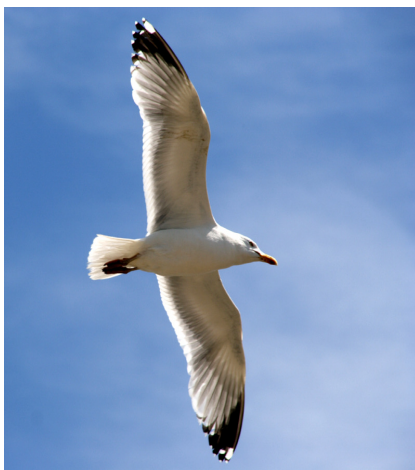




YosemiteDems.net

**The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
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The Mountain Democrat

April - May 2012

Coming Events.....	page 2
Meet Marc Boyd.....	page 3
Size Does Not Matter.....	page 4
Strange Days.....	page 6
I'm a Liberal, So Hate Me	page 8
Photos.....	page 10
It's Time to Turn Our Foothills Blue.....	page 12
Mariposa Meet the Candidates Event	page 14
Mariposa Club News	page 16
Become a Facebook Fan.....	page 18
Membership Application.....	page 19



The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

April 2012

Apr 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Apr 14: Mariposa Club Meeting

May 2012

May 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

May 6: **Meet and Greet**
(see page 3)

May 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

May 12: **House Parties**
(see page 3)

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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 pages at:

YosemiteDems.net or **MariposaDemocraticClub.org**



Marc Boyd

is a candidate we all want to support for CA Assembly District 5.

The Oakhurst Democratic Club
YosemiteDems.net
Meet and Greet Marc Boyd
Oakhurst Community Park Pavilion
Sunday May 6, 1:00 – 4:00PM

The Mariposa Democratic Club
www.mariposademocraticclub.org

will host two house parties for Marc on May 12 so that everyone in the extended Mariposa Community can hear Marc's position on the issues. Times and places are still to be determined but one of the parties will be held at the Smallcombe house in Jerseydale as Marc wants to emphasize the importance of green technology to California's economy and the house features a number of technologies that make it very close to net zero energy (solar, geothermal, ERV, SIPs). The house in Jerseydale is roughly equal travel time from Mariposa and Oakhurst (~30 minutes). The other house party will be in El Portal to accommodate the many Democrats living in that area. More details, when available, will be posted on the website above, or you can contact the club via email at mariposademclub@gmail.com or by phone: 209-742-1010.

Size Does NOT Matter

By Les Marsden

On March 17, I participated in Mariposa's "Ever Better Community" event as part of a speaker's panel on "Ethics in Hard Times" that included (among others) former Congressman George Radanovich. Prior to an arranged meeting at a private home two weeks before the event, George and I had never met. Our meeting was warmly cordial; when we entered the room—we immediately greeted each other by first names and mutually expressed our pleasure at finally meeting.

The March 17 event itself was framed by its organizers as non-partisan, apolitical and a controversy free day. And so it was, mostly. You know how difficult it is for me to refrain from speaking truth, as I see it, to ignorance. And despite George's efforts to sell his book and propound upon his self-acknowledged "lifelong commitment" to continue to fight against "large" government and other evils as he sees them—I was, for the most part: a good boy. But I had to respond by clearly explaining to the audience that government is NOT some distant, evil specter, but instead: is us. We are the government we elect—or should be. I then deliberately evoked in my response the name of Abraham Lincoln—a great Republican second and a great American president first, who would have no place in today's GOP, by noting his definition of our government of the PEOPLE, by the PEOPLE, for the PEOPLE. I cited the humanity and higher ethical response America displayed during the worst of its "hard times"—the 1930's. And I went on to explain today's true problem: the intrusion of corporate wealth and its influence in corrupting government—and not any sort of false size metric spouted by the right. In his next (and final) turn Mr. Radanovich insisted that 'entitlements' (as he referenced Social Security and Medicare, etc) must be on the table. Unfortunately: that was the end of the speaker's session and so I didn't have the chance to rebut the difference between EARNED benefits: Medicare, Social

Size Does NOT Matter (continued)

Security—and unearned, corruptive corporate and agricultural subsidies. Corporate lobbyists' money and power grabbing, aided and abetted by politicians who are ANYTHING but elected officers of the PEOPLE. And though my riposte was immediately mentally outlined, time didn't allow the opportunity to point out yet another frailty in the right's constant anti—government barrage.

