

## Fire Brigade News October 2013

I think we may finally be into fall! The nights are chilly and it is getting dark earlier. That means some of you have probably already started up the fires in your wood stoves or fireplaces. This is the time of year that you should make sure all your chimneys and stove pipes have been inspected and cleaned. Another good thing to do is to get up and check your screens around the chimneys and clean out your gutters. This issue is also the one with the time change coming up where I remind everyone to check any smoke detector batteries in any fire/smoke alarms you might have. This is recommended to be done twice a year when the time changes. You should also have carbon monoxide alarms in your homes, a new law this year.

We have two of our biggest fund raisers coming up, the Big Sur River Run and Nepenthe's Bal Masque. Lots about them will be in next month's article. The Jade Festival was successful for us; we sold a number of our new hot off the press 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendars! We will have them for sale at the annual CPOA meeting in November and at the Crafts Faire at the Grange.

I am not sure if anyone down here was affected by the government shut down, unless yet more people decided to change their travel plans and came to Big Sur instead, we didn't notice any difference. (although how one could tell any difference with all the people here anyhow I don't know). USFS continued to be available for incidents which was comforting to know.

Some of you may have noticed the blackened area just off the Old Coast Road, this was a control burn done recently by the El Sur ranch for prevention in anticipation of the State Park having another control burn near Molera.

It looks like the road work at Rocky Creek is winding up, that will be wonderful to finally have both lanes back open, just in time for winter! We shall see what nature has in store for us this year. I hear rumors of an early and wetter than normal winter. The acorns are continually dropping on my roof, signs some old timers say that indicate lots of rain.

It has been five years since the Basin fire and I think most of the "submarine catchers", wire netting and K rails have all come down around the community. If they have the annual weather meeting I will try and attend and get the scoop. It will also be nice to be through with the overnight closures at Rocky Creek. We were lucky in that we only had a few instances where special arrangements needed to be made to get patients through there.

Martha Karstens  
Chief