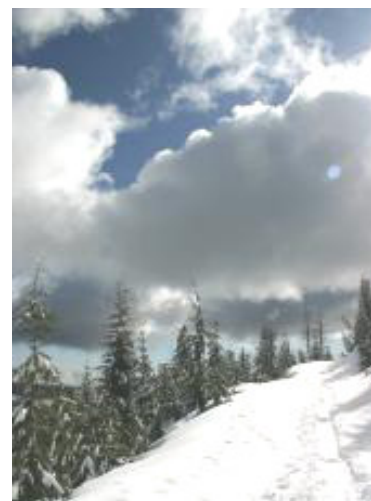
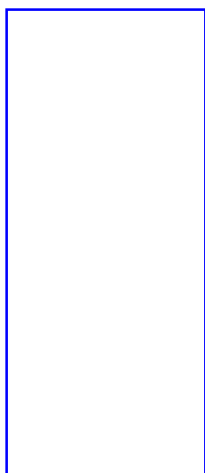




The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644



The Mountain Democrat

**Dec. - Jan.
05 - 06**

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

December 2005

Dec 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Dec 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

Dec 10: Mountain Democrats
Holiday Party (page 3)

January 2006

Jan 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Jan 14: Mariposa Club Meeting

CONTACT US

CDC Central Area South VP
Jery Lacayo: 209-742-7891

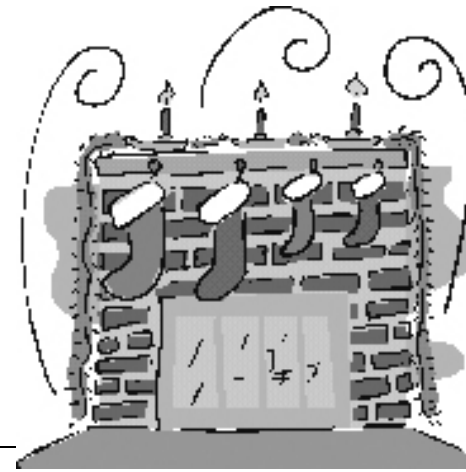
Mariposa Democratic Club
209-966-3367

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559-658-2342

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Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

YosemiteDems.net



*Democratic Club of Coarsegold hosts
4-club Mountain Democrat*

Holiday Party

December 10, 2005, 1 - 4 p.m.
Bill and Jan Fjellbo's Residence
47948 Seminole Ave.
Coarsegold (Indian Lakes)
Tickets (at door): \$8 ea./2 for \$15
Seniors 55+: \$6 ea./2 for \$10

- * Scrumptious Holiday Hors d'oeuvres
- * Holiday Punch
- * Guest Speaker * Volunteer Awards
- * Assorted Political DVDs showing
- * Great Conversations * Music *
- * 50/50 Drawing
- * Optional: Bring a small gift for a serviceperson

See YosemiteDems.net for a map.

California Democratic Council Report

By Jerry Lacayo

I strongly believe in being an opposition party. Given the current state of affairs, how could we be anything else? Chris Stampolis, President of CDC agrees - but he is asking us to be more. We need to be pushing hard FOR all the issues that CDC has championed for so long. I often hear comments suggesting that we seem to be against a lot of things, but we don't explain what we are FOR. I am a former Trustee of CDC, my mother (Irma Stewart) was the Secretary. My grandfather (Wyndham Mortimer) was a founder of the UAW and its first Vice-President. For the union, he negotiated and signed the 1st contract with General Motors in 1937. I tell you this so you'll understand that I come from a long tradition of labor and politics and believe that CDC is the logical organization to promote, organize and develop programs and strategies in support of the things we are FOR!

If we direct our collective anger and frustration toward a belief that we can succeed in making our country and the lives of its citizens better, and we act on that belief, we will have a tremendous impact on the future. All the progress that has come before has been the result of somebody's idea, followed by commitment and supported by others who shared the dream. I'd like to encourage everyone to join Chris and others who are working to build CDC. It's the best shot we have at making a difference. It is the only statewide organization with democratically elected officers. It has a long and proud history of being on the correct side of the "people" issues, and it has a workable structure. However, until those who share the philosophy come on in, our ability to

California Democratic Council Report (continued)

provide all the services and influence outcomes will be impaired. There are too many open slots in our structure, too few people actually working within the organization and a serious lack of adequate funding. It wouldn't take too much from anyone, just a bit from everyone, to implement our strategic plan and quickly become a greater force in California politics.

