

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 62  
June 1996**

# OBFSNews

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## 1996 OBFS Annual Meeting

*-by Dan Dawson, Program Chairman, and Dave Trydahl, local host*

**When:** September 26-29, 1996

**Where:** White Mountain Research Station  
(University of California-Bishop)

### General Information

The 1996 annual meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations will be held at the Crooked Creek facilities of the White Mountain Research Station (WMRS). The facilities are located at an elevation of 10,150 feet in the White Mountains of Eastern California. The White Mountains are one of the most dramatic landscapes in the United States. Plant communities of the northern Mojave blend with those of the great basin. The range is famous for the Bristlecone Pine, the alpine flora and the easy accessibility to mountain environs over 10,000 feet. Prominent fauna include marmots, pikas, bighorn sheep and golden eagles.

White Mountain Research Station is a multi-campus, multi-discipline unit of the University of California. It pre-dates the UC Natural Reserve System, and is not a part of it. The station has four sites along an elevational transect from 4,050' to 14,250'. The Crooked Creek laboratory was established by the Navy as a research facility 1947. The White Mountain Research Station officially came into existence in 1950 when the Navy transferred its operation to the University of California. In 1951 a site was added at Mount Barcroft, elevation 12,250', and in 1953, atop White Mountain Peak at 14,260'. These sites provide an excellent transect for studies that vary from high altitude physiology to astrophysics. In 1964 a site in Bishop was acquired, elevation 4,000', which made WMRS a true multi-discipline facility providing access to the lower slopes of the White Mountains, the Owens Valley and the Sierra

Nevada. In addition to providing support to a variety of classes from UC campuses, WMRS also hosts activities from universities and researchers throughout the world.

The OBFS annual meeting will begin on Thursday evening with a reception and dinner. We will continue Friday with a business meeting, some presentations, a short walking field trip in the immediate area of Crooked Creek, dinner and entertainment. Meetings will continue Saturday morning with two field trip options available in late morning and afternoon. One option is a trip to Barcroft and the summit of White Mountain Peak and the other a trip into Cottonwood Basin. Saturday evening concludes with the famous OBFS slide show. There will also be a pre-meeting field trip from the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab (SNARL) that should be spectacular.

### Travel

No matter where you come from automobile transport, personal or rental, will be required. No shuttle service will be provided from any airport. Carpooling may be arranged through the OBFS listserver, PikaNet. WMRS is located in a remote section of Eastern California and for those who are flying the options are Reno, Hollywood/Burbank, Los Angeles International, and Las Vegas. From LAX one can get a connecting commuter flight on United or American Airlines to Inyokern.

Approximate driving times to Crooked Creek from the various airport options are:

Reno:	5.0 hrs
Los Angeles:	6.0 hrs
Hollywood/Burbank:	5.5 hrs
Las Vegas:	5.0 hrs
Inyokern:	3.5 hrs

For those attending the pre-meeting trip it is only a three hour drive South from Reno to SNARL or three hours north from Inyokern to SNARL.

Highway 395 is the north/south arterial from either location.

### Getting There

Take Highway 395 south or north to Highway 168 on the outskirts of the village of Big Pine. At this point double check your personal supplies and top your car off with fuel. Turn east and go up Westgard Pass on Highway 168 (do not go toward Death Valley) for thirteen miles. Turn left on White Mountain Road. You will also see signs that say Research Station. The first fifteen miles are asphalt road and take you to Schulman Grove, the location of the oldest Bristlecone Pine. The asphalt road becomes dirt at this point. In 3.2 miles you will come to a junction. Continue on the main road an additional 6 miles to the junction of the Crooked Creek road. There will be a sign that indicates Crooked Creek and Cottonwood Basin. Turn right at this junction and continue on this road until you come to a "Y" in the road. You can see the facility at this point. Take the right leg and continue on into Crooked Creek.

If coming from Las Vegas take US 95 north. Top off your fuel in Beatty and continue north. Take Highway 266 west to Highway 168. Take Highway 168 west toward Westgard Pass. Look for White Mountain Road and follow the directions above.

