Save Our Bridge Campaign Update!

GREAT NEWS!

Governor Jerry Brown approved California’s final budget for 2014-2015 which allocates $1.3 million in funding to restore and reopen our historic bridge. The funding includes $318,000 in the Department of State Parks (DPR) budget and $1.0 million from DPR allocations in Proposition 84 funds. We also have the $545,000 Federal grant obtained 2 years ago by DPR and the $60,000 in matching funds to secure the grant from SYRPA, California Parks Foundation and DPR matching funding. This total amount is $1,923,000 and should be sufficient for necessary restoration work on our bridge. Reaching this milestone would not have been possible without all of you, writing, emailing, faxing and calling our legislators, DPR and the Governor. Your advocacy and support made all of the difference. We also have received unwavering support from the California Parks Foundation, SYRCL, The Bear Yuba Land Trust, all of Nevada County’s Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Resources Council, Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Nevada City and Grass Valley City Councils, Truckee Town Council, the Nevada County Historical Society, Grass Valley Downtown Association and many others throughout the community.

NEXT STEPS

Now that we have the funding in place, our next step is to stay involved and again be advocates for the bridge during the planning, permitting, engineering and construction phases of this important project. We can’t afford delay in any aspects of the project as the bridge continues to deteriorate and any major weather event could have devastating effects. Also parts of the funding put together for the project have timelines and deadlines. We cannot afford to lose any one of these funding sources due to delays. The Save Our Bridge Committee, SYRPA and SYRCL will be working closely with DPR to maintain a rigorous schedule and to monitor progress of this important project.

We would ask you to continue to:

- Stay informed. Watch the SYRPA website and Save Our Bridge web page for updates and progress reports.
- Please respond to any future “Action Alerts” as we may need to communicate our concerns to State Representatives and DPR during the project.
- Continue to talk your friends and neighbors about the project and keep it in their minds

Our new slogan for the next phase of the campaign will be:

“SAVE OUR BRIDGE – GET IT DONE!”
IT’S NEVER TOO LATE...
To Renew Your SYRPA Membership for 2014

Your continued membership in SYRPA is essential in keeping the South Yuba River State Park running and enjoyable for everyone. If you haven’t already renewed your membership, please take a minute to send in your check. Also, please consider asking your friends, neighbors, and relations to become members! Thank you for your past support of our organization and we hope you will continue supporting SYRPA in 2014.

* Annual Individual Membership: $20
* Annual Family Membership: $25
* Lifetime Individual Membership: $150
* Lifetime Family Membership: $200
* Annual Small Business Sponsor: $50 (up to 5 employees)
* Annual Business Sponsor: $100

Make Checks Payable To: SYRPA ATTN: Membership P.O. Box 1658 Penn Valley, CA 95946
You can also pay on-line! It’s easy!
Go to the SYRPA website: www.southyubariverstatepark.org and click on “Become a Member”

HELP WANTED!!

We are in dire need of Docents at the Park! If you are a SYRPA member and not trained as a Docent, PLEASE consider offering your time and talents to help staff our many activities at the Park. We need help in the Visitor Center, Wild Flower walks, Gold Panning, Greeters, Barn Tours and Trail Rovers.
Please call: Paul Keasberry 530-432-1947
or Ranger Dan Youngren: 530-432-2546

President’s Message

What wonderful news! On Friday the 20th of June the Governor signed the budget for fiscal year 2014-15 that contained full funding for the restoration of our beloved bridge. I want to thank all of you that wrote, e-mailed, called or otherwise communicated with our legislators, the Departments of Parks and Finance and the Governor himself. I truly believe our grass roots efforts and the support of our community organizations and local government leaders made all the difference. Our next step is to recognize and thank those that assisted in those efforts. I cannot here list all those to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude but we will be providing that information and suggested wording on our website for you to express your thanks.

