

Fire Brigade News

While we have welcomed in a new year and are already busy with many things, I need to back track a bit into 2012. Christmas time had Santa busy delivering gifts to many of the local children. He got quite a work out this year with one of our stops at Fernwood where one of the children was also celebrating a birthday. We also added in Ripplewood to his itinerary this year. Every year it is such a delight to see the surprise and joy on the kids' faces when he climbs out of his "sleigh"! Up until this year we have borrowed Santa's suit from Captain Cooper School, Principal Madeline Whitlock/Franco made it years ago. As we had a little scheduling conflict this year and we plan on continuing the tradition, we decided to purchase Santa's very own suit. Thanks to Principal Paula Terui for coming along with us each year as Santa's helper! And each year we end up at Nepenthe with delicious refreshments to end the evening. Thank you to Nepenthe for providing them, and last but certainly not least, huge thanks to Meredith Gafill for all the work she does to help make this event happen.

End of an era.... USFS Battalion Chief Frank Zabrowski has retired after 34 years. We will miss him, and working with him on incidents together. I am not aware of any retirement event for him at this time.

This past month or so was also the time many of you generously send in a donation to the Fire Brigade. Some of you write or attach little notes with your donations, usually something simple like a thank you or keep up the good work, it is always nice to get them. In my donation letter I talked about the challenges we all face at times living down here, and as everyone knows Partington Ridge now has a big one! As of this writing I am still hearing it might possibly be several months before they will have their road repaired. In addition to being in contact with the Fire Brigade members that live on Partington, the Fire Brigade has "activated" CERT member Sam Goldeen to monitor any needs that the residents may have. We have good radio communication with him up there also.

We have started back up again with our fire training in addition to the annual recerting of things like Hazmat and CPR. It was nice to have a little break in December. Our quilt drawing is on the 27th of this month so I will put an announcement in next month's Round Up letting everyone know who the winner is.

I have issued over 80 burn permits so far! A reminder that you need to call the burn number at 1-800-225-2876 to see if it is a burn day, if it is a burn day and you wish to burn then call the Fire Brigade number, 667-2113 and let us know you are burning. I spent hours looking at Google earth maps and talking on the telephone with the Air Pollution people trying to determine what burn zone we were in. The map on their web site does not show any land marks so it was very hard to determine where it began and ended. Long story long, technically from the SLO county line to almost the middle of Clear ridge was burn zone 32. This line runs East/West from Cooper Pt. to below Segals on Clear ridge, over south of the Barnds on Middle ridge, over below O'Neils on Pfeiffer ridge, and get this, right through the middle of my property on Pfeiffer, then over between the bone yard and the MAF, then just south of the water tank up from the old homestead in the park and up the gorge, whew!! So again technically south of there was zone 32 and north of there was burn zone 31. I have spoken with the Air people and we agreed to lump everyone in burn zone 32, much too complicated! I am sending in a map of our area and an official request to make the burn zone the same as our response area which goes to Hurricane Pt. Safe burning!!

Martha Karstens, Chief