

LA COUNTY FAIR

2010

By Terry & Teri Haider

First of all, I would like to thank all the folks who helped at the LA Co. fair this year! It was one of the best yet! There was three times the area to set up our display. Last year all we had was a barrel with a pack saddle and panniers and a table with some handouts on it. Also a small camp on the hill side, with a tent, fire ring, saddle, packsaddle and high line. Signs, telling what was what and who we are.

This year we set up a 12'x14' wall tent with an 8'x10' awning on wooden poles & ropes. Under it we had a table with handouts and a rotating picture frame. Terry and Teri made up two poster boards. One had pictures of projects that were done with the Forest Service, which showed packing in Tent and packing out trash. The other board was on Knots, with pictures of how to tie them. We had two iron mules with a sawbuck and panniers tied with a double diamond. The other one was set up with decker and mannie pack, to show how it would be tied on. The wall tent had a stove, cots, table, and other camping gear. All of this camping gear could be packed in on a horse or a mule. There was our small Gentle Use Camp, with all the signs. This all received a lot of attention; people took time to read it.



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Our camp at the LA County Fair. September 3rd thru Oct. 3rd 2010 Thirty days of a lot of work and 502 education hours!

Here are some pictures of our Gentle Use Camp.



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Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday all the school kids came to the Fair on a field trip. A lot of private schools attended. The Fair said there were a 100,000 school kids, and 10% of them came to "Caring for the Land." An estimate of 10,000 kids went by our camp display. This is a great opportunity to teach the kids about the outdoors. At the sight there was the Forest Service and BLM. Many of the teachers were writing reports and asking a lot of questions. They give this input to FS and BLM to help make a better education for the kids or what they would like to see. The Forest Service has the kids make colored badges, color pictures. The fire trucks and gear, Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. There is a working lookout tower and a magic show all about preventing fires. They also have log sawing with a two man saw for the kids try out, and then they brand the wood with a Forest Service emblem. This was the most popular thing to do.

Terry has been working with Forest Service & BLM for the past 7 years at the Fair. The last two years I have been working in the planning stages. Starting in January, they are to give the Fair a five year plan to use this area at the fair and even add more space. The purpose is for education, for the city kids to learn about the forest, camping and the great outdoors. BLM is there with the wild horses & burros. It's all about history and caring for the land. Terry has the opportunity to plan out a camp to reflect the history of camping and stock use in the back country. We hope to create a wilderness area that the kids can see without going there.

Every Friday of the Fair, Teri and Terry did a dutch oven desert, that we shared with the Forest Service and BLM volunteers. Needless to say that was a big hit. We had a pineapple up-side-down cake, brownies, peach cobbler with cinnamon rolls on top.



Terry & Teri doing their thing with the Dutch Oven



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Terry had a great opportunity to visit with a lot of people and got a lot of input of how to make things better and what they would like to see and learn about. There were hikers who asked about the mountain lions and bears while hiking in the hills. They wanted to know what to do if they ran into one while hiking. The different schools groups asked if we would put on a demonstration on at their schools. The Forest Service had asked me if I would go with the inter city kids and show them how to camp with stock. The Monrovia Canyon Park asked if we could put on some educational classes at their facilities on camping with stock and general camping and dutch oven cooking. Also, the two education centers that the Forest Service has, would like us to put on some education classes. Also, the BLM asked me to do a project out in the desert when they demonstrate the history of mining. So there is lots of opportunities with many different agencies and private groups. It's a case of developing the contacts and being willing to take the show on the road.