COME ONE!

COME ALL!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

SUPPORT THE “SAVE OUR BRIDGE” CAMPAIGN

Bridgeport News
South Yuba River State Park
South Yuba River Park Association

BRIDGEPORT FALL Festival
South Yuba River State Park

Sunday, October 27, 2013
11 am - 4 pm
FREE Admission ~ $5 Parking

- Hayrides
- Gold Panning
- Children’s Games and Crafts
- Pumpkin Painting
- Music
- Food and Drinks
- Barn Tours
- Blacksmith Demo
- Composting Demo
- Live Birds (owl, crow, & raven)
- 1930s Gas Station

The Return of the Ghosts of Bridgeport

Everyone is invited to join the dramatic portrayal of Yankee Jim’s funeral procession to the cemetery.

Bridgeport is located at 17660 Pleasant Valley Rd, Penn Valley, CA 95042-2546

SYRPA Newsletter October 2013
President’s Message

Your Association has been very busy this last quarter and there has been good and bad news. I’ll try to summarize what has been happening. Sadly, as you all should know, we lost our dear friend, Glenn Fuller. He was an invaluable member of our board, always contributing to all of our efforts and making things happen. His experience as a National Park ranger and his enthusiasm for our park will be very much missed. For me personally, he was a dear friend and someone who I could go to for wonderful advice.

On the positive side, thanks to the successful efforts of Dick Buckner, we have received two grants from the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF). One was for $10,000 for the repair of our bridge and the other was for $5,000 for interpretive signs for the park. Our Association has also committed $20,000 for the repair of the bridge and has combined that with the $10,000 grant from CSPF and entered into an Donor Match agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation making a total of $60,000 available for restoration of our bridge. With that funding, we have guaranteed the availability of the $545,000 Federal grant for the repair of the bridge. That still leaves us short of the necessary total funding needed, but a good start. We are also looking into getting a Donor match for the $5,000 thereby making $10,000 available for interpretive signs.

As most of you are aware, we have initiated a “Save our Bridge” campaign and have formed a committee to manage those efforts. If any of you would be willing to participate, please let me, or any board member know. We are especially in need of someone to help with publicity. We have experienced good community support and offers of help. I hope that many of you took advantage of the Sierra Theater Group Classic Movie Series at the Del Oro Theater, which will also benefit our campaign. Those old classic movies are still fun to watch. We are now developing plans for other fund raising events.

We held our annual Member Appreciation Picnic on 30 August and had a very nice turnout. Those of you who could not attend missed a fun and informative event. On 12 September, our Rangers held their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner sponsored by our Association. They did a tremendous job and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Looking forward, planning for the Fall Festival is ongoing and it looks to be another entertaining event for all. Look for a surprising new twist for the historical presentation. There will be many children’s activities and our traditional raffle. Don’t miss this exciting day on 27 October. On 6 December we will hold our Holiday Party. In order to accommodate more people it will be held at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. More information will be forthcoming.

See you in the Park!

President Dave Anderson
“Glenn” Robert Fuller

Glenn Fuller, 67, left us Tuesday, September 10, 2013. Glenn moved to Nevada County in 2007 following retirement from a 31-year career with the National Park Service. He served on the South Yuba River Park Association Board of Directors, advocating keeping the park open during the State Park budget crisis, raising money toward the visitor services for the park, managing special events at the park, and working on the rehabilitation of the iconic Bridgeport covered bridge. He brought to the Board his long interest in the philosophy of America’s Conservationist, John Muir.

Muir was never far from Fuller’s sight. He and his wife, Bev, managed an orchard at their Nevada City home patterned off those of the Muir home in Martinez, sharing its abundant fruit with friends and Board members. Muir books hold pride of place in their home.

He was proud to wear the grey and green uniform of the National Park Service, last serving as Superintendent of John Muir National Historic Site, Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site, and Port Chicago National Memorial - all in the East Bay. His passion for Muir’s work began when he was a site manager at Muir Woods National Monument, also a National Park site, in Sausalito, leading to his management of Muir’s home, regarded as ground zero for the conservation movement in this nation. While superintendent at Eugene O’Neill, he encouraged a renewed interest in and stage productions of, the works of the only U.S. named Nobel Prize and Pulitzer playwright. It is from Fuller’s efforts at Port Chicago, a park dedicated to civil rights in WWII, that an annual commemoration continues for the loss of lives of African American and White military service members from the largest mainland WWII explosion. Through his guidance at these National Park areas, communities saw increased tourism from around the world, economic stimulus and an appreciation for these men and women and our national history.