The proposed 22,000 Club is designed to offer bottom-up funding of the CDC, which is designed to be a bottom-up organization. Isn't that what we want? How much do we want it???? If 22,000 Democrats would pledge \$10.00 a month in support of CDC, we could quickly and easily support ourselves, offer greater assistance to our member clubs, and do the work necessary to influence our future. We have a couple of urgent needs and this is a plea for many of you to step in and assist. I want to encourage everyone to go to the website (CDC-ca.org) and sign up for the 22,000 Club. Just follow the instructions for a donation and know that larger pledges are welcome as well. Isn't our political future worth a \$10.00 a month investment? Additionally, we need more volunteers to fill the open positions, participate on committees, and work together to implement our shared goals. It starts with Me, and You, and You, and You, and YOU!

I passionately believe that we MUST ACT NOW to save our State and Country. Lamenting is not enough - action is required. The 22,000 Club has no officers or by-laws. It's only purpose is to provide the "mother's milk of politics". It's a health issue.

From the Wilds of Mariposa

By Les Marsden

We've been quite busy as of late; October 28th saw our first-ever Cajun Feast and Costume Ball. Of course, that's just another way of saying 'Mardi Gras' but we had concerns about calling our event by that name so soon after the Hurricane Katrina tragedy. That and the fact that there'd be some explaining to do about how a Mardi Gras ended up in the month of October....

In any case, we had ONE terrific event; the food was (in blushing modesty) very well received and included an authentic shrimp and Andouille jambalaya, red beans and rice, okra, cornbread, pecan pie, special egg-nog ice cream and Creole coffee all specially-catered for the occasion. But best of all were the amazing costumes! We had an absolutely remarkable and highly imaginative turnout and were even surprised when local (Republican) Supervisor Dianne Fritz showed up as a pink tu-tu'd, tiara'd gorilla! A large family presence was gratifying and prizes were awarded to nearly everyone who attended in costume. Those costumes must be seen; please visit <http://www.yosemitedems.net/PartyPage05.html> Live Dixieland and blues music, provided by the six-piece band "Mo' Munny" quite literally wowed everyone present and from the first notes, the floor erupted in dancing. It was one great night and will now become an annual event of the Club.

I'm in the process of reviewing our first-ever Mariposa Club Members' Questionnaire; it's very important for me to find out exactly what our membership expects from our Club and also what we can expect of them. Member Jim

From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

Cousland is currently preparing an abstract of the questionnaires for me which I will disseminate to all members (and possibly readers of this newsletter) in the very near future.

Former Club President Jim Landis has concluded his highly successful but hugely demanding Hurricane Relief Drive with a large truck of clothing and other household goods donated by the local and area communities being sent on its way to the affected areas. Congratulations to Jim and the many members who provided him with much assistance both physical and financial to make this humanitarian effort a real and very positive response to need. Our November 12 breakfast meeting included a brief celebratory analysis of the November 8 Special Election (and colossal waste of taxpayers' money) outcome and also an informative, humorous and profound speech and ensuing question-and-answer session with speaker Professor Lee Ryan Miller. Our upcoming December 10 breakfast is intended as a light and festive year-end wrap-up. But after the winter holidays we will once again roll up our sleeves and get to work as we move into this never-more-important election year. The job before us is critical: we must do everything possible to defeat any further attacks on California by (ex-)terminating The Schwarz and working hard to (hopefully) help our party regain control of the House and Senate. And then: might much-needed and long-overdue impeachment hearings be in the offing to finally bring the Bush Administration's assault on America to an end?

Time will tell - and let's do all we can to make it possible.



Oakhurst Democratic Club
P.O. Box 760
Oakhurst, Ca. 93644
559-658-2342

Visit www.yosemitedems.net for the latest Club info!

Chocolate Festival Booth October 8th

Our members spent a beautiful autumn day registering voters and expressing our party's views on the November 8th election. All the newsletters we brought were distributed and the club signed up a new member, always a happy event! Special thanks to **Jamie Blair, John Cameron, Mary Herrmann, Alan Rodely, Carol Rodely, Norman Secker, Bernice Stiner and Ginny Terrell** for staffing the booth and spreading the Democratic word in the mountains!

