

## Big Sur Fire News Round Up Report – June 2018

Our Muster/BBQ this year was wonderful! As always the BBQ was the very best!! I made the bold statement that if I had to have a last meal it would be the chicken, then the joke was on me, when I went to get some it was all gone!! Thank yous seem so inadequate for some of the people that help me with the planning well in advance of the BBQ. Many hours are spent making sure the list is double checked and everything will be taken of. Of course we couldn't do it without the master BBQ coordinator Ken Wright. And, (to quote Robin Hood), his band of merry, and by the late afternoon, (very merry) men and women☺

Huge thank yous to in no particular order (and I hope I don't forget anyone): Robbie and Janet Warcken, Ray, Celia and Basil Sanborn, John Harrington, who also donates the lettuce, Mary Trotter, Nadine and Dan Clark, Mary Wright, Janet Hardisty, Butch Kronlund, Ken and Stephanie Lee, Michael Trotter who while he was unable to help BBQ, he did make the wonderful salad dressing, and the whole Salinas contingent!

And of course, the donations of the food are so greatly appreciated! Thank you to Kirk and Holly and Nepenthe for the excellent tri tip and (what I'm told was) superb chocolate cake, (didn't get any of that either!) Ventana for the chicken, Post ranch for the hot dogs, veggie dogs and buns, and to Carl at Ripplewood for making such huge pots of both veggie and meat beans!

To Hotbox Harry's band members for providing such great entertainment, it was wonderful!

Captain Matt Harris introduced all the new recruits, the class of 2018! And a special acknowledgement to Lyle Southall, our first Chief Walter Trotters great grandson, now a BSF probationary member carrying on the family tradition. We had CERT members, Josef London, Amanda Rideout, Deb Bates and Victor Pavloff, help at the kiosk with the traffic. Tracy Chesebrough for his help climbing the tree to hang our banner.

A program was put on to honor Bob Thompson for his extremely generous donation left to BSF after he passed away. The program also introduced our new Legacy Circle to make people aware that they can leave donations to BSF in their wills or trusts. A beautiful redwood bench was presented to Bob's family which was a made by a joint effort with Trey Kropp, Fabian Perez, Marcus Foster and Andrew Weighton. Smokey Bear made an appearance as well. We had our "big people" games after the program with Engine 7831s crew kicking butt and winning all the competitions. You can visit our web site at [www.bigsurfire.org](http://www.bigsurfire.org) to look at pictures that were taken that day by our "Official" photographer and web master Dan Gearhart. Thank you to the State Parks for waiving fees the day use parking fees!

Our wildland school live fire training was cancelled yet again, this year due to all the fires that have already started. We will try to go over to Hunter Liggett with just our FF and do a small training for the new recruits.

There has been a change on our Board recently, one of our wonderful members, Dick Ravich, has turned in his resignation. He joined the Board in 2009 and was such a great asset and help to Big Sur Fire, we will miss him!!

You all have probably received a letter from PG&E by now detailing how they may shut off the power if the weather warrants it during times of high wildfire threats. I am told the weather will be closely monitored, and as much advance notice as possible will be put out if the electricity does need to be shut off.

We had a challenging call this month, initially paged out as a 2 vehicle accident, it rapidly turned into a vehicle fire which could have been disastrous. Fortunately all the occupants, including small children were able to get out safely. The vehicle was completely engulfed and the trailer it was towing with 2,500 pounds of alfalfa cubes also caught fire in addition to the telephone/PG&E pole next to it. As the first on scene FF, Fabian Perez did an excellent scene size up job!

We were afraid the whole pole would be compromised and take down not only the power lines but the telephone lines as well. Because the lines were still energized there was not much that could be done about the pole burning until PG&E arrived on scene. The trailer with the alfalfa cubes proved problematic in that no matter how much foam and water we put on them, it was such a large pile that had generated such heat it would just reignite. Jim Gray was on scene as one of our water tender drivers and Matt had the great idea to use a loader or something large that could just pull the trailer away from the vehicle and dump the load so we could extinguish it. Thank you to Don McQueen for letting us use his Cat Telehandler (think big loader with forks), which with Jim driving he was able to efficiently maneuver the trailer so it could be dealt with. It was a long night, we finally cleared the incident at 01:00 and the highway was closed for almost 4 hours.

Martha Karstens  
Chief