



YosemiteDems.net

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

THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2009



Coming Eventspage 2

Ride The Big Democratic Floatpage 3

From the Campaign Trail.....page 4

Connecting With Other Democratspage 6

Failed Expectationspage 8

Mariposa Club Events.....page 12

When Rationing Isn't Irrational.....page 14

Challenge Grantpage 16

Membership Applicationpage 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

August 2009

Aug 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Aug 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

September 2009

Sep 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Sep 5: Mariposa Fair Parade
(page 3)

**Sep 4 – 7: Mariposa County
Fair Booth** (page 12 - 13)

Sep 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

CONTACT US

CDC Yosemite Gateway
(Vacant)

Mariposa Democratic Club
Anne Brock: 209-742-1010

Oakhurst Democratic Club
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

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

WE NEED YOU TO RIDE THE FLOAT



SHOW THEM THERE ARE DEMOCRATS IN THE MOUNTAINS

**MARIPOSA
SAT. Sep. 5th
10:00 AM**

Call 209-966-2915
Or 966-742-1010

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

From the Campaign Trail...

By Les Marsden

In the dog days of summer, the work continues. I just spoke in Sonora to an enthusiastic group of Democrats; that 45-minute session was videotaped and is now running on public access in Tuolumne County. By the time you read this (and in addition to other appearances) I will have shared the dais with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom at the Fresno County Democratic Women's Club Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and then two days later: right back to Pardini's again for the Fresno/Madera/Tulare/Kings County Central Labor Council Luncheon. I plan to make the Stanislaus County Fair, which runs August 31 – September 9. And of course, the Mariposa County Fair (September 4 – 7) including the completely apolitical closing night concert of the (Mariposa) Fair featuring, as for the past many years: The Mariposa Symphony Orchestra.

Recently-named additional Marsden Campaign County Chairs include Peter Cavanaugh (Eastern Madera County,) Bill Turini (Western Madera County) and Janet Maffei (Tuolumne County). We're even building a fundraising presence outside the District in the Santa Clara area thanks to my friend Herb Engstrom. Our initial campaign materials are now on order (of course a union shop!) and will hopefully be in hand by the time you read this.

Fundraisers. I'm eager to go anywhere and everywhere in this district (and beyond) to meet with constituents who feel—as we all do—that we **MUST** elect a Democrat to the 19th District. Would you be willing to host a house party fundraiser? A meet-and-greet with the candidate? I'm yours. I really want people to get to know me, and then to become personally invested in this race to restore power, a voice and a bit of wisdom to our district. **PLEASE** consider hosting an event. You'll be the envy of your friends and neighbors: **YOU'LL** have our next Congressional Representative at your home!

From the Campaign Trail...(continued)

Folks have been frustrated by the seeming inability to wrest this district away from the undeserving hands of George Radanovich for the past 14 + years. Well, finally we can—and we must. But I can't do it without **YOUR** help. Please visit MarsdenForCongress.com and donate—or better yet: set up recurring automatic donations. Do you really want a Democrat to represent you in Washington? It's not going to happen without your support—financial and volunteer. I gratefully accept whatever you can offer—we're finally going to do it this time, but only with the help of every single one of you. The alternative is dismal: sending George right back to Washington to continue doing what he does best: nothing. And so, activist Democrats, please take to heart what I often repeat: this isn't **MY** campaign. It's **OUR** campaign. And it will be only as successful as **YOU** make it. So pitch in. Let's do—together—what we've **SO** wanted to do since 1995: take this district back and turn it a beautiful shade of **BLUE**.



At the June 11 Fresno campaign announcement press event: L - R: Pedro Ramirez, President of the CSUF Student Democrats; Gary Alford, Chair of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee; the Candidate; Dr. Peter DeCaro, MarsdenFor Congress Campaign Manager.

Connecting with other Democrats and Progressives

By Anne Brock

In today's hectic world, we can't always make it to meetings or show up at rallies. But we want to stay in touch with other Democrats and Progressives. What to do?

