



ON THE LOOKOUT

From the
National Chairman
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Vienna, Virginia
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ANOTHER OUTSTANDING CHAPTER LAUNCH

Last issue I had the pleasure of describing to you the outstanding launch of our 28th National Chapter (otherwise know as an FFLA Division) in North Carolina. A small group of folks in Southern California took this encouraging tale to heart and organized a new Local Chapter within the Southern California Division. At this time, six of our National Chapters (Divisions) have established Local Chapters within their geographical area.

It is wisely said that "all politics are local." Local is where the action is. People respond to neighbors and acquaintances in a more proactive way than they do within large organizations. That is why the committee structure, or in this case the local chapter organization, in voluntary associations works so well. As it happens, this is a uniquely American innovation and trait, although the successful model has spread and been copied around the world.

This quarter I am very pleased to announce the organization of the San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter under the leadership of Brad Eels. Brad is an active member of Fire Lookout Host program of the San Bernadino National Forest Association as well as FFLA. He is one of the 300+ trained observers that voluntarily staff seven lookouts seven days a week from May through October. All told, they contribute 9,000 hours/year!

Here are Brad's goals for the San Diego-Riverside Chapter:

- * Restore High Point Lookout on the Cleveland National Forest

- * That includes replacing flooring, installing new wall panels, remanufacture 3 steel window shutters, rebuild furniture, replace glass windows as needed, donate a new gas stove and wall heater

- * Staff the lookout on a regular basis with volunteers.
- * When road access is resolved, restore Lyons Peak Lookout
- * Complete a survey of standing lookouts and former lookout sites in the chapter area
- * Nominate High Point, Los Pinos, and Lyons Peak Lookouts to the National Historic Lookout Register
- * Participate in the Passport in Time (PIT) project in 2008 on Basin Butte Lookout to learn more about historic lookout restoration procedures

Brad has already submitted the nominations of both High Point and Los Pinos Lookouts to the NHLR, has completed his PIT service at Basin Butte Lookout, located historic pictures and other information on early lookouts in the Cleveland National Forest, and established a working agreement with the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland to begin the High Point Lookout restoration. That is a pretty impressive set of accomplishments within a few months.

What makes Brad's story so interesting is that it illustrates very well just how much progress one committed and motivated person can make working within the FFLA structure. Now with more than 900 members, we can and do achieve a great deal on behalf of fire lookouts every week!

By now I am sure that most of you have September 19-21 on your calendar to attend the FFLA Western Conference in Roseburg, Oregon. Oregon Director Howard Verschoor had put together an excellent program of speakers plus the usually outstanding tours of nearby lookouts. The Deputy Oregon State Forester and I will both have presentations. Douglas County was for years the largest timber-producing county in the United States. As a result, the Forest Protection Association and the Oregon Department of Forestry have developed an impressive fire lookout system. The Umpqua National Forest is located just to the east, and two rental lookouts are within driving distance (although they are likely already reserved). Camping is nearby, and reasonable lodging is available in Roseburg. See page 15 for details.

Our summer meetings are one of the highlights of our FFLA year. It is the time when we meet, greet, and visit as one large extended lookout family. Feel the Lookout Magic flow!

I look forward to seeing many of you there!

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