

Northern California Chapter Report 2007

-As Northern California Chapter Director, I responded via mail, email and phone to dozens of requests for information throughout 2007. Topics were varied, and included fire lookout tower access routes, tower blueprints, fire lookout history, job inquiries, shared memories, and specific information concerning California fire impacts.

-In February, I attended a benefit cross-country ski tour over Yuba Pass for Calpine Volunteer Fire Department. The theme was fire lookouts. I provided information and brochures about Forest Fire Lookout Association. Calpine Fire Lookout, in Tahoe National Forest rental program, is booked solid. Rental fees are earmarked specifically to a restoration fund for nearby Sardine Peak Lookout. Sierraville Ranger District is a huge supporter of fire lookout rentals.

-In early June, I was invited to Six Rivers National Forest fire lookout meeting. The meeting was cancelled due to lightning, but I spent several hours visiting Brush Mtn. Lookout, staffed by Rebecca Cape, a 20+ season fire lookout and FFLA member.

-As relief lookout on Babbitt Peak Lookout, Tahoe National Forest, I reported fires to Tahoe, Toiyabe & Plumas National Forests. Approximately 15 visitors per weekend day received, upon request, FFLA brochures and membership information.

-I confirmed with Klamath National Forest officials a reported leaking roof on Lake Mountain Lookout. Advised it was too late in season to complete contract project. Unknown if temporary repairs were made prior to winter.

-Heard through "lookout grapevine" of possible demolition of Grizzly Peak Lookout, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, McCloud Ranger District. Requests for additional information were not returned. The lookout road is inaccessible due to snow until springtime. I plan to make a trip to Grizzly Peak when conditions warrant.

-Lookout extraordinaire, Betty Carlson, Bonanza King fire lookout in Trinity Alps for 32 fire seasons, died late November. Her family would like a memorial bench installed at the fire tower. This would be a wonderful tribute.

-Gathered with Trinity County fire lookouts in October over pizza, and was grateful to hear their continued support for Forest Fire Lookout Association.

Vickie Lamoureux, Northern California Chapter, Forest Fire Lookout Association.