Scholarship News

A *Scholarship Fund* has been established with \$200 raised at the August 20th Mountain Democrats "Celebrate Summer" picnic. The target level for this fund is \$500 and the Fundraising Committee and membership will be working to raise the additional \$300 before May when the first scholarship will be awarded. At the November meeting, the *Scholarship Committee* staffed by **Jackie Roberto, Ellie Schermerhorn and Joyce Stuhr** submitted proposed scholarship award criteria for comment and approval. Although the criteria were approved as written, there were many who wanted

Oakhurst Democratic Club (continued)

to be sure that high school students attending alternative schools in the Oakhurst area would be eligible for the scholarship, and membership directed the Committee to verify that they would. The Committee has determined that some wording changes are needed in order for alternative school students to be eligible, and a slightly revised version of the criteria will be presented to membership at the December 3rd meeting.

Other than this question, the membership seemed very pleased with the criteria developed by the Committee. The name of the scholarship will be the ***Eleanor Roosevelt Service Award*** and it will focus on service that a student has given to the community and his or her future plans for continued service.

Club to Revisit Goals at January 7th Meeting

Ginny Terrell and Jerry Lacayo will lead the membership in evaluating how we've progressed in meeting goals set at the April meeting and if mid-course corrections are needed. Please join us for this very important planning session! We need to hear what's on your mind, and what you'd like to see for your club.



Get Out The Vote, 2005

By Ginny Terrell

What an amazing club we have in Oakhurst! Our Vice President Billie Cavin, took on the responsibility of the "Get Out The Vote" project for the special (Ahnold) election. Our aim was to reach as many Democrats as we could in Oakhurst, Ahwahnee and Bass Lake. The total number of people for that area came to 1460! Of course some of the data was incorrect, and 329 people couldn't be reached due to wrong numbers, people have moved, some are deceased, etc. But there were still an astounding 977 people we made voice contact with, and another 102 that we left messages with, as a last resort. Many of these people were phoned up to five times before we gave up!

I especially want to thank **Billie and Jerry Cavin** for the extraordinary effort they provided. In addition, Billie got lots of help from Scott Hill, who magically produced lists of registered Democrats, further sorted into Perm. Absentee Ballot and regular voters. The idea was to get to the "PAB's" as soon as the absentee ballots hit the mail. Billie got help from club members **Erlene Arnold, Jamie Blair, John Cameron, Faye Cope, Mary Herrmann, Bruce McKenzie, Bruce McNichols, Norm Secker and Bernice Stiner**. These people, along with Billie and husband Jerry, got those lists done with great results. Then it was time for the "regular" voters to be called. Again, Billie got support from club members, **Lynn Jacobsson, Alan Cheah and Jackie Roberto**. I hope all of you will give them a big **Thank You** for all their efforts the next time you see them!

Here are some of the comments that Billie registered while doing the lists:

Get Out The Vote, 2005 (continued)

"I'm voting NO on all of these!"

"If any of this was for the common person, Arnold wouldn't have put it on the ballot."

"How can we change things when the Repugs steal elections?"

"I'm so angry I'm not voting anymore."

But most often, "YOU BET I'M VOTING!"

On a related note, I was called the day before the election to see if I would be a poll inspector. Hey, why not? I'd already mailed in my absentee ballot, and I'd never worked the polls before. It was a wonderful experience, albeit a very long one! My two co-workers (who were also Democrats) and I covered the S-T portion of the alphabet, which constituted a "precinct". Of our list, half were Permanent Absentee Voters. We had a total of 1198 names, or a maximum of 600 people who could come in to the Community Center to vote. At closing time there were over 350 people who had voted in person, which is pretty astounding. Not counting the PAB's, that's well over a 50% turnout! And I'm pretty sure the rest of the precincts were about the same. The figures from Madera County indicated a 48.9% turnout - which proves that we mountain folks take our politics seriously! Congratulations to one and all; workers, voters, anyone who helped to get the Democratic message out! And a huge THANK YOU!!! for a job well done.

Restoring Hetch Hetchy – Making a Dream a Reality By Ellie Schermerhorn



“It’s magical to me, the idea that you could create another Yosemite Valley . . .”
Kay Pitts of “Restore Hetch Hetchy”

Kay Pitts, local representative for the “Restore Hetch Hetchy” organization, addressed the Oakhurst Democratic Club about the growing movement to drain Hetch Hetchy Valley. Known to many as “the other Yosemite Valley”, Hetch Hetchy is currently used for water storage by the city of San Francisco.

