BE “RIVER SAFE”

PRESS RELEASE
Extremely Hazardous River Conditions at the South Yuba River

High River flows caused by Sierra snowmelt has made swimming or recreating near the shoreline of the South Yuba River extremely hazardous. Due to a record setting Sierra snowpack and unseasonal warm temperatures, the South Yuba River is running faster and colder than we have seen in many years. Areas that appear to be safe may have dangerous undertow currents. Wearing life jackets and closely supervising small children are strongly advised. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 1 to 14 years and the fifth leading cause for people of all ages. (CDC. “Drowning risks in Natural Water Settings.” 6/13/2012)

For the latest information on river conditions, please check the Department of Water Resources website.

“…typically at this time of the year, the river moves at 12 cubic feet per second. But right now, it’s moving at 800 to 1400 cubic feet per second.”

“Be very careful, move out very slowly, don’t go beyond what your capabilities are. The water is about 50 degrees: cold enough for hypothermia to set in ..within seconds.”

“…It’s slippery,” a visitor said. “If you don’t pay attention, you could slip in, and you know it’ll take you.”

If you plan to go near the river, PLEASE WEAR LIFE JACKETS!

Shirley Moon, quotes by Caleb Dardick, SYRCL Executive Director, Union Newspaper
The most frequently asked questions the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee receives are; “Where are we in the project process?” “Do we have enough money to complete the project?” and the most common one; “When will construction start and when will the Bridge reopen?” A big thank you goes out to Chief Ranger Matt Green and Project Manager Mike Brown for keeping us informed and providing us with the most up-to-date progress on the project. Below is a summary of all of the facets of the project that are currently being worked on, parts that have been completed, the budget and anticipated dates for the start of construction and project completion.

**Design Milestones**
- Preliminary plans completed and approved by State Public Works Board 6/15/17
- Moving into Working Drawings and on track for construction to begin in Summer 2018
- Estimated project completion date is May, 2019

**Budget**
- Governor recently approved construction funding as anticipated for $3.3 million
- Project design is currently within the approved budget
- All current and past design, engineering and permitting work covered by original $1.216 million approved in prior State budget

**Environmental Clearance Milestones**
- Biological Assessment (Federal Endangered Species Act) completed March, 2017
- Section 7 consultation (formal response to Biological Assessment), expected August, 2017
- CEQA Draft Notice of Completion filed and public review completed June 6, 2017 (no comments)
- CEQA Final Negative Declaration expected August, 2017
- Technical Studies (Federal Requirement)
- Hazardous Materials completed 4/20/17
- Cultural (Archeology) completed 5/15/17
- Flood Plain Evaluation expected August, 2017
- Natural Environmental Study (State Endangered Species) expected August, 2017
- Section 5024 (State Cultural) expected August, 2017

**Permitting Milestones**
- California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Section 1602, expected November, 2017
- Army Corps of Engineers Section 404, expected September, 2017
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Section 401, expected December, 2017

**This all great news!** Everything seems to be falling into place to save our iconic Bridge. However, keep in mind this is a very special project. Reconstructing and renovating a uniquely designed, 155 year old wood structure over a rapidly flowing river and to bring it back exactly as it is supposed to look is not going to be an easy task! There are sure to be challenges and possible delays but if we all keep our eyes fixed on the goal and work together we can Save Our Bridge! Stay tuned for further updates on the progress.

Doug Moon, Chair; Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee
President’s Message

Summer is bringing many visitors to the Park looking to enjoy the many beach sitting, wading and swimming opportunities along the South Yuba River. Although in most years the river is calm and welcoming by July, water levels continue to be very high and the river continues to run fast and cold. Safety in and around the water is always important, but this year calls for special care. 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 20th. 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 22nd. This is a popular event that permits our visitors, especially families, to experience our Park in a special way 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 of any board member know if you would like to help with this special event. The Festival requires a full team effort to make it a success. Please join the team. See the note in this newsletter for the dates and times of the planning meetings.

⇒ We plan to have a Holiday Pot Luck in December.

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 website from time to time for updates.

I am pleased to share with you that Ann Wright and Bob Slyker have joined our Board. Both are long-time docents and bring with them a wealth of experience and energy. Please join me in welcoming them.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Association please contact me (rtcoats@comcast.net) or any other board member.

Come and experience the Park this summer.

