Blessings

They come to bless the lookout upon the Buck Rock height
Drumbeats beckon upward, above the Redtail’s flight

Each direction, round the cab, from sunrise to the North,
The Medicine Man, with sotto voice, calls the Spirits forth

Come Grandfather, Come Grandfather inspiration we invite
Bless this place protecting Mother Earth from wildfire’s blight

Bless all those who keep vigil from this tower in the sky
The sentinels of the forest, bring keenness to their eye

Watching over all the mountains within their range of sight
Ever scanning the horizon for the slightest wisp of white

Then he blessed us, every one, our troubles to release
With smoke of sage and Eagle’s wing, he bade that we have Peace.

Joyce Belt
Blessing of the Rock 2006

Native American Traditions at Buck Rock

Each year since 2004, Buck Rock has been the center of a Native American ceremony begun and presided over by Eddie “Tupishna” Sartuche. “The Blessing of the Rock” has become a treasured tradition at the lookout, attracting larger audiences every September.

(The story continues on page 10)

Save the Dates!

BUCK ROCK OPEN HOUSE
Blessing of the Rock
Sunday Sept 2nd, 2018
10:00-3:00
At the base of Buck Rock Lookout, Sequoia NF
Smokey Bear, lookout tours, displays and activities!

VOLUNTEER FIRE LOOKOUT TRAININGS
Orientation April 21, 2018
Hume Lake Ranger Station
Training May 5, 2018
Dunlap Community Club
For details and to register: www.buckrock.org
A new normal

As we go to press with our 2017 edition of the Buck Rock Foundation newsletter, devastating wildfires are raging throughout Southern California. The largest, the Thomas Fire, has burned over 270 square miles, destroyed 800 structures and is racing towards Santa Barbara with no end in sight. Similar to the Northern California fires earlier this fall, these wind-driven blazes are hopscotching through neighborhoods and taking out whole subdivisions. Over 2,000 firefighters are battling the Thomas Fire, which is now considered the 5th largest in California history. One embattled fire Battalion Chief remarked, “We are in the middle of December - this is unprecedented,” and Governor Jerry Brown announced, “We are experiencing the new normal.”

One of the most common questions I get when I staff a fire tower is “We don’t use or need fire lookouts any more, do we?” Patiently I explain that not only do we still staff some fire lookouts for the intended purpose of quickly spotting a fire, but fire lookouts are also useful in providing important radio communications and up-to-date weather observations. A staffed lookout, I would add, gives visitors such as themselves a unique and historical perspective of forest lands while providing an educational opportunity to learn about fire management on public lands.

When I entered into the world of fire in the early 1990’s I learned that there are four cornerstones to fire management: fire prevention, fire detection, fire suppression and fuels management. Take away one and the foundation crumbles. While there is always talk of beefing up fire fighting budgets, we rarely hear the same for the other three. Perhaps now is the time to consider focusing more effort on balancing the act. Let’s take Smokey Bear out of the closet, increase the budget for fuels reduction projects, and dust the cobwebs out of a few more fire lookouts.

Leaving a legacy

We often get compliments about our organization, including the comment, “You are creating a legacy.” This got me to thinking. Is there a legacy if there is no one to carry it on? Does a legacy exist if the organization goes away? If there is no Buck Rock Foundation, what happens to the legacy?

The strength of any organization relies on the commitment of a group of people to take a good idea, create a meaningful mission and follow through on a set of goals and objectives. We know we have a good idea, we continue to have the support of agency partners and we have a thriving group of dedicated volunteers. But like so many small non-profits, we cannot be sure our organization is sustainable.

Since our inception 18 years ago, our Foundation has relied mainly on a core group of people – Wendy Garton, Tammy and Ray Ahumada, Brent and Marsha Iden, Stacy and Jeff Hannel and me – whose volunteer commitment totals a combined 93 years of service to the Foundation. Other key people, like Lea Dotters, Dave Bartlett and Matthew Geer have also provided many years of creative energy, vision and advice. This year retired Hume Lake Ranger District Fire Management Officer Neil Metcalf and retired USFS Regional Engineer George Kulick have joined our board providing us with a fresh perspective and vast expertise.

