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AUTUMN 2013

# LOOKOUT NETWORK

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION, INC.



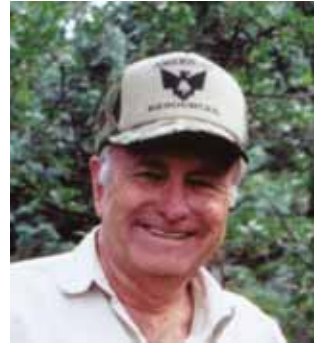
- *Lookouts Protected from Fires*
- *Lookout Grand Openings in New York and Colorado*
- *Green Mountain Bill Passes out of House Committee*

[www.firelookout.org](http://www.firelookout.org)



# ON THE LOOKOUT

From the  
**National Chairman**  
**Keith A. Argow**  
Vienna, Virginia  
Autumn 2013



## BEFIZZLED AND BEFUDDLED

### WE ARE RIGHTLY PROUD OF OUR SUCCESSES ..... BUT WE CAN'T IGNORE THE FIZZLE

A quick scan of just the last 40 issues of our highly acclaimed LOOKOUT NETWORK MAGAZINE tells an inspiring story of the accomplishment of the men and women that make the FFLA what it is. We have been involved in projects stretching from British Columbia to Florida and from Maine to southern California near the Mexican border. We have 32 Chapter Directors with four chapters in California alone. Until recent years we had an appointed State Representative in every state without a chapter.

Across the U. S. FFLA has been involved in nearly 100 restoration projects, most, but not all, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. One of those, Squaw Mountain Lookout on the Arapaho National Forest west of Denver, was an eight-year effort with the Colorado Forestry Association and partners. Just recently dedicated (see p.7), the lookout now rents for \$80 a night. In theory it is also available for volunteer fire observer duty, but incredibly the Front Ranger communities of Evergreen and Conifer, both recent victims of home-burning wildfires, have not grasped the importance of the earliest detection by experienced eyes in keeping fires small.

While we are a national association on paper with members in 46 states, we are better described as dedicated bands of local individuals excited over their own special fire lookout and willing to put their time or money down to restore, protect, and maybe staff it. FFLA can help with our relatively small restoration grants, seed money really, plus our resource of folks who have walked the walk and can serve as mentors.

These local initiatives can be recognized as Local Chapters giving them the backing and access to FFLA's expertise and resources. The accomplishments of our largest local chapter, San Diego-Riverside, have been regularly reported on these pages and do us all proud. They are a spin-off of the very successful volunteer lookout staffing programs on the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests supported by the Southern California Chapter.

### NOW FOR THE FIZZLE

Good intentions, great ideas, and missed opportunities. We are seeing just too many of that last point. Six years ago, the FFLA and Florida Forest Service organized a Snowbird Volunteer Fire Observer program. Every winter a large number of retired couples come down to Florida to escape the cold weather. They are known by the locals as "snowbirds." Many are on a fixed income. The idea was to provide a no-cost pad for an RV with water, electricity and sewer (about an \$800/month value at a RV park) at fire tower locations in exchange for volunteer observer duty. In one case the wife and husband

teamed up to serve alternate duty as receptionist at the forestry office. The Florida Forest Service provided FFLA with a list of possible locations. The program looked promising, but we were unable to interest the snowbirds or anyone else and after only a year it fizzled.

Following the success of the Fire Lookout Host programs on the three National Forests in southern California, along with the volunteer staffing programs in many states that still staff lookouts, we tried again in 2013 to develop a new Florida Firewatchers program. The Florida Forest Service was interested in partnering with FFLA and local community organizations to make this a reality. The first step was to identify local groups that might participate and would provide the volunteers. We fizzled on the first step.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as CalFire, has an impressive statewide network of well-constructed lookouts built to stay there. With budget cuts, they staff very few of them, but do welcome volunteer observers when they can get them. CalFire has expressed an interest in working with FFLA, and in 2011 we created a fourth FFLA chapter in the state to focus on the rest of the state outside of the National Forest system that is protected by CalFire. Then we lost the Director of the new California Pacific Chapter and this great mission fizzled.

It seems ironic that with such incredible opportunity, stunning lookouts to enjoy, and a membership of proven "can do" lookout enthusiasts that we continue to fuddle and fizzle.

"All politics is local," and so are the roots of true leadership. We have a history of asking, even begging, leaders to step up. That just is not working, and some of us are running out of time. FFLA must have more leaders come forward.

When I and others Stand Down (as indeed we must) .....will you Stand up? By the authority of the honor you have given me to be your Chair for these many years, I am appointing a committee to find new leaders. So far, I am the only volunteer! Don't leave me as a committee of one to fizzle! Email me now! We can do this!

**Keith A. Argow**

CEO/Chairman of the Board

[argow@cs.net](mailto:argow@cs.net)

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# FFLA NEWS

## Annual Board Meeting

The 2014 FFLA Board of Directors Meeting is planned to be held Saturday, January 18. A physical location for the meeting has not yet been announced, but following the success of last January's conference call, plans are to continue that format for those board members not able to attend in person. Watch for details in the next issue and on the FFLA website.

### Nominations for 2014 Election

The Board of Directors will hold elections for three Officer positions on January 18, 2014. The positions (two year terms) are: Chairman, Eastern Deputy Chair, and Treasurer.

The qualifications for these positions are to be an FFLA member in good standing with the willingness to serve and be involved. Although only officers vote, any FFLA member may nominate any other member willing to serve.

As a reminder, per FFLA Bylaws, nominations must be sent to the Elections Officer (Rob Hoeye - PO Box 132, Hood River, OR 97031, [rob.hoeye@jamwho.com](mailto:rob.hoeye@jamwho.com)) by three months prior to the January election. Nominations should include your name, the candidate's name, contact information, concurrence, and a short explanation of the candidate's qualifications.

### 2014 Western Conference

Planning is underway for the 2014 FFLA Western Regional Conference. Tentative plans are to hold the event in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana, June 27-29.

### Liability Insurance Still Needed

FFLA leadership is continuing to strike out in the search for liability insurance. The basic needs are for liability insurance that would cover board actions, meeting facilities, and site visits, with work projects either included or quoted separately. If anyone has leads on quotes for liability insurance for non-profit groups, please contact Chairman Argow.

### Newest FFLA Local Chapter

The goal of the Northwest Montana Chapter is to restore and maintain historic lookouts in Northwest Montana. NWMTC is currently involved with volunteer lookout activities at Firefighter and Baptiste Lookouts on the Hungry Horse Ranger District of the Flathead NF, but will soon be creating a membership/donation process and designing a website. The group may be contacted at [nwmtc.ffla@gmail.com](mailto:nwmtc.ffla@gmail.com).



### FFLA Local Chapters

FFLA local chapters, leaders, and parent chapters are:  
**Northwest Montana**, Chuck Manning, North Idaho-Montana  
**Medicine Bow**, Pat Lynch, Wyoming  
**Big Horn**, Buddy Washington, Wyoming  
**San Diego-Riverside**, Curt Waite (acting), Southern California  
**Tahoe Nat'l Forest**, Larry Gruver, California - Sierra Nevada  
**Yosemite-High Sierra**, Jeff May, California - Sierra Nevada  
**Salmon River Mountains**, Larry Kingsbury, Southern Idaho  
**Southern Cascades**, Dick Morrison, Western Washington  
**Southern Kentucky**, Michael Spanjer, Kentucky  
**Beebe Hill**, Bill Starr, New York  
**Pillsbury Mountain**, Bob Eckler, New York  
**Wakely Mountain**, Ann and Kevin McBride, New York  
**Colville**, Rod Fosback, Eastern Washington  
**Kelly Butte**, Bob Adler, Western Washington

## 2014 Eastern/Southern Conference June 21-23, Beckley, WV

A combined conference for the Eastern and Southern Regions of the FFLA was held in Beckley, West Virginia, June 21-23. Several individuals had arrived early for touring on Friday before meeting for dinner to close out that day.

The main conference session was held Saturday morning at the West Virginia Division of Forestry Region 2 office, with 15 people present. Chairman Keith Argow, Eastern Deputy Mark Haughwout, Southern Deputy Ron Stafford, Secretary Ray Grimes, Historian Bob Spear, and Kentucky Director Danny Blevins were present; New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia memberships were also represented.

The first order of business was a round robin of introductions and how individuals got interested in fire towers. Region 2 Forester (and host) Tom Cover spoke about the fire towers in his region and gave a powerpoint presentation of the towers that were in the area, which ones are still standing and what condition they were.

Tom also spoke about a tower that was transferred from state forestry to state parks. It has been rehabbed and some of the trees around the tower were removed to open the area for more visibility since the forest grew up around it after it was last used. The tower will be going on the cabin rental program after the final rehab tasks are finished. This is the Thorny Mountain Fire Tower; Keith spent a night in it before coming to Beckley.



The second speaker was State Parks District Administrator Bob Beanblossom. Bob started out with state forestry then moved over to the state parks. Bob spoke about the history of the fire towers, their construction, and some of the fires that happened over the years. He also elaborated on the Thorny Mountain project and putting the tower on the cabin rental program.

After the speakers there was discussion among the group on fire towers in the east, getting more involvement in the east, and differences between the east and west as a whole. Bob Spear gave a short talk about collecting all the information on towers, cataloging it, and putting it on DVD.

After lunch the group visited two nearby towers, Huff Knob and Tams Mountain; touring continued on Sunday (see p. 4).



FFLA group at Tams Mountain (Ed Seifert photo)

# West Virginia Tower Touring

June 21st - 23rd, Beckley, WV

Early arrivals to Beckley on Friday went on preconference tours. Chairman Keith Argow and Secretary Ray Grimes took the six-hour Cass Scenic Railroad State Park tour. The first stop on the train ride was at the Whittaker Station with the refurbished Gauley Mountain fire tower.



Ray Grimes photo

The tower has a nice camouflage paint job; the desire was to have the tower not be visible from a distance, thus the camouflage design to blend in with the background. The other stop was at the top of the mountain near where the Bald Knob tower stands, but there was not enough time to make the mile hike up and back in time to catch the train back down the hill.

Historian Bob Spear, Eastern Deputy Mark Haughwout and NJ member Ed Seifert headed for three locations on their Friday tour. After a mile-and-a-half of four-wheel drive road, they got to Lambert Knob (below left), where the tower is standing, but in poor condition. Pilot Knob (below right) required a quarter-mile walk. The tower is standing in fair-to-good condition behind a security fence, and is used to hold electronic equipment. Their attempt to get to Shawnee Mountain was blocked by a gate and a mining operation. The two groups met for dinner to close out the day.



Bob Spear photos

After the Saturday morning conference session, the group went to two



Ron Stafford photo

nearby fire towers, Tams Mountain (above) and Huff Knob (below). Both are no longer in use but are in decent shape.



Ron Stafford photo

Five towers were on Sunday's tour list. A gate four miles away stopped the group from getting to Keeney Mountain, but from the valley, they could see that the fire tower is surrounded by an antenna farm. The next stop was the Sugar Grove tower (right), situated behind a church in an overgrown

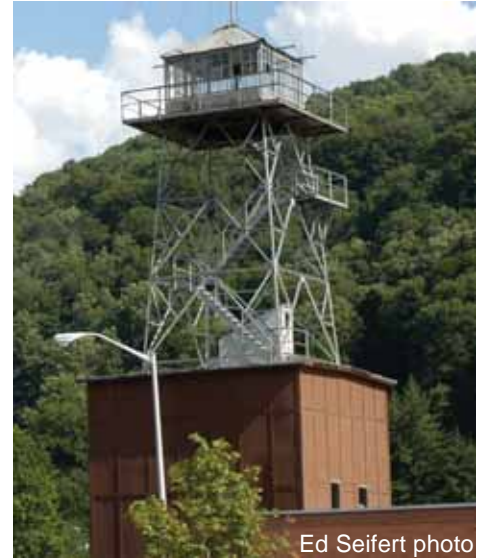


Ed Seifert photo

field. The Briery Knob tower (right) now stands behind the Nettie Fire Department in the middle of town. Mikes Knob tower (below) is now located on the top of the Richwood Fire Department.



