

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION



Indiana CHAPTER 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP: The Indiana Chapter has 5 paid members.

ENDING BALANCE: \$54

RESTORATION: None that I am aware of.

ACTIVITIES: In September, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act on the Hoosier National Forest. We had 3 stations, one of which was the Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower. I borrowed an alidade which was set up at the base of the tower. Fellow FFLA member Dennis Goen helped me by interpreting the role of a lookout at the top of the tower, and I explained how to use an alidade at the base of the tower. We had a great crowd and spent the day telling people about lookout towers.

In April, I worked with another local group to host a volksmarch, which is a 10 kilometer walk which brings in people from surrounding states. The volksmarch was in Brownstown, IN and was in conjunction with an Artsfest. The volksmarch started in town and visited several historic sites then climbed a hill outside of town to the historic Skyline Tower Lookout tower. People thoroughly enjoyed the scenic view and the historic tower.

In October the Herald Times did an interview of the widow of one of the former lookout towermen at the Hickory Ridge Tower. It was complete with pictures and many comments were received and it generated a lot of interest in the tower. I followed up with another article in the paper in November about lookout towers which ran in several local papers. I received a number of comments from that article. People called with many stories- most about their favorite tower, memories from their childhood, or a towerman they had known. One man told of how he'd had to climb a tower to ask a girl's father to take her on a date – he said it still stacks up as the most frightening day of his life, between climbing the tower and having to ask her father! I also have an appointment to interview another towerman's widow.

In September we had a motorcycle road rally on the Indiana Historic Pathway Scenic Byway. The ride had 6 interpretive stops for riders where the riders all stopped and speakers told about the site and gave them a chance to look around. One of those sites was Skyline Lookout Tower.

The manager of Jackson Washington State Forest was on hand to tell about the tower, its history and unlocked the tower so people could climb up and look around.

We researched the history of the Winemac Tower at Tippecanoe State Park so it could be added to the Register, and tried unsuccessfully to research other towers which were nominated. Those efforts continue.

Respectfully Submitted: Teena Ligman, 20 January 2015

PLAN OF WORK FOR 2015;

- Hope to interview both the widow of the German Ridge towerman and re-interview the Hickory Ridge towerman's widow. I'll write a story for the magazine if I can get good stories from these women.
- I want to finish writing up the memories of my Aunt who was a lookout at Happy Camp and get those turned in.
- Plan to get school history classes in the communities around lookout towers involved in researching their history. This should help us with the nominations for the towers up for selection for the Register. We also want to get the rest of our towers on the Register so will get classes to research those as well.
- Still would like to generate an inventory of needed work on towers and update the information on towers that we currently have.

Respectfully submitted: Teena Ligman, Chapter Chair
16 January 2015