Robert Coats

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Wednesday Sept, 20, 2017
Docent, SYRPA and FNB/MD Member Appreciation BBQ

Each year the South Yuba River Park Association Board of Directors and Gold Sector Park Staff plan a festive evening to recognize and celebrate all the hard work put in by our members and Docents. Please plan on joining us Wednesday, September 20th; 5:00pm—7:30pm at Bridgeport. This is a great opportunity to meet all of your fellow Association members and Docents and be appreciated for all of your efforts.

Doug Moon
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

Happy July everyone! Is it just me or did summer just sneak up on us? It seems like only yesterday that I was building an Ark in my backyard. This long and wet winter has kept many of our park visitors cooped up inside and dreaming of the nice cool waters of the South fork of the Yuba River. The problem is, this cool and fresh water is extremely dangerous this year. We have not seen these fast river flows this late into the season in nearly ten years. With the boiling hot temperatures, we have been seeing recently, it is almost cruel to not take a dip in the river but I have been telling folks to wait until the middle of August when the river flows are expected to be lowered.

I am extremely happy to announce a new addition to the Sierra Gold team, Jenna Randar, our new Sector Park Interpreter. Jenna brings with her a passion for interpretation and working with the public. These past few weeks, she has been busy with visiting our area parks and soaking in as much as she can. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her in your neck of the woods. Make sure to have fun and stay safe this summer.

Supervising Ranger, Dan Youngren

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

Introducing Sector Park Interpreter, Jenna Randar!

Hi, my name is Jenna Randar, and you may have seen me hiking around your park recently with my Stetson on. No, I’m not out impersonating a Ranger, I’m the new State Park Interpreter I for Empire Mine State Historic Park, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, and South Yuba River State Park, or for brevity’s sake, the Sierra Gold Sector. From the sandy beaches of Southern California to the desolate backbone of the Sierra Nevada, I have worked for California State Parks for a decade, doing everything from giving interpretive tours, to museum collections work, to managing a special events program. While my skill set is broad, my passion revolves around the art of interpretation, creating opportunities for park visitors to form their own meaningful connections to a place. It is my mission to begin recruiting new volunteers as well as providing formal interpretive training to those that perform interpretation in our parks. My door is always open, feel free to say hello at any time, I can be reached at jenna.randar@parks.ca.gov, or give me a call at 530-273-0219.
Malakoff’s French Connection  
September 9, 2017  ~  11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A stalwart team has assembled to plan Malakoff’s first annual French Connection event. We welcome anyone willing to dig in and join us as we fashion a new tradition for Malakoff, centered on the French and French Canadian cultures and influences on the Park’s history. The day’s activities will begin with a dedication and ribbon cutting for the newly installed interpretive panels in town and at the village of Malakoff site. The popular and lively Beaucoup Chapeaux quartet led by Maggie McKaig will get things hopping with their special brand of music.

We will have quiche, cheeses, breads, fruit, desserts, wine and beer available for purchase for picnics on the lawn. A special raffle will be conducted, with a grand prize of a weeks’ lodging for two at Vence, near Cannes on the French Riviera donated by Claudine Chalmers! Games Petanque (French bocci ball), dancing, guided town tours, gold panning and blacksmith demonstrations will be conducted. Mark your calendars, grab your beret and come to Malakoff.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact Brooke Betz at the park 530-265-2740, brooke.betz@parks.ca.gov. We will be posting details as they develop on the Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins webpage: http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org/

Syd Brown
SYRPA Volunteers Participate in Penn Valley Rodeo Parade

A 1946 John Deere Tractor, owned and operated by Rod Hisken (a generous contributor to the Park Association), provided a tug for the South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) Volunteers at the Penn Valley Rodeo parade. Riding in the wagon and wearing their gold vests, SYRPA proudly displayed the "Save Our Bridge" and upcoming "Fall Festival" banners as a reminder of what the Park Association is partially about. SYRPA is a non-profit organization which provides financial support for educational and interpretive activities for both South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

Volunteers and members invite you to visit the parks and become involved in the “SAVE OUR BRIDGE” Campaign which is serving to restore the 1862 “Longest, Single-Span Wood Covered Bridge in the World” at Bridgeport.

Park activities at Bridgeport include its annual “Fall Festival” on Sunday Oct. 22.