In the old days, we did phone trees. These days, we do online networking groups. Even if you don't have a computer, you can go to the library and catch up with these groups. Here are some local sites you might want to join:

First, there are a couple of Yahoo groups. For those of you unfamiliar with them, Yahoo allows groups to set up email lists on their site. Once you sign up with these groups, you get emails from others in the group and you can email back your thoughts and opinions. To sign up, go to groups.yahoo.com and search for the group you want; then follow the directions. Two groups to look at:

YosemiteDemocrats – Democrats throughout the Yosemite area are on this one. Sponsored by the Democratic clubs of the area.

MariposansUncensored – Not specifically for Democrats, this is a forum where you can discuss anything. Not for the faint of heart, but if you like a good discussion, come on over.

The other site I want to mention is a brand new site—the Mariposa Network for Community Action: mariposanetwork.ning.com and yes, I know that URL looks a little funny, but the site is dead serious. It's about building a sustainable, livable Mariposa. It aims to be a central communication forum. Check it out! It's still brand new, so you can have an influence on where it goes.

Connecting with other Democrats and Progressives (Continued)

If you aren't online yet and still want to connect, then I highly recommend starting with your local Democratic Club meeting! But please think about going online – there is a wealth of information and a lot of activity online. There are a lot of people who can help you get online – check at the library or ask a fellow Democratic Club member to get you started!



Dear Mountain Democrat Members,
Thank you so much for the generous community award. It will be put to great use next year while I am at UC Santa Cruz. I enjoyed meeting some of the members at the meeting in June.
Thank you for your service to our community. As I continue my education, I will strive to help other people, as well as our environment. Thanks again!
Sincerely,
Taylor Cano

From Taylor Cano, 2009 Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Award recipient. Presented by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and Democratic Club of Coarsegold.

Failed Expectations

By Peter Cavanaugh

“Take me to the station.

Put me on a train

I’ve got no expectations

To pass through here again”

Rolling Stones--”No Expectations“ from ”Beggars Banquet”
(1968)

Cindy Cavanaugh is fiercely disappointed. She ain’t gonna work on Maggie’s Farm no more. For \$67.50 she expected better from Bob Dylan at Alliance Stadium in Syracuse on Sunday, July 19th, before a less than sell-out crowd, even though John Mellencamp and Willie Nelson were opening acts.

A devoted fan of many years standing, my sister-in-law offers this succinct summary: “He played nothing but new material all night long until he encored with a screwed up version of ‘Like a Rolling Stone’. Dylan sucked.”

Failed expectations haunt us through our lives.

Some ricochet now in progressive circles over perceived neglect from the new administration with scores of contested issues from “Don’t Ask” and “Single Payer” to general economic policies, military involvement in Iraq/ Afghanistan and, especially here in the Valley, environmental concerns. I suggest it will take more than a few days to address decades of national decline.

Republican talking points outrageously ignore complexities of any kind. Thoughtful perspective brings realization that major realignment is long overdue and imperative for collective survival.

I remain passionately proud of our new President. He deserves our loyalty, support and guidance. In the Great Depression of the 1930s when the AFL and CIO asked Roosevelt for what became

Failed Expectations (continued)

The Wagner Act of 1935. FDR said, “I agree with you. I want to do it. NOW GO TO THE STREETS AND MAKE ME DO IT.”

They did. We should.

With Peter Leinau’s decision to withdraw his availability for Washington responsibilities, I am offering unqualified support and endorsement of Les Marsden’s candidacy in next year’s 19th District Congressional Race. Les is a winner and represents the highest ideals of Democratic Party tradition much, much more than not.

With symphonic resonance.

Meanwhile, some expectations are grandly exceeded. My (gasp) 50th Year High School Reunion in Syracuse (Cathedral Academy ‘59) on 7/18 was nothing short of amazing. A stop at WPHR-FM in Syracuse yesterday to visit my old friend, Dr. Roosevelt Wright of the Newhouse School of Communication, found me suddenly on-the-air for an hour with 6’9” Arinze Onuaku, starting center for this year’s Syracuse University Basketball Team. Arinze made this year’s “Sweet Sixteen” and has a shot at the National Championship in 2010. He taught me how to jump.

