

# Newsletter



## Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2011-2012

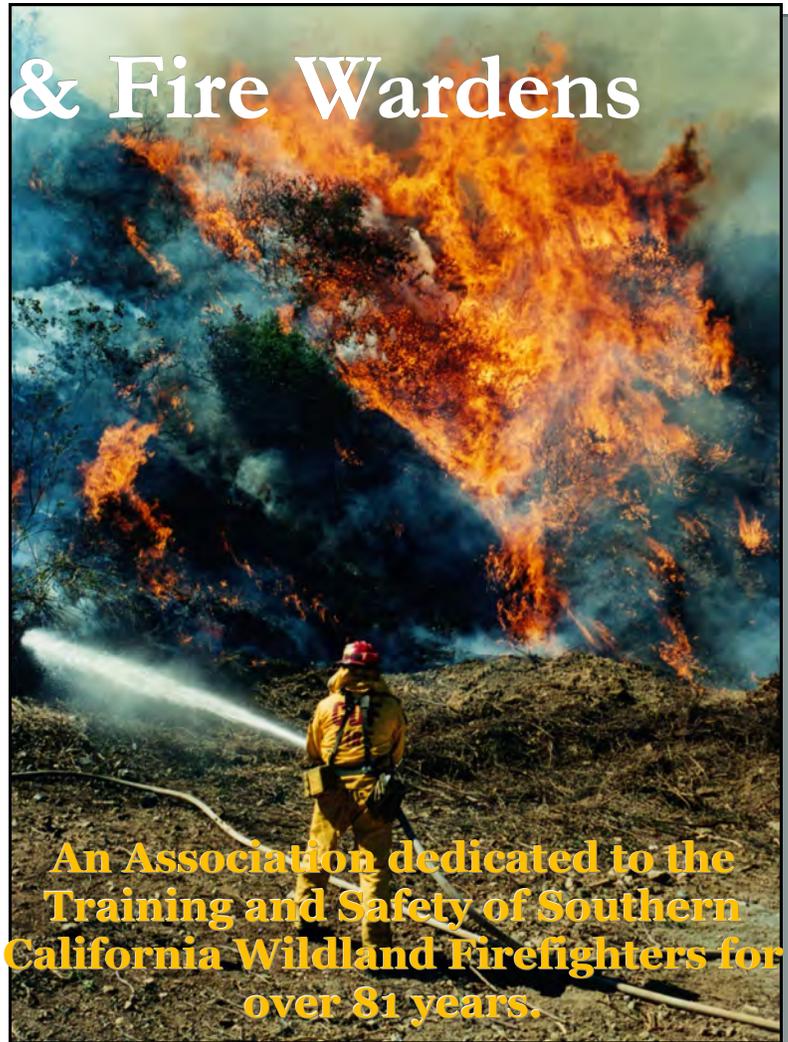
#### OFFICERS

President Troy Whitman - SCE  
First Vice President Robert Michael - RRU  
Second Vice Pres.—Frank Vidales - LAC  
Secretary Gordon Martin—CNF  
Treasurer David Leininger—LAC retired

#### DIRECTORS

Dan Snow—BDF  
Vacant—ANF  
Tom Plymale—LPF  
Steve Griffin—SQF  
David Allen—MVU  
Don Forsyth—ORC  
Dave Witt—KRN  
Rod Megli—VNC  
Tim Ernst—LFD  
Suzanne Penfold—BDU  
Chris Childers - SBC  
Abigail Srader—CSR—Membership  
Steve Reeder—SLU  
Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative  
Jim Neumann—Publicity  
Paul H. Rippens—Newsletter Editor  
Doug Lannon—Arrangements

*We, the members of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, do band together for the purpose of strengthening inter-agency cooperation, fire safety coordination, and fellowship.*



**An Association dedicated to the  
Training and Safety of Southern  
California Wildland Firefighters for  
over 81 years.**

Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Southern California  
Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens

February 2, 1012—Orange County, California

Foresters & Fire Wardens contact information:

Mailing—SCAFFW, c/o Gordon P. Martin, 1147 E. 6th Street  
Corona, CA 92879

E-mail: [SCAFFW@aol.com](mailto:SCAFFW@aol.com)

Web Site: [www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS-  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 3, 2012**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Troy Whitman at 0912 hours at Orange County, California on February 3, 2012. President Whitman thanked Director Forsyth for making the arrangements for the dinner, hotel and meeting room.

