It has been a busy and eventful past few months in the efforts to further the restoration project to Save Our Bridge. The Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee undertook a dedicated effort to raise the California Legislature’s awareness of the need to fund the additional $2.6 million dollars needed to complete the project AND to gather support to have the additional funds allocated in the forthcoming 2016-2017 budget. A tremendous effort was made by Nevada County Supervisor Hank Weston to gather support for this endeavor in the Legislature. Supervisor Weston, along with SYRCL Executive Director, Caleb Dardick, made trips to Sacramento to meet with Legislative Staff and to testify at Assembly Budget Hearings. State Senator Ted Gaines and Assemblyman Brian Dahle also wrote a letter in support of allocating the funding. Unfortunately, although the funding request was looked upon favorably by the Budget Committee, it did not make it into the final 2016-2017 Budget. The S.O.B. Campaign Committee and Supervisor Weston are planning to start work with the Governor and Legislature in the Fall of 2016 to make sure the funding is included in the 2017-2018 State Budget.

OTHER BRIDGE NEWS:

◊ The Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee was recognized with the Community Service Award presented by the Nevada County Democratic Party at their annual awards dinner on April 16, 2016. SYRPA President Robert Coats attended the event and accepted the award on behalf of the Committee. The Committee was recognized for our non-partisan, inclusive community efforts to preserve a significant historical element of our region.

◊ The many holes in the roof of the Bridge have been patched, thanks to efforts by SYRPA, the S.O.B. Campaign Committee and DPR Staff, especially Chief Ranger Matt Green. The Bridge is covered for a reason! To protect the structure! The Bridge should sustain no further damage from rain until the construction beings in 2018.

◊ The Bridge is recognized as the Longest, Single-Span Wood Covered Bridge in the World” in the new edition of Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering by the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program, Nation Parks Service.

◊ The Bridge and the funding request to the Legislature was featured on Sacramento Television Station ABC10 News on April 16, 2016

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay involved and informed. Together we can

SAVE OUR BRIDGE

Doug Moon
President’s Message

On a somber note, the Park, our Association and the Board, lost a good advocate and friend when Ginny Brown passed away in early May. She had been a volunteer since 2010 and joined the board in 2013. In addition to serving as the Board Secretary, she consistently stepped forward giving freely of her time and talents.

Our Spring fundraiser, Celebrating Spring at Bridgeport, was held on May 14th. Over 100 people attended the event. The funds raised will be used to support educational and interpretive activities in the South Yuba River State Park. A special thank you goes to Bruce Stanton and the committee that made this event possible. If you have any comments or suggestions about the event or if you would like to sign on as Bruce’s second-in-command for next year’s event, please let me know. Please see the separate article on the fundraiser.

In May, the Association received a generous $1,000 donation from the Gold Country Welcome Club. This donation is particularly heartening, since it is based on a poll of its members. A special thanks is due to all the Gold Country Welcome Club members who voted for us and to the club for including us on their list of charities.

Summer is bringing many visitors to the Park who are enjoying the many beach sitting, wading and swimming opportunities along the South Yuba River. Although we are in the midst of a drought, water levels are high and the river continues to run cold. Safety in and around the water is always important. Cold water may affect even the strongest swimmer in unexpected ways. Enjoy the river, but please keep safety in mind.

Looking forward, there are a number of special events being planned for the balance of the year:

The date for the Member and Docent Appreciation BBQ has been set for the evening of Wednesday, September 21st. The Park staff will be assisting with the event. Mark your calendars (and check out the calendar included in this newsletter) and please RSVP when you receive your invitation.

The Fall Festival will take place Sunday, October 23rd. This is a popular event that permits our visitors, especially families, to experience 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 let Margaret Vodicka or any Board member know if you would like to participate. This event requires a full team effort to make it a success. Please join the team.

We plan to have a holiday pot luck for SYRPA, FNB&MD members and Park Volunteers December 8th at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. It’s a great way to kick off the holiday season.

The restoration of our Bridge continues to be a major focus of your Association’s efforts and concern. Please see the article in this newsletter and check the SYRPA website for updates.

Come and experience the Park this summer. Take a dip or wade in our beautiful river.

