

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – December 2016

After our last fire training for the year in November, Ventana Restaurant again brought over an entire turkey dinner for the fire fighters, what a great treat for everyone, and a sort of kick off for the holiday season. The guys really appreciated all the effort involved. Thank you Ventana and Catherine!!

Burn season has started and lots of people are burning, it seems like it took some people by surprise because we have been getting calls for smoke checks that are all control burns. Remember everyone now needs a burn permit for each burn season. We have been getting welcome rains; this most recent one did end up closing the road overnight. I was surprised that the power stayed on as we got some good winds. We have lots of sand bags and got another delivery of sand, all available at the Pfeiffer ridge turn out.

Our annual dinner/meeting was again hosted by Nepenthe this year. It was just a wonderful evening; the moon even came up over the ridge as we were arriving. As always the food was delicious, the warm ambiance lending itself to make it a cozy evening. We always hand out our awards at our dinner also. This year the Rookie of the Year award went to our youngest member, Fabian Perez. Fabian has only started to respond to calls in April and already was the 5th highest in call response. He is doing such a great job; we need other Brigade members like him!! Our Volunteer of the Year award went to Trey Kropp. He has is so enthusiastic, he helps around the fire house, and is always willing to go above and beyond the "call of duty" for whatever is needed. Trey also had the top call response at 114 calls! He took over the top slot that I held for a million years. Wow!! If we had a few more like Trey and Fabian the Fire Brigade would be in good shape!! Won't you consider taking our Fire fighter 1 class starting this January?? WE NEED YOU!!!! Thank you so much to Kirk, Holly and Nepenthe for such a delightful evening.

In spite of the storm Santa hopped into his big red sleigh and delivered gifts to the kids. We started at the Ventana Christmas party and ended up at Nepenthe with gifts for the kids and cookies and hot cider for Santa and his helpers☺ What an evening! An umbrella helped to keep Santa dry, but it was a challenge. A good old Big Sur rain storm! Thank you to Heather Foster and friends for helping wrap up the gifts for the kids!

We had another meeting with AT&T at the fire house, the copper lines down here are really old and the bulk of them need replacing. Plenty of band width was another topic discussed. The main reason for the meetings is the reliability of the telephones and our inability to be able to dial 911 during a rain storm. They have done somewhat of a temporary fix and it seems to be working, our phones and radios did not go down even through the last storm. They have parked a van with satellite phones at the fire house and loaned the Fire Brigade a satellite (mobile) phone until it is determined that the land lines will be stable

The Brigade has just mailed out a community survey, I hope you will take a short time to fill it out and give us your feedback. I have gotten a couple questions about the survey already, one about how the Brigade is meeting your needs. An example might be, has the FB been there when you needed them for perhaps a medical emergency or a fire. By having the FB in Big Sur you are able to get fire insurance, if we were not here residents would most likely not be able to get fire insurance. We are, and have been, working on a plan for our future and to ensure we can continue to provide emergency services.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a great new year!!

Martha Karstens.
Chief