**Officers and Directors Present:**

Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison  
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept  
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.  
Dave Allen – CAL FIRE – San Diego County  
David Leininger – Treasurer –Los Angeles Co.  
Rod Megli – Ventura County Fire Dept.  
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman  
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.  
Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.  
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Authority  
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest  
David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.  
Suzanne Penfold –CAL FIRE– San Bernardino Co  
Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region  
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

Robert Michael – CAL FIRE – Riverside County  
Tom Plymale – Los Padres National Forest  
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor  
Steve Griffin – Sequoia National Forest  
Jim Neumann – Publicity Chairman

**Guests:**

Vaughan Miller – Member, VNC  
Anthony Caezza – Life Member  
Jon Neely – Member, CNF

**Minutes:** President Whitman presented the minutes of the December 2, 2011 meeting for consideration. Motion by Treasurer Leininger,

seconded by Director Forsyth to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Leininger presented his report covering the period from December 2, 2011 to February 3, 2012.

Balance as of 12-2-11	\$25,647.36
Receipts:	
Dues and Conference Registration:	\$115.00
Total Receipts:	\$115.00
Disbursements:	
Pilgrim Pines (Conference Deposit)	\$880.72
Dave Leininger (Laptop Computer)	\$676.97
Paul Rippens (Web Hosting Sub.)	\$83.40
Total Disbursements:	\$1,641.09
Balance on hand:	\$24,121.27
Last year at this time:	\$20,820.60

Motion by Director Megli, second by Director Forsyth to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:** Chairman Lannon reported that he had talked with June Boutwell from Camp Pilgrim Pines and that they had been able to sell a piece of property and no longer have money issues and they anticipate being there for years to come. They have had a mild winter so far this year and have not had the winter storm damage that they have experienced in the past. Director Megli stated that Ventura County would be able to provide the crew and the vans this year. Chairman Lannon advised Director Penfold that she would need to contact the Yucaipa FD to make sure that the medics would be available during the conference.

**Program:** President Whitman assisted by Junior Past President Childers led the discussion on the program.

Emcee: Steve Martin, LA County Fire Dept.

The minutes of the February 3, 2012 meeting are continued on  
page 4

## FIRE RETARDANT APPLICATION RULES

In December, the US Forest Service issued a record of decision establishing new rules for the aerial application of fire retardant. The new guidelines were issued in response to lawsuits by the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and a 2010 federal court ruling.

The Forest Service has identified and mapped waterways and habitat for certain threatened, endangered, and sensitive species to avoid applying retardant in those areas. To decide when or where to drop fire retardant, fire managers will now have roughly 12,000 maps identifying avoidance areas on 98 national forests that identify locations of the areas. When fire managers determine retardant is the right tool to use on a wildfire, they will direct pilots to avoid applying fire retardant in the newly mapped areas.

The record of decision, environmental impact statement, and other information is available at [www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/eis\\_info.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/eis_info.html).



**“Like” us on facebook at  
Southern CA Foresters and  
Fire Wardens**

***Did you or are you thinking of  
changing your E-mail address?  
Please remember to contact the  
SCAFFW at [SCAFFW@aol.com](mailto:SCAFFW@aol.com) and let  
us know so we can send you your  
newsletters and other important  
information.***



## 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS

Work continues on the **82nd Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on May 3 & 4, 2012 at Camp Pilgrim Pines in Oak Glen, California. We will continue to keep you informed on the proposed programs for that conference via our newsletters and website. Meanwhile, you can now pre-register online by going to our web site at [www.SCAFFW.org](http://www.SCAFFW.org) and click on the *registration* tab.



