

# TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011



The National Smokejumper Association Trails Program has enjoyed an outstanding relationship with the Back Country Horsemen in Montana and Idaho over the past thirteen years. If it weren't for the supportive and continued exceptional efforts of them, we in the Trails Program would not have had the successes that we and the Forest Service have enjoyed. We definitely would not have been going into the wilderness areas to perform maintenance and construction work on trails and facilities. Jim Renshaw and his pack string crew exemplify the partnership we enjoy with the Back Country Horsemen.

The NSA Trails Program is taking the opportunity to dedicate this year's Annual Report to the Montana and Idaho Back Country Horsemen as exemplified by Jim Renshaw and his pack string crew of Larry Cooper, Joe Robinson, and Paul McConnell. They packed us into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in 2011, as well as for the past several years.

## NSA Trails Program Volunteers of the Year

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### The Back Country Horsemen of Montana and Idaho

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Edited and Published by **Fred Cooper** (North Cascades '62)

# Johnson's Corner Report

By Stan Linnertz (Missoula '61)

September 14, 2011 was declared "Smokejumper Day" by Johnson's Corner, one of our most staunch supporters of the NSA Trail Crew Program. The day was a barn burner -- thanks to **Chauncey and Christy Taylor**, the owners of Johnson Corner. That day, they donated 15 percent (over \$1,700) of their restaurant sales to the NSA Trails Program. This is in addition to two projects over the past several years for which they provide food and the services of **Chef Chuck Orona** (Associate).

Thanks to **Wild Bill Yensen** (McCall '53) and **Steve Carlson** (Idaho City '62), the

Smokejumper picture display continues to grow. And thanks also to Chuck, Chef at Johnson's Corner and on the Dixie and Sawtooth Trails Projects in 2011 who posted the pictures on display sheets.

Thanks also to **Doug Wamsley** (Missoula '65) for spending the day shaking hands and talking to the folks that stopped by. Doug says several of these folks were very interesting. Thanks also to **Doug and Mary Lou Howard** who stopped by and made Chuck's day.

If you would like to send a "thank you" to Chauncey and Christy, send it to their web site at [www.johnsonscorner.com](http://www.johnsonscorner.com). Order their famous Cinnamon Rolls online!

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## Logistics Report

By Gary Weyerman (Missoula '63)

We sent out 1,300 meals with our project crews this summer. We supported ten crews with food, cooking gear, and tools that varied in crew size from 6 to 14. One crew went out in June with the other nine going out in July. Providing the food and all the tools and gear in tip top shape would not have been possible without the assistance of many folks including as a minimum, the following: **Rod McIver, Chuck Fricke, Tom Blunn, Jim Phillips, Dick Hulla, Ron Larson, Wendell Beardsley, Bob Whaley, and Ted Nyquest.**

The "big move" made in 2011 was the purchase of a storage corner and locating it at the Aerial Fire Depot. In the Spring of 2012 several of us will be building shelves and moving gear from **Jon McBride's** (Missoula '54) storage shed to the AFD site.

A very special thanks to **Kim Maynard** (Missoula '82) and **Al Chambers** (Associate) for their kind and generous cash donation for the vast majority of funds needed to purchase and move the steel storage container to AFD. **Thank you Kim and Al!**

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## Accomplishment Report—2011

By Fred Cooper (North Cascades '62)

We had 21, one-week projects in 2011 in eight different states. There were 175 Jumper and Associate volunteers contributing 10,500 hours (five person years) of service. Approximately 125 were Jumper volunteers and 50 were Associate volunteers. The value of services provided equates to

over \$200,000 (based on the per hour value of volunteer services provided by the Forest Service).

For 2012, we have 24, one-week projects planned requiring the services of nearly 200 volunteers in nine different states. Make your selection of projects you want to enjoy and sign up by April 16.

# Blodgett Canyon Trail

By Hall Howell (Missoula '55)

The relatively short drive to the Blodgett Canyon trail started on a sunny morning, and thanks to **Gary Baker** (Missoula '67) and his truck, all of our supplies went with us. Our crew included three generations of Howells, myself, **George, Lucas**, and **Geof**, (all three Associates) and **Tom Boatner** (Fairbanks '80), **Scott Bates** (McCall '69), **Lin Robbins**, (Associate), and **Karin Connelly** (Associate).

We started on the easy 7-mile hike to the campsite. It is a beautiful trail alongside Blodgett Creek all the way to an open meadow. The packers passed us and had our gear unloaded by the time we arrived.

After a short mile walk the next morning, we were astounded to see a massive blow-down with 24 to 30-inch trees stacked one on top of another blocking the trail. Since this was inside the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness we had only Pulaskis and crosscuts to deal with them. So it began. With a lot of sweat and engineering about where to cut and

how to cut, we cleared a path. That night we were awakened by a rock slide across from our camp. No one got out of their sleeping bags. It would have been too late anyway if it had been going to hit our camp.

The third night a thunderstorm came through and as we started up the trail to work we found six more trees across the trail that we had already cleared, such is fate. That day found another jackpot similar to the first one.

The next day, more rain all night and till noon. All in all, three major blow-downs that took a day each and about four miles of trail cleared. Over 60 logs were cut with most in the 18 to 36-inch diameter range with many 6 to 8 feet overhead.

Finally, on the day we hiked out the sun returned and we got in a little fishing as we hiked. Thanks to Karin, the food was great and thanks to Tom and Scott, the younger Howells obtained a good education on Jumper stories. Till next year -- Hal Howell.

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## Blue Creek Trail

By Tim Aldrich (Missoula '62)

The Blue Creek Trail Project Team for 2011 included **Nancy McIver** (Associate) our great cook, and the following Missoula jumpers:

NAME	YEAR TRAINED	YEARS JUMPED
<b>Jeff Kinderman</b>	75	32
<b>Robert McKean</b>	67	11
<b>Joe Chandler</b>	71	30
<b>Kim Maynard</b>	82	9
<b>Bruce Ford</b>	75	31
<b>William Thomas</b>	75	25
<b>David Dayton</b>	69	9
<b>Rod McIver</b>	64	20
<b>Dick Hulla</b>	75	21
<b>Perry Whittaker</b>	71	6
<b>Tim Aldrich</b>	62	7
<b>TOTAL YEARS JUMPED WAS 201 -- an average of 18.27 years per person.</b>		

This crew of relative newcomers and obviously lightweights headed for the headwaters of Grasshopper Creek in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests on July 17. Emotions were running high after sweeping the awards during the previous day's saw competition. Arriving at Harrison Park Trailhead located just off the Pioneer Mountains National Scenic Byway, team members headed for a large, gloriously green meadow in the nearby Shoestring Creek drainage that would be base camp for the week. With the able support of Dick Hulla and his two horses and two young men and three beasts of burden from the nearby ranger district, we were soon setting up tents, organizing the kitchen and eating areas and, of course, digging the customary deep hole with an appropriately sized and shaped log over the top of it.

Due to scheduling problems with the packer who was involved in the Bannack Days Celebration on the 17th, some of our large and heavy items were, with the able assistance of the Forest Trail Program Manager, **Gordon Ash**, delivered to camp the next morning.

For the next 5 glorious days, the team performed a variety of maintenance and relocation tasks on over 15 miles of trail on six different Forest Service trails. Working in landscapes at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 8,500 feet, we enjoyed sunny days with mild temperatures. The trails traversed several large lush meadows with wild flowers abounding, open lodgepole pine stands and, on occasion, groves of mature spruce and subalpine fir. The wet spring provided marvelous habitat for wildlife, mostly mosquitoes. The deodorants of choice for the project had names like Repel Scented Family Formula, Off-Deep Woods, and Unscented Cutter Backwoods. With 11 well fed worker bees supported by Hulla's two trusty steeds, we were able to split into two or three small groups on most days and cover a lot of miles. Daily, we had tailgate safety and strategy sessions to go over the previous day's work and get prepared for the next.

This young, well conditioned, highly intelligent and motivated team of outstanding individuals did an amazing amount and variety of high quality work and did it without a single injury. Job well done!

This was another great project with a great group of people. All the team members offer their sincere thanks to those who have worked diligently to keep the NSA Trail and Facilities Maintenance Program alive and well. Without the leadership and hard work of **Bob Whaley** (Missoula '56), **Jim Phillips** (Missoula '67), **Gary Weyermann** (Missoula '63), **Fred Cooper** (North Cascades '62), **Chuck Fricke** (Missoula '61) and their supporters, this great tradition of smokejumpers giving back to the citizens of this country would falter, and we find that completely unacceptable. At the end of the project and after expressing this appreciation, the team's final comment was: THANKS, NOW BRING ON THE NEXT ONE!

P.S --We had a great head cook and an talented helper who together prepared a Dutch Oven birthday dinner, including a marvelous desert, for Kim who bashfully admitted that she turned 29 on that special day. We did not examine the data above in an attempt to validate her admission.

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## Wilderness Canoe Base (BWCA)

By **Fred Donner** (Missoula '59)

**THE CREW** - WCB 2011 was a combined Forest Service and church camp project involving jumpers, wives, associates, and WCB staff. **Jim Cherry** (Missoula '57), **Chuck Sheley** (Cave Junction '59), and **John McDaniel** (Cave Junction '57), all NSA board members, brought their lovely wives, respectively **Judy, KG, and Marcell**. (Note that I didn't say these were lovely couples, only that the wives were lovely.) Jim Cherry and **Chuck Sheley** (Cave Junction '59) need no introduction to readers but I will add that they are two obsessive and compulsive characters. Jim is determined to eliminate invasive balsam fir in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Chuck left no stone unturned looking for dirty dishes as chief dishwasher. (My wife should have such a husband.) John McDaniel, a retired Navy pilot, once the air boss on a nuclear carrier, had led our first eastern states volunteer crew in West Virginia in June. John is a native

redneck but he wore shoes for this project. **Ed Schlachtenhaufen** (Associate), now a retired Lutheran pastor in Wisconsin, was a junior high school, senior high school, forestry school, and seminary classmate of Jim Cherry. It seems that retired Lutheran pastors come in pairs like Roman Catholic sisters. **Jack Heiden** (Cave Junction '54) was an orthopedist in Madison, Wisconsin for 42 years until he tired of night calls. He is now a part-time VA Hospital doctor. **Robert Miller** (Missoula '61) retired from a career with the Alberta Forest Service after a short stint tiring of regulations in the U.S. Forest Service. He brought his friend, **Charles Paul** (Associate), a retired copier repairman. Both Bob and Charles have extensive Habitat for Humanity experience which proved useful. The associates Ed and Charles were new but all the jumpers had many previous projects.

All the men except one 60's kid were in their 70's. (I didn't ask about the ages of wives. Contrary to popular opinion, I am not totally uncouth.) I was on my fifth project and second Boundary Waters project coming easily from our second home in Minnesota. I was acclaimed by voice vote to write this report, mine the only nay vote. **Scott Belknap** (McCall '83), **Jack Atkins** (Missoula '68), **Richard Trinity** (Missoula '66), and **Christian Bane** (WCB staff) will be adding their separate report on the Forest Service project. None of this would have happened without the outstanding work of **Drew Heinonen**, WCB manager. Drew was a WCB canoe guide for three years before he became manager. After graduating from a Lutheran college, Drew studied lutherie and became a Lutheran luthier. Those jumpers who never finished school and never learned to use a dictionary can have someone look it up.

