

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – August 2017

Things have been pretty quiet, in fact I am a little at a loss as to what to write about! Unfortunately the River Run will be suspended this year. Due to challenges where mud/debris came down along the route we could not safely have runners on the actual race course. We are working on planning a replacement event/BBQ/fundraiser for the community and maybe some of the families and runners that have come down and camped in the park over the years to do the run. So, for now, save the date, October 28th, and we will keep everyone posted!

I went down to the bridge project the morning that they were going to start with the moving of the girders to talk about any safety concerns. While this has already been discussed a little review is always good and a plan that might now involve any problems with the girders, cables or scaffolding was an appropriate conversation to have. It was very impressive seeing the girders up close!

The group that puts on the Marathon on the Old Coast road has contacted us about again providing communications and medical assistance for their event on September 23rd. They have gotten the go ahead to proceed with it. While life, incidents, events and even the Round Up go on I know I feel like everything is on hold just waiting for the completion of the bridge. Even now walking from the south side back over to the north there is something almost palpable in the difference, I call the bridge the DMZ. Depending on when you are on the trail sometimes there is more foot traffic than others. Everyone seems pleasant and considerate for the most part, well perhaps other than the 3 bicyclists that kept trying to ride their bikes down with their street tires. We have had no incidents involving anyone on the trail, in fact we have had few if any incidents in the State Park since they have opened. I am still surprised about that. The last 3 days we have had one medical a day, in the area of the Park, MAF and the BS Lodge, the last 2 both AMAed as we say, or refused the ambulance. The third call I am monitoring right now decided they wanted a helicopter. Cal Star is about to land at the Post Ranch LZ.

At the last BSMACC meeting I read a statement from the Fire Brigade with the unanimous support of our Board. Briefly it stated that we wanted to go on record that due to the hundreds of vehicles, not to mention pedestrians using Sycamore canyon road and the challenges of getting emergency apparatus down the road, we considered Sycamore canyon a public safety hazard. The hope is to get a shuttle going to alleviate all the congestion, while I don't see that happening by the time the bridge is open I would like to think it wouldn't be too far off in the distant future.

We also met with many of the agencies to talk again about illegal campfires and camping. There are challenges in particular on Nacimiento road where right now only USFS can issue citations. USFS did issue a no camping statement expressly for Nacimiento road which will be helpful. While the last few weeks have been somewhat overcast and drizzly, everything is dry as a bone out there!

Thanks to Supervisor Adams and Kate Daniels for all their help on these ongoing issues.

Martha Karstens
Chief