**Cover Photo:** *Canyon Fire—August 1997.*  
A CAL FIRE Captain works to keep a flank of fire in check as flames consume a large patch of scrub oak. Photograph by Ken Morris

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS  
82nd ANNUAL WILDLAND TRAINING  
AND SAFETY CONFERENCE.**

**May 3 & 4, 2012**

**CAMP PILGRIM PINES**

**Check our web site for further  
information [www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)**

Color Guard: USFS will serve as primary and Cal Fire will serve as secondary.

Keynote Speaker: Chief Daryl L. Osby, Los Angeles County Fire Department.

There was an involved discussion of topics for the program.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Tentative Speaker</u>
<b>Thursday, May 3, 2012</b>		
1000	Opening Ceremonies	
1030	Keynote Speaker	Chief Daryl Osby
1100	What Makes a Wildland FF	Rob Lewin
1145	Introduction of Vendors	Frank Vidales
1200	Lunch	
1300	Safety Message	CHP
1315	Exercise Physiology	Dr. Brent Ruby
1415	Break	
1430	Helicopter Accident Review	Davison
1530	Red Zone Mapping Preplans	Clark Wood -ward
1600	Real-time Fire Mapping	Vaughan Miller

**Friday, May 4, 2012**

0800	Private Insurance Fire Protection	Panel
0840	Fuels and Fire Weather	Tim Chavez
0900	Jesusita Fire AAR	Kevin Gaines
0930	Break	
0945	The Tragedy Down Under Australia Wildfires	Dicus
1030	Kern County Fires 2011 Lessons Learned	Brian Marshall
1130	Closing Ceremonies	

All contact people should double check with their speakers on the titles of their presentations and the spelling of their names. Any changes should be sent to the board at large. All speakers should complete the speaker sheets and get them in to First Vice President Michael.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:** Second Vice President Vidales reported that he had contacted Representative Shabro and that they would be contacting the prospective vendors soon. Representative Shabro expressed a concern of the vendors over the cost of \$55 for the additional person to work their booths. Treasurer Leininger explained that the \$55 covered not only the meals but the day use fee charged by the venue.

Vendors should be encouraged to spend the night to get their money's worth. Representative Shabro stated that he would be going to the Firehouse World convention where he would be able to speak to many of the vendors in person as a follow-up to the letters that would be going out soon.

**Registration and Membership:** Director Srader reported that she has received 6 early registrations using the new PayPal system. She also reported that the new computer is working well. Treasurer Leininger reported that he had set up the PayPal account and that PayPal charges a fee of 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction. If someone has a PayPal account they can use that to checkout or they may use any major credit card. Raffle tickets may also be purchased through the PayPal account. The PayPal account is linked to the SCAFFW checking account. Directors will need to pay their fees for Wednesday night to Director Srader as a separate check.

**Entertainment and Raffle:** Director Ernst stated that the first blast of letters would go out to the vendors next week. We have not had much luck getting a response from the vendors from the letters so, if anyone can make a personal contact with any of the vendors that would be a big help. Director Ernst also talked about the importance of music as a draw and asked the board if anyone knew of any local or agency based bands that would be willing to come up and play. Director Vidales reported that he had a band that would be inexpensive and would get the information to Director Ernst.

**Publicity:** Director Reeder will contact Chairman Neumann to see where he is at with publicity.

**Historian:** Historian Whitman stated that he had no report.

**Safety:** Director Forsyth stated that he had contacted CHP Officer Ramos and that barring any incidents she would be up to give her safety message again this year.

## FIRE WHIRLS

*By President Troy Whitman*

As the nations economy continues its long road to recovery, fire agencies throughout our area continue to face difficult financial times. With these reduced budgets, interagency partnership is even more important than ever. That's where organizations, such as the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, come into play. Attending conferences such as ours allows firefighters from various agencies to meet others and share ideas that will help them for many years.

