Yosemite Gateway Partners

Summer Opens
Sierra High
Country

Links shown for website and e-mail addresses are active
Yosemite is on full alert for the Summertime Visitation. The Gateways are braced for the annual migration of travelers. And, Yosemite Gateway Partners has an exciting Summer meeting in store.

Access is no longer a problem for reaching the highest portions of the Park and its nearby surroundings. The photo posted below is just outside of Yosemite – actually, these mountaintops are in the Park – at the Conness Glacier in the Inyo National Forest. Somewhere amidst the rocky rubble is a living glacier.

Our Summer meeting on July 11 will feature the amazing “Super Science of Yosemite” and the behind-the-scenes people that do the research to unlock Yosemite’s secrets and guide the Park’s planning and management.

The Yosemite Gateway Partners annual meeting will be at 8:00am in the Garden Terrace Room on July 11, 2013. This will be just prior to the YGP Summer Meeting.

We will then will introduce the new directors at the 10am meeting.

YGP seeks to expand our conversations about culture, resources, and economics to all in our Gateways and beyond. Toward this goal, we are adding content each week to our Facebook page – Yosemite Gateway Partners. Please use the link below, like us, and be part of this conversation.

Please invite any one or organization you feel is appropriate. You can do this by mentioning our Facebook page, by forwarding any of the YGP emails you get, or by sending them this newsletter. All are welcome. We presently have more than 500 people who receive our emails.

YGP extends its heartfelt thanks to those that host our meetings – Yosemite National Park staff and Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at Yosemite and its staff. Thanks for great program participation, facilities, and food.

CLICK HERE and become a fan by using LIKE on our home page at Facebook.
JOIN US TO PRESERVE OUR PARK
By Noel Morrison

From restoring Lower Yosemite Falls, Cooks Meadow, Tunnel View and Glacier Point, to protecting Yosemite's wildlife, to trail improvements and habitat restoration to Junior Rangers and Theater programs, work funded by Yosemite Conservancy donors is visible everywhere you look. We invite you to join us in providing support to preserve and protect Yosemite National Park’s resources and enrich the visitor experience by making a donation to Yosemite Conservancy today. Your gift will have a lasting impact benefiting generations yet to come.

We have many ways your Gateway business can partner with Yosemite Conservancy. To learn more contact Debra Holcomb at dholcomb@yosemiteconservancy.org.

We Play in the Park, Too!
From naturalist-led botany hikes in Tuolumne Meadows to art workshops in Wawona we have the perfect Yosemite experience covered gateway to gateway.

Engage Your Inner Artist
Hands-on art experiences in Yosemite Valley—new artist featured each week! Celebrated artists lead workshops from 10am -2pm Monday through Saturday in Yosemite Valley and Wawona. Children's art sessions take place in the Valley. Registration is $10 per person, plus cost of supplies.

Live Theater Seven Nights Week
Watch unforgettable live performances of historic heroes, daring rescues, and thrilling adventures every night at the Valley Visitor Center Theater. All shows start at 7:00pm. Tickets are $8 for adults; $4 for children ages 4-12 and can be purchased at the door or at any Yosemite Conservancy bookstore or at DNC Tour & Activity Desks.

Get Outdoors
Summit Half Dome with an expert leading you every step of the way or explore the fascinating natural history of the Sierra Nevada with a naturalist. Looking for a custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group.

To learn more about Yosemite Conservancy programs contact us at 209-379-2317 x10 or visit our website www.yosemiteconservancy.org/events

Yosemite Conservancy provides funding to protect the threatened great gray owl and other Yosemite wildlife. Photo by Joe Medley
Yosemite National Park . . .

**Water, Traffic and Fire**

By Jana Friesen-McCabe

**Water Safety.** Although Yosemite only received approximately 50% of normal snowpack over the 2012/2013 winter season, rivers and streams are still flowing at high water levels this spring and early summer. Water related accidents are one of the most common cause of traumatic death in Yosemite. In 2012 four visitors lost their lives in water related incidents.

Visitors to the Yosemite National Park and the surrounding areas are urged to keep the following safety tips in mind when recreating in and around water:

- **Pay attention to potential hazards.** People who fall into the water can be rapidly swept downstream and become pinned under rocks, logs, and other natural features. In turbulent rivers the water becomes highly aerated, making it impossible for even the strongest swimmers to breathe or gain control.

- **Cold water can be exhausting.** Mountain water is very cold—no matter what time of year it is. Yosemite's rivers and lakes are fed by melted snow from high in the Sierra Nevada. Even expert swimmers can tire quickly in the icy waters.

- **Pay attention to downstream conditions.** Anytime you're near a flowing waterway, always pay attention to downstream conditions. What may look like a calm swimming hole could have dangerous whitewater just downstream. Even a slow current or a calm pool can be dangerous.

- **Stay on trails.** Nearly all fatal water-related accidents in Yosemite occur because visitors leave a trail or a pathway. People scramble on rocks that line the river, pose for photos, dip their hands and feet into the water, or attempt to cross boulder to boulder. Being too close to a river or raging creek is as risky as peering over the edge of Half Dome.

**Summer Traffic Management.** For the second year in a row, Yosemite National Park is working with gateway communities to help visitors better plan for traffic and congestion issues within Yosemite Valley. The park has three goals this summer: to inform visitors of public transit options throughout the park, to manage traffic during times of heavy congestion, and to provide visitors with traffic information for trip planning purposes.

The park will be working with Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) to provide increased public transportation service from Merced and Mariposa by providing additional runs during the summer. In addition to increasing the existing service from Merced and Mariposa, the park is also working with YARTS to provide continued summer service from Sonora and Groveland along Highway 120 West, and from Mono County along Highway 120 East.

During the busy summer weekends, the park will implement a bus lane along Southside Drive in Yosemite Valley. This bus lane will allow buses, trams, and other high-occupancy vehicles to have better access to areas within Yosemite Valley by providing an extra lane that allows them to bypass long lines of traffic. This service was also implemented during the summer of 2012 with set dates that the bus lane would be available. This year, the park will only implement the bus lane on an “as-needed” basis throughout the summer.

Yosemite will continue to work with each gateway community to better inform visitors of heavy traffic congestion times and locations by partnering with gateway visitor centers and hotels to distribute a traffic forecast. Yosemite area gateway communities will also do their part to reduce traffic congestion and better inform regional visitors by conducting programs in their counties to provide recreation opportunities outside of the park during peak visitation times. Additionally, several of the gateway communities will continue to promote YARTS and other public transportation.

Working together with gateway communities, Yosemite National Park can help provide up-to-date information to regional visitors, thereby helping
to create an easier, more fulfilling and relaxing vacation to the Yosemite area.

**Start of Fire Season.** The 2013 Fire Season in Yosemite National Park officially began on Monday, May 20. Fire season is officially declared when all seasonal when all seasonal firefighting equipment and personnel are in place, prepared and ready to respond to potential wildfire in the area.