Bob Spear photo



Ed Seifert photo

This tower is a 14'x14' USFS tower with a catwalk. The last stop of the day was the Mann Mountain tower (below). The tower has no floor; there was a stone wall around it at one time, but the grasses have taken over between the wall and tower. Meanwhile, Danny Blevins and some of his Kentucky contingent had gone to take the Cass Scenic Railroad train ride.



Ed Seifert photo

# Northwest Summer Social

July 19th - 21st, Pomeroy, WA

Over twenty FFLA members gathered at the Tucannon Guard Station for the first FFLA Northwest Summer Social. The July weekend get-together was geared toward those northwest members unable to travel to New Mexico for the Western Conference who still wanted to continue to enjoy the camaraderie developed over the past several conferences, and drew members from the four northwest chapters. The event was organized by Oregon Director Howard Verschoor (co-sponsored by the Oregon and Eastern Washington chapters) and hosted by FFLA members Charlie and Bev Heebner, who are the volunteer hosts at the site. The historic 1909 guard station, on the Umatilla NF south of Pomeroy, WA, has been restored and serves as a hosted interpretive site/information center during the summer while on the cabin rental program the remainder of the year. The site, along the Tucannon River, narrowly escaped the 2005 School Fire, as evidenced by the snag-covered hillside only a few hundred feet from the cabin.

Several members arrived early and made the relatively easy hike to Oregon Butte Lookout on Friday, while others simply pulled in to the guard station to set up camp and relax before dinner. Some took the opportunity to go up the road to check out Camp Wooten Environmental Learning Center, a former CCC camp.



The only schedule to meet during the relaxed weekend was for the Saturday lookout tour. Almost everyone met at the Pomeroy Ranger Station Saturday morning where they were met by District Ranger Monte Fujishin, Assistant Forest Archaeologist Jill Bassett, and District Fire Management Officer Chad Pickering and transported to Clearwater Lookout. Everyone, including the renters of the adjacent ground cabin, had the opportunity to climb the 82-foot Aermotor tower (above, center).



The next stop was at Big Butte Lookout. The 82-foot treated timber tower with its L-4 cab is still standing, despite having suffered a broken leg after a tree fell across one of the guy wires late in 2010 (see Vol. 22 No. 4 - Winter 2011). The upper section of the tower, above the break, is visibly twisted. With much discussion, many opinions were offered, but unfortunately, all of the realistic options seemed to have a common theme of costing big money. Almost all of the ideas included the need for a crane to lift the cab off the tower, then the variations

included repairing the tower at its existing height, removing the sections above the break and placing the cab on the shorter tower, and removing the tower, clearing the hilltop and leaving the cab at ground level. The forest is continuing to pursue structural assessments and is looking at options.

After a lunch stop and a quick stop at the site of the Mount Misery CCC camp, it was a return to Pomeroy and back to Tucannon to enjoy the rest of the afternoon. During the evening socializing, Howard Verschoor and Rod Fosback presented Bev and Charlie with mugs to commemorate the occasion and thank them for their efforts in hosting the social, including grocery shopping and cooking.



Sunday morning saw most taking a leisurely time in having breakfast, tearing down camp and packing up, before saying their goodbyes and heading out.



Brad Davies photo

# Mount Beacon Fire Tower Grand Reopening

## A Memorable Afternoon on High

A mountaintop fire tower offering sweeping 75-mile views of New York's scenic Hudson River Valley is open to the public again, following a 10-year restoration effort. The Mount Beacon fire tower, on top of South Beacon Mountain overlooking the Hudson, was reopened to the public on Saturday, June 22. The tower stands 1650 feet above sea level, about 60 miles north of New York City, in the Hudson Highland region of Dutchess County.

Legendary folk singer and song writer Pete Seeger and 60 other friends were on hand to celebrate. Seeger, 94 years old, and 82 year-old David Amram were two of the first guests of the Fire Tower Committee to arrive at the summit and to climb the tower. These two, along with Hudson Valley Storyteller, Jonathan Kruk, were the featured artists for the celebration.



Pete Seeger and Dave Rocco in the Mount Beacon Fire Tower

With great sincerity, David Rocco stood on one of the granite outcroppings surrounded by those who had contributed over the years, thanking each for their efforts. Jon Kruk then told a tale of treasure from the Revolutionary Period buried on the mountain and never found. David Amram followed with a Lakota Chant accompanied by Jon on a drum. It was a very



Left - Jon Kruk on drum, David Amram in center  
Right - Pete Seeger leading crowd singing Amazing Grace

special moment; all shared and contributed in silent tribute to the ancient sounds and feelings David and Jon brought. The ceremony ended with Pete Seeger thanking all for their dedication to this piece of our history, a piece which just happens to be two miles from his house down through the forest. He then insisted that everyone join him in song as he spoke the words to "Amazing Grace". 1600 feet above the Hudson Valley with an American legend conducting a crowd of 60+ people on the grand re-opening day of the historic Mount Beacon Fire Tower ... it just doesn't get better than this!

David Rocco remembers the first time he saw the Mount Beacon Fire Tower up close; it was loaded with turkey buzzards!

That didn't deter him, as he climbed the tower that day, with the challenge of walking on the sides of the rotting steps, making it to the top.

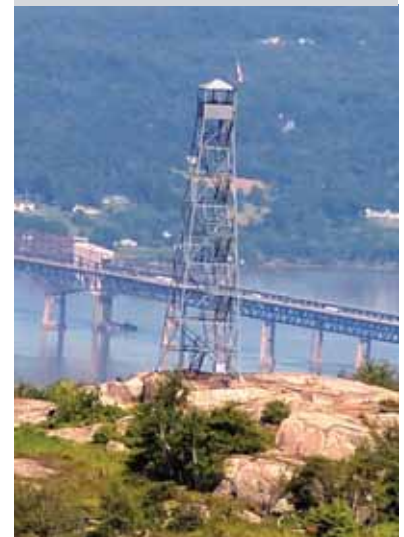
Dave soon took on another challenge: saving the tower. The Mount Beacon Fire Tower was in service through the end of the 1972 fire season and then briefly put back into service in 1975 before being permanently decommissioned. The 60-foot Aermotor LS-40 tower stood abandoned until interest in preserving and restoring it surfaced in September 2001 and NYSDEC Region 3 staff member George Profous followed up on informal requests; the Mount Beacon Fire Tower Restoration Committee formed in 2003 to undertake an analysis of the potential restoration. In 2005, the tower earned special recognition when it was placed on the National Historic Lookout Register; in 2009 it again earned notable historic status with its listing on the State and National Registers for Historic Places.

In 2007, Rocco, a retired carpenter, became the project manager for the dedicated group of volunteers, bringing his enthusiasm and experience from several other historic preservation projects. Money had been raised by "selling" each of the 72 steps; two grants were secured in 2005 and 2006, and two more in 2010, as well as numerous commercial and personal donations.

The tower's footings were repaired first; then the steps, stair landings, and cab floor were replaced with steel grates recycled from the old Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge. Twelve sections of the cross-bracing on the tower were then replaced in 2010. After a two year delay, in 2012, volunteers and fire tower contractor Davana LLC changed the remaining 20 cross-braces of the 32 needing to be replaced. They also installed a new roof atop the cab. Later that summer, committee members and the Hudson Valley Four Wheelers Association were assisted by members of the 1156th Engineering Company and the 204th Engineering Battalion of the NY Army National Guard who adjusted hand rails to code height and installed supports for the safety fencing. The engineers also primed and painted sections of the tower during their two-week tour. Guard members and various other volunteers continued to make



Mount Beacon Fire Tower before and after



progress on the safety fencing, priming and painting throughout the early fall, including on national "Make a Difference Day." The NY State Army Guard resumed work on priming and painting the tower this May and June, readying it for the grand reopening.

The Hudson Valley Four Wheelers played a major role in the project, as they helped haul supplies up the treacherous mountain road. Dave Vana (Davana LLC) commented that of all the fire tower restoration jobs he had done across the country, this particular project was the most challenging to reach because of the great difficulty moving vehicles up the mountain and over the large boulders which made the trail to the tower almost impassable for all but the sturdiest and most flexible of four wheel drive vehicles and their skilled drivers.

In addition to the restoration, the committee is creating an educational program on the fire tower, which will cover the history of the tower, Mount Beacon and its role in the Revolutionary War, the environment and more.

## Squaw Mountain Dedication

### Lookout now on USFS Rental System

Thanks to the efforts of a great many dedicated people, Squaw Mountain Lookout, the highest functional fire lookout in the United States at 11,486 feet, is now on the United States Forest Service rental system. The dedication and ribbon-cutting were held at the tower on Friday, June 28, 2013.

Many deserve credit for the restoration of the tower and its placement on the rental system. Bill Gherardi of the Colorado Forestry Association recruited teams beginning in 1993 to make emergency repairs. The director of the Colorado/Utah chapter of the FFLA, Sondra Kellogg, a former fire lookout and educator, took on the job in 2004, recruiting volunteers and organizing repair workdays. Nicole Malandri, Recreation Fee Manager for the Clear Creek division of the Forest Service worked to get the lookout on the rental system, ensuring its long-term maintenance and survival. Volunteers worked usually two days each summer for the last eight years. Kent Argow, current Colorado/Utah chapter director, took over from Sondra and had the happy task of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the



lookout for rental. (To right of Kent is Clear Creek County Commissioner, Tom Hayden, and Paul Cruz, U.S. Forest Service recreation manager for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.)

Kent also had the good fortune to be the first over-night visitor. He wrote, "Wow what a night! So much lightning! ... We were downstairs and had a couple sparks and the breaker was thrown on a single socket. Still felt very secure, that lightning system up there seems solid. Really cool evening!"

Autumn 2013

Built in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, replacing an earlier one from 1925, the lookout has a stone base, topped by a 14'x14' Rocky Mountain cab with catwalk. The base has been fitted with a kitchen and bunks, and there are beds in the cab as well, so it can sleep four comfortably. It has electricity and heat, but no running water. Its outhouse is an INCINOLET, an electric toilet that burns human waste. It will be available year-around for rental. The summer trail head is one mile from the lookout on a dirt road; in winter, the nearest road is two miles and 1000 feet in elevation away. The cost is \$80 per night plus \$9 per reservation, and reservations may be made online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 877-444-6777.

Squaw Mountain Lookout is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and on the National Historic Lookout Register.

Susan Epstein



Squaw Mountain Lookout, June 28, 2013

## NHLR

### Revamped Website!

New NHLR webmaster Brian Powell deserves kudos for the new layout and fresh look he has given to the websites for the National Historic Lookout Register ([www.nhler.org](http://www.nhler.org)) and the Former Fire Lookout Sites Register ([www.firetower.org](http://www.firetower.org))! During the past quarter, nine additions have been made to the NHLR, including the first listings from Florida.

NHLR #971	PA #14	Tamarack Fire Lookout
NHLR #972	PA #15	Coffin Rock Fire Tower
NHLR #973	MO #03	Mountain View Fire Tower
NHLR #974	MO #04	Thomasville Fire Tower
NHLR #975	IN #07	Winimac Fire Tower
NHLR #976	FL #01	Olustee Fire Tower
NHLR #977	FL #02	West Fire Tower
NHLR #978	FL #03	East Fire Tower
NHLR #979	FL #04	Benton Fire Tower

For details on how to nominate a lookout to the register, see: [http://www.nationalforestry.net/NHLR\\_App.htm](http://www.nationalforestry.net/NHLR_App.htm).