Robert Coats
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

Some of you may have noticed there have been a few cosmetic additions to the Bridgeport area of the South Yuba River State Park. The most noticeable, is the brand new kiosk built out of concrete from a company named CXT. This building was made in the state of Oregon and trucked down to where it resides now in the North parking lot. I had the problem of keeping my seasonal staff in the kiosk during the hot weather collecting fees and giving park information, now I can’t get them out! Another benefit is there is now cold bottled water available for visitors to purchase ($1.00 per bottle) at the kiosk before they embark on a hike or visit to the river. The other significant cosmetic addition is the new shingles that were installed onto the Bridgeport covered bridge. During the winter months, holes in the roof would turn into waterfalls when the rains came. We can now rest a little bit easier knowing that the roof will help protect the covered deck before the bridge enters the construction phase of the restoration project.

Lastly, a word of caution for the dedicated river swimmers out there: In a strange twist of fate, I attended a local wedding with my better half and it turns out that I got seated next to the PG&E supervisor responsible for the water release from Lake Spalding. He told me that they have been holding back water releases to make sure there was adequate storage from the snow runoff. He went on to say that within the first few weeks of July, we can anticipate higher flows, swifter currents and colder water conditions that can be extremely hazardous. As we have been through years of drought, we may have been lulled into a false sense of security since we have not seen any significant river flows in the summer months. This will change and we need to be ready and safe out in our beautiful river.

Happy Summer everyone!

Dan Youngren
The annual Celebrate Spring Fundraiser held at Bridgeport was a major success both in raising funds for the Park and the enjoyment of the attendees. Mark Twain (as portrayed by McAvoy Layne) espoused his wit and wisdom, entertaining more than one hundred guests. The entertainment was accompanied by a wonderful dinner and dessert catered by Antonio Ayestaran Custom Catering. Success of this event is due to the hard work of SYRPA Members and Park Staff. Special recognition goes to the leader of this group; Bruce Stanton. Also this year, more than ever, the fund raising success was due in large part to our wonderful business sponsors. Please see the full page list of sponsors and their contact information in this newsletter on Page 5. Please patronize these very supportive businesses.

*John Field, Bruce Stanton*
MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF
the South Yuba River Park Association’s
2016 CELEBRATE SPRING FUNDRAISER

Abercrombie & Co.
Stoves & Awnings
http://abercrombieandco.com/

ABT Family
Grass Valley, CA

AJA Video Systems, Inc
https://www.aja.com/

Alpine Custom Landscapes, LLC
http://www.alpinecustomlandscapes.com/

B&C True Value HomeCenter
http://www.bandgrassvalley.com/

Don Adams Antenna Satellite Services
http://donadamsgv.com/

Falcon Driving School
http://www.falcondrivingschool.com/

Grass Valley Sign
https://www.grassvalleysign.com/

McSweeney & Associates
http://www.mcsweeneyandassociates.com/

Nevada County Farm Supply
http://nevadacountyfarm.com/

Penn Valley True Value Hardware

Post Net
http://www.postnet.com/grass-valley-ca113

Sams Investment Strategies
http://www.sams.pro/

Sikes Realty
http://nevadacountylakefrontproperties.com/

SP Marketplace Holdings, Inc.
(888) 218-5560 (530)845-5834
http://www.bmpmarketplace.com/

SPD Market
http://www.spdmarket.com/

Talon Construction Company
(530)432-3633
TheTalonCompany@aol.com

Wheeler Chevrolet Cadillac Mazda
http://www.wheelerautocenter.com/
SYRPA lost a dear friend

With the passing of Virginia “Ginny” Brown, SYRPA and the Park lost a very dear friend and supporter in April. Ginny was a dedicated volunteer who served on the Board of Directors as Secretary and was a valuable member of the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee. She also volunteered as a Gold Panner, Barn Tour Leader and as staff at the Visitor Center. Ginny was also the first to volunteer for any special event, project or need for the ark. Her smile was contagious as she helped children paint pumpkins during the Fall Festival or helped staff a booth at a community event. Ranger Marc Wetherbee, Volunteer Coordinator observed that, “She had a positive attitude that brightened my day whenever I saw her. She was always a jokester (which I love) and always had a smile and outgoing personality. She always made an effort to get people to talk and get them out of their funk if they were in one.” Mickey Springer, long-time SYRPA member stated: “She always wanted to help in a project, and she would just say, “Tell me what to do,” and she would do it. One could always depend on her for that.” Ginny had a great love for the South Yuba River State Park and a strong commitment to its preservation. She will be remembered affectionately by all who had the pleasure of her company and will be sorely missed in our Association and the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee.

