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The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
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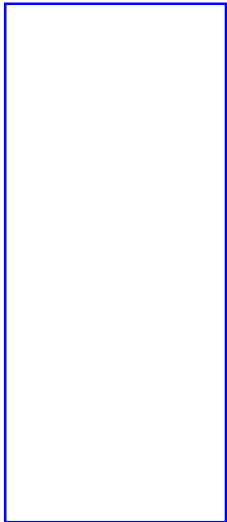


# The Mountain Democrat

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**Dec. 07**  
**Jan. 08**

Coming Events.....	page 2
Contact Us .....	page 2
Season's Greetings.....	page 3
Blue Dog/Yellow Dog.....	page 4
From the Wilds of Mariposa .....	page 6
Which Democratic Candidate to Vote For?.....	page 8
Pictures from Cajun Feast & Costume Ball.....	page 10
Boxer Staff Addresses Oakhurst Club .....	page 12
More Pictures from the Costume Ball .....	page 14
Hillary in Fresno.....	page 15
CDC & CDP Executive Board Reports .....	page 16
Membership Application .....	page 19



*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 2007

Dec 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Dec 8: Mariposa Club Meeting  
**NOON LUNCH**

#### January 2008

Jan 5: **NO** Oakhurst Club Meeting

Jan 12 Mariposa Club Meeting

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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**

## *Season's Greetings*



## *Holiday Cheer*

## **Blue Dog/Yellow Dog/Donkey/Jackass – all in the family.**

By Jerry Lacayo

I am an idealist. I have deep-seated beliefs. I know how the world should operate. I know that everyone should: respect others' beliefs, be kind and generous, refrain from judging those different than themselves, and always look out for the less fortunate.

I am a political activist.

Though I have not abandoned my ideals, I have learned that not everyone shares the same philosophy. I live in a democracy with a representative government that has forced me to learn some very hard lessons about what it means to win. In my youth I sometimes abandoned the Democratic Party and voted outside the Party (though NEVER for a Republican). I told myself that I had remained true to my beliefs, and fortunately the Democrats won without me. That was long ago, and the stakes were not as high then as they are now. That was before the Republican Party was so very extreme.

I have come to accept, reluctantly, that half is better than none, that a blue dog Democrat brings me closer to my desired outcome more often than any Republican and with the country so deeply divided and race results so close, I can no longer indulge my idealism to the detriment of my cause. To those who, in 2000, suggested that there was no difference: Republican v. Democrat, Gore v. Bush, I say rubbish! I am hearing it again in some quarters today, and I find it very disturbing.

I am a pragmatist, a realist, and still very much an activist. I will always support the candidate I believe will do the best job following final election results.

During the primary season I will support a candidate I believe might actually win the general election. There are several who

## **Blue Dog/Yellow Dog...(Continued)**

might fit the criteria, but clearly not all and I cannot bear the thought of further Republican rule.

The Constitution is at risk. Every program we really care about is at risk.

Keeping our ideals pure while helping to elect our worst choice, by not supporting our best chance, again, crosses a very big line.

Please get involved and help us make sure we elect a Democrat this time.



## From the Wilds of Mariposa

By Les Marsden

Our November 10<sup>th</sup> Cajun Feast and Costume Ball was an unequivocal success all around; the evening was every bit as fun as (**I** had) advertised! The sheer number of creative and GREAT costumes was astonishing and I'd really advise you to have a look online at <http://www.yosemitedemocrats.net/PartyPage07.html> and prepare to be amused. One photo needs to be identified: scroll down the page to see a burly-looking guy (John Stewart) in tawdry haus-frau's dress: his photo-unreadable nametag identifies him as 'J. Edgar Hoover.' MORE than enough said! The Yosemite Dixieland Band was absolutely phenomenal and we've already signed 'em up for next year. As more than one attendee told me, it was one of the most memorable evenings experienced lately--anywhere. If you didn't know you were in Mariposa, you'd have sworn you were in New Orleans....

Coming up, we'll continue our recent tradition of a more celebratory holiday party for our final meeting of the year. Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> will be a potluck luncheon (rather than breakfast) to be held at Stomper's Hall. We'll plan on eating at 12:00 noon; further details regarding meeting time will be released via e-mail (send me an e-mail at [actlocally@sti.net](mailto:actlocally@sti.net) if you don't currently receive Mariposa Club updates.) Our one very major order of business for that December meeting will be the Election of Officers for 2008; our nominating committee (Katie Heth, Chair, with Vicki Roland and Scott Hill) managed to corral the following very kind individuals into offering to serve:

President: Lee Stetson; 1st Vice-President: Laura Lee (Incumbent); 2nd Vice-President: John Stewart; Recording Secretary: Sally Punte; Treasurer: Jane Jones (Incumbent); Assistant Treasurer: Vicki Roland; Corresponding Secretary: Kathryn Heth (Incumbent).

