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Wildland Residents Association, Inc.
San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department

2018 Annual Report

September 29, 2018

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President-Executive Director

Ina Brittain
Secretary

Rocky Siegel
Acting Chief Officer

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WILDLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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SMPERS – 1040 AM

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Ugo Peter “Butch” Arnoldi

San Marcos Pass

Amy Love

East/West Camino Cielo

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Painted Cave

Vacant

Director at Large

Susan Del Real

Paradise

Richard “Rocky” Siegel

San Marcos Trout Club

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Rocky Siegel, Acting

Communications

Tim Brophy

**Wildland Residents Association, Inc.
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INTRODUCTION

The following Annual Report covers events from the previous annual meeting on September 23, 2017 to September 29, 2018.

The Wildland Residents Association, Inc., San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department has again enjoyed another productive year as the Board continues to work aggressively on membership and funding development as well as cost control and educational programs.

As part of the WRA membership marketing plan, reflective address signs have been distributed to all members throughout the community. Because of their reflective material, the signs are highly visible day and night. This helps first responders find your home quickly. This is particularly important when out-of-town responding resources are unfamiliar with the area. Replacement signs are available upon request.



Longtime San Marcos Trout Club resident, active volunteer firefighter and Chief Officer Steve Moore retired this year after 31 years of service with the San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department. Over the years Steve worked many of the large fires confronting the community. Steve has fully retired from the construction industry and with his wife Jean relocated to Idaho. The entire San Marcos Pass community has benefited from Steve's volunteer service and we wish him and his wife the very best in retirement.

The Thomas Fire started on December 4th 2017 in Santa Paula and continued through January 12th 2018 burning approximately 281,893 acres. The fire destroyed at least 1,063 structures and damaged some 280 more. The estimated cost exceeded \$2.2 billion dollars in damage including \$230 million in suppression costs. The direct impact to the San Marcos Pass was minimal and nothing compared to the subsequent Montecito debris flow on January 8th 2017, killing at least 21 people and destroying more than 100 structures. The fire and subsequent weather damage further imparts the necessity for mountain residents to be ever diligent to fire prevention, preparation and evacuation. Extended closure of local roads and highways amplifies the challenges that these events present.

The WRA remains an active participant and contributor to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development Team under the leadership of Phil Seymour. The team includes participants from the San Marcos Pass community as well as local fire officials, environmental groups and adjacent neighborhood groups. The CWPP is a multi-step process that will be ongoing for the next several years. This plan supports future fire protection efforts in addition to local, state, federal and private grant funding. Recent fires and the Montecito debris flow

reinforce with a vengeance the importance of fire prevention, planning, preparation and understanding the need for fire prevention through planned and managed fuel mitigation efforts.

The 6th Annual WRA Mountain Art and Garden Sale will be held at Cold Spring Tavern on October 13th. This event continues to grow with last year being the best in both participation and revenue generated; this year's event is shaping up to be even more successful.

Mail theft, illegal camping, open fires, property thefts and other suspicious activities have been increasing throughout the San Marcos Pass communities. Clandestine drug labs, marijuana farms and other legal and illicit activities are also a developing concern throughout California with the San Marcos Pass communities no exception. These operations create fire and hazardous materials problems as well as attracting a criminal element. Many northern California counties are experiencing drug-trade-related problems including reduced property values, contamination of waterways, increased crime, various real estate scams and increased out-of-state transient workers. Residents are urged to be alert to suspicious activities, individuals, thefts of water and electricity which are indications of illegal camping and cultivation activities.

The WRA remains active in providing public information, education, mitigation projects and initial attack fire services throughout the San Marcos Pass communities and is an example of what a community can do to help itself.

FINANCIAL

A formal financial report prepared by CFO Tracy Adams is included in this report. Currently, the WRA has 128 family and individual members and four lifetime members representing about half of the San Marcos Pass community.

This year's WRA membership drive included the new "Adopt a Firefighter" program to assist with the costs associated with training and equipping new volunteer firefighters. Thus far the program has been successful at securing \$10,950 in donations dedicated to this effort.

