

## Fire Brigade News June 2013

Our Muster was lots of fun again this year, and by having it in June we were able to have the Cal Fire and USFS engines take part in the games. We will continue to have it on the second weekend in June from now on so mark your calendars. Next year will be a big one, it is our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! It will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. Almost all engine companies won at least one event, Jon Knights E7832 won the make and break with USFS winning over Cal Fire in the extremely wet and exciting water polo. The record winning time of the bucket brigade is still being questioned by the judges, hmmm, is it OK to not have the barrel full??? If you weren't there, Matt Harris's E7834 only had the barrel barely ¼ when FF John Handy slammed in a bucket of water and out popped the ping pong ball!! Must have been some strange whirlwind convection that sucked it up.... We also had the kid's mini bucket brigade which is always great fun to watch.

As always the food was the best, I ran into people days later that were still talking about how good the chicken was. Big Thanks go to my usual crews that work so hard all day long to put out the great BBQ. Robbie and Janet Warcken with Ryan and Jeanette Warcken doing their BBQ "apprenticeship", Ray and Celia Sanborn, John Harrington, (who also provides the lettuce), Jeri Chesebrough and Tori came down to help, Nadine Clark, JoAnne Allison, Debbie Reed, Ken and Barbara Daughters, Mike Trotter couldn't make it but he did make the famous Trotter salad dressing. Also thank you to Ken Wright for organizing, Hal Latta, Ken McLeod and Rayner Marx for bringing and setting up tables and chairs, the CERT folks, Mike Caplin, Pam Peck, Hal Latta and Bob Sayre who worked at the Kiosk, State Park for waiving the parking fees, Martine and Alberto Palafox who helped wet down the BBQ area the night before, (see, many things go into making this a success:). It was good to see Julian and Nina Lopez who came down and Julian and Bob Milton did the critical job of judging and time keeping. And of course last but certainly not least to the resorts who are always so generous with their donations, Nepenthe for the tri tip, Ventana the chicken, Post ranch those tasty hot dogs and buns that some people like more than tri tip, Deetjens for making the beans and Ripplewood for ice. I think I remembered everyone....!!

This month is also when we go over the hill to Hunter Liggett for Wildland school, it was on Monday, Wednesday and Friday last week. We got lucky with the temperatures, I think the highest was 93. Such great, and hot, training with the live fire!! The Herald had some good pics and coverage of it. We sent over our water tender for two days and two of engines went on separate days also. We had some windy conditions in the afternoon that caused two of the fires on Friday to give the FF some problems. One just got away and the second one at the same time was a rekindle so the crews were hopping for a time.

Steve Graham's engine did a great job, I could hear them on the radio trying to catch the rekindle fire, back at the ICP, (Incident Command Post) we were quickly packing up because both fires were heading our direction, but they were both caught in time! The average age of his crew that day was about 52....

Going over Nacimiento you can still see all the remnants of the burned trees from the Chalk fire, which reminded me of the Basin fire, whose anniversary was yesterday, (June 21). Five years ago!

Some of us attended Matt Harris's badge pinning ceremony in Monterey this month. After several grueling months of very physically demanding training Matt was hired on as a probationary member of the Monterey Fire department. We are so proud of him for completing the academy and I look forward to having him bring back training techniques and other new and different ideas that they use to our Fire Brigade.

Martha Karstens, Chief