Change is good and necessary for the growth of an organization and leadership roles are the most difficult to fill. It is time to start making changes with an effort towards sustainability. Maybe this is your time. Maybe you are that person who can help us continue the legacy.
Remembering Doug Belt

It is with heartfelt sadness to report that our great friend and colleague Doug Belt passed away on January 15, 2017 after a brief illness. For over 15 seasons, Doug was a volunteer fire lookout for the Foundation, and worked one season as a paid lookout at Fence Meadow for the Sierra National Forest. He was one of those “unforgettable characters” with a unique language all his own, a kind and generous heart, a childlike curiosity of the world, and a passion for history, scouting and the outdoors.

Doug, who we lovingly called “Fuzzy” for obvious reasons, was forever exploring, often with his dog Homer at his side. At times, we would get an enthusiastic phone call from him about finding a benchmark, or some artifact like phone insulators or #9 wire that was strung throughout the forest back in the early days of communication. During training, Doug was our “map guru”, teaching incoming volunteer lookouts the complexities of reading topographic maps. His easy-going and friendly nature quickly calmed the nerves of newcomers and soon questions and laughter could be heard from his corner of the classroom.

Doug was an excellent fire watcher with a fondness for Park Ridge Lookout in Kings Canyon National Park. He was an integral part of the Foundation and a good friend to all of us. Doug was our brother. He will be greatly missed.

We are very grateful to Doug’s wife Joyce, his family and friends for choosing to generously donate to the Foundation in Doug’s memory. To honor Doug and his passion for fire lookouts, the Foundation and the Park Service will be donating a bench and plaque to be placed at his beloved Park Ridge. In addition, we will be instituting the “Doug Belt Award” to be given to an outstanding volunteer when appropriate.

Historic Lookout Tree Gone

The tree holding the original Breckenridge crow’s nest lookout was felled this fall by a Southern California Edison contract crew. The loss was especially painful for long-time firewatcher Lori Griswold, who has kept an eye on the tree from her perch at Breckenridge while making efforts to preserve it. We are hoping that the Forest Service will commemorate the history of this early 20th century icon.
With the seasonal closing our lookouts, our end of season party just a memory, and as I tidy up my desk, I can’t help but smile as I reminisce over our season.

It started in February with our training cadre planning and organizing for our springtime orientation and training days. We held this year’s May training at Ash Mountain in Sequoia National Park and we appreciated the support and participation of Chief 2 John Ziegler, PIO Mike Theune and Dispatcher, Steff Willmon. After a cold, wet and information-filled day, we were happy to put our feet up and commune at a pot-luck feast in the beautiful Three Rivers home of volunteers George and Debbi Kulick. This primed us for opening up Delilah a few days later on May 11th and getting right to work. With a larger than normal “rookie” class, it was timely to institute a new “Train-the Trainers Certification Program” and although in-tower training continued into August, it helped us manage the load refreshing returning lookouts.

This year’s stats speak for themselves: 51 volunteers staffed our 3 lookouts for over 4,000 hours (This does not account for the 5 days weekly Buck Rock is staffed by the Forest Service lookout Michigan.) Our fire towers called in a combined 20 smokes, of which 3 were first reports. Only one – the Davis Fire called in by Delilah - became significant, requiring air resources and many boots on the ground. The professionalism, dependability and resourcefulness exhibited by our volunteer lookout was extraordinary!

Park Ridge had a front row seat to the SEKI/SQF "Sequoia Creek" prescribed burn and provided smoke and weather observations to the burn boss on a regular basis. All three of our towers monitored several other managed fires, including the “Rowell” and “Trail” fires, which burned well into the fall. With so a record number of large California fires this summer, our visibility was unfortunately often obscured for many days throughout the season. However, several lookouts remarked on the phenomenal sunsets and comfortable evenings. Interesting observations of nature including cloud formations, lightning and sightings of peregrine falcons, mountain lions, and a possible condor, all perks of living high atop a mountaintop.

