



FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
California-South Chapter
San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter
Annual Report 2017



The San Diego-Riverside local chapter continued to operate two restored lookout towers on Palomar Mountain in 2017. High Point Lookout (Register#735) is owned by the Cleveland National Forest; and Boucher Hill Lookout (Register #394) is owned by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. The chapter deployed approximately 80 volunteer lookouts to staff each tower. We strove to deploy two volunteers in each tower each day, but were not always able to do so.

| 2017 | Boucher Hill Tower | High Point Tower | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Days in Season | 220 | 220 | 220 |
| Days Staffed | 218 | 218 | 436 |
| Hours of Service | 5519 | 5704 | 11,223 |
| Smoke Reports | 41 | 31 | 72 |
| Info Only Smoke Reports* | 51 | 16 | 67 |
| Lightning Reports | 18 | 91 | 109 |
| Visitors | 10,829 | 906 | 11,735 |

*Information-Only smoke reports are normally tracked from artillery ranges aboard USMC Camp Pendleton, and are not reported for full response by firefighters. They are tracked in case they spread off of the base.

Projects completed: The local chapter's webmaster successfully migrated our website functions onto a new host medium for scheduling and blog reporting. MURS radios were acquired and installed in both towers, as well as in neighboring Los Pinos lookout for inter-tower communications.

High Point:

- A problematic solar & propane-powered incinerating outhouse was repaired.
- A ground-to-cab intercom was acquired and installed so that lookouts could speak with visitors or staff members on the ground 60 feet below.

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Boucher Hill:

- A historic weather mast was refurbished and replaced in its original location on the tower.
- A contractor was procured and work started on resolving rain water intrusion in the cab.
- A contractor was procured to complete window sealing and painting of the cab and catwalk. (Funding and contractor approval processes in the California State Parks system is mind-bogglingly complex and unorthodox, and we consider these two projects major accoms)

Objectives for 2018 In the subsequent year the SDRC will be working on these projects:

The chapter will be pushing the Forest Service regarding repairs to spalling concrete foundations of the tower legs. Failure to address this condition could result in the eventual closure of the tower.

We also will attempt to secure permission from Forest Service managers to coordinate local first responders in the conduct of a rescue drill to simulate the technical evacuation of a medically incapacitated volunteer lookout or visitor from the High Point cab. If/when this drill is conducted, the chapter will video tape the drill for training of other first responders and submit a meaningful article for *Lookout Network*.

On January 6, 2018, Scott McClintock will retire as the SDRC Chairman in order to be able to spend more time on the California-South Chapter. New officers for the San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter will be:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Chairman | Shane Harris | Chairman@ffla-sandiego.org |
| Asst. Chairman | Neil Cadwallader | Neilcad@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Sara Jones | sarajones3@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Tom Bennett | tm-ct@cox.net |
| Historian | Bill Luedeke | ms147@hotmail.com |
| Tower Leader (Boucher) | Fenton Sue | fsue66@gmail.com |
| Tower Leader (High Point) | Leif Blensly | lblensl1@san.rr.com |

2016 Year-end financial report attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott McClintock, Chairman