Grasses and other vegetation at the lower elevations have already begun to dry out. This year, vegetation is drying out faster than average due to the low snowpack the park and the region received over the last two winter seasons, making for fire danger above average for this time of year. To prepare for this, the park has transitioned to fire season preparedness and fire resources are available seven days per week for suppression efforts within the park. In park fire resources for the season include: Yosemite fire manager, four Type 3 wildland engines, one helicopter, and one hand crew.

In preparation for the fire season, the park is providing defensible space inspections throughout Yosemite’s communities, including Aspen Valley, Hodgdon Meadows, Foresta, El Portal, Yosemite Valley, and Wawona starting on Monday, June 10. Residents and homeowners within the Yosemite area are urged to clear a defensible space of 100 feet around homes and other structures in an effort to reduce the risk of fire hazards.

Pile burning has been discontinued until further notice. Due to two years of historically low precipitation, the threat of unwanted wildfire will remain high throughout the summer. Although it is early in the season, the State of California has already experienced large acre fires that have resulted in loss of property. Ninety-five percent of all fires are human caused. Clearing brush, limb trees and other flammable materials near homes helps keep residents and firefighters safe.

Whether you live within the park of within adjacent communities, please take a few minutes and think about fire prevention; it could save your home and your life.

**Be Fire Safe.** The fire potential is elevated statewide and “peak fire season” has been declared earlier than normal. Yosemite National Park urges local residents and visitors to “Please be Fire Safe,” when residing and visiting the park and other public lands. Residence should practice standard fire safety precautions such as clearing weeds from around the house and mowing lawns before 10:00 a.m.

**Previous Prescribed Fires.** Prior to the declaration of the 2013 Fire Season, Yosemite National Park fire managers completed a 150 acre prescribed fire near the community of Wawona. The fire was ignited on Sunday, April 21, and completed on Tuesday, April 22, 2013. Fire managers worked closely with the Mariposa County Air Pollution District (MCAPCD) throughout the fire.

Prescribed fires help reduce hazardous fuels on the forest floor and also help to restore the ecosystem by mimicking the frequent and low intensity lightning caused fires that would normally occur within the Sierras.

On the Memorial Day weekend Yosemite National Park began staffing Park Rangers in gateway communities surrounding the park. Yosemite is working in cooperation with the Yosemite Chamber of Commerce in Groveland, Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau in Oakhurst, Mariposa Chamber of Commerce in Mariposa, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, and the U.S. Forest Service in Lee Vining to provide Park Rangers at gateway community visitor centers throughout Yosemite area. Rangers will be at each location seven days per week through September. Services provided will include up-to-date Yosemite information, road conditions, and campground and lodging information. Additionally, park passes into Yosemite can be bought at each location.
Yosemite 150th Anniversary

Activities Update
By Kassandra Hardy

Yosemite Grant 150th Anniversary activities start this month!

Even though the first set of activities start this month, the program continues to grow with new and inspiring activities almost everyday. We have nearly 100 activities on the calendar and we are ecstatic to share a sneak peak of the calendar publication! The publication will be available in Visitor Centers soon.

Where can I purchase official Yosemite Grant 150th merchandise?

Anywhere that you see this sign there will be official merchandise. Starting this month you can purchase pins, patches, hats, puzzles, note cards - and more at the Yosemite Conservancy stores, The Ansel Adams Gallery, and Delaware North Company retail outlets in the park. In addition, by mid-June you can pick up your very own special anniversary edition of the Yosemite Grant 150th pendleton blanket!

Top 5 ways to get involved in the anniversary:

Attend an official activity
Share your Yosemite story
Purchase an official anniversary product
Volunteer in the park
Donate to one of our park partners

Is there still time to participate in the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act?

Yes! We are still looking for additional anniversary activities, projects, and products. If you have an interest in having your anniversary activity published in our second calendar
Join us to interact, learn and share with the Dinkey Collaborative at their first public field trip. This event will showcase how community members and the U.S. Forest Service are working together to restore and maintain the health of public lands and ecosystems within the Dinkey Creek area. We will visit areas that have recently had forest thinning treatments and other areas awaiting such treatments. Learn how YOU can be a part of this exciting opportunity to impact forest health, promote clean water/air and prevent uncharacteristic wildfire in the Sierra National Forest and neighboring communities.

Please be sure to RSVP by Monday, July 15.
To RSVP, please fill out this online form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uHyC4kgKBtNckVf_9lgGMnzAt9P3Jk6fkzceIuRmc8/viewform — or call the Sierra National Forest at 559-855-5355 ext. 0.
Date: Friday, July 19, 2013

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: High Sierra Ranger District Office, Sierra National Forest
Address: 29688 Auberry Rd. Prather, CA 93651

The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project is a science-based, ecological restoration initiative covering 154,000 acres in the southern Sierra Nevada of California. Climbing from 1,000 to over 10,000 feet in elevation, the mountainous landscape weaves coniferous and hardwood forests together with meadows, lakes, rivers, and riparian forests. This area is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including sensitive species like Lahontan cutthroat trout, Pacific fisher, Yosemite toad and Sierra yellow-legged frog. Much of the project area has experienced a lack of regular fire that historically shaped the vegetation, resulting in altered forest composition and higher fuel loadings. Every year, four communities of approximately 5,000 homes risk uncharacteristic wildfire.

More information: http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sierra/dinkeycollaborative
Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike. John Muir, - The Yosemite (1912)

Yosemite National Park is one of the most beautiful places on earth and is lovingly cared for by the residents in its surrounding communities. A source of pride to California, it is an economic powerhouse for Mariposa County. In 2012 alone the Park had 3.8 million visitors – clearly an indication of its popularity - but that very popularity could also be the park’s greatest challenge.

For the first time in 75 years, there is a move afoot in Congress to increase the size of the park by 1600 acres. The Yosemite National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013 was introduced in the US Senate and House by Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Costa (D-CA 16th). The California Legislature also gave its nod of approval when it passed Senate Joint Resolution 5, my legislation supporting this modest annexation of land.

In the 1880s this land had been part of the Park and in fact, was included in the original boundary proposed by John Muir. Restoring this area to the Park is the right thing to do, both for the integrity of the Park and Sierra National Forest, as well as to protect the interests and finances of Mariposa County.

Given the high fire risk in the area, limited water, the extreme cost of providing basic county services to this remote area, and their desire to protect the Park’s integrity, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly backs legislation authorizing the addition of this land to Yosemite. I’m happy to join the County Board of Supervisors in supporting this effort.

Adding these lands to Yosemite will conserve critically important habitat, creating a continuous protected landscape between the Park and Sierra National Forest, prevent further rural sprawl, reduce the risk of wildfire starts and the cost of protecting homes built in the woods, as well as promote the economic health of Mariposa County by creating important new public recreational opportunities including a major new recreation trail.