The NATIONAL HISTORIC LOOKOUT REGISTER is a project of the American Resources Group<sup>®</sup>, 374 Maple Avenue East, Suite 310, Vienna, VA 22180, (703) 255-2700, [www.american-resources.org](http://www.american-resources.org)



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# Green Mountain Update

## Recommendation to Reject De-Listing Petition

As the Federal Preservation Officer for the USDA Forest Service, it was the responsibility of Mike Kaczor to consider the petition to de-list Green Mountain Lookout from the National Register of Historic Places and provide his recommendations to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer. After carefully reviewing William Lider's petition, Kaczor recommended that the Green Mountain Lookout historic property as it exists today remain listed on the NRHP.

Kaczor noted that the actions taken to rehabilitate the lookout were necessary and compatible with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards). The SOI Standards define rehabilitation as: *The process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural and cultural values (36 CFR 67)*. He also noted that the overall actions taken to rehabilitate the structure are visually compatible with its historic form and function. While the addition of foundation support columns, beams, and hardware added massing to the building for stability, the overall balance of the cab structure to other architectural and setting elements are not changed significantly.

## Green Mountain Bill Reported Out of Committee

The bills introduced into Congress by members of the Washington delegation allowing Green Mountain Lookout to remain in place have drawn some interesting support from lawmakers who rarely agree on wilderness issues. At a July hearing on H.R. 908, Representative Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation noted that the bill "brings joy to this old history teacher's heart." The bill has also been endorsed by the Wilderness Society, a group that is frequently at odds with Bishop over wilderness issues. Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the subcommittee's ranking member, also sees no harm in protecting the building. Darrington Historical Society member Scott Morris joined the bill's sponsors, Representative Suzan DelBene and Representative Rick Larson, both Democrats, in testifying before the congressional committee in support of the Green Mountain Heritage Protection Act. The bill was reported out of committee on July 31 and could be heard by the full House of Representatives in September. Washington Democratic Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell also are pursuing identical legislation, S.404, in the Senate.

Proponents of keeping the lookout in place say Congress must act quickly, since the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, in following the 2012 district court order, is moving forward with an environmental impact statement to use helicopters to relocate the lookout to a nearby mountaintop outside of the wilderness, Circle Peak, with a 2014 target date. Members of Congress are asking that plans to move the lookout be delayed. Rep. Suzan DelBene, Rep. Rick Larsen, and Peter DeFazio, the Ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee sent a letter to the chief of the Forest Service describing their intent to pass legislation to protect the lookout where it sits, and suggested that there were better things for the budget-strapped Forest Service to do with \$100,000. The text of that letter is as follows:

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2013

Tom Tidwell

Chief

United States Forest Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Tidwell,

In light of recent congressional action to prevent the removal of the Green Mountain Lookout, we ask that you consider delaying further plans to move the lookout from its historic home.

In 1933, the Green Mountain Lookout was constructed as a Civilian Conservation Corps project and was used to detect fires and to spot enemy aircraft in World War II. In 1988, the lookout was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Starting in 2002, the US Forest Service (USFS) and the National Park Service (NPS) completed modifications to ensure the lookout's stability. USFS was then sued by an out-of-state group alleging that USFS did not follow the NEPA review process when it restored the lookout, and a U.S. District Court judge ruled that USFS must remove the lookout from its current location. We are grateful that in May, the Forest Service extended the scoping comment period an additional 30 days, however, the need for immediate action is great, because if the lookout is moved once, there's no moving it back.

Moving the lookout would be an unnecessary and costly expense, putting further financial burden on an agency already contending with challenging budget constraints. With an estimated cost of over \$100,000, moving the lookout is a poor use of very limited public funds. Surely, there are more critical needs to the agency's central mission than moving Green Mountain Lookout from where it has been since 1933.

The Green Mountain Heritage Protection Act (H.R. 908) would allow the regular maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout and would prohibit the USFS from moving the lookout unless it is necessary for preservation or to ensure the safety of individuals nearby. On July 30, 2013, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to consider the legislation during which Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon testified that USFS supports the bill. In addition, on July 31, 2013, the bill passed unanimously out of the House Natural Resources Committee and is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives shortly.

Protection of this historic lookout has garnered support from local government, numerous constituents, local advocacy groups, and even USFS itself. As Congress continues to move forward with legislation to keep the Green Mountain lookout in its original home, we ask that you strongly consider delaying further action on moving the Green Mountain Lookout.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee



# Davana Continues Re-use of Towers

David Vana (Davana LLC) continues to restore and recycle surplus fire towers, keeping them from the scrap pile. The 120-foot Stumpy Point tower was removed from its site along the North Carolina coast several years ago by Harry Hudson and later resold. The 62-foot base portion of the tower has been re-erected with a stick-built cab on a private ranch in the northeastern corner of Wyoming. Vana did the concrete work last October and raised the tower in December.

The heavy-duty deck was bolted to the tower at a break point of the legs near the 62-foot mark, using only pre-existing holes in the legs for the mounting. The catwalk frame and wrap-around deck are all framed with structural aluminum alloy channel stock, saving about 2000 pounds. The 16' x 16' cab with wrap-around floor-to-ceiling picture windows was built on the ground and raised up by crane with all the siding, windows, doors, flooring, trim and tools on board, weighing about 8000 pounds for the lift.

Entry to the cab is via stairs through the cabin floor; french doors on one side open onto the four-foot wide deck.

The top 58-feet of the original tower will be going up at the owner's other property in northern Minnesota later this year; a three-foot wide wrap around deck will be added to the observers cabin on top.

David also bought a 120-foot tower in Missouri this spring that is being restored for a client in southern Indiana.



# Two Lookouts Burn

Within a week's time at the end of July, two more lookouts were lost to fires in the Northwest.

## McConnell Mountain Lookout R.I.P. 1922-2013

The McConnell Mountain Lookout complex of three historic structures burned in the California Point Fire in late July. Like many fires in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, this fire was being allowed to burn with limited suppression actions taken, being managed for resource objectives. The log cabin and log outhouse dated to the 1920s, while the 6' x 6' log "observatory" was built by Bud Moore in the 1930s. The observatory, sitting on the peak, burned first, followed by the cabin and outhouse, a short distance away. Bear Mountain Lookout reportedly saw the scene developing and requested air support to save it, but by the time a SEAT (single engine air tanker) was dispatched, it was too late.



Bud at McConnell Mountain



While it is sad to lose a lookout, some find it somewhat fitting that Bud was a pioneer in the concept of wilderness fire management and the mountain was burned by unsuppressed wilderness fire; maybe that was a good way to go.

An interesting story is that one of the first things Bud did when he got back from his stint in the Forest Service's Washington Office and became Director of Fire and Aviation for the Northern Region, was to hike up there and check the country out. Just to reattach to his roots.

## Sopelia Lookout R.I.P. 1959-2013

The abandoned Sopelia Lookout on the Yakama Reservation, northeast of Goldendale, WA, burned during early stages of the Mile Marker 28 Fire, apparently late on July 25. A relative latecomer, the R-6 flat cab on concrete pillars was built in 1959 as the first and only lookout structure on the site, replacing a nearby lookout. Sopelia had not been used for



many years; probably its greatest "claim to fame" was the multiple reports of UFOs and unexplained underground noises from different lookout staffers in the 1970s and 1980s.

# Fire Lookouts Get-together

Moyston, Victoria, Australia 4th/5th May 2013

It was the Western Districts' turn to organise this year's get-together and Ron Jardine (Mt. Arapiles) had a lot done before Rhonda (Mt. Clay) returned from her Peru holiday. Moyston was selected for the accommodation and a lot of the regulars turned up the night before as usual. We met on Saturday at the Horsham Incident Control Centre and were given a look-back at the 2012-13 season by Russell Manning of DEPI (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) - previously DSE (Department of Sustainability and Environment) - and CFA (Country Fire Authority) representative Dale Russell. There was also a guided tour around the facility and that gave us an insight about what happens once a fire is reported. The next stop was Natimuk for lunch and from there

A long drive took us into the Grampians to Reids Lookout. There is still a debate if it is Reids or Reeds Lookout. Even official documentation from DEPI has both spellings in use. I'll stick with Reid (below) this time, that's the name on the cabin. Any view in the



Grampians is spectacular and this one doesn't disappoint. The entry into the tower was different; a small ladder to a platform and then through half a door into the cabin. Randall was on site to tell us his experiences. This tower must have the most visitors of all towers due to its location. We were here in 2001 when the old wooden cabin was still here. All three towers we visited this weekend are of similar build but have different ways of entering.

From here we went to Moyston to meet the latecomers and we spent the rest of the day socialising after a lovely dinner. Stories were told, photos exchanged, a few drinks consumed and the traditional Licorice Allsorts were always available. It's great to catch up with your workmates you have a lot in common with but often only meet on these occasions. Some of the 'retired' operators still attend and that shows the bond that exists within the group.

After a healthy breakfast of bacon and eggs, we made our lunches for later on and then it was time for the AGM and General meeting of the Fire Tower

Operators Association. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed separately. A new committee was chosen and we hope to have a united front to tackle some of the issues that still exist, especially the fatigue management and the inconsistencies that still exist in the different Districts.

Big Hill (below) was the last tower to visit. This tower is in the middle of Stawell and there are very strong rumours that it



won't be around for very much longer. Apparently, a mining company has won the rights to mine the hill. The future of the tower is still unknown. Vern gave us his stories, lunches were consumed and people went their own ways after this. It has been a great weekend (again) and we hope to meet again next year when we will visit some remote towers in West Gippsland. Ray Lucas (Mt. Useful) has offered to be the host. The towers represented this year are: Mt. Hickey, Mt. Wombat, Mt. Clay, Annya, Strath, Mt. St. Leonard, Mt. Benambra, Mt. Sam, Mt.



to Mt. Arapiles (above). The rocky outcrop is very popular with rock climbers and the cabin has great views over the western plains and the Little Desert NP. It has many aerials because of its elevated location in flat country.



Class of 2012-13 @ Mt. Arapiles



Partners and Support people

Porndon, Ben Nevis, Mt. Buninyong, Cherry Tree Hill, Mt. Arapalis, Mt. Tarrengower, Reid Lookout, Mt. Useful (+ relieving at The Pinnacles and Mt. Moornappa) and the relieving operator for Poley and McVeighs. Retired operators from Balrook, Mt. Buck, Mt. Macedon and Blue Mount also attended.

Report prepared and supplied by  
**André Belterman**

Victoria had a busy fire season; it started early in the west and we had three large campaign fires; Aberfeldy (West Gippsland), Grampians (Western Victoria) and the Harriet fires in the east. The tower season was extended in the west due to lack of rainfall. Towers finished there in late April.



On his way up to Moyston on Friday, André visited Mt. Lonarch (above) and Dennis Christophers offered to take the ones that were interested to his tower, Ben Nevis (below) on the way home on Sunday.



Autumn 2013

## The Cross Shot

Do you have followup information, corrections, or comments to a story in *LOOKOUT NETWORK*? "The Cross Shot" was initiated just for that. Send responses to [fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com).

### Huckleberry Lookout

I was very interested in an article in the last FFLA magazine. It was a story about the Huckleberry fire lookout. In 1955 and 1956 I was a fire guard on the Grand Teton National Forest and one of my jobs was to use a pack horse and my horse to pack supplies to that lookout. I was surprised to learn from the article that the next year the lookout was mothballed. At any rate the article brought back many memories.