Doug Moon
Gas Station & Store

Restoration of the Historic 1927 Shell Gas Station at South Yuba River State Park-Bridgeport, California has served as a high priority for historical preservation and visitor education. In close collaboration with the State Park, the South Yuba River Park Association has undertaken the restoration project.

Restoration of the Historic Shell Gas Station was divided into three phases: the accurate reconstruction of the original structure and its exterior; restoration of the Kneebone store; and transformation of the garage area into an interpretive center. Reconstruction of the building, purchase of a 1927 gas pump and signage, and the store restoration have been completed.

The interior of the station and store features 1927-1933 era historic Shell products, automotive items, emergency vehicle supplies, and simple store products. The garage section incorporates a model of the Bridgeport Swimming Resort and gas station areas plus other interpretive materials. This restoration is a critical part of our history at South Yuba River State Park. It brings together the 1927 Gas Station, the 1862 covered bridge and the 1860s barn.

Some of the specific projects planned or underway are:

⇒ Design and install interior displays for an accurate representation of the store and station.
⇒ Design, fabricate and install educational displays, murals, photographs and interpretive signs.
⇒ Develop interpretive exhibits of transportation throughout the region.
⇒ Develop interactive opportunities and activities for children.
⇒ Provide descriptions of the Shell Gas Station and its role at Bridgeport in 1927.
⇒ Portray the daily activities of the Kneebone family during the post gold rush period.
⇒ Develop exhibits and materials describing the Bridgeport Swimming Resort.

*Ranger Marc Wetherbee*
Bridgeport Historic Gas Station To Open

Efforts are being made by SYRPA Volunteers and Park Staff to re-open the Bridgeport Gas Station to the public – this time for interpretive purposes. Many aspects of this process are in their final stages and plan to be completed by the end of May.

Many thanks to the following Docents and Staff for their efforts to make this happen: Electrical work: John Thompson, Bridgetenders Docent and Jamie Swisher, Park Maintenance; Diorama and model frame: John Thompson and Bill Hazelhorst; Bridgetenders Docents, and oversight of the project: Julie Clark, Park Maintenance.

A big welcome back to Bill Hazelhorst, Lead Docent of the Bridgetenders crew, who has been very busy building stands for the Gas Station and Visitor Center signs and recently finished building the final piece of the Bridgeport Pleasure Resort diorama – a plexi-glass security panel (seen here being installed by Dan Scimeca and Dan Roediger of Visitor Services).

As a final note on work being performed, Steve Pauly, SYRPA History Coordinator, and I are currently designing the final plans for the interpretive panels and brochure for the interior of the model room. Private contractors were also hired to pest-proof the building which was completed last month.

Special thanks to all the other Staff and Docents who have worked on this project over the years, who are too numerous to mention in this short article. Finally, thank you to the South Yuba River Park Association’s contribution of thousands of dollars for the restoration of the building. Without the whole team we could not have accomplished all that we have.

I look forward to seeing a whole new crew of interpretive docents leading tours in the gas station this summer. Congratulations to all!

Ranger Marc Wetherbee
BRIDGEPORT VISITOR CENTER
and GIFT SHOP

An inviting and intriguing place to spend some time while you are enjoying the beauty and history of the Park! There are a variety of items for sale and great brochures with information on the Park and its surrounding area. Bringing guests for a visit? There are souvenirs for your family and friends to purchase as keepsakes to remember this iconic and fun-filled park. The Visitor Center (VC) is lucky to have many new Docents to add to our Volunteer Staff. These are excited and committed people who are looking forward to sharing their knowledge of Bridgeport with the many visitors who come from all over Nevada County, California, USA and the world! Some have finished their training and are already working in the VC, while some have requested a little additional training. Our new Docents are mentored by committed veteran Docents so that they are comfortable staffing the VC. It’s fascinating to listen to visitor’s stories as they ask about our Park. Take a moment to drop by and say “hi” to our new Docents, or the veteran Docents who have put so many of hours into volunteering at the VC.