The landowners affected by the proposal, as well as the Yosemite West Homeowners Association, have unanimously indicated that they support the legislation. Notably, the legislation introduced in Washington, DC would allow the Park to accept these properties, but does not appropriate any funds, leaving that action to existing land protection programs.

This is a true bi-partisan effort to protect and preserve one of our greatest national treasures.

Senator Berryhill represents the counties of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. As a result of redistricting, he also services the needs of citizens from Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mono, Tulare and parts of Sacramento. For additional information about Senator Berryhill please visit his website at www.senate.ca.gov/berryhill or sign up for his monthly newsletter via http://cssrc.us/web/14/subscribe.aspx
Why You Should Stay Involved.
Your busy, you get home from work, and you are tired. Perhaps you finally have some coveted vacation time to hike, fish, or camp in the beautiful Sierra Nevada. Finding time for Forest Plan Revision can be difficult.

However, Forest Plan Revision is underway for the Inyo National Forest. Revising the land and resource management plan should not be taken lightly as it will set the vision and direction for the forest for the next 15-20 years.

Inyo National Forest provides prized recreational experiences: hiking and backpacking, fishing, skiing and other winter sports, off-highway travel, and more. It includes unique destinations and ecosystems such as the Mono Basin Scenic Area, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and nine Wilderness Areas.

Sustaining the health of this forest and the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin is essential so that we may enjoy the forest for years to come. The forest contributes to local economic vitality, provides water and electric power for people and businesses in California, as well as other services.

There are a lot of stressors affecting the forest. Invasive species, changes in fire regime, increasing demands for water and recreation, and climate change are among the issues forest managers are facing.

We want to hear from you about how you experience the forest, what are the issues or concerns you have, and how we can include your knowledge in the planning process.

Currently, the forest is assessing of existing resource conditions and trends, including social and economic conditions, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and recreation opportunities and access. This assessment will help inform the formal planning process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will start in early 2014.

Many opportunities to participate are coming during the next several years. To learn more about the planning process, please visit the Inyo National Forest planning webpage at www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/landmanagement/planning. You can request to receive future announcements about meetings and project updates by contacting Forest Planner Susan Joyce at sejoyce@fs.fed.us
America’s Best Idea, The National Parks, probably! My Best Idea, to visit one of them, Yosemite – definitely!

So, in writing this article I think I am going to need some of my best exclamations, like Wow!

The first time I stayed in Yosemite was a while back, in about 1995. The Ranger was giving general advice to everyone in the Park, ‘if you meet a bear, don’t panic, stand tall, put your backpack above your head and make a lot of noise, like go away bear.

It was several years later once my business had grown and I had set up an Adventure Travel division that I revisited Yosemite, with my best mate, who lives in Santa Barbara. We decided to hike up to Mount Whitney in April 2009, apparently at the time we were the only people on the Mountain due to adverse weather conditions, but after a couple of days of absolutely fantastic hiking we decided it was too risky to proceed any further and headed down and on to Mammoth and Yosemite.

This time I was bitten, not by a bear but by a bug, bitten by the Yosemite Bug, the one that gives you ‘the something’ that there is no cure for, you just cannot get Yosemite out of your mind, you just have to visit every year and every time you visit you see something different, something so beautiful, you can’t put it into words, unless you are of course John Muir. We stayed first of all in a Camp Curry tent, but this time we hiked out to Vernall and Nevada Falls, and got totally engrossed in all that Yosemite offered, admiringly gazing at the climbers on El Capitan, driving out to Glacier Point and stopping at Tunnel View on the way. After a couple of nights in Camp Curry we decided to pitch the tent in a Valley campsite.

Next morning we woke early, and hiked out again, but on this trip I was so captivated that I wanted to find out more about Yosemite and to find out who this guy was who was named on so many signs, John Muir. I couldn’t believe it when I read about him, a British guy who became the ‘Father of the US National Parks’.

By February 2010 I had such a love of Yosemite and John Muir’s work that I decided to embark on a PhD about how tourism in Yosemite has acted as a catalyst for conservation not a protagonist. This has been a fantastic journey and my first steps of this journey started in Yosemite and are still continuing.

Last year 2012, I was fortunate enough to meet with and interview a lot of great people who work with Yosemite; your very own Bob Asquith, I went on to meet Dan Jensen from DNC, Yosemite Conservancy folks, and various divisions within the NPS. A great thanks to Jim Donovan from the NPS who helped me set up a lot of the interviews. What struck me as to the future of Yosemite was how these guys all want to work together, whether for tourism development or ecosystem management; and private enterprise coupled with public control works for the good of Yosemite’s future, tourism hasn’t just been created from wildness, but wildness is being created from tourism.

I am currently looking into how local communities and ‘adaptive co-management’ programmes have a direct synergy with sustaining a balanced approach to conservation and tourism which upholds one of the really valuable ecosystem services, that is recreation. I am presenting a paper on this in Iceland in June 2013 and will use an example of Yosemite Gateway Partners.

To me Yosemite Gateway Partners are a really valuable organisation for the future of conservation and tourism development in Yosemite, and I use the word conservation because I really do feel that it works, as long as there is resilience and structure built in. YGP brings nature management of Yosemite closer to the local people and thus acknowledges the diversity of all the user groups, so that the NPS, DNC, Yosemite Conservancy, Nature Bridge and the fantastic other organisations involved in Yosemite can progress ‘public use, resort and recreation’ alongside environmental protection.

So, how could I sum up Yosemite as an Englishman? I’ve given that a lot of thought over the years, perhaps a comparison to a National Park near to where I live, would help. Dartmoor in Devon, UK, is a very beautiful place, where everyday you can see a different landscape, but it is about 368 square miles, whereas Yosemite is about 1200 square miles, think of it like this – get lost on Dartmoor; ensure you keep in a straight line and you’ll end up at a pub! Get lost in Yosemite, what a beautiful place to stay!
A rare forest carnivore falls victim to roadkill on Highway 41. California’s Highway 41 climbs north out of Oakhurst, into the wilderness of Yosemite National Park. Every turn takes you deeper into the beauties of the natural world and deeper into the territories of the many animals who call this place their home.

An unfortunate and unintended consequence of our drive to get closer to Mother Nature’s beauty is the clash between our roads and the wanderings of the forest’s wildlife: road kill. The park reports the death of numerous bears every year, but countless other animal deaths go unrecorded and unnoticed every year. That is until a wildlife research team from the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) came to town in 2007 and began to track the local Pacific fisher, a cousin of the mink, who lives in dense forests and is active at night. To learn more about this rare forest carnivore, please visit http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/fisher.

One of the results of five years of following radio collared fishers in the area is the documentation of nine fishers killed on Hwy. 41 between Oakhurst and the Wawona tunnel; making road kill one of the leading causes of death for this rare forest carnivore. Eight of the deaths have occurred between February and June, the prime season for female fishers to be raising their young called kits.

