

WESTERN SUMMER CONFERENCE

September 25 - 27, 2009

Snohomish, WA

September 25-27, Snohomish, WA

The historic Waltz Building in downtown Snohomish has been chosen as the venue for the Western Conference, September 25-27. Current plans include sessions Friday and Saturday mornings, with afternoon lookout tours. A guest presentation on the topic of insurance for non-profit organizations is tentatively planned for the Friday evening Board of Directors meeting. Saturday evening's dinner is included in the registration price. The conclusion of the customary silent auction will also take place that evening. Sunday's lookout tour is anticipated to be a trip east across the Cascades to Wenatchee NF lookouts and the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center. An additional special lookout tour is being arranged for Monday.

Registration is \$30 each prior to September 15th, \$35 after the 16th or at the door. The registration form can be found at [this link](#). Please return registration to Vicki Fosback by September 15! Camping and Lodging info can be found below.

Openings for speakers and presentations exist still, models and displays are being sought for display. Bring your picture books, stories, and wisdom to share with all attending!

For additional Information, Contact Forrest Clark: phone 425-487-3461 or email woodmanfor@aol.com

Camping and Lodging

Camping

Harvey Field (Snohomish's small airport)

RV's \$15 per night no hook up

Tents \$5 per night

Rest Rooms and showers available

Camping is on grass near the old youth baseball fields (no longer

used)

Within walking distant of the Conference site (5-6 Blocks)

Mention FFLA Conference

Flowing Lake County Park www.snocoparks.org or 425-388-6600 (M-F 9am-4pm)

- RV both with and without hook up's
- 4 Cabins available
- Tent sites
- Restrooms and showers available
- Approx. 8 miles from conference site

Lodging

Best Deal is Everett Mall Travel Lodge 425-337-9090

- Dbl. Rm. if 1 room rents \$84 per night
- Dbl. Rm. if 10 rooms rent \$69 per night
- Dbl. Rm. if 40 rooms rent \$45 per night
- the more rooms FFLA members rent the better the price
- Includes Continental B'fast
- 8 miles by back road or 13 by Interstate to conference site
- right on Interstate 5
- West of Snohomish

Snohomish Inn @ Snohomish 1.800-548-9993
14 rooms only \$110 a night

Monroe

Fairground Inn 360-794-5401

- we rent 10 rooms \$65 a single or \$77 a Dbl.
- No B'fast
- East of Conference site 8 miles
- right on US Hwy #2
- older but nice

Monroe

Best Western/Sky Valley Inn 360-794-3111
or www.bestwestern.com/prop_48118

- \$104 and \$129
- No discounts
- with B'fast
- right off US Hwy #2
- East of Conference site 8 miles
- Nice but pricier than the rest

Monroe

Guesthouse Inn & Suites 360-863-1900 or 1-800-21-GUEST for nation wide reservations

- www.guesthouseintl.com
- right off US Hwy. #2
- East of Conference site 8 miles
- No prices as of yet, call them for prices

w/ B'fast

Note to everyone. Call early and make reservations. Waiting until the last minute might make for quite a drive each morning to the conference site. Be sure to mention the FFLA to each place you contact for pricing and reservations.

Western Meeting Summary September 25 - 27, 2009

Snohomish, Washington

The FFLA's 2009 Western Conference was held in historic Snohomish, Washington, September 25-27, hosted by Western Washington Director Forrest Clark.

Activities began Thursday evening with a barbecue at the Lord Hill Park Barn, the county facility frequently used by Forrest, Bob Adler, and others for off-site restoration work. Several who had arrived early participated ... some staying longer than others into the late evening!

Friday morning saw conference attendees gathering at the historic Waltz Building, setting up, greeting old friends, and making new ones. The morning program included the traditional round-robin introductions. Interesting bits of information on Snohomish history and old railroad activities (including fires) were presented by local author Bob Heirman. Puget Sound Interagency Coordination Center Manager Bob Reis told of the next steps in dispatching after fires are reported, and also showed a video of the Martin-Mars water bomber.

The biggest news of the morning came from Darrington District Ranger Peter Forbes during his presentation on Darrington district lookouts. Everyone was pleasantly surprised to hear from Peter that Green Mountain Lookout had been returned to its mountaintop! After temporary setbacks, delays and other priorities, project leader Adrienne Hall saw the project through, and according to Peter, was on the mountain as he spoke! Skykomish District Wilderness Specialist John Robinson presented an update on his district's lookouts and the future plans for Evergreen and Heybrook. Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF Partnership Specialist Aleta Eng closed out the morning with a presentation on partnerships and agreements.

The Friday afternoon lookout tour was to North Mountain Lookout near Darrington, where Forrest Clark solicited support to take on the restoration of the 41-foot R-6 flat top. From the catwalk, Green Mountain Lookout could be seen through binoculars, shining brightly in the afternoon sun!

After returning to Snohomish, a short board meeting was held after dinner at the Pizza Palace. Two items of business were covered. A clarification was given on the question of proxy voting that had recently come up. The FFLA Bylaws are very clear in the methods of voting

allowed, and do not include proxies. In the second matter of business, Gary Weber offered to host the 2010 Western Conference in Northern Idaho or Western Montana, adding to the 1910 Fire Commemoration. Saturday morning saw a few more late arrivals at the Waltz Building, bringing the total conference attendance to 58. The silent auction tables were beginning to draw interest from potential bidders. Chairman Keith Argow's opening comments were followed by Ray Kresek's "100 Years of Fire Lookouts". The remainder of the morning was taken up with presentations of lookout projects by Bob Adler (Kelly Butte) and Arthur Wright (Pilchuck and Three Fingers).

The Saturday afternoon tour was to Heybrook Lookout, where Forrest proudly showed off the restoration of the cab atop the 67-foot tower. What started as a simple restoration turned into a multi-year project requiring the removal and reconstruction of the one-of-a-kind cab. Forrest again was successful in recruiting help for the following week to work on some of the finishing touches on the cab. Saturday evening's pizza dinner was followed by spirited last-minute bidding on silent auction items. After time was called and pencils put down, the totals came to a respectable \$655.50.

Sunday's lookout tour took the group to the east side of the Cascades, first to Sugarloaf Lookout where Charlie Heebner remembered his experiences as a first-year lookout 50 years earlier. He regaled the rest of the group telling how he was discovered having set up a still in the lookout, and how the story changed over the years to that of the "crazy guy that just about blew up the lookout with a still!" His other story of note involved proposing to his girlfriend back in Connecticut, who just happened to be here with him, his wife Bev.

After a lunch stop at Steliko Point Lookout, the final group stop was the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center near Entiat, where the Chelan Butte Lookout and the cab of Badger Mountain Lookout have been relocated. The new foundation for the East Flattop Lookout cab was pointed out by Dick Morrison, who was to start work there a week later.