John Field

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

BRIDGEPORT’S FALL FESTIVAL
SUNDAY OCTOBER 22

Fall Festival is a special time to share our wonderful park with the community. This event could not happen without our many volunteers. It is also a fun way to get involved. We need volunteers on the day of the Festival, Sunday, October 22, as well as, during the planning process. If you wish to participate on our Planning Committee, please come to our first committee meeting at the Bridgeport Visitor Center at 10:00am on Tuesday, August 15. The other two Planning Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 19th and October 10th.

Please email Margaret Vodicka, the Fall Festival Coordinator if you want to be part of the Fall Festival fun: margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com
HUMBUG DAYS
MALAKOFF DIGGINS

The quiet dusty historic town of North Bloomfield was transformed once again on June 10 with the sights and sounds of the 1860’s for the 51st Annual Humbug Day at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. More than 1,000 park visitors took a step back in time as the day’s events kicked off with a Nisenan Blessing given by Shelly Covert of the Nisenan Tribe and the raising of the flags by Boy Scout Troop 21, sponsored by the Grass Valley Elks Lodge. Costumed docents provided tours of historic buildings, the local saloon served sarsaparilla floats, offered period forms of gambling, and impromptu performances on the piano. The Sierra Muzzle Loaders filled the air with the sound and smell of black powder guns and cannon fire as the Buffalo Gals bent their strings and sung their bluegrass hearts out. The apogee of the day was the world’s shortest parade followed by the firing of the hydraulic monitor (water cannon). Visitors had the opportunity to participate in numerous activities and educational opportunities throughout the day including tin punching, candle making, gold panning, blacksmithing, and weaving demonstrations.

This annual event is made possible through the combined efforts of park staff, dedicated volunteers, the ECV Chapter 10, and the Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins.

Mark your calendars for next year; you won’t want to miss Humbug Day 2018!

Jenna Randar, Sierra Gold Sector
Photos by John Field
Nesting Bald Eagles Welcomed Back to Bridgeport

Compared to most other raptors bald eagles are early breeders: nest building and egg laying occur in late winter and incubation/hatching in the spring. The young eagles fledge (have grown feathers necessary to fly) in late May to June. At SYSP we have been fortunate to have a pair of bald eagles nest and raise young in the Bridgeport area for approximately seven years through the winter/spring nesting season of 2015. Unfortunately, in the summer of 2015 the nest of our resident eagles fell during a heavy wind storm. Bald Eagle nests are the largest of any bird in North America and are added to and used repeatedly over many years. It’s probable that the nest was too heavy for the tree limb supporting it.

Although the pair attempted to build a new nest in the same tree when they returned in the winter of 2016, it also fell. The eagles were observed in the general vicinity of Bridgeport during the 2016 winter breeding season but due to a lack of a nest there was no evidence that they raised a family. This past December the pair again returned to the Bridgeport area but with no evidence of a nest. For that reason, participants in SYSP’s bird walks were excited in January to see them building a new nest in a cedar tree very close to their previous one southeast of the SYSP visitor center. The eagles hatched two eaglets this spring; participants in the park’s bird walks were fortunate to watch them care and nurture one of them through the fledgling stage. Although bald eagles generally lay two to three eggs, often only one eaglet survives. The nest appears to be in good shape and although the eagles will soon migrate away from the park, we eagerly look forward to welcoming them back again next December/January.

Bob Slyker
RODGER’S BENCH

He enjoyed the Buttermilk Bend trail so very much; especially one particular spot. So, when Rodger passed away, his loving wife wanted a bench placed in that spot so others could enjoy the beauty of the South Yuba River as Rodger did. A generous donation was given to SYRPA and an invitation to all hikers to sit and rest a moment on Rodger’s bench. Listen to the river, enjoy the flowers and butterflies and have your own moment of peace.

Shirley Moon

Bear Yuba Land Trust Celebration of Trails

SYRPA participated in the Bear Yuba Land Trust’s Celebration of Trails on June 3rd. We staffed a booth at the Trails Day Festival at the Tahoe Nation Forest headquarters in Nevada City. This was an opportunity for us to support the efforts of the BYLT and to share our story with folks we might not otherwise encounter. We distributed brochures and maps covering South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and materials concerning the Save Our Bridge Campaign. We had an opportunity to talk with many visitors: young and old, long time and new residents and visitors to the area. The number of people we saw was at least in part aided by the mild weather and the fact that we were right across from the beer stand. We particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of Laura Peterson of Bear Yuba Land Trust in organizing the Trails Day Festival.

