

June 2012 Overview
Kings Canyon Backcountry Trail Crew
Supervisor: David Weaver

Hello Friends,

Another month down, we're all getting stronger, faster, closer as a group and yes, hairier. June was full of surprises, some pleasant, some not so much. We enjoyed welcoming Jayce Coovert's Grandpa Dick into Lewis Creek camp for four days. The next week Brooke Johnson's friends Aubrey, Linda, and Saumya came to visit. All lovely people who got to participate in evening volleyball matches and our summer solstice white elephant gift party. A beach volleyball class was taught by Connor Schmeck. Work-wise we have been covering serious maintenance miles entailing brushing trail corridor, clearing drains, removing rocks and debris from trails, and re-treading. It has been a mix of Cedar Grove front country trails consisting of large granite cliffs, conifer forest, raging rivers, and hot temperatures; then Grant Grove front country trails consisting of cooler temperatures, Giant Sequoia Redwoods (General Grant Tree is the worlds' 3rd largest), ferns, and diverse wildlife. Cameron Aveson (Kings Canyon '93) conducted a rock work class that was well done. Complete with PowerPoint presentation, different styles of laying rock, and of course LOTS OF SAFETY. David Karplus (Kings Canyon '82) also taught a class on proper ergonomics. Our camp move into the backcountry was delayed for two weeks while NPS personnel figured out what to do about the 30-40 dead trees looming over our projected tent sites. That was tough as the crew was looking forward to the Backcountry like moths to a flame, or a hungry person to a buffet, or an early bird to morning coffee, or a cat to catnip, or flies to the latrines, or mosquitoes to your face, or well you get it. As I write this we are currently nestled in our new camp at the headwaters of the middle fork of the Kings River! We're a lucky group indeed. Until next time.