ADMINISTRATIVE

During the last year, the Board has been successful in many significant administrative improvements that include the following:

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN – Philip Seymour, Esq.

The CWPP process was begun by the WRA 2 ½ years ago, in March, 2016. In accordance with procedures specified in the County general plan, a Development Team of mountain and foothill residents, County Fire and USFS representatives, and two environmental organizations was formed in January, 2017 and began working with a consulting firm hired by County Fire. A first draft CWPP was completed in April, 2018 and submitted to the County for review. Comments from the County planning department were finally received in mid-September.

A revised draft CWPP is expected to be completed in October or early November, after consultation with some additional interested parties, such as the Winchester Canyon Gun Club and Chumash representatives.

Public hearings on the draft CWPP will most likely be held in January, 2019, and a final decision made by County Fire, CalFire and the County Board of Supervisors in February or March, 2019. Copies of the current draft CWPP may be found on the WRA website at wildlandresidents.org.

DRONE PROGRAM – Yesi Thomas, Program Manager

The San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department is still working towards starting a UAV program that will help the community in education, brush mitigation, and emergency notifications. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs in public safety and education is growing rapidly as more fire departments are adopting UAV programs, augmenting their departments to help communities in education, mapping, fire response, and search and rescue operations. More and more uses for unmanned aerial vehicles are being developed and UAVs are the future of public safety.

FLIR has promised to continue their support of offering a drone for use by first-responder groups. The *Matrice 200 UAV* will be outfitted with the FLIR *Zenmuse XT2* thermal imaging camera to supply both visual and infrared images. Mapping, hot spot detection, search and rescue, and visual inspections will be possible with the technology offered by FLIR. The UAV is currently on order and will be available for the community to view during the WRA Fundraiser to be held October 13th.

Currently, two volunteer firefighters have received pilot training and are working toward FAA Part 107 certification. They will be working with a professional UAV company in applying for waivers and authorization to allow the use of the UAV in protected airspace as well as night operations.

We hope to acquire a system similar if not identical to what FLIR is allowing us to use so we may deploy the UAV for immediate use during emergency and non-emergency situations. Our certified pilots will continuously train alongside a private drone company pilot to ensure they are current in the operation of the system.

KI6HFQ AMATEUR RADIO PROGRAM – Phil Brittain, Trustee



Amateur Radio remains a viable communications tool in the event of a large scale emergency that could knock out traditional radio, telephone and Internet networks. The WRA established a team of dedicated radio operators (KI6HFQ) for such emergencies under the supervision of Phil Brittain (W6OQX).

The WRA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) of Santa Barbara County to provide emergency communications services as may be required during long-term emergencies. ARES is a nationally recognized unit of the

American Radio Relay League, Inc. The Agreement includes joint exercise, Incident Command System orientation and fire ground related training between the parties.

The WRA participates in the local weekly Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net every Monday night. Residents are encouraged to obtain their own amateur license so they too can participate in the emergency networks should the need arise. If you are interested in communications and supporting local emergencies, please contact Phil Brittain for further information.

WRA EVENT FUNDRAISING - Susan Del Real, Member WRA Board of Directors

This year the 6th Annual Mountain Art and Garden Sale will be held October 13th at Cold Spring Tavern. Fundraising committee members are busy gathering donations from local artists and a variety of businesses in the community for items to fill the raffle baskets and the silent auction. All the mountain communities are represented at the vendor tables. Last year we exceeded our fundraising goal and we hope to have the same success this year. This annual event, which benefits the volunteer firefighters, brings the mountain communities together to create awareness of the WRA mission and fosters a sense of camaraderie while working towards a common goal.



COMMUNITY ALERT RADIO SHOW



The WRA radio talk show production “Community Alert - Not if, But When, Positive Preparation for Disaster” on KZSB-AM 1290 first aired on September 30th 2008. A grant has been submitted to the California Fire Safe Council to sponsor the show for

two years with additional support provided by Aware and Prepare and the Fire Services Training Institute.

