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

SYRPA Newsletter
OCTOBER 2016

BRIDGEPORT FALL FESTIVAL
SOUTH YUBA RIVER STATE PARK
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2016
11am - 4pm

Barn Tours * Gold Panning * Hayrides * Live Birds
Children’s Games & Crafts * Food & Drinks * Pumpkin Painting
Live Music * Magic Shows * Root Beer Floats

FREE ADMISSION
Parking $5.00
17660 Pleasant Valley Rd, Penn Valley, Ca 530-432-2546

http://southyubariverstatepark.org

SAVE OUR BRIDGE
YOU CAN HELP
South Yuba River Park Association
P.O. Box 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946  www.southyubariverstatepark.org
On Thursday, September 15th, Nevada County Supervisor Hank Weston, along with Save Our Bridge Campaign (S.O.B.) Committee Chair, Douglas Moon, and South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) Executive Director, Caleb Dardick, met with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director, Lisa Mangat, to discuss the Bridgeport Bridge Restoration Project.

Currently, the Bridgeport Bridge is slated to undergo extensive renovation and restoration starting in 2018/19. Funding for the project was initially identified in the 5-year infrastructure plan in the 2014-15 State Budget for State Parks for 1.3 million; however, project costs increased to $3.9 million after an extensive assessment was conducted on the project’s scope of work, thereby increasing overall costs by $2.6 million.

Supervisor Weston and delegates met with the DPR Director to reaffirm and solidify the State’s commitment to the project and inquire into the possibility of moving up funding for the project by one year. While DPR informed the group that various questions would need to be answered before funding changes could be a consideration, they did confirm their commitment to the project and its completion. As Supervisor Weston remarked, “We went into this meeting to affirm our commitment as partners and allies with the Department of Parks & Recreation and to highlight just how important the Bridgeport Bridge is to Nevada County residents and to California’s historical heritage. In response, the Department was able to reassure us that this project remains a priority and extended their commitment.”

S.O.B. Chair Doug Moon added, “We came away with the definite impression that DPR is committed to requesting the additional funding required, that the project is a high priority for them and that it is anticipated to be completed on the original schedule.” The team was also able to discuss the Malakoff Diggins Solar Project and their support for increasing resources to all Nevada County State Parks.

SYRCL Executive Director Caleb Dardick noted, “The success of this meeting was walking away knowing that DPR is committed to the project, its scope of work and schedule and funding allocation.”

Following the meeting with DPR, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the State’s Department of Finance Budget Manager, Christor Leif. They were able to discuss the project’s budget in more detail, the issues around additional budget requests and contingencies for construction costs increases. Moving forward, the team will meet back with the S.O.B. Campaign Committee to discuss their next steps on how best to partner with DPR to further the work being done in Nevada County State Parks.

*The Union Newspaper and the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee*
President’s Message

As Summer winds down, your Association has been busy. The river has seen many visitors this Summer.

The Nevada County Fair featured the State Parks booth with a number of displays and the ever popular gold panning. The booth was coordinated by Park Aide Lori Spencer, who is to be commended for her organization and efforts. Thanks are also due to the many volunteers who staffed the booth. Volunteers from the three parks in western Nevada County stepped forward to serve visitors. Your Association (along with Empire Mine Park Association) purchased gold, silver and gems for the gold panning troughs. Donations received at the booth offset a portion of the cost.

On September 17th, the South Yuba River Citizens League organized its annual Yuba River Cleanup. More than 700 volunteers removed trash and recyclables from 79 miles of river, creek and lake shoreline within the Yuba River and Bear River watersheds. SYRPA and State Park Volunteers put together a team of 15 to work at Bridgeport. It is a start. We look forward to expanding our team next year. The day was capped by an appreciation barbeque in Nevada City. Kudos to SYRCL!

The Cleanup was followed shortly by our Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, September 21st. Please see the separate article on the dinner.