And I’ll be spending a few days in poor little Flint, Michigan, on the way back home. On Wednesday (7/22) we’re doing an informal “Michigan Radio Reunion” over WKUF-FM from 6 till 8 PM. WKUF is a listener-supported, low-power facility serving the Flint Community, quite like Pacifica does Fresno on KFCE. WKUF broadcasts for the common good. I look forward to being there.

After five decades in commercial radio, I agree with Cindy Cavanaugh. I ain’t gonna work on Maggie’s Farm no more.

Photos From the 2008 Mariposa County Fair and Float
(To see all the photos in color go to yosemitedems.net)



Photos From the 2008 Mariposa County Fair and Float
(To see all the photos in color go to yosemitedems.net)



Mariposa Club Events

By Anne Brock

We've had a great couple of meetings in June and July! In June, school board member Janette Gamble talked about the current school situation. In July, Marilyn Saunders updated us on everything AAUW is doing; we then had a presentation by Chris Parker, who is running for the Board of Equalization. We learned what they do, why they're important, and why we need Chris in that office! The club endorsed him unanimously.

If you've been planning to make a meeting, come on down for the **August meeting!** Remember meetings are always the second Sat. of the month at the Stompers' Hall across from the fairgrounds. Les Marsden is our celebrity substitute chef for a few months; breakfast at 9:00 a.m. (\$6) and meeting at 9:45. You miss a lot when you don't come to a meeting!

Just to remind you of a few of the upcoming events:

Dem Club Float during the Labor Day weekend parade. Contact Shirley, shirbob@sti.net or 209-966-2915; or Cameron, chburley@sti.net or 209-742-7371 if you will be joining us!

Dem Club booth at the fair. Contact Mitch, materk@sti.net or 209-742-6318 if you can help us out there!

My personal thanks to Shirley, Cameron and Mitch for their work on the fair this year!

Mariposa Club Events (continued)

And just as a preview of the fall, the **Cajun Feast** will be on **November 14th** this year. And Les, in spite of his heavy campaign schedule, will be cooking for us once again. We'll be in Building A at the fairgrounds, so we have lots of room for people and urge everyone to come to the Feast, bring a couple friends, and have a blast! Mark your calendars now! We are looking for a couple volunteers to organize the Cajun Feast. Call me, 209-742-6872 or email me (abrock@aol.com) if you can take it on.

Mitch Terkildsen needs LOTS of

BOOTH SITTERS

**At the big Democratic Booth at the Big
Mariposa County Fair.**

Please call Mitch at 209-742-6318

When Rationing Isn't Irrational

By Ellie Schermerhorn

One of the surest ways to get the public in a panic about a government health care plan is to raise the specter of "rationed" health care. The implication is that doctors would have their hands tied, unable to order tests and procedures they believe are necessary for their patients' health. A government bureaucrat would decide who gets the potentially life-saving treatment and who doesn't. But the only real purpose of this Orwellian-inspired exercise is to shut down discussion on what we all know must happen: stop a relentless health care spending spiral that provides no measurable improvement to our health and threatens our national economy.

I had my own health care crisis a few years ago, spending months getting a series of CT and PET scans. In that process, I visited a number of different imaging facilities in Fresno. One of these was clearly new, and the building materials were more what you'd expect to see in a high-priced resort or a tribute to an oil sheik in Dubai. I wondered why such luxury was required to perform a medical procedure, and how much profit there must be in the business for the investors to justify building it. My conclusion was that these facilities were being reimbursed more than what was necessary to perform competent medical work.