Unfortunately, the battle is not over. While we bask in our success we must remember that we now have to ensure that the allocated funding is used to accomplish the goal of restoring our bridge in the time frame that the budget calls for. I am personally convinced that accomplishing that goal will be as difficult or more so than our battle for budget. Our Save our Bridge committee will be developing our action plan, so I ask that you actively monitor our website www.southyubariverstatepark.org and be ready to continue the battle.

Looking forward, in addition to ensuring our bridge is restored, we have a number of special events planned for the remainder of the year. First up will be our Appreciation BBQ, scheduled for 18 September. We will be inviting our Association members and our Park volunteers together. Our Rangers will be assisting us with the event, mark your calendars and don’t forget to RSVP when the invitation goes out.

Next will be our premier Autumn event, our Fall festival scheduled for 26 October. This is an immensely popular event that allows the Public to see and appreciate the wonders of our park and to enjoy the entertainment, activities, displays and food that will be available. The Committee is being formed to plan, prepare and staff the event. Please sign up with any board member to assist. It is a full team effort that needs a lot of support. Please be a part of that team.

Finally we will hold our traditional Holiday potluck dinner on 5 December at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Again, thank you to everyone for your tremendous effort in getting the budget approved. See you in the Park.

Dave
“Musical Memories in the Park” was the theme for this year’s Spring fundraiser. It was held at Bridgeport the evening of May 8th. Jed Dixon, local singer, entertainer and impersonator was the featured performer. He mixed in songs from Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Frank Sinatra with Elvis, Pavarotti, Bette Midler and others. Jed had people up dancing in the aisles. Accompanying the entertainment was wonderful hearty appetizers from the caterer “At Your Service” along with a nice selection of wine. Close to 100 people attended the event. Appetizers were served under the portico of the Shell Gas Station and tables were set up in front of the Barn. The afternoon started off with some uncertainty about the forecast. Light rain was predicted late in the afternoon. But Mother Nature delayed her sprinkles until the end of Jed’s performance. As a light drizzle started, everyone helped fold up the chairs and move them to a protected area.

All in all this was a great event – people having fun, mingling with each other, enjoying the appetizers, and best of all, it was a great fundraiser for the Park’s activities, programs, tours and facilities. A big thank you to all who planned and attended this great event to support our South Yuba River State Park.

Mickey Springer
DOWNTOWN GRASS VALLEY GOLD RUSH DAYS

EUREKA!

The gang from Grass Valley Downtown Association got together and put on quite a wild and fun weekend celebrating the Gold Rush days of Nevada County. There was something for everyone; from Gold Panning, to Blacksmiths, General Store, Assayers’ Office, the Sheriff keeping everyone safe, and of course, the Save Our Bridge campaign committee was there passing out updated information about the status of the stabilization, repair and reopening of the bridge. The gold panning troughs were swamped with families finding gold, silver and gems. The community was interested, enthused and generous in donations to the bridge and gold panning.

A special Thank You goes out to our gold panning sponsors: Future Generations and Sierra Food Wine Art Magazine.

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There’s always something fun happening at SYRSP!!

A group of car enthusiasts took a drive into the past, from the Kneebone cemetery to the bridge. Fred Huberty and Ardie Obert were the Docents who helped them have a grand visit. Docents are always needed to help with tours for our community with varied interests, and coming from near and far. SPRPA needs your smiling face and just a few hours to help ~ there are a lot of opportunities available.....

Just give Paul a call 530-432-1947 or talk to Ranger Dan 530-432-2546
Supervising Ranger Report

Wait…who is this “new” guy?? For those of you that don’t know who I am, I’m (Acting) Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren, who is filling in for, now retired, Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt. I have also been the CAL (Cooperating Associate Liaison) for SYRPA for the past 5 months. If you did not see my bio. a few months back, I have been a State Park Ranger for 10 years with the bulk of my career taking place at a high action; busy reservoir outside Fresno, CA named Millerton Lake. While learning the skills of being an effective generalist ranger, I became a Field Training Officer (FTO) training 15 new Rangers and Lifeguards, fresh from their 7 month peace officer training. I taught them that the most valuable weapon they have in their arsenal is their mouth. Being able to communicate effectively will help you, not only stay safe and go home uninjured at night, it will promote the idea that peace officer Rangers and Lifeguards provide more than just public safety. I soon became a Supervising Ranger. I was responsible for ten seasonal employees and six Rangers during the “dreaded” nightshift at Millerton Lake. I blame my premature graying as a direct result of that experience.