Her presentation began with a film about the proposed restoration project. Many were surprised to hear **Ronald Reagan's Secretary of the Interior, Donald Hodel**, talk about his enthusiasm for removing the O’Shaughnessy Dam. “We were struggling with the fact that there was tremendous overcrowding in Yosemite National Park, and somebody said to me, ‘You know, there’s another Yosemite Valley’”. Preliminary studies indicated “it’s entirely possible you could remove the dam, restore the valley, and provide water and power at least

Restoring Hetch Hetchy (continued)

equal to what comes out of there now if you would just operate the river system in an appropriate fashion”. He and his staff pursued this idea in the late 1980’s but couldn’t get Congress to approve funding for the necessary studies.

Kay pointed to an ironic and disappointing political fact about the restoration: **Senator Diane Feinstein’s expressed opinion that “Hetch Hetchy is San Francisco’s birthright”**. It seems the Senator’s former position as mayor of that city blinds her to the fact that Hetch Hetchy, a part of the National Park System, belongs to the nation. “Senatorial courtesy” restrains Senator Barbara Boxer from joining in the fight.

Kay believes Feinstein’s mind could be changed. “We want it to be a win/win situation for the country and for San Francisco”, said Kay. “The water can be stored downstream in Don Pedro Reservoir and we’ve made great progress in negotiations with Turlock and Modesto who own Don Pedro”.

Local support is critical to the success of this effort. The Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce has voted in favor of restoration, but much more needs to be done. Kay said, ***“We need people to write Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer voicing their support”***.

For more information about “Restore Hetch Hetchy”, go to www.hetchhetchy.org.

Oakhurst Democratic Club (continued)

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THE SCORE IS 30 LOVE—YOUR SERVE.

By Jim Landis

The war in Iraq is an unmitigated disaster and all of the Bush Administrations' catch-phrases, slogans, flag-waving, and bitter attacks upon those who dissent, will not change that fact.

On October 27th we marked the 2000th U.S. military death in Iraq. As of this writing (Nov. 21) the count is 2096; 96 young Americans killed in just 25 days and scores wounded. The attacks upon our troops are more frequent, better planned and coordinated, and more deadly. After thirty two months of warfare, we control nothing in Iraq other than the Green Zone. This fraudulent war, ill-conceived, poorly planned and executed, cannot succeed. There can be no victory in Iraq; just death and destruction. Everyone loses.

Don't be misled by talk of troop reductions, phased withdrawals, Iraqi Army build-up, and other such nonsense. Bush and his cabal have no intention of leaving Iraq. They went to war for the oil, Halliburton has contracts to build fourteen permanent U.S. military bases, and they do not intend to leave Iraq.

The fate of our troops in Iraq is in *your* hands. Yes-your hands, and mine, and all other Americans. We have the power to end this war. We must use that power. In a recent speech at New York University, Bill Moyers said "Get Mad, Get Organized, Get Busy". I'm mad as hell. If you are too, contact me (landis@yosemite.net or 966-4894). Let's get organized. Let's get busy. It is, in fact, a matter of life or death for thousands of Americans.

Monica Moulin Maintains Lead

At newsletter press time, it appears that **Monika Moulin**, member and former Vice-President of the Oakhurst Democratic Club **has beaten Ron Bucheger by 94 votes**, winning one of five seats on the Yosemite Unified High School District Board. Monika first ran for a Board seat in November 2004.



We congratulate both Monika and Sally Punte for their campaign successes! They've set a great example for all of us.

Is there a campaign run in your future?

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**I think we got the Governorator
with a
SUCKER PUNCH!**



ACTION ITEMS

By Jim Landis

IRAQ WAR:

Please contact Congressman John Murtha (D-PA) and thank him for his courageous call for an end to the Iraq war. Phone: 202-225-2065, FAX: 202-225-5709.

PEACE VIGIL:

Mariposa Candlelight Peace Vigil every Wednesday evening, 5:30pm, at corner of Highway 140 and 5th Street.

NOTICE:

Do not send time sensitive mail to the Washington office of your Senators or Congress members. Mail deliveries to Congressional offices in Washington are screened for protection from biological or other potentially hazardous substances, which delays delivery by several weeks.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: _____

Mariposa Club: _____ or Oakhurst Club: _____

New Member: _____ or Renewal: _____

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	or	Oakhurst Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 966-3367		(559) 658-2342