Robert Coats
SYRCL'S 20th RIVER CLEAN UP—Sat. Sept. 16, 2017

RECRUITING SYRPA TEAM MEMBERS FOR BRIDGEPORT CLEAN UP

This year's opportunity to clean up our precious Yuba is on Saturday, September 16th 2017 at 9 am. SYRPA will again have a team participate in the clean up around Bridgeport. The clean up only takes a few hours and dramatically improves the environment around our Park. Please put the date on your calendar and volunteer for the SYRPA team. Contact Robert Coats at 530-264-7092, or rcoats@comcast.net for more information. You can also read about last year’s clean up on SYRCL’S webpage: http://yubariver.org/annual-events/yuba-river-cleanup-2016/

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

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”
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 Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator: Dan Roediger at 530-432-2546, email Daniel.Roediger@parks.ca.gov to volunteer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Start/End</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Coats</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>264-7092</td>
<td>14803 Echo Ridge Dr.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rtcoats@comcast.net">rtcoats@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014-2019</td>
<td>Nevada City, CA 95959</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Berry</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>575-4064</td>
<td>15541 Lori Drive</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:caberry42@gmail.com">caberry42@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014-2019</td>
<td>Grass Valley, CA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Keasberry</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>432-1947</td>
<td>17937 Lake Forest Dr.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:pkeasberry@comcast.net">pkeasberry@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2011-2020</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Field</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>802-5038</td>
<td>11976 Waxwing Court</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbka.field@icloud.com">jbka.field@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Moon</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>205-9554</td>
<td>11889 Kingbird Court</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:moon.henry1@gmail.com">moon.henry1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Slyker</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>205-9011</td>
<td>12320 Fallen Leaf Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:BGSLY@aol.com">BGSLY@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Nevada City, CA 95959</td>
<td></td>
<td>(cell) 925 285-8445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Stamatis</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>432-8266</td>
<td>11262 Ringtail Road</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wpstamatis@sbcglobal.net">wpstamatis@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Stanton</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>432-8687</td>
<td>11239 Ringtail Road</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bruce.stanton@comcast.net">bruce.stanton@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014-2019</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Vodicka</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>272-4421</td>
<td>14219 Rollins Park Dr.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com">margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2015-2020</td>
<td>Grass Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Wittich</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>(916) 965-0273</td>
<td>4115 Main Street</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwwittich@gmail.com">cwwittich@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014-2019</td>
<td>Fair Oaks, CA 95628</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Wright</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>432-8641</td>
<td>15401 Indian Court</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:abwright2010@gmail.com">abwright2010@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Penn Valley, CA 95946</td>
<td></td>
<td>(cell) 434-2532</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017
South Yuba River and Malakoff Diggins Historic State Parks

◊ BASICS OF FUNDRAISING CLASS: July 14: 1-4pm~ Docent room, Empire Mine
◊ NEVADA COUNTY FAIR: August 9th-13th ~Nevada County Fairgrounds
◊ GOLD SECTOR COOPERATING ASSOCIATION meeting: August 24; 2pm-4pm~Empire Mine
◊ MINER’S PICNIC: August 26th ~Empire Mine
◊ ICE CREAM SOCIAL: September 3rd ~ Malakoff Diggins
◊ FRENCH CONNECTION EVENT: September 9th: 11am-4:30pm ~ Malakoff Diggins
◊ SYRCL RIVER CLEAN UP: September 16th: 9am ~ Bridgeport
◊ DOCENT APPRECIATION DINNER: September 20th: 5-7:30pm ~ Bridgeport
◊ SIERRA SECTOR ASSOCIATION MEETING: Sept 29th & 30th; Bodie State Park
◊ FALL FESTIVAL: October 22nd: 11am– 4pm ~ Bridgeport
◊ HOLIDAYS AT EMPIRE: November 24th-25th ~ Empire Mine
◊ HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: December date and place to be announced

Reoccurring events
◊ VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday 11am-4pm
◊ BIRD WALKS: Saturdays, July 8, Sept 9, Oct 14 & Dec 9:All walks start at 8:00am except for June, July & September which will start at 7:30 AM ~ Meet at the Bridgeport North parking lot.
◊ GOLD PANNING Memorial Day-Labor Day Sat & Sun 12:00am-2:00pm~ Bridgeport; donation $1 p/pan
◊ SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month; 9:00am~ Bridgeport
◊ 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