In 2012 Dr. Rick Sweitzer of the SNAMP fisher research team joined forces with the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Defenders of Wildlife to create a task force called the Vehicle Collision Group. The group placed cameras on culverts in perennial streams between Cedar Valley and the Wawona tunnel in Yosemite to see if wildlife were using them to cross the highway, thereby avoiding collisions with cars. Rick and his team were pleased to discover fisher, as well as other wildlife, using certain culverts to pass beneath the road. Issues related to the openness of the culverts and their accessibility on either end due to erosion or debris blockage seemed the biggest obstacle to the animal’s use of these culverts during periods of low water flow. Issues of access get more complicated in seasons of higher water flow as it may preclude access to smaller wildlife.

More camera survey work needs to be done in the winter months to confirm seasonal use by wildlife. The group is also currently working with Cal Trans to put culvert cleaning on their next round of upgrades to Highway 41. But until then, please drive carefully into the forest, particularly at dawn and dusk, for the sake of a female fisher known as F38, who is raising kits near the 41 highway; along with all the other wildlife roaming the forest.

For more information contact amlombardo@ucanr.edu or Ane Otto at aotto@fs.fed.us.
The Migrating Mural is on the move. The second in a series of four murals to increase appreciation and conservation of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is now complete in Bishop. The project developed by San Francisco-based artist and science illustrator Jane Kim has been a catalyst for Eastern Sierra communities, bringing people together to celebrate and promote the preservation one of their own: the rare and endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

As an art form, one of a mural’s distinguishing characteristics is when the painting harmonizes with the surrounding architecture. Situated along Highway 395, the Migrating Murals take advantage of the granite architecture of the Sierra Nevada. As motorists migrate to their destinations, they encounter elusive bighorn through these murals while traveling a route that parallels the Sierra bighorn habitat.

Like the Sierra bighorn population, community involvement is on the rise. Over 100 students from Bishop participated in a field trip to the new mural where they touched and inspected sheep skulls, studied sheep anatomy and recorded observations just like a real world scientist. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) bighorn recovery program staff were there to lead children on a treasure hunt to find hidden bighorn radio collars using the same radio telemetry equipment biologists use in the field. In addition, DFW has begun their monthly public field trips starting at the mural, taking advantage of the sites information and vista.

Joining the Migrating Mural and bighorn recovery efforts, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association is now offering Migrating Mural merchandise available at visitor centers along the Highway 395 corridor. These mugs, t-shirts, stickers and more first went on sale at a February fundraising event where over a hundred supporters turned out. The “500 and Rising” gala at the Mountain Light Gallery in Bishop celebrated the Sierra bighorn population recovery from a low of about 100 animals in 1999 to an estimated 500 in a little over a decade.

Jane Kim is migrating towards completion of the final two murals; in June painting begins in Lee Vining. This mural will be a fitting welcome for visitors as they soon ascend Highway 120 over Tioga Pass and enter the realm of the Sierra bighorn. Visit Jane Kim’s website at http://ink-dwell.com for more information.

Ted Williams
ted@usamedia.tv
For over 20 years, Don Pedro Lake has celebrated our nation’s Independence Day with a fireworks display over the water. Originally presented for a few years in the early 1990’s by the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce, the display has since been sponsored by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency in coordination with the Moccasin Point Marina and the Lake Don Pedro Marina. Once again, to the delight of the spectators who watch the show from boats and on land, the 30 minute “Fireworks on the Water” show will be held on July 4, 2013.

The show can be viewed from the water near Don Pedro Dam, or from land at the Blue Oaks Group Picnic Area, the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center and locations across the road from the Visitor Center. Vehicles will be charged $15.00 for the day at all Don Pedro Lake entrance stations, whether using the recreation area for the day and/or to watch the fireworks show. The proceeds from the entrance fee helps to offset the cost of the professional fireworks display and a portion goes to the Sonora Police Explorers and other local community service organizations that assist with parking vehicles and directing traffic in the facilities. The local community service organizations will have food, beverages and patriotic novelties available for purchase at the various parking and viewing areas.

The show begins at 9:30 p.m. but arrival by 8 p.m. at the latest is HIGHLY recommended to allow time to get parked and settle in before the show begins. For more information, call the Don Pedro Recreation Agency at 209-852-2396 ext. 3 or visit www.donpedrolake.com

Date: Thursday, July 4, 2013
Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC), Mariposa Public Utility District (MPUD), and Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) invite visitors and residents to enjoy the new The Stockton Creek Preserve and Trails in Mariposa. This Preserve contains more than 3 miles of hiking and biking trails northeast of town, accessible to the public from Highway 140 N. and from above the Mariposa County High School athletic field off of Trabucco Road.

The Stockton Creek Preserve and Trails is a unique partnership project. The completion of this 410 acre preserve and trail system provides water protection, habitat conservation, recreation opportunities, and fire hazard reduction on this northeastern boundary of town. SFC worked in partnership with MPUD to acquire the preserve. MPUD now owns and manages the property for its public benefits. The Stockton Creek Preserve (SCP) surrounds the Stockton Creek Reservoir, providing immediate watershed protection for the town’s primary water source. The trail runs through an easement donated by the Fischer Family on their adjacent property, extending the trails from above Mariposa County High School to Highway 140. MPUD plans to extend the trail around the reservoir to Slaughterhouse Rd. in 2014.

SFC and MPUD send our thanks to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for providing project funding through the Proposition 84 Grant Program, and to the Fischer family for donating the trail easement. We also thank Mariposa High School FFA for welding our trail signs, Mariposa Planning Department for creating our map, Bob Evans Tree Service for donating kiosk materials, and Gwenn Barrow for our brochure design.

MPUD and SFC ask that individuals who enjoy the preserve also help steward the property. Please be careful while hiking or biking on the property and clean up after yourself and others. Managing property for public use is a challenge if users are not responsible. MPUD has adopted policy for use of the property, which includes:

- No motorized vehicles
- No horses on hiking trails
- The Stockton Creek Reservoir is not open to the public
- Campfires are prohibited
- No overnight camping
- Mining activity is restricted to gold panning only
- Access is limited to daylight hours

Do your part to keep the preserve clean and safe and support local land conservation by joining Sierra Foothill Conservancy at www.sierrafoothill.org. We need your help to make projects like this a reality.
John Muir Geotourism Center

Expressing Gratitude

By Debbie Cook

The John Muir Geotourism Center (JMGC) Board of Directors, MaryAnn Huff, President, Teri Graf-Pulvino, Vice President, Laurie Byer, Treasurer, Karen Wilson, Secretary, Dr. William Swagerty, Director, Jaime Collins, Director, Monty Thornburg, Director and Brady Gill, Youth Education Program Manager, thank everyone for contributing to the success of the 4th Annual John Muir Festival and Tramp and the Rough Rider dinner. To our guests and visitors, we enjoyed your company and hope that you left with a connection to “All Things Muir.” To the following sponsors, donors, volunteers, vendors, entertainment and presenters, we thank you for your support and hard work. We could not have done it without you.