**WHAT IS WCB?** –WCB is a Lutheran church camp begun in 1956. During his active pastorate, Jim Cherry was WCB director for ten years from 1973, thus the obvious connection as to how NSA got to WCB for now the second year. It is located on Fishhook Island and Dominion Island at the end of the Gunflint Trail about 58 miles northwest of Grand Marais, Minnesota. The Gunflint Trail is one of the longest school bus and postal routes in the country. About half of aptly named Fishhook Island is in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Main base on Fishhook is reached by watercraft from the Gunflint Trail in summer and by vehicle over ice in winter. The rustic timber open-air chapel and other buildings on Dominion Island are reached by a magnificent cable suspension bridge from Fishhook. WCB has been partially destroyed by fire at least three times in its history. The many buildings, some of them massive, are scattered over approximately 40 acres on Fishhook and accessed only by rocky trails. Every single item that comes to either island is hand carried to its destination. This includes heavy timbers and cement and steel as well as all food and supplies. There are no wheeled vehicles on either island. Electricity and telephone come by submarine cable from the mainland. Propane comes via the only underwater propane supply system in Minnesota.

An electrical system supplies treated lake water for consumption and a propane-powered system supplies untreated water to a system of fire sprinklers. The six outhouses at WCB are the eighth wonder of the architectural world. Since the rocky terrain does not lend itself to conventional digging, another solution was required. Each outhouse sits atop four six-by-six pillars extending ten or more feet in the air. Each one is actually a duplex with two doors sharing a common inside wall. An elevated wooden walkway reaches to the nearest rocky outcropping. The receptacle is a huge vertical culvert pipe perhaps five feet in diameter and at least ten feet high. One does not go after dropped objects. The one pictured was inspired by Dr. Seuss.

**WHAT DID WE DO?** We were the only occupants of camp, arriving after the summer camping season and before fall and winter retreats begin. The first day came wet, windy, and cold and delayed the launching of the canoe crew. The second day was a little better and the canoeists departed. The rest of the week was warm autumn shirt sleeve weather considerably raising morale. For those of us who stayed at WCB, a principal project was “fire wising” the many wooden structures. We were not “fireproofing” the camp by removing trees but trimming trees to chest height and removing ground clutter for about ten yards around each building to reduce ground level fuels. We also cleared brush from fire sprinkler heads to get better water dispersion if needed. Another major project was removing high scaffolding from a newly constructed outhouse and carrying the heavy lumber to the dock for recycling. Bob and Charles, our Habitat veterans, with help from Ed and Jack, stained the faded exterior of the dining room and main lodge “Pinecliff” and somehow seemed to keep clean doing it. They also replaced some window frames and worn handrails and steps. The lovely ladies earlier mentioned planned meals with considerable help from Drew, the only WCB staffer present. Jim Cherry, as he usually does, brought lots of Iowa meat and vegetables and honey for the larder telling us all how good Iowa products are. Everyone pitched in with kitchen and dining room chores. As apropos a church camp, table grace was said or sung at every meal.

***DID WE HAVE FUN?*** Happy Hour arrived at 4:30 each afternoon in the Pinecliff lodge near the fireplace adjoining the dining room. We watched the “Smokejumper” DVD, a good experience for the associates and Drew. Drew took us on several water trips exploring Seagull Lake surrounding Fishhook and Dominion Islands. Most evenings were spent around the Pinecliff fireplace. Luthier Drew and Christian entertained us with a musical program our last evening. John and Marcel were sleeping upstairs, the only nighttime occupants of Pinecliff, and they were overrun by mice the first night. Five-gallon buckets half-full of water with peanut butter bait suspended on rods across the top were deployed the remainder of our stay.

The “mouse count” of the mice drowned the night before was a featured announcement at breakfast. I suggested keeping a cat in Pinecliff and not feeding it too well. Entertainment was furnished after lunch each day in the form of Ole and Sven and Ole and Lena jokes. This was to introduce Minnesota culture to the various non-natives present. Drew is a superb raconteur with same. You can Google “Ole and Sven” or “Ole and Lena” to get some of the flavor for yourself. Once again, as I never tire of saying, we disguise our NSA projects as patriotism and public service when actually we are reliving the best job we ever had with the greatest bunch of people we ever knew.

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## Boundary Waters Trail (BWCA)

By Richard Trinity (Missoula ‘66)

*Crew Members*— **Jack Atkins** (Missoula ‘67), **Scott Belknap** (McCall ‘83), **Christian Bane** (Wilderness Canoe Base Staff), and myself.

*Work Completed*— Replace footbridge vertical railing post and eight angled supporting posts.

And so it was that Jack came from Montana and I from SW Iowa to meet in Grand Marais, Minnesota, and convoy to the Wilderness Base Canoe Camp to hook up with Scott from Minnesota and the rest of the larger NSA crew who were to arrive the same day, but as it turned out later than we did. At mid-afternoon when no one was at the mainland dock or to answer the phone on the Fishhook Island home base, rather than just sit around, we loaded our gear on a pontoon boat and motored over to the island on our own.

And so it was that the project was delayed one day because of high winds and risk of capsizing the transporting canoes which proved to be a wise decision since a family of four experienced such and arrived at our island dock seeking help which we were glad to do by transporting them and their canoes to the mainland after contacting their outfitter where to pick them up.

And so it was we spent the windy day in base camp fixing board walk and walkway to one of the camp lakeshore cabins in between rain showers and using 500 feet of electrical cord for tools we knew we would not be able use on the project

since it is in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Area which prohibits motorized equipment. In fact even sailboats are prohibited in the wilderness because...? Uh...we never discovered the reason.

And so it was we paddled away early the next day with calm winds and loaded 18.5 foot Kevlar canoes propelled with 30% greater efficiency bent paddles which were entirely new to half the crew who promptly responded to corrective hollering from the fading dock to turn our paddles the other way.

And so it was that after the 15 minutes of paddling we heard a loud unprintable epithet and returned to base camp to retrieve and load the final refrigerated food pack for the project which subsequently proved to be a tasty reward and the time spent for retrieval faded rapidly in light of the five lakes and four portages traversed on the way to the project base camp where we arrived later that afternoon.

Suffice it to say that unloading and loading all the personal gear, tools, materials, and food packs and packing them and the canoes between the lakes is a necessary nuisance. It actually got down to a well organized activity and we only needed to make two trips for each portage. Christian distinguished himself as a pack horse. Of course we met other travelers at the trailheads

and passing canoes. There seemed to be a natural backwoods camaraderie and we had some interesting and pleasant conversations.

Arriving at our Ogishkemuncie Lake Base Camp, which was the highlight of the first day, it was nice to be able to sit still without having to move ones arms. Camp was situated on a rocky knoll with a great view of the surrounding scenery, lovely haunting calls of the resident loons, and a gentle breeze. An overturned canoe on logs makes a fine dining room table. The first evening meal of spaghetti with 3 to 4 lbs of beef and sausage meat sauce, hot buttered bread slices, fresh mixed greens salad with choice of dressing, and fresh ground coffee (including half & half !) was eaten without complaint except for lack of ice cream dessert. Chef Belknap was a class act providing other victuals of hot coal baked potatoes, beef steak, marinated (some chunky green liquid in a plastic bag) pork cutlets, sausage and eggs, and more food we didn't have time to eat since we got done with the project a day early.

The task was to replace aging parts of railing on an older, but well made, bridge over a 30 foot creek ravine on the Kekekabic Trail located two lakes from base camp so that going to and from the work site each day required more paddling and portaging. All the getting in and out of canoes can be a little tricky and, yes, it is possible to overturn at the shoreline in 16 inches of water. "Tippy," however, wore light weight clothing and was eventually able to dry it all in the sun on a large rock and bridge railing at the work sight. Fortunately there were no passerby's subjected to an unshaven, barefoot, odoriferous old man in undershorts and a work shirt pounding nails on the bridge.

Nearby cedar trees were harvested and peeled to provide the needed vertical rail pole and angled support struts which were then drilled and secured in place. Other planking brought to the site was stored for future use. Despite the slower pace of work using only hand tools, the repairs were completed one day ahead of schedule so we turned our faces northeast towards camp and then home, breaking camp bright and early the final day.

In addition to getting wood supply for the daily fire, Jack Atkins set up his sun shower which was a welcome and very pleasant experience for men in the wild at the end of the day. We all helped with the camp chores, cooking and dishwashing--doing what was needed at the time. Until daylight faded, the mild evenings were spent talking around the campfire and listening to the district radio chatter of fire personnel and the pilots of three Beavers on floats as they monitored a couple of nearby forest fires, one of whose smoke plume we could readily see and which blew up out of control nicely by the time we exited the area.

The open air "throne" style of USFS constructed latrine was convenient and the lid trapped most of the flies. I washed my lone work shirt one day and enjoyed my folding chair which was NOT left behind for "weight considerations." Others enjoyed the usual hard dirt, rock and log seating—their choice.

While in our canoes we stopped once and watched a family of otters cavorting in the water near us and earlier a bald eagle circled overhead. Of course, Sea Gull Lake had seagulls which had turned a rock in the lake entirely white from their droppings-- making it a visible "landmark" for a great distance. One canoe sprang a significant leak from a rock puncture but was repaired satisfactorily with duct tape.

We were welcomed home at the dock by other NSA volunteers and **Rigby**, the camp dog. The last supper was celebrated at the island base camp by the entire project crew including some residual Ole and Lena/Sven jokes and a post repast mini-concert of songs by Christian and **Drew Heinenon** (camp manager) self-accompanied by stringed instruments. The prize for catching the most mice (five) in a bedroom at one time using a homemade mousetrap made with a water bucket, small horizontal rod, and peanut butter covered beer can went to Mrs. John McDaniel. Congratulations!

# Bunker Creek Trail

By Manny Haiges (Missoula '58)

The crew members were **Jim Thompson** (Missoula '63), **Richard Trinity** (Missoula '66), **Rod McIver** (Missoula '64), **Chuck Haines** (Associate), and myself. We all met at the Elkhorn Café in Hungry Horse, together with **Nick Cheney** (Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation) for the required briefing and dinner before heading up the South Fork of the Flathead River to the Spotted Bear Ranger Station ..... 59 miles of miserable twist and turns and, as always, dirt, gravel, and dust.

The next morning brought us to the trail-head .....a large mass of dirt blocking an old logging road (which is now the beginning of the trail) beyond which motorized vehicles were prohibited. The Forest Service packer, together with his young helper showed up with their pack string. I believe there were seven to nine horse and mules in all. I could only think that this packer of small stature has got to be one tough hombre. His young helper couldn't weigh more than 90 pounds and the ensuing work he was about to do seemed to be next to impossible. Jim had brought his own packing gear, i.e., pack boxes, tables, tarps, etc., and together with our individual tents, sleeping bags and personal gear, not to mention food, propane, two chain saws, and a new fangled clumsy-as-hell power brush saw.....it was a lot of gear. As you would expect, the packer and his young partner took it all in stride.

The most interesting part of this whole trail project was that our hike never exceeded zero to one percent, up or down (obviously). The hike to our camp site on Bunker Creek was over the above described logging road, about five miles going in and, seemingly, at least 10 miles over the same stretch coming out. The camp site was pretty much at the beginning of the work project on the Bunker Creek Trail (outside the wilderness boundary), which is also over an old road bed at zero to one percent grade following up the creek for about two miles before crossing over it.