New Visitor Center Docents: Debbie Dearcos, Elenita Duelo, Ellen Hamlin, Kathie and Frank Herwatt, George Horvath, Lynn Merrill, Jude Parry-Jones, Elly Stickney and Terry Golub.

WELCOME one and all!

Shirley Moon

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

S.O.B. BUTTONS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE VC

The Save Our Bridge Campaign has a new promotional item: Save Our Bridge buttons! They are on top of the bridge model, next to the SOB donation box in the VC. Asking for a donation of $1.00 or more per button; here’s your chance to increase the public’s awareness of the need to Save Our iconic Bridge!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

121st Miners Picnic
Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 E. Empire St., Grass Valley
Saturday, August 27, 2016 • 11 am to 4 pm

- Bring your own lunch, chairs and blankets, and picnic on the grounds — or purchase food from local vendors
- Living History with period costumes, PLUS a dramatic mine rescue at high noon!
- Live music, entertainment, a silent auction, and raffle prizes
- Vintage cars, an old-fashioned cakewalk, gold panning, games and non-stop fun for ALL
- $7 for adults 17 & over, $3 for ages 6-16, under 6 FREE

For full details phone: 530.273.8522
or visit www.empiremine.org
Gold Panning at Bridgeport

Imagine squatting on the bank of an icy river in 1850… working twelve hours a day in all sorts of weather, swirling pans of gravel in search of a fortune. Some struck it rich, while others struggled in vain to find the prize – gold!

When you visit Bridgeport in South Yuba River State Park on weekends this summer, be sure to stop by the troughs near the Visitors Center to try your hand at gold panning. Learn from docents how the old 49ers used simple pans to find hidden treasure in the shallows of the Yuba River. After a panning demonstration, practice your technique in the troughs before heading down to the river to do your own prospecting.

Volunteer Docents at Bridgeport provide step-by-step panning lessons, share stories about the history of our area, and describe other ways the precious metal was extracted during the California Gold Rush, such as hard rock mining and hydraulic mining. Gold panning is fun and educational for the entire family and kids get to keep the treasures they find in the troughs.

Docents offer gold panning demonstrations at Bridgeport from noon to 3:00 p.m. every weekend and holiday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. A $1.00 per pan donation is requested to cover the cost of the gold, silver and gems seeded in the troughs. Gold panning sessions for private groups and school talks can be arranged at other times by prior reservation. Call South Yuba River State Park for more information at (530) 432-2546.

Submitted by Cheryl Pirtle

Save the Date - Bridgeport Fall Festival - Sunday, October 23, 2016

It is now time to start planning and organizing for our most popular annual event, the Fall Festival. This event is our opportunity to show off our wonderful park to the public. It is always well attended and the public really enjoys the entertainment, the children’s activities, the shared information, the educational displays, the tours, and the opportunity to talk with our rangers, staff and volunteers. In order to properly plan for this important event we are forming a committee of Association Members, Volunteers and a Ranger Coordinator.

We have in hand extensive documentation regarding our past festivals for use in planning this year’s event. All we need is a group of motivated Association members and Park volunteers to be members of the committee. Please consider taking a role in planning and staffing this year’s Festival and making it again a memorable day for our park patrons.

If you would be interested in being part of this year’s Fall Festival, please send an e-mail to margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com

We will hold our first planning meeting on Tuesday, August 9th @10:00 am at the Visitors Center
HISTORY CORNER