The next big event on the calendar is the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 23rd. The Fall Festival provides an opportunity for the public, especially families, to experience Bridgeport and enjoy the entertainment, activities, displays and food that will be there. A Committee has been formed to plan the event. It is a full team effort that needs many volunteers. Please join the team. Please respond to the request for volunteers or contact any board member if you would like to help.

Please remember that your Association relies strictly on volunteers and the generosity of its members. The Association in turn supports the interpretive and educational efforts of State Park volunteers. 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 Coordinator, Park Aide Dan Roediger.

If your time and interest permits, please consider stepping up to serve as a volunteer coordinator or trying out other volunteer activities. Also, SYRPA needs additional folks to help out with its events, including the Spring Fundraiser and the Fall Festival, and to serve on the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please touch base with me or any other board member. More hands will lighten the load for all.

Lastly, our traditional holiday potluck dinner is scheduled for 5:00 pm Thursday, December 8th, at the Lake Wildwood Community Center.

Take advantage of the Fall weather and visit our Parks.

Robert Coats
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

Well folks...we made it. The summer peak season is starting to drift away in the rearview mirror and park staff is looking forward to some well-deserved rest. The South Yuba River saw near record visitation this year with visitors from all over the world making the trip to take part in all that our beautiful Park has to offer.

This is also a great time to give sincere thanks to our dedicated park volunteers that took the time to brave the squelching summer heat and large crowds to help represent the Park and the Department in such a fine light. I want to remind all of you that when you are volunteering, and representing California State Parks, you are the face of the Park and of the Department. You are making life long memories for our visitors that may only visit our park once in their entire lifetime. You may be giving the gift of learning how to gold pan to a terminally ill visitor that fulfills a lifetime dream. Your “job” is a huge responsibility and I am happy to say, all of you have done an outstanding job during this past summer season. Thank you for all that you do.

Dan Youngren

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WANTED

VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON THE SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PLEASE CONTACT CAROL BERRY

530-241-4063
caberry42@gmail.com
Annual SYRPA Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Bridgeport

Wednesday evening, September 21st, was a lovely evening with a hint that fall is on the way. Although there was a bit of rain that morning, SYRPA’s string of good weather for its events continued. We gathered at Bridgeport to honor and show appreciation for all of the efforts of the Volunteers and Association Members in 2015-2016. The event was hosted by the SYRPA Board and the State Park Staff.

Nearly 60 Association Members and Volunteers were there, including at least three volunteers from the South Yuba River Citizens League’s River Ambassadors. Park Staff barbequed chicken, Polish sausage and veggie burgers for everyone. The menu included delicious salads, baked beans and cookies for dessert.

Robert Coats, SYRPA President, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continuing support of the South Yuba River State Park. He gave a brief update on status of the bridge reconstruction project. He encouraged those present to share with others their love for the Park and encourage them to become Volunteers and members of SYRPA.

Matt Green, Chief Ranger for the Sierra District, expressed his and the State Park’s gratitude for all of the SYRPA and Volunteer efforts that go into making the South Yuba River Park such a special place for the public.

Park Aide Dan Roediger, South Yuba River Volunteer Coordinator, thanked the Association and the Volunteers for their efforts and support. He gave out recognition pins to those docents who have worked at the park for one, five, ten and fifteen years. He acknowledged each of the volunteer coordinators and thanked them for their efforts. If a Volunteer believes he/she missed a recognition pin, please let Dan know. He wants to make sure each Volunteer is properly recognized.

All in all it was a fun and enjoyable evening, seeing some friends we haven’t seen in a while, getting to know new members and docents, and enjoying the barbeque the staff prepared for us. Plan to come next year. We hope to have many new volunteers to get to know and honor.

Remember – our call for action:
RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Submitted by Robert Coats
The South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) invites you to the

Bridgeport Fall Festival on Oct. 23.

Try your hand at gold panning, basket weaving and wool spinning. Take a hay ride in a wagon drawn by a vintage tractor and enjoy an up-close experience with wild birds provided by Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release of Grass Valley. Tours of the 1860s historic barn and 1920s gas station will be available to all. In addition, you can enjoy live music by the Buffalo Gals while picnicking under the shade of the large oak trees.