Maintaining a trail over an old road bed may sound like a piece of cake for a trail project, but nothing was further from the truth. There were stretches on this trail where you could literally not see one foot in front of you. The alder grows up from the ditches on both sides, then turns inward over the trail (road), reaching heights of well over ten feet.

Jim, was once again the woodsman that he is.....at home with his chain saw. Chuck found a new toy and lived for the brush saw. Rich was seen reliving his quarterback days tossing the brush for touchdowns. When driving back to Hungry Horse in Rich's truck he was asked what year is this? His reply, "2011." And so it continued. Rod, well Rod was Rod during the whole week. If you are unsure about Associates being part of a trail crew, get together with Chuck. He is one heck of a worker, and appreciated by all.

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## Carey Dome Lookout

By Laura Pramuk, Recreation Program Manager, Payette NF

This year once again a group of retired smokejumpers, sponsored by the National Smokejumper Association, got together to complete a project that began in 2010 at the historic Carey Dome Lookout in McCall Idaho, Payette National Forest. The group of volunteers worked from July 25 – 29 on a variety of projects to complete the restoration of the still active fire lookout station called Carey Dome.

The 2011 work consisted of finishing up the cabin roof and floor, and building a storage shed to house solar panels for the lookout radio and refrigeration system. The storage shed was built using recycled logs from the recently disassembled South Fork Guard Station facility. The logs were erected up at Carey Dome. "The guard station logs matched the era and look of the Carey Dome cabin and were a good match to use at the site" stated the Forest Archeologist **Larry Kingsbury**.

The project was lead and organized by **Dan Pierson** (Boise '76) a smokejumper with the Forest Service from 1976 to 2003. Pierson began the effort to organize retired jumpers for a project on the Payette National Forest in 2010 by contacting NSA about putting together a volunteer project, and then recruiting a crew of about 10 retired jumpers. The project was successful but extensive enough that it required another go-round in 2011. "This year's crew was a bit smaller" said Pierson, "but they all worked hard and we were able to accomplish some great work during the week". Retired smokejumper volunteers attending this year's project included

**Jim Rush** (McCall '65), **Dan Pierson**, **Larry Swan** (McCall '68), and **Earl Dodds** (McCall '49). They were joined by the Payette National Forest fire crew, **Dave LeClair** (retired Payette Forest Carpenter), and family members along with McCall District Ranger **Lisa Klinger** and Forest Archeologist **Larry Kingsbury**.

Evenings were filled with tales of past adventures and delicious dutch oven meals were shared by all. McCall District Ranger Lisa Klinger thanked the group for all their work when she attended a work session to review progress and help out a bit on the last night of the project.

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## Challenge Creek Cabin

By **Jim Anderson** (Missoula '58)

Crew Members were **Bob Hewitt** (Missoula '56), **Bill Tucker** (Missoula '50), **Hans Trankle** (Missoula '51), **Pete Holrup** (Missoula '55), and **Phyllis Geddes** (Associate).

Saturday, July 16. Arrived Missoula, meeting at Jokers Wild, and dinner at Missoula Club.

Sunday, July 17. Breakfast at Ruby's, picked up food and tools at **Jon McBride's** (Missoula '54), and drove to Columbia Falls. Lunch at the Night Owl Café with **Nick Cheney** of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. Received new direction for the weeks work, radio, general instructions, and drove to Challenge Creek Cabin and set up camp for the seek.

Monday, July 18. Met with **Coulter Pence** from the Forest Service Hungry Horse District Office. Major assignment was to replace three large bulletin boards, clean up shed and cabin grounds, and scout some local trails as time permitted.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 19-21. Worked on the three large bulletin boards. Removed old boards and replaced them with new boards. Removing the very large and heavy old posts was time consuming. Morrison Creek, Granite Creek, and the main road were the locations for the bulletin boards. We also scouted the Puzzle Hill Trail.

Friday, July 22. Bad weather kept us in the cabin area and we started the process of closing down the camp.

Saturday, July 23. Departed camp early for return to Missoula. Stopped at Hungry Horse Ranger Station to return district and Bob Marshall equipment. Also dropped off NSA Trail Crew chainsaw for the smokejumper crew to use next week. Returned tools to shed at Jon McBride's.

Week of July 25 had a telephone conversation with Nick Cheney that all was in order.

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## Gobi Restoration, aka Siskiyou Smokejumper Base

Restoration of the former Siskiyou Smokejumper Base is becoming a reality with the dedication of many former Cave Junction Jumpers, their family members, friends, and the community. This has been a multi-year project with the ultimate objective for having a historical museum.

Rather than repeat reports of the progress

here, the latest news is presented in the October 2011 Smokejumper Magazine and many photos and progress reports are available at **[www.highway199.org](http://www.highway199.org)**. Look under the "unique places" tab for the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base and also the "projects" tab for Smokejumper Base Restoration Project.

# Clean Slate Fencing

By **Laura Smith, Public Affairs Specialist, Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests**

Grangeville, ID---**Tom Osen**, Salmon River Ranger District, had the opportunity to observe first-hand the volunteer work being done by the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) on the Clean Slate Fencing Project. Tom shared, “I’m really appreciative of the hard work these fellows have done and it’s especially great to have current smokejumpers working alongside jumpers from the past.”

The project was proposed to the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee in 2010 and approved for Secure Rural Schools funding. A crew of NSA volunteers worked last summer on the project and carryover funding allowed the remainder of the project to be completed this year. And completed it was with ten NSA members and four current Smokejumpers from the Grangeville Base taking on the project last week.

This crew rebuilt the post and rail fences around wetlands and spring areas at the headwaters of Slate Creek on the Salmon River Ranger District. The enclosures are to keep cattle out of wet areas and allow vegetation to recover, providing clean cool water for downstream fish. Original fences were built in 2005; snow weight and movement had forced rails off posts and broken many rails, causing the fences to fail. On the reconstructed fences, rails are notched, spiked in place and wired with center posts installed which should help alleviate the breakage problem.

The NSA members are current or past jumpers; many jumped for a few years and went on to other professions as is the case with this year’s crew. The ten members who volunteered for this week long project are: **Dave Blakely** (Missoula '57), a research scientist specializing in the use of fire retardant now residing in Missoula, Montana; **Chuck Fricke** (Missoula '61), a rancher from the Bitterroot Valley, Florence, Montana; **Rawhide (Cal) Papritz** (Missoula '58), a Professor of Geography, retired from the Green River Community College located in Auburn, Washington;

**Jerry Zumalt** (Redding '70), Retired Smokejumper Base Manager and Forest Aviation Officer living in Grangeville and currently Idaho County Emergency and Disaster Coordinator; **Don Smith** (Missoula '58), Retired US Air Force Military Air Transport Pilot and currently a flight instructor for Boeing Aviation, teaching internationally pilots to fly Boeing’s newest air liners residing in Tacoma, Washington; **Steve Henry** (Missoula '65), a recently retired medical Doctor who lives in Alexandria, Minnesota; **Larry Ukestad** (Missoula '67), a retired high school educator, coach and administrator living in Jamestown, North Dakota; **Joe Kroeber** (Missoula '61), a retired high school teacher and coach who has served in the North Dakota State Legislature for the past twenty years living in Jamestown, North Dakota. **Terry Danforth** (Missoula '59) served as a Yellowstone National Park Ranger and Fire Staff to the Park Superintendent living in Bozeman, Montana; **Dave Poncin** (Missoula '58), former Forest Service Fire Staff Officer for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests residing in Grangeville, Idaho.

Assisting the Volunteers was **Lee Stone**, an employee of Heckman Ranch, and four current members of the Grangeville Air Center Smokejumper Crew: **Jodie Baxter, Jeremy Cawn, Joe Forthofer, and Patrick Gocke.**

Rancher **Don Heckman** and Forest Service Range Specialist **Steve Heibert** joined Ranger Osen on this review. This project is located on Heckman’s National Forest grazing allotment. Heibert was the Forest contact helping the volunteers with equipment, support, and logistical support.

The Smokejumper Trail Crew Program is a part of the National Smokejumper Association. The week long work session provides an opportunity for former jumpers to get together to accomplish worthwhile work projects doing quality work and enjoying the fellowship of one another.

# Dixie

By Wild Bill Yensen (McCall '53)

On May 1, I went up to the project site at the Dixie Forest bunk house in Pine Valley, Utah. When I got there, **Stan Linnertz** (Missoula '61) and **Chuck Orana** (Associate) were unloading food furnished by the Johnson's Corner Truck stop in Loveland, Colorado where Chuck is a chef. Then the guys from Montana arrived, **Jim Phillips** (Missoula '67), **Jack Atkins** (Missoula '68), **Digger Daniels** (Missoula '61), and two associates, **Gary Hendrix**, a Civil Engineer, and **Dave Tippett**, an ex-USAF fighter pilot. Then the other two from Colorado came after a round of golf, **Doug Wamsley** (Missoula '65) and **Jimmie Dollard** (Cave Junction '52). Last to show up was **Dr. Dave Henry** (McCall '54) who drove up from Tucson. Stan and Chuck had supper for us.

Our work started the next morning with **Zach Gray**, our Dixie Forest leader calling the shots. We tore out the pole fence around the Pine Valley Heritage Center and unloaded the plastic white picket fence that we were to build. Around

behind the shop we unloaded the lumber and shingles for two Kiosks for trail heads. Digger, Dave, and I worked on them two years ago with great help from Gary and Jimmy. Our two Civil Engineers had to modify the plans the Forest Service supplied. The same thing happened on the Kiosk we built in 2008.

By the end of the week we had the beautiful white picket fence up and the Kiosks built and the support posts and cross pieces drilled and ready to be transported and erected. Our last job was to work on the horse coral. We tore out an old pole coral, put in a new corner, and stretched the wires so it would hold horses.

We initiated our associate members by teaching them how to chain Shroud lines on a chute as we had done with Chuck last year. Adult beverages were consumed and stories were told in true smokejumper style. The food was fantastic! We all had a good time and they want us back next year.

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## Glacier National Park — Two Medicine Lake

By Richard Trinity (Missoula '66)

**Volunteers:** **Jimmie Deeds-Cook** (Missoula '64), **Dan Hensley** (Missoula '57), **Ivan Kays** (Associate), **Gary Lawley** (Missoula '57), **John T. McMahon** (Missoula '58), **Mike Overby** (Missoula '67), **Jim Scofield** (Missoula '66), **Gary Stitzinger** (Missoula '65), **Richard Tag** (Associate), **Bob Thompson** (Associate), and myself.

**Work Completed:** Turnpikes - 88 feet, 3 Bridges -16 feet each, 3 Water Bars, Removal of unsightly beach debris, and 0.4 mile of Trail Tread Maintenance/brushing.

Fortunately, Logan Pass opened so those who desired could experience a spectacular airplane view from the road. It was also nice to wave and drive by the long Park entrance line with the use of Senior and Park Volunteer passes. Everyone arrived by suppertime and set up at a spacious

group campsite along the creek at the Two Medicine Lake campground in southeast Glacier Park. We were at the extreme eastern edge of the campground with a beautiful vista of Two Medicine Lake. Jimmie served the first of consistently good hot meals including, later, fresh baked apple and blueberry pies (lucky us). Park officials arrived and pleasantly informed us of the camp rules, including Grizzly Bear precautions which were in all the handouts and stickered to each picnic table. We spent the first evening going around the circle introducing ourselves and kibitzing. As always, the stories were varied and wide ranging.