**Jack Sargent**

### Devil's Head Fire Lookout

The article in the Summer 2013 edition of the Lookout Network on Devil's Head Fire Lookout Restoration begins by saying it is "... the only remaining fire lookout in Colorado still in continuous seasonal use." I believe this to be in error. It is my understanding that Round Top and Zenobia lookouts in Dinosaur National Monument have been in continuous seasonal use at least since the 1940s. Park Point in Mesa Verde National Park has been used seasonally since 1939 at least on an as-needed basis. Devil's Head, built in 1912, is surely the oldest tower in continuous seasonal use, and the only Forest Service lookout still in continuous seasonal use, but not the only one. If someone has knowledge to the contrary, I would be interested in hearing about it. Thanks!

**Susan Epstein, CO/UT**  
[sepstein131@frie.com](mailto:sepstein131@frie.com)

## FFLA Facebook Update

The FFLA Facebook page now has over 400 fans who have signed in to "like" it! Just type "FFLA" into the Facebook search box. It is a great way to share lookout, project, or event information, ideas or questions, or links to online items and sites, and may reach unaware non-FFLA members. If anyone not on Facebook would like to have something posted or make any other request on Facebook, contact the FFLA Facebook page administrator at [nickw@idahovandals.com](mailto:nickw@idahovandals.com).

The Oregon and Maine Chapters have recently added facebook pages; check them by entering "Forest Fire Lookout Association Oregon Chapter" or "Forest Fire Lookout Association Maine Chapter" in the Facebook search box.

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

## Larry Paul ... In Remembrance

I had spoken to Larry by cell phone call not long ago and he was still just as enthralled as ever about his fire tower project he was seeking on Long Island. He never indicated to me that Eva had passed away in April, I did not know this sadly, perhaps it was just too close to him to talk about it.

Larry was certainly one of my very fondest friends whom I had known since my days with the NJ Forest Fire Service, long before going to work at Sterling Forest in NY. He had attended our 2nd FFLA meeting in Saddle River, NJ and many other events. Larry could always be counted on for help with fire tower research, photos he had taken etc. Many of the "archive" photos of New York and New Jersey fire towers are from him of years of hiking the woods.

He was indeed a great benefactor to the early formation of the Forest Fire Lookout Association; despite being a New York State resident, he also maintained his dual membership with the New Jersey Chapter for many years, just like Ranger Tim Sullivan of NY had done. Larry's name was well known to many of the lower tier New York State Forest Rangers and Supervisory staff from Albany to New Paltz. He also was active in establishing the "Catskill Project" to restore the five fire towers there, presenting slide shows and early photographs for that project.

Along with Tim Sullivan, Larry Paul was one of those giants of Conservation and for his dedication and admiration of the natural world, the Fire Services, and his beloved Pine Barrens. To say he "will be missed" does not seem adequate, it's much more than that. A giant "wound" has been opened with his passing - but true to Larry's dedication he would not want this to hinder his love of what he was able to accomplish. Like the natural world, Larry's memory will close that wound and renew itself as he would wish it.

**Bob Spear**  
*Historian FFLA*

LOOKOUT NETWORK 11

# Lookouts Protected and Saved

While two lookouts were lost to wildfires in 2013, many more were threatened. Neither of the two lost were wrapped or appeared to have had other protection measures taken, but many others were protected by retardant drops or shelter wrap. Stories and photos of a few follow; undoubtedly there were several others receiving some degree of protection. We are not aware of any other lookouts being lost to fires this year.

In mid July, the Papoose Fire made several runs toward the historic Stoddard Lookout in the Frank Church River of No



USFS/Erin Doyle photo

Return Wilderness, but was not able to burn to the top of the ridge. The opinion of the next-to-last staffer of the lookout (1971) is that going up in flames would be a more dignified end for Stoddard than decaying into a pile of rotten wood. In recent years, the Salmon-Challis NF has not wrapped their abandoned lookouts when threatened by wildfires.



**Danskin Lookout** (above), north of Mountain Home, was evacuated and retardant was used to protect the lookout structure when the Pony Fire burned around it.

The lightning-caused Damnation Fire, in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, was managed to allow it to play its natural role



in wilderness, while protecting values at risk. One of those values was **Mud Lake Lookout** (lower left), and it was certainly at risk when the fire made a crown run up the ridge toward it on August 17 and Jumbo Lookout reported seeing the flames engulfing the lookout. Fortunately, wrapping and retardant saved the day for the historic lookout.

On July 26, part of the West Fork Fire Crew (Bitterroot NF) wrapped **Hell's Half Lookout** due to threat from the Gold Pan



Rene Eustace photo

Fire in the district's Idaho portion of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Researching back through his journals and calendars, Bitterroot Lookout Coordinator Rene Eustace, with additional input from Hell's Half's Mark and Rhett Moak, found that the number of times this lookout has been evacuated and/or wrapped is impressive:

No records are available prior to 1999:

1999: Evacuated due to threat from the Devil's Storm Fire but not wrapped.

2000: Evacuated and wrapped during the historic Bitterroot NF wildfire siege. Numerous fires threatened HH.

2004: Wrapped, staffed wrapped for a time, then evacuated due to threat from the Half Lunch Fire.

2005: Evacuated and wrapped due to threat from the Hell's Half Acre Creek Fire.

2008: Evacuated due to threat from the Hell's Half Saddle Fire but not wrapped.

2011: Evacuated and wrapped due to threat from the Burn Creek Fire (Saddle Complex).

2012: Evacuated and wrapped due to threat from the Packer Fire (part of the Mustang Complex).

2013: Evacuated and wrapped due to threat from the Gold Pan Fire.

This tallies to 8 evacuations and 6 wraps in 15 years! Could this be a record for a single lookout?

On September 8, the lookout was unwrapped by Rene Eustace, Skylar Brown (from the West Fork Fire Crew),



Rene Eustace photo

and 11 members of the Pennsylvania 7 Crew assigned to the Gold Pan Complex.

On August 21, **Bare Cone Lookout** on the West Fork District was also



Rene Eustace photo

wrapped by the fire crew due to threat from the Gold Pan Complex.

**Gardiner Peak Lookout** (located on the West Fork RD, Bitterroot NF but administered by the Nez Perce NF) in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness was wrapped as a precautionary measure due to threat from the Nez and Bad Luck Fires on August 14-15. This was the first deployment of the Region 1 structure wrapping crew; the joint Bitterroot/Clear-Nez crew helicoptered in from Fenn Ranger Station. Personnel involved noted



Keith Hackbarth photo



Mary Williams photo



Keith Hackbarth photo



Skylar Brown photo

that lots of staples went into the milled lumber; each of those staple holes in milled lumber can become a moisture conduit leading to rot. Preservation specialists are recommending ordering paint and cedar shingles to mitigate the damage done in the process of wrapping.

The Region 1 structure wrapping crew had more of a challenge with their second assignment when the Lolo Creek Complex posed a threat to **Blue Mountain Lookout** near Missoula. They were able to get some on-the-job training with the climbing aspect of wrapping a 40-foot tower. The team was about a third



Skylar Brown photo

done when they had to stop do to the wrap interfering with the incident communication repeaters. The following day they encountered 40-50 mile per hour winds, rain, and lightning. Since the Incident Management team had made great progress toward containing the fire, they decided that there was no need to continue the wrapping job.

Blue Mountain Lookout was not staffed this summer while repairs and maintenance were to be completed. Long-time lookout Gene Miller was given the summer "off" for the first time in over 30 years. The lookout was built in 1957 and originally located at Davis Point before being relocated to Blue Mountain in 1966. The important fire detection asset has also been popular with visitors.

Idaho and Montana were not the only places in the west with wrapped lookouts. In California, the long-running Butler Fire (Six Rivers NF) posed a threat to the **Orleans Mountain Lookout** (above right), resulting in it being wrapped in early August. Further south, the **Duncan Peak Lookout** (Tahoe NF) was wrapped in mid-August as a precautionary measure when the American Fire approached it. A firing operation was effective and by the end of the month, the lookout was unwrapped and back in service with the staffer who originally called in the smoke.



Keith Hackbarth photo



## Star Trails

### Cover Photo

FFLA member Rod Schaefer experimented with 90-minute time exposures while staffing Poker Jim Lookout, south of Ashland, Montana. Rod set up a mini-mag flashlight with a yellow plastic filter over the lens on top of the Osborne, which produced the nice yellow glow out of the windows.

Across the country, in South Carolina, photographer Derek Thornton is searching for the "perfect" tower to use with star trail photos. His preference to get a great star trail photo is to shoot the tower at an angle while having the camera pointed to the North Star. However, since most towers are set with the sides square to the cardinal directions, that would put the camera looking straight at the tower.

The photo below is of the Tip Top Tower in Laurens Co., SC.



Derek Thornton photo

# Notes from All Over

## MAINE

### Norway Bluff Fire Tower Dedication

On June 18th, 2012, the Norway Bluff Fire tower steel and cab arrived at the Ashland Logging Museum in Ashland Maine. It had just been delivered by truck by the Maine National Guard's 1136th Transportation unit. From this point on, the tower became the responsibility of the Museum. They paid \$1 for it, delivered. That spring, they held a "Spring Logging Games" event, received a \$1,500 grant from the Maine Community Foundation and several donations that helped them on the way of restoring the tower. Nelson Craig did the rebar and concrete work based on a design donated by Robert Chase. In addition, Malcolm Milligan took on the restoration of the cab and frame as his Eagle Scout project. They have no doubt that without his involvement in this project that it would not have gotten done in the short amount of time that it did. Five months after being lifted from Norway Bluff, the tower stood reassembled. John Weeks cut and installed windows. Malcolm and Troop #179 did the finishing work inside the cab. A map, the original table glass and alidade were reinstalled. A cover was fashioned for the table by John Barker.

On July 7, 2013, the Ashland Logging Museum held a tower dedication ceremony - the finale of the Norway Bluff Fire Tower project - its dedication and honoring Malcolm Milligan's Eagle Scout achievement. Aside from the ceremony itself, the tower was on display, as well as an MFS Huey and Power Wagon, and other displays. Friends and ancestors of past Norway Bluff watchmen attended as well. The FFLA Maine Chapter provided historical summaries of the Norway Bluff tower, large copies of several 1920's maps, and other related items. In the end, Malcolm was awarded his Eagle Scout rank and the final ribbon was cut putting



Ribbon cutting at the dedication  
(Amanda Barker photo)

the final conclusion to the project. The tower will now stand at the museum dedicated to the men and women who served on this tower and the forests they watched over.

**Bill Cobb &**

**MFS Ranger Amanda Barker**

### Maine Tidbits

The state is still considering a proposal from the Friends of Wadleigh Mountain to restore and maintain the Wadleigh Mountain Fire Tower.

The Natural Resource Education Center is still working on a revised plan to erect the former Squaw Mountain (Big Moose Mountain) fire tower at the Route 15 visitor center in Greenville. Previous plans have stalled due to liability issues.

The Forest Fire Lookout Association Maine Chapter Facebook Page is doing well with over 500 fans in 5 months. We have collected countless new pieces of information, photos, and possibly some new membership in the upcoming months.

**Bill Cobb**

## MONTANA

### Holland Ridge gets a Makeover

Leif Haugen spent a hitch in July with a crew on the Holland Ridge lookout cabin. The before and after photos tell the story...