You can partake in watching your children play games along with face painting, painting pumpkins and making bird feeders. This year’s special attraction will be two magic shows performed by Bernard Bradshaw. There is always an abundance of food including barbecue and baked potatoes by Penn Valley Chamber of Commerce, frozen yogurt by Culture Shock Yogurt and root beer floats prepared by volunteers.

Visiting with rangers, volunteers and several local community organizations, such as Audubon, is always informative. The “Save Our Bridge” campaign will be represented by volunteers who will be on hand to answer questions about the covered bridge renovation plan. You will have access to peer into the bridge through a fence since it remains closed to all traffic until renovation is completed.

Save the date and please bring the whole family for this fun event. Admission is free, parking in State Park lots is $5.
South Yuba Cleanup September 17, 2016

There were 850 volunteers rallied by SYRCL who participated in the 2016 Yuba River Cleanup from the headwaters at Donner Summit to where the Yuba meets the Feather River. These volunteers removed approximately 10,000 pounds of trash and recyclables. At Bridgeport, 15 of our docents and SYRPA members joined a group which focused on cleanup along the river and in the State Park at Bridgeport. It was a very enthusiastic group which spent several hours collecting and disposing of litter and removing Himalayan Blackberries, scotch broom and other invasive plants within the Bridgeport area. Keeping the river and park clean contributes to the health and beauty of the Yuba River and Bridgeport so that our visitors can continue to enjoy it for years to come.

A big “thank you” goes to these volunteers who contributed hours of work cleaning up the river.

Carol Berry

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR THE SYRPA HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

December 8th; 5pm-8pm ~ Lake Wildwood Community Center

Drinks provided ~ Live Music ~ Toys for Tots collection

A time for celebration and good cheer!!
SYRPA lost another dear friend

Steve Pauly passed away peacefully in Marysville on July 5, 2016, due to severe head injuries suffered as the result of a fall. He was born Stephen Edward Pauly on July 10, 1936 in Southern California, CA, and attended Pasadena city schools. He earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1959, and spent his career in earthquake engineering. Steve loved hiking, backpacking, and cross-country skiing. For several years during the 1960s, he served as an active member of the Altadena Mountain Rescue Squad. He enjoyed doing genealogical research, was a member of the Nevada County Historical Society, and portrayed the first resident of our area, John Rose, at the Smartsville Pioneer Days. He devoted much of his energy to volunteering at South Yuba River State Park, where he was past newsletter editor, current history coordinator, and current co-webmaster. Steve was an active Park Docent, was a past Board Member and President of the South Yuba River Park Association. He enjoyed researching the history of the Bridgeport area, and he digitized that history for the Park archives, for the South Yuba River Park Association website, and for future generations of Park visitors. Steve was responsible for the interpretive displays at the recently restored Bridgeport gas station, and he was an active proponent of the Save Our Bridge Campaign to restore and reopen the iconic covered wood Bridge at Bridgeport. He belonged to the Lake Wildwood Computer Club, participated in picking up litter along Highway 20 representing Lake Wildwood’s ‘Citizens Who Care’, and was the resident ‘fix-it’ man for his neighborhood. He was a member of the Bear-Yuba and Truckee-Donner Land Trusts. He will be missed by the many people who knew him.

Recollections of Steve Pauly from Ranger Marc Wetherbee

One of my favorite volunteers with whom I spent many times conversing, collaborating with on projects and getting to know has passed away recently. Steve Pauly was an inspiration to me with his extreme dedication to parks, zest for life, attention to detail and unstoppable nature. Steve was not only an integral part of researching the history of the Bridgeport area but also spent countless hours digitizing that history for the park archives and for the SYRPA website. Some weeks he would tell me he put in more hours volunteering than I had worked for the week. When he started on a project he was very thorough to say the least. Some days he would drive to distant locations to interview some member of the Kneebone Family or granddaughter of some old 49er who used to live at Bridgeport just to get the facts straight. It’s because of his dedication that we now have true and corrected records of many historic facts at Bridgeport. Steve was also a great friend to many and will be missed very much.

