

A rare sight - Yosemite National Park "fire" waterfall

personal forwarded email | July 12, 2010 | unknown

Posted on **July 12, 2010 10:23:50 PM PDT** by **B-Cause**

This park was gazetted as a national park in 1890. It is world famous for its rugged terrain, waterfalls, and century-old pine trees. It covers 1200 sq km and the "fire" waterfall of El Capitan is one of the most spectacular of all scenery.

The spectacular view of the waterfall is created by the reflection of sunlight hitting the falling water at a specific angle. This rare sight can only be seen during a 2-week period towards the end of February. To photograph this rare event, photographers would often have to wait and endure years of patience in order to capture them. The reason is because its appearance depends on a few natural phenomenon occurring at the same time and lots of luck.

1st, is the formation of the waterfall - the water is formed by the melting of snow and ice at the top of the mountain. It melts between the months of December and January and by the end of February there might not have enough snow left to melt.

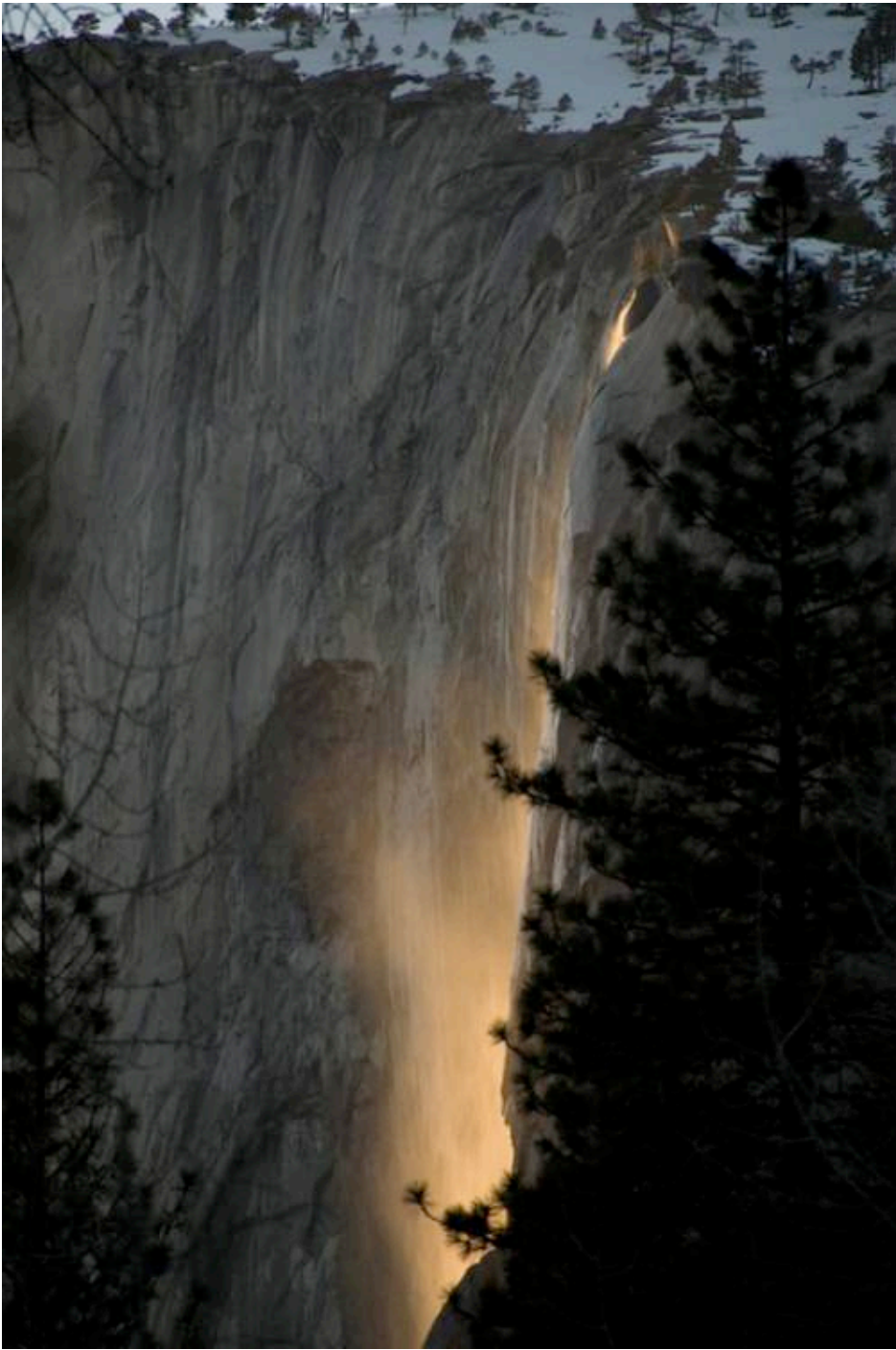
2nd, is the specific angle of the sunray hitting the falling water - the sun's position must be exactly at a particular spot in the sky. This occurs only in the month of February and at dusk. If it is a day full of clouds or something blocking the sun, you can only take pictures of your own sorry face on the waterfall. It coincides with the fact that the weather in the National Park at that time of the year is often volatile and unpredictable. It compounds the difficulty of getting these pictures.

