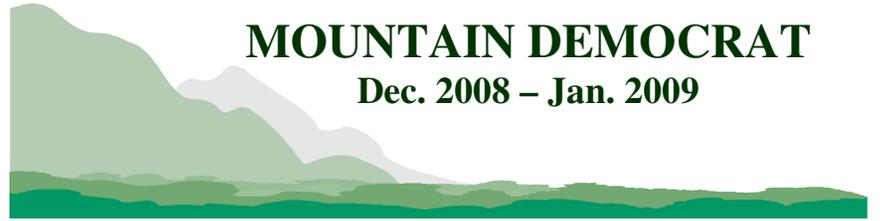




YosemiteDems.net

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



MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009



HOPE



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

CONTACT US

December 2008

CDC Yosemite Gateway
(Vacant)

Dec 6: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Dec 7: Coarsegold Christmas Party (call 658-8220)

Democratic Club of Coarsegold
Sandy Stairs: 559-658-8220

Dec 13: Mariposa Club Christmas Pot Luck Lunch 11:30-2:00

Mariposa Democratic Club
Jery Lacayo: 209-966-3367

January 2009

Jan 3: *NO* Oakhurst Meeting

Oakhurst Democratic Club
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

Jan 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

Newsletter/Web Page Editor
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

Mariposa Democratic Club

Membership Renewal Time!

It's the beginning of the year; and your first New Year's Resolution should be to renew your Mariposa Democratic Club membership! It's easy – just fill out the form below and send it with a check to:

Mariposa Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road
Mariposa, CA 95338

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Note: Dues are \$5 per person, but please consider donating extra to help us do more!

No on Prop 8 – It isn't over yet

By Anne Brock

It wasn't an earthquake that jolted tens of thousands of activists awake in early November.

It was the sound of Prop 8 passing.

Call it complacency; call it bad campaigning; but whatever you say, liberals and progressives hadn't thought Prop 8, which is attempting to ban same-gender marriages, would pass. But it did.

The next sound we heard was the sound of outrage. Spontaneously, across the state – and the nation – we came out and said “No! We won't take this anymore!” No group is going to take away the constitutional right to marriage from another group. “We won't take this anymore!”

Personally, I haven't seen such energy in years. And it felt good. It wasn't organized by the same old groups. It bubbled up from the bottom – and erupted.

Even here in Mariposa County, we felt the outrage. First we held a demonstration one week after election day; we had about 25 people come out for that one, and felt good. We got lots of honks, waves, thumbs up.

Then we heard about the national rallies, scheduled for November 15. We figured we would hold one as well, and see if people would come.

They came... and came ... and came. Old, young, straight, gay, lesbian, from all walks of life. We had about 75 people come out and declare their support for same gender marriage on a corner in Mariposa. SEVENTY FIVE people. It was great; it was energizing; and that is why, even if the courts don't support us, we will overturn this proposition.

No on Prop 8 (continued)

They say the voters already decided? Well, it took a lot of votes before women got the right to vote. Before blacks were freed. Before we had civil rights for all races. (I hear there are still CC&Rs in Fresno forbidding selling a house to Armenians... we've come a long way in this county.)

As Tony Kushner said at the end of “Angels in America” – “The world only spins forward.”

This will happen. We will make it happen. The energy and commitment is there. Thanks to all who came out to join the demonstration!

Dear Mariposa Democrats,

It was a genuine pleasure to have served as your President this past year. To my fellow Board members, who so graciously filled in my absences and short-comings, I have nothing but praise and heartfelt appreciation. And I am especially thankful to all the long-serving members of the Club, who stepped up so splendidly in service to all the traditional events, and to the newer members who so effectively energized the election process. And I certainly welcome the proposed incoming slate of officers, who, I am sure, will ensure a lively and successful up-coming year.

Down trail,

Lee

Slacker's Revolt

By Peter Cavanaugh

"Misty Mountain Hop" Led Zeppelin (1973)

"If you go down in the streets today, baby,
you better open your eyes.
Folk down there really don't care which way the pressure lies,
So I've decided what I'm gonna do now.
And I'm packing my bags for the Misty Mountains
where the spirits go,
over the hills where the spirits fly."

The Misty Mountains of Zeppelin fame are in Wales. They are referred to in J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Return Of The King." Robert Plant is a big fan of Tolkien and I'm a big fan of Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones and John Bonham.

Eileen and I moved from Michigan to Oakhurst two years ago, here to the Misty Mountains of the Sierra. Yet we always look back, the better to look ahead.

Flint, Michigan, was once home to the highest paid factory worker in the entire industrialized world. Then everything went completely upside down. In less than a human lifetime - first faded to worst.