Memorial contributions on Steve’s behalf can be made to
Save Our Bridge, P.O. Box 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946.
A REMEMBERANCE OF STEVE PAULY

FULL OF LIFE! —- and an intrepid SCHOLAR to boot! What a wonderful combination!!

As a twenty five year friend of our late Bridgeport Volunteer I was asked to write a wee comment (or two!) about this fella who possessed a MOST active mind; STEVE PAULY.

We go back to the mid 1990’s, where we served together as members of the John Muir Memorial Association; and where Steve left an indelible imprint. Steve, in addition to being an active member of that Association (located at the Muir home site in Martinez, CA), played the role of the far-seeing man who has been credited with being the forefather of the National Park Service, as John Muir himself; giving talks around the Bay Area—complete with natural beard (!) and attired EXACTLY as was Muir, with gold watch fob, et al.

Interestingly, by a simple change of a hat, he also portrayed the famous contemporary landscape artist, (and fellow Scot) William Keith, at the same event. It should also be noted that Steve recruited one of John Muir’s Grandsons, Ross Hanna, (at about age 70 then) to join our Board of Directors; who then became its President three years later.

One of the lasting achievements of Steve’s was that he initiated and was heavily involved in the acquisition of the largest privately-held collection of Muir papers—and generously donated sufficient funds to make the purchase possible. The collection included first-edition books authored by Muir, sketches and letters. This collection, now the property of the Association, is, due to its size, part of a a continually revolving display at St. Mary’s College in Moraga, CA. (And during the display’s formative years, Steve served as its Curator).

Steve’s contributions to SYRPA are many; he served as an active Docent for our State Park and as a Director (and then President) of our Association. He was directly responsible for the research that led to the newly-installed plaque in the Barn, which chronicles the original Toll Takers for our beloved icon, the Bridge, and together with now-departed friend of Bridgeport Dick Alexander, continued on with research on factors that added to our knowledge of the site that now bears the name of the South Yuba River State Park. This fella really LOVED history and the South Yuba River State Park!!

Always with his “antennae” up for our Association here, Steve learned that his dear friend and newly-retired former Superintending Ranger of the John Muir National Historic Site, Glenn Fuller, was now residing here and he recruited him. Glenn soon became a very valuable member of our SYRPA Board of Directors

On a final—and personal note--, about 25 years ago, upon learning that my wife, Linda, had incurred a serious injury, Steve sent her a hand-written letter. Writing under the name of John Muir, he described how he had overcome a similar injury (circa 1870, on Mt. Shasta, as I recall), and that she was to take heart in the healing qualities that time provides.

So, dear reader let us celebrate the LIFE LIVED BY OUR DEAR FRIEND, Steve Pauly—and remember that it is through fellow volunteers like him that we DO make our “Bridgeport Experience” so memorable!

From Fellow Docent,

Don Denton

Steve Pauly as John Muir:
John Muir Nat’l Historic Site, Martinez, CA; 1998
New book in Visitor Center by local Author

Have you ever taken a walk through an old cemetery and wondered, as you looked at the graves and tombstones, what part those pioneers played during the 1848-1920 era? That’s when most of our historic cemeteries were established and began to be populated. Chris Ward, Penn Valley Author and Archeologist has written a book "Cemeteries of the Western Sierra" and our Visitor Center is pleased to offer it. The book has generous references to our own Kneebone Cemetery at Bridgeport. The book is full of pictures which makes it easy to pick up and put down. Come in to the Visitors Center, buy a copy and add this book to your collection!

Ardie Obert

Hello everyone! Once again, it’s been another great year at South Yuba River State Park. I would just like to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication that they have given this year.

