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March 2009

Forest Service Pledges Support

Below is the latest from our Hat Creek Ranger District Recreational Officer, Ray Torres. Ray has pledged some Forest Service "no vehicle" carsonite posts for Hat Creek Rim that our club can use at the main launch. These posts will help facilitate the Forest Service's desire to keep vehicles away from the launch's edge. This will also benefit us by keeping vehicles off of our costly ground cover in the setup area.

Hi Mike: Yes the permit date is still May (probably near the end of May). We have some "no vehicle" carsonite posts that I think will work for the site. There located at the work center. Give me a date when your going to do work and I'll get them to you or see if we have staff on by then to help. Most of the seasonal staff for recreation does not come on till mid-April. We plan to have a short term fill (temporary) for Jan's position in place some time during the next couple of weeks. The permanent position will be filled by mid-summer.

Roman (Ray) Torres
District Lands and Recreation Officer
Hat Creek Ranger District

Carsonite is a fiber-reinforced composite material. You've probably seen these types of posts along the road as highway markers. Below is an example, although we don't know exactly what the Forest Service ones are going to look like.



In a later e-mail, Ray had the following to say in regards to our question about mounting the posts:

We have the "tool". It's specific to those carsonite stakes. I haven't used it but my staff has. April 25th is a good date. I'll have a full staff on and may be able to have someone help you, although it is the trout fishing opener and the first weekend that the campgrounds will be open so.....it will be busy. I'll mark my calendar.

Roman (Ray) Torres
District Lands and Recreation Officer
Hat Creek Ranger District

Signage support for the site and possible Forest Service staff to help out?!! This is really great support we are getting from the Forest Service.

April Work Party Is Near

April 25th is just around the corner, so mark your calendars. The club will be cleaning up the launch site at the Rim and doing some site maintenance. This will include inspecting and replacing windsocks as needed and other LZ maintenance, such as repainting the white rocks in the #2 LZ that show where the private property line is. Not all of this year's site maintenance will get done during April's work party. We'll still need to do site maintenance over the Memorial Day weekend, like keeping the Buttonhook bailout LZ clear of returning brush.

It looks like there's a strong chance that Forest Service staff will be on site in April to help with the rock barrier improvements.

Hat Creek Hereford Ranch Campground opens on the 15th of April, so anybody not wanting to "rough it" too badly can get a nice spot in that deluxe campground. The pond is usually stocked with trout at the beginning of the season also.

And don't forget to bring your wing. The season is early, but good conditions may still develop.

Safety Tip, Repacking Chutes

When repacking your chute this season, make sure the proper retaining rubber bands are used. The rubber bands used on your parachute deployment bag are NOT your garden variety office supply store type.

Regular type rubber bands will harden, become brittle, and will break when you need them most (while trying to deploy your chute.) The "rigging" type rubber bands retain their elasticity and will not break while throwing your deployment bag.

You might be wondering, where can you find these "rigging" type rubber bands? Good question. If you're like me and like to repack your own chute, you may already know that you just don't find them anywhere. If you contact Betty Pfeiffer at High Energy Sports, she can send you an envelope full of the right type rubber bands.

Years ago, Betty sent me an envelope of rubber bands at no charge. She even paid the postage. I used the same rubber bands this year, and although they are getting pretty old now, they have still maintained their elasticity. Betty has been in the business for 27 years now and can be found at www.highenergysports.com or 714-632-3323.

- editor

LZ #2 Camping Cookout

A group of club members have decided to camp out in the #2 LZ for the April 25th work party. They should be joined by two others on Saturday for the actual work detail.

With at least six planning on being up for the work party, a cookout in the #2 LZ is being planned for Saturday evening. The cookout will be after the work detail is finished and any flying thereafter.

At this early date, here is the contribution lineup so far:

- Brian.....will be kicking in some boneless chicken breasts
- Phil.....has generously offered to bring steak (and the BBQ)
- Mike.....will bring a salad/side dish
- Al.....has pledged to bring the beer

Please RSVP if you are planning to be there so we can make sure to bring enough food/drink for everyone. You can RSVP to Brian at flyingbrian17@hotmail.com — cell #530-355-2081 or Phil at bigbird@vfr.net

Hope to see lots of you for the work party and the cookout!

Still For Sale



Moyes SX5—Super Extralite 154 - \$500.00

Brian at 530-355-2081 or flyingbrian17@hotmail.com