### Accommodations

Occupancy at Crooked Creek is 60 persons. Couples will probably be separated and no children can be accommodated. If the meeting exceeds this number we will ask members of the group to volunteer to sleep at Barcroft which can accommodate 20 people. Barcroft is eight miles from Crooked Creek. Dormitory rooms at Crooked Creek sleep from 4-10 persons. Staying at a motel will require a commute of one and a half hours each way. Bring your own sleeping bags and we will furnish pillows, towels and linens.

### Helpful Hints

Remember we are an hour and a half from any store. Bring any personal items such as soda, sweets, cigarettes, etc. that you anticipate may make the stay more pleasant. There is no telephone service at Crooked Creek. In a true emergency one can call Barcroft (619)938-2930 or

(619)938-2929. The message will be relayed via radio to Crooked Creek and delivered to you. Please refrain from using this for other than true emergencies. Cellular phones can be used within a one mile drive up the road from Crooked Creek.

Average low temperature in September at Crooked Creek is 32 degrees F. and the average high temperature is 60 degrees F. Bring layers of clothing that can accommodate a range of temperature from 20 degrees to 70 degrees. Precipitation in September usually falls in the form of snow. Since the sun is intense at elevation bring lip balm and sun screen. Following are the basic recommendations for a visit to WMRS Crooked Creek:

1. A good vehicle (2 WD is ok).
2. Extra water, oil and a real spare tire (not a "donut" spare). Regular spares are usually available if you request them at the time reservations are made.
3. Clothing for a variety of weather conditions.
4. Sun protection and personal items.
5. A **warm** sleeping bag.

On Thursday, September 26, WMRS will have a repair vehicle patrolling the dirt section of road to help with any trouble that may occur. For any additional information please contact either Dave or Elizabeth at (619)873-4344 voice, (619)873-7830 fax or email (Dave at [dtrydahl@telis.org](mailto:dtrydahl@telis.org) or Elizabeth at [ep@wmrs.ovro.caltech.edu](mailto:ep@wmrs.ovro.caltech.edu)).

### Payment

The cost for this year's meeting is as follows:

Basic OBFS Annual Meeting: \$150.00  
Basic Meeting plus SNARL field trip: \$190.00

This includes lodging, meeting registration, all meals, snacks, and high quality refreshments. Please enclose a check or money order with your registration form made out to "The Regents of The University of California".

### Pre-Meeting Field Trip

You can't come all the way to eastern central California and only visit the White Mountains. Visit the "other" mountain range in eastern California, the Sierra Nevada! The pre-meeting field trip will

give participants an opportunity to visit the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) and take an alpine hike in the beautiful Sierra Nevada in the company of a botanist and hydrologist. SNARL is a unit in the University of California's Natural Reserve System and is a research center for the central portion of the Sierra Nevada. Tour facilities, including experimental streams, with Manager Dan Dawson and then drive to a trailhead at 10,000' for a walk in Little Lakes Valley. This stunning valley, with 5 peaks over 13,000', offers hikes from easy to strenuous, that will allow us to break up into smaller groups and offer something for everyone. A map and directions to SNARL will be sent to all pre-meeting field trip participants.

### Program Schedule

#### **Wednesday, September 25 - Pre-meeting arrival at SNARL**

1:00-5:00 pm arrival and check in  
 5:00 pm reception  
 6:30 pm dinner  
 7:30 pm Lecture: "Natural History of Mono Lake" by Dr. Robert Jellison

#### **Thursday, September 26 - Pre-meeting arrivals**

6:30 am breakfast  
 7:30 am walking tour of SNARL  
 8:30 am depart for Little Lakes Valley  
 2:30 pm depart trailhead for Crooked Creek

#### **Thursday, September 26 -Registration all day at Crooked Creek**

6:00 pm reception  
 7:00 pm dinner  
 8:00 pm welcome from OBFS President Jack Stanford and WMRS Director Frank Powell, short history of WMRS by Dave Trydahl  
 9:00 pm Executive Committee and Committee Chairs Meeting

