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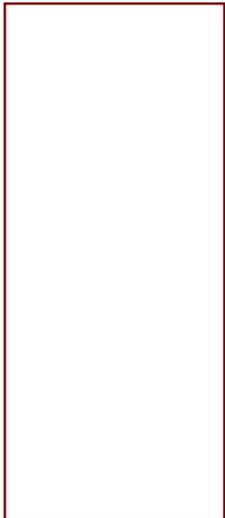
The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644



# THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

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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

#### August 2008

Aug 2: Oakhurst Club Meeting

**Aug 8: Peace Yosemite Vigil**  
(page 7)

Aug 9: Mariposa Club Meeting

Aug 15: Coarsegold Meeting

**Aug 15: Democratic Forum**  
(page 6-7)

**Aug 30: Mariposa Parade**  
(page 3)

#### September 2008

Sep 6: **NO** Oakhurst Meeting

Sep 13: Mariposa Club Meeting

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**

### CONTACT US

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(Vacant)

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# WE NEED YOU TO RIDE THE FLOAT



## SHOW THEM THERE ARE DEMOCRATS IN THE MOUNTAINS

**MARIPOSA**  
**SAT. Aug. 30st**  
Call 209-742-6318  
Or 559-658-2342

**Bring your  
FRIENDS, FAMILY, DOGS, FLAGS & SIGNS!  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## Sound the Alarm

By Jerry Lacayo

### Republican Thieves in Reformer's Clothing Schwarzenegger redistricting initiative is NOT FAIR

The State Party on Proposition 11: "This flawed amendment permanently amends the California Constitution," cementing Republican power over districts and communities of interest. Republican rule "forever," disguised as "reform."

Under the purportedly non-partisan initiative, put together by an "independent" commission made up of 64% Republicans, Democrats could lose up to 8 Assembly and 6 Senate seats.

Some have said that time will shift the numbers back and forth; that the initiative is meant to be fair for all; that Democrats shouldn't worry about losing seats that can be won back.

IF the rules were FAIR for all,  
Winning seats back WOULD be possible.  
This initiative is NOT fair for all.

If passed, a Republican ruling elite could immediately redraw new district lines with NO redistricting reform guidelines NOR voter input. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) is NOT included in this initiative and will NOT protect minorities and Democrats from losing an equal and fair vote.

The "guidelines" for selection of a commission to determine district lines is undemocratic and unfair and leaves the VOTERS out of the process entirely.

Don't let Republican theft disguised as reform turn California  
RED.

VOTE **NO** on Proposition 11.

## CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Recommendations for the November, 2008 Propositions

Nr.	Proposition Title	Recommendation
01	Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond. Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	YES
02	Treatment of Farm Animals	YES
03	Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program	YES
04	Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy	NO
05	Nonviolent Offenders Sentencing, Parole, and Rehabilitation	YES
06	Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding	NO
07	Renewable Energy	NO
08	Limit on Marriage	NO
09	Criminal Justice System, Victims' Rights	NO
10	Bonds, Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy	NEUTRAL
11	Redistricting	NO

## **We've Been Busy!**

By Lynn Jacobsson

Our first Oakhurst Democratic Forum on June 20<sup>th</sup> in the Oakhurst Public Library was a wonderful success! Oakhurst club members Max Richie and Alan Cheah led a rousing discussion on “The Truth About the Price of Gas” following a film on oil and the energy crisis: “Crude Awakening.” Fifty-six participants, including over 20 from the Coarsegold Democratic Club, learned that the high price of gas is really not a “supply and demand” problem which can be rectified by a policy of “Drill, drill, drill!” as the Republican pundits and politicians claim, but a combination of the weak dollar, global crises, (e.g. Niger Delta, Iraq), and speculation on the oil commodities futures markets. The goal of the multinational oil companies is the “control” of oil in order to stay below “demand” and keep profits up.

Since we were unable to spend as much time on solutions to the energy crisis as we did on the causes, our second Democratic Forum on July 18<sup>th</sup>—same time, same venue—explored solutions to the energy crisis and global warming, specifically alternatives to the internal combustion engine. Our film was: “Who Killed the Electric Car?” with discussants Heather Bernikoff and David Raboy, Mariposa Democratic Club members (who make cameo appearances in the film). Heather and David presented an overview of alternative energy sources and assessed their “green” potential in light of global warming and the world food crisis. They brought both their electric Ford Ranger (wrested away from the Ford Motor Co.’s crusher) and their truck which runs on recycled vegetable oil to the Oakhurst Library parking lot for the 52 participants in the Forum to peruse. Their conclusion on the viability of the various transportation energy sources that they investigated is that the electric plug-in vehicle (hybrid or all-electric) will be the most important way to limit greenhouse gases in the near future.

