

Newsletter



Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2013-2014

OFFICERS

President Frank Vidales—LAC
First Vice President Tom Plymale—LPF
Second Vice Pres.— Steve Reeder—SLU
Secretary Gordon Martin—CNF
Treasurer David Leininger—LAC retired

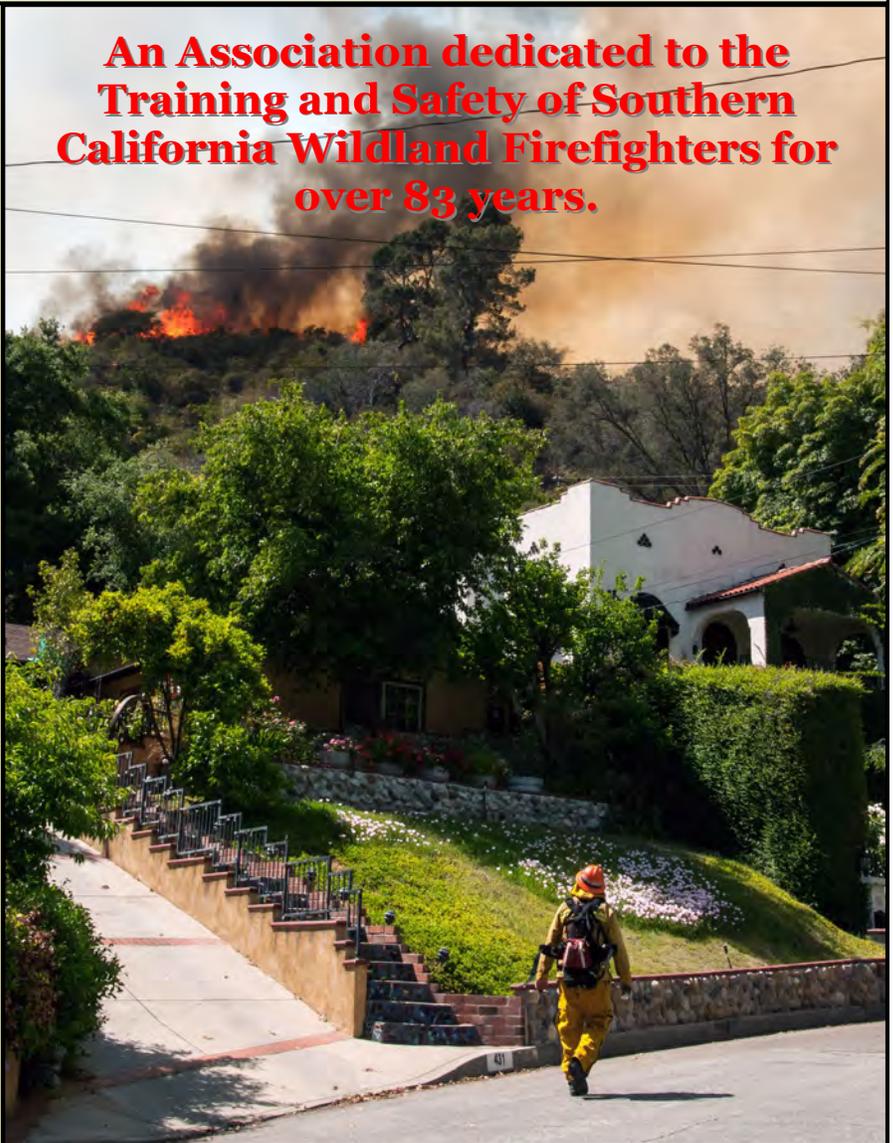
DIRECTORS

Troy Whitman—SCE
Dan Snow—BDF
Brian Skerston—ANF
Bart Kicklighter—SQF
David Allen—MVU
Ken Cruz—ORC
Dave Witt—KRN
Vaughan Miller—VNC
Tim Ernst—LFD
Ron Janssen—BDU
Chris Childers - SBC
Abigail Srader—CSR
Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative
Paul H. Rippens—Newsletter Editor
Doug Lannon—Arrangements
Don Forsyth—Safety

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 83 years.**



Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens
May 1 & May 3, 2013, Orange County, California

Fire Whirls



Frank Vidales has become the new president of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.

