

2012 FFLA New Hampshire Chapter Annual Report

For most of the year membership in the New Hampshire Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association was 20 with eight PLUS members, ten Regular members and two complimentary members. Two PLUS members joined in December bringing the year end total to 22: 10 PLUS, 10 Regular, 2 complimentary.

The State of New Hampshire's Division of Forests & Lands operated most of their fire towers during April into October on Class 3 and higher fire danger days. Most of the tower coverage and fire activity occurred in April and May but there were some dry periods during the summer months. 305 fires burned 200 acres during the year; all were human caused with the exception of five fires caused by lightning which burned three acres. (In 2011 136 fires burned only 45 acres reflecting a wet year.)

In comparison Vermont had no lightning caused fires but had 88 human caused fires which burned 399 acres. Fewer fires but double the acres compared to New Hampshire. On the White Mountain National Forest seven human caused fires burned 21 acres mostly during the spring.

The Saco Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest did some extensive repairs on the Kearsarge North/Pequawket tower in late August and early September which has been reported in the [Lookout Network](#).

Efforts to operate Red Hill Tower this past season did not come to fruition but hopefully by the spring of 2013 the necessary paperwork will have been completed and tower operation can resume. Attempts to recover the restoration grant were unsuccessful but at the end of the year the amount of the grant was sent to the FFLA Treasurer to bring closure.

Both N.H. Forests & Lands and the White Mountain National Forest sent personnel south and west to help suppress wildland fires in a number of States. Some folks dispatched to Minnesota in September ended up shoveling snow for part of a day before returning to their firefighting duties.

Rental of the watchman's cabin at Mt. Magalloway continues with the revenue contributing to accomplish maintenance which might not otherwise be done during these tight economic times.

John R. Hill passed away in late November. John staffed Kearsarge starting in July 1983 through 1994. He was a great guy and a faithful and dedicated watchman. He was a Fire Warden for 40 years and for 35 years was on the Warner Fire Department, retiring as Deputy Chief. It was a privilege to have worked with him. Miss you John!

Chris Haartz