

Newsletter



Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2011-2012

OFFICERS

President Troy Whitman - SCE
First Vice President Ribert 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
Mike Heffner—KRN
Rod Megli—VNC
Frank Vidales—LAC
Tim Ernst—LFD
Doug Lannon—BDU - Retired
Chris Childers - SBC
Abigail Srader—CSR—Membership
Steve Reeder—SLU
Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative
Jim Neumann—Publicity
Paul H. Rippens—Newsletter Editor

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.**

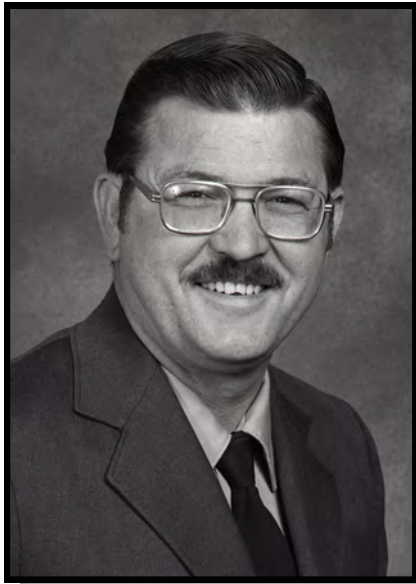
Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Southern California
Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens

May 4 & May 6, 2011 - Oak Glen, California

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Clyde H. Sims
1941—2011



The Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens along with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department are saddened to announce the passing of Clyde H. Sims, Retired Assistant Chief of Forestry for the Fire Department, Past Secretary and Life Member of the SCAFFW.

Clyde was born on February 10, 1941 in Ponca City, OK. He attend school in Ponce City where he was a championship wrestler while attending high school. He was recently inducted into the high schools Hall of Fame for his athletic skills. Following high school, he attended junior college and Oklahoma State University where he received his degree in Forestry Management.

Following college, Clyde joined the Army and while serving in Alaska, met Bruce Manchester whose father was a Chief Officer with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Bruce told Clyde about the Forestry Division of the department and upon his departure from the Army, Clyde came to California where he joined the department as a Forestry Assistant on March 21, 1967.

Clyde worked on many projects and various locations during his career and worked closely with the Prescribed Burn program developing data that is still used today. He was promoted to Deputy Forester in August, 1974 and to Assistant Chief, Forestry on May 1, 1993. He retired on March 29, 1996.

Clyde was asked to serve as the Secretary of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens in 1990 and served for five years in that capacity. Clyde was awarded a Life Membership to the Association upon his retirement.

Upon his retirement from the Fire Department, Clyde and his wife Joyce move back to his hometown of Ponca City and into his childhood home. He will be missed by his many friends.

Remembering Clyde

By Paul H. Rippens

I was shocked when I received the phone call to tell me Clyde, C.H. as we called him, had passed away. I had spoken to him just a couple of weeks before and he sounded great.

One story I have to tell is about how tough C.H. was. Just after he started to work for LAC, he and another forester were hiking one evening and C.H. slipped and tumbled several hundred feet into Eaton Canyon above Pasadena. He laid in the hospital for several weeks healing so that they could begin operating to repair damage he had received. The only complaint I ever heard from Clyde is that the damn television wouldn't work right. He was an avid sports fan!

C.H. was a good friend and I'll miss him terribly. Rest in peace my friend.



FIRE WHIRLS

Troy Whitman takes over as President of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens

Troy Whitman, Fire Management Officer for the Southern California Edison Company has become the President of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens for the



appointment as President

2011/2012 year. Troy becomes the first representative of SCE to serve as president of the Association. The Edison Company has had a representative on the Board for many years but it was not until a vote of the Board a few years ago that gave them voting power and allowed for that representative to be eligible to serve as President.

Troy lives in Cypress, California with his wife Dayna. Congratulations to Troy on his



Did you or are you thinking of changing your E-mail address? Please remember to contact the SCAFFW at 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 will soon begin for 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 keep you informed on the proposed programs for that conference following the Board of Directors meeting in December. Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions regarding our annual conference, please E-mail them to SCAFFW@aol.com.



Cover Photo:

The Station Fire—2009

**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

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of
FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 4, 2011

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Chris Childers at 1612 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, Oak Glen, California.