Community Alert continues to broadcast live on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., rebroadcasting Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m., Wednesday morning at 5:00 a.m. and Saturday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.. All programs are available at the WRA website at wildlandresidents.org/community-alert/

SAN MARCOS PASS EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEM - SMPERS – 1040 AM

SMPERS – 1040 AM continues as a local leading source of emergency information on San Marcos Pass since late 2005 with weather and local information announcements recorded daily. The station was used extensively during the recent Thomas and Whittier fires as well as the Montecito debris flow incidents.



OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS



The WRA remains an active member of the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council. Ted Adams continues to serve on the Board. The Fire Safe Council is a significant supporter of WRA public education efforts. The California Fire Safe Council has been a past sponsor of “Community Alert” over the last nine years.

The WRA remains a strong supporter of the Emergency Public Information Communicators (EPIC). Co-founder Mike Williams served as the chair in 2013 and 2014. EPIC remains the local leader of programs and training to meet the ongoing challenges confronting today’s public information and public affairs officers.



The WRA maintains its membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council. The association consists of hundreds of other volunteer fire departments throughout the country to address issues of training, administration and liability, as well as standards and practices of today’s volunteer fire service.



Several WRA firefighters are members of the California State Firefighters’ Association. CSFA is the only statewide advocate for volunteer fire service in California.

Changes are occurring within the American fire service and it is important that the WRA keep current. Through our membership with the National Fire Protection Association, the WRA has access to extensive training and research materials at no charge or a reduced rate.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



The WRA is a member of the Santa Barbara County Executive CERT Committee supporting the Community Emergency Response Team and *Alertar y Preparar* LISTOS training, drills and exercises.

This year’s county-wide drill will be held in Lompoc on October 20th with participants from throughout the county. The drill will be held in conjunction with member agencies and organizations including the WRA.

Those interested in participating in CERT programs are encouraged to sign-up with the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, City of Goleta or UCSB. These agencies have ongoing programs available that are all supported by the WRA.



FIRE DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

Vehicle insurance and workers' compensation insurance coverage remain our primary expense each year. State Fund continues to increase individual rates creating difficulty in budgeting because of mandatory deposit requirements. Efforts to secure a different insurance company, one that is more customer friendly, have yet to be successful.

Individual home owners and the communities have done a good job of brush clearing throughout the mountain communities. This will help protect lives and property during a wildfire that may threaten our area as well as improve the safety and access to escape routes.

The WRA continues to facilitate the community use of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department chipper to shred brush that has been cleared from local community and private properties.

The San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department currently has 11 active firefighters of 12 allocated positions, two communications operators and three support members. Acting Chief Officer Rocky Siegel is filling in following the retirement of Steve Moore who devoted more than 31 years of service to the community. Recruitment of new firefighters has been a priority for replacement of retirees and sustainability into the next decade. The recruitment efforts produced four new volunteer firefighters and one experienced support member, all of whom have completed the initial phase of training. Successful completion of the background process and time commitment are the two areas that remain challenging in the recruitment effort.

Training continues on the 3rd Saturday of each month with weeknight classes held as required. Various on-line training resources have been helpful in accelerating the training program. A new text book has been added: William C. Teie, *Firefighter's Handbook on Wildland Firefighting, Strategy, Tactics and Safety, Fourth Edition*, (2018), Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University. This text replaces the 2008 third edition currently in use. The new text includes an additional chapter and significant updates throughout.

Membership on the Department is open to all residents of the mountain communities. Assignments include front line firefighters as well as support functions such as public information and education, training support, administration and management and fire fighter support. The application process includes an application package, interview, three mile hike, background and preliminary on-line training. Training for new wildland fire fighters includes the following:

- L-180-Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- S130-Firefighter training
- S190-Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- ICS 100-Introduction to the Incident Command System.
- I-700-Introduction to the National Incident Management System
- HAZMAT First Responder
- Title 22 First Aid
- Review of Department Policies and Procedures, and Injury Illness Prevention Program

The Department is registered with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and FIRESCOPE and serves as a local resource within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area.

DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE

The San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department maintains an “Automatic Aid Agreement” with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, responding to all fire related calls for service on and about SR-154 between Windy Gap and Paradise Road, East and West Camino Cielo, Stagecoach, Paradise Road, Kinevan and the San Marcos Pass Communities. The Department may respond to other calls for service that may pose a threat to the community as requested or as appropriate to the nature of the incident.

All calls for service are reported to the California Office of the State Fire Marshal via the California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) and the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) maintained by the United States Fire Administration.

The following response log reflects only those calls responded to or where services were provided by the Department. This log does not indicate all traffic collisions, medical aids or public assistance calls in the area that may have been provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and/or the U.S. Forest Service. Limited specific information regarding incidents can be obtained from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department: (805)681-5500.

Date/Time	Call	Location	Number	Dispo
05 Jan. 2018, 21:07 hrs.	Hazardous Condition	6572 Stagecoach Rd.	SBC221 SMM18001	Nothing located-unfounded.
14 Jan. 2018, 12:45 hrs.	Community Service	East Camino Cielo	SMM18002	Chipper Service
22 Jan. 2018, 09:15 hrs.	Vegetation Fire	SR-154 at Stagecoach	SBC1166 LPF195 SMM18003	Nothing located-unfounded.

26 Jan. 2018, 10:30 hrs.	Community Service	Rancho Oso	SMM18004	Chipper Service
28 Jan. 2018, 13:38 hrs.	Smoke Check	SR-154 at Vista Point	SBC1218 LPF247 SMM18005	Smoke from the Tavern BBQ.
18 Feb. 2018, 18:38 hrs.	Smoke Check	SR-154 near East Camino Cielo	SBC2135 SMM18006	Nothing located.
31 Mar. 2018, 08:00 hrs.	Community Service	Rancho Oso	SMM18007	Multiple pile burns
08 Apr. 2018, 23.07 hrs.	Brush Fire	ECC 1/2 mile east of Painted Cave Rd.	SBC4223 SMM18008	10 x 10 spot fire located.
11 Apr. 2018, 18:26 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	ECC and SR- 154	SBC4337 SMM18009	Fire extinguished by CHP prior to arrival.
21 Apr. 2018, 08:00 hrs.	Community Service	San Marcos Trout Club	SMM18010	Multiple community pile burns.
24 Apr. 2018, 11:00 hrs.	Community Service	San Marcos Trout Club	SMM18011	Chipper Service
05 May 2018, 16:30 hrs.	Community Service	6600 Stagecoach Road	SMM18012	Chipper Service
10 May 2018, 09:30 hrs.	Community Service	Potrero Lane, Paradise	SMM18013	Chipper Service
02 June 2018, 09:30 hrs.	Community Service	26 San Marcos Trout Club	SBC7130 SMM18014	Edison to handle
02 June 2018, 09:15 hrs.	Community Service	2200 Block SR- 154	SMM18015	Accident follow-up assistance
09 June 2018, 10:13 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	1700 - 240 Block SR-154	SMM18016 SBC187458 LPF1404	Canceled, vehicle left scene.
13 June 2018, 17:32 hrs.	Smoke Check	5300 Block SR- 154	SMM18017 SBC6926 LPF1474	Nothing located