Black Bart-The Search Is Over

Black Bart, born in 1829 in Norfolk, England, was known as Charles E. Bolton, Charles E. Boles, Charles E. Bowles, Mr. Martin, T.Z. Spalding, B.B., Mr. Moore, and finally Charles Wells. He robbed twenty seven stages in northern California and southern Oregon between 1875 and 1883. Of these, two occurred near Bridgeport, along Pleasant Valley Road between North San Juan and Smartsville, though the exact locations aren’t known. Bart’s style was distinctive—he wore a flour sack over his head, carried an unloaded shotgun, and was always on foot, never on horseback. He dressed immaculately when stepping out, and was very polite, even when asking for the box to be thrown down from the stage or telling a woman to take back her purse as he only robbed Wells Fargo. A recent book, “Black Bart, The Search is Over,” by R.E. Jernigan and W. Joiner, describes their long search, begun in 1972, for the details of Bart’s life, especially his later years when he vanished from public view. Wells Fargo attempted to buy out Bart, while he was working a profitable mine at Silver Bow, Montana in 1870. Bart rejected the offer. Wells Fargo then bought all the surrounding claims and shut off the water forcing him to abandon the claim. This resulted in retaliation by Bart, leading to the string of Wells Fargo stage robberies. He committed robberies near Yreka, Roseburg, Point Arenas, Duncan’s Mill, Quincy, Oroville, La Port, Redding, Alturas, Weaverville, Lakeview, Downieville, Marysville, North San Juan, Smartsville, Ukiah, Cloverdale, Little Lake, Jackson, and Ione. He used the newly published 1872 Wells Fargo Express Directory to study departing locations and select the best spot to stop the coach. In 1883 a laundry mark on a handkerchief found at a robbery site led to his identification, capture, and arrest. He confessed, made restitution to Wells Fargo for that one robbery, and served five years in San Quentin prison from 1883 to 1888. While at San Quentin, Bart asked to assigned to the hospital where he dispensed pills, and he commented that he’d “like to do that job for a living someday.” When released, Bart travelled to Stockton, Oakdale, Modesto, Merced, Madera and Visalia, used a string of aliases, shaved his mustache, and dyed his hair to avoid recognition. He worked as a part time druggist at Kirk’s Drugstore & Pharmacy in Marysville from 1889 to 1904. His final residence was at a cabin near the Ten Mile House on the east side of Marysville, where he remained until his death in 1918. Now gone, the House was near the intersection of Spring Valley Road and Highway 20. Insisting on anonymity to the end, Wells arranged his burial in the Potters Field at the Marysville City Cemetery, where there were no headstones or markers. The alias, Wells, may be his final jab at the company that shut off his water at the Montana mine and led to the string of robberies. Bart divulged the location of his buried stolen fortune to no one, but it is thought to be near his cabin site at Ten Mile House, possibly on land then owned by H.D. Plantz.

Steve Pauly, History Coordinator
New 2016 South Yuba River State Park Volunteers

Greetings everyone!

I am very pleased to announce we have a number of new Docents this year. Already they have been a great asset to our volunteer program and improving the quality of our park along with the visitor’s experiences. The following is a list of their names along with their areas of interest.

- Karen Synowiec - gold panning & school tours.
- John Giaconia - gold panning & school tours.
- Zoli Bassoff - research, trail rovers & training.
- Elenita Duelo - special projects, wildflower tours & visitor center
- Allen Bertke - tour preparation, nature tours & wildflower tours.
- Howard Kwansiewski - wildflower tours & visitor center.
- Nancy Morehouse - wildflower tours & visitor center.
- Elly Stickney - wildflower tours & visitor center.
- Debi DeArcos - visitor center.

To all our volunteers, thank you for everything that you do and keep up the good work. We couldn’t do it without all the help and support of our wonderful Docents!

Dan Roediger; Senior Park Aide

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.

Please call: Paul Keasberry 530-432-1947 or Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren: 530-432-2546

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SYRPA MEMBERSHIP? Would you like to become a member of SYRPA?

It is easy and you will be helping support the many activities at the Parks.

- 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 and mail 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”
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016
South Yuba River and
Malakoff Diggins Historic State Parks

◊ FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING: August 9; 10am ~ Visitor Center
◊ NEVADA COUNTY FAIR: State Park Exhibit: August 10-14
◊ MEMBER & DOCENT APPRECIATION BBQ: September 21 ~ at Bridgeport
◊ FALL FESTIVAL: October 23th; 11am- 4pm ~ at Bridgeport
◊ VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday; 11am-4pm
◊ HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: December 8th; 5pm-8pm ~ Lake Wildwood Community Center

Reoccurring events

◊ BIRD WALKS: Saturdays: July 9, September 10, October 8, December 10: Meet at 8:00am~Bridgeport North Parking Lot
◊ GOLD PANNING Memorial Day - Labor Day Sat & Sun 12:00am-2:00pm~ Bridgeport Visitor Center; donation $1 per pan
◊ SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: Second Thursday of each month; 9:00am~
◊ FNB/MD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: First Friday of each month

**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