For over 81 years, this association, through its annual conference, has served the fire agencies and public well by tearing down agency walls and promoting communication and collaboration. That is our mission and I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity we provide to you by attending our conference and learn from the programs provided while meeting new people.

As most of you know, the Southern California Edison Company has been a part of this association for many years. In 1952, Morrey Croson became the first SCE representative to the Board of Directors. I am privileged to continue that tradition and to be the first from my agency to serve as president.

Powerlines traverse most areas where wildland fire incidents occur. Providing for firefighter and public safety has always been, and will always be our top priority. Southern California Edison is honored to be involved in the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.



President Troy Whitman with 2011 President Chris Childers.

**Golf:** Director Snow reported that there has been a change of venue for the golf tournament. We will be at the Calimesa Golf Club this year. There will be no change in the cost for the tournament and they will be throwing in lunch as well. The new location is about 2 miles from the old course that we used.

**Newsletter:** President Whitman reminded everyone that Editor Rippens needs any articles and/or photos that anyone can find or create.

**Old Business:** Director Witt reported he had recovered the Knot Head award from former Director Froggat and had entered his name in the 2010 and 2011 entries. Director Vidales presented the idea of having a flash drive as this year's give away. After a discussion it was moved by Director Snow and seconded by Director Forsyth that we authorize the spending of up to \$3,300 for 4GB flash drives with the Association logo engraved. The motion passed. First Vice President Michael was unable to attend and report on his ability to provide a back-up audio system.

**Life Membership Recommendations:** Director Megli nominated Chief Roper, Ventura County Fire Department, for Life Membership. Treasurer Leininger seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

**New Business:** Treasurer Leininger moved that the April meeting be changed from the scheduled Santa Barbara County to Orange County. Director Forsyth seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held April 6, 2012 in Orange County, CA.

President Whitman closed the meeting at 1145.

Respectfully submitted, Gordon P. Martin,  
Association Secretary

## CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

The California Wildland Firefighter Memorial (CFWM) is a tribute to firefighters that have paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting wildland fires in the State of California.

The concept for this memorial came about in 1995 when a group of retirees, fire survivors, CAL FIRE, and USDA Forest Service sought to repair and replace missing markers from the Decker Fire of 1959. This fire killed 5 firefighters within the Santa Ana Mountains above Lake Elsinore.



The Memorial is located along its dedicated highway, the Ortega Highway between Elsinore and San Juan Capistrano. A Forest Service picnic area is adjacent to the Memorial, where Highway 74 and the South Main Divide Road intersect. The Memorial was dedicated on October 8, 2011

After the 1995 ground breaking ceremony, several concepts for the Memorial arose. All aspects are coordinated partnerships with the USDA Forest Service, CAL FIRE, Orange County Fire Authority and CWFMM committee members.

Presently, the Memorial site consists of a circular area containing a red brick Maltese cross in the center with a rock wall behind in a semi-circle. Picnic benches and tables are placed

around the perimeter with native plants integrated into the Memorial area. The serene tree filled area promotes the tranquility that inspires the Memorial and its purpose.



Fire plaques on the rock wall give the fire name, county, year and number of fatalities for each fire. Engraved paver bricks with private dedications complete the Maltese cross foreground.

All funding for the Memorial is derived solely from donations, contributions, and service partnerships. Now completed, the Memorial will be maintained through donations and endowments.

Together, we can honor and acknowledge California's wildland firefighters that have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting our lives and property. There have been over 200 wildland firefighter fatalities in California.

All donations are welcome for the Memorial and will receive a commemorative pin. Any donations \$100 or more are eligible for a brick inscription of their choice. Contributions can be made to: *California Firefighters Wildland Memorial*  
P.O. Box 848  
Perris, CA 92572



## THE SANTA ANA WINDS

*Story by Paul H. Rippens*

*Photos by Ken Morris*

With the devastating wind storm of early December 2011 still on everyone's mind, I thought it might be time to reflect on a wind event and fire that occurred on December 9, 1988. Like the 2011 event, more than 477,000 customers lost electrical power and several fires raged throughout Los Angeles County and City.