I'd like to thank the Nominating Committee and the Nominees for

## From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

offering to serve the Club--and please remember the slate shown above is only a proposed one: anyone may be nominated from the floor during the December meeting for any of the officer positions. Those candidates elected during the December meeting will be installed during our January 12<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting. As you may know, I announced I would not seek office in 2008; after three terms as your President and several as Treasurer (some running concurrently!) I really need a break--and I'm sure you need one from me! I would like to thank each and every one of you for the honor of serving as your President for these past three years--and as well would like to thank everyone who has done so much for this organization and the Party.

In closing, please prepare now: our hands will be full over the coming year. Do not think the national elections for 2008 will be a Democratic cakewalk. The GOP never rolls over; they never give up--and anything can happen between now and November 4. And we can't either. Whomever you personally support for president--work hard on your candidate's behalf. And when our party's nominee is eventually chosen during the August convention in Denver--please: let's all get behind that person. Remember: even the least desirable Dem will be far preferable to the best Repub and if we don't unite behind our Party's candidate, each and every one of us--we may very well hand the Presidency over to the Republicans yet again. America certainly cannot survive another president like Bush--let's make sure another Republican doesn't get the chance.



## **Still Can't Decide Which Democratic Candidate To Vote For on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>?** By Lynn Jacobsson

One thing all of us Democrats agree on is that any one of the eight Democratic candidates for President is going to do a much better job than any one of the Republican candidates! Since the California primary is rapidly approaching on February 5<sup>th</sup>, we have to make up our minds soon. A recent article in *The Nation* magazine asked eight commentators to make a case for each of the Democratic candidates. We are reprinting the highlights of each of their comments focusing on the war and occupation of Iraq.

### **Joseph Biden** by John Nichols

“The best fighter, the most quick-witted.” On Iraq: Although Biden tried to require diplomatic efforts before military options could be considered, he ultimately voted to authorize George W. Bush’s attack on Iraq.

### **Hillary Clinton** by Ellen Chesler

“A progressive who can win—and govern.” Clinton voted to authorize the invasion of Iraq but now favors “a responsible withdrawal of our troops” without being willing to set a timetable for leaving Iraq. She has stated that nothing is off the table with regard to Iran.

### **Christopher Dodd** by Bruce Shapiro

“Strongest on human rights and civil liberties.” Voted for the Iraq War, but has been fighting to redeem himself and undo the damage of the “war on terror.”

### **John Edwards** by Katherine S. Newman

“Like FDR, he’s the real deal.” On Iraq: Edwards also voted for the invasion of Iraq, but has since expressed regret for that

## Still Can't Decide? (Continued)

position. He joins Clinton and Obama in refusing to pledge an end to the occupation of Iraq, even by 2013.

### **Mike Gravel** by Richard Kim

“An inconvenient truth-teller.” Indefatigable opponent of both the Vietnam War and the Iraq war. He supports immediate withdrawal from Iraq and reparations for the Iraqi people.

### **Dennis Kucinich** by Gore Vidal

“A farsighted populist and pacifist.” Opposes any more funding for the illegal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and favors an immediate withdrawal of troops, private contractors, and a closure of all bases in both countries.

### **Barack Obama** by Michael Eric Dyson

“A visionary candidate for a new America.” Stands against the war in Iraq as a “futile gesture of American empire that would do little to beat back the threat of terror.” Not willing to set an immediate timetable to end the occupation, however.

### **Bill Richardson** by Rocky Anderson

“The broadest experience, smart on Iraq.” Pledges a swift end to the occupation of Iraq, pulling out all troops and bases. Opposes “war on terror” tactics such as kidnapping, disappearing and torture of people around the world.

The entire platform of each of these candidates can be accessed online using their name + dot com.

**Part of what you missed at the Cajun Feast .....**



**Mary Poppins flew in  
to see her friend the  
butterfly**  
(Rosanne Burley &  
Sharon Wittkopf)



**Raggedy Ann was  
not very raggedy  
after she tasted the  
great Cajun Food**  
(Betty Boykin)

**and.....Costume Ball**



**J. Edgar Hoover  
was there in his  
very best dress**  
(John Stewart)

**Mortimer Mouse  
used his Les  
Marsden costume to  
extort cash from  
poor Miss Mariposa**  
(Scott Hill, Les  
Marsden)



## Boxer Staff Addresses Oakhurst Democratic Club

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Ameen Khan, Director for Central and Eastern California, spoke at the club's November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Ameen is responsible for a far-flung range of counties that includes our mountain area.

