the tower.
4. Par for the Front Course is 3 strokes. Par for the Back Course is 4 strokes.
5. Obstacles: Repositioning moves may be made only to clear obstacles such as the Osborne pedestal so long as the fly ends up no closer to the door than before the repositioning move.
6. Assistance: No form of assistance is allowed in making a shot including blowing, fanning, pushing etc. Lift shots are not permitted. Only the putter may be used in making a shot.
7. Wind: Interference from the wind through the door or windows must be overcome by the player unless it can be demonstrated that the wind is 4 mph or more, constant velocity, as shown on the wind gauge supplied in the belt weather kit. In that case, the game may be suspended until conditions improve.
8. Players: Only currently certified fire lookouts for Vetter Mtn. Are permitted to compete in this event. Visitors and others may play, but their scores will not be recorded.
9. It is up to each player to determine the size and weight of each fly and use appropriate skill and technique for said fly.
10. Any smoke report that is made by someone, other than the on duty lookouts, during a game of Vetter Mtn. Golf, will be cause for said lookouts to be permanently banished from the game. Do not keep you head down in this game.
11. Ignoring visitors while playing Vetter Mtn. Golf, will be cause for said lookouts to be suspended from the game for one-month.

***This space reserved  
for the appropriate  
picture I will never  
have to accompany  
this article.***

### **Definitions:**

1. Front Course: all floor space north (toward the door) of the mid point line of the Osborne pedestal.
2. Back Course: all floor space south (away from the door) of the mid point line of the Osborne pedestal.
3. Putter: defined as the wire-handle fly swatter that is standard equipment in the tower. No substitutes or "Big Berthas" will be allowed.
4. Flies: any insect that has flown into the tower totally on its own power and, by observation, is determined to be dead. No allowance is made for the size of the fly or the time it has been dead which might affect its weight.
5. One-Strike Rule: Missing a visible smoke report during a game – see rule 10 above.