

The Groveland Volunteer Firefighters' Association Memorial Weekend Barbecue was a Phenomenal Success by Fire Chief Shane Warner (5/2009)



We wish to send out a huge thank you to all the people who turned out for our second annual Memorial Weekend Barbecue. We were absolutely amazed with the amount of participation and support from everyone. We sold over 650 tickets and the firefighters cooked and served a tasty tri-tip dinner. The bidding was fast and furious on the themed baskets and the 50/50 raffle, supervised by Slim and Betty Rohlfs, was a fun and popular event. The Mountain Fever Band and the auctioneer Paul Purifoy kept things lively and entertaining.

Many donations from local vendors contributed to the enormous success of this year's barbecue. All proceeds from the GFD, 4H Club, and PML Video's Hawaiian Shaved Ice booths were given to the fire department. Swingle Meat Co. and Moore Brothers greatly reduced the cost of their product or service. Sysco was very helpful in planning the barbecue.

Valuable basket donations from the following businesses greatly added to the revenue from the live auction:

Groveland Businesses: Body Beautiful, PML Video, Mar-Val Market, 2 Guys Pizza Pies, Evergreen Lodge, Firefall Coffee Roasting Co., Hotel Charlotte, PML Assoc. and Golf, Dori's Tea Cottage, Curves and Kelly's Cookies.

Tuolumne County Businesses: Ultimate Tan Co., Sierra Rep. Theatre, Baskin Robbins, Willow Steak House, Peppery Bar & Grill, Diamondback, Here's the Scoop, Perko's, Umpqua Bank, Black Oak Casino, Azzo's, Mt. Brow, Mtn. Springs, Phoenix Lake Golf, Twain Harte Golf, Take it to the Limit fishing guide service, Wood's Creek Café, 50's Roadhouse, Earth & Ocean, Stage 3, Togo's, Starbucks, Moaning Caverns, and Cover's Apple Ranch.

Other Businesses: Stockton Ports baseball, Aquarium of the Bay, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Oakland A's, Pier 29, Saddle Creek Resort Golf, The Warehouse Bar & Grill, and Cave & Mine Adventures.



We do not want to forget those who bid and won the themed basket. We greatly appreciate your contribution to the success of the barbecue and hope you are enjoying your basket items.



Our hearts have been touched by the many donations to our troops overseas. Volunteer Firefighter Kurtis Tripp, recently home from a tour of duty in Iraq, helped us with this tribute to our Memorial Day themed barbecue. We will be sending the first of many boxes this week to our soldiers stationed in Iraq.

With barbecue revenue and additional fire department funds we are able to purchase a TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) for the new fire engine. This equipment helps firefighters locate trapped victims inside smoky and dangerous situations. This tool also detects hot spots in the walls and ceilings to prevent fires from spreading.



The Groveland Fire Department staff, volunteer, and reserve firefighters all helped with the barbecue. Sarah Pennington, Volunteer/Reserve Firefighter and President of the Groveland Volunteer Firefighters' Assoc., worked long and hard on organizing the barbecue and the themed baskets. We appreciate all her time and effort. Here is a quote from Sarah revealing her dedication, "Firefighting is not a job but an honor, especially when serving a community as supportive as the Groveland/Big Oak Flat area."