



ANOTHER ADVENTURE or “What I Did on My Way Home from South Mt. Hawkins” (see story on page 2).
by **Pam Morey**.

Near the dam I came upon some stopped cars, flashing lights, lots of equipment and a guy signaling me to slow down. When I stopped, he walked up to the truck and started to tell me about the accident in front of me (4 teens driving too fast lost control and rolled their vehicle; it landed upside down in a gully and they had to use the jaws of life to get them out. They also had to land 3 choppers to airlift them. Miraculously, they all survived.)

Then the guy saw the shield on my shirt and said, “Oh you’re Forest! Can you help me?” What could I say except “Ok! What do you want me to do?”?

So I became a traffic director, just thinking about getting back to work, while this guy told me about his whole life.

When traffic was under control, I walked up to a Forest Service official and asked how long it would take to get things cleared up. As I started to walk away she saw the back of my shirt and said “Hey! You’re one of those fire lookouts!” I then realized I had met **Rita**. (You cannot miss her voice!) She wanted to know about our program and was soooooo happy we are up at Hawkins. She wants to get a tour of the lookout but when she is off we are not open. Maybe some day it will come together for her. She says “Thanks everyone for your time and interest in the Forest.”

Just a reminder drive carefully and keep all fours on the ground.

A Note from Carol Rasco: “My family and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kind words during our time of sorrow.”

Things to “lookout” for in September by **Jane Strong**

Flowers...small purple daisy-like flowers of California aster and intense orange-red trumpets of California fuchsia, both plants with gray leaves...

Animals...Oak Titmouse, the plain gray bird with the perky topknot cracking the seeds at the feeder and the swift, reddish-sided Merriam’s chipmunk, always on a fast escalator ride, “squirreling” away the bird seed ...

September weather...ah, what a delightful mixture, sudden downpours or scorching dry winds, high puffy clouds or swirling ground mists...extreme heat brings out the resinous smell of the Jeffrey pine and intense rain issues forth that first fresh precious smell of wet earth in the fall.

“Lookout” for these guys, too!



photo by **Brian Hennis**

IT’S YOUR WEBSITE!!! by **Don Kyle**

www.anffla.org is our official website for current news on supersessions, field trips, scheduling and lookout happenings. A recently added message board is available for all volunteers to post messages, photos and links

SUPER SESSION POTLUCK

Thursday - September 20th, 6:30PM

Bring your favorite dish (and please - don’t forget to take your dishes home!) and be ready for an informative evening.

Speakers and program to be announced at www.anffla.org.

RSVP with Pam Morey

(pgmorey@aol.com or 909-338-3923)!

VETTER. *Chuck McFate in Service.*

Hey all,
I am going to
make this
short and
sweet!
**YOU ALL
DID
AWESOME!**



We only had 3 days without coverage in August!
September is looking good.

Labor Day is covered, thx **Jaye Sarapata & Kevin Trier.**

September Weekends:

We only have two full days open for the weekend, both are Sundays, the 2nd and the 23rd. There are a couple half-day shifts available. Saturday the 8th, morning, Sunday the 9th, afternoon and Saturday the 15th, afternoon.

September Weekdays:

There are plenty of weekday shifts available.

Keep up the good work.

See you up on the Mountain,

Aflame with Color---Jane Strong's Nature Notes

You come around a corner, a sharp twist in the road, and, behold, a blaze of brilliant yellow leaves, a pirate's chest of golden coins, spills down the canyon or over the road. It always takes you by surprise, this fall treasure of ours.

Close up to the tree, you can comprehend its

common name, **Bigleaf Maple**. One leaf can be up to twelve inches across with five deeply cut lobes.

The lobes have smooth margins, except for a few large blunt teeth, and will bleed a milky, sticky juice from a broken end. Leaves are shiny, dark green on top, paler on the bottom and turn yellow and then brown in the fall. The leaf stalks are very long, from 6 to 12 inches.

The Bigleaf Maple begins to color in late August, little by little, leaf by yellow leaf. The younger trees and those growing out of the rocks color up first. By late September, their leaves will be gone, a golden-brown puddle around the gray trunk. The more mature trees growing in the moist canyon bottoms turn color later and hold their leaves longer. Their golden glory is set off in this season by a background of intense blue skies and deep green conifers.

Best places to see **Bigleaf Maple** on the drive up to the lookouts are:

Highway 39 after Coldbrook Campground, any place where Soldier Creek or Coldbrook Creek cross the road, and looking east, in the canyons on the west-facing slope of the Hawkins ridge

Highway 2 from La Cañada, at Woodwardia Canyon and on the north-facing slope of the canyon between Switzers and Red Box or from Wrightwood, near Vincent Gap, especially if you take a slight detour down the forest road to Big Rock Campground, and, then back on the highway, one large one on the north side just after the parking lot, and on the north-facing slope of Mt. Waterman/Kratka Ridge viewed from the turnout before the switchback

Bigleaf Maple in fall is a blaze we can live with.