Fuller served as a park ranger at Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Parks, and Cape Cod National Seashore in the 1970s and early 1980’s, patrolling some of America’s great landscapes, rescuing stranded hikers, bracing up their sprained ankles and scrapes. He risked a few scrapes too, celebrating them with a 1979 photo in his office of a helicopter crash with him standing on its strut, in Grand Canyon en route to a rescue.

He also worked for the US Corps of Engineers as a patrol ranger during the 1970s construction of the New Melones Dam, monitoring archeological activities and surviving a bout of Valley Fever. It was while working on the Stanislaus with the Corps where he first rafted, ultimately becoming one of the finest raftsmen around. For 40 years he captained the oars of 14 foot rafts through most of the raftable rivers and nearly all of the “10 Big Drops” in the west, without accident.

He was born in Van Nuys, CA, raised outside San Diego, served as a medic with the U.S. Army, and graduated Sacramento State in 1971 in Business Administration.

A private memorial service is planned. Donations in memory of Glenn for the “Save Our Bridge” fund can be sent to the South Yuba River State Park Association, POB 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946. Condolences for his family also may be sent to the South Yuba River Park Association with the envelope marked “attn: Director Fuller.”
Save Our Bridge Campaign News

Positive steps are being made in the campaign! Some highlights are:

- An S.O.B. logo has been developed and is being used on flyers, websites, banners, etc.
- SYRPA Web page now features the S.O.B. Campaign banner and a prominent donation button.
- Two S.O.B. banners (one large, one small) have been made and are being used at special events.
- The Sierra Cinemas adopted The S.O.B. Campaign as this year’s charitable partner for their Classic Film Series to publicize the campaign and will donate 60% of the Series profits to S.O.B.
- The Penn Valley Rodeo Association offered the use of the Rodeo grounds for an S.O.B. fundraiser.
- The Grass Valley Downtown Association offered the S.O.B. Campaign a booth at next year’s Gold Rush Days event.
- Caleb Dardick, Executive Director of SYRCL has graciously agreed to join the Campaign Committee.
- S.O.B. information tables were staffed at the Nevada County Fair State Parks booth and at the SYRCL River Clean-up Day lunch at Bridgeport.
- A PowerPoint presentation for the Campaign is being developed to use with community and civic groups.

The S.O.B. Campaign is just beginning. We need much more involvement from our membership and the community. Please consider joining the committee and becoming an active participant in the Campaign to Save Our Bridge.

Contact: Dave Anderson 530-432-2359 or Doug Moon 530-205-9554

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Summertime Tour Guide & Greeter Update

With our summer schedule just completed (Memorial Day through Labor Day), your weekend Tour Guides were able to fill 30 of the 32 slots (93%)! and we guided a little over 200 park visitors through our “Transportation Center” (aka our BARN).

With just one exception, NONE of these tours was scheduled this summer, so the number is rather impressive as the “Duty Docent” had to rustle up all of these noon tours on his or her own.

Serving our Park this summer (In Alphabetical order) were Ginny Brown, Barbara Brueckner, Dick Buckner, Dick Fay, Pee Fraszek, Toni Halloran, Bill Jones, Paul Keasbery, Jeanine McGowan, Ken Norton, Bonnie Taylor, Hal Tiegs and myself.

This year’s “First Prize” would go to brand-new Docent Bonnie Taylor, who had over FORTY in her group, a visiting car club from Sacramento (rather neat, I thought, since that August Saturday was her first SOLO tour!) Kudos also go to Dick Fay (Class of 2013) and Bill Jones (Class of 2012) for their first-year participation in our program.

The last tour was given on Labor Day, and special thanks to Visitor Center docents Sharon Anderson and Jeanine McGowan for “steering” fifteen park visitors over to the Barn for the final thirty minute tour of the summer! Lastly, as this elite group of volunteers commands the HIGHEST pay scale amongst our Docents (THREE TIMES the normal going Volunteer rate! 3 X 0=0), we still are in the position to accept new entrants for the 2014 Season.

Yours for a bigger and better “Bridgeport Experience”,

Don Denton
2013 SYR Volunteer Appreciation Luau Party!

Since this was my first year of organizing a volunteer appreciation dinner to say I was a little nervous that the event would not turn out well would be a gigantic understatement! The planning process started in mid-July by meeting with Don about what goes into planning this type of event. The biggest piece of advice that I took away with those conversations was to make sure the event was well organized and fun for our volunteers. We also discussed having a theme based party.

I was teamed up with Glenn and Bev Fuller for a preliminary meeting and I brought up the idea to have a themed based event where the volunteers had to dress a certain way, in. That is where the “Luau Party” was born. I made many trips to the “Dollar Store” for beach party paraphernalia and let me tell you, when you spend over $30.00 at that store, you look like a big shot! I bought four of everything since the old adage “more is better,” had to apply. In the end, I think those decorations truly made the party what it was…fun.