**Mary Schneider**, Glacier Park Eastside Volunteer Coordinator met us the next morning for introductions and directions to the project site about 2.5 miles away. The camp dock, a mile west,

was the departure point for loading and transporting bridge supplies on the boat down the lake to the end of the trail. Meanwhile the rest of the group took the tools down the trail around the shore to meet the boat and unload. We broke into two bridge groups and had most of the old bridges torn apart by mid-day. Mary outlined the construction plans and then hit the woods with her chainsaw to harvest timbers for the turnpikes and water bars.

A small team of Hensley, Stitzinger, Lawley, and myself peeled and transported the poles to the worksites. Tag and Thompson directed the bridge construction with Overby and McMahon. Scofield and Stitzinger did the bulk of the shoreline work and shoveled fill material for the turnpikes. Actually, most of us drifted from one project activity to another as help was needed when bottlenecks developed or smaller projects were completed. The wheelbarrows came in handy bringing fill from the lakeshore.

We finished the main projects a day early so moved on to the alternate activity. This was tread and brushwork on a trail further down the lakeshore trail and up to a scenic outlook. As we came off the last project, John McMahon served as sort of a nature guide for some of us from his years of working for Weyerhaeuser. The weather was sunny with very cool nights. The last day was foggy and cool with intermittent light rain. Gortex was a good idea for that day. We enjoyed meeting and visiting

people using the trail while we worked. Their words of thanks were sincerely appreciated.

The campground lodge had pints of vanilla or huckleberry soft ice cream for sale which went down very nicely on the way back at the end of the day. Evenings were spent with some fishing (no luck) or Gary Stitzinger cruising the lake in his kayak. He had some interesting stories about his ocean-going kayak trip last year off the Alaskan coast. Campfire time each night provided opportunity for true stories and lore. Gary Lawley gave us more insight on the recent Yellowstone River oil spill. Bob Thompson told of railroad episodes from his career as an engineer. Richard Tag, Mike Overby and Ivan Kays had an open discussion on trails they had hiked in Glacier Park. Dan Hensley had tasty snippets of intriguing information in the security world. Richard Trinity and Jim Scofield enjoyed dinking around with the campfire each night. We had a couple of days and nights with strong winds which blew over the cook tent several times and finally wrecked it for good even though it was staked to the ground and anchored to a picnic table. The Park's Grizzly Bear Biologist toured the campground with the local ranger one day. We learned that the Park personnel are dedicated to preventing unwanted bear/visitor encounters — "A fed bear is a dead bear." An interesting time was had by all.

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## Hang Tough

By Bob Whaley (Missoula '56)

It is done. The Hang Tough "bridge," after 6 years of delay, is finally complete. It should have been called the Hang Fire, since we've been waiting so long to get it done. The usual suspects, **Jim (Doc) Phillips** (Missoula '67), **Gary Wyermann** (Missoula '63), **John B. (JB) Stone** (Missoula '56), **Larry Nelsen** (Missoula '56), **Bob Schumacher** (Missoula '59), **Dennis Pearson** (Missoula '62) and **Jim Lee** (Missoula '77) departed Elk Summit trail head 25 July with packer **Jim Renshaw**, and his three trusted cohorts, **Paul McConnell**, **Larry Cooper** (chef) and **Joe Robinson** for the 11 mile trek into the Selway- Bitterroot

Wilderness to "get 'er done." It was actually a puncheon job with a bridge outcome (but I figure if I had advertised it as such I would have been all alone) with sill logs, stringers, planks, and rails.

Day 2 was engaged on selecting the right fir trees for the sill logs for each abutment of the bridge and then finding the right trees in length and girth for the stringers. They were selected, felled, and summarily stripped for the eventual movement and placement over the sills. The "mule skinning" was again accomplished by Larry Cooper and his famous and trusted steed, the wonderful horse, "**BJ**". What a guy!

This is the third year Larry and “BJ” have come to our rescue in trying to manhandle fresh cut, long, wet, slippery, and very heavy timbers into place. We all figure this team cut a whole day off the job, getting the product out of the timber, down to the creek site, and hauled into place. On day 2, Jim Renshaw and Joe Robinson, who proved a great help throughout the project went all the way back to the trailhead and loaded up their stock with the planks, returning on day 3. This allowed the job to continue and nearly finish on day 4.

With the time saved, we scouted and cleared some blow down and snags on Trail #71 from the ridgeline above Hidden Lake down to within a mile and a half of Trail #50, the Colt Killed Trail from Cold Killed Cabin and trailhead. The following day, Trail #9 down to Hidden Lake was cleared and the job at Hang Tough was concluded one day early for the departure back to Elk Summit trailhead on Saturday.

Once again the help from **Jim “Beak” Beale** out of Powell RS was greatly appreciated in getting us started on the right foot and ensuring we were doing it right before he had to depart. This may be Jim’s last year with us and he will be sorely missed. He has many arrows in his quiver. The Idaho Back Country Horsemen’s Jim Renshaw and crew made the venture professional, safe, and as entertaining as ever. The “Renshaw Roundup” on several occasions was always an attention getter and, of course, the fare provided by Larry “Chef” Cooper with the help of Paul McConnell was always appreciated, especially the Dutch oven delights that he so expertly delivers that make our fare a feast. Renshaw caught fresh trout from Hidden Lake, rolled in corn meal, and cooked it in bacon fat on morning four which was a rare feast!

The expertise of the crew with all their varied talents once again demonstrated that they were the right picks for the job. The engineers in Gary and Bob, the bulls of the woods in Phillips and Lee and all around standouts in work ethic and expertise in Larry, Dennis, and JB proved to be the right team for the right job.

Entertainment was nightly reliving the highs and lows of the day as we recounted how to do it better next time, particularly when it came to dropping a tree on Dennis’ back pack and destroying his very nice camera..... but sparing his real cheap sunglasses! Go figure. Entertainment was also provided around the camp fire with our annual favorite cowboy poetry readings by Jim Renshaw and Doc Phillips which is always a delight.

The project concluded on Saturday, 30 July, with everyone gathering at the trailhead for our final loading and goodbyes for another year. Once again our greeters were there as **Jerry Power** and **Lonnie Rogers** (a former squadron mate of mine) provided us with libations to quench the trail dust collected on the long trek out, which always seems somewhat longer coming out than going in.

So another successful year in God’s country was concluded. It was good to finally meet **Linda Cooper**, Larry’s wife, when we all met at the trailhead on the way in. Linda has been faithfully helping be the liaison “go to gal” for our project with those involved in the packers’ efforts which is so critical for the proper coordination of these projects. Thanks Linda.

Once again it was a pleasure working with **Katie Knotec** from Powell RS and **Rob Mason** and the Selway Bitterroot Foundation in putting together this long overdue effort. Can’t wait to see what’s in store for next year and God willing, we’ll all be there. **Thanks crew!**

# North Fork Corral

By Doug Wamsley (Missoula '65)

The North Fork Corral Project was for the Seeley Lake Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest. The mission was to replace corral fence rails at the site's existing corral and to complete a "build from scratch" feed storage shed adjacent to the corral. The site is seven miles north of the North Fork of the Blackfoot River trailhead on the Hobnail Tom Trail. It is a beautiful corner of the Scapegoat Wilderness area with an over ninety year old cabin next to the North Fork of the Blackfoot.

The crew consisted of some trail project regulars: **Monroe "Spud" DeJarnette** (Missoula '49), **Jim Snapp** (Missoula '65), **Wendy Kamm** (Missoula '85), Master Chef **Chuck Corrigan** (Associate) and myself. We were joined by three NSA trail project first-timers: **Mike Prezeau** (Missoula '67), **Bill Hutcheson** (Missoula '74) and **Jack Kirkendall** (Missoula '74.) Our U.S. Forest Service Straw Boss was **Jake Long** from the Seeley Lake District, a young guy who is an old hand at coordinating NSA projects on the District--that speaks volumes about his good humor and patience.

The project began on July 17 when we met at the trailhead and discovered to our delight that our packers were there early. After helping to load the string (mostly by staying out of the way) we began our seven mile hike on the Hobnail Tom Trail. The trail was well maintained and is a very popular trail for packers.

Our oldest and youngest members, Spud and Wendy, decided to start ahead of the rest of us because they weren't going to walk too fast. They were waiting for the rest of us when we arrived at the cabin.

The area around the cabin was a very nice level spot with plenty of good tent sites and easy access to the river.

Work began the next morning with the crew dividing between the two main tasks. Mike Prezeau and Bill Hutcheson volunteered to work with Jake Long on the storage shed using materials that Jake had packed in the previous week. The rest of us trooped off to the nearby Dry Creek to harvest lodge pole pines for the new corral rails.

It was decided we would need eighty-two fourteen footers cut, hauled, and peeled. Whoever did the counting (there were no confessions) apparently didn't realize that we were replacing a four rail fence with a three railer. This oversight was, of course, discovered after the poles were cut, hauled and peeled. Careful planning is everything on these projects! Oh well, Jake now has thirty poles peeled and neatly stacked for future projects.

Hauling the poles almost a half mile from the harvesting site to the corral promised to be a long and painful process. However, Chuck Corrigan didn't think so. Chuck is not only a very good cook, but he is also an accomplished packer who arrived at the project with two saddle horses and Smokey, his wonderful pack horse. Smokey had never skidded logs before but caught on right away. With Chuck leading on one of the saddle horses Smokey was soon making fourteen minute round trips with two logs on each return.

In the midst of the pole harvesting we were joined by **Jim Phillips** (Missoula '67), NSA Trail Operations Director. He stayed with us for two days and cheerfully admitted to being a spy sent by the NSA Trails Team, but we got some good work out of him anyway.

After lunch on the first day, Spud volunteered to take over peeling logs at the corral site. As the pole project progressed he was joined by Jack Kirkendall and Wendy Kamm. The bark flew! While all of this was going on, Mike, Bill and Jake made amazing progress on the eight by twelve, ten foot high feed shed. By Friday night the shed was all but complete, needing only some missing door hardware, and there were fifty-one new corral rails nailed up. The extra materials were stowed and the site cleaned up.

Saturday was pack-out day and the District's contract packer **Ray Woodside** arrived promptly at 8:00 am. Ray has packed other NSA crews, including **Art Jukkala's** (Missoula '56) crew on the first NSA Trail project in 1999. After a farewell lunch at Trixie's in Ovando, Montana we all headed home, having agreed it was a good project and we all plan to be back for more in 2012.

# Priest River Experimental Forest

By **Chuck Haines** (Associate)

Squad Leader **Carl Gidlund** (Missoula '58) led a hardy band of NSA TRAMPS as we struggled through another tough week at Priest River Experimental Forest. **Bob Sallee** (Missoula '49), **Paul Wilson** (Missoula '50), **Jimmie Dollard** (Cave Junction '52), **Hank Jones** (Missoula '53), **Tom Oswald** (Missoula '58), **Milt Knuckles** (Missoula '61), **Karl Maerzluft** (Fairbanks '67), **Mike Jones** (Associate), **Sue Palmer** (Associate), and I converged on PREF the week of July 17-23. Carl had recruited Jimmie and Karl on short notice, when two of last year's crew members were forced to bail out (so to speak) due to personal issues.