I have always wanted to live and work in the Grass Valley and Penn Valley areas, since I am originally from Sacramento. The area is absolutely beautiful; the people are friendly with just the right amount of a small town feel. So, when a highly coveted rank and file position became available at the South Yuba River State Park, I absolutely had to transfer. I gave up my position as a Supervising Ranger, said “good bye” to my Millerton Lake Rangers, moved North and have been absolutely happy ever since.

Don Schmidt will go down in history as one of the hardest working, inspirational, parks dedicated Rangers, not only in the Sierra District but in the Parks Department. Needless to say, he has left big shoes to fill and I am hoping, with time, energy, and hard work, I will be able to step into those shoes as best as I can.

Ranger Dan Youngren
THANK YOU, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Kate Litsky of California States Parks Foundation at the ceremony at our visitor center recognizing the support that CSPF has provided to us.

Members of the California State Parks Foundation board with Elizabeth Goldstein, Executive Director after receiving our plaque expressing our thanks for their support.

A big THANK YOU

To out-going SYRPA Board Members.

Three outgoing Board Members were presented with a beautiful picture of our beloved covered bridge in commemoration of hard work done for our organization. Ron Ernst, serving as Vice President for six years, Hal Tiegs who was your Treasurer for six years and Jean Wilson put in twelve years as secretary. These board members have put in many hours to help make SYRPA run smoothly. Another huge SYRPA thank-you went to Ardie Orbert for six tireless years of working as Assistant Treasurer. She got your bills paid, mail picked up and distributed, money counted and accounted for.
**MEET OUR NEW PARK AIDS!**

**JACOB HEITZMANN**
I moved to California in November 2013 with the goal to become a California State Park Ranger. I am enrolled in Sierra College to get my Associates in Science degree in Natural Science. I have completed my first semester and look forward to the next. I am also now a seasonal park aide at South Yuba River State Park. The time spent here has been fun and a great experience. I look forward to many more years working for California State Parks.

**KEVIN SCHMIDT**
I was born in Truckee California to State Park Ranger Don Schmidt. Growing up, I was always in and around California State Parks. After 14 years of living in Truckee I then moved to Grass Valley when my dad switched positions within the park. For most of my life I knew that I was going to become a park aid for at least one of California’s beautiful state parks. I don’t really know want I would like to do for a career although I really enjoy working for the parks. I am just about to enter my first year of college and am excited for what the future holds.

**River Aquatic Safety**

The past few months have been very busy at the river. Unfortunately, we have had two fatalities at the river this year so far. So, let’s spread the word about being safe at the river with a few tips.

◊ Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.
◊ Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
◊ Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child’s life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
◊ Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
◊ Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person’s ability.
◊ Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body’s ability to stay warm.

*Ranger Dan Youngren*
NEW CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS PASSES!

CA State Parks has implemented four new passes for the 2014 calendar year. We have added the Surf Explorer Pass, 150th Commemorative Pass, CA Experience Pass, and the historian passport. The surf explorer pass covers most parks in the system, the 150th commemorative covers most parks as well but excludes the southern CA beaches, the CA experience covers mostly northern parks, and the Historian passport covers most of the historic parks of the state. All passes are day use only and will be sold at the Bridgeport visitor center and Empire Mine.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pass Details</th>
<th>Surf Explorer</th>
<th>150th</th>
<th>CA Experience</th>
<th>Historian Passport</th>
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<td>$75</td>
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<td>EXCLUDING Southern CA beaches, Historian Passport included (2014 only) and much like old &quot;Poppy Pass&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mostly Nor Cal Parks, vehicle day use.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Most all State Historic Parks, per person entry, 4 people per card. Card included with the 150th pass 2014 only</td>
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Be safe

Have fun

Enjoy your park