A very important part of our lookout program is providing the public with information and nowhere is a better example of this service than at Buck Rock, where 6046 visitors signed the guest book this summer. A handful of very dedicated volunteers spent weekends staffing a booth below Buck Rock, offering advice about sites to see; explaining the job, history and importance of fire lookouts; and helping to limit the impact of people to the firewatcher on duty. Several hundred visitors also made the trek to Park Ridge and Delilah over the course of the season.

Due to the support and hard-work of over 20 volunteers, our annual Open House at Buck Rock was, again, very successful in all respects. It always makes me gasp when I think of the sheer numbers of visitors that come thru in just a short amount of time. The food, the visitors, the blessing, the stairs, Smokey, the coordination, not to mention all the things that could go wrong...This year, for example, morning skies were filled with smoke from the Pier Fire, but then blew out providing us with four perfect hours, before a dangerous thunderstorm arrived causing us to cut short the Open House. Volunteers made sure visitors were safe, entertained, well fed and happy, then picked up the pieces after the storm.

In closing, on behalf of the Foundation I wish to thank all of our volunteers for the tremendous, albeit unique, service they provide for all things “lookout”. From staffing their favorite fire detection site, to working and donating to our annual Buck Rock Open House, providing their time and expertise to our outdoor education programs, helping us with fundraising needs, picking up a hammer or paint brush to help with a rehab project to sitting below Buck Rock and greeting the never-ending line of visitors. The list and accolades go on and on... and a simple "thank you" seems so inadequate. Suffice it to say, it’s an honor to work alongside each and every one of our volunteers. So until next Spring when we start all over again, make it a fantastic winter, be cheerful, count your blessings and be well, my friends.
Meet Our Volunteers

Featuring our “Volunteers of the Year” Julie Harcos and Jack Huneke

Julie Harcos and Jack Huneke are co-recipients of this year’s “Volunteer of the Year Award”. This award recognizes outstanding achievements as a volunteer with the Buck Rock Foundation. The couple – married since 2004 – have been spending one day every week during fire season staffing Park Ridge for a decade. This year they staffed the fire tower for 19 days, were docents on weekends at Buck Rock, and eagerly spread awareness throughout the community of the importance of staffing fire lookouts.

Jack grew up in the Central Valley spending time exploring the Mineral King and Sequoia. In his youth, he discovered a love for science and math, majored in physics and after graduate school and a stint in Switzerland, landed a job at Caltech working with mass spectrometers, which became his life’s work. Related to the homesteading Homer family and referring to a local landmark that carries the name, he says, “My nose comes from that side of the family!”

Julie was born in Minnesota but moved with her family to California where she grew up near Sacramento. She raised three boys while teaching elementary school in Hayward until she retired after 20 years. She met Jack as members of their church choir in San Leandro.

After they retired in 2005, Jack and Julie moved from San Leandro to the Sierra foothill burg of Miramonte and have been active in the community ever since. “We are community and communally oriented,” said Julie, who noted that she has been volunteering for various causes since she was 20. A driving factor in their decision to join the Buck Rock Foundation was the community support they received after their house exploded in a freak propane accident. They found out about the lookout program from a friend. Recognizing the value in early fire detection, seeing the need for volunteers, and wanting to give back, they signed up.

In addition to their volunteer work with BRF, Jack and Julie serve on the Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council and are past board members of the Central Sierra Chamber of Commerce, with which they are still very active.

As avid art collectors with a desire to stay connected to the art world, they hosted the “Stone House Residency for the Contemporary Arts,” for 15 years, providing six artists per summer the opportunity to work on their art while staying in Jack and Julie’s lovely mountain home. One of the perks for the visiting artists were trips into Sequoia and Kings Canyon, which included a jaunt up to the lookouts where they could see the landscape “from the unique and endangered perspective of a fire tower”.

We are honored to have Jack and Julie on our team and appreciate their exemplary service to the Foundation, our community and public lands. Congratulations to our outstanding Volunteers of the Year!