Frank was born in what is now present day Chinatown several blocks from Dodger Stadium. He graduated from Bell Senior High School and attended the University of California at Berkeley. "My time at UC Berkeley was amazing" he said. "I had the opportunity to meet students from all walks of life and from parts of the world that were foreign to me."

His first experience with a wind driven wild-fire occurred during his time as a student while living in Oakland. "I remember waking up the day of the "Tunnel Fire" (1991) in the Oakland/Berkeley hills and thinking to myself, this feels like LA weather. Unfortunately many people lost their lives and many homes/structures were burned including my apartment and personal belongings."

Frank began his career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Forestry Division in 1992. He was first assigned to the Lake Hughes Forestry Unit in northern Los Angeles County which suffered extensive damage from the Powerhouse Fire (Angeles National Forest). While at Lake Hughes, Frank was mentored by Tom Rossberger. "Tom was tough as nails; he was the kind of leader you wanted to go into battle with. Tom taught me to stay focused on the prize by tuning out the background noise."

In 1995, Frank was promoted to Forestry Assistant and was assigned to the San Dimas Forestry Unit until he was promoted to Deputy Forester in 1997. As a Deputy Forester, Frank started the Department's Fire Plan Unit and became the Department's first Pre-Fire Engineer.

He worked closely with his fellow Contract County Pre-Fire Engineers, CAL FIRE Southern Region Coordinators, and WUI stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Unit Fire Plan in Los Angeles County. He spent an enormous amount of time working with community groups, homeowners associations, and elected officials to develop strategic wildland fire mitigation plans and projects.

In 2003, Frank was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Forestry Division and was assigned to manage the Forestry Division's Natural Resources Section. In this capacity, Frank guided the Department's Vegetation Management Program, California Fire Plan, Environmental Review Program, and the Forestry Technical Operations Program. This is also the year where he was assigned to his first incident as Logistic Chief on the Simi-Verdale Fire. Since then, Frank has been assigned to many all-risk incidents as a Logistics Chief including homeland security incidents, civil unrest, train derailments, and wildland fires.

In 2003, Frank enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve and attended the Navy's premier boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. "My experience at Great Lakes was invaluable; I wanted to expand my emergency medical knowledge since I'm an EMT. Little did I know that the scope of practice in the military for a combat Hospital Corpsman was far-reaching and necessary to treat combat wounds." Upon graduating from Naval Training Center-Great Lakes as a Hospital Corpsman, Frank was sent to Petty Officer School at Camp Pendleton and March Air Reserve Base where he honed his leadership and management skills. Frank received an honorable discharge from the Navy in 2011.

In 2007, he was reassigned to the Forestry Operations Section where he managed the Forestry Division's Juvenile Ward Camp Program and five forestry operations units throughout Los Angeles County. In 2013, Frank was promoted to Chief of the Forestry Division.

Frank lives in Upland, CA and has been married to Irma Vidales for 17 years. He has two sons, a 15 year old and a 13 year old.

The Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens congratulates Frank on becoming President and on his recent promotion.



SCAFFW President Frank Vidales presents Past President Robert Michael with his Presidents certificate.

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Foresters & Fire Wardens

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.



2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS

The Board of Directors has begun working on the **84TH Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on **May 1 & 2, 2014** at the **Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center** in Orange County, California. After a successful 83rd conference, we ready to work on another. If you have any comments, please contact us through our e-mail address at SCAFFW@aol.com



You can now go directly to our web site by scanning the QRC (quick response code) with your smart phone.



Cover Photo The Madison Incident, City of Monrovia—April 20, 2013

Photo by Ken Morris

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS
84TH ANNUAL WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING AND SAFETY CONFERENCE.**

May 1 & 2, 2014

Check our web site for further information www.scaffw.org

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS-
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 1, 2013 & May 3, 2013**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Bob Michael at 1617 hours at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, Orange California on May 1, 2013.