## CALIFORNIA

### Klamath Lookout Workshop

The Klamath National Forest hosted an annual Fire Lookout Workshop May 22 at the College of the Siskiyous in Weed. Many lookouts from the Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Modoc national forests attended. Hosted by the Forest Service's Shawn Campbell and CalFire's Suzy Brady, the presentations included fire weather, radios, and safety. A "Lookout of the Year" was nominated by peers, and the award went to Nancy Hood, of Lake Mountain Lookout on



Klamath NF. Nancy has worked as a fire lookout for 55 fire seasons! A plaque was presented by Klamath Forest Supervisor Patty Grantham. (How many fire lookouts are there out there who have worked 50+ seasons?) Renee Partee, Black Fox Lookout, McCloud District, Shasta-Trinity NF, exhibited a lookout tower quilt of great beauty. Everyone had a wonderful time visiting and telling stories around a yummy potluck lunch. **Vickie Lamoureux**



## NEW MEXICO

### Monjeau Lookout Repairs

Monjeau Lookout was ready for operation after the last of the fire-damage repairs were completed in June with the installation of the new pedestal and table for the Osborne Firefinder. It looks great, thanks in large part to Mark Gutzman.



## COLORADO

### Hahns Peak Lookout Stabilized

Constructed in 1912 as one of the first two permanent lookouts in the Rocky Mountain Region, Hahn's Peak Lookout stands as a testament the early mission of the Forest Service. It required over a ton of cement and building materials to be packed up to the 10,759-foot peak.



The structure, damaged by lightning and extreme weather, was in severely deteriorated condition and was unlikely to stand another winter unless immediate emergency stabilization was conducted on the building. The HistoriCorps team, in partnership with volunteers from Historic Routt County and USFS Trail Crew members, stabilized the structure by realigning the cab to plumb the columns, bracing the four columns, and reinforcing the floor.

## NEW YORK

### New York Fire Towers Aglow

Several New York fire towers were planned to be lit up on August 31 in remembrance of the "Watchers of the Mountains". The idea started in the Catskills where the observation cabs of the six Catskill Preserve fire towers, Overlook, Mount Tremper, Hunter, Utsayantha, Balsam Lake, and Red Hill, were to be lit at 9:00 p.m. for 30 minutes

(Sunday, September 1 was to be the alternate raindate). Mohonk Tower on the Shawangunk Ridge, visible from several of the Catskill towers, was also to be lit, as was the newly-reconstructed tower at the Ferncliff Forest in Rhinebeck. (The previous tower at Rhinebeck was not a fire tower, but was built by the Army Corp of Engineers during World War II to serve as a strategic watch tower to provide early warning of attacks, particularly on President Roosevelt's home and planes that could be headed to New York City.)

Elsewhere in the state, the recently reopened Mt. Beacon Fire Tower and the Mount Ninham Fire Tower were also lit up to show that the "Watchers of the Mountains" were not only in the Catskills, but also the Hudson Highlands and other parts of the State.

In honor of Fred Lamb, the cab of the Berry Hill Fire Tower was lit at the same time as the Catskill towers were to be. Fred had been the leader of the group making the renovations at Berry Hill before he passed away last year. Storms bypassed Berry Hill, making for a wonderful evening; Fred undoubtedly looked down with a smile on his face.



Berry Hill Fire Tower at Night  
(Warren Johnsen photo)

## IDAHO

### Clarke Mountain Trashed

Extensive damage has been done to the historic Clarke Mountain Lookout (Clearwater NF). While the lookout was not in good condition, it had been mentioned in recent years as a potential for restoration, but this senseless vandalism puts a serious damper on any such thoughts.



## CCC 80th Anniversary

### CCC Legacy Annual Gathering

2013 marks the 80th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many of the nation's fire lookout towers were constructed by the CCCs, as well as a multitude of other forestry projects nationwide. Please remember CCC



contributions by featuring them during other events and help celebrate by attending the 2013 CCC Legacy Gathering that will be held October 24-27 in Tucson, AZ. See <http://cclegacy.org/> for registration and more information.

### CCC Interpretive Center

Since the first conversations began between the James R. Wilkins family and the Lee District of the George Washington National Forest in the late 1990s, the dream of having a CCC Interpretive Center has been nudging forward. Co-located with the Lee District Office in Edinburg, Virginia, the building has been finished, the interpretive area prepared, and the time has come to finish the permanent exhibits (including the fire tower exhibit below) telling the CCC story. A September 15 preview in conjunction with the 80th Anniversary of the CCC was a fitting way to begin the effort to share the story of the CCC in the James R. Wilkins, Sr. CCC Interpretive Center.



Fire Tower Exhibit construction: George Washington & Jefferson NF Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks, and Project manager Andy Lane.

## WASHINGTON

### Evergreen Work Party

FFLA members Tammy McLeod, Brad Davies and Bob Adler, along with four others, hiked up to Evergreen Mountain on August 24 and held a work party to finish painting the exterior of the lookout. Western Washington Director Forrest Clark set the group up with materials and member John Robinson had his Forest Service crew carry up the paint and materials. They scraped and primed and painted the shutters, which



were pretty bad. There is more work to do...windows need reglazing and paint and some shutters need repaired, but the rental is being used and is in relatively good condition for an 85-year old building. More pictures can be seen at [www.nwhikers.net/forums/viewtopic.php?p=895729#895729](http://www.nwhikers.net/forums/viewtopic.php?p=895729#895729)



### Flagstaff Lookout Down

Rumored to be in the works for at least two years, Flagstaff Lookout was finally removed in August. The cab was lowered off its 40-foot tower with a crane by Verizon contractors, to be relocated to Northport. Plans are for a 150-foot cell tower to be in its place by October.



### Mebee Pass - Getting There

John Scurlock and his Friends of Mebee Pass Lookout have moved forward with their efforts to do a structural restoration on the L-5 Mebee Pass Lookout. After developing a plan, in cooperation with the Methow Valley Ranger District, their first task was to figure out how to get there!

The East Creek Trail off the North Cascades Highway was the choice, however, the eight-mile long, 4,000-foot elevation gain trail to Mebee Pass (a half mile below the lookout) had been abandoned years ago after the trailhead bridge across Granite Creek was destroyed when an assessment determined the stringers were rotten. Two stringers remain though; the upstream log is fairly solid for a crawl, skooch, or walk across.

On June 27, John and one of his group began the access work with the cutting away of a log laying across the upstream stringer, taking that impediment out of the picture. It turned the crossing from a very dangerous endeavor into a nice reasonable log crossing, especially after they installed a series of eyebolts along the log that could be used for carabineers and handstraps or a security rope, to assist in the crossing. Once across the creek, they cut their way up the trail about a mile through stretches of heavy blow-down timber with a chainsaw.



In July, work parties got serious with a herculean trail-clearing effort. On the 5th, a crew of seven, with two chainsaws, cut their way about five miles up the trail. Methow Valley District Ranger Mike Liu preceded the group on the trail and with

a monumental effort made it up to the lookout on a trail made tortuous in that it had not been cleared yet. His explorations gave a good solid indication of what was ahead for the group. Subsequent work parties continued clearing the countless deadfalls and tangles from the trail, and on the weekend of the 20th, the trail was officially declared cut open! It is no understatement to say that the amount of energy expended on this phase will far extend past the physical energy to be put out for the actual lookout restoration.

A 17-mile round-trip venture on July 17 found the lookout in remarkably good condition. The group spent about two and a half hours on site, on the warm sunny afternoon, making an initial assessment of the lookout. The foundation under one corner and side has failed; this is possibly the most critical problem of the structure.



Left to right, Dave Adams, Doug McKeever, Dave Tucker, John Scurlock, RJ Van Liere.

Replacing the roof will be another critical factor in the work, fortunately, the sub-roof is in good condition. Other problems to address include replacement of the broken corner post, replacement of the lower wall boards (weathered to about half or less of their original thickness), squaring up the building, installing a new door once the building is square, and replacement of rotten studs and bracing. This was followed by a detailed examination of the lookout structure on August 6-7, including surveying the site for helicopter landing options for flying-in of supplies for the planned September restoration work.

Photos of the efforts to date can be found at [www.nwhikers.net/forums/viewtopic.php?t=8006361](http://www.nwhikers.net/forums/viewtopic.php?t=8006361) and [www.pbase.com/nolock/eastcreek](http://www.pbase.com/nolock/eastcreek).

### Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Lookouts Website

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF website has a lookouts page, [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mbs/specialplaces/?cid=fsbdev7\\_001630](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mbs/specialplaces/?cid=fsbdev7_001630), with links to individual pages for most of the forest's lookouts.



# Looking for signs of fire is all in a day's work

Posted by Donovan W. Albert Office of Communication, U.S. Forest Service

*Bob Clark is a seasonal employee who spends the better part of his summer on a fire lookout in Northern California. Here's how Clark describes a typical day on the tower:*

At 5:00 a.m. the sun rises at the Orr Mountain Lookout on the Klamath National Forest in Northern California, the way it has for nearly 80 years. Summertime means cool temperatures at night, which rapidly increase as the day marches on. After my morning coffee and breakfast, an initial 360-degree scan is performed by walking around the lookout's catwalk. The scan is performed with a naked eye at first, then with binoculars to confirm the presence of smoke.

The previous day's storm brought more than 300 lightning strikes. Any one of these lightning strikes could ignite a new wildfire. Often times the effects from storms like these won't be seen for two or three days. Tree roots might ignite first, allowing fire to slowly creep through the tree's inner core up to the surface. Once smoke begins to paint the sky, I can usually spot it 30 miles away on a clear day.

The new fire starts from last night's storm and starts from a storm several nights ago can be seen from the platform at an elevation of 5,830 feet. Using visual, countryside landmarks, the smoke plumes are mapped and azimuths are recorded, an old-school way to geographically locate each smoke plume.

Azimuths are obtained using the Osborne Fire Finder. Radioing a neighboring lookout tower can help to triangulate the smoke locations using each other's azimuths. This method of triangulating a fire that is 30 miles away is accurate within 100 yards.

Lightning didn't strike my tower last night. But it has before on three occasions. This tower is well grounded so most of the energy gets safely diverted. When lightning does get close, all electronics are shut off. And, in the center of the lookout, is a chair with glass insulated legs clear of any metal objects. This is where I, walkie-talkie in hand, wait out the storm. A large boom that shakes the tower and a blinding flash signals a strike hit the tower. Sometimes residual static electricity dances from window to window. Eventually all the energy is absorbed by the lightning rods and is sent into the ground. After the energy has dissipated, it's safe to move around and resume lookout operations.

It's now 7:30 a.m. My morning fire report is transmitted to dispatch at the Command Center in Yreka, Calif. My morning report includes an estimate of each fire's size, location and behavior, as well as weather at the lookout. On a busy morning, I might transmit five or more new starts to dispatch.

Later on this morning I'll assist inbound fire crews by advising them on best access routes to the fires. Many fires can't be seen from the ground.

At 8:00 a.m. weather at the lookout is observed and recorded.

At 10:00 a.m. I tune into the fire weather forecast and morning report from dispatch. By now, trains are usually starting rolling down the tracks well below the mountaintop. In rare circumstances these trains have triggered new starts alongside the tracks. Another scan for smoke is performed after a train passes by. Sometimes there's up to ten trains a day.

Every ten minutes I keep a watchful eye on my area, including the fires I just reported and for any new smoke. Looking for fire is a constant observation process, scanning 360 degrees, and then repeating. During thunderstorms, the intensity and frequency of my scans is increased.

At 11:00 a.m. a second weather observation is performed and recorded. At 1:00 p.m. I radio in the weather report for my lookout.

Solitude is part of the job, which is probably a good thing as I tend to sing better when I'm alone. Music from my solar-powered radio keeps me company. Visitors are few and far between. A hiker or a camper might show up today. If I do get a visitor, I show them what we do and educate them as to the importance of stewardship in protecting our resources for future generations. More likely, my visitors for today will be bear, bald eagles, coyotes, deer, and squirrels.

At 2:00 p.m. a third weather observation is performed and recorded.