Officers and Directors Present:

Chris Childers - Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
Troy Whitman - Southern California Edison
Robert Michael - CAL FIRE - Riverside County
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest
David Leininger – Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept.
Dave Allen - CAL FIRE - San Diego County
Rod Megli – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Doug Lannon – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
Steve Griffin – Sequoia National Forest
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Authority
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
Ed Shabro - Vendor Representative

Officers and Directors Absent:

Jim Neumann - Publicity
Tom Plymale - Los Padres National Forest
Mike Heffner – Kern County Fire Dept.

Guests:

Bob Tinker—Past President & Life Member
Doug Forrest—Past President & Life Member
George Roby—Life Member
Tony Caezza—Past President & Life Member
Larry Kurtz—Membership Committee

Minutes: President Childers presented the minutes of the April 8, 2011 meeting for consideration. Motion by Director Forsyth, Seconded by Director Megli to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Leininger presented his report covering the period from April 8, 2011 to May 4, 2011.

Balance as of 4-8-11	\$19,189.95
Receipts:	
Dues & Conference Registration	\$4,145.00
Challenge Coin Sales	\$65.00
Total Receipts	\$4,210.00
Disbursements:	
Southwest Sales Inc. (240 T-Shirts)	\$1,448.70
Gordon Martin (frames for certs.)	\$187.37
Total disbursements	\$1,636.07
Balance on hand	\$21,763.88
Last year at this time	\$20,075.29

Motion by First Vice-president Whitman, seconded by Director Lannon to accept the Treasurers report as presented. The motion was approved.

Arraignments: Chairman Lannon stated that things at Camp Pilgrim Pines are going good. Reminder that we will be having cafeteria style feeding this year and Emcee Tinker will need to make an announcement to that effect. Director Megli reported that the two vans are on the way and that they will have a total of 3 drivers. Chairman Lannon reported that the medics will be up tomorrow from 0900-1700 and Friday from 0800-1200. Director Megli relayed that the El Cariso Hotshots that are speaking on Friday have requested that a cabin be designated for them and any other ex- El Cariso Hotshots that come to the conference.

Program: First Vice President Whitman reported that the program was stable. He is still missing several bios and if the people responsible for the speakers could please get them to him as soon as possible. The Honor Guard from Kern County is here and has looked over the layout in the room. June Boutwell will be giving the invocation. First Vice President Whitman also requested that next year we not make alterations to the program after the February meeting as this creates problems for the flyer and the printer for the program.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Vendor Representative Shabro reported that we ended up with a few more vendors overall than last year.

KME will have two engines on display and Active Deployment Systems will have a 55' toilet trailer.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst requested that everyone push the raffle ticket sales. We have more live music this year with the Ramblin' Rangers performing before dinner and Jerry Smith and Co. performing after.

Publicity: Second Vice President Michael reported that the T-shirts are here in large and XL and that the videographer from RRU will be here to tape the conference.

Historian: Historian Whitman reported that he had brought the history books and his camera.

Safety: Director Forsyth reported that CHP Officer Hope Maxsom is scheduled for 15 min and that he has an air horn for any bears. He also reminded everyone of the use of the dinning bell for emergencies and the need to keep people from using it for nefarious purposes.

Golf: Director Snow reported that there were 52 players in the golf tournament this year. There were a lot of prizes donated for the tournament. Everything went very well but he could use more director support next year.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens reported that we are sending out 400+ email versions the newsletter and 120 via snail mail and as always he needs articles and photos.

Old Business: It was decided that the December meeting will be in Bakersfield and that the April meeting will be in Santa Barbara County.

Life Membership Recommendations: There were no Life Member recommendations.

New Business: Chairman Lannon nominated Director Vidales as Second Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Director Allen and the vote was unanimous. Director Snow made a motion that the Association purchase a plaque for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division's 100th anniversary, Director Allen seconded the motion and it passed. Director Forsyth motioned that we authorize \$200 for the purchase of the plaque, Chairman Lannon seconded the motion and it passed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held 1300 May 6, 2011 at Camp Pilgrim Pines, CA.

President Childers adjourned the meeting at 1737.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 6, 2011

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Troy Whitman at 1314 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, Oak Glen, California.