As in the past, **Bob Denner** (Forester in residence) treated us well at NSA's version of Club Med. We were housed in the VIP Lodge, which is situated in a rather idyllic setting. The front porch has a lovely view of the grounds of Priest River's administration area and plenty of room to stretch out and relax after a hard day's work. The porch is our favorite place to gather, socialize, and imbibe. The lodge has semi-private rooms, lace curtains on the windows, hot showers, etc. It also has a full kitchen, in which Sue cooked up one glorious meal after another. She did her best to help us keep from starving. Her motto seems to be "No matter how hard they work, they won't lose weight on my watch!" On the last night there, our Domestic Diva surprised us with a cake made with huckleberries that she had hand-picked fresh from the grounds that afternoon.

The Priest River Experimental Forest was established in 1911, and this year's project entailed a number of activities to prepare for the Centennial Celebration planned for October 6-8, 2011. Much of the work was beautification, and when we departed the place looked substantially better than when we had arrived. Denner has learned from previous experience that while age may have slowed us down a tad, there's still a lot of work left in us, and he kept us busy.

The initial research conducted at PREF was a seed source project. The researchers created a Ponderosa Pine plantation using seeds from all areas of North America where Ponderosas are indigenous. The plantation was laid out in a grid and

posts were placed in the ground with labels affixed to separate and identify the various seed sources. As one can imagine, the plantation doesn't look quite the same as it did 100 years ago. Most of the Ponderosas are gone, and a variety of other species have grown up in their place. Nevertheless, Denner wanted to display the area during the Centennial Celebration. Paul took the lead in that effort. Using the grid map and a compass, he walked the grid and found the posts which identified each stand. He flagged the posts and identified missing and damaged labels. Then he manufactured and installed replacement labels, a tedious task using a metal-strip label maker from the 1950s that was as contrary as a mule. Hank, Mike, Karl, and I helped out with re-erecting fallen posts and clearing vegetation between the posts so that visitors can more easily visualize the grid and distinguish the plots.

Many of the buildings at PREF are 1930s vintage, having been built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Signs identifying the buildings were probably not much newer, until the carpentry crew of Bob Sallee, Jimmie, Tom, and Milt worked their magic. They routed, sanded, and stained new signs for all the buildings using 1-by-10 western red cedar boards. Each sign is a dark brown with white paint in the recessed lettering. They are professional-quality signs that should last until the bi-centennial celebration.

Denner had contracted to have a sign built for the main road entrance to the station, and the manufacturer had provided a schematic for the frame on which to mount it. Our carpenters built and installed the frame. Bob Sallee said they didn't truly realize how big the frame was until it came time to load it onto the trailer. This behemoth is also likely to be standing for the bi-centennial celebration, although we make no guarantees for the sign itself. The frame is seven feet tall above the ground, with another 3½ feet buried. It's six feet wide at the top, tapering to five at ground level. Our guys built it by bolting four 6-by-6 cedar posts together for each leg, then inserting three 4-by-4 posts into the legs as cross members to connect them. The sign hadn't arrived by the time we left,

but the frame is so impressive that passers-by will know that something big is going on up that road.

Another major effort was finishing the Canyon Creek Trail, an early packing trail that has gone unattended over the past several years. Denner wanted it cleared and reopened in part because of its historical significance. We had worked on the lower part of the trail last year, then earlier this spring a Hot Shot crew had worked the middle section. That left nearly a mile at the top of the trail to be cleared. Hank, Mike, and I worked on it for 2½ days, with Karl (who spent the week as a jack-of-all trades) pitching in on the last day.

I had done some trail maintenance work last year, but this was a whole new experience. I was astounded by the number of downed trees we had to clear off the trail. The first day we cut through 154 logs in 610 yards. That's roughly one log every four yards, most at least a foot in diameter. The second day we went through another 157 logs in 535 yards. Hank said he'd never seen a trail in worse shape. We had to reroute the trail around one log that was over three feet in diameter and at least 30 feet long. The previous week, I had gone through the NSA's sawyer certification in Missoula and had received training in the use of both a cross-cut and a chain saw. I'm glad we were using chain saws!

We also did a number of smaller projects. Last year the carpentry crew had built a new sliding barn door for the tool building. Over the winter the concrete ramp under the door shifted upward, binding the door. This year's carpenters had to trim the door to eliminate the binding. We placed and/or replaced a number of road signs throughout the

forest. We pressure-washed the station's conference center building, knocking off an accumulation of dirt and organic materials. We also pressure-washed the building's deck and steps and treated them with a penetrating deck oil. Half a dozen of us got involved in that project, although several assumed supervisory roles. We were still brushing the oil into the steps when it started to rain. Hmm. Maybe I should put that stuff on my steps in Austin. We could certainly use the rain.

One purely beautification project involved removing the white paint from the amphitheater benches near the main office. Legend has it that a few years ago Carl and another squad member had painted the benches white. Carl claims they were told to paint the benches and that cans of white paint were what was available. Denner, referring to Carl and his unnamed colleague as "partners in crime," claimed they had misunderstood his instructions. This year Denner asked Carl to "rectify the misunderstanding" by sanding off the white paint and replacing it with a wood preservative. Carl and Milt completed that project, but things got dicey at one point. Carl was sitting on one of the benches, sanding, when Milt noticed a flurry of activity under the bench. It turns out that Carl had positioned himself almost directly over a hornet's nest. Fortunately, Milt alerted Carl to their presence before another legend could be born. Some speculated that Denner knew in advance about the hornet's nest, but I'm willing to reserve judgment.

All in all, it was a great week. We got a lot of work done. We benefited the Forest Service. And it was great fun, working with a great bunch of guys.

# San Juan National Forest, Glade Guard Station

By **Richard Hilderbrand** (Missoula '66)

The Glade Guard Station is one of the oldest structures in the San Juan National Forest and was initially built as a log cabin in 1905 and replaced with a wood frame building and a barn in 1916. The current site is the result of modification to the main Guard Station and the addition of a garage, meat house (now a tool shed), an outhouse, and stone work by the Lone Dome Civilian Conservation Corps around 1934 and 1935. The summer provides a spectacular setting in a glade surrounded by lakes, forests, wonderful views, and great habitat for the many animals of the area. The Glade Guard Station remains remarkably unchanged, a virtual time capsule harkening back to the early days when the lone District Ranger was “guarding” the national forests.

The story of the renovation of the Glade Guard Station started long before a diverse group of volunteers appeared at the site to begin work. An old station in need of renovation was discussed as a possible project by NSA members in Colorado over several years. In 2007, **Bill Ruskin** (Cave Junction '58) contacted **Elaine Sherman**, an archeologist with the Dolores Public Lands Office in Dolores, Colorado, and found that, indeed, there was a Glade Guard Station listed on the State Register of Historic Places that was in need of restoration. Soon **Julie Coleman**, an archeologist and Heritage Team Lead with the San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango, Colorado, was added as an additional contact with the U.S. Forest Service. The enthusiastic Ms. Coleman successfully located funding of about \$32,000. Thanks are due to the San Juan National Forest, Bacon Family Foundation, and Ballantine Family Fund for the first year of funding that resulted in the preservation of the guard station.

*The first year of the project was from June 21-27, 2008.* On June 21, a crew of 14 NSA members started the first year of work. The 2008 Trail Maintenance Special Report provides a list of participants and project report along with several photos. To fully appreciate this project, one must understand the various tasks that were taking place.

I served as Squad Leader and volunteers were assigned to a crew - roofing, painting, carpentry, or foundation work. The ex-jumpers began to arrive on June 21. The first objective was to re-roof the guard station. The roofing crew immediately began the removal of the old cedar shingles. This task was hampered by the extremely steep pitch of the roof and the absence of footholds but went rather well and was accomplished by noon on Monday. New plywood sheeting was applied and nailed securely, at which time we encountered the true nature of the task which we had accepted. The plywood was new, the sun was hot, and the adhesive on the back of the Grace ice and watershed membrane was extremely sticky - which means that any time the adhesive touched the wood surface the membrane was stuck - immediately and permanently! The resolution was for the work of applying the membrane to start in the cool of the early morning. The work schedule began with reveille by a yodeler and the subsequent barking dogs at 0545 followed by coffee/cake at 0615, a 0630 start, breakfast at 0800 and coffee at 1000. The roof was sealed with the Grace waterproof membrane. The remaining one-third of the shingles was completed later in the summer by **Jason Chuipka** and **Vince Macmillan**, local volunteers and **David Singer**, Project Manager with Silverton Restoration Consulting, and Julie Coleman.

The second objective was to prepare and paint the guard station. The NSA paint crew began the process of scraping, sanding, and priming the siding. After the primer coat was applied, the filling of cracks and holes was a major task and required some 50 tubes of caulk and some carpentry work. The application of the first finish coat of paint was completed and the second coat initiated. At that time, and fortunately for the crew, a professional painter came out from Cortez with a paint sprayer and long paint wand and completed the task in a much shorter time than our roller method would have taken. The dry wood soaked up two coats of finish paint.

The wooden doors and window frames had deteriorated and windows were broken. The carpenters, led by **Jimmie Dollard** (Cave Junction '52), jumped into action and soon had doors and windows removed to start the renovation. Any rotten wood was removed and replaced. Each opening was essentially a "custom fit" since each door and window had been hand-fitted at the time of construction. The south porch rail was repaired, essentially back to the original, and then painted to match the building.

Other tasks completed in 2008 were the tuck pointing of the chimney, filling of cracks in the stone/concrete foundation, replacement of screens over the crawl space and vent openings, and grading of the area around the main structure to allow water to drain. Of significance is that a new, telescoping flag pole, donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cortez, was installed on the same site as the flagpole that had been placed in CCC days.

Second year of the project was June 5-11, 2009 and was covered in the NSA 2009 Trail Maintenance Special Report with pictures and names of all 13 NSA volunteers. The objectives were to re-roof the garage, prepare and paint the siding on the garage, reinstall windows in the main residence, restore the floor and door and re-roof the meat-house/tool shed. Julie Coleman assisted in finding funding, assisting with organization and in completion of actual repair and renovation. Thanks are due to the San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group for providing funding for the second year project. Elevated Fine Foods continued their previous tradition of providing exceptional gourmet food for the volunteers.

The roofing crew went to work immediately. With experience obtained roofing the residence in the previous year, a smaller roof with less pitch, and a batch of shingles that were wider than tongue depressors, the roofing job was completed in a matter of a couple of days. New roofing was placed on the meat-house and work started on the outhouse but was not completed. Work on the meat house include removal and replacement of rotten floor joists, removal and replacement of old and rotten floor boards, and repair of the door to strengthen and refit to allow complete closure.

The garage siding was scraped, sanded, primed, filled, and painted. The garage doors were repaired, realigned and painted. An additional finish coat of paint was applied to the main residence. Jimmie Dollard and **Russell Heaton** (Associate) took on the difficult challenge of restoring the railing on the west side of the porch which was missing. The south side railing had been repaired in the first year. The missing west side was rebuilt to replicate the original rail with similar balusters and was refastened to the concrete of the porch itself.

Notes: 1) **Herm Ball** (Missoula '50) was named as paint-meister for his work preparing and painting the garage and awarded a plaque shaped by the carpenters in their usual get'r done mode; 2) At week's end the forest treated volunteers to a barbeque attended by Dolores District personnel, including District Ranger **Steve Beverlin**.

NSA did not participate in the Glade Project in 2010. Julie Coleman and the San Juan Public Lands Center continued their work. Funds were obtained to install solar power, test the well, and set a solar pump to provide water to the site. Water was piped to various locations around the site, including the barn, and concrete pads were poured to prevent erosion at the faucet sites. In addition, a propane tank was set to provide gas to the residence, and a septic system/leach field installed.

