

The Eighth

NABA 08 has come and gone. The North American Butterfly Association's 8th Biennial Members Meeting is history. That history is largely formed by the experiences and memories of 185 participants who arrived in Kernville, California from twenty-seven states, Mexico, and the United Kingdom in June 2008. Following is one attempt to capture some of the 2008 NABA Members Meeting's history in writing.

It was Saturday, July 8, 2001. Then and current NABA Board members Fred Heath and Guy Tudor plus Ken Davenport, John Lawrenson, eleven important others, and I had just concluded recording 60 butterfly species during that day's inaugural North Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count. Post-count dinner conversation led to the idea of holding a future NABA Biennial Members Meeting in Kernville.

What about meeting space for 200? Are there enough accommodations? Where is the conference center? The answers were that Kernville itself was the conference center — one with John Muir's Sierra skies serving as the ceiling, Upper Kern Canyon cliffs as the walls, and Kernville School and multiple accommodation levels and restaurants from which to choose serving as the foundation. Besides, how many conference centers have a Congressionally-designated National Wild & Scenic River running through them, in this case the North Fork Kern River?

Lack of a single conference center with on-site lodging was a factor which we were able to move off the list of requirements for holding a NABA meeting in Kernville. Seven subsequent years of discussions, formal planning, and real work led to the Thursday-Sunday, June 26-29, 2008 emergence and

Biennial NABA Members Meeting

by Bob Barnes



flight of NABA 08 in Kernville.

Earlier in the week of NABA 08, Michael Klein led off the pre-meeting activities by taking numerous early arriving NABA 08 attendees on outings to see Hermes Copper

in his San Diego County backyard. Although Mike couldn't make NABA 08 itself, he was an important and valued part of its context.

Two NABA butterfly counts are held in the Kern River Valley the forest weekend in July

— North Fork Kern River Valley and Giant Sequoia National Monument South. There was no way to hold these two counts after the meeting; no way to get the participation from afar which is required by rural counts. Who