Officers and Directors Present:

Troy Whitman - Southern California Edison
Robert Michael - CAL FIRE - Riverside County
Frank Vidales - Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Gordon Martin - Cleveland National Forest
David Leininger - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept.
Chris Childers - Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
Dave Allen - CAL FIRE - San Diego County
Rod Megli - Ventura County Fire Dept.
Doug Lannon - CAL FIRE - San Bernardino Co.
Tim Ernst - Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Abigail Srader - CAL FIRE - Southern Region
Steve Griffin - Sequoia National Forest
Don Forsyth - Orange County Fire Authority
Paul H. Rippens - Newsletter Editor
Steve Reeder - CAL FIRE - San Luis Obispo Co.
Dan Snow - San Bernardino National Forest
Jim Neumann - Publicity

Officers and Directors Absent:

Tom Plymale - Los Padres National Forest
Mike Heffner - Kern County Fire Dept.
Ed Shabro - Vendor Representative

Guests:

Allie Srader—Future Member
Tony Caezza—Past President & Life Member
Larry Kurtz—Membership Committee



Minutes and Treasurer's Report: The meeting minutes and treasurer's reports from the May meetings will be presented at the December meeting.

Committee Reports:

Arraignments: Chairman Lannon reported that everything went pretty well and that there was no damage to the facilities reported. It was requested that the sign for the vegetarian entree be made more visible next year.

Program: First Vice President Michael that everyone brings ideas for the next conference to the December meeting and that they make sure that the speakers are available prior to the meeting.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Second Vice-President Vidales stated that he will make an effort to get more vendors next year.

Registration and Membership: Director Srader requested that any of the Officers and Directors that need name tags get an email to First Vice President Michael so that he can have them made. Director Srader reported that she needs a computer with Office 2007 in order to work with the membership database. Secretary Martin gave the secretary's computer which he does not use to Director Srader and Director Childers motioned that we authorize up to \$700 for the purchase of the software, First Vice President Michael seconded the motion and it passed.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst reported that we made \$489 at bingo and \$2,537 at the raffle.

Publicity: Chairman Neumann reported that he would get any publicity this coming year without spending any money.

Historian: Historian Whitman reported that he had taken pictures.

Safety: Director Forsyth reported that there were no injuries this year and no damage to the facilities and only minor damage involved in getting the toilet trailer out.

Golf: Director Snow requested again that he could use more help from the directors next year in running the tournament.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens had nothing new to report.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: President Whitman reappointed Dave Leininger as Association Treasurer and Gordon Martin as Association Secretary. It was decided to present certificates of appreciation to the Ramblin' Rangers and to Orange County Crew 1 for their help in putting on the conference. The Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2011-2012 is:

December 2, 2011 – Bakersfield
February 3 2012 – Orange County
April 6, 2012 – Santa Barbara County
May 2, 2012 – Camp Pilgrim Pines

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held 0900 December 2, 2011 at Bakersfield, CA.

President Whitman adjourned the meeting at 1434.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary



Our thanks to Past President and Life Member Bob Tinker for acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the 81st Annual Conference.

ATTENDING THE 81ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*By John R. Hawkins, Fire Chief
CAL FIRE, Riverside County Fire Department*

Now, nearly two weeks after the 81st Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens annual conference, I want to share some reflections with you why I believe the SCAFFW conference is one of the best learning opportunities available and why the organization is an institution of operational and safety improvements for the wildfire arena. Many of you have attended conferences for 20, 30, 40 or more years. I have only been lucky enough to attend since about 1995. Every year, the conference brings a new slate of speakers each bringing valued learning opportunities. As the CAL FIRE Riverside Unit Chief and Riverside County Fire Chief, I have learned something new (actually many new things every year) at each yearly conference. Plus, the camaraderie building value of the SCAFFW cannot be measured.

The SCAFFW conference provides great learning opportunities. Every speaker increases our knowledge and situational awareness (SA) reasoning. If we take the time to virtually apply (Walter Mitty Day Dreaming) each subject to our day to day wildfire challenges, we will all be better for it and safer. With the start of each conference,



John Hawkins sent this article on May 15, 2011. I thank him for taking his time to praise the SCAFFW. ed



the leaders emphasize how operations and safety will be emphasized. Each speaker follows that lead and ensures their programs emphasize operations and safety. As a result, we learn and learn a lot.

