

# Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade News – June 2015

What a great Muster we had!! I'm not sure where all the people came from! I was thinking it would be a nice calm laid back day... for the people enjoying their BBQ I think it was a very pleasant day, for the workers... well they worked their buns off! I think we had a good number of people just off the street as well as from the campgrounds. I had a package of 165 plates and had to run out to the BS Lodge to buy more! Thank you to the nice lady in the store for all her help☺

We ran out of, or had very little left of almost everything. I think H70, the CHP helo was a hit, I know they enjoyed being there. We had tables set up with different agencies/departments handing out brochures and talking to people about the services they offered. Red Cross, Cal Fire, Natividad Medical Center, CHP all had tables and Treebones brought up a lot of Fire Brigade merchandise to sell. And Smokey Bear was there as well!

We had the children's games there, I got some great pictures of some of the kids "putting out the house fire" and later on in the afternoon Hotbox Harry came down and entertained everyone with their great music.

The food was as always just delicious! Thank you to Ken Wright for all the initial organization and of course the day of cooking, and to the other Master BBQers, Robbie Warcken, Michael Trotter, Ray Sanborn, Ryan Warcken, Basil Sanborn and Butch Kronlund. Thank yous to all the "kitchen ladies" for their incredible hard work, Celia Sanborn was the stand in "salad queen" for Mary Trotter with Nadine Clark heading up the French bread. We had Janet Hardisty, Janet Warcken, Mary Wright, Jeannette Warcken, Jo Ellen Hathaway, Michael not only made the usual tasty Trotter salad dressing but also made two different kinds of beans. Ken and Barbara Daughters honchoed up the drink and dessert table serving up slices of Holly and Russ's killer chocolate cake.

Huge thank yous of course to Nepenthe for the tri tip, Ventana for chicken, and Post Ranch for the hot dogs and buns. Thanks also to the State park for waiving the parking fees for the cars and to Rangers Nimmon's and Khalar for helping with the banner. And I'm not forgetting Tracy Chesebrough, every year he shows up and climbs the tree to put up and take down the banner! I hope I have not forgotten anyone!!

We had Hunter Liggett wildland fire school the week before the Muster, Jess took both our tenders over there and put the new one through its paces, he was quite happy the way it handled going over Nacimiento. We sent 2 engines over with three new people getting some great experience. Last month we had 3 Brigade members, Rayner, Jess and Chris, take our big engine over and go through a driver training class and off road course. They traveled over 50 miles of steep dirt road all around the base and got some excellent training. We are lucky to have Hunter Liggett in our "back yard".

The Cal Fire inspections are going well, a few people have opted out but most are having the inspections done. They have already come back and started some reinspections. All the commercial places have been done and we are almost down to Rancho Grande with the residential ones. It does take a bit of coordinating.....

We are also making sure we are ready to handle any calls in the south end with the starting of the nightly Cal Trans road closures just north of Ragged Pt. It will be much like the situation at Rocky Ck. where we had an ambulance respond to both ends of the closure and either walk and or gurney the patient through. AMR will be responding further south than they normally do.

We had a veg fire at Plaskett ridge this month as well, about 3 acres with the cause under investigation. It was the day of the Muster, we were all just heading home having put most of the Muster stuff away when the pager went off. It was a long night for most everyone with the last person getting home at 08:00 the next morning. We just got called again yesterday for a flare up on the same fire. A great turn out from the Brigade, both water tenders responded and as the road up there had been graded not that long ago it was actually drivable, always a bonus!

We are getting ready to start our First Responder class next month for some of the Brigade members. We also just had Chris Bangham, Christopher Newell and Thomas Leahy complete the semester long EMT class at MPC. CERT member Josef London from Esalen also finished the class. Congratulations!!

An article was handed out at the last BSMACC meeting about a small town in New Jersey, Belmar had to many people attending an annual festival and "reached its capacity" and shut down all traffic into town. Full time residents could show their licenses to get home. What a great idea!!!

And today yet another new experience for me, while sitting in the SB lane (with my turn signal on) trying to turn right into the Post Office, I had tourists start passing me on my right!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief