Much of the Bridge has been de-constructed including exposing all of the support timbers, arches and truss structures. This is an important step to determine which areas will need to be replaced with new lumber. Many of these structural elements are of the original Bridge and are not only large timbers but also are somewhat unique in their design. The more of these structural timbers that need to be replaced, the more costly the replacement timbers will be and the adaptations that need to be made to these new timbers will be more time consuming.

As of today, all of the structural timbers have been inspected. The good news is that many of these original timbers are in very good condition and will not need to be replaced! The concept of a covered bridge is to protect the main part of the bridge from the elements and it works! Many of these timbers, milled and installed by David Wood over 150 years ago are still structurally sound. Also his design, combining an arch and truss system, has proven to be very strong and still a viable design for the renovated Bridge.

Doug Moon, Chair, SOB Campaign
A BRIDGE WITHIN A BRIDGE

As has been previously reported, the structure that will support the Bridge during renovation and construction is a “Mabey Bridge”. The framework for the Mabey Bridge is almost complete and is now being pushed through the interior of the historic Bridgeport Bridge. It looks like a huge erector set! Once this "internal bridge" is completed it will support the wood bridge, provide the framework for scaffolding to be erected for workers to work from and be the structure that will ultimately be used to raise the historic bridge to it's new level. When the work is all complete the Mabey Bridge will be disassembled, the Stabilization structure that has been in place since 2014 will be removed and the Bridge will be reopened to the public and once again look as it did in 1862. All of the timbers of the old bridge have been inspected, the timbers that need to be ordered have been identified and the orders are being placed. The replacement shingles for the walls and roof of the renovated Bridge have been inspected and approved, which allows them to be ordered as well. Check out the photos and videos showing the daily progress of the project on the South Yuba River Park Association website: www.southyubariverstatepark.org

~Doug Moon, Chair SOB Campaign Committee
President’s Message September 2019

The river has seen many visitors this summer. The fall is a quieter time to experience the Park.

The restoration of the historic covered bridge at Bridgeport is underway. You may keep tabs on the progress by checking out the photo archive on the SYRPA website (southyubariverestatepark.org) and, under News, click on “Save Our Bridge Restoration”. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers that are assembling this archive. You may, of course view the project in person, but keep a safe distance. You may get a good view from the Pleasant Valley Road bridge. Please see the separate Save Our Bridge Committee articles.

On sad note, we lost Don Denton over the summer. Don was a long time State Parks volunteer and SYRPA member. He took it upon himself to recruit many State Parks volunteers, including yours truly. As a volunteer, he was renowned for his bridge and barn tours for school groups and greeting visitors. He served on the SYRPA board. More recently, Don stepped up to serve as co-chair of the Bridge Restoration Celebration Committee (BRC). Known for his good humor and seemingly boundless energy he will be missed. Please see his obituary on page 10.

The Nevada County Fair featured the State Parks booth with a number of displays and the ever popular gold panning. Thanks are due to the many volunteers who staffed the booth. Volunteers from the three parks in western Nevada County stepped forward to serve visitors.

The South Yuba River Citizens League held its 33rd annual Yuba River Cleanup on Saturday, September 21st. SYRPA is a sponsor of the Yuba River Cleanup. SYRPA and State Park volunteers joined the cleanup effort at Bridgeport. The day was capped by an appreciation barbeque for volunteers at Pioneer Park in Nevada City where SYRPA had an informational booth. Kudos to SYRCL!

Our Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 28th. Let me know if you neglected to RSVP and wish to join us. Please remember that your Association relies strictly on volunteers and the generosity of its members. I encourage all members and volunteers to share their interest in the South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and encourage people to join our Association and to become a State Park volunteer. Those interested in volunteer opportunities should contact the Volunteer Coordinators.

If your time and interest permits, please consider stepping up to serve as a volunteer coordinator or trying out other volunteer activities. More hands will lighten the load for all.

Lastly, our traditional holiday potluck dinner is scheduled for 5:00 pm Tuesday, December 3rd, at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. Please take advantage of the fall weather and visit our Parks.

See you in the parks.

Robert Coats, President SYRPA Board of Directors
A WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW PARK STAFF!
Following is a message from Matt Green, (Acting) Sierra District Superintendent

I want to welcome the following staff to our Sierra District team.

Mary Moyer is our new Supervising Ranger for Malakoff Diggins and Empire Mine State Parks. Mary has been working with us for the past few weeks and has hit the ground running. Mary has a background in county park management with Orange County Parks and Rec, over five years as a Ranger at Lake Perris and two years at San Jacinto State Park. Mary will supervise a future new Malakoff Ranger, Michele Green at Empire, K9 Handler Martin Gilbertson and act as a lead/ supervisor for Sierra Gold Sector Interpreter Jenna Randar. Mary will also be in charge of park operations and interpretive support for Malakoff and Empire Mine.

Ryan Randar is our new South Yuba River Supervising Ranger. Ryan has worked at Bodie, Mono, Grover HSSP and the Lake Sector. Ryan has also worked at most units in the district and worked Out of Class as the Sierra Gold Supervising Ranger last summer and has been sector lead staff for the past year. There should be relatively no change in direction or operations with Ryan formerly taking over as Supervisor. Ryan has been a leader since he entered the Sierra Gold Sector and has been a “go to” person since he entered the district, never thinking a job isn’t worth learning or taking on for the experience. Ryan will supervise his replacement at South Yuba, Rangers Mark Weatherbee and James Carey as well as being the lead/supervisor for the park operation and interpretive support staff at South Yuba River State Park.

Alexandra “Alex” Neeb is our new Cultural Program Supervisor. Alex is coming from the Cal Trans downtown Sacramento office. Alex is a true generalist in the tradition of State Parks. She’s worked as Senior Management in Caltrans, a Historian, in non-profits and throughout the cultural and historian management landscape. Alex is one of our new hybrid core management positions, with management oversite of our Cultural Resource Program, Interpretation and Partnerships. She’ll have three direct reports with Natalie Davenport, an Archeologist and a Staff Park and Recreation Specialist. She’ll also have management oversite over our interpretive staff and programing. Alex reports November 1st.

What stands out about Alex and all of our new staff, is that they are good communicators, solid team members and mission centric individuals who believe in what we are trying to achieve in State Parks and within the Sierra District.

We are moving forward. We’ll continue to keep adding resources with the understanding that we still have challenges to meet. My thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding during very difficult times. We are transitioning and reorganizing and we’ll need everyone’s help to make us successful. Our core staff and I will be working with our new team members to gradually bring them up to speed and make them successful.
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT
By Mary Moyer

This Ranger Report will be a short, but sweet one, as I have only been on board here at Sierra Gold Sector for two incredible weeks! The summer season at the river is starting to wind down. Now is the time to take a breather and reflect on how successful our summer really was. The river clean-up is approaching, and we expect that to be very successful. We have just hired a Supervising Ranger that will be assigned to South Yuba. That Supervisor and I will be working together to Supervise the Sector. You should be getting an announcement about who this is soon. Please don’t hesitate to flag me down for a chat if you see me around. Have a great second half of September!

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WELCOME TO THE NEW SIERRA SECTOR'S SUPERVISING RANGER

I was born and raised in Nevada County. I graduated Nevada Union High School and attended Sierra College. I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelors degree in Sports and Exercise Science. I have worked as an EMT and a Firefighter before becoming a Park Ranger for OC Parks, and finally CA State Parks. I love the outdoors and have a passion for people and our history. I am finally back in my home town, and don’t expect that I will be going anywhere until I retire. I look forward to meeting you all!

Submitted by: Mary Moyer
MEET AND GREET BBQ/POTLUCK AT EMPIRE

SYRPA Board Members were invited to attend an informal BBQ Potluck at the Empire Mine maintenance facility on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. This gathering was put on by Sierra District Superintendent (Acting) Matt Green to welcome and introduce a number of new employees to the Sierra Gold Sector. Matt also took this opportunity to thank all of the current staff for their hard work during the busy summer season at our Parks. It was a great opportunity for SYRPA Board members to meet all of these new employees and to also renew acquaintances with all the other Sierra Gold Park Staff. The new employees introduced were: Mike McBride (PMA), Mary Moyer (SSPPO), Jennifer Diffin (MST) and Martin Gilbertson (SPPO K9) to name a few. Matt played the acronym game to see if anyone could figure out what these acronyms stand for. (hint: SSPPO = Supervising State Parks Peace Officer, or SPPO K9 = State Park Peace Officer K-9, MST = Management Service Technician.)

Good food and camaraderie!
Sierra Gold Parks Foundation

The Transition Committee currently comprised of representatives of Empire Mine Park Association, Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins and the South Yuba River Park Association are actively working with State Parks to complete the transition to a single cooperating association to support the three State Parks in Western Nevada County – Empire Mine State Historic Park, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and South Yuba River State Park.

The Association will be named Sierra Gold Parks Foundation (“SGPF”).

The Transition Committee plans to complete the transition by the end of October, 2019, but, in any event, by the end of the year.

Of particular focus for the Transition Committee is: (1) agreeing a financial accounting structure and the process for transition, and (2) proposing a point of sale system for the sales centers.

The Transition Committee is working to prepare the way for SGPF so that, when it starts to operate, it may focus on accomplishing its mission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Robert Coats at 530-264-7092 or rtcoats@comcast.net.

~Robert Coats, President SYRPA Board

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ANNUAL SYRCL YUBA RIVER CLEAN UP
Saturday, September 21, 2019

There was a great turnout by South Yuba River Park Association Volunteers to help clean up the Bridgeport area during the SYRCL Yuba River Clean Up. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to keep our river clean!
French Connection Festival at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park Translates to New Visitors and Fresh Outlooks

The strains of accordion music and echoes of French conversations enlivened the usually sleepy historic town of North Bloomfield, at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park on Saturday September 14. The Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins and California State Parks joined forces with the French Consulate of San Francisco and Education Francaise de Sacramento, to create a rich cultural experience with a brand new petanque court, new gold panning troughs (thanks to the ECV Chapter 10), guided town tours and cemetery and diggings hikes led by archeologists Mark Selverston and Chris Ward. Mini lectures by author Claudine Chalmers, PhD., noted San Francisco tour guide Gilles Lorand, and the Consul General himself, Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens, held visitors spellbound in front of the historic King Saloon as they listened to tales of historic French exploits and accomplishments.

Education Francaise de Sacramento re-created an historic outdoor French classroom and craft space at “Le Village” with festive décor, and youth oriented activities, including a chasse au tresor (treasure hunt) with French and English versions challenging participants to explore the historic buildings and cemetery. French language lessons were conducted, as well as lessons for writing a postcard with a quill. Girl Scout Troop 338 assisted with logistics and staffed a “bling your beret” station.

The enthusiasm for all things French is the result of a 2016 report commissioned by California State Parks to research the role of the French at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. New interpretive panels now adorn the park in key locations, and the story of the French-speaking pioneers is being told to new generations of park visitors who discover something new at every visit to the park.

-submitted by Syd Brown; photos by Janet Peters and John Field
Docent and SYRPA Member Appreciation BBQ at Bridgeport
Saturday September 28, 2019; 4:30-7:30

South Yuba River Park Association and the Park Staff are sponsoring a BBQ to say ‘Thank You’ for your support, dedication, and participation in all you do for our Park.

There will be chicken, brauts, and veggie burgers, salads and desert; with hosted wine, beer, and soft drinks. We’ll be in the cool area between the Barn and the Gas Station.

If not for you, the Park would not be able to offer special activities, staffing of the Visitor Center and tours for the public. We want to show you our appreciation.

Don’t miss this special event we are planning for you....

Save this date and respond with your “yes I’m coming!”

Please RSVP to: Robert Coats at rtcoats@comcast.net or call him at 264-7092.

- Since this is a member and volunteer event, there will be no parking fees.

- Parking along the Virginia Turnpike will be permitted.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
DENTON, DONALD R. “DON”

Born in Oakland, CA on December 31, 1931, Don passed away at his home in Penn Valley, CA on August 6. Preceded in death by his loving parents, H. Raymond (Ray) and Esther (Noffsinger) Denton, he is survived by his wife of 58 years Linda (Allen) Denton, daughter and son-in-law Diane and Mike Wondolowski of Carpinteria, CA, daughter and son-in-law Deborah and Ben Argumedo, granddaughter Haley Argumedo of Woodland and daughter Allison Denton of Nevada City, CA. A memorial service will be held on September 15 at 1:30 PM at Sierra Presbyterian Church, 175 Ridge Rd, Nevada City.

Don graduated from Oakland High School and continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his degree in Business Administration in 1954. He was active on campus as a Yell Leader 1952-1954, President of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and a Fellow of the Order of the Golden Bear. Upon graduation he joined the sales force of the Prudential Insurance Company of America in 1954 where he became a Chartered Life Underwriter (C.L.U.) with the company and remained until his retirement in 1992, then continued on until 2000 as an Agent Emeritus. Don served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1950 to 1957, where he was an instructor at the U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Alameda.

For 35 years he was active on the Board of Directors for the Oakland YMCA, and for ten years a director and officer with the John Muir Memorial Association in Martinez at the home of the naturalist. Upon his move with Linda to Lake Wildwood in Penn Valley (Nevada County) he became a board member and officer for the South Yuba River State Park Association at Bridgeport along with leading tours as a Docent at the State Park.

All during his life he was an avid “Cal” supporter, continuing his activities as a Homecoming and Big Game rallies “vintage” yell leader on the Berkeley campus. In the 1995-1996 term he served the California Alumni Association as a Director and was a recipient of a Trustees Citation from the University for his co-chairing the Class of 1954’s endowed gift to the Berkeley campus.

Prior to his demise Don had completed twenty five years as a volunteer mentor for the Match Two Prison Outreach program in California, visiting incarcerated on a monthly basis in San Quentin, Folsom, and most recently at the Vacaville Medical facility. His hobbies included gardening, traveling, back-stroke swimming, dog-walking his and Linda’s dogs. One of his most favorite daily interests was reading nautical history and fiction of the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic era of “The Age of Sail”, having completed the reading and studying of over 60,000 pages, a highlight of which was to attend the two hundredth celebration of Admiral Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar, held in 2005 at Oxford University.

Don was very active in Project Heart. Shortly before his death, Don learned that Project H.E.A.R.T’s Operation New Start, a Committee he formed, received a half million dollar grant to meet inmates immediately upon release to provide support and information about resources and invite them to Project H.E.A.R.T. meetings all aimed to give them a new start. Project H.E.A.R.T is successful in reducing the rate of recidivism to about 2.2% for Project Heart participants in Nevada County.

Most of all, Don enjoyed having his family around him during holidays and other special events, especially when the ‘clan’ could come together during the annual one-week summer trek to Tahoe.
### MEET YOUR SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Below is a list of the current South Yuba River Park Association Board of Directors. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of your Board Members. This is a highly dedicated group of volunteers who put in many hours each month to preserve, protect, support and promote the South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins Historical State Park. They can always use more help. Please consider becoming more active in Park activities, helping staff events and the Visitor Centers. New Coordinators are needed for programs such as Gold Panning, Wildflower Walks, and Beautification of Park grounds. Please contact any Board member or Park Interpretive Specialist Allyssa Borich 530-432-2546, email Allyssa.Borich@parks.ca.gov to volunteer.

#### SOUTH YUBA RIVER PARK ASSOCIATION

**BOARD MEMBERS 2019**

(Start/End) Three 2 year terms, 6 years total (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FALL 2019/ WINTER 2019
South Yuba River and
Malakoff Diggins Historic State Parks

◊ BIRD WALKS: Friday, September 27. Saturday, October 12 and Saturday, December 7
~~ 8:00am (except September: walks begin at 7:30am) ~Meet at the Bridgeport North parking lot.
◊ DOCENT APPRECIATION DINNER/BBQ: Saturday Sept 28; 4:30-7:30 Bridgeport
◊ GEOLOGY WALKS: Saturday, October 26 10am ~ Bridgeport North Parking lot
◊ DISCOVER MALAKOFF!: Second Saturday of each month. See website for details
◊ SYRPA HOLIDAY POT LUCK: Tuesday, December 3rd; 5:30pm-8:00pm. LWW Community Center

Reoccurring events
◊ VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday - Sunday~ 11:00am-3:00pm
◊ GOLD PANNING Memorial Day-Labor Day Sat & Sun Noon-2:00pm~ Bridgeport; donation $1
◊ SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month; 9:00am~ Bridgeport
◊ FNB/MD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meetings: First Friday of each month

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**For more information on any of these events, please visit the SYRPA webpage at www.southyubariverstatepark.org Or call the Visitor Center: 530-432-2546

For information regarding Malakoff Diggins and Friends of North Bloomfield, please visit: http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org/