Sponsors: Bill & Earleen Bailey, Black Oak Casino, Coulterville Fire Brigade BBQ, Graf-Pulvino Family Fund, Granite Dell Gardens, Merlin Jones, Mariposa County Supervisor District 2, Mariposa County Fire, Station 26, Wells Fargo Bank, Yosemite Bank, Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau.


Entertainment: Faux Renwah, Geri and the Atrics, Sequoia and Lee Stetson (the tramp) and Alan Sutterfield (the rough rider).

Presenters: Robert Bauer, Peter & Donna Thomas, Brittany Todd, Dr. William Swagerty, Karen Wilson and Mike Wurtz.

Again, our gratitude for your participation, it is truly a blessing to the center.

In the preparation of this submission, every effort was made to ensure accuracy; if however, any name or recognition was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, we apologize and ask for your understanding.

Visit our website at www.johnmuir.us and Like Us at Facebook: johnmuirgeotourismcenter
You can smell excitement permeating the air. The sun slowly sets in the azure sky as it deepens in color. Alpenglow casts its gold mantle over the White Mountains above the outdoor arena. The hip-hop dance music blares through the open field energizing the crowd, and then - - - a young cow bolts into the arena from a holding pen. Nano-seconds later, two hulking horses carried youthful cowboys bear down on the animal. With lariats in one hand, horse reins in the other, these wild-west gladiators raced the clock.

“Whoaaa!” roared the crowd as the two teenagers stealthily roped the calf in record time --- first around its neck, then its hind legs. The young men deftly guided their horses through quick twists and turns as the cow kicked away from the oncoming ropers. The adrenaline charges up the crowd as the team’s performance mesmerizes them.

This is team roping --- one of several breathtaking events at the California State High School Rodeo in Bishop, CA performed on June 11 – 14, 2013. Each night, over a dozen rodeo events created thrills, chills, and enthusiasm for its devoted audiences. International tourists who visited this unique mountain town flocked to the rodeo to savor America’s cowboy traditions.

Each year, some 250 high school participants along with family, spectators, and sport officials gather together in this frontier town nestled in California’s East Sierra. Traveling from every corner of the golden state, these cowpokes represent their region’s best and range from 15 to 18 years old.

These gladiators are the last vestige of a sport that saw better times decades ago. As ranches have morphed from family operations to big business, these youth form a last line of defense in keeping a vanishing sport alive. Many rodeo events stem from old fashioned ranch work such as roping, breaking horses, etc. Others are designed for speed, horsemanship, or bravado such as barrel racing, pole bending, and the most “hair-raising event of all” --- bull riding!

The kids are exposed to well rounded and balanced lifestyles. They perform community service projects during the rodeo including raising money for the Eastern Sierra Breast Cancer Association and other local charities. Reinforcing the value of education and academics, the students’ grade point averages are announced before they begin their events. Like their families and ancestors before them, these kids learn to work hard, do their best, and respect others.

CHSRA Rodeo performances started at 7pm nightly. For information on Bishop, the high school rodeos, and other adventures in “The Other Side of California”, check out www.bishopvisitor.com and www.chsra.org or telephone the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau at 760-873-8405.
Coulterville

STEP BACK IN TIME

By Helen Bauman

Whether interested in the “Gold Rush Era,” the “Old West” or the natural wonders John Muir became enamored with and wrote about in his book, My First Summer in the Sierras, Coulterville is a town you need to visit.

Established in 1849 as a mining camp complete with its own supply depot (operated by John Coulter, of course), the town survived three major fires between 1859 and 1899 as well as a major flood.

Hardrock mining kept the town alive when the lucrative placer gold found in what soon became known as Maxwell Creek became scarce, and the first stage, wagon and eventually motorized vehicle route into what is now Yosemite National Park began in Coulterville.

Be sure and pick up a walking map of the downtown Historic District – We are listed as CA State Historical Landmark #332. A variety of stores, offering food, beverages, groceries, antiques, camping/survival supplies and gift items, as well as lodging, operate in many of the historic buildings, so that you can check out many of the fascinating interiors. There are two historic bars in town as well as a café/grocery store and a coffee/ice cream/sandwich shop. If not occupied, visitors are allowed to check out the hotel rooms in the historic Hotel Jeffery, which was damaged but rebuilt after each fire.

If you happen to visit on the second Sunday of any month, you can enjoy a community style breakfast in Coulterville’s “Old Schoolhouse”, on the corner of Broadway and Cemetery Streets.

If, on a Saturday, don’t be surprised if you see a gunfight or two, as the Coulterville Claim Jumpers perform on the hour during the summer season.

Visitors are also welcome to attend Bingo at the historic IOOF building on the first Friday night of every month. If in town on Saturday, July 5, the local Fire Brigade’s Deep Pit BBQ will be taking place all afternoon at the park just behind the historic Hotel Jeffery.

And, the day long Coulterville CoyoteFest, is scheduled for Saturday, September 28.

The walking map includes the cemetery…where many of the town’s founding member’s tombstones offer a fascinating glimpse of the past and one of the oldest, best preserved adobes in California, Sun Sun Wo. This building was the largest establishment in a thriving gold rushes era China Town, believed to have housed 5,000 Chinese at its peak.

Across the intersection of Highways 49 and 132 is the Northern Mariposa County History Center. It is situated in the remains of another historic hotel, just behind Whistling Billie, a small, powerful train engine that used to haul gold ore from 11 different gold mines along a twisting 4-mile railway to a stamp mill for processing. Open 10 am to 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday, this unique museum features items donated by the founding families that established the town.

Both the museum and the John Muir Geotourism Center, located on Main Street also offer information about John Muir. As soon after arriving in San Francisco, Muir journeyed slowly up through the Sierras following a heard of sheep, including a supply stop in Coulterville, and wrote about the amazing variety of flora, fauna and geological sites he “discovered” along the way.

The John Muir Historic Route to Yosemite, the most scenic and undeveloped route to the park, begins in Coulterville and proceeds up County Road J-132 to where it ends at Highway 120, just a few miles shy of the park entrance.

Coulterville is a unique gateway into or out of Yosemite. For information about local events and activities in Coulterville, check out these online resources: www.coultervillemuseum.org as well as Facebook pages: Coulterville, CA and Northern Mariposa County History Center.
The mission of the Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum is to preserve, protect and present the unique history of the Southern Tuolumne County area for public benefit. It is open year round and admission is free. Exhibits change frequently and presently include displays of artifacts from “Gray Family,” “Cassaretto Family,” “Priest Station,” as well as models of the Longfellow Stamp Mill and Laveroni Sawmill. Also on display are local animal pelts and ancient and present use of common native plants.

