

# Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade

## Fire Brigade News – June 2014

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to us!! What a great day we had! Almost picture perfect weather for our Muster/BBQ, although it could have been a little cooler..... A great turn out; I think one of the best for a “non-retirement” Muster. It was so nice to see some of the “old timers” from the Brigade and all the community there. We had USFS and Cal Fire present to compete in the games, and while Matt Harris, Taylor Martin and John Handy gave them a run for their money, Cal Fire ended up winning the hose lay game.

There was a special appearance by Cal Star, who flew in to do a show and tell, they were busy showing off their helo when they got called off to a mission, we didn't even have a chance to get them a “to go” plate. One of our engines and the Cal Fire engine also got called out to separate incidents not long after arriving but Cal Fire was able to return quickly, with our engine eventually making it back.

Matt brought a great little house prop with “fire” in every window for the kids to squirt with small hoses to put out the “fire”, that was great fun to watch. With everything going on we sort of ran out of time to do all our usual games. Smokey Bear made a cameo appearance and was a big hit with the kids. We had live music thanks to Mike Scutari and band; they added a festive note, no pun intended.

So many people to thank!! As always, first and foremost, the BBQers!! How they do it every year, putting on the very best BBQ, on time, and keep it going throughout the afternoon, well it is a sight to behold. The wonderful kitchen crew for lack of a better word, worked their butts off chopping and slicing and dicing, and keeping the serving bowls full. All of them like a well-oiled machine! It is so nice to know that I can ask these guys and “girls” every year to put on a BBQ for however many people and it just gets done!

So in no particular order, but starting with the master BBQers many, many thanks to; Ken Wright, Michael Trotter, Robbie Warcken, and Ray Sanborn the pros.....Butch Kronlund and Ryan Warcken, so nice to see the younger generation learning the ropes and someday take over. Also to Mary Trotter the salad queen, Celia Sanborn and Nadine Clark the overseers of the bread, Barbara and Ken Daughters heading up the drinks and doling out the dessert, Jeanette Warcken doing a lot even with an injured arm, to Tori Chesebrough-Buckles, Mary Wright, Barbara Sexton, Joanne Allison, Debbie Reed, Jaci Pappas, Sharna Whitehand, Terry Hallock, and last but certainly not least the two Janet's, Warcken and Hardisty. HUGE thank yous to Nepenthe for donating the tri tip, Ventana for the chicken, Post Ranch for the Hot dogs and buns, John Harrington the lettuce, The Road House for cooking the beans and Holly for the always yummy chocolate anniversary cake which was gobbled up instantly!! The CERT members were also active and played an important part in helping with traffic and garbage/recycle detail. I can't forget Tracy Chesebrough and David Wong for helping with the banner, all these things help to make the Muster a success! State Parks was kind enough to waive the day use fees.

We also handed out awards that would normally go out at our annual dinner last December, it was supposed to be the day after the Pfeiffer fire and for obvious reasons was not held. These guys really deserved the acknowledgement so I had the awards made again and we gave them to the volunteers. The engine company of the year award went to Captain Steve Graham's engine company E7831. Rookie of the year went to Rayner Marx, Volunteer of the Year went to Chris Bangham and the Chief's award went to Jon Knight. Our “year” pins were also handed out to Matt Harris and Jon Knight for 5 years and Christian Nimmo for 10 years. Gary Koeppel and Frank Pinney also spoke about the forming of the Fire Brigade along with remembrances of our first Chief, Walter Trotter

Congressman Sam Farr showed up after the speeches and brought us a very nice resolution in honor of our 40 years. Please visit our web site at [www.bigsurfire.org](http://www.bigsurfire.org) to look at some great pictures taken by our friend and web master Dan Gearhart.

Now that the Muster is over I can focus on getting ready for our wildland training coming up this Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>, many of the new VFF will go over, as well as we will take two engines back over on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We have been pretty busy with our calls, about 23 ahead of last year at this time, some of them have been interesting, everything from drug overdoses to getting hit by cars crossing the road. There are already so many tourists down here I can't even imagine what July or August will be like. Our new water tender is getting close to be done, we had hoped to have it for the Muster to show it off, but it wasn't quite ready. We are in the process of replacing our squad, a 1993 Suburban stationed at the South coast center, it has over 100,000 miles so it is high time.

Martha Karstens  
Chief