**Oakhurst Democratic Forum #3** will take a look at the role of

## We've Been Busy! (continued)

the Iraq War and Occupation in the unraveling of the American economy on **Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – 9PM in the Oakhurst Library Reading Room.** The film, “War Made Easy” with Norman Solomon, will be followed by a discussion focused on “How to End the War(s) and Save the Economy.” The event is free and open to the public—refreshments will be served.

While the American public shifts its focus from the War in Iraq to the ailing economy, we are losing sight of the connection between the ongoing wars and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the failure of the American economy here at home. As Nobel Prize-winning economist, Joseph Stiglitz reports, the war in Iraq alone, has cost U.S. taxpayers **\$3 trillion** so far, and rising! Our discussion after the film will focus on whether (and how) we can end the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and heal the U.S. economy.

These issues were also the focus of the **Oakhurst Democratic Club’s recent peace rally and vigil** on July 25! We counted 30 participants (including about 4 children) who held up signs calling for an end to the war and a commitment to peace. The response from the motorists passing by and through the intersection was overwhelmingly positive with only one or two uninformed and disgruntled individuals.

We will do the **peace rally** again on **Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 6:00 PM at the Junction of Hwy. 41 and Hwy. 49 in Oakhurst.** Parking is available next to Yosemite Brokerage in the lot next to the Mexican Restaurant. Wear a hat and bring water—signs will be provided, but if you have a specific message that you wish to commit to foam board, please bring your own. Icy cold Margaritas are available after the rally if needed (several of us tried this on the 25<sup>th</sup> and had a great time!). Call Lynn Jacobsson at 559-658-5227 for more information about the peace rally or the Democratic Forum. You can Email me at: [lynnj@csufresno.edu](mailto:lynnj@csufresno.edu) .

## Why We Need to Be Informed About McCain (special pull-out section)

### EDITOR'S NOTE

The following four pages (pages 9 – 12) are a special pull out section prepared by Heather Bernikoff and Ann Brock. The pages provide an easy to use “talking points” reference for fielding questions about John McCain.

A more complete version of this information, along with the references for each point can be found on (and printed from) the YosemiteDems web page at:

<http://yosemitedems.net/HotPage.html>

If you would like copies of the complete pages and references mailed to you contact:

Heather Bernikoff at: 925-465-6046

Or

Anne Brock at: 209-742-6872

As active Democrats, we all know that McCain is just, well...bad for our nation. We think, “Well doesn’t everyone know what he has done?” I was stopped in the grocery store by a Democrat asking about my Obama shirt. She said she just did not “trust” him. When people use words like “trust”, they are making a judgment based on emotion, deeply held assumptions or fear-based values, not facts. In these cases, there are no Obama facts that will convince non-Obama Democrats to see him our way. The best we can do is focus the discussion on why *not* McCain, rather than why Obama. We must say, “I understand that you feel this way. I may not agree, but consider when you vote in November, cast your vote against McCain.” Truly, not voting, or voting for a third party, is the same as voting for McCain. Here are some facts you can share with non-Obama Democrats, and you can get more facts on specific issues important to you at [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org):

John McCain is often painted as a moderate or a maverick. McCain's Senate record may surprise you. **McCain is no moderate or free-thinking maverick.** Remember, he supports staying in Iraq for 100 years or however long it takes as well as a military option in Iran. Ask the person you are speaking with if they would commit their child, grandchild or themselves to fight in his war.

### **On Equal Pay**

McCain skipped a recent vote on Equal Pay, and said that instead of legislation allowing women to fight for equal pay, they simply need "education and training." (Women are currently paid less than men for the same work, even when they have the same education and training as men).

### **On Birth Control**

McCain has never cosponsored or supported legislation that would reduce the need for abortion by preventing unintended pregnancy.

## Why We Need to Be Informed About McCain

(special pull-out section-continued)

McCain voted against requiring insurance companies that pay for prescription drugs (like Viagra) to pay equally for women's prescription birth control. McCain voted for the domestic & global gag rules, which prohibit federally funded family-planning clinics from giving women full information about their reproductive health options.

### On Women's Health

McCain voted to terminate the Title X family planning program, which provides millions of women with health care services ranging from birth control to breast & cervical cancer screening. McCain voted to de-fund the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an organization that provides family planning services - not abortion - for the world's poorest women.

### On Sex Education

McCain voted against funding teen pregnancy prevention programs and against ensuring that "abstinence-only" programs are at least medically accurate. McCain voted to earmark one-third of all HIV/AIDS prevention funds for ineffective, unproven, and dangerous "abstinence-only" programs. McCain voted to take \$75 million from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant to establish a new "abstinence-only" program that censors information about birth control.