Over 60 volunteers attended the dinner and ALL of them wore the proper Luau party attire. Some of the highlights of the event; Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt trying to keep a straight face while opening the Awards Ceremony wearing multiple leis and a grass skirt, seeing the Grill Master himself, Mike Smittle working the BBQ like a seasoned pro and seeing Ranger Collins and his son, Thomas, managing the refreshment center.

Special thanks, that is, “Mahalo” to:

Park Aide Ehren Pelonio for putting together all of the volunteer hours. She worked many hours to make sure we got our numbers right and that we were able to recognize the right volunteers.

Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt for driving down to Costco and having the momentous task of purchasing enough food for an army and for letting us invade his family kitchen for prepping Kabobs.

Ranger Jim Collins for making two excellent homemade sangria mixes for our volunteers and for managing the bar.

Ranger Michelle Green who attended the party on her day off, supplied the infamous grass skirts that Don and I wore during the Awards Presentations. Rangers Jim and Michelle also assisted with the Kabob prep.

Lastly, another thank you all for such a great year of volunteering and for attending the event. I will give you a hint for next years SYR Volunteer Appreciation Dinner… It will have a theme…

Dan Youngren; State Park Ranger
A TOPO MAP!

A wonderful surprise during the evening of the volunteer appreciation BBQ was the unofficial unveiling of the first section of a topographically correct contour map of our Park as it looked back in 1927. This project is undertaken by our stalwart docent John Thompson with the able assistance of his wife Becky, Sharon Norton and Fred Huberty.

When completed, the entire Park will be depicted on an 8 ft. by 4 ft. board, partially suspended from one of the walls in the display area of the old Gas Station. Those who saw this section were amazed and impressed by the skill and ingenuity of our four artists. We anxiously await the finish of the total exhibition!

Paul Keasbury

SYRPA Member Picnic

The SYRPA 2nd annual Member Appreciation Picnic was held Friday, August 30 and 40+ SYRPA members happily joined the Board for a hearty (maybe not so healthy) meal of Polish hotdogs with all the trimmings, sauerkraut and a delicious salad. For the more health-conscious members we also served some veggie-burgers; all accompanied by wine, beer, or soda, and followed by a delicious desert.

District Supervising Ranger Marilyn Linkem shared details of DPR efforts in working with CalTrans and the Federal Government in securing grants and funding to first stabilize and then restore/repair our beloved bridge. She also enumerated estimated costs and time-line for design, permits, CEQA and NEPA requirements. Board President Dave Anderson then shared SYRPA plans, grant-funding and our commitment to expedite the process. He announced the formation of our Save Our Bridge campaign with an official kick-off date on October 27, the day of our Fall Festival. (Mark your calendars!)

A very enjoyable evening was experienced by all. This was our Board’s second endeavor at this venture. We can only get better and become more effective at validating the importance of your membership in SYRPA. We’ll see you all at our Fall Festival on October 27th!!

Paul Keasbury
Supervising Ranger Report
Fall 2013

I’ve always loved Fall, because it’s a time of colorful change with the thought of great skiing ahead - at least that’s what’s in my mind. We love this time of year, as it gives the staff a chance to breathe a little easier, and for us to get a few more projects done. It’s also reflective of what’s going on with our parks, our sector, and in our department.

The most prominent change for our parks is the return of Matt Green as our Sector Superintendent. He’s coming back to us from Gold Fields District (think Folsom Lake), and I can’t be more relieved. It has been interesting, trying, and often difficult to do the different jobs I’ve been asked to do the last couple of years, and I’m grateful for the help. I’ll remain the direct supervisor for the three parks and staff, while Matt will take on the bigger issues, such as the restoration of the bridge. Please join me in welcoming him back to our sector!

We had a really busy summer, with more enforcement calls than ever to deal with. While we had very few major medical calls, the rangers handled more public safety issues than we’ve had in the last few years. On the other side of the coin, our volunteers were able meet, greet, and provide interpretive programs to those who came to explore the history and natural beauty of the South Yuba River. Between our Bridgeport volunteers and the River Ambassadors, we educated more visitors than ever! Thank you to all who give their time and efforts to keeping South Yuba alive and well.

Speaking of volunteers….This year, they put in over 5000 hours at the park, which translated into nearly $250,000 that we received toward park operations. It is a huge boost, considering we were on the chopping block just 2 years ago. Because of this, we’ll be getting about $25,000 to install new interpretive panels and information boards. We should see these in the park by next spring.

We’re still trying to get the bridge support structure installed before spring 2014. We were shooting for this November, but the permitting process is taking longer than we thought. Keep your collective fingers crossed.

Please be sure to come to the river this next month and enjoy the peace and quiet of Fall – it’s a wonderful time of year!

Don Schmidt