Someone did - and we all get to see it - enjoy















Soli Deo gloria - to God alone be glory

TOPICS: Arts/Photography; Chit/Chat; Miscellaneous; Outdoors

KEYWORDS: 911truthers; firewaterfall; hoaxemails; photos; twa800

1 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:23:58 PM PDT** by **B-Cause**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **B-Cause**
Breath taking!

2 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:27:19 PM PDT** by **Huskrrrr**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **B-Cause**
That was really cool.

3 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:28:09 PM PDT** by **Vendome** (Don't take life so seriously... You'll never live through it.)
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To: **B-Cause**

I got to see the Yosemite firefall before the do-gooders got it banned. It really was spectacular.

4 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:28:50 PM PDT** by **Pelham** (Deport the Alien In Chief and the rest of the illegals)
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To: **B-Cause**

Nice Photoshop work. /sarcasm

5 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:29:44 PM PDT** by **historyrepeatz**
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To: **B-Cause**

B.S. They used to have the "Fire Fall" almost every night during the Summer. They stopped it in 1968 after over 95 years.

6 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:31:21 PM PDT** by **Mike Darancette** (See You in November)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Mike Darancette**

They stopped what?

7 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:33:45 PM PDT** by **Williams**
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To: **All**

Yosemite "Firefall"...a nightly event at Camp Curry up until 1968 (as mentioned earlier):

<http://firefall.info/>

8 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:36:29 PM PDT** by **Drago**
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To: **B-Cause**

Firefall was not water+Sun.

The hotel up there would dump burning embers down at that spot.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite_Firefall

9 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:37:03 PM PDT** by **Southack** (Media Bias means that Castro won't be punished for Cuban war crimes against Black Angolans in Africa)
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To: **B-Cause**

THX THX

10 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:37:15 PM PDT** by **Quix** (THE PLAN of the Bosses: <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/religion/2519352/posts?page=2#2>)
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To: **Pelham**

saw the real one also in 1948.

11 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:38:01 PM PDT** by **dalereed**
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To: **Pelham**

I got to see the Yosemite firefall before the do-gooders got it banned. It really was spectacular.

I saw it in 1957 and 1960.

12 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:39:56 PM PDT** by **Fiji Hill**
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To: **B-Cause**

Either these are old pictures or the park had a special event as a remembrance to the days of the Firefall. For those of you that never saw this event. It was held I believe on a weekly basis during the 60's and prior. I think that they stopped it in the early 70's, but am not sure of the exact year. I am also not sure when it started.