Without your support, we wouldn’t have the amazing Park that we have today. You all have done your part to make this Park a much better place for the public to enjoy. Thanks to you, you have made a lasting impression on not only on our youth, but all of our visitors as well. Whether it is guiding wildflower walk, working in the visitor center, school tours, gold panning or construction projects, you all have made a wonderful difference in our visitors’ experience. We couldn’t do this without you! So thank you for all that you do and I look forward to another great year working with all of you.

Dan Roediger
Senior Park Aide

The new parking kiosk in the lower parking lot is installed and being used by the public for parking fees. Thanks, Park Staff, for a quick and successful resolution to a difficult situation which occurred this summer.
FOR MORE INFO CALL 530-432-2546
Call this number the night prior to event for potential cloudy sky cancellation notice

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2016

STAR PARTY

Second Annual Bridgeport

Come join us at the river for a spectacular up-close look at our neighbors in the sky.

The Nevada County Astronomy Club will be setting up their telescopes for you to see planets, galaxies, star clusters, double stars, double clusters and nebula and learn a little about the heavenly creations.

Highlights include Saturn and Andromeda Galaxy

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Location: Bridgeport, South Yuba River State Park, North Parking Lot - *$5 Parking*

TIME: 7:30PM-10:30PM

Suggestions to Bring: Warm clothes, a chair, snacks, water, cellphone with “Night Sky” App.

What NOT to bring: Alcohol & glass are prohibited, red light flashlights only within the telescope arena.

This event brought to you by:
California State Parks & Nevada County Astronomers
ALL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT!

MALAKOFF JAMBOREEE
CAMP OUT

When
Saturday & Sunday, October 15th and 16th 2016
Potluck Dinner on Saturday at 5:00 pm
Coffee & Drinks Provided

Where
At the Malakoff Diggins Environmental Living Site
Camp Site

Who
All volunteers from
Malakoff, Empire Mine, and South Yuba.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon or weekend to celebrate and thank our wonderful volunteers and their help this season.

Space is limited so call early to learn more about this event and reserve your spot.
Call Malakoff Diggins to RSVP – (530) 265-2740
Everyone’s invited to celebrate

Holidays at Empire Mine!

Friday, November 25th &
Saturday, November 26th

Special activities from
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Share your gift wishes with Santa & Mrs. Claus in the Clubhouse
- Enjoy lavish decorations and FREE cookies in the Cottage
- Enjoy lots of festive, live music & creative children’s activities
- Try the tasty snacks & drinks available for purchase
- Visit the old Mineyard & taste real roasted chestnuts
- Discover unusual, affordably-priced presents in the Gift Shop, including Heritage Roses
- Be a winner in the FREE children’s daily prize draw (with just a little luck)

With vintage costumes, colorful gold history, and fun-filled surprises, here's where holiday magic starts.

Tickets: $7 ages 17 & over, $3 ages 6-16
FREE admission for children under 6 – and FREE parking

Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 E. Empire St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 273-8522 or visit www.empiremine.org

Poster designed by Sherry Sanchez
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. The Docents have a lot of fun. Just ask them!

Please call: Paul Keasberry: 530-432-1947 or Senior Park Ranger Dan Roediger: 530-432-2546

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

- STAR PARTY: October 7th; 7:30PM—10:30PM ~ at Bridgeport; North Pkg Lot
- MALAKOFF JAMBOREE CAMPOUT: October 15th & 16th ~ Malakoff Diggins
- FALL FESTIVAL: October 23rd; 11am–4pm ~ at Bridgeport
- HOLIDAYS AT EMPIRE MINE: Fri & Sat: Nov 25th & 26th; 11am–4pm ~ at Empire
- VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday; 11am-4pm
- HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: December 8th; 5pm-8pm ~ Lake Wildwood Community Center

Reoccurring events
- BIRD WALKS: October 8, December 10
  Meet at 8:00am ~ Bridgeport North Parking Lot
- GOLD PANNING Memorial Day to 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](http://www.southyubariverstatepark.org) Or call the Visitor Center: 530-432-2546