OAK TO TIMBERLINE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Like many others who live in the Sierra foothills and mountains, Jack Huneke and Julie Harcos were concerned with the devastating drought-induced tree mortality and the subsequent growing fire danger to their community. According to Jack, his wife Julie “gets us into all of these things, and we like to do things together.” So, when the reconstituted Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council was looking for board members, it is no surprise that they said, “Sure!”

The Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council (OTFSC) serves a diverse region between the Kings and Kaweah watersheds ranging in elevation from 500’ to 6500’. From the grasslands, through the brush and oak of the foothills, and all the way to the timberlands of the giant sequoias, the Council’s service area encompass nearly 217,000 acres of public and private lands. Within it are State and Federal lands, private homes, ranches, schools, churches, youth camps, businesses, and wildlife refuges, and the communities of Piedra, Tivy Valley, Wonder Valley, Squaw Valley, Dunlap, Miramonte, Pinehurst, Badger, Eshom Valley, Hartland, Sequoia Lake and Hume Lake.

Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council is a community based, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote fire safety by providing information, education, support incentives, and projects that encourage fire safety in communities east of the Friant-Kern Canal and south of the Kings River, from "Oak to Timberline." For more information go online at: www.oaktotimberline.org
Delilah and the Davis Fire

By Gary Duran – Volunteer, Delilah Lookout

Today is like any other lookout day. We hit the road at 0715 to arrive at Delilah by 0900. We see the token bovine along the way, which looks us over and allows us to pass. Then there is a car on the side of the road with a female and two males. Sherri asks if they need any help. They do not seem to be very appreciative of any offer or inquiry, so we move on.

We make it to Delilah a few minutes before 0900. Not much to lug up the 80’ to the cab since we are staying just the day. Our day starts out as normal: take the weather, do a scan, go into service. One thing out of the ordinary is the Battalion Chief 31 (BC31) calls to alert us that there has been some lightning strikes in the area: McKenzie Ridge, Sampson Flat, Davis Flat and Clover Meadow Spring. We will be keeping extra vigil on those areas—all within 4 miles of the lookout. One thing with the weather last night, the air is clearest we have had all season. We can see 20 miles to the north and 14 to the south. Only towards Park Ridge is there a haze.

And so we settle down to do our work. About noon I start wondering a couple of thoughts. First, today’s blog entry may be really, really short. There is only so many times which I can write, “we did a scan, we took the weather, we listened to the radio.” This is the majority of our time in the lookout. Don’t get me wrong. I enjoy being up here where we may have a visitor every two or three days. But I am not a good writer and it would require more talent to put down any introspection I may have. The other thought is, are we doing anything good being up here? Sort of the take on the tree falling in the forest: If there are no fires to spot, am I really a fire lookout?

All of these thoughts are getting me tired, so Sherri takes over for a little while and I lie down to read. Sherri went out and did a scan. When she came back in, she said that she heard a helicopter. At Delilah, this counts as excitement. So I grab my binoculars and started walking around the catwalk, all the way to the end, looking for where the sound came from. After a few minutes, I gave up looking for the source of the sound. Probably came from Trimmer Springs, but who knows. As long as I am out, I am looking over our territory.

When I reach the northeast corner of the catwalk, I see a smoke. “SHERRI! THERE IS A SMOKE!” Sherri responds, “I SEE” and springs into action lining up the fire finder and getting the paperwork ready. I start to go through the numbers: azimuth 61°30’, distance: 3 miles; legal: T13S, R27E, Section 6, SE; jurisdiction: Sequoia National Forest; smoke description: small, white, thin, increasing in size. We also note that it was a mile northeast of Davis Flat. And now it is show time.

At 1439, Sherri and I make our first smoke report from a fire lookout. EVER! Four years of looking around and we have the first report on a fire. We radio in Porterville and they process the information we give them and starts the process of calling out resources to fight the fire and names the incident the “Davis Fire”. Park Ridge Lookout confirms the sighting almost immediately after our report and adds a cross azimuth. I notice a nearby trail 27E04 and radio this information in to dispatch.