The rangers would create a huge fire up at Glacier Point and then would shove the burning embers over the face of

Glacier Point to create the sensation. They would wait until it was fully dark. A large crowd will gather at Curry Village (I believe) to see the event. Since it was totally dark, it was hard to tell what method they used to send the burning embers crashing to the Valley below.

13 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:40:38 PM PDT** by **notpoliticallycorewrecked** (According to the MSM, I'm a fringe sitting, pajama wearing, Freeper)

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To: **Conservative4Life**
Bump

14 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:43:39 PM PDT** by **Conservative4Life** (Those who don't learn from the past are condemned to repeat it. Elections have consequences.)

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To: **Conservative4Life**

More: <http://www.firefall.com/journal.asp>

15 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:45:21 PM PDT** by **Drago**

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To: **Southack; B-Cause**

Looks to be a mix of photos of the burning ember "Fire Falls" and some nice photos of sunlight on water falls.

The wiki description of the Fire Falls was very interesting with the history, etc.

A hotel did the fire falls when they were forced to stop it by the park. Later that same winter heavy snows damaged the hotel. That summer, during repairs, the hotel burned to the ground. In part fed by a pile of wood used for the fire falls!

16 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:48:52 PM PDT** by **21twelve** (UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES MY ARSE: "...now begin the work of remaking America."-Obama, 1/20/09)

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To: **B-Cause**
Wow ping

17 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:49:35 PM PDT** by **steel_resolve**

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To: **All**

The "light conditions" must have been perfect during the filming of "Caine Mutiny"!! ;-)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgf_39CfS1Y

18 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:53:17 PM PDT** by **Drago**

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To: **B-Cause**
Spectacular!

19 posted on **July 12, 2010 10:55:10 PM PDT** by **rcrnrgroup**

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To: **B-Cause**

Those pictures are beautiful. Thanks so much for posting them! :)

20 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:02:21 PM PDT** by **SaraJohnson**

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To: **Southack**

So is what was written in the post a partial hoax with the whole sun part of the effect description. That all those pics were taken before they stopped them from doing this every year via artificial means?

I'm not saying the poster perp'd the hoax themselves, I'm just trying to be clear if whoever authored the description in this email floating around the internet was saying something deliberately false.

21 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:03:33 PM PDT** by **Proud_USA_Republican** ("The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.")

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 9](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **B-Cause**

I saw it more than a few times as a kid. It was spectacular!

22 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:04:17 PM PDT** by **TMD** (Sometimes people say the wrong things, just remember, they really meant to say the right thing.)

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To: **Williams**

They stopped what?

Dumping burning wood off of Glacier Point. There is no waterfall on Glacier Point.

23 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:07:52 PM PDT** by **Mike Darancette** (See You in November)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 7](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Southack**

Thanks much for that link Southack. I am such a sucker for stuff like that that comes through my emails. At least the photos are great.

Thanks again Southack.

24 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:12:22 PM PDT** by **B-Cause** (Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.)

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To: **Proud_USA_Republican**

The email is a hoax. You can't see the "firefall" in February as the email claimed. Firefall has been banned since 1968.

The email even used the Wikipedia picture of the ember-burning firefall to claim that it was sunlight on a waterfall at Glacier Point.

In reality, water has to be trucked up to the top of Glacier Point. Without Man, there is no water there at all, much less enough water for a waterfall.

Instead, the reality is that "firefall" was glowing embers from a nightly fire (until 1968).

25 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:12:42 PM PDT** by **Southack** (Media Bias means that Castro won't be punished for Cuban war crimes against Black Angolans in Africa)

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To: **B-Cause**

Wow! Thanks for sharing!

26 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:12:48 PM PDT** by **TheBattman** (They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature...)

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To: **B-Cause**

The pictures are cool, I agree!