14 June 2018, 12:21 hrs.	Community Service	West Camino Cielo	SMM18018	Chipper Service
20 June 2018, 14:45 hrs.	Community Service	Rosario Park	SMM18019	Chipper Service
29 June 2018, 15:40 hrs.	Brush Fire	SR-154 at Windy Gap	SMM18020 SBC8315 LPF1657	Windy Incident
30 June 2018, 18:40 hrs.	Medical Aid	Rosario Park	SMM18021 SBC7597	Fall victim transported to Cottage Hospital
01 July 2018, 17:25 hrs.	Brush Fire	East Camino Cielo E/SR-154	SMM18022 SBC7637 LPF1700	USFS E-41 located a camp fire.
04 July 2018, 20:00 hrs.	Prevention Patrol	San Marcos Pass	SMM18023	USFS request
11 July 2018, 17:28 hrs.	Power Lines Down	5812 West Camino Cielo	SMM18024 SBC8897	Live high voltage lines down. SCE responded for repair.
11 July 2018, 18:47 hrs.	Community Service	5693 West Camino Cielo	SMM18025	Chipper service
14 July 2018, 17:29 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	SR-154 at Stagecoach	SMM18026 SBC8209 LPF1880	Located across from Deer Lodge on SR-154. Fire contained to engine compartment.
22 July 2018, 18:53 hrs.	Medical Aid	Stagecoach above SR-154	SMM18027 SBC9411	AMR transported.
25 July 2018, 17:30 hrs.	Community Service	2200 SR-154	SMM18028	Chipper service
29 July 2018, 16:49 hrs.	Vegetation Fire	SR-154 and Paradise Rd.	SMM18029 SBC9699 LPF2081	Burning coals and/or log from a vehicle. USFS to handle. No vegetation involved.
01 August 2018, 16:29 hrs.	Smoke check/ Vegetation Fire	Old San Marcos Rd.	SMM18030 SBC1918 LPF2116	Masticator working in the 1900 block. No fire

01 August 2018, 17:32 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	SR-154 and Paradise Rd.	SMM18031 SBC9820 LPF2117	No fire located. Possible disabled motor home.
01 August 2018, 20:56 hrs.	Smoke Check	West Camino Cielo in the area of the gun club.	SMM18032 SBC8928	Unable to locate
03 August 2018, 14:57 hrs.	Smoke Check	1840 Old San Marcos	SMM18033 SBC8987 LPF2150	Masticator working in the area.
18 August 2018, 18:30 hrs.	Vehicle Over the Side/Brush Fire	SR-154 west of Paradise Rd.	SMM18034 SBC9636	Engine 13 reports fire out on arrival.
28 August 2018, 18:50 hrs.	Smoke Check	SR-154 and Painted Cave Rd.	SMM18034 SBC10062	Patrol 1 reports campers cooking in the turnout.
10 Sep. 2018, 10:53 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	SR-154 and ECC	SMM18035 SBC10556 LPF2579	Engine 41 reports fire out on arrival.
21 Sep. 2018, 14:15 hrs.	Vehicle Fire	SR-154 and Paradise Rd.	SMM18036 SBC10976 LPF2695	CHP reports vehicle located and fire out at SR-154 and Stagecoach west of Paradise Rd. Engine 41 confirmed.

CONCLUSION

The WRA remains successful in building new and retaining existing memberships. However, as in previous years, the primary WRA challenge remains funding for operational expenses. This is not unique to the WRA; it is a challenge confronting most non-profit organizations today. While we have been successful to date, controlling our current and future costs remains essential and a priority of the Board.

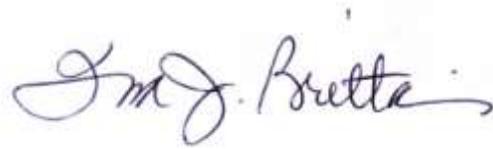
Water supplies remain a significant challenge for all mountain communities. It is essential that everyone keep abreast of water related issues including proposed local, state and federal legislation. Water rights, access and use to your own water are all under legislative scrutiny in Sacramento.

Wildfire, planning, prevention, preparation, conservation and education must remain everyone's priority. Outsiders and special interest groups are influencing local decision-makers adversely to our interest. Remaining an active participant in the wildfire discussions is essential.

This report is respectfully submitted to the Board, members of the Wildland Residents Association, Inc., and to the San Marcos Pass community on this 29th day of September, 2018, Santa Barbara, California.



Michael S. Williams
President-Executive Director



Ina Brittain
Corporate Secretary

WILDLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tracy Adams
Treasurer – CFO