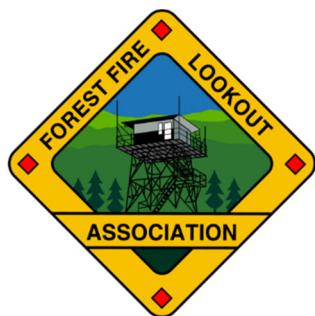


# Forest Fire Lookout Association

## CA-Pacific 2016 Annual Chapter Report

30021 McKenna Heights Court, Valley Center CA 92082



### *2016 ANNUAL REPORT*

January 8, 2017

The California FFLA regions were modified early in 2016 and the lower part of the Los Padres N/F is no longer part of the CA-Pacific Director. This change was made during the reorganization of the new CA-South Coast Directorship.

**Los Padres N/F** (Northern area) has 6 towers listed with peakbagging.com of which none are on the National Historical Lookout Register (NHLR) and none are currently being staffed. Only three belong to Cal Fire, three owned by State Parks and none owned by the Forest Service.

1. Met with Cal Fire in August 2015 and February 2016 to discuss two towers in Santa Clara Ranger Unit in Morgan Hill, CA. Most of the logistics have been completed including a new roof completed mid-October 2016 for the Copernicus Peak Tower. Current plan is to train new FFLA Volunteers to staff the tower for the 2017 fire season. Cal Fire Volunteers currently staff the tower (as required – five times during 2016), but Cal Fire is interested in having FFLA Volunteers to staff on a regular basis.
2. Mount Oso Lookout Tower – Tower is also in need of roof repair; however, Cal Fire is willing to complete the repairs if FFLA will staff the Lookout on a regular basis.

**Mendocino N/F** has 23 towers listed with peakbagging.com, Cal Fire owns four and the Forest Service owned nineteen of which twelve have been destroyed. Four are on the NHLR and only three are currently being staffed by seasonal volunteers.

In August 2015, Cal Fire and I reached an agreement to re-open & staff the Konocti Lookout Tower on Wright Peak in Lake County, CA. 2016 was the second year for FFLA to staff the Konocti tower with twenty nine (29) new members completing in-tower training. With a total of 47 volunteers (18 existing members & 29 new) they logged 1,728 in-tower hours and had 33 “first reports”.

On August 14, 2016, the Clayton Fire was spotted (1<sup>st</sup> report) and with a strong northwest wind it quickly spread. Additional smoke was spotted/reported in the area; however, the communication center advised the tower that their second report was actually part of the original fire. Without any doubt the volunteer responded with “negative - this is a different one, I can see the fire”. In a short time the fire had spread to 1,400 acres, just over a third of its final size, destroying more than 175 homes, businesses and other structures.

Note: Mr. & Mrs. Grindle (both FFLA volunteers) lost their home in the Clayton fire.

Good news: Soon after the second fire was reported, Damin A. Pashilk, a Clearlake resident, was questioned for starting the Clayton fire and arrested for 17 counts of arson.

Bad news: During the fire season one of our volunteers had a stroke in the tower and died several days later in the Hospital.

**Financial:** A total of \$1,712.50 was collected for National & Chapter dues and misc. uniform items. Current year-end balance is \$860.45.

A website & Facebook page has been established. ([www.ffla-ccwr.org](http://www.ffla-ccwr.org))

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Ulmer*

Director, FFLA CA-Pacific Chapter