

August 2012 Overview
Yosemite I CCC Backcountry Crew
Supervisor: Tessa d'Usseau

Overview:

August has come and gone before we knew it. Our new backcountry camp is located at Cony Crags (9,400') with a spectacular view of the Clark Range. It took no time for the crew to adjust and adapt to all the changes. We've dealt with afternoon thunderstorms since our arrival and have reaped the benefits of their aftermath with some incredible sunsets. As the season progresses the nights are noticeably colder and the days continue to get shorter, but this hasn't hampered the crew's desire to cover as much ground as they can while they are out here, and to complete as many projects as are put in front of them. Spirits and energy remain high as we head into the home stretch!

Curriculum:

We continue our evening curriculum with our weekly community meetings and are finishing the season with corpsmember-taught classes, which have included a ukulele class by Sean Moodie (Fortuna CCC); a wildland firefighting class by Angela Johnson (Camarillo CCC); "Boys Ranch" by Ivan Klusyk (Greenwood CCC); and a chess class by Michael Aguilera (Inland Empire CCC). We also spent an evening responding to a survey from our sponsor, the Yosemite Conservancy, and completed our end-of-season survey for the Backcountry Trails Program. Our T-shirt committee, headed by Sean Moodie, completed the crew's final design (created by our resident artist Angela Johnson) and submitted it to Solo Sports. We can't wait to see the final product at Debriefing.

Once again the "Games" and "Special Events" committees have outdone themselves. Their collaboration for the "Olympics" set the crew's competitive instincts on "fire" with an opening ceremony (torch and all) not to be rivaled! The events included the "Rake Vault" won by Singapore Dan Schweitzer and Sean Moodie, "Dizzy-Spin & Rock-on-a-Spoon" was also won by Singapore, "Sack Race" won by Mordor (Lo Freitas and Nik Bines), and the final event, "tug-of-war" through the creek won by Gold Medalist Mordor. The Silver Medal went to Singapore and the Bronze to Canada (Andrew Kaplan and Aran Halvorsen). The closing ceremony was even more spectacular than the opening ceremony with one of Backcountry's favorites, orchestrated by Jeremy Brown.

Weekends:

Is there any place this crew won't go? It doesn't seem like it. This month they've added Mt. Florence, Rodgers Peak, Red Peak, Grey Peak, Cony Crags, Mt. Lyell, Barcock Lake, Obelisk Lake, Washburn Lake and up and down the Lyell Fork Drainage of the Merced River to their list of conquests. There is still lots to see and places to go and I'm sure the crew's final weeks in the backcountry will be spent taking advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you's:

Thanks to all our visitors who weathered the rain, hail, thunder and lightning and hiked the 17 miles in to visit us: Karlson Hubbard, David Muraki, Danielle D'Usseau, Britta Gunderson, and Chelsea Saeland. It was great to have you spend some time with our crew.

Thanks to Russ Kish, the NPS trail office and the packers for all your support.

Thanks to Roger and Laura Wolff for taking a day off your backpack trip to volunteer with the crews on the trail (And spending the evening playing "Hearts" with us.)