Blue Ridge Lookout Tulare County Fair

With volunteer Shelly Mitchell at the helm, our “A-Team” represented the Foundation at the Tulare County Fair, where they educated hundreds of pre-school to 8th grade school kids about the history and function of fire lookouts. Well done Shelly, George Kulick & Steve Brown!

TLC at Delilah Lookout

When we put the word out that Delilah could use some maintenance, several Delilah volunteers immediately offered to help. Joyce and Augie of “Team Pando” tackled the awful peeling door - scraping, priming and painting it until it shined. Good going Pando Construction!

Not to be outdone, Karen Bengard soon showed off her painting prowess by painting the outside of the outhouse at Delilah. This must have been a challenge, what with the ever-persistent pesky face flies and the listing angle of the loo. High five Karen!

Note from Kathy

I hope all of you know how awesome I think each and everyone of you are! There is no doubt that we have an amazing group of volunteers. This mini-newsletter recognizes a few recent stand-out contributions that I wanted to share with you.

more on 2
Volunteers provide a bench with a view to honor founding members of the Buck Rock Foundation.

In 2012, Buck Rock Foundation volunteers presented a proposal to the Forest Service to place a bench at Buck Rock to honor my parents Jack and Mary Jane Van Amringe, who were generous and long-time supporters of Buck Rock and the Foundation. Almost 4 years later, on a beautiful crisp morning, the bench was delivered and placed at an inspirational spot near the trail that leads to Buck Rock.

Although many people were involved, this project could not have been accomplished without the patience, talent, finesse, and generosity of volunteer Ron Westbrook, who provided the beautiful and perfect bench made from sierra white granite.

Many thanks to Karen Westbrook, Bob Lehman, Lorrie Luscomb, Brian Allison, Mich Michigian and Hume Lake Engine 32, who provided physical and emotional support on the day Ron installed the bench and to the many volunteers whose donations made it all possible.

Buck Rock Shed Makeover – Out with the old and in with the new.

Who wouldn’t want someone to help you clean out your closet? Or in this case, the shed at Buck Rock! Steve Mitchell and Bob Lehman offered and one Saturday, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. With their firm hand, I was able to sort through decades of accumulated “stuff” and purge, making way for the new shelves built and installed by Steve and a new system, organized by lookout Mich Michigian.
And there is more…

Retired teacher and volunteer Lorri Orsaba will be assisting lookout Mich Michigan to provide an educational experience for kids from Ojai Valley School who will be visiting Buck Rock next week. This will be the 5th trip to “their favorite lookout” for this middle school. Do you know of a school or youth group who may want to visit a lookout?

And I couldn’t resist this photo of the Smokey Bear puppet show presented by Connie and Dan Williams at the Buck Rock Open House. Sure does put a smile on my face!

LEARNING TIDBIT: COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Keeping the lines of communication open is essential to doing a good job. Wondering where the smoke is coming from? Forgot what a tone means? Missed who the duty officer is? Just ask! Contact your neighborhood lookout, dispatch or the lead lookouts (Brent, Wendy and Kathy). Don’t forget to update the white board and leave good notes for the next person coming in.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS:

• FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO LEARN (CUZ THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO DISCOVER AS A LOOKOUT!)
• FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
• FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR PROGRAM

P.S. We sure do miss you Allen Love!