#### **Friday, September 27**

7:00 am breakfast  
 8:00 am Networking Field Stations: follow-up on OBFS/NAML workshop

9:00 am Panel Discussion: "Communication and Data Transfer At Remote Sites"  
 10:00 am break  
 10:15 am Business Meeting Part 1  
 12:00 pm lunch  
 1:00 pm NSF update  
 2:00 pm Panel Discussion: "Funding For Educational Programs"  
 3:00 pm walking field trip of immediate environs  
 5:00 pm socialize, etc.  
 6:00 pm dinner  
 7:30 pm Lecture: "Environmental Ethics" by Mr. Phil Pister, Desert Fishes Council

#### **Saturday, September 28**

7:00 am breakfast  
 8:00 am Business Meeting Part 2  
 10:30 am split up for field trips  
 6:30 pm dinner  
 8:30 pm slides (limit 10) please bring slides from your station

#### **Sunday, September 29**

7:00 am breakfast  
 8:00 am unfinished business  
 10:00 am meeting ends

#### **Note on Field Trips**

The short field trip on Friday will be a walking tour to a prehistoric Paiute village site with a talk by an archeologist, and a visit to the Bristlecone Pines with a talk by a US Forest Service employee. We will also be accompanied by a botanist familiar with the area.

Saturday we have two field trip options:  
*Option 1:* We will drive to Barcroft for a short tour and lunch break with a visit on the way to the Patriarch Grove of Bristlecone Pines. After lunch the group will continue driving to the saddle near White Mountain Peak and climb to the peak. We will return to Crooked Creek in time for the evening activities. Option 1 is a more challenging trip due to the high elevation. White Mountain Peak is at 14,240 feet and Cottonwood Basin is at 9,000 feet.

*Option 2:* We will take a trip down into the Cottonwood Basin area of the White Mountains, a

rich riparian area. We will be joined by staff of the California Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service and local ranchers who will each discuss various unique aspect of Cottonwood Basin.

### Registration Form

Copy and return a separate form for each person, with your check, by August 15, 1996 to:

White Mountain Research Station  
3000 East Line Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
Attn: OBFS

(Note: Please list the first three lines exactly as you would like them to appear on your name tag)

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Station:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

Please check one:

Regular meeting (\$150.00): \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meeting plus pre-meeting field trip (\$190.00): \_\_\_\_\_

List any special food requirements or other comments below. We will do our best to accommodate you.

**Donations for Research in Cat Tien National Park, South Viet Nam**

**-by Ron Lawrenz, St. Croix Watershed Research Station**

Cat Tien National Park is located about 85 km north of Ho Chi Minh City and is a nascent national park, with a forestry manager, young biology staff and park workers. The ecosystem of the 35,000 ha. Park is described as monsoon tropical rain forest and the area is biologically very rich, with numerous rare and endangered species.

The park is in need of the most basic equipment and supplies, as well as field guides and reprints specific to Southeast Asia and/or Viet Nam, in order to conduct basic research on the park's mammalian, avian, entomological and herpetological species. Any donations that would assist with such endeavors would be appreciated.

Please contact Ron Lawrenz, St. Croix Watershed Research Station (612)433-59453 or Sharon Pfeifer (pfeif009@tc.umn.edu).

### NSF Field Station/Marine Lab Competition

The 1996 panel meeting to evaluate proposals submitted to this competition was held recently in Washington, DC. Anyone who is interested in the results of their particular proposal should contact Dr. James (Tom) Callahan to see how they fared. Tom can be reached directly on email at "jcallaha@nsf.gov", or by phone at ((703)306-1479 ext. 6428.

General results of the 1996 competition will be available this fall. Tom expects to be able to come to the OBFS meeting in September, and all members of the panel have also been invited to attend. The more familiar panel members are about field stations and marine labs, the more effective is the review process. This year panel members reiterated their interest in meeting at field stations rather than in Washington for their panel review.

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