27 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:13:30 PM PDT** by **Southack** (Media Bias means that Castro won't be punished for Cuban war crimes against Black Angolans in Africa)

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To: **Southack**

Two different things here. There is a "firefall" that is not the burning embers pushed off Glacier Point. It's the setting sun light playing off Horsetail Falls in late February: <http://www.todayandtomorrow.net/2010/03/11/horsetail-firefall/>

28 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:30:55 PM PDT** by **freeagle**

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To: **Drago**

I haven't seen The Caine Mutiny in a long time. Young actor Robert Francis, who played Ensign Willie Keith, would die in a plane crash the next year.

29 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:35:00 PM PDT** by **iowamark**

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To: **B-Cause; Conservative4Life**

These pictures are amazing.

30 posted on **July 12, 2010 11:55:34 PM PDT** by **Trillian**

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To: **B-Cause**

Video - Horsetail Falls at sunset, Yosemite National Park

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmuiQiQxdHQ&feature=related>

31 posted on **July 13, 2010 12:49:16 AM PDT** by **preacher** (A government which robs from Peter to pay Paul will always have the support of Paul.)

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To: **B-Cause**

I saw the real firefall at Yosemite in 1967.

32 posted on **July 13, 2010 2:36:15 AM PDT** by **caver** (Obama: Home of the Whopper)

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To: **B-Cause**

Bush's Fault?

33 posted on **July 13, 2010 6:25:41 AM PDT** by **JRios1968** (The real first rule of Fight Club: don't invite Chuck Norris...EVER)

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To: **freeagle**

Horsetail Falls is a huge waterfall. The picture that you linked to, however, is of Glacier Point where there is no waterfall.

34 posted on **July 13, 2010 9:28:30 AM PDT** by **Southack** (Media Bias means that Castro won't be punished for Cuban war crimes against Black Angolans in Africa)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 28](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **B-Cause**

bflr

35 posted on **July 14, 2010 12:20:18 AM PDT** by **Kevmo** (So America gets what America deserves - the destruction of its Constitution. ~Leo Donofrio, 6/1/09)

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To: **B-Cause**

You should send these photos to the weather channel.

They're award winning quality.

36 posted on **July 14, 2010 9:23:12 AM PDT** by **Yosemitest** (It's simple, fight or die.)

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To: **Southack**

Actually, the link was to a blog with a photo of the Horsetail Fall "firefall" phenomena. Since it occurs in February, the water in the real falls is not huge. My link: <http://www.todayandtomorrow.net/2010/03/11/horsetail-firefall/> is of El Capitan and the Horsetail firefall. Here are more:

<http://littleredtent.net/LRTblog/how-to-photograph-horsetail-falls/>

<http://www.latogaphoto.com/2010/02/2-days-yosemite-horsetail-falls/>

<http://www.michaelfrye.com/articles/horsetail.html>

El Capitan and Glacier Point have very different profiles. Comparison helps determine the "real" firefalls from Glacier Point and the sunset light on the mist of Horsetail falls in February on El Capitan.

I had the incredible privilege of spending 22 summers in Yosemite and Christmases in Yosemite Valley. I saw 100+ nightly Glacier Point firefalls. Tried to see the Horsetail "firefalls" this past winter, but due to weather, it didn't show. Bummer.

37 posted on **July 15, 2010 9:49:47 PM PDT** by **freeagle**

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To: **retrokitten**

Didn't know if your still into photography but thought you might like these photos.

38 posted on **July 15, 2010 9:56:26 PM PDT** by **Captain Beyond** (The Hammer of the gods! (Just a cool line from a Led Zep song))

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To: **Captain Beyond**

I am still very much into photography! Thanks for the ping! These are incredible.

39 posted on **July 16, 2010 5:40:54 PM PDT** by **retrokitten**

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To: **retrokitten**

I need to ask the obvious question...If most of the snow melts in December and January, and little is left by February, then when does it snow there...September, October and November??? Also, isn't it still winter in December and January? Seems like those would be the months of snow accumulation and not snow melting.

40 posted on **July 28, 2010 7:41:32 AM PDT** by **justhadtoask**

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To: **Drago**

LOL, perfect!

41 posted on **July 28, 2010 7:46:48 AM PDT** by **1rudeboy**

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