The fourth year of the renovation took place June 5-10, 2011. Following a year of rest, enthusiasm was restored and the NSA volunteers were prepared to take on the restoration of the barn at the Glade site. The fourth year project objectives were to re-roof the barn with cedar shingles, prepare and stain the siding, and build a corral. I continued as Squad Leader and coordinated assignments to the work crews. David Singer again provided materials, support, and tools necessary to complete the work. He also acted as consultant on the restoration activities and assisted in achieving the work objectives. Elaine Sherman and Julie Coleman provided research on the location and type of corral that would have existed, since there were no remnants of the corral. Thanks are due the San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango, and the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group for providing funding for the work on the barn. Elevated Fine Foods again provided exceptional gourmet food, a campfire for evening social events, and a general contribution to the good morale of the team.

The first item was to initiate work on the roof of the barn. The old shingles were removed and old nails pulled. The old sheeting boards were re-nailed and the work started on the application of the tar paper underlayment. Cedar shingles were nailed and the job completed in record time – the previous experience with roofing contributing to the successful completion of the task. As work was being completed on the roof, the preparation of the siding for staining was underway and the stain applied. A second coat was applied for additional preservation.

The most challenging job was the completion of the corral. The logs provided were from 6 to 10 inches in diameter and about 15 feet long and a challenge to even move around. A powered auger was available and used to dig the post holes over 2 feet deep. Two vertical posts were set side by side about 6 inches apart at each section length of the fence. The rails were then dropped between the vertical posts, alternating direction.

On the next to last day of the project, Bill Ruskin and **Don Whyde** (Missoula '66) were clearing drainage and discovered large quarried stone work installed by the CCC as culverts and drainage at two different locations on the site. The stone

work was still in remarkably good shape but years of dirt and rock had accumulated and needed to be removed. With the completion of the cleaning of the drainage, work was finished, the work site was cleaned, tools put away or returned, and the Glade Project came to an end for the NSA, but the story of the Glade continues.

#### CONTINUATION:

In July 2011, Dominquez Archaeological Research Group was able to complete the rehabilitation of the Glade Guard Station with funds from the State Historical Fund, the Gates Family Fund, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The interior of the Guard Station residence was restored to its original condition - floor joists reinforced; French drainage installed; walls re-plastered; floors refinished; bathroom and kitchen re-plumbed; and solar electricity, propane refrigerator, and stove installed. The Guard Station was furnished, including the original table and benches in the kitchen. The Guard Station will be ready for visitors in the summer of 2012! Reservations will likely be handled through the private, nonprofit Jersey Jim Foundation, which also rents out the Jersey Jim Fire Lookout Tower northeast of Mancos.

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## Sawtooth Trail Sign Installation

By **Roland "Ron" Stoleson** (Missoula '56)

We began what would turn out to be an eventful week on Sunday, July 10 near Pettit Lake on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) in Central Idaho. Twelve of us had met at the Lake turnoff at 1500 and set up camp shortly thereafter. Stan and Chuck had drove over from Colorado in a Johnsons Corner vehicle loaded with the great chow they donate to our cause. This is the second year and the fourth project to receive the benefit of their generosity. They had even printed a "Sawtooth Project Dining Guide" listing the menu for the week along with pictures of last year's project. Chuck's St. Louis Style BBQ ribs that we had Sunday night were just the start of a weeklong epicurean delight.

The crew consisted **Wild Bill Yensen** (McCall '53), **Don Mathis** (Associate), **Chuck Orono** (Associate), **Jim Burleigh** (Missoula '58), **Doug Howard** (Missoula '64), **Ken Kiser** (McCall '75), **Stan Linnertz** (Missoula '61), **Doug "Digger" Daniels** (Missoula '61), **Deb Peters** (Forest Service Liaison), **Gary Hendrix** (Associate), **Jim Mathis** (Associate), and myself. We camped off the main road near the lake and close to a SST (Sweet Smelling Toilet). The weather was great—just a little wind to contend with.

We began the first morning with the usual big breakfast of Scrambled Eggs, Corned Beef with peppers and onions and Mini Cinnamon rolls before heading over to the Fourth of July Work Center to pick up tools and signs for our first day of work. We needed a couple of Forest Service trucks to haul the gear so Ken, a Forest Service retiree volunteered to drive the big stake truck with the signs, posts, and heavy tools while Deb drove the big Ford 4x4 pick-up. It carried the generator, motorized post hole digger and the usual nuts, bolts and small tools necessary for the sign work. Went west of Stanley to a trail head where we put in our first billboard signs, ate lunch and then went to another spot for more work before heading back to camp and a dinner of Pasta Marinara with Meatballs and Garlic Bread, House Salad and Broccoli.

We were up bright and early the next morning and headed west of Stanley after chowing down on Pancakes, French Toast with Bacon and Sausage. After leaving the main highway and traveling up an unpaved Forest road we came upon a tragic scene. As we passed a turnout to a campsite, Deb asked if that was a body laying in the turnout. It was, and turned out to be a man who had committed suicide a short time before we passed by. Two dogs were at the campsite, one near the body. The man's pickup was near a trailer and tent. Deb contacted the Forest Service on her radio and they contacted the Custer County Sheriff's office. We stayed at the site until a Deputy showed up. He took statements from our crew members who had viewed the site, after which most of us continued up the road to our work project. Deb stayed back to protect the scene and to direct away any recreationists traveling in the area. Later a Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer and the County Coroner showed up. We finished our job and headed back down the road, past the site and had to wait for awhile until the Coroner and Deputy had things cleaned up before we could all go to the next work project NW of Stanley Lake. We finished that off and returned to camp for a Lemon Pepper Chicken Dinner.

Wednesday was a long day in the field. After some work down river and eating lunch on the banks of the Salmon River east of Stanley, we headed out to a real back country trail head at about 9,000 feet at the end of a horrifically rough and narrow road. The trail served was one designed

for wheel-chair use and was to be dedicated later in the summer. We got the work done but didn't get back to camp until after 1930. It was sure nice to have cooks ready to prepare our big meal of Teriyaki Pork Chops and all the fixings.

Thursday we headed out knowing we would have to be back to camp by 1630 because this was to be the night we had invited several people to join us for Dinner. **Lisa Dean**, Recreation Specialist on the SNRA and Area Ranger **Sara Baldwin** were coming as was **Tom Kovalicky**, (Missoula '61) who directs another work crew (they had prepared the signs we were now installing) on the Sawtooth. Our plan was to have them there to eat with us but it was important that Lisa and Sara witness an award presentation we would be making to our baby sitter of 10 years, Deb Peters. After eating Surf and Turf Special with Baked Potatoes, etc. Digger Daniels, Tom K. and I presented the award to Deb. It was a crosscut saw, made by Digger and inscribed with names of all the jumpers and associates that had worked on the Sawtooth during the last 10 years. The saw also had the TRAMPS logo on it and a profile of the Sawtooth Mountains. Chuck, our cook from Johnson's Corner had also baked a special cake for presentation to Deb that featured a cross-cut saw (see picture of Lisa, Deb, and Sara with the award and cake in the Photo Gallery section.

Digger also presented engraved pulaskis to Stan Linnertz and me and had one to be presented later to Charlie Brown. After the cake dessert, Sara presented each of us with a SNRA water bottle. The get-together lasted till late and everyone had a good time.

Friday was spent at a trail head on Alturas Lake where we removed signs and reinstalled them at new locations. We finished around 1500 so thought we could get another trail registration box set up across the valley before dinner. We headed out but nearing the site, we had a flat tire on the 4x4. With the time it took to replace it with the spare, we were unable to get the registration box up, so instead headed back to the work center to unload all the gear we had been using during the week. Got to camp after unloading, took some crew pictures and said good-bye to Jim and Bill who had to leave that night.

Our last dinner consisted of Cajun Catfish, Dirty Rice, Corn, Coleslaw, and Dinner Roll, a feast that capped the week. Digger also presented candidates for certification as official dish washers. After careful consideration, the crew granted certification to Ken, Jim, and Don. Congratulations!

After dinner we were able to dismantle some of the camp in preparation for our departure in the morning. Were able to keep a small stove out for early morning coffee and still had a bunch of famed Johnson's Corner Cinnamon Rolls to put something in our bellies before leaving. In fact, there were enough so some of the crew took a package home.

During the week, we were able to install signage at Trap Creek, Elk Meadows, Elk Mountain, Casino Creek, Phyllis Lake, Alturas Lake

Creek, Mill Creek, North Fork Wood River, West Fork-North Fork Wood River, and East Fork-North Fork Wood River. Not too bad for some old-timers.

This was my 11<sup>th</sup> year on a project on the Sawtooth, a duration matched by Digger Daniels. During that time, two of our crew, **Cliff Dalzell** (Missoula '61) and **Neil Satterwhite** (McCall '65) have passed on. We remembered them formally at our program on Thursday night and will continue to do so each year. I feel fortunate to go on these jobs. We are all creating memories every time we meet and work together. Maybe that's why we don't seem to have any problem getting people to come back year after year. So-----like it said on the back page of our 2011 Tramps Dining Guide beneath a picture of an outhouse, "Another year in the can"--- --see you in 2012."

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## Stanley Sign Crew "A"

Steve Carlson (Idaho City '62)

No trails or fences for us this year, just signs to reshape, sand, paint, and set up. And we never got out of the guard station all week. The "A" Team's final crew roster was our notorious leader **Tom Kovalicky** (Missoula '61), **Wild Bill Yensen** (McCall '53), **George Cross** (Missoula '74), the only "Trail Crew Rookie" **Bob Donnelley** (McCall '52), and me. For those of you into numbers, our average age was 77, the average number of summers spent jumping was almost 13 and the five of us have been on a total of forty trail crew projects over the years. **Rob Lundgren** (Associate), our veteran cook was back after taking last year off so he could do some Alaska fishing with his brother. **Deb Peters**, the Sawtooth Trails Rep and project lead, had to work hard, as usual, to keep us on task all week.

Once again Tom made us camp out at Crooked Creek. With electricity, hot and cold running water, flush toilets, washing machines for clothes as well as dishes, and a 50 foot hike from the parking lot to the cabin. . . it is just way too nice, even for old timer Smokejumpers! We arrived on Monday, July 4, and settled in. A couple of us went in to town to enjoy the wonderful fireworks hosted by the fine city of Stanley (pop. 100, says the sign).

On Tuesday morning we gathered at the Fourth of July Creek U.S. Forest Service Guard Station to assess the mission. We were to repair, replace, sand as needed, and paint 4X6 foot and 4X4 foot plywood signboards and 2X6 support boards and assemble them into bulletin board signs to be placed at trailheads around the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Also, as time permitted, we were to recondition trail head registration boxes.

Most of Tuesday was taken up gathering materials from a storage location behind the Ranger Station containing random stuff that accumulates around Forest Service facilities after 40 to 50 years. It took a couple of truck loads to get all of the materials we needed. We sorted and stacked the lumber into piles according to size and condition. Some of the signboards were in rough shape so we either "remanufactured" them to get rid of raw edges and correctly sized or discarded the ones that were too far past their prime.

Wednesday saw us finish most of the "remanufacturing" process and start sanding and painting the sign boards. We retrieved four registration boxes from the warehouse basement and brought them into daylight for the first time in years, and began to recondition them. A couple

A couple of them needed new shake roofs, and new hardware. They all needed sanding and painting.