The excitement starts around 1505 when we see a single plane fly overhead and look around. Then a second one came in. Finally a Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) comes rumbling up the Kings River. There is nothing that prepares me for the immensity of this plane. I think its body could fit 4 or 5 of the fuselages of the other planes inside of it and still have room to play tennis.
Delilah and the Davis Fire

(Continued from previous page)

Watching these planes go about their business was fascinating. Once the VLAT came into play, they all formed a dance routine. The lead plane made a pass by the fire. The VLAT fell into position behind him. Then they circled around and lined up in the position where they wanted to lay down the fire retardant. After a second look its show time. Lining up again they came in low then dropped orangish-pink phosphorus retardant from the belly of the VLAT. Not on the fire, but to the south of it on the uphill side where the fire is moving. Later on we realize this is the side, which could cause the problems and they were working on stopping it.

I will admit, a part of us was playing tourist with eyes wide open, in awe of what was going on. But we knew if there was one fire, there could be more, so we continued making our observations making sure nothing else was started. Sherri had the where-with-all to take weather in case the incident commander wanted to know the humidity, wind speeds or temperature, and of course, there was plenty of action on the radio to keep up with.

About an hour later and after a long drive around Pine Flat reservoir and up the lower Kings River, firefighters began to arrive on scene to start their assault. Major winter damage along the Davis Road above the fire area prevented ground troops from a quicker route in. As much as it seemed we were all alone, we were actually gathering information and communicating with a variety of people including Porterville dispatch (Sequoia National Forest’s communication center); our duty officer Battalion 31, the Davis Fire Incident Commander and other resources responding to the fire. Kathy and Wendy were also in contact, making sure we weren’t feeling overwhelmed while offering support and advice.

Around 1800, we reported seeing lightning north of the fire area and about that time the friendly face of our relief Marty Pettit appeared at the lookout. We went over the situation with him, made radio introductions to the Incident Commander and hung out until we all felt comfortable with our leaving. Around 2015, after watching 30-40 lightning flashes from two different cells, all north of the Kings River, we took our leave of Delilah.

Apparently the excitement wasn’t quite over. Sherri and I were going over the events of the day on the drive down the Delilah Road and as we topped a rise, we notice a little black ball with a white strip running down the road in front of us. I slow down giving him plenty of chances to move off the side of the road and disappear. But this little critter continued to run down the track of the road at least for ¾ of a mile. Finally I lost him when I waited behind another rise in the road. We ended up getting home to Fresno a few minutes after 2200. Tired, but satisfied with our first experience calling in a smoke from a lookout.

(Editor’s Note: The 30 acre Davis Fire, which started near Davis Flat a few miles south of the Kings River on the Hume Lake Ranger District, was discovered by Delilah on September 12th and declared in “patrol status” by September 18th. A team of 6 volunteer lookouts transitioned in and out of Delilah during that time, at times providing 24-hour surveillance of and communications for the fire. These volunteers were extraordinary in their service and we couldn’t be prouder of their commitment and professionalism. Thank you Sheri and Gary Duran, Marty Pettit, Judy Taylor, Lorri Orsaba, Bart Bishop, and Jim Stiglich.)

To read more of Gary’s Blog visit his blogspot at http://gary-summer.blogspot.com.
Mystery of Buck Rock Beginnings Solved!

Since forming the Buck Rock Foundation in 1999, we have been in search for any and all information about Buck Rock. Through the years we have collected some really great things – old newspaper articles, photos, and even a real live relic fire watcher or two (Lea Dotters, Helen Carter Allen and Betsy Murphy to name a few). We have almost completed a timeline of lookouts who staffed Buck Rock from the beginning in 1923.

But with all of that wonderful history, we were missing a critical link. We had no information on who built the lookout or how. Until now, that is. This summer Gloria Bickhart, the great granddaughter of the man who built Buck Rock – Ray Bradford - visited Buck Rock. Fire watcher Doug Wachtell, who was staffing Buck Rock that day, made sure she knew just how fortuitous this meeting was, got her contact information and received some amazing photos from Gloria, two of which are shown here. We can’t wait to unearth the rest of the story!

Lookout Musings – Refreshing for a New Season.