I reached a similar conclusion in my encounters with a cardiology practice in Fresno. This is a one-doctor practice, and the waiting room was packed. The office was full of original artwork, and the doctor's car, a collector's dream, was parked in his personally marked space behind the building. Almost everyone there was scheduled for a "Cardio-Lite" stress test, and moving us through the testing procedure took hours, herding us from station to station with lots of waiting in between. I was fortunate in that my test was clear, but that didn't keep the doctor from calling me back for follow-up appointments, and scheduling me to have a repeat test a year later. But why? Why a repeat test when everything was clear

When Rationing Isn't Irrational (continued)

and I had no symptoms? My GP wasn't recommending it, but the cardiologist was. Is this his field of expertise? Yes. Would he make several grand having me come back? Yes. His incentives are clearly to do more, whether or not it's medically necessary.

So I was heartened to see the recent move by the Obama administration to increase reimbursements to primary care physicians and internists and cut reimbursements for imaging services and specialists. This story was buried in the Wall Street Journal and got very little press, but it seems like a wise and overdue move. If rationing means that the doctors on the front lines who should be making the calls on when and if other services are required make more money, are attracted to the medical practice areas where they are most needed, and are better compensated, great!



Did the Repub's Look Pathetic in 2008 or WHAT?

"Challenge Grant" from Oakhurst Democratic Club Member

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Oakhurst Democratic Club member Max Richie is fired up and ready to put his money where his mouth is! He's a true believer in turning the Senate a deeper shade of blue, and believes supporting the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is the best way to do it! He kicked off his campaign at June's club meeting, and interest is very high.

Inspired by a letter from former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, he's challenging Mountain Democrats to make a donation to the DSCC which he is willing to match up to a maximum of \$100, and maybe more!

To avail yourself of this generous offer, all you have to do is make a donation to the committee at:

<http://dsc.org/StartToday>

and then e-mail Max to let him know how much you donated at:

sequoia@netptc.net

You can also call Max at 559-877-4474.

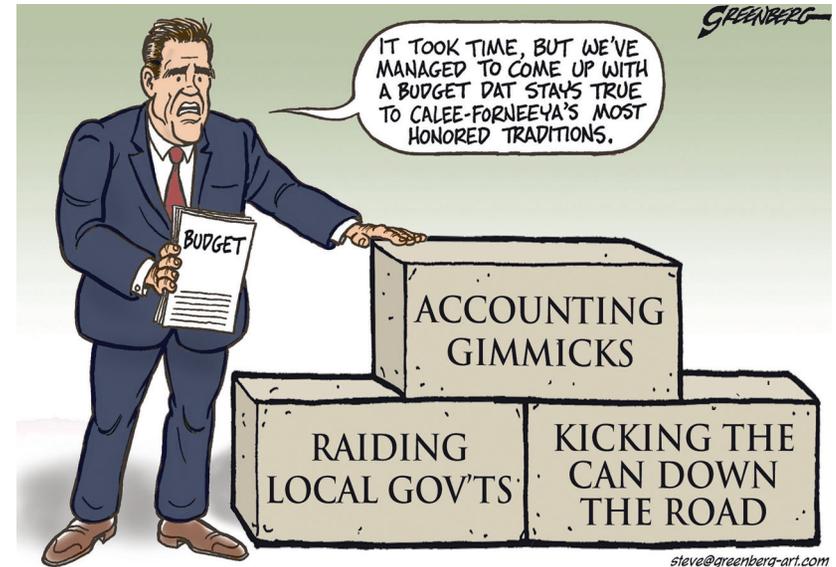
Max will send the match to the DSCC!

For more information, or to print a form you can mail in with your donation, go to:

<http://yosemitedems.net/PDF/DSCC.pdf> (takes a few seconds to load)

We thank Max for his generosity and dedication in helping us secure the Senate and support President Obama!

Am I Surprised??



BUDGET TRADITIONS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
\$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person

___ 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
PO Box 5008-268 PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338 Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010 (559) 658-2342



FLOAT FOR RENT
Our giant, splashy and wonderful float is for rent!
Tell your friends and relations.
 For information call 209-742-1010

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

HooooooBoy-----!
I ride in the float EVERY year.
It is LOTS of FUN!