SOUTH MT. HAWKINS

*a typical day
with
Pam
Morey*

My day started as any day: up at 4:am and off to work by 4:45. Crazy 12 to 13 hour workdays and 2 hour commutes. I have asked myself more than once why did we move so far from work. When I get home around 8pm I have my answer: the cool weather and freshness that hit my face when I get out of the truck (except by the end of the week when



all I can think about is sleep). Today - August 3rd - I was looking forward to a different day. I was to meet **Jaime Cutie** from the **Pasadena Weekly**. She was going to do a story on our group and wanted to see South Mount Hawkins. I was more than pleased to show off my baby. (Talk about a proud mom!). When we pulled up to the lookout and the flags were flying high (thanks **Kermit** for opening Hawkins for us on very short notice) it gave me pride to be part of this. I was also happy Jaime and her photographer **Bob Gapen** made the road. They were impressed that volunteers drive it regularly. (Oh by the way, **Bob Gregg**, I saw a family of quail on the way up.) We had a good interview and after being in the lookout for a few hours they understood why we love the place. We headed down and I got them through the gates and said our good byes and I headed back to work.

South Mt. Hawkins stats through 8/26

The tower was manned 51 days for a total of 608 hrs.

Visitor total: 154. Warmest day: (July 3rd) 86.

Stay current: www.anffla.org

Mt Hawkins from South Mt Hawkins. 150 degree infrared panorama picture by Don Rogers.



Bob Gregg's Weather Report

Vetter and South Hawkins used to record weather daily as part of a network of all lookouts in the Angeles. They recorded sky conditions, wet and dry bulb temperatures, humidity, fuel moisture, high and low temperature, wind speed and direction and precipitation.

At Vetter one can see the fenced in area just NW of the lookout where the weather station used to be and at South Hawkins a concrete slab for the instrument shelter is all that remains. Today the nearest weather station to Vetter is Chilao. The average precipitation over 57 years has been 22.91". The wettest year was 1983 with 56.86" and the driest year was 1972 with just 5.71". On March 2, 1983 a whopping 9.14" fell in 24 hours. The wettest month is January with an average of 4.04" and the driest is July with 0.07". During the lookout season averages are; June-0.09", July-0.07", Aug. -0.32", Sep-0.50", Oct.-0.78".

Precipitation records available for South Hawkins were taken from a storage precipitation gage that was measured once a year in the Fall and was maintained from 1954 to 1985. It still exists just below the dirt road at the curve in the road north of the lookout. Records show an average precipitation of 34.16" at it's 7,700 foot elevation. The wettest season October to October was in

1977-78 with 64.16" and the driest season was 1960-61 with 11.35". Today the nearest active precipitation gage is at Crystal Lake; 2 miles west and 2,383 feet below. South Hawkins is now recording the weather including precipitation and wind with a new instrument shelter located under the lookout behind the fence. A thermograph records the temperature continuously. Last year during the lookout's open season temperatures ranged from 87 degrees on July 21 and Aug. 11 down to a frigid 15 degrees on Nov. 11 just before it closed for the season. A total of 2.38" of precipitation fell during the season including 4" of snow.

CONTACT SHEET

Coordinators:

George and Pam Morey
909-338-3923 or pgmorey@aol.com.

So. Mt. Hawkins: Leader: Pam Morey

Vetter Mtn: Leader: George Morey

Scheduler: Chuck McFate.

818-951-0230; or www.anffla.com or
angelusfirelookout@juno.com

Webmaster: Don Kyle. 818-951-7077;
angeluslookout@earthlink.net; or
www.anffla.com

Newsletter: Ric Opalka
909-629-5111 or opalka@earthlink.net

Learn more about it: www.anffla.org



This Is Your Chance To Tell It Like It Was!!!

Written comments are invited from the 30 +++ Lookout Hosts who went on the Dispatch Field Trip. We will publish a cross-section of them in the October newsletter.



Dispatch Center

FOX FIELD, LANCASTER

Dispatch Field Trip

the pictures tell the story-----

Ken Duval.

The “skyboss” who coordinates everything from the air and makes sure all the pilots are where they are supposed to be.



Yes, Virginia.
There really is a



“Smokey (The Cat)”!



This plane is a **DC4**. It carries 2,000 gallons of retardant and costs \$2,200 per hour to operate; so a typical trip costs \$6,000. The DC4 needs 5,000 feet of runway to lift off loaded and has a range of 1,100 miles. *Special thanks to Bob Gregg for taking thorough notes!*