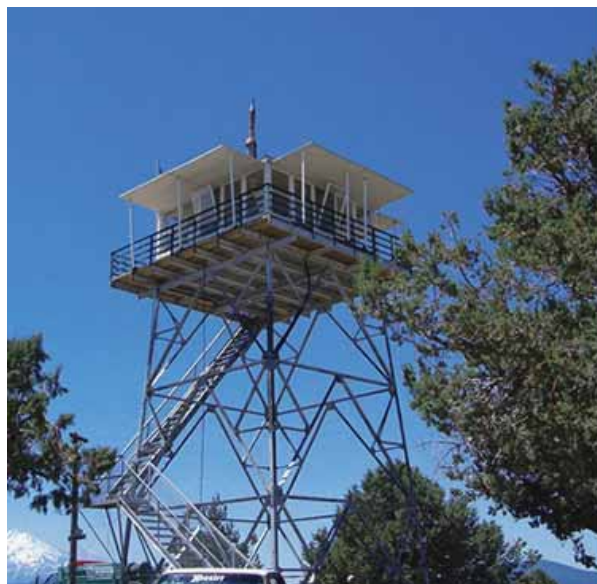
At 4:15 p.m. I tune into the afternoon's fire weather forecast from dispatch then, at 4:30 p.m., all the lookouts in the area do a group radio check to make sure everybody is OK. The final weather observation is at 5:00 p.m.

Today's shift ends at 6:00 p.m. since there are no forecasted weather systems in the area. If there were, I'd be working late until the weather passed. Working late isn't a bad thing. On a clear night like tonight, the stars are bright, the moon is full, and it's almost like daylight. Plus, frequent meteor showers will provide natural firework displays that keep me entertained.

At times it feels like a thankless job, perhaps because of the solitude. But I know I'm valued, and I enjoy serving as our nation's first line of defense, protecting our treasured landscapes and wildlife habitat. That's what I find most rewarding.



An historic image of the Orr Mountain Lookout built in 1934 on the Klamath National Forest. (U.S. Forest Service photo)



The Orr Mountain Lookout as it stands today. Working in the tower can be a lonely yet fulfilling summer job. (U.S. Forest Service photo)

# In Memoriam

## Larry Paul

January 24, 1931 - June 3, 2013

Larry Paul, 82, passed away June 3. Larry and his late wife Eva (who passed away on April 26) had no children. Larry was a retired New York State fire warden, fire tower historian and life member of the FFLA. He was also a long-time member of the Central Pine Barrens Commission's Protected Lands Council, an educator, park steward, environmentalist and Nature Conservancy volunteer. He was a friendly, kind, helpful, hard-working, dedicated and gentle man who willingly devoted his time, considerable talent and energy to advancing environmental preservation, enforcement, environmental education and cultural resource protection in the Central Pine Barrens. Larry was a familiar presence at the Pine Barrens Discovery Day, Cooperators Meetings and countless other events and willingly and tirelessly supported the Commission's mission. He was a friend to many and will be sorely missed. The text from the Pine Barrens Commission's own award to Larry, given to him at the January 2012 Annual Cooperator's Meeting, says it all: Award of Merit - Presented with grateful appreciation to Lawrence G. Paul in recognition of your extraordinary dedication and professional contribution to the protection and stewardship of New York State's Central Pine Barrens, as a noteworthy cartographer, devoted preserve warden, committed volunteer, invaluable educator, and exceptional historian of fire towers and wildfire protection on Long Island.

Before the days of google maps and GPS, there was Larry Paul. When he first started as a volunteer cartographer for The Nature Conservancy, he used a compass and a good old-fashioned walk in the woods to help depict the trails and landscapes of TNC's preserves. He'd then sit down at a drafting table and sketch out the preserve's distinguishing features, natural landmarks, trails and boundaries. He mapped some 40 preserves owned or managed by The Nature Conservancy – many of those maps are still used today. As time went on, Larry's volunteer work for The Nature Conservancy extended far beyond the task of mapmaking. He took on every type of outdoor job that came up – clearing trails, leading preserve walks, surveying and marking preserve boundaries. He's been a true asset to the Conservancy's stewardship team whose members maintain and manage the very lands that Larry has mapped.

Larry and Eva dedicated 32 years of their lives to volunteering with The Nature Conservancy, furthering the organization's mission, and simply doing what they loved most; protecting, preserving and enjoying nature. As true role models, Larry and Eva exhibited selflessness, wisdom and passion and as a result have touched the lives of many. They will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Larry and Eva's spirits will forever be together and their presence always felt within the forests of Long Island.



Larry and Eva being recognized in 2011 for 30 years of volunteer service with The Nature Conservancy

## Linda DeEulis

May 15, 1947 - November 13, 2012

A celebration of the life of Linda DeEulis was held at her home at the Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary east of McCall, Idaho on June 8. Linda, 65, passed away November 13, 2012 after a long battle with cancer.

Linda was a fire lookout for fourteen years in Central Idaho for the Payette National Forest and the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, including seasons at East Mountain, Brundage, and Arctic Point, and had been an early FFLA member. She had been instrumental in the efforts to save East Mountain Lookout, up until the time it burned in 2002.

Linda and her former husband converted 35 acres of isolated land near McCall into the Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary in 1989, a refuge for injured and orphaned animals; a place to



rehabilitate wildlife and educate the public in ways to live in harmony with animals. She also served as an environmental interpreter at Ponderosa State Park.

Linda developed a presentation for the Idaho Humanities Council, "Life on a Lookout: A Vanishing Lifestyle", that she put on throughout the state. The presentation covered the history of fire lookouts in central Idaho as well as details of the lifestyle and the type of people that were been drawn to it. She included readings from her journals of fourteen years on lookouts and emphasized Idaho's unique place in forest fire history.

## Phil Ruff

November 7, 1932 - September 7, 2013

Long-time FFLA member Philip "Phil" H. Ruff, 80, of Kellogg, Idaho, passed away September 7. After growing up in New York, Phil served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Phil married Cecelia Armstrong on July 24, 1955; they spent six weeks on West Fork Butte (Lolo NF) prior to Phil entering the Forestry program at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Phil spent thirty-five years as a Forester, beginning his career as part of a forest-wide timber survey and inventory of Region One stretching from Eastern Washington into the Dakotas. Phil came to Avery, Idaho in 1969, heading the timber program, but then moved into a Resource Assistant role and moved to the Wallace District of the Idaho Panhandle Forests in 1975, where he added Shop Steward for the National Federation of Federal Employees to his duties, becoming an advocate for employees, lobbying for their rights at home and in Washington D.C.

He also influenced the lives of many other children through his life-long work with the Boy Scouts. At the time of his death, he was a District Commissioner for the Inland Northwest Council of the Boy Scouts of America. As a veteran, he also became active in the American Legion, and in recent years, worked tirelessly to erect the Silver Valley Veteran's War Memorial, a monument to honor all of America's veterans of foreign wars.

Phil retired from the Forest Service in 1994, after having "done almost everything that needed to be done" on a ranger district, making him the ideal host and interpretive guide for the replica L-4 lookout erected on Kellogg Peak by the Silver Mountain Resort in 1997. He filled this role for over ten years.

# Memories from my time on Priestly Mountain Lookout

I was living in Clinton, ME (1967) and remember packing all my belongings and waiting for my Ranger Supervisor to pick me up and travel all the way to Dauquam, Canada to stay in a cabin on the St. John River until it was time to go my tower. Me and other rangers had the duties of setting up the campgrounds and hooking up the old crank phones for the summer season. Then it was time to head to our towers. Once there, it was prep time and getting a few lessons on the tower operations. It took a few days to get the log cabin and lookout tower ready for the season. My only transportation was a small boat to cross the lake to the dock which had a path that lead me to the road which went to Clayton Lake and the Allagash River. District Ranger Dan Pratt from my hometown of Clinton also would pick me up at the roadside and off we would head to do inspections. That duty was only done when we had a major rain and we didn't have to man our towers.

I had some interesting experiences, which started one day when I was walking up the mountain trail to my tower. About half way up a large black bear was sitting on the trail blocking my path. I stood there for a minute and then she got up and walked ahead of me and once to the tower site she kept on going. The crazy thing was that she did this for several mornings like she was escorting me to the tower. I didn't see her anymore after that. I also experienced some close calls with the Loring Air Force Base B-52's flying by my tower close enough to rattle the windows and I tell you, I could see them smiling at me like saying, "was that close enough?"



Priestly Lookout in the 1980s  
Franklin Sargent photo

I later found out my tower was a marking point for their practice missions, exciting!

I didn't have a lot of visitors other than relatives because I was so far back in the woods. I only recall one couple from New Jersey who hiked in for a short visit to the tower. I did have a rude awakening one late night when two black bears came up onto the cabin porch and began to fight with each other until I got up and banged some pans together and scared them off. What a mess they left of my gear on the porch! My only access to food was to catch it or call in an order by two-way and then it was flown in by the Forest Service Beaver plane. I did get to ride the plane one day on a flight to Island Falls to get a tooth pulled. This also gave me the chance to pick supplies at the ranger headquarters there. The flight was great as he flew me over Baxter State Park and Mt. Katahdin.

One thing that kept me busy at the tower was that I was the local weather reporting station for the area. Other towers would call me with their rainfall and conditions and then I had to radio it to Augusta daily. One final thing, the trout fishing was out of this world - all native and big!! This is my little story of my experience as a watchman for the Maine Forest Service. **Jim Sylvester**, Skowhegan Watchman Priestly Mountain, 1967

## MERCHANDISE FROM OUR PARTNERS

### Buck Rock Foundation

Buck Rock caps, t-shirts, pins, tote bags  
[www.buckrock.org/giftshop2.html](http://www.buckrock.org/giftshop2.html)

### Osborne Fire Finder Case

A Mariposa, California, cabinetmaker is now making transport and storage cases for the Osborne Fire Finder. FFLA member Jeff May reports that the cases are of excellent quality



and craftsmanship.

Call for price: Martella Cabinet Company, David Martella, 1-866-966-3441 (toll-free) or 209-617-5471 (cell).

## Osborne Fire Finder Featured on Belt Buckle



This limited edition, numbered, pewter 2011 Smokey buckle from Dawn Fazio's Woodland Enterprises includes this inscription on the reverse: "The Osborne Fire Finder was invented 100 years ago by William Osborne, a Forest Service employee in Portland, Oregon. It has been serving in lookout towers nationwide since 1915." \$23.50 plus shipping and handling from [www.smokeybeargifts.com](http://www.smokeybeargifts.com) or call 208-882-4767. Dawn and Jim Fazio are long-time members of the FFLA.



<http://westernheritagestore.com/>  
(Navigate to USDA/USDI Store, "Agency")

## Lookout Items on Zazzle

Oregon FFLA member Elaine Broskie has a wide variety of products featuring Oregon lookouts available on zazzle.com, including posters, note cards, stamps, calendars, shirts, coffee mugs, envelopes, postcards, and more. Elaine will donate profits from the lookout items to the FFLA. Visit her zazzle store at [www.zazzle.com/ebroskie1234/](http://www.zazzle.com/ebroskie1234/) and navigate to "Fire Lookouts and occasional guard station". The Bald Butte Sunset image above is available on several products.



## Lookout movie still available

The award-winning documentary, *The Lookout*, is now available on iTunes for \$1.99 (\$2.99 for HD) and on DVD for \$20.00. The short documentary features the FFLA's Leif Haugen, and captures both his work as a lookout as well as the life of quiet, contemplative solitude that accompanies his job. iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/the-lookout/id576115029> DVD: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLookoutMovie>.

Merchandise from other partners at:  
[www.firelookout.org/store.htm](http://www.firelookout.org/store.htm)

# A North American History of Forest Fire Detection

By C. Rod Bacon

## Chapter XXXII COMMUNICATIONS

The previous chapter looked at observer methods for communicating the detection of wildfire before the use of telephones.

