

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – November 2014

Isn't this early rain just wonderful! It has already started to green up the hills and we have had enough of it to be able to have Cal Fire lift their burn ban. So.... Back yard burning will begin on December 1. You will need to renew your burn permits this year and they can be found on our web site at www.bigsurfire.org. If you would like one mailed to you leave a message on our Fire Brigade phone at 667-2113 with your name and address. We have the same process for burning as we have in the past, if you wish to burn please call the 800-225-2876 number to determine if it is a burn day. If it is a burn day and you are going to burn then you need to leave a message on our Fire Brigade phone with your name, location of your burn and a call back number. You may burn between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM, and all fires must be out by 4:00 PM. Please no starting any fires after 3:00 PM, and remember to contact your neighbors and let them know you are burning. On the permit you will find more guidelines for burning. The air quality pollution control district has made it easier now to determine our burn area, they have divided up Monterey County into coastal and inland burn areas. I don't know if the different zoning will have any effect on the number of permissive burn days.

The Big Sur River Run and Nepenthe's Bal Masque, two of our major fundraisers, both got rained out this year. While the rain was lovely and we needed it, did it really have to rain on both of them? The River Run didn't have anywhere near as many race day registrants as we would normally have. We were still able to raise \$15,000 each for both the Fire Brigade and the Health Center. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this event possible!

And speaking of events, the Bal Masque as previously mentioned, was pretty soggy. We had tents set up outside the main door for the tickets and wrist bands to keep the volunteers dry. The attendance for a Friday night was a little more than half of what we would normally get. But those that braved the weather had a great time! My judging team of Ray and Celia Sanborn and Butch Kronlund had a good time choosing the winning costumes. All were won by Big Sur residents too! Those winners were; For the most gruesome/unique the dinner for two at the Roadhouse went to Monse Esparza, (and I apologize if I got the name wrong, it was very loud in there). She was dressed or undressed as the case may be, as a pregnant woman, which she was, with a very accurate drawing of a baby on her belly. The funniest, also unique went to Cyrus Bell and Kodiak Greenwood as "two tall gnomes"; they won dinner for two at Deetjens. Most original was "spy VS spy" from the Mad Magazine; this was Reed and Brigga Cripe winning dinner for two at Ventana. Last but not least our local John Mearns and Jeannie Crowley came as WC Fields and Mae West, I still remember her line, "why don't you come up and see me sometime" which was really "why don't you come up sometime and see me" from her movie Diamon Lil. Good trivia! Great costumes!

As always. many, many thanks to Nepenthe for continuing to allow the Fire Brigade to benefit from their great tradition. Also thanks to all the resorts for donating the dinner for two for our prizes. We couldn't do it without you!

Our training tapers off in December, giving us a bit of a break. We will have an auto extrication class at the firehouse giving us the training needed for using our Jaws of Life tools. This weekend we have a full 16 hour Hazmat class for our new members and a 4 hour recert for our regular members.

We are going to try and do our Santa run this year, we never made it last year due to the fire. The date is yet to be determined. I find it hard to believe that a year has almost passed since the fire. I guess this will be the last Round Up before the end of the year so Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!

Martha Karstens
Chief