Officers and Directors Present:

Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
Robert Michael – CAL FIRE – Riverside County
David Leininger – Treasurer
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Don Forsyth – Safety Chairman
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
Tom Plymale – Los Padres National Forest
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
Ken Cruz – Orange County Fire Authority

Officers and Directors Absent:

Bart Kicklighter – Sequoia National Forest
Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
Dave Allen – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
Ron Jansen – CALFIRE – San Bernardino County
Brian Skerston – Angeles National Forest
Vaughan Miller – Ventura County Fire Dept.

Guests:

Marc Hawkins – Member, OCFA, Retired
Larry Kurtz – Member, OCFA

Minutes: President Michael presented the minutes of the April 5, 2013 meeting for consideration. Motion by Director Whitman, seconded by Treasurer Leininger, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Leininger presented his report covering the period from April 5, 2013 to May 1, 2013

Balance as of 4-5-2013	\$27,925.85
Receipts: Dues and Conference Registration:	\$8,060.62
Total Receipts:	\$8,060.62
Disbursements: Gregg Bleifer (Band Deposit)	\$625.00
Total Disbursements:	\$625.00
Balance on hand:	\$35,361.47
Last year at this time:	\$27,500.48

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

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Arrangements Chairman Lannon Reported that he, 1st VP Vidales, and Co-Chairman Forsyth have spent parts of the last 3 weeks getting things ready. He has placed 3 of the larger “pine tree” signs out on the approaches to the Center. He will put out signs directing people toward registration. The water has been shut off to the area where the helicopters are to be staged to allow the ground to firm up. Special Ops has brought in 4 of their trailers on the back road. There is a problem with the AV in the meeting room but they have a resolution. They have the ELMO document camera for Gordon Graham’s presentation. Lannon has the keys to all of the rooms and barracks. Treasurer Leininger reported that he needs to let the camp know a week in advance what our meal count is and unlike Pilgrim Pines we pay for all of the meals whether they are eaten or not. Chairman Forsyth reported that he has 7 antique fire engines for display that are being set up. The Orange County Fire Authority Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums will be here as scheduled. A Chaplain from the Orange County Fire Authority will give the invocation.

Program: First Vice President Vidales reported that the program is ready and he thanked Director Snow for the cover photo. He went over the program to confirm with everyone that their speakers were ready. John Mclean has 72 copies of his book for sale and will be autographing copies. The FireGel demonstration had to be cancelled because the vendor had another commitment.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Second Vice President Plymale reported that there will be 19 vendors at the conference. We will have to see where the vendors want to set up with the new venue. Some of the vendors have asked about table, chairs, and electricity. The only tables available are the picnic tables and the only chairs are those in the meeting room. Director Cruz offered that, as an emergency backup, we could go to the Orange County Fire Authority Service Center and pick up some table and chairs.

Registration and Membership: Director Srader reported that she received 110 pre-registrations using the PayPal system. Registration is set up but, it is just her and Larry staffing registration so she will need someone to police the room as it can get loud in there. She has the meal tickets and receipts for the Directors if they can stop by registration after the meeting.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst stated that the band would be here about 1530 to start setting up and begin their sound checks at about 1630 and start playing at 1700. He will ask them to extend their first set until 1800 when dinner is scheduled. They are currently booked until 2100. Out of the 65-70 hard copy letters requesting donations, he had just received one response. It is a three day trip to Laughlin and will be the grand prize this year.

Publicity: President Michael reported that Director Miller won’t be here until Friday but, he will post things that we send him on face book.

Historian: Historian Whitman announced that he will be taking pictures and sending them to Director Miller.

Safety: Chairman Forsyth reported that a CHP Officer is scheduled to attend but that he has not talked directly to him. As a reminder there will be no onsite paramedics this year, we will need to dial 911. Chairman Lannon reported that the camp has seen several rattlesnakes this year.

Golf: Director Snow reported that there were 41 golfers this year and that things went well. We will need to conduct an online survey to find out how the golfers felt about the new course. President Michael thanked Director Snow for his work on the tournament.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens asked that anyone that has articles for the newsletter to please send them in to him. He is always looking for more articles and pictures. The web master will be putting a survey up on the web site after the conference. Next year we will need to have a cutoff date for online registration.

Old Business: Director Snow has the new shirts for those that have paid and those that have the cash to pay him now.