Thursday and Friday were spent sanding and painting the signboards, and bolting the 2X6's to them. We also got the four registration boxes sanded, repaired as needed, and ready for placement at trailheads. Wild Bill got the job of "router master" and built a new trail sign and painted the lettering on the signs. Bob ended up running the heavy duty sander. In true smokejumper fashion, in his wild enthusiasm, burned up a bearing on one of the last signs. We got a visit from a couple of passing thunderstorms, which blew some signs over so the wet paint got some grass attached to it. Deb, George, Tom, and I cut, sanded, and painted as needed to get the job done. Although we couldn't run chainsaws (under threat of severe beating by Deb), we did give their skill saw a pretty good test. Ultimately, besides the four registration boxes, we had 20 trailhead signs ready for "phase 2," which was to post them firmly in the wonderfully rocky Stanley Basin soil. This would be done by the crew that followed us the next week.

As usual, the week was not all work. The food was marvelous, as it always is with Rob and his many Dutch ovens. We enjoyed a great hot breakfast every morning, of course, and a gourmet dinner every evening. Every clear afternoon when we returned to camp we got to checkout sun spots and solar flares with my "one star" (solar) telescope. Wild Bill and I checked out the moon the last night with my other telescope. To compensate our gracious hosts for use of the facilities,

we spent part of one morning bucking up a couple of trees that had blown down over the winter into firewood, and stacking the limbs for later burning. Wild Bill also was kept busy doing what he is famous for (at least in Smokejumper circles), scribing names, initials, and wings on knives.

Thursday evening (steak night) we were joined by several local and Forest Service dignitaries, including Deb Peters, **Hans and Terry Carstensen** (the owners of the facility we enjoyed all week), Tom's soul-mate **Jane McCoy** (she owns the tackle shop in town), **Gary & Sheri O'Malley** (Executive Director of the Sawtooth Society), **Jay Dorr** (Forest Service packer), the area Deputy Ranger **Barbara Garcia** with her husband the Range Conservationist **Robert**, and **Steve Frost** the Recreation Program Manager. As they suffered through dessert they began to get a sense of why we do this. The FOOD, of course! They also had to endure a couple of jump stories as well as a bit of "cowboy poetry." Small price to pay, you might say.

Friday evening Deb joined us for a final dinner. Tom presented us all with exquisite "Pulaski Pins" then he shocked Deb by ordaining her into the "Royal Order of the Purple Circle" for which she received a wonderful "purple" necklace with genuine WWII P-38 attached. That made the week complete, and we all headed off different directions the next day, back to our day jobs. Who was it that said "Geez, at home I usually have one beer a day, but in five days here my case is almost gone!"?

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## Vigilante Station Fencing - Beaverhead NF

By **Bill Kolar** (Missoula '59)

As projects go, this one was a snap for me. This was the first time in 12 years that I didn't have to huff and puff up a trail to camp. I can't speak for the other crew members, but with the normal age-related aches, pains, bad knees, looking forward to sleeping on a two-inch air mattress for six nights wasn't too appealing. As we began the week at the send-off function at the Joker's Wild, I could sense the relief and see the sparkle in their eyes when they got a better idea of the project accommodations. That could also have been the look of too many beers!

Our destination was to the Vigilante Guard Station on the Beaverhead Forest, which is situated along the Ruby River between the Snowcrest and Gravelly Mountain Ranges. This site was constructed in the 1920's and served as an experiment station, ranger station, and now a work center for Forest Service summer crews. Our cook, **Tom Blunn** (Associate), was quite pleased with the cooking arrangements. He had an electric range and refrigerator, along with indoor cold and hot water. This brought out his finest culinary skills throughout the week.

Along with good food, the rest of the crew was kept happy with a hot shower and indoor bunk beds every night.

The six of us all arrived at Vigilante at various times on Sunday afternoon. As I mentioned above, we had Tom Blunn - our cook, **Frank Fowler** (Missoula '52), **Ted Rieger** (Missoula '51), **Jim Hagemeyer** (Missoula '57), **Bill Murphy** (Missoula '56) and, of course, the one who was assigned to try and get some work out of these guys all week, me.

We had two assignments to accomplish during the week: 1) Construct a post and pole fence around the Divide Cabin administrative site and 2) replace a few hundred rotten rails on the jackleg fence around the Vigilante Guard Station. Our district representative who lined out the work for this project was **Jonathan Klein** from the Madison District out of Ennis, MT. Jonathan hauled out the new rails, posts, poles, and all of the appropriate tools on Sunday afternoon.

We were ready and eager to roll out Monday morning after a fantastic Sunday dinner and a breakfast fit for a king. Our number one priority was building the new fence at Divide Cabin. We had a nice 16-mile drive up along the Ruby River to the head of the drainage, with the sun shining brilliantly off the snowcapped Snowcrest Peaks. The cabin sits on the west side of the drainage right at the divide with views of the Gravelly Range to the east and the Centennial Mountains along the Montana/Idaho border to the south and southeast.

One of my many promises to the crew about this being a great project was that it was going to be easy digging through nothing but black top soil for 2 ½ feet to plant the posts. After the first two holes, all I could say it was a damn good thing that I could out run all of them. They had rope in hand and a big old fir tree ready for a good old western hanging. I really couldn't understand all the fuss, we did have **2 ½ inches** of top soil! Those digging bars got a good work out, the air was blue with cussing and humidity was high with all the sweat in the air. The crew finally settled down into a mean working machine.

Everyone took turns at digging, prying rock out, tamping and eventually we ran out of posts to set. The rails were a snap. Frank cut notches in the rails with a chainsaw, the rest of us took turns pre-drilling nail holes and driving six-inch ring-shanked spikes. We finished up the fence late Wednesday.

As in any crew, the stories got wilder toward the end of the week. The bantering back and forth between Frank and Ted had some of us ducking in case dishes started flying, but Tom's cool head and excellent cooking calmed us down, and we all went to bed happy and contented. Jim Hagemeyer had to leave us during the week due to a back pain caused by wrestling an old army cot into place. Bill Murphy took him back to Dillon (a 52 mile one way drive). On the way back to camp, Bill's high speed driving earned him a blow out. The rest of us made it through with out any mishaps, which for our ages was dang good.

We did the work replacing the rotten rails on the Jack-Leg fence around Vigilante on Thursday and Friday. We were so good that we got done early Friday. As usual, the Forest Service was not aware of our talents and hard work ethics. Anticipating we would not get done, they cut short the number of rail they hauled out.

We had the pleasure of three dinner guests at our Friday night send-off steak dinner: Johathan Klein, the district representative from the Madison District, **Neil "Pete" Peterson**, a retired Ranger from the Beaverhead who was the ranger on the former Sheridan District, and **Sue Heald** the present Ranger on the Madison District. As it turned out, this was sort of a homecoming for Ted Rieger. He had worked on the Sheridan District as the ranger in his younger days. A lot of good old stories were retold that evening, and the grins and laughter on everyone's faces showed the pleasure of good times gone by.

One more item of interest that I would like to add is that our entire crew was all ex-Forest Service employees. How can it get any better than to have all this talent on one crew!

# West Virginia - Monongahela National Forest & Black Water Falls State Park

By **John McDaniel** (Cave Junction '57)

On June 12, fourteen former Jumpers plus an Associate from as far away as Montana, Utah, Kansas, and Alabama gathered at the Black Water Falls Lodge on the Monongahela National Forest in Davis, West Virginia to work on a trail and fencing project. This was the first ever NSA Trails project on an eastern forest. Hosted by **Clyde Thompson**, Forest Supervisor and **Eric Sandeno**, Wilderness and Recreation Manager, the crew gathered to repair and construct a mile and a half of the Alleghany Trail System (Davis Trail) which is approximately ten percent in the Black Water Falls (BWF) State Park with the remaining on the Monongahela National Forest. The state provided five, four-person cabins that were fully equipped with kitchens and hot showers. In addition, breakfast and supper were provided and eaten in the lodge along with sack lunches for lunch while on the trail.

Crew members were **Doug Stinson** (Cave Junction '54), **Jim Phillips** (Missoula '67), **Dennis Pearson** (Missoula '62), **John Payne** (Missoula '66), **Allen Biller** (Fairbanks '82), **Chuck "Yeo" Reinhardt** (Missoula '66), **Bill Tucker** (Missoula '50), **Darron Mooney** (Associate), **Denis Symes** (McCall '63), **Bob Miller** (Missoula '61), **Dan Mitchell** (Redmond '78), **Rick Blackwood** (Cave Junction '79), **Dorsey Mooney** (Missoula '67), **John Twiss** (Redmond '67), and myself. Others supporting the project were **Jason Reed**, Cheat/Potomac District Ranger; **Rob Gilligan**, BWF Park Supervisor; **Scott Fortney**, BWF Assistant Park Supervisor; and **Lisa Smith**, Lodge Dining Room Hostess.

After a welcoming by Supervisor Thompson, a safety briefing and a discussion of the work schedule was given. In addition to the trail work some 600 yards of post and wire fencing would be replaced which a third of the crew completed in the week. The rest of the crew concentrated on the trail repair while a Forest Service crew relocated 600 yards of the trail that was too steep for hikers or horses.

From a safety standpoint, the crew was blessed with a qualified EMT, a Safety Officer, and three jumpers experienced with wire fencing. We were further lucky to have a Forest Service representative on site at both project activities at all times.

The crew had a beautiful setting in the Alleghany Mountains and a magnificent park lodge together with a stunning view of the famous Canaan Valley. The Monongahela Forest, headquartered in Elkins, WV encompasses close to a million acres and borders a portion of the western side of the state of Virginia. There are six ranger districts and two major recreational areas plus numerous camp sites. It is a major recreational area with over 800 miles of hiking trails and three wilderness areas totaling 40,000 acres. This is not large compared to National Forests in the west, but it is hard to carve out wilderness areas anymore in the east. A large portion of the wilderness was used to train Army Rangers during WWII and unexploded ordnance is still being found in one area -- Dolly Sods. Elevations range from 1,000 to 4,900 feet with some of the most rugged and beautiful terrain you can imagine.

The trail portion of the project required extensive water diversion, coffer dams, and armoring the stream beds to cancel erosion. The soil is very rocky with shallow to deep humus making tread construction and reconstruction difficult. In addition, thick growths of rhododendron required the use of chain saws to clear. Afternoon thunderstorms added to the mix.

The fence line required new black locust posts every ten to twelve feet on fairly steep terrain, but the use of a motorized hand auger eased the post placement. An initial crew of four led by Jim Phillips completed the post replacement in five days. They were then augmented by four other jumpers from the trail crew to string four strands of wire to complete the fence project.

The entire fence and trail projects were completed one day early and done to the satisfaction of the Forest Service. The crew was invited back next year to work another trail in the wilderness area, resurface a walking bridge, and replace flooring in a Forest Service cabin at Blue Bend Recreation Area.

This was the first ever NSA Trail Project on an eastern forest and it was noted a success from

several aspects. The crew was composed of jumpers who were rookies at five different bases which may be the most diverse crew we have had in the history of the NSA Trails Program.

This was the toughest trail construction I have ever worked on. A picture in the photo gallery will verify this and the crew is commended for their results.

## North Fork of the American River NSA Trail Adventures

By Scott “Mouse” Warner (Redding ‘69)

The following paragraphs are excerpts from Scott’s 13-page story that is presented as an addendum to this report. Photos are incorporated in his story. Members of the crew were **Gordon Brazzi** (Redding ‘66), **John Helmer** (Redding ‘59), **Spud De Jarnette** (Missoula ‘49), **Bill Wharton** (Associate), and **Scott Warner** (Redding ‘69).