Thus sprang a coalescence.

"I wouldn't have been able to do what I've done if I hadn't grown up in an area that had such a vibrant and rebellious political and cultural scene. The music was so integrated into your experience as a teenager. Everyone knows about Woodstock, but we had our own mini-Woodstock every Wednesday, every summer, just outside Flint. It was called Wild Wednesday. It was in a field with a big pond, and it was the first place that people saw so many of these groups, like MC5, Iggy, Seger. We'd literally be there every

Slacker's Revolt (continued)

Wednesday from Noon to Midnight. Thousands would show up. And out of that grew the protests. You'd have a group of high school students planning a walkout. Maybe it was just over how lousy the food was at the lunch counter at school. It wasn't like, "Here's the political thing." It was all woven together in the same sort of rebellious, rock & roll attitude. When you said rock & roll, it wasn't just the music. You meant it as a way of life, as a coat of armor against everything that was coming at you. It was a force to be reckoned with. In my mind, there would be no "Roger & Me", no "Fahrenheit 9/11" if I had not been one of thousands participating in that moment. And the millions who go to "Fahrenheit" carry that with them as well. They were there at Wild Wednesday, too."

Michael Moore

40th Anniversary Edition, Rolling Stone Magazine, May 2007

On October 17, 2008, I was honored assisting the Oakhurst Democratic Club present a free showing of "Michael Moore's Slacker Uprising," having had the joy of introducing Michael to the world over WWCK-FM in Flint from 1980 through 1987. During this period, WWCK-FM became the highest rated Rock and Roll station in America. Michael's program, "Radio Free Flint", won a number of local and national broadcast awards.

The Oakhurst Library was wall to wall with local residents who, as the movie concluded, were then treated to a half-hour of live phone conversation with Michael. Calling from Flint, Mike answered questions from the Oakhurst audience and offered his overview on current economic and political challenges.

Through Blue Point technology, it seemed as though he was right in the room. All in attendance were there at Wild Wednesday, too. For a Misty Mountain Hop.

Victory For All

By Heather Bernikoff

There are times that are so inspiring that one knows they are living through a significant historical event. It is evidenced by the massive outlay of funds by the average American, the largest increase of registered voters and the empty newspaper stands from coast to coast the day after the election. A majority of Americans wanted and did own a piece of Barak Obama's campaign. Hundreds of thousands of people volunteered in some way or another. I am proud that Mariposa residents were involved in this amazing race in a large way.

The Victory Committee was honored to help coordinate many of our election season efforts. We contacted existing club members, stuffed envelopes, raised money, registered voters, helped send out the slate mailer, coordinated phone banking to mine for both volunteers and votes, and finally, recruited several new members. On election night, we also hosted the biggest election night party on the biggest screen in the County!

There were so many Club and Committee volunteers who made this all happen. There were also many more non-Club members from Mariposa County who made calls from home, made donations, sent emails, personal letters and even went to a swing state to canvass! To all of you, we give our thanks.

Because so many people have asked me how the State ballot measures turned out, here is a list of what we won or lost:

<u>Nr.</u>	<u>Passed?</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Democratic Party Recommendation</u>
1A	Yes	High-Speed Train Bond Act	Yes
2	Yes	Standards for Confining Farm Animals	Yes
3	Yes	Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program.	Yes

Victory For All (continued)

4	No	Parent Notif. Before Terminating Pregnancy	No
5	No	Nonviolent Drug Offense. Sentencing,	Yes
6	No	Police, Law Enforcement Funding.	No
7	No	Renewable Energy Generation	No
8	Yes	Eliminate Same-Sex Marriage	No
9	Yes	Victims' Rights.	No
10	No	Alt. Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy	Neutral
11	Yes	Redistricting	No
12	Yes	Veterans' Bond	Yes

For Mariposa County specific information, go to <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/>. Generally, we were able to win most of the ballot measures, but lost on some key issues underscoring the need for continued education. Several national advocacy groups are forming "councils" to provide direct feedback to our President-Elect, Barack Obama. None is more direct than the President-Elect's own website, www.change.gov. PLEASE visit that website to provide your own ideas. They are actively requesting your vision of the world, your story. If you do not have access to the internet, you are welcome to dictate your story and vision to me. I will type it right into their website for you. Contact Heather Bernikoff, 925.465.6046. Democracy requires an engaged and informed citizenry. Stay-tuned for more opportunities to participate in a council.