### On Choice

Voted anti-choice 125 out of 130 times in his congressional career. Voted in favor of anti-choice Supreme Court Justices like Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas and Chief Justices like John Roberts. McCain routinely votes to block women's access to abortion care for low-income women, voted for the Federal Abortion Ban, and opposed federal Medicaid funds for abortion *even in cases of rape or incest*. McCain voted to deny abortion services to U.S. military

## Why We Need to Be Informed About McCain

(special pull-out section-continued)

women serving overseas, even when they wish to pay for such services with their own money.

### On Domestic Violence Programs

Voted against a measure to increase funding for law enforcement programs, including the Office of Violence Against Women programs and the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Opposed grant programs to aid children who have witnessed domestic violence.

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### **10 things you should know about John McCain (but probably don't):**

John McCain voted against establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Now he says his position has "evolved," yet he's continued to oppose key civil rights laws.

According to Bloomberg News, McCain is more hawkish than Bush on Iraq, Russia and China. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan says McCain "will make Cheney look like Gandhi."

His reputation is built on his opposition to torture, but McCain voted against a bill to ban waterboarding, and then applauded President Bush for vetoing that ban.

McCain opposes a woman's right to choose. He said, "I do not support Roe versus Wade. It should be overturned." He also opposes requiring insurance companies to cover prescription birth control.

The Children's Defense Fund rated McCain as the worst senator in Congress for children. He voted against the children's health care bill last year, then defended Bush's veto of the bill.

## Why We Need to Be Informed About McCain

(special pull-out section-continued)

He's one of the richest people in a Senate filled with millionaires. The Associated Press reports he and his wife own at least eight homes! Yet McCain says the solution to the housing crisis is for people facing foreclosure to get a "second job" and skip their vacations.

Many of McCain's fellow Republican senators say he's too reckless to be commander in chief. One Republican senator said: "The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine. He's erratic. He's hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me."

McCain talks a lot about taking on special interests, but his campaign manager and top advisers are actually lobbyists. The government watchdog group Public Citizen says McCain has 59 lobbyists raising money for his campaign, more than any of the other presidential candidates.

McCain has sought closer ties to the extreme religious right in recent years. The pastor McCain calls his "spiritual guide," Rod Parsley, believes America's founding mission is to destroy Islam, which he calls a "false religion." McCain sought the political support of right-wing preacher John Hagee, who believes Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for gay rights and called the Catholic Church "the Antichrist" and a "false cult."

He positions himself as pro-environment, but he scored a 0—yes, zero—from the League of Conservation Voters last year.

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**John McCain is not  
who the Washington press corps makes him out to be.**

## Victory2008 Committee Begins Phone Banking

By Heather Bernikoff

The Victory 2008 Committee of the Mariposa Democratic Club has gotten off to a resounding start. We have called through most of the club roster and found some wonderful volunteers to start the phone banking work! We have received many contributions, but need more to do a full mailing this fall. If you haven't sent a contribution, but want to, please mail checks to Mariposa Democratic Club c/o Anne Brock, POB 5008-333, Mariposa, CA 95338.

We are starting the second phase of our plan – calling Mariposa County Democrats. Our goal is to:

- **Talk about the election (vote for Obama) and upcoming events, like the float**
- 
- **Ask them to participate as a volunteer**
- 
- **Ask them to contribute**
- 
- **Ask them to join the club**

We will be using a new software program - VAN – that is fairly simple to use for call banking from home or as a group. WAIT - if you don't have access to the internet, we can still print a phone list for you. There are about **4,000** registered Democrats in the County. The more people we have, the less work it will be for each volunteer. If you can help, and have not contacted us already, please contact either, Anne Brock (abrock@aol.com) or Heather Bernikoff at 925.465.6046 (hbernikoff@hotmail.com).

# HELP

(please)

We need LOTS of volunteers to get our big, wonderful float looking great for the Mariposa Parade on August 31. We need strong people, weak people, tall people, short people, young people, old people .... You get the idea. If you can help call:

Mitch at: 209-742-6318

## Peace Yosemite Demonstration in Oakhurst



There were so many people I couldn't get them all in one picture!

## More Peace Yosemite



Oakhurst Democratic Forum June 20 and July 18



Lynn Jacobsson introducing the topic



David Raboy shows off his truck



Overflow crowd in the Oakhurst Library Reading Room

# HELP

(again)

We also need LOTS of volunteers to get our big, wonderful fair booth looking great for the Mariposa County Fair the week of August 28 thru September 31. PLEASE call:

Mitch at: 209-742-6318

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: Coarsegold\_\_\_ Mariposa\_\_\_ or Oakhurst\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

-or-

Democratic Club of Coarsegold  
28845 Crystal Springs Road  
Coarsegold, CA 93614  
559-658-8220



### 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...*  
**I LOVE riding in  
the Mariposa Parade  
on the  
giant Democratic float!**

