

## Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – June 2016

We had a great Muster!! Lots and lots of people, both local and tourists. Everyone says it seems to be the one event each year where friends can get together for a visit and of course have great BBQ! Festive music was provided by Hotbox Harry for our entertainment. It was fun to see some old faces like Steve and Patty Wagy come by. It was, as usual, wonderful! The tri tip and chicken, just divine!! Many, many thanks to all the hard working master BBQers, kitchen crew and others who without their help the Muster wouldn't happen. Thankyou's in no particular order (and I hope I haven't forgotten anyone) Ray and Celia Sanborn, Janet Sommerville, Tori and Geoff Buckles, Belva Shadwell, Dan and Nadine Clark, Butch Kronlund, the Salinas contingent of Brian Rianda, Gary and Mickey Lyons, and John Harrington, Barbara and Ken Daughters, Ken Lee, Robbie and Janet Warcken, our "official" photographer Dan Gearhart and his wife Julie, Tracy Chesebrough for hanging the banner, and last but certainly not least, Ken and Mary Wright.

Also huge thankys to the resorts for their donations, Nepenthe for the tri-tip, Ventana for chicken, Post Ranch for hot dogs and ice, Ripplewood for beans, John Harrington for the lettuce and onions, Nadine and Dan for the bread, Holly for the always decadent chocolate cake and Michael's yummy salad dressing!! We had over 200 people go through the food line! We did have a little fiasco with the beans; they all fell over off the burner they were being heated on!! Those of us standing near them just couldn't believe our eyes!! And the only reason I mention this is to say extra thanks go to Nepenthe and Fernwood for coming to our rescue with hastily made, yet delicious, beans!

We also had Matt Harris lead the Brigade members in an auto extrication demo and we had the children's "house on fire". Cal Star was able to fly in for show-and-tell and got to stay long enough to eat before they were dispatched out for a call. Smokey Bear made an appearance much to the kids delight. Next year we will go back and do the fun "adult" competition where everyone gets soaked!

After the AMGEN race where there was a fatality of one of the workers I asked Kathleen Lee to set up a meeting with them and the other agencies involved. We met in Salinas and discussed the lack of communication, both with the community pre-race and with other emergency services during the race. Also mentioned was the stopping of traffic, I was stopped for 25 minutes, over on highway 68 they were apparently stopped for 50 minutes, what a traffic nightmare! We told them how the Marathon managed to run 4,000 runners in one lane and still had traffic convoys. The lack of a process for permitting events that impact highway one was also mentioned. They said they will not be back here in 2017 and if they come back in 2018 it will be run from the north to the south in the morning.

We had no wildland school, conditions were such and also due to fires already starting in Monterey County it was cancelled. We may have the opportunity to go over and help Hunter Liggett with some of their burning.

And speaking of fires, Cal Fire has sent out their Burn ban, and USFS has put in place their level 3 fire restrictions. We are happy to hear that, no more campfires unless you are in a designated campground. Now if people would only obey the rule.... The fire season got off to an early and ferocious start across the state. Already hundreds of thousands more acres have burned than this time last year. Of particular concern are all the dead trees, 49 million of them, providing fuel for these fires. Combined with that and the heat we have already been experiencing it is very scary!

Thanks to Cal Trans for the weed eating they did get done on the East side of the highway near MAF and we are looking forward to the West side getting done. That is where cars park with their hot engines to prepare to go hike in the back country and could start a fire.

Martha Karstens  
Chief