By Jim Stiglich – Volunteer, Delilah Lookout

Daily Diary Notes 5/31/2017 - Today is a day of exhalation after yesterday’s full schedule of refreshing with Brent (Iden). Lots to remember: Orientation points and checking the fire finder for accuracy, and record keeping – what to write, how much to write. The new log sheet for weather and staffing is much more user friendly, but the slow tick of this retired brain still has trouble translating audio input to motor function output.

The radio communications scenario was quite a challenge. Brent has quite a talent for adding load and changing direction of the runway train…I mean incident…that starts out as a simple smoke report. Hint – be concise and accurate when note taking and think, breath in, and verify before speaking.

Weather was cool, gray and damp today. Not much good for outside work, good for studying and inside work, so I read and reviewed lookout procedures and cleaned all the glass inside of the cab. I did take extra weather readings as it changed several times throughout the day. Even got a whopping .05 inches of precipitation.

Lots of radio traffic yesterday and early today as there are prescribed burns happening on both forests. Sure got quiet though, when the weather got wet. I did get a lesson today on “water dogs” – their look, behavior and the conditions under which they may form. This happened as the clouds began to open up after the little rain event this afternoon. When they sneak around in some of the distant drainages, they definitely resemble smoke, but under further observation, they don’t really have the general color smoke and don’t follow the rule of “heat rises” which smoke usually does.

Daily Diary Notes 6/29/2017 – Arrived at 8:30. A beautiful morning and all at the lookout was in order. Fantastic views and lots of wildflowers, a good day for extended geography lessons with maps and binoculars. I did have several phone calls from John at Fence Meadow about a smoke we thought we saw that turned out to be dust from road equipment. We also talked about the locations of all the Sierra NF lookouts. Turns out he will be up at Mt. Tom for the season once they open it up. Had no visitors today and very little significant radio traffic. A nice break from the city.

Jim is a retired LA City firefighter and when he is not at Delilah or on the road, resides in Van Nuys and Tehachapi, CA.
A New Roof for Buck Rock

The Forest Service provided funding for contractors to replace the roof at Buck Rock. The roof, which had been leaking for years but caused significant concern after last winters heavy snowfall, was over 70 years old. The new roof was replaced this fall to historic standards and will protect this iconic fire lookout and the major renovation that took place in 2014 and 2015. We appreciate the Hume Lake Ranger District and Sequoia Forest engineer Steven Ray who deemed the project a priority this year.

Lookout Tower Preservation Work

In 2017, the Foundation initiated a Fire Lookout Facilities Assessment program designed to assist the Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia NF and Kings Canyon National Park with the maintenance and upkeep of their fire towers. Board Members Neil Metcalf and George Kulick were assigned the task of designing a check-list, providing a physical assessment, and coordinating with agency personnel to implement maintenance projects. Some of the projects that were targeted and completed as a result of this year’s assessment were:

• Delilah - Refinished the exterior siding, refurbished the door, caulked all windows, built & installed a storm door.
• Buck Rock - Patched the water tank, repaired beadboard ceiling damage from leaking roof; adjusted Dutch door, repaired faucet plumbing, reattached fire finder grounding wire, replaced broken stair treads, replaced roof.

Projects not completed but on the docket for next year include:

• Delilah – Add no-slip strips to the metal stairs, install a pipe extension for patrols pumping water into tank
• Buck Rock – Reseal catwalk and rails, replace water tank platform, paint interior ceiling and exterior cab, install flag pole support, clean wood stove pipe.
• Park Ridge – shore up the tower cement footings, install UV protective window shades on the west side.

The labor and supplies for many of these projects were donated by Buck Rock Foundation volunteers, whose service we applaud and appreciate. Special thanks to Jim Stiglich and Greg Gia for going above and beyond.
Eddie Sartuche passed from this world November 22, 2017 and was buried in a cemetery on ancestral land in Drum Valley, where he was raised by his mother and grandmother. Of the Wuksachi band of the Western Mono tribe, Eddie deeply believed in and respected the ways of his people. His giving nature and gift of teaching led him to share the language, traditions and culture of his people to anyone interested.