The museum store sells a wide variety of educational items, historical books and documents, as well as flora and fauna identification books. Many are written and autographed by local authors. The store features local human history books and natural history books plus gifts for young and adult alike. DVDs and videos telling of the features and delights of Yosemite are available.

Please plan to join us for our annual old-fashioned Labor Day Barbeque at the Pine Mountain Lake stables in Groveland on September 1 from 2–7 pm. We will have delicious food, live music and dancing, games for children, silent auction, raffle, and bake sale. Proceeds support the STCHS monthly programs and the museum.

The Yosemite Gateway Museum will celebrate its 7th Annual Living History Day On October 5 from 10am-3pm. It features pioneer exhibits, storytelling, music, early American crafts and 1850's family hands-on activities. Free admission.

For information on these events please visit our website http://www.grovelandmuseum.org/ or Facebook.

The museum is located at 18990 Highway 120. Groveland CA 95321 – 209-962-0300
Fresno Yosemite International Airport is Central California's premiere Airport with service to 12 non-stop destinations, including international service to Guadalajara, Mexico. Quick and convenient access to many popular leisure hot spots is provided by ten major, commercial airlines, and travel is always “a walk in the park” when departing from or arriving at Fresno Yosemite.

Why not fly non-stop on Alaska Air from Fresno to San Diego this 4th of July to catch the largest fireworks display in the U.S - or enjoy an old-fashioned all-American parade and a family concert in Spreckels Park on Coronado Island.

Throughout the summer months, San Diego features endless recreational and leisure activities. In addition to the ever-popular SeaWorld and world famous San Diego Zoo, visitors can opt to explore the urban neighborhoods of San Diego's historic downtown, from the iconic Gaslamp District to the eclectic community of Hillcrest. The quaint and charming island town of Coronado or the picturesque village and shops of La Jolla - not to mention the BEACHES are just a few examples of the beautiful and one-of-a-kind attractions San Diego has to offer.

If you are in the mood for a more exotic destination - international air service is provided by Aeromexico and Volaris offering travelers convenient non-stop air access from Fresno to Guadalajara, Mexico. Guadalajara’s rich history is showcased in the variety of tourism activities including numerous theaters and museums located throughout the region. The city is home to the Libertad Market, which is the largest public market in the Western Hemisphere. Visitors can find plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a variety of goods such as homemade pottery, leather goods, chairs, and more.

The annual International Mariachi & Rodeo Festival held throughout the month of August features a variety of events and Mariachi concerts. Mariachis and cowboys fill Guadalajara's city centre with music and the clip-clop of horses on the first day. Many of the mariachi concerts are accompanied by the Jalisco Philharmonic Orchestra.

Summer vacationers can sign up with the airlines to receive special airfare deal alerts, and, with the season quickly approaching, travelers are encouraged to book early for the best pricing. A list of airlines and flight planning features can be accessed at www.flyfresno.com.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport is truly “a walk in the park” that makes vacation planning so much easier for all to enjoy. Email us at airports@fresno.gov to receive our email newsletter and airfare specials.
NEW IDENTITY, NEW LOGO

By Carolyn Botell

We are pleased to be known as the Yosemite Hwy120 Chamber of Commerce, and show you our new logo.

After starting life as a Merchants Association in the 1930’s, becoming the Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce in 1994, and then doing business as the Yosemite Chamber of Commerce since 2007, we are now the Yosemite Hwy120 Chamber of Commerce. The members of our Chamber include communities, businesses & organizations along the Hwy120 route to Yosemite, including of course those in the towns of Groveland, Buck Meadows, and Big Oak Flat, but also beyond. The new name fits our role and entire region well.

We must give credit to Karen Barranco, Special Modern Design for our wonderful new logo. We thank them for the pro bono work to redesign the logo they originally created in 2007 for our logo design competition.

Special Modern Design is a brand and identity development firm in Los Angeles that uses the art of storytelling to communicate brand messaging in order to connect businesses with their audiences on an emotional level. Our work is recognized for its ability to clarify, discover and reveal what makes your company special. We believe that every business has a story to tell. Applying that story to all communications helps potential customers understand your company better and encourages them to become loyal customers. If you would like more information, please call Karen Barranco at 323 258-1212 or e-mail kk@specialmoderndesign.com.

The Yosemite Hwy120 Chamber of Commerce operates the Groveland Visitor Center, located right next to the Historic Jailhouse & Garden where there is a public parking area, the perfect place to stop, get out of your car, and stroll the streets and lanes of historic gold rush Groveland.

In addition to a selection of travel & tourism info for visitors, on Yosemite as well as the local area and all of Tuolumne County, the Groveland Visitor Center has a small gift shop, plus a Yosemite National Park ranger on staff from Memorial Day thru Labor Day selling park passes and providing in depth park information.

New service: YCC now provides a free WiFi hot zone along Groveland Main Street, with coverage that will include the new YARTS bus stop for people to buy their tickets online right there at Mary Laveroni Community Park in the center of town, where there is a public parking lot too. YARTS is a great way to travel between the Sonora – Jamestown - Groveland – Buck Meadows area and Yosemite in the summer season, instead of driving, it’s so easy to do and affordable too!

Please don’t hesitate to contact us for info about the Highway 120 Northern Gateway to Yosemite, helping people is our job and we do it very well.

Yosemite Hwy120 Chamber of Commerce
physical address is 11875 Ponderosa Lane, Suite A
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1263 - Groveland, CA 95321. Phone: (209) 962-0429 Email: info@groveland.org - Website: http://www.YosemiteChamberofCommerce.com

Email or call us to subscribe to our ePubs, the weekly bulletin community event calendar and our monthly newsletter

Find us on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/yosemitechamber
https://www.facebook.com/Groveland
https://www.facebook.com/yosemite120
Follow us on Twitter http://twitter.com/YosemiteCOC
In downtown Coulterville, California every Saturday from high noon to 2pm, May through September.

The Claim Jumpers is a non-profit re-enactment 1800's period group that puts on real live Shoot-outs and shows. They also put on different dinner events to raise money for equipment and to help animals.

They hire out for Birthday Parties, Chuck Wagon Dinners, Special events, shotgun weddings and old time photo's.

In September 2013 they will be putting on a “Mystery Dinner”. You get to eat and find out who “Did It”, while watching a play. If you haven't seen a shootout and how the west really was, come on down.

“Where History Comes Alive”: for more information please call 209-878-3874
NEWS FROM MONO COUNTY AND MAMMOTH LAKES

By Alicia Vennos

Summer has bloomed to life with a huge wildflower display coming out earlier than usual on hiking trails, and more trout biting than any time in recent memory!

