

Historian Reports 2012

Physical moving to Florida has now been completed. The new address of the FFLA Historian is as follows:

18 Postman Lane
Palm Coast, Florida 32164-6716 (Flagler county)

Email remains the same:

FFLAHistorian@gmail.com (official FFLA correspondence)
Lookout18@juno.com (old email but still valid)

*For the time being it's requested that my new Home phone number not be made public or used for anything other than personal phone calls. Cell phone number remains the same.
(The reason for this is to prevent being bombarded by sales people for new residents which recently is being a problem- so discretion is appreciated)

For those unfamiliar with Florida. Palm Coast is situated north of Bunnell, and Daytona Beach on Florida's Atlantic coast. South of St. Augustine and Jacksonville. The town of Palm Coast is primarily located between US Route 1 on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east, bisected by Route I-95. Postman Lane is located in the "P" section of town, west of I-95 and just east of Bell Taire Parkway.

Archives FFLA

All the archives of the Association in my care have survived the move from northern New Jersey despite the best efforts of Hurricane Sandy which devastated a good portion of the northeast in late October and early November. All the pertinent research files, having been continually updated onto DVD discs for computer work are 100% safe and although storage space is an issue, all the paper associated with it is also intact. In the near future, much of this will be gone over out of necessity to eliminate as much redundant material as possible and free up some needed file space.

I hope to continue as before with gathering any and all Lookout information made available to me so I may continue to catalogue it and place it in appropriate computer files for others and for the FFLA archives. As our Association matures and continues to expand it's role on the subject of fire lookouts, this "archive" will of course continue to grow. For some time now I have been utilizing my own higher speed and better suited 64 bit computer for all this work. The FFLA owned computer continues to function fine however it's slower speed is falling behind in this state-of-the-art world we live in, with newer operating systems out now and HDMI capabilities.

Now living in Florida; I am finding the condition of the State's remaining lookouts, some I have never heard of before in fact an interesting pursuit and I look forward to finding out more about them. Many years ago, I represented the State of Florida briefly for Lookouts until a permanent Director was appointed. I look forward to working with the present Florida Director on researching the State's lookouts. I hope as well to continue as FFLA Historian, a job I find very satisfying as it brings me into contact with Lookouts world-wide.

I am submitting with this report a recent Google Maps lat/long listing of Florida lookouts, some may not have been for fire use, and a 1996 listing I re-printed.

In other:

On my trip South from New Jersey, I visited with Steve Cummings in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Bill Wilmoth in Virginia and Peter Barr (our new Southern Region Director) near Asheville, North Carolina. Earlier, before making this trip, in early October I had made a trip to Northern Maine's Aroostook County on a fly fishing adventure. Along the way I stopped at the Ashland Logging Museum, there and met with John Weeks, father of Forest Ranger Todd Weeks. He was busy doing carpentry repairs on the NORWAY BLUFF Fire tower display at the museum grounds. The foundation concrete pad was in place and ready for the newly painted steel frame and to set the reconditioned wood cab on top. As a static display it should be a nice addition to the museum grounds and the fire finder table was also in the cab with the very small triangular entry door in the cab floor common to Maine Fire towers. I look forward to a trip next Summer or early Fall back to northern Maine to see the results. Maine Director and webmaster Bill Cobb has taken the lead on this project.



<- Norway Bluff fire tower project, Ashland, Maine
I have been up dating my different databases on Lookout situations I come across. Any new copies of 'Lookout Library' will include these updates.

In closing this report; I expect in the future to make available again copies of "Lookout Library" in updated form and be available through Lookout Network magazine, and to continue with "Historian Corner" articles. I wish to thank everyone for helping in this move just made from the northeast to the "Sunshine State".

Bob Spear ffla historian [fflahistorian.com]

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