Life Membership Recommendations: None.

New Business: President Michael opened the floor to nominations for Second Vice President. Treasurer Leininger nominated Director Reeder. The nomination was seconded by Second Vice President Plymale. There were no further nominations and Director Reeder was elected.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held May 3, 2013 at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, Orange, California at 1300 hours.

President Michael adjourned the meeting at 1728.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Frank Vidales at 1313 hours at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, Orange, California on May 3, 2013.

Officers and Directors Present:

- Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
- Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
- Dave Allen – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
- Robert Michael – CAL FIRE – Riverside County
- David Leininger – Treasurer
- Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman
- Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
- Don Forsyth – Safety Chairman
- Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
- David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
- Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
- Tom Plymale – Los Padres National Forest
- Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
- Bart Kicklighter – Sequoia National Forest
- Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
- Ken Cruz – Orange County Fire Authority

Officers and Directors Absent:

- Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
- Ron Janssen – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
- Brian Skerston – Angeles National Forest
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Vaughan Miller – Ventura County Fire Dept.

Guests:

- Larry Kurtz – Member, Orange County Fire Authority
- Kurt Zingheim - Member, CAL FIRE – San Diego

Minutes: The minutes for the May 1 meeting will be presented at the December meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report for this period will be presented at the December meeting.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Chairman Lannon reported that the camp said that there were no issues. Things that need to be addressed for next year are the lack of trash cans, the frequency of servicing of the restrooms, and water and condiments on the tables throughout the day.

Program: President Vidales reported that we have been getting good feedback from the membership on this year’s program; however we need to do a better job of vetting our speakers so that they can communicate clear objectives. First Vice President Plymale requested that everyone bring presentations ready to go at the December meeting.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Chairman Lannon reported that Representative Shabro had to leave early but that the vendors reported that they had a good time and were actually making sales despite the snafu with the wind Thursday. There was a problem with the Special Ops trailers in that without the helicopters to draw people out in their direction they did not have as much visitation.

Registration and Membership: Director Srader reported that there were no problems with registration this year and everything went well. The final total of registrants was 172 with 16 no shows. We will need to add to the web site that there are no refunds for online registration one week prior to the conference. She thanked Member Larry Kurtz for his IT support again this year.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst reported that receipts from the raffle and bingo were down this year from last year. Ideas were put forward on how to increase raffle sales. Ideas included having the prizes on display at registration, having the Director’s give \$75 to Director Ernst to buy prizes and having Director Ernst publish a shopping list of suggested prizes. There was some comments from the membership that while the band was nice that was not why they came. The thought was voiced that we need to promote the evening activities more.

	2012	2013
Raffle Cash	\$1,350	\$1,751
Raffle Receipts	\$1,580	\$740
Raffle Total	\$2,930	\$2,491
Bingo	\$614	\$382
Grand Total	\$3,544	\$2,873

Publicity: There was no report from Director Miller.

Historian: Historian Whitman had to leave the meeting early but left copies of the photos with Editor Rippens.

Safety: Director Forsyth stated that there were no reported safety incidents at this year’s conference.

Golf: Director Snow reported that he will look into having a golf tournament next year. He will try to get information from the online survey on what people might be interested in as far as a venue.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens will get the changes up on the website this next week and get the newsletter out as soon as he can write an article about this year's conference, get the Presidents message and get the Board of Directors meetings notes.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Life Membership Recommendations: There were no Life Member recommendations.

New Business: President Vidales moved that Treasurer Leininger and Secretary Martin continue in their positions. Director Childers seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Vidales reappointed Director Srader as Membership Chairman, Life Member Lannon as Arrangements Chairman, Director Ernst as Entertainment Chairman, Life Member Forsyth as Safety Officer, Director Whitman as Historian, Director Snow as Golf Chairman, Director Miller as Publicity Chairman, and Life Member Rippens as Newsletter Editor. The Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2013-2014 is:

December 6, 2013 – Bakersfield

February 7, 2014 – Santa Barbara, County

April 4, 2014 – San Diego County

April 30, 2014 – Irvine Outdoor Education Center

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held December 6, 2013 in Bakersfield, California.