This chapter looks at communications by telephone.

Source: Forestry & Irrigation, June, 1905. *Telephone for Dismal River Reserve*

The Forest Service men in charge of the planting and nursery work on the Dismal River Forest Reserve, Nebraska, have taken advantage of the numerous barb-wire fences of the region to install a complete telephone system by stringing a few connecting wires, and mending breaks and putting in insulators where needed. They have connected their headquarters with ranches throughout the surrounding country, and with small towns in the neighborhood. This not only gives them social advantages, but enables them to order supplies or to receive prompt information in case fires are discovered.

Source: Forestry & Irrigation, September, 1905. *Telephone for Reserves*

For the better protection of the forest reserves the Forest Service, in cooperation with the Weather Bureau, will install a system of telephone lines and stations on them as rapidly as possible. The first system will be installed on the Big Horn Forest Reserve, in Wyoming. This telephone service will enable the forest rangers to notify one another, without delay, when forest fires break out.

Source: Forestry & Irrigation, October, 1906. *Telephones and the Forest Reserve*

In the first case the telephone will serve the same uses as it does in the big agricultural stretches of the West, where

it has been a potent factor in relieving the rancher and his family from the terrible nervous strain of an enforced isolation. It has even been claimed that insanity has decreased among farm women since the telephone has come into rural use.

But it is in cases of emergency in the forest that the telephone becomes the instrument of salvation; and no greater emergency is likely to arise than that engendered by the most serious menace to the forest and to forest life - fire.

The use of telephones on forest reserves is not a suppositional nor a merely contingent matter. They have been tried and roved by time, and although the Government has no telephone service of its own in operation, there is one under construction in the Big Horn Forest Reserve in Wyoming, where the first line will be 109 miles long, connecting the rangers' cabins in the reserve with the Supervisor's headquarters at Big Horn.

The construction of still another telephone system was authorized under the Government, providing for five miles of Government telephone lines on the Pikes Peak Forest Reserve in Colorado.

The comparatively low cost of such lines, owing to the presence of poles on the ground, and even the use of standing trees, is one of the things which will contribute to their extension. Supplementing the proposed Government telephone lines are a number of private lines constructed under permit from the Forester, who grants a right of way across a forest reserve only on condition that the forest officers shall be allowed free use

of the line for official business.

Wherever possible the line should be carried within a reasonable distance of high places in the reserve, which may be made to serve as lookout points from which the smoke from any fire may be quickly detected.

Source: American Forestry, February, 1910. *The Telephone: a Protector against Forest Fires*

Maine has introduced the modern telephone into her forests, together with a system of forest patrols and look-outs. A watchman is stationed at the top of a mountain or high point of land in the district assigned to him and where usually a single line is run to the nearest telephone office. At the top of the mountain a telephone enclosed in an iron case is used, a case of this metal being necessary, due to the fact that ledges and rocks are usually found there which would make the erection of a small building to enclose a wooden telephone expensive if not impossible.

A watchman, continually on the alert, and using field glasses, is able to view for miles in all directions, and on discovering smoke or fire, telephones immediately to the telephone office, where lines radiate in every direction.

In addition to the watchman or look-out, men are employed to patrol the forests, usually carrying a very efficient portable telephone of light weight. The latter may be readily attached to lines which are to-day found in nearly all parts of the forests of northern and central Maine and which run to various camps or exchanges in villages or towns.

### Lookout Lightning Protection



Montana FFLA member Mike Kuefler is a certified lightning protection specialist; Kuefler Lightning Protection, Inc. has been

used by the Forest Service for several lookout projects. KLP is based in St. Ignatius, Montana, but also has offices in Florida, Georgia and Minnesota. Visit their website, [www.kuefler-lightning.com/](http://www.kuefler-lightning.com/), email [mkuefler@kuefler-lightning.com](mailto:mkuefler@kuefler-lightning.com), or phone 406-745-3800.



### Lookout Jewelry

#### Firetower Dangle Jewelry

Lightweight, yet durable, these shining fire lookout earrings, necklaces, and label pins are laser cut and etched, plated in silver or gold, and are slightly curved to better reflect the light from different angles.

- **Earrings** 1/2" by 1", **\$18.00**
- **Necklaces** 1-1/4" by 1/4" with 20" chain, **\$18.00**
- **Label Pins** 1" by 1/4", **\$9.00**
- **Shipping \$2.00**

To order, email Oregon Chapter Director Howard Verschoor at [lookoutoregon@gmail.com](mailto:lookoutoregon@gmail.com). Proceeds go to the Oregon Chapter for Oregon lookout projects.



# FFLA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Order all items on this page from:

FFLA - Gary Weber  
2590 W Versailles Dr  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
[fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com)

Make Checks Payable to FFLA or  
Pay through PayPal  
(<https://www.paypal.com/>)



Payable to [fflatreas@gmail.com](mailto:fflatreas@gmail.com)

## FFLA CAPS

Embroidered FFLA logo caps are now in stock, available in two styles, both adjustable to fit. For those preferring the stand-up, shaped style, structured caps are available. The unstructured style is available for those preferring soft, low-profile caps. Both styles come in charcoal gray or forest green. Specify structured (left) or unstructured (right) style. \$15.00 each + \$3.00 shipping/handling

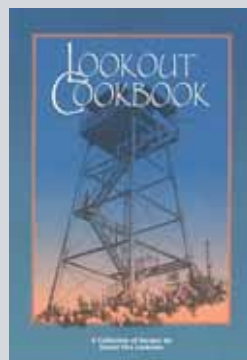


## LOOKOUT COOKBOOK

*A Collection of Recipes by Forest Fire Lookouts*

by Libby Langston

*Lookout Cookbook* is a blend of recipes, history, personal stories, and over 100 photographs bringing together the lookout staffers, their stations, and their creativity. *Lookout Cookbook* is a cooperative venture between the North Idaho/Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Lolo National Forest and the Museum of North Idaho.



\$14.95 each + \$4.00 s/h for first book, \$1.00 s/h for each additional book to same address.

## FFLA Logo Decals

Full-color FFLA logo vinyl decals with rear adhesive. Three sizes are now available, the large is 5" across (3-3/4" per side), the medium is 3-1/2" across (2-1/2" per side), and the small is 2-1/2" across (1-3/4" per side). The small decal is ideal for hardhat applications, the medium is the same size as the popular FFLA multi-colored patch.

Large (5") decals, \$1.50 each, Medium (3-1/2") \$1.00 each, Small (2-1/2") \$0.75 each. Shipping: \$.50 per order

## FFLA CAN COOLERS

*Keep your drinks colder longer while displaying the FFLA logo!*

The crisp white FFLA logo outline stands out on two sides of the royal blue foam can cooler. The coolers are made of polyurethane foam with a no-slip grip.



2 for \$5.00 + \$2.00 s/h

## FFLA PINS and PATCHES

*New larger size pins!*

New FFLA logo lapel pins are now in stock! The new larger sized pins (right) measure 1 inch across (3/4" per side).

Multi-colored embroidered FFLA logo patches (lower left), measuring 2-1/2 inches per side (3-1/2" across), are also available.

The pins and patches are \$5.00 each, including shipping/handling.



## FFLA Brochures

The bright orange-colored FFLA membership recruitment brochures are still available. The six-panel tri-fold brochures are available to anyone with access to lookouts or other places to make them available to prospective new members. Contact Gary Weber or your chapter director to arrange for a supply.



## FFLA SHIRTS!



Black/white design w/4-color FFLA logo on Ash color shirts

*Wide range of sizes available!*

- T-shirts (short-sleeve)  
S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$13.00
- T-shirts (long-sleeve)  
S, M, L, XL, 2X \$15.00
- Sweatshirts (long-sleeve)  
S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$20.00

Shipping/handling:  
t-shirts \$3, sweatshirts \$5  
(additional shipping for larger orders)

## LOOKOUT NETWORK CD

The entire collection of LOOKOUT NETWORK issues is now available on CD. Each issue, beginning with Vol.1, No.1, has been scanned and saved as a .pdf file. An index is also included to easily search for past articles. As a bonus, a variety of local/regional editions produced prior to the advent of central printing/mailling are also included! \$20.00 each, includes shipping/handling

## Cornell Hill Tower Patch

The patch commemorating New York's Cornell Hill Fire Tower and Camp Saratoga (Spring 2011 issue) is still available. The 3-1/2" x 4" patch may be ordered from "FFLA-Gary Weber", \$10.00 each (includes s/h).



## Lookout Library DVD

*Lookout Library* (ver. 2010) is no longer available, but the 2013 version will be out soon! The dvd, compiled by the FFLA Historian, will have over 2 gigabytes of lookout information, including the chronology of the FFLA's first 20 years. Watch for it soon!

**Free Shipping on orders over \$50.00**  
(merchandise on this page only)

# Books

**FIRE LOOKOUTS OF THE NORTHWEST Lookout Inventory - Revised 2012** by Ray Kresek. Nearly 400 of the 3,303 lookout sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana are updated with the latest status compiled in this 84-page book that complements *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. Proceeds go to the non-profit Fire Lookout Museum. \$15.00 check or money order to: Fire Lookout Museum, 123 W. Westview, Spokane, WA 99218, 509-466-9171, [rkresek@comcast.net](mailto:rkresek@comcast.net), [www.firelookouts.com](http://www.firelookouts.com).

**FIRE LOOKOUTS OF THE NORTHWEST, Third Edition** by Ray Kresek, [Check for Availability](#) from Fire Lookout Museum.

**FOUR-ELEVEN! Pulaskis, Planes & Forest Fires** by Rich Faletto. Four summers around Lake Chelan on Washington's Wenatchee NF in the early 1960s. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1452892903

**A VIEW FROM THE TOP: Maryland's Fire Towers** by Barbara M. Garner, Descriptions of all of Maryland's fire towers - 46 locations. Dozens of maps and photos. \$16.95 + \$4.00 s/h from Barbara Garner, 608 Norhurst Way, Baltimore, Maryland 21228, 410-788-3767.

**BETWEEN LAND & SKY: A Fire Lookout Story** by Dixie Boyle. Former FFLA director's experiences from twenty years as a fire lookout. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1432704397

**BETWEEN FOREST AND SKY: A Fire Tower Journal** by Sharon Stratton. A fire tower journal of several seasons in northern Alberta. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1894974166

**STANDING WATCH: The Fire Towers of Arizona** by Eileen Moore. Features the state's eighty-one fire towers and cabins and includes 115 photos. \$13.99 plus \$3.00 s/h from [www.mortenmoorepublishing.com](http://www.mortenmoorepublishing.com).

**CLIMBING THE LADDER LESS TRAVELED, Adventures, Insights and Life Journeys** by Joe Bill. \$15.00 (includes s/h) from Mountain Forest Publishing, 12240 N. Barrel Cactus Way, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

**SMOKECHASER** by Warren Yahr  
Life as a lookout fireman in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest during the 1940s. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0893011800

**HIGH-MOUNTAIN TWO-MANNER** by Frank Fowler - A Montana smokejumper's memoir based on letters home to his mother. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1599269570

**LOOKOUTS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION** is available online: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/handle/1957/9577>.

**FINDING FIRE: A Personal History of Fire Lookouts in Lane County, Oregon** by Doug Newman. From bookstores - ISBN: 0964843439 or [www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/)

**FIRE LOOKOUT HIKES IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, Second Edition** by Mike Potter, \$24.95 (US) includes s/h, to Luminous Compositions, 2815 Lionel Cres SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 6B1. e-mail: [luminouscompositions@shaw.ca](mailto:luminouscompositions@shaw.ca). Also available from bookstores. ISBN: 0969443854

**MORTON PEAK** by Jack Dietz. Novel set at Morton Peak Lookout in the San Bernardino NF. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1441511938

**EYES OF THE FOREST** by Vivian Demuth. Novel set in the boreal forests of Canada. ISBN: 9780968562352. Available from bookstores.