One of the great values of the annual SCAFFW conference is the camaraderie building among agencies, interagency and among individuals. I see it and benefit from the camaraderie building as does everyone else. Interagency barriers don't exist at the conference. Everyone is present for the same reason and values the interpersonal value of Fire Wardens. I just wish when people depart from the conference the same values would continue to the fires. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Interagency challenges reappear. As I have always stated, "We should maximize our strengths and minimize our differences." Please try this thought for fire season to improve interagency cooperation; we don't always have to agree but we also should not backstab our brother and sister fire agencies.

I love the SCAFFW golf tournament. Dan Snow, Troy Whitman and Bob Tinker have gone out of their way to provide us with quality tournaments on a quality course with great awards and a very productive raffle. I have learned over the years to well invest in raffle tickets as the rewards are huge. This year, I purchased a lot of raffle tickets and turned around 3X in prizes. During this economic downturn, this represents a huge investment return. Besides, as stated in the aforementioned paragraph, the camaraderie among interagency golfers is outstanding!

To all of the SCAFFW Directors who make the conference happen, I thank you so very much. Please don't give up the charge for the betterment of the SCAFFW. I just wish we could infuse younger members into the organization. I am honored to be a member of the SCAFFW and will try to engage more firefighters to join a great organization with a tremendous legacy of success and leadership.

LIVES GONE AND CHANGED IN AN INSTANT—THE LOOP FIRE OF NOVEMBER 1, 1966

By Paul H. Rippens

Most of us have read or heard about wildland fires on which firefighters were burned or killed. Mann Gulch, the Loop Fire, the Esparanza Fire and others remind us of the dangers wildland firefighters face on every fire they are dispatched. Through the efforts of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters, we have been able to hear accounts of the Mann Gulch Incident of 1949 by Bob Sallee, the last person alive that jumped on the fire that day. Most recently, we were able to listen to accounts of the tragic Loop Fire burnover of November 1, 1966.

The Loop Fire started in a canyon near the boundary of the Angeles National Forest. It was caused by a faulty electric distribution line and was spread rapidly by Santa Ana winds.

The fire occurred after a long dry summer. Only 1.44 " of rain had fallen in the fire area since March of that year. Santa Ana winds were blowing from the E-NE at 40-60 mph.

As the spread of the fire was slowing down, the El Cariso Hotshot crew arrived at a location on the east side of the burned area and on the top edge of the burn. Following instructions from the operations section chief, the hotshot crew superintendent led his crew in a direct attack of the fire's edge. They constructed a little bit of handline, but mostly cold trailed the inactive fire edge. Their intentions were to meet up with a Los Angeles County crew cutting line at the base of the slope.

At 1530 the county crew was stopped by a steep sided gully, By this time the hotshot crew had cold trailed deep into the chimney canyon, their actions slowed by the steepness of the route and rolling rocks. The hotshot superintendent decided that the terrain was too steep to continue cold trailing from the chimney canyon. Since there

was no fire on the east side of the gully, he decided that the quickest and safest way to contain the fire was to tie in with 300 feet of natural firebreaks by constructing about 200 feet of indirect handline through unburned fuel. He estimated that it would take about 15 minutes for the crew to complete this handline.

At 1535, the fire direction changed, surprising the superintendent and his crew. The fire had crossed the gully, ran up a 50 foot long slope and established itself in the chimney canyon below the hotshot crew. Before any suppression action could be taken on the hot spot, the fire swept up the chimney canyon and enveloped the crew. It is estimated that the fire flashed through the 2,200 foot long chimney canyon in less than one minute.

In an area 200 feet long and thirty feet wide, 10 members of the crew burned to death. The superintendent ran through the flames and stumbled, badly burned, into a safe area below. Four crewmembers and the division supervisor survived the fire in the upper end of the chimney. The remaining 11 crewmembers survived although two would succumb to their burns in the hospital.



1966 El Cariso Hotshot crew members Jerry Smith, Rich Leak and Ed Cosgrove—left to right

To listen to members of the 1966 El Cariso Hotshot crew that survived the fire was amazing. Their clear recollections of what occurred that day is something every wildland firefighter should hear. We thank these men for sharing their story.