Cajun Feast and Costume Ball



Vicki Roland Was Flaming



Joe the Plumber John Stewart

Letter from Hayley Ballerini to Les Marsden

2008 Thomas Jefferson Community Service Award Winner

I forwarded the email to my "proud" mom. She called the other day and told me that she left a message on your machine. (Actually, she wasn't quite sure whose machine she was speaking to, but she'll be happy to know that you got the message.)

As she mentioned, I was interning with the campaign since I got here (Providence, RI) in early September. It was an absolutely amazing experience, and I am honored to have taken part in this monumental change of our future.

It is humbling to see so many people give up their time/money/energy for a greater good. Our Rhode Island office was filled with volunteers from all walks of life -- students (from numerous colleges and high schools around the state), retirees, women with infants sleeping in their laps, middle-aged professionals, and elected officials. Everyone, it seems, devoted their time -- the most precious commodity -- to our cause.

Now the campaign is over, and I find myself wandering around life wondering what to do with all my "free time". I walked into the library this past Sunday to find it unusually packed. I then realized: this was the first Sunday I spent on campus since I got here so many weeks ago. For all I know, it's always this packed on a Sunday. :)

Now, I must go back to regular college life and finish studying for a midterm tomorrow. It's not quite campaigning to save the world, but it must be done...

I'll be in touch, and thank you (and your donors) for giving me the opportunity to pass up a paying job this semester to give every moment of my time to this incredible movement.

Thanks to All Who Helped at the Cajun Feast

Katie Heath, Event Coordinator

I am going to try to remember everyone who helped with the Cajun Feast.

Les Marsden has to come first because without him, we would have nothing but a band and a building. No one knows quite how he manages to serve over 100 people with deliciously prepared food, (this year in spite of power outages), but he does, and everyone applauds his efforts. John Stewart, (outstanding helper from 3 to 11pm on Saturday, also Sunday morning from 9-11am). John is one of those incredible men who says "tell me what you want done" then does it cheerfully. He lifts the heavy items, opens the bottles, works with Les in the kitchen (who else can claim that honor!!), then wins a prize for costuming himself as Joe the Plumber, who isn't a plumber but thankfully we don't have to give a damn about him ever again. Joe the Plumber that is, not John. Anne Brock, another can-do person with a positive attitude, unflappable, gives the word cooperation real meaning. Jerry Lacayo of course for simply making the effort to "be there" and provide her valuable insight. She knows where stuff is and where stuff goes, insight garnered from years of working on these events.

Now, in no particular order, Ron Flannigan, Jerry Dresner, Joe Jones, Shirley Schmelzer, Kathy Lander, Betty Boykin, Laura Lee, all of whom signed up to help. Gotta love the signups. Heather Bernikoff, David Raboy, and Jane Jones pitched in big time cleaning up. Next, Diane Marsden who helped out myriad ways and made the right decisions when things went wrong. Brent Gilstrap was taking photos throughout the evening. We are fortunate to have a professional photographer in our club.

Additional thanks to John Stewart, Anne Brock, Jerry Lacayo, Laura Lee, and John Friedrich for meeting me at the Bootjack Hall

Thanks to All Who Helped at the Cajun Feast (continued)

on Sunday morning from 9-11AM for the final clean up. Thanks to Laura Lee, Jane Jones, Kathy Lander and perhaps others who took dirty dishes home to wash, then delivered them to Jerry's red shed.

Also for those who have sent me thanks for my efforts, I appreciate your gratitude and thoughtfulness.

I washed the mugs and some other things and when I got home today after delivering them I thought, never again. Too much work. But that's what I kept saying every time I had a child. It wasn't until our 6th was born that I really did stop. The Cajun Feast and childbirth. You quickly forget the pain and only remember the joy.

To everyone who contributed baskets,. (and to the somebody(s) I have forgotten), please forgive me because my memory is shot. Next year I have to take notes.

It was a joyous occasion. See you next year?



The Yosemite Jazz Band kept things jumping

MORE CAJUN FEAST PHOTOS



Reenie Haughey and Elizabeth Jones



Jerry Kemp and Edith Ankersmit

MORE CAJUN FEAST PHOTOS



Jery Lacayo, Katie Heth, John Stewart



It was a great party for everyone

PHOTOS FROM OTHER DEMOCRATIC EVENTS



Peter Leinau Cuts McCain Down to Size Nov 1, 2008



Max Richie speaking to the Oakhurst club November 1, 2008

PHOTOS FROM OTHER DEMOCRATIC EVENTS



Peace Vigil in Oakhurst Nov 7, 2008



New Mountain Democrats Joined the Victory Celebration

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...
HOORAY! HOORAY!
I just love it when
DEMOCRATS WIIINNN!