President Vidales adjourned the meeting at 1356.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary



The Orange County Fire Authority Pipes and Drums

The 83rd Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference

By Paul H. Rippens

After thirty years at Camp Pilgrim Pines, the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens finally changed the venue for the annual conference. The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center provided just about everything the Board of Directors was looking for in the way of a new, state of the art, conference center to hold this annual event.



Although the start of the conference was greeted by rather strong Santa Ana winds and both days offered warmer than usual weather, the new site provided many items that conference attendees seemed to like, the close proximity of everything and the table and chair arrangement rather than stadium style seating. The fact that several wildfires had broken out in Southern California did not help the attendance, but the conference had a nice group that seemed to enjoy themselves.

Although all the speakers were interesting and informative, John Maclean with his story on the Esperanza Fire—Arson, Murder and the Agony of Engine 57 and Gordon Graham with his entertaining talk on The Ten Families of Risk were the obvious hits of the conference.

The Board of Directors thanks all those who attend the conference and would like your feedback on the event. You can go to our web site at www.scaffw.org and take the quick survey that will give us information on what you liked and what you did not like. This will be sent to us electronically. Thanks and we'll see you next year.





2012-13 President Robert Michael—*CAL FIRE*



83rd Annual Conference Speakers



Author John Maclean with MC Steve Martin



Keynote Speaker William Metz, Forest Supervisor—*CNF*



Brad Mayhew, Fireline Factors Consulting



George Broyles, USFS, San Dimas Technology and Development Center



Gordon Graham, Graham Research Consultants



Drew Smith, LAC and Don Bousier, OCFA



Frank Vidales, incoming president presents outgoing President Robert Michael with his presidents certificate for a job well done

A Brief History of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department

The department began on April 5, 1926 as a service which the Board of Supervisors said, "... was of vital interest to all of the people of Santa Barbara County."

With the establishment of the Santa Barbara County Forestry Department, the day of the professional firefighter began.

Battling primarily vegetation fires with small trailers towed to the scene behind a Model A and Model T, those firefighters braved flames on the same hillsides and grasslands that today's firefighters climb when led to service.



Forester Frank E. Dunne joined forces with the Los Angeles County Forester and together created a wildland fire organization for safety and to train firefighters. This group also began what would be the predecessor of our widely recognized interagency Mutual-Aid agreement.

In 1956 the Santa Barbara County Forestry Department officially became the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Two years later, the tradition began where all fire apparatus were painted with the familiar white paint. The reasoning was simple: to provide a safer, more visible appearance and to make the interior of the cab cooler, as at that time there were no air conditioning units.

In 1963, Victor L. Mohr became the first Fire Chief.

With the rapid rise in population of the Goleta Valley due to the aerospace industry (the Apollo Lunar Rovers were designed and built near Station 11) and with the growth of UC Santa Barbara, the call came for increased fire protection.

And, again, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department answered.

Beginning in 1974, we were again at the forefront in the evolving world of the firefighter. With the launching of the paramedic program, advanced life support became possible in the field, saving countless lives ever since.

A Multi-Disciplinary Agency



With years of a burgeoning population and myriad of calls, today's County Fire Department resembles little of that agency from the early 20th Century.

When the alarm sounds, firefighters may encounter any number of life-threatening calls. Vehicle, aircraft, or train accidents, hazardous materials, urban search and rescue, structure fires, water rescue, medical emergencies, technical rope rescue, the need for air-support, confined space rescue, fire line construction, and, of course, vegetation fires.

The Department has progressed a long way since its inception. It is more diverse, better educated, and highly trained. Its firefighters have for generations risen to the challenges placed in their path, and its dedicated personnel remain proud to wear the uniform of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

The Department at a Glance



- 16 Fire Stations (16 Engines / 1 Truck Company)
- 2 Battalions (Battalion 1 South 7 Stations, Battalion 2 North 9 Stations)
- 3 Divisions (Support Services, Fire Prevention, Operations)
- 245 fulltime employees
- Over 14,00 incidents annually

Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County is known around the globe. It is home to over 420,000 residents with millions of tourists visiting the area annually. With over 100 miles of sandy beaches, Cachuma Lake, and a rugged mountain range topping at 6,820 feet, there is something for everyone here.



