

Eastern N.C. Report for 2025

At the present time, there are 7 Paid members(including 2 plus members) and 1 Complimentary member. The Complimentary member is in the state capitol (State Dept. of Conservation and Resources) in Raleigh. 4 members did not renew their membership for this year and were dropped.

I continue to travel around the state visiting fire towers and sites and identifying the manufacturers of the towers. I need to travel to the SE portion of the state, as well as the S. Central part near Lumberton and Rockingham. I am planning to return to the Croatan N.F. to tour tower sites with the Forest Archeologist in February. This Archeologist also covers the Uwharrie N.F. and next winter I hope to tour that forest with the Archeologist.

Earlier this fall, we received an inquiry email from a person interested in the status of the Smithfield Fire Tower, located not far off I-95. That person has been in contact with state forest service personnel and it is still a state owned tower! In the latest email correspondence, this person has indicated that they would like to purchase the tower and build up a park-like setting around it. There is a housing development going up nearby and this is the reason they have become concerned. I will continue correspondence with this person and we are planning to meet on site later this winter/spring. To be honest, this person should let the state keep the tower as the owner and maybe we can get a volunteer type program to maintain it for them.

Respectfully submitted, Mark W. Haughwout, Director Eastern N.C.