

August 2011 Overview

Stanislaus Backcountry Trail Crew

Cesar Ramirez: Supervisor

We are nestled in our new camp located right in a nice cubby hole below granite towers known as Louse Canyon reviving the old spirits of the Backcountry courtesy of Agnes '09 crew.

We quickly put our camp together amongst the last of the snow drifts and were pleasantly greeted by our new friends the mosquitoes, who made sure that we felt welcomed with their love.

No sooner had we arrived than someone put the word out that the Stanislaus Crew had the best spot in the Backcountry: Our ¼ mile walk to the latrine and ¼ mile water to get water and finally our ¼ mile walk to our PT area sure made visitors come out in full force. So let's begin with the list -- We had our very own CCC Director David Muraki and family grace us with their presence, they brought with them that Backcountry appreciation and also some goodies (yes!!!!) for the crew – Thank you very much.

Shortly after his departure we had Mark Spencer show up overnight, we all awoke to find him sleeping on a rock in the middle of camp luckily no one stepped on him too hard and he was able to teach a class on population control and how people should learn Spanish amongst other things. We also had Carl Menconi make an appearance full of smiles and quick wit. He made his class on erosion and trail construction so with ease everyone enjoyed having him in camp, thank you so much for the laughs.

Just as he had arrived Erin Healy, Julie Baird, Fred Lietzke, Rita Gass and Joe “the Camera Guy” showed up to film us for an up and coming spot on some national TV program like Fox News's Glenn Beck show or Shawn Hannity to show the extent and power of the Stanislaus. “America!” We were on a full swing of entertainment show making everyone feel at home and as people were saying their goodbyes and heading out to the real world we got a surprise visit from Tony Vasquez and the VISTA staff. Kelsey A, Orawan, and Becky, they jumped right in step with chores and even helped with dinner. Showing them the Backcountry life style they were very happy to be out there.

We also had Robert Chad and Jimmy Ohki who came to visit our very own Takeo Kishi; Takeo showed them the ropes of camp life and took them on tour of our great work. And last but not least we had Marla DeKlotz come and help Frank with meals and play some tunes with Dolan it was a great treat. As you see we have been hosting lots of parties and also getting work done out here. We have held steady and we made our move to Buck Lakes shortly after the last visitors had left... the saga continues

CURRICULUM: Besides our obvious teachers who showed up we have continued with life stories which I believe continues to solidify the crew. There was some Birthday Party thrown in there with our very quick Backcountry piñata (so much that you can do with a banana box).

PERSONNEL CHANGES: None to report 😊 we just got some gorilla glue sent in and now we are all stuck together.

ODDS AND ENDS: Thank you to all our visitors that showed up this month. It was a pleasure having every single one of you in our camp. Thank you for the conversations, goodies, and news of that outside scary world. We all thank you.