The county is also home to the Nation's newest National Park, U.S. Space Command's Vandenberg Air Force Base, the University of California Santa Barbara, Los Padres National Forest, dozens of award-winning wineries and vineyards, vast cattle and ranch lands, oil fields, high-tech jobs, top rated community colleges, and

two regional airports. If that isn't enough, there are countless locations to slow down, shop, dine and enjoy Santa Barbara County.

Responding to over 14,000 incidents a year, the men and women of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department continue a long tradition that began in 1926 of being there to answer the call.



This article was copied from the web site of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (www.sbcfire.com) and used with permission of that department

Harold "Paul" Stimson

Life Member Paul Stimson passed away in Boise, ID on Sunday, May 19. Paul was retired from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department where he spent many years as "Superintendent 2", the Captain at Camp 2 before being promoted to Battalion Chief.



Paul served as the Association Secretary from 1975 thru 1982 before becoming the Director from Los Angeles County. For many years he would drive from Boise, ID to Southern California for the Annual Conference. He will be missed.



The Liebre Mountain Fire—1968

*By David Boucher from his book
"Ride the Devil Wind"*

Occasionally, in the late spring and early summer, a strong northwesterly wind will funnel cooler air down through the long valley in which lies Interstate 5 leading from Gorman in the northwest, to the vicinity of Castaic, Saugus and Newhall. A true Santa Ana wind is from the northeast. However, this northwest wind produces the same drying and warming effect here, as a result of compressional heating. Should a brush or forest fire ignite, its direction of spread will be considerably different.



On June 21, 1968, such a combination of meteorological events did occur. A fire subsequently started near Liebre Mountain, along a branch of Highway 138, the Quail Lake Road, about five miles due east of Gorman, in the extreme northwest corner of Los Angeles County. Captain Phil Goodell of Patrol Station 77 at Quail Lake and a full brush response of engines 76, 78, 73, 273 and 373, as well as a similar response by the USFS, were on the call. They were soon overwhelmed, as the fire spread rapidly down I-5 (then called Highway 99). It was headed toward Castaic, some 18 miles to the southeast. A second alarm was called. This was followed by a rapid buildup of forces until a Plan III was reached in conjunction with the USFS, in whose territory the fire lay.

At a point about eight miles south of Gorman, Captain Goodell and La Canada Engine 382 found themselves crossing ahead of the path of the fire on a

dirt Edison Company access road. This road led to the "Old Ridge Route", an abandoned two-lane road one mile to the east of Highway 99. The plan was to "fire out" ahead of the blaze if at all possible, in order to rob the advancing flames of consumable fuel. Unfortunately, the fuel volume was too large and the wind too strong for this plan to succeed. To make matter worse, the fire arrived much too soon for the crew to effect an escape in either direction.

The crew of Engine 382 crawled under their pumper with charged hoselines and covered up as best they could. Captain Goodell threw fuses in an attempt to decrease the fuel supply, until the last second. Flames overcame him before he could get into the cab of his patrol truck. The crew of Engine 382 escaped with some second and third degree burns. Captain Goodell suffered third-degree burns over much of his body and was airlifted by Copter 10 to the County-USC Hospital burn ward soon thereafter. Chief Klinger accompanied him and the medical team of the flight, reassuring Goodell and comforting him as the chief was able to do so well. Sadly, Captain Goodell passed away soon after arrival at the hospital burn ward.

Captain Goodell was known to be a devoted fireman who fiercely defended his district responsibility whenever called upon to do so. His death illustrated a strong lesson for all county firemen—not only to avoid entering such a hazardous set of circumstances, but to always, when possible, get into the enclosed cab of the apparatus, air masks in place, when danger threatens. A fast-moving fire will pass by, probably damaging the apparatus, but without injuring the crew. Captain Goodell, if circumstances had been slightly different, might have gotten into his patrol truck's cab. But Engine 382 did not have an enclosed cab—like 98 percent of County engines at that time. Since 1968, all County fire apparatus have been delivered with fully-enclosed cabs.