One of these fires, started by downed electrical wires in a paper recycling facility in Baldwin Park, caused the most damage with the fire, powered by 100 mile per hour winds, pushed flames through neighborhoods destroying 14 homes, damaging five, destroyed 16 cars and damaged five commercial buildings. I was responded to the incident and was nearly blown off the 210 Freeway on my way to Baldwin Park.



"First time in my 28 years in the Fire Department that I've seen a firestorm move through a residential area like this," said Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Garry Oversby, who worked at the Baldwin Park blaze.

Hundreds of firefighters spent hours trying to keep the wind-whipped flames from hopscotching in an unpredictable path. About 400 residents were evacuated from the area, many spending the night in Red Cross shelters before venturing back later in the day to see whether fire had claimed or



spared their homes.

In a West Los Angeles neighborhood of densely clustered apartment buildings, a fire destroyed a nearly completed apartment building and damaged nine nearby apartment buildings, sending hundreds of residents into the streets and leaving an estimated 50 of them homeless from fire or water damage.

In Eagle Rock, four homes were slightly damaged by a 2 a.m. fire that moved along a ridge in the San Rafael Hills and spread north over 150 acres between the Ventura Freeway and Glenoaks Boulevard.

In La Verne, a brush fire caused by downed power wires spread into residential areas destroying or damaging homes as it made its way from the foothills to Foothill Blvd.

The fires in Baldwin Park and La Verne caused an estimated \$10.5 million in damage while in Rancho Cucamonga, the winds destroyed the top two stories of an apartment building under construction causing \$1 million damage.

Between the four fires in Los Angeles City and County, 50% of all on-duty personnel were on the incidents. And these sure won't be the last we see of the Santa Ana Winds.

Excerpts of this story were taken from a Los Angeles Times article dated December 9, 1988



## ~ A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY ~

### OPERATION FIRESCOPE

*From the book "Ride The Devil Wind" by Los Angeles County Fire Department Historian David Boucher published in 1991*

From the onset of the Firescope program, Los Angeles County was its active supporter. The program was developed as a direct result of the severe 1970 fire season in Southern California. Through it, the counties of Southern California; Los Angeles, Kern, Santa Barbara, Orange and Ventura, along with the California Division of Forestry, the United States Forest Service, and the Office of Emergency Services, worked together on a planned, coordinated system to support each other during times of severe fire occurrences. The new agency would coordinate all movement of emergency equipment to the affected area. It would also provide a common descriptive language to use when conducting business. Among other duties, the agency tracks weather conditions in order to forecast Santa Ana winds. It implements the National Weather Service's "Red Flag" warning system, wherein a watch is issued a day or two in advance of a suspected wind episode, a "warning" when one is likely and an "alert" when one is imminent or in progress.



**Angeles NF and LAC Chief Officers confer on the Morris Fire, September 2009. Photo by Ken Morris**

The program took several years to develop and became generally accepted. When Firescope became operative for the 1976-77 fire season, the County of Los Angeles was selected to be Firescope's temporary Southern California base, it being the geographical center of the strip of coastal counties. Quarters were established in a recently-closed L.A. County fire station—Engine 57's house at 5710 N. Peck Road in El Monte. Then Battalion Chief John Englund was assigned as Los Angeles County's representative.

The following year, Firescope's permanent headquarters was established at the California Division of Forestry headquarters at Riverside. Its first elected chairman also was Battalion Chief Englund.

An outgrowth of the organizational changes accomplished by Firescope was the transfer of many of those changes to a new type of command structure, the Incident Command System. This standardized method of command provided for a common method of management of resources by all fire organizations adopting and participating in it. While almost all fire departments now use the method, it was first field tested by Battalion 4, Division 5, during the fall of 1985. It was subsequently adopted by the entire L.A. County Fire Department on April 1, 1986.

Firescope now meets at the state level in Sacramento once a month. It continues to be an effective program, benefitting all cooperating fire agencies and, in turn, the public.