**I REMEMBER WHEN: The Untold Story of Helen Ellett** by Randy Kneer, The story of the courageous Dickinson Hill Observer in Grafton, New York. \$9.95 + \$2.00 shipping/handling from: Podskoch Press, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424, 860-267-2442.

**HIKING NORTH CAROLINA'S LOOKOUT TOWERS** by Peter Barr. Guidebook to the lookout towers in western North Carolina. [peterontheat.com/hiking-north-carolinas-lookout-towers/](http://peterontheat.com/hiking-north-carolinas-lookout-towers/), \$15.00 (includes s/h), or email Peter at [pjbarr@gmail.com](mailto:pjbarr@gmail.com). ISBN: 0895873567

**POINTS OF PROMINENCE, Fire Lookouts of the Payette National Forest** by Richard H. Holm, Jr. ISBN: 1448609992 \$16.00 + \$3.50 s/h from: Richard Holm Jr., P.O. Box 294, McCall, ID 83638; online [www.coldmountainpress.com](http://www.coldmountainpress.com).

**BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, Harney Peak and the Historic Fire Lookout Towers** (Images of America Series) by Jan Cerney and Roberta Sago, Over 200 images of Black Hills lookouts. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0738583707

**GUARDING DINOSAUR** by Jean Burt Polhamus. The 1953 adventures of a young couple serving as fire lookouts on Round Top in Dinosaur National Monument. Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) or contact Jean Polhamus, [johndandjean@gmail.com](mailto:johndandjean@gmail.com).

**THIS IS OUR FOREST: A Collection of Stories from a Lookout-Smokechaser Who Worked in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana and Idaho** by Harold E. Coffman \$11.95 + \$2.95 shipping/handling from: HalMar Publications, 10453 W Highwood Ln, Sun City, AZ 85373-1947. ISBN: 0971554005

**LONELY ON THE MOUNTAIN: A Skier's Memoir** by George M. Henderson, Memoir of growing up in Montana and Idaho logging camps, as an Oregon lookout and smokechaser, and as a pioneer in the development of skiing on Mount Hood. \$23.00 + \$3.00 s/h, from Donna Henderson, 14050 Maxfield Creek Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361, [dnnhndrsn@gmail.com](mailto:dnnhndrsn@gmail.com). Also available at the Government Camp (OR) General Store, or bookstores. ISBN: 1412082331

**MOUNTAINS OF MEMORY: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness** by Don Scheese. Available from [www.uiowapress.org/](http://www.uiowapress.org/) or from bookstores. ISBN: 0877457840

**LOOKING OUT FOR OUR FORESTS, the Evolution of a Plan to Protect New Hampshire's Woodlands from Fire** by Iris W. Baird, \$20.00 + \$2.00 shipping from: Iris W. Baird, 11 Richardson Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

**A FIELD GUIDE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE TOWERS, second revised edition** by Chris Haartz and Iris W. Baird, \$5.00 + \$1.50 shipping (same address as above).

**FROM YORK TO THE ALLAGASH, Forest Fire Lookouts of Maine** by David N. Hilton. Limited number of copies still available at [www.firewackerworld.sellorfind.com/store/products/](http://www.firewackerworld.sellorfind.com/store/products/), or at bookstores. ISBN: 1890454044

**THE FIRE OBSERVATION TOWERS OF NEW YORK STATE, Survivors That Still Stand Guard** by Paul Laskey \$19.95 + \$2.00 shipping, from: Mary Laskey, 5019 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, CD-ROM and .pdf versions available. Also available in bookstores. ISBN: 0974620408

**UNCLE SAM'S CABINS, A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West** by Les Joslin. Revised and enlarged edition of *Uncle Sam's Cabins*. The original edition, long sold out, contained the stories of 75 historic ranger and guard stations. This new, revised, enlarged edition has 92 (including the one that's served its purpose at three locations since 1933 and inspired this book). The 333 pages include 260 historic and current photographs and eight maps. \$20.00 (includes s/h) from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708, 541-330-0331, [www.wildernessheritage.com](http://www.wildernessheritage.com).

Also available from Wilderness Associates:

**TOIYABE PATROL: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s** by Les Joslin, \$14.95 (s/h included),

**RANGER TRAILS: The Life and Times of a Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger in the West on the La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes National Forests, 1907-1913** by John Riis, prologue/epilogue by Les Joslin, \$15.00 (s/h included),

**WALT PERRY: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon** by Walt Perry, edited by Les Joslin, \$20.00 (s/h included).

**The HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, The Early Days** by Vicky MacLean. Helena NF History includes an entire chapter on lookouts. \$16.95 from the Montana Discovery Foundation, 406-495-3711.

**FIRE WATCH, A Summer to be Remembered** by Ham Rideout. The "Summer of 42" on two Wenatchee NF lookouts. \$15.25 + \$3.00 shipping, online at: [www.steilacoom.net/rideout/](http://www.steilacoom.net/rideout/).

**BUCKSKIN LARCH AND BEDROCK** by Mike Hiler. Collection of poems and passages from the Central Washington Cascades. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1453844074

**HOW TO RENT A FIRE LOOKOUT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST** (2nd Edition, 2005) by Tish McFadden and Tom Foley. Available in bookstores. ISBN: 0899973841

**FISH CREEK: A Western Adventure** by Robert Lodder - Working on Fish Creek Lookout, near Grangeville, Idaho in 1960 and 1961. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1420861301

**FIRE TOWER** by Jack Kestner (republished in 2007) online at [www.clinchmountainpress.net](http://www.clinchmountainpress.net)

**FIRE SEASON: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout** by Philip Connors, Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0061859362

**Marty Podskoch Websites and Books**  
Former FFLA NY Director Marty Podskoch's website, [www.adirondackstories.com/](http://www.adirondackstories.com/), features several of his books: **ADIRONDACK CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMPS: Their History, Memories and Legacy**, \$20.00, **ADIRONDACK STORIES, Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK STORIES II, 101 More Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Northern Districts** \$20.00, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Southern Districts** \$20.00, **FIRE TOWERS OF THE CATSKILLS, Their History and Lore** (reprint with new cover design) \$20.00. Add \$3.00 s/h (for 1 or more books). Send check or money order to: Podskoch Press, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424, 860-267-2442.

## More Books

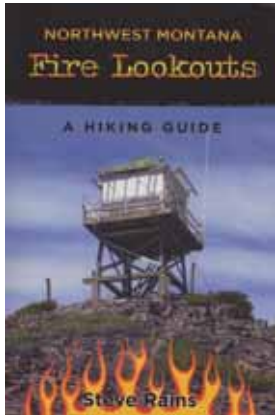
### NORTHWEST MONTANA FIRE LOOKOUTS

#### A Hiking Guide

by Steve Rains

Stoneydale Press Publishing Co, 2013, paperback, 160 pp. ISBN: 0988948001

This hiking guide to 30 of Northwest



Montana's lookouts in six mountain ranges provides detailed trailhead directions, route statistics, and photos of the lookouts and the views. The routes to the most of the featured

lookouts are trail and Forest Service road hikes; some can even be driven to.

Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and [www.letshikemontana.com](http://www.letshikemontana.com).

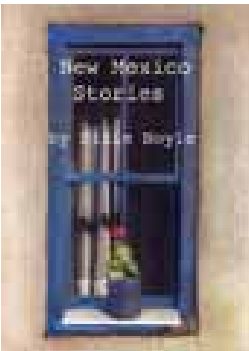
### NEW MEXICO STORIES

[Kindle Edition]

by Dixie Boyle

Amazon Digital Services, 2012, 167 kb, 84 pp.

New Mexico Stories discusses the history of New Mexico from the indigenous people who first settled the state to those pioneers and homesteaders who came later. The book portrays well known and not so well known facts and historical information about the state and its people and has a chapter on the Manzano National Forest and early forest rangers, including Raymond Schmidt, who was the first to staff Lookout Mountain Lookout in the Gila National Forest.



Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

### FIRE WATCHER

by Vivian Demuth

Guernica Editions, 2013, paperback, 70 pp. ISBN: 1550716964

Fire Watcher is a collection of poetry written at a Canadian fire tower in the Rocky Mountain foothills. Vivian Demuth's lively poems show that, to an engaged observer with an accomplished literary imagination, the mountain forest is a complex, animated bio-community --

resonating with beauty and sentient beings, large, small, and mysterious.

Available from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

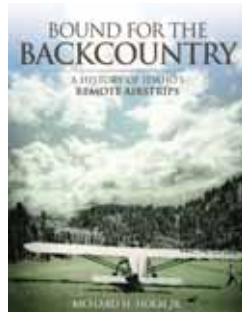
### BOUND FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY

#### A History of Idaho's Remote Airstrips

by Richard H. Holm, Jr.

Cold Mountain Press, 2012, 560 pp. ISBN: 0615681123

The Idaho backcountry has the most unique mountain and canyon flying found in the lower forty-eight states. For the first time a comprehensive history of nearly one hundred of the state's isolated airstrips has been compiled, detailing the construction and historical events of each. The most



southerly airstrips included are those at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and northward through the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Combined with the history of each individual location are fascinating stories related to homesteaders, runway owners, boaters, hikers, outfitters, hunters, firefighters, pilots, and airplanes. *Bound for the Backcountry* is an 8.5 x 11 hardbound, with over 1,000 black and white photographs. The second edition, now available, includes more photographs, updated information, and an index! \$59.95 + \$6.00 shipping from [www.coldmountainpress.com](http://www.coldmountainpress.com).

### BAKER BUTTE JOURNAL 2010 Plus Some Pretty Good Recipes

by Shirley Payne

Berry Queen Press, 2013, paperback, 120 pp.

Nestled among the ponderosa pines along the Mogollon Rim sits Baker Butte Lookout.

The Coconino National Forest is one of the most active forests for both human- and wildland-caused fires in Arizona, and that's the way Shirley Payne likes it! She has been a lookout for 29 years and it's a job she loves and returns to with great anticipation.

In 2010 she kept a journal of her summer watching for forest fires. With no



television or internet access there's not much to do besides read, quilt, and cook. And boy does Shirley ever cook! Shirley has used her evenings to develop and refine recipes, 99 which are included in the book.

\$20.00 + \$5.00 s/h (for one or more books); ordering information at [www.berryqueenpress.com/](http://www.berryqueenpress.com/).

## DVD

### THERAPY

#### Life at Tope Creek Lookout

*Therapy* is a documentary on DVD created by Tope Creek Lookout owner, renovator, and savior, Brian Wizard. Running time: 2:56.

This documentary covers the moment of Brian's arrival to his newly purchased estate, the Tope Creek Lookout, and follows his life there over his first ten years. You see him take the rundown, shot up, abandoned property from close to its demise into a beautiful park-like setting. The tower is stronger now that the day he bought it in 1991. You see Brian making art, playing music, plowing snow, as well as spotting, calling in, and extinguishing forest fires. He lives the dream.

WARNING! The rating of this video is NT. (Nature Themed.) This DVD video contains naked man cartwheeling, naked man kicking and beating with mallets an empty 3500-gallon metal drum, bare bum moon, and the peeing over the edge of a 103-foot tall tower from a man's point of view. (None of these scenes last more than a few seconds).

There is now an abridged edition without the fun bits (no naked man).

Visit [www.brianwizard.com](http://www.brianwizard.com) to order; look under Store Menu for Therapy DVD. Purchase item securely through Paypal, specify original or abridged version. \$20, plus s/h.



"This is the life you could be living"



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