I first met Eddie in 2003, when he and his Forest Service recreation crew partner, Judy Futrell, visited Buck Rock. Thereafter, he would often call and our conversations invariably started with him saying, “Nu Nau (meaning Blue Sky), where have you been?”
“Tupishna (Flicker), I have been here at Buck Rock!”
“Good,” he would say. “That is where you should be.”

When one day he suggested a blessing in the tradition of his people, I eagerly agreed, and each year look forward to the event with anticipation and joy. As the years went on and word spread, the popularity of the blessing grew and eventually we included it with our annual Open House so more people could participate.

Although getting up in years, Tupishna was spry and determined to make the climb each year, so last summer I was dismayed when we got word that he might not be able to make it. With the uncertainty, we reached out to Reverand Ana, a spiritual leader from Fresno, who agreed to participate. Thankfully, with the help of family and friends, Tupishna returned to Buck Rock during our September Open House to bless it one last time. The Buck Rock Foundation, along with Eddie Sartuche’s friends and family feel it is important to honor his memory and continue the tradition of the Blessing of the Rock. The legacy created by Tupishna will live on.

Remembering Bud Todd

Lovingly referred to as the “Mayor of Miramonte”, Bud Todd was the heartbeat of our mountains. A Navy man, community leader and educator, Bud was always good for a great story and a smile. Bud lived and breathed history and those of us who were lucky enough to have gone on one of his field trips (“just feed me!”) were rewarded with a remarkable and insightful journey into the rich past of the land of the sequoia.

Bud was a huge fan of the Buck Rock Foundation and would often offer support and advice. For several years we held educational sunset talks at the base of Buck Rock, and Bud’s were always a well-attended favorite.

Bud passed away on December 14 2016 at his home in Miramonte. We appreciate the Todd family generously including the Foundation in their giving in memory of Bud Todd.
Donations and Remembrances

A most interesting donation...

The Ellis Family has done it again. Yes, those Ellis’ of Jennie Ellis Lake and Big Meadows fame. Can anyone guess what this is?

Hint: Some might consider it a necessity. It certainly was “back in the day.” Two words, the 2nd word rhymes with “cot”.

Answer: You got it! A genuine, authentic chamber pot plucked from the recesses of an Ellis cabin attic in Big Meadows and donated to Buck Rock with great fanfare.

Thank You Donors – We appreciate you!

Benefactors
Leatrice Dotters, Jim Hamilton, Joyce & Augie Pando

Patrons
Bill and Florence Evans, Craig and Denise Tolmie

Sponsors Plus
W.R. Ellis, Jeanie and Mike Saunders, Stephen Sommerville, Kay and Larry Coffin, George Kulick, Vicky Daines, Judy Tucker, Kathy and Brian Allison

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Friends
Jim Iwaki, Betty Harding anonymous

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Donations In Memoriam

In memory of
Mattie Sims - Kay and Larry Coffin
Mary Jane and Jack Van Amringe - Kathy and Brian Allison
Bud Todd - Jessica Woody, Charlotte Shell, Mary & Tom Riffel, Jean Clemons;
The Todd family and many others, through the Bud Todd Memorial Fund.
Doug Belt - Jackie & Phil Leahy, Paul & Lisa Leahy, Larry & Virginia Watts,
Ginna Hall, Dale Palas, Jim Stiglich, Richard & Jeannine Byer, Gregory Belt &
Help Us Preserve Fire Lookouts!

The Buck Rock Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving fire lookouts for fire detection, education and historic preservation. Our vision is to create an atmosphere where the concept of stewardship of our conservation heritage can flourish with children and adults from all walks of life.

Yes! I would like to support the Buck Rock Foundation. My tax-deductible donation is enclosed.

NAME

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

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Please send a check or money order payable to the Buck Rock Foundation, P.O. Box 540, Squaw Valley, CA 93675, or you can pay by credit card online at www.buckrock.org. With your donation of $15 or more, you will receive the BRF newsletter. The date of your last donation will appear in the address label. Thank you for your contribution!