Everyone’s Saying Good Things About Mono County

Just Named A Top 5 USA Road Trip: US Weekend Magazine, the magazine of USA Today with a 44 million person reach, recently named the Eastern Sierra’s Highway 395 one of the Top 5 Best Road Trips in the USA! The author gave special mention to the beauty of the Owens Valley, Lone Pine, and Bodie State Historic Park. Keep reading here - http://www.usaweekend.com/article/20130517/LIVING01/305170007/USA-s-5-best-road-trips

Visiting the Oblivion Movie Set in June Lake: Recently, a UK travel writer and her family saw first-hand where Tom Cruise’s latest action movie, Oblivion, was filmed -- and fished, and skied, and saw Bodie, too. Here’s the article, which appeared in The UK Telegraph on April 25, 2013 - http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/northamerica/usa/californiaandsouthwest/10018039/California-Moments-from-Tom-Cruises-Oblivion.html

Fishing

Fishing season is off to an unbelievable start in Bridgeport, Crowley Lake, June Lake and more, with all lakes reporting the best trout opener in Mono County in 20 years. Planning a trip? For a complete source of guide, license, rules, and gear info, visit MonoCounty.org/Fishing. There are several fishing derbies and events that take place throughout the summer. Troutlaw Derby is free and takes place at Silver Lake, Bridgeport Reservoir, and Mammoth Lakes Basin with big prizes for big, bad trout. Walker’s “How Big is Big” Derby goes on the entire month of July. For a family-friendly day that gives back to the environment, check out the Bridgeport Fishing Tournament, presented by Bridgeport Fish Enhancement, on June 22.

Events not to miss

California only holds one all-terrain vehicle event in the state, the Eastern Sierra ATV & UTV Jamboree, in scenic Coleville/ Walker June 11-15. Four days of guided trail rides in the fantastic Sierra landscape.

Kid-friendly programs add to the appeal of the 12th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua, taking place June 14-16 at various natural settings around Mono Lake.

Two great ways to introduce kids to fishing include Kids Trout Fest -- a free event at Hot Creek Hatchery (near Mammoth Lakes) on June 29; and the popular, annual, and free (for 14 and under) Kids Fishing Festival at Snowcreek Ponds (in Mammoth Lakes), July 27.

Now in its 5th year, the June Lake Loop Mountain Music Festival, July 23-28, offers fun tunes ranging from salsa to blues.

Flights to Mammoth

Visitors can board a plane from Los Angeles this summer, arriving on the east side of the Sierra in a fraction of the time it takes to drive. Book flights with Alaska Airlines by calling 800. MAMMOTH (800.626.6684).
EcoSummit Festival Big Success

Environment, Music and Fun for All
By Regina Hirsch

The Sierra EcoSummit and Festival, a free two day Sierra Nevada region wide event, was hosted in Groveland, CA at Mountain Sage outside Yosemite National Park, on June 22 and 23.

Along with thirty-eight free workshops and seminars from the top Sierra Nevada land use managers, scientists, farmers and ranchers there was a buzzing Sierra marketplace with artists, farmers, educational organizations and hands-on demonstrations to enjoy throughout the entire two day event.

Featured speakers included best-selling author and Arizona water policy director Brad Lancaster, Brock Dolman of The Water Institute, and Phil B. Duffy lead Senior Scientist at the President Barak Obama’s White House of of Science and Technology Policy.

These events were offered free by the generous partners of Sierra Business Council, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mono Lake Committee, The Water Institute, Balanced Rock, Evergreen Lodge, Sierra Watershed Progressive, Sierra Club, Telele Foundation and Sierra Watershed Progressive, among others.

Special interest workshops ranged from a River Panel Discussion of the Kern, Merced, Tuolumne, Mokelumne, and Truckee as well as a collaborative presentation on The State of our Natural Lakes: Tahoe, Mono and Owens.

Other seminars were wide ranging from Geological Climate Change Effects, to Water Independence, to Ethnobotany, and kids classes such as Kids Sierra Birding 101.

The Saturday night celebration was fun with the ever-popular blues/funk band Jelly Bread with San Francisco favorite, Tracorum.

This family friendly concert was the only ticketed item at the event. Check www.sierraecosummit.org for more information.
The Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the opening of the new “Yosemite Gold Country Vacation Station,” a new Visitor Information Center located in historic downtown Sonora. The new facility, located in Day-O Plaza, has easy access for passersby as well as ample parking for visitors. The previous Visitor Center location on Stockton Road will now be used for the Bureau's business offices only.

The new Visitors Center boasts souvenirs and “Vacationland” merchandise highlighting the new branding that is taking hold in Tuolumne County. New merchandise is arriving weekly. The Bureau encourages visitors and residents alike to come check out the new Center where the information highlights all there is to see and do in Tuolumne County and also has regional and statewide travel information.

One wall in the Vacation Station is dedicated to movie posters for films that were shot in Tuolumne County. The Bureau hopes to add to this collection over time. Additionally, movie highlights from locally filmed productions will play on the center’s video monitor.

Current hours for the new center are Monday through Saturday from 10am-6pm and Sunday from 10am-5pm. The address is 385 S. Washington Street, Sonora. The phone number is 209-288-2277. A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in June.

In addition to the Vacation Station, the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce that the Chinese Camp Visitors Center is now open seven days a week for the summer. We also continue to support the Ranger Program at the Highway 120 Yosemite Chamber of Commerce visitors center in Groveland.
WEEKLY SUMMER EVENTS:
Farmers Markets—Wednesdays @ Bass Lake & Thursdays in Oakhurst
Wed & Sat—Moonlight Special Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad
Saturdays—Melodrama, Oakhurst

MONTHLY CALENDAR:
June 14-16—Bass Lake Arts & Crafts Fair
July 4—Light Up The Sky Fireworks, Bass Lake & Chowchilla Lions Club Fireworks
July 6 & 7—54th Annual Logger’s Jamboree, North Fork
August 3 & 4—43rd Annual Indian Fair Days & Pow Wow, North Fork
August 23-25—Bass Lake Arts & Crafts Fair
Aug 30 to Sept 2—Coarsegold Peddlers Fair
Sept 5-8—Madera District Fair
Sept 6 & 7—11th Annual Kiwanis Run for the Gold Car Show, Oakhurst
Sept 13 & 14—18th Annual Mountain Heritage Days & Parade, Oakhurst
Sept 14—8th Annual Bass Lake Home Tour
Sept 14—14th Annual Chowchilla Classic Car Show
Oct 1—Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts, Madera
Oct 4-6—11th Annual Sierra Art Trails—Celebrating Yosemite Art
Oct 4-6—Chukchansi Picayune Rancheria Pow Wow, Coarsegold
Oct 12 & 13—Oakhurst Fall Festival

www.YosemiteThisYear.com
One of the greatest pieces of musical Americana will be performed live – for the first time in the Yosemite Region – when the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra offers Aaron Copland’s A Lincoln Portrait with special guest Shelton Johnson as narrator. The work will be featured on the orchestra’s “Independence Day Spectacular!” Concert on Saturday, July 6th at 7:00 PM at the Amphitheatre in Mariposa County Park, conducted by the MSO’s founding Music Director Les Marsden.

Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson is internationally known for his work in the 2009 award-winning Ken Burns/Dayton Duncan “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” documentary film series. Author of the novel Gloryland, Johnson has long advocated for awareness of the important history of the “Buffalo Soldiers” – African-American troops who were among the earliest guardians of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. A multi-talented actor, writer and musician, Johnson received the National Freeman Tilden Award as best interpreting ranger in the National Park Service and performs his The Forgotten Yosemite: A Buffalo Soldier Remembers in Yosemite.

Copland was asked to compose a musical work about an “eminent American” as part of America’s war effort in 1942 and settled upon the 16th President. The composer assembled excerpts of Lincoln’s own writings ranging from the 1863 Gettysburg Address to various speeches and letters, setting all to music. Utilizing mostly original themes, Copland also quoted music of Lincoln’s own time, including “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain.” A Lincoln Portrait immediately established itself as a staple of American culture and as one of Copland’s most popular works.

The MSO’s July 6th “Independence Day Spectacular!” Concert will include the area premiere of American composer Dudley Buck’s 1879 Festival Overture on the American National Air – according to Marsden, “a rip-roaring treatment of ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ composed over a half century before that tune officially became our national anthem.” Featured also will be this year’s “Young Master Composer Celebration” winner and among other American works, Marsden’s own Foster Child – A Fantasia on the Music of Stephen Foster.
Whether you like the music of the 1860s or the 1960s, this year’s Yosemite Courtyard Cabaret at The Groveland Hotel has something for everyone.

On June 29, experience the music and stories of the region’s history with one of its most notable visitors, Mark Twain. “Way Out West in 1864” features historian Pat Kaunert as he portrays the renowned storyteller with charming anecdotes about his travels through the Sierra Nevada mountains, including Yosemite. Also featured is multi-instrumentalist Dave Rainwater, whose musical career spans 30 years and includes the New Christy Minstrels and the Black Irish Band. This award-winning fiddler and minstrel will delight and entertain with toe-tapping authentic songs of the 1860s and beyond. This show is an officially-licensed part of the Yosemite Grant 150th Anniversary celebration!

Return to the 60s Summer of Love on July 20 and dance to the hit tunes of that truly groovy era! This group moves from the harmonies and costumes of the earlier part of the decade, through the English Mod look and sound and Motown’s soulful songs, to finish with a flashback to the Summer of Love itself. From San Francisco’s psychedelic Haight-Ashbury to the muddy meadows of Woodstock, the feel-good music of peace and love had us all dancing to the groove.

August 17, the Hella Good Party Band brings you the radical hits of the 1980s! This high-energy six-piece act dresses the part and will get you on the dance floor with those totally tubular tunes we all remember from that colorful decade. Still have your white jacket, Vans, and Miami Vice pastels? Ready to tease up your hair and wear every necklace in your jewelry box? You’ll have a great time grooving to the music of Prince, Asia, Billy Idol, Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson, and many more.

As the grand finale to our 2013 season, Elvis returns on September 14! California’s own Rob Ely performs two sets of Elvis entertainment, the first a revue of where it all began with a young 1950s Elvis Presley, and the second set focusing on his 1968 black leather “comeback” tour. Ely has made numerous television appearances and won multiple performance awards, including “Best Elvis” at Thunder Valley Casino in January 2013, and is the “Elvis of choice” for the Oakland A’s baseball team.

Be sure to visit The Groveland Hotel’s Events web page (http://www.groveland.com/events) to listen to these fabulous entertainment offerings! All shows start at 8:00 PM, and dinner service begins at 5:30. Ticket prices vary by show. For more information about the Yosemite Courtyard Cabaret or to make reservations, contact The Groveland Hotel, at 209-962-4000, or visit our website at www.groveland.com.
Barbecues and summer go hand in hand. That’s why Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite is extending its Summerdale BBQ to five nights a week this summer.

Beginning mid-June every Tuesday through Saturday, this family-friendly event harks back to the days of caravanning in the Old West – complete with down-home entertainment and s’mores over an open fire. The hearty meal features grilled tri-tip, blackberry BBQ chicken, fire-grilled hot dogs and burgers, corn on the cob, jumbo baked potatoes, chili, assorted salads and fresh sliced watermelon. Guests can choose from an assortment of beverages including fresh lemonade and Cowboy coffee, and finish their meal with an old-fashioned apple cobbler for dessert. Ticket prices are $32.95 for adults; $28.95 for seniors; and $15.95 for children (4-12 years old). For reservations or more information about this Yosemite BBQ experience, contact Tenaya Lodge’s Concierge toll-free at (888) 514-2167 or visit http://www.tenayalodge.com/.

Summer at Tenaya doesn’t end when stomachs are full. Tenaya is also offering its Unlimited Summer Fun Pass, for just $50 per person. Valued at more than $80, the Unlimited Summer Fun Pass enables guests to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities on resort property. Guests can choose from a guided nature hike, evening flashlight hike, archery, rock wall climbing session and half-day mountain bike rental – access to all is unlimited for 24 hours.

About Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite is an all-season resort framed by noble evergreen forest and a rich range of Sierra recreation. The lodge, set adjacent to Yosemite National Park’s South Gate at an elevation of 5,288 feet, offers 297 rooms, suites and mountain cottage accommodations. Tenaya Lodge offers easy access to Yosemite’s iconic attractions, and many guests savor the alpine serenity of the new Ascent Spa at Tenaya Lodge. Resort dining options run the table from casual to candlelit at Sierra, Jackalope’s, Timberloft and Embers restaurants. For more information, visit the newly redesigned website, www.TenayaLodge.com.
The Tuolumne River flowing northwest from Yosemite National Park is now providing ideal water conditions rafting the Main Tuolumne and the Cherry Creek/Upper Tuolumne.

Sierra Mac’s rafting season on the Tuolumne River has begun with the blooming of the California poppies. Upstream reservoirs are near full capacity guaranteeing awesome white water rafting flows all summer and into September.

We have perfect trips for adventurous families and first-time boaters as well as the most serious rafters.

Boaters of all ages, serious to novice will enjoy the Tuolumne’s wilderness beauty and stellar rapids.

Please call Sierra Mac River Rafting trips: 800-457-2580 or 209-591-8027.

E-mail marty@sierramac.com or see the web site www.sierramac.com
Yosemite Gateway Partners

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and Kari Cobb - 209-372-0529 - kari_cobb@nps.gov

YPG mailing address: P. O. Box 888 – Groveland, CA 95321

For on-line registration CLICK HERE - An automatic response and an email will be sent
to confirm your personal information. Let us know if you need help to complete your registration

Upcoming Meetings • July 11, 2013 – • 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
October 10, 2013 – • 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Garden Terrace Room, Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite National Park

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Editing by Bob Asquith • Layout design by Miguel Maldonado