2011 was replete with North Fork of the American River adventures for the NSA California Trail & Restoration Project. The North Fork is a well-known Wild and Scenic River, coursing through an impressive 3000 foot deep Sierra Nevada canyon 60-70 miles east of Sacramento - the state capitol. Administered by the Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger District in Forest-hill, the North Fork is surprisingly well-visited and appreciated by a diverse public - despite some of the area being burned in the epic 2008 lightning bust. This is a rugged, yet beautiful mixed conifer forest and geologically complex landscape, sculpted by Sierra Nevada Tioga Era glaciers of 100,000 and 12,000 years ago.

Spud and John Helmer took on the considerable deadfall along the River Trail. What a great saw team, with Spud in the early years of his ninth decade, John in the early stages of his eighth together expertly sawing and clearing 6-7 hours a day! While Spud smoothly worked the power saw like a professional timber faller, John armed with a modern peavy to facilitate log clearing expertly employed gravity - the logger’s friend—to dispose of sawn debris.

Gordon and “Mouse” took on the Sailor Trail, picking up the remaining saw work with the cached saw and equipment, as well as clipping back the Bay Tree limbs with our high-end pruners from Nova Scotia, complete with adjustable handles out to 42 inches. We have learned from the NSA California Trail projects that logistics and good equipment give an edge to old guys: that in the end yield impressive results, still leaving energy to enjoy the camaraderie, evening happy hours with jokes and stories, good food, and scenery.

The pleasant 2011 NSA trail camp was well looked after by Associate Bill Wharton who prepared fine meals, cleaned up, packed water up from the river, kept the amber liquids cool and ready, and was constantly uplifting with a cheery disposition. Bill’s teaching and ex-wife (he called it the “practice marriage”) stories were great, plus one joke in particular that rivaled Gordon’s as memorable - excepting it was in better taste! The rushing North Fork of the American River lulled us nightly to sleep in an idyllic camp only lightly touched by the 20,000 acre 2008 Burn.

Not too far above the junction of the American River and Sailor Trails, Gordon stopped to salute the North Fork with the old Cave Junction Smokejumper Base “Gobi” middle digit, declaring “I am not coming back Mouse.” “Yes you are Brazz” I urged. “OK ... I will ... if you and the others come back! Hey, we can even get some more old smokejumpers.”

# West Yellowstone Junior Smokejumper Center

By Barry Hicks (Missoula '64)

The planned project in the Bob Marshall Wilderness was cancelled due to weather so I offered a project to the crew at West Yellowstone working on moving and restoring the historic Madison Ranger Station. Four historic 1920 era log buildings have been moved about three city blocks from their old location on previously owned Forest Service property to land donated by the city of West Yellowstone, just a few feet from the entrance to Yellowstone Park. This has been a multi-year project started in 2006. This has required fund raising, new foundation preparation, making the physical move, and restoration of the buildings. This year, the relocation of the buildings was completed. Now the work begins to refurbish the structures.

The old Ranger Office was the first building moved and we had a great crew this summer install a new oak floor, rework the walls, finish the wiring and plumbing, and build back steps into the building. The crew consisted of **Norm Kamrud** (Missoula '64), **Jerry Williams** (Redmond '72), **Edmund Ward** (Missoula '71), **George Weldon** (Missoula '75), **Greg Hulla** (Associate), **Mark Petroni** (NSC Board Member), and myself. We made Greg an honorary Smokejumper at the end of the project. Later in the summer, the remaining three log buildings were moved to the new location next to the West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

The saving of the historic buildings from demolition has been just one objective. The other primary objective is to use the buildings as a base for the "West Yellowstone Outdoor Education Center." The educational mission of the Center is to spark children's interest in their natural surroundings. It is realized that the young people cannot be educated with a single visit, but presentations are designed to plant a seed in the minds of young people, their parents, and grandparents to promote further learning. At the West Yellowstone Outdoor Education Center, the focus will be on fire ecology because the 1988 fires shaped Yellowstone Park as it exists today.

This summer, we provided our Junior Smokejumper program to about 500 children. This was presented in temporary quarters and next year the plan is to present it to 1,500 children. The action-packed two-hour program consists of fire ecology, jump suit and parachutes, wildland gear and cargo, tool and fire shelter, physical fitness, and graduation with a test and photos.

The Center's website can be accessed at [www.smokejumpercenter.org](http://www.smokejumpercenter.org) with further information and photos. Opportunities for providing assistance at the Center are welcome and a West Yellowstone Center project is available for NSA members and associates to sign up for 2012. Thanks to all of you for your interest and enthusiasm.

# Photo Gallery

Photos by Project Members

## Blodgett Canyon Trail — Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness



Left to Right: Robbins, Boatner, H. Howell, L. Howell, S. Bates, Geof Howell. Photo by George Howell.



The blow-down had big diameters.



Hal, our leader!

## Blue Creek Trail — Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF



Back Row: N. McIver, R. McIver, Ford, Thomas, Aldrich, Chandler, McKean, Maynard, Whitaker  
Kneeling: Dayton, Hulla, Kinderman



Happy Birthday, Kim!



**Wilderness Canoe Base**

**Boundary Waters  
Canoe Area Wilderness**

**Superior NF,  
Minnesota**



Standing L-R: J. McDaniel, M. McDaniel, Donner, Heiden,  
Schlachtenhaufen, Paul, Atkins.  
3rd Row: Belknap, C. Sheley.  
2nd Row: Trinity, KG Sheley, Judy Cherry.  
Front Row: Jim Cherry, Bane, Miller

**Carey Dome Lookout — Payette NF, Idaho**



**Boundary Waters Trail,  
Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness,  
Superior NF, Minnesota**

Crew: Atkins, Bane, Belknap, Trinity.  
(Their photo on previous page.)



Canoes and portages in lieu of horses and mules in the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

**West Yellowstone  
Junior Smokejumper  
Center,  
West Yellowstone, MT**

Back Row L-R: Hulla,  
Ward, Petroni  
Front Row L-R: Kamrud,  
Weldon, Jumper (dog),  
Williams



**Dixie Crew at Pine Valley Heritage Center, Dixie NF**



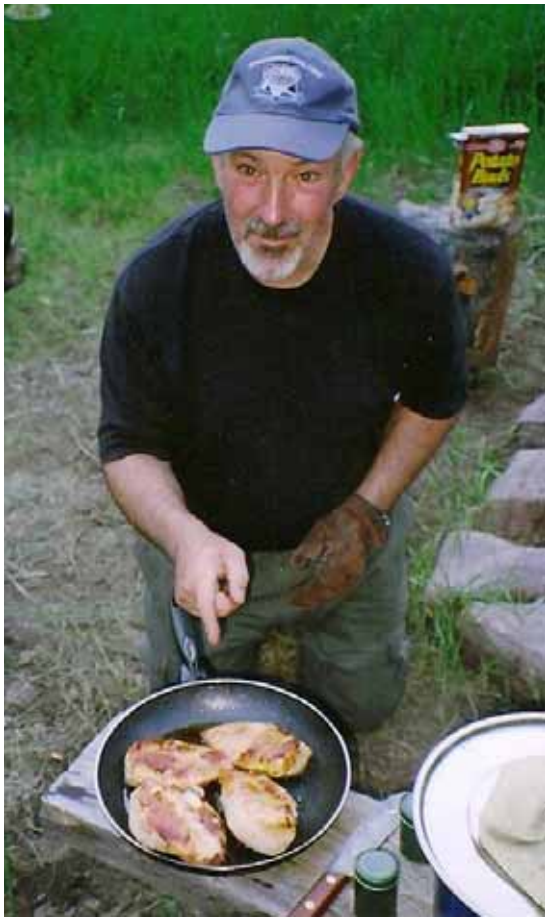
Back Row: Gray, Dollard, Orona, Atkins, Hendrix, Linnertz, Daniels  
Front Row: Wamsley, Henry, Tippitt, Phillips, Yensen

**Priest River Experimental Forest, Idaho Panhandle NF**



Haynes, Knuckles, Wilson, Gidlund, Palmer, H. Jones, (kneeling), Maerzluft, Oswald, Dollard, Sallee, Denner, M. Jones

**Bunker Creek — Flathead NF**



Great Food!



Above L-R: Trinity, Haiges, Haynes, Thompson, McIver



**Challenge Creek Cabin — Flathead NF**



Back: Hewitt, Anderson Front: Tucker, Hiorup, Trankle

Clean Slate — Nez Perce-Clearwater NF



Back — Blakely, Smith, Ukestad, Poncin, Papritz, Henry, Danforth  
Front— Osen, Shep with Stone, Baxter, Gocke, Forthofer.,Cawn,

Left Photo: Heckman, Poncin, Heibert

North Fork Corral, Bob  
Marshall Wilderness, Lolo NF

Group Photo on Right: Kamm,  
Corrigan, Wamsley, Hutchin-  
son, Prazeau, De Jarnette,  
Snapp



**Glacier National Park —  
Two Medicine Lake**

Back: Kays, Stitzinger,  
Overby, Tag, Lawley, Trinity  
Front: Thompson, Scofield,  
McMahon, Deeds, Hensley



Plenty of Bear Warning Sign



Before and After—the Park Service Model



**Hang Tough—Selway-Bitterroot  
Wilderness, Bitterroot NF**



L to R: Lee, Schumaker, Whaley, Nelsen,  
Stone, Pearson, Weyermann, Phillips



Larry Cooper, the cook on his wonder horse, BJ,  
dragging logs into position.



**San Juan NF,  
Glade Guard Station**



Above photo L-R: Steve Vittum (MSO '71), Bill Ruskin (CJ '58), Richard Hilderbrand (MSO '66), Don Whyde (MSO '66), Warren Pierce (CJ '64), Joe Lord (MSO '56) with dog Gunner, Ron Siple (MYC '53), Doug Wamsley (MSO '65), Dave Ferguson (Associate), Russell Heaton (Associate), Melissa Childs and Skinny Everett of Elevated Fine Foods, Julie Coleman, San Juan Public Lands Center, David Singer, Silverton Restorations Consultant. Photo taken by Robert Doran (Associate).



**Sawtooth Trail Sign Installation Crew  
Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
Central Idaho**

L-R: Yensen, Mathis, Orono, Burleigh, Howard, Kiser, Linnertz, Stoleson, Daniels, Peters, Hendrix, and Mathis



Liz, Debra, and Sara with the award and cake

**L-R: Bill Yensen, Tom Kovalicky, George Cross, Deb Peters, Bob Donnelley, Steve Carlson**



**Stanley Sign Crew "A"  
Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
Central Idaho**

"Our Humble Accommodations"



**Vigilante Station: Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF**

Left to Right: Rieger, Fowler, Murphy, Kolar, Hagemeyer, Blunn



Photo on Right: Murphy, Fowler, & Rieger. "Is that a deep post hole or a short shovel handle?"



**West Virginia—Monongahela NF**

Back Row L-R: McDaniel, Reinhardt, Tucker, Darron Mooney, Symes, Miller, Mitchell, Blackwood.

Front Row L-R: Stinson, Duane Mooney, Phillips, Pearson, Payne, Biller



*New Trail goes here*

“New Trail Goes Here”

“Looks Like a Jungle to me”



Spatial living at Blackwater Lodge