Most of Ameen's time was spent fielding questions from the audience, a number of which revolved around Boxer's campaign strategy. Ameen was careful to note that, as a taxpayer-funded staff person, he was not allowed to participate in political campaign strategy or activities. His role at the meeting was to hear constituents' concerns and, to the extent he was able, inform the audience about Senator Boxer's positions and legislative efforts on behalf of both Democratic and Republican Californians.

A general theme that ran throughout the audience questions involved frustration with the lack of concrete accomplishments given the new, albeit small, Democratic majority. Several members also felt unprepared to respond to a question often posed by their Republican friends: What have the Democrats accomplished now that they have a majority?

Ameen pointed out that legislation was being passed out of the Environmental and Public Works Committee that never would have seen the light of day prior to Barbara Boxer becoming Chair. He gave brief remarks on some of the Committee's work, and suggested people go to Boxer's web site at [boxersenate.gov](http://boxersenate.gov) to learn more about her efforts.

A review of her web site reveals that her Committee was about to hold hearings on a bi-partisan bill she co-sponsored to combat global warming, calling to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. It was also working on final passage of the conference report on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The

## Boxer Staff Addresses Oakhurst Club (continued)

bill, which passed the Senate by an overwhelming bipartisan margin of 81 to 12 and withstood a presidential veto, authorizes flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration through nearly \$7 billion for wetlands restoration and flood control projects nationwide.

Ameen emphasized that Senator Boxer and her staff closely monitor phone calls, e-mail and letters received from constituents and encourages them. He recommended that letters be sent to her Fresno office rather than Washington, D.C. to speed their review.

Contact information for the Fresno office is:

Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer  
2500 Tulare, Street, Suite 5290  
Fresno, CA 93721  
559-497-5109



## More of what you missed at the Cajun Feast & Costume Ball



**Long John Silver  
found gold in the  
kitchen**  
(Donna Marks)

**Motorcycle Momma  
arrived with a roar**  
(Vicki Roland)



## **Hillary in Fresno November 22nd** “Postcard” from Sandy Stairs

Well, I finally have a quick moment to write. I got up early, put something on besides Levis and went to Fresno. I got in with a "short crowd", nobody over 5'6" allowed (I barely made that!), and had a decent view. So I stood and waited...and waited...and...until my feet were numb to my knees. Then SHE appeared, full of energy, hoarse voice and all, and proceeded to "do her thing"! Love her or hate her, she will impress you! She seemed very real and down to earth; whether it was a "show" or not, it was impressive. Only time will tell... Kind of scary: Bush-Clinton-Bush-Clinton...





## California Democratic Council and State Party Executive Board Meetings

By Jerry Lacayo

The CDC meeting that took place on Nov. 17 in Anaheim was both interesting and informative. Henry Vandermeir, CDC President, unveiled a long list of support services being offered to clubs through affiliation with CDC.

Guest speaker Jess Durfee, San Diego County Chair discussed the advantages and opportunities provided by forming a regional Council of Clubs, central committees, and other interested parties in a given area. Joint efforts in campaigning, fundraising, networking and visibility have been very successful for their Council of Clubs.

Note: There is an effort underway to form such an organization for our area. It is hoped that each interested Democratic organization will send a delegate to serve as their representative. The goal of the organization is to provide ongoing communication among area organizations, provide support for events and develop a strategy for successful voter registration, club development and growth, and campaign coordination throughout our region. Every effort will be made to utilize our time and money wisely, combine meetings and provide useful information to be reported back to the individual clubs and central committees through their representative. The organizational meeting will take place sometime in February following the primary election. Details will follow as they become available.

The training manuals have been distributed to all of the affiliated organizations in our area. They are wonderful tools and I hope they will be well used. My recommendation is that every subcommittee of every club be given a copy of that portion that pertains to their area of concern, keeping the original manual

## CDC and CDP Executive Board Meetings (Continued)

intact. Updates will be provided as new material is developed.

CDC now distributes an electronic newsletter every other month and will welcome articles of general interest.

The California Democratic Party met on Nov. 16, 17 and 18. Many caucus meetings took place and many issues were discussed and acted upon. Plans are well underway for the annual convention to be held in San Jose on March 28-30.

A subcommittee of the Organization and Development Committee met to discuss a means to make delegates and guests feel more welcome and comfortable when they attend conventions and executive board meetings. I am a member of that committee and would welcome any suggestions for improvement. If you have ever attended a convention or board meeting and can think of anything that would have been helpful to you I would like to hear from you

It was generally considered to be a good meeting with many issues discussed and positions defined.





## **FLOAT FOR RENT**

**Our giant, splashy and wonderful float is for rent!**  
**Tell your friends and relations.**  
 For information call Jerry Lacayo

## ***Mortimer Mouse Sez...***

Did you see me at the  
 Cajun Feast & Costume Ball  
 in my Minnie Mouse Costume?  
 It had long blond pigtails!



## **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