"Ethics in Hard Times" has no greater historic example than the American Depression—and how both the people AND the government of FDR reacted. The New Deal provided exactly what the people of America needed to get them through those tough times, and also to establish the humanity of government for the future. Today's right wing attacks Social Security and eternally tries to deride FDR's "socialism, big government, government takeover" with those and more cranky mistruths. But as I wish time would have allowed me to note to that crowd of 250 and ESPECIALLY to the former Congressman: the 1930's were not the time when government took over the people, but just the opposite. The 1930's (and later, through LBJ's era and the birth of Medicare) saw the HUMANIZATION of government. It saw the takeover of government BY the people. We saw Lincoln's definition of government become reality as never before: government served the people. And absolutely not the other way around.

And today, we must respond to Citizens United and the right's attack on government by reminding others of the QUALITY of government, not its size. The goal must be electing humane, ethical government that truly cares about the people first and foremost. Because—as has been never more clear: a government dictated by corporate power and wealth is not humane—nor is it of, by and for: the PEOPLE.

Strange Days

By Peter Cavanaugh

As the Republican Presidential Primary Season bumbles along without clear conclusion and we witness a Romney uncrowned, a Gingrich unbowed, a Santorum unhinged and a Paul the strangest of all, it is tempting to prematurely rejoice at an internecine slugfest which would, under normal circumstances, eventually churn up a winning loser. But these are strange days.

At best, perhaps raw reason dictates we should expect no more in November than an honest roll of the dice.

It seems convincingly clear that a majority of eligible American voters remain functionally uninformed, politically illiterate—and two out of five don't vote at all.

Bill O'Reilly on Fox is a solid #1 in weekly Cable News Ratings, even as MSNBC is now a consistent #2 with Rachel Maddow, Ed Schultz and Lawrence O'Donnell combining for an impressive win over #3 CNN. With this in mind, let's reflect on the fact that O'Reilly's comparatively "vast daily audience" represents only a slender one percent of our nation's population. MSNBC scores but half of that with CNN significantly less.

Combined nightly news ratings of "the big networks"—NBC (6.2% of households), ABC (5.4%) and CBS (4.5%)—equal but 16.1% of the electorate. Just 30% of Americans say they read a print version of their local newspaper nearly every day, but under the age of 40, only half as many (15%) report the same.

And so it is that the dark significance of "Citizens United" becomes more evident with every passing day as corporations are now "persons" and unrestricted campaign contributions, clandestinely donated, must be functionally regarded and unconditionally honored as "free speech."

Strange Days (continued)

And in messaging, protected by Federal Law, these new personages can say whatever they want—any way they want—as often as they wish—with guaranteed anonymity. Secret has become sacred.

There is, to be sure, a certain measure of irony bemusingly evident when we have seen "Citizens United" —created by the most conservative Supreme Court in living memory, first impacting with devastating consequence on "righties" Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum as Romney millions dramatically reversed initial polling in state after state with sinister efficiency and terminal effect.

Yet, echoing through my mind and rumbling like thunder, come the immortal words of John "Bluto" Blutarsky in "Animal House" (1978)—Blutarsky spoke as any "average American" might. "What? Over? Did you say 'over'? Nothing is over until we decide it is! Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no!"

If there ever was a moment for inspired, intrepid, even blessedly insane commitment to a critical cause—here we are—right here, right now.

Jack Uppal, our Congressional Candidate for California's new 4th District, can use all the help we can give, as can Marc Boyd, running for State Assembly.

The horrid consequences of Election 2010 can be completely reversed in a powerful backlash come this November with ensuing Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, a second term for President Obama, and a long overdue return to the evolution of a truly progressive party.

Anything less is unworthy of our efforts and unthinkable in our times.

I'm a Liberal, So Hate Me

By Betty Persson

"All people are born alike, except Republicans and Democrats," quipped Groucho Marx; and he was right. Scientists have shown that political orientation is related to brain processing.

Some of the differences discovered: Liberals have higher IQs (perhaps that accounts for conservative attacks on education). Conservatives are skittish and react strongly to threatening (or perceived to be) images. Conservatives are more apt to favor military spending, the death penalty, and less gun control. Liberals are more open-minded and will say, "What do you think?" Conservatives say, or think, "I'm the decider." Conservatives value physical strength, and believe in the application of physical force in conflicts.

In case you're wondering about Groucho? He identified himself as a Liberal Democrat....

But one of the most troubling differences is that Conservatives seem to hate scientific reality. Presidential candidate John Huntsman described himself as "pro-science" (and we see where that got him). Conservatives not only overwhelmingly deny global warming and climate change, they still consider evolution to be a "theory". Their denial of reality even extends to fields like economics (in what universe does "trickle-down" actually work?). And history, which might explain the Conservative hue and cry about "American Exceptionalism". Liberals respond more to positive images (cute kids, baby animals, cloud images, balloons); Conservatives respond to pictures of car crashes, open wounds, and dirty toilets (I'll let that speak for itself...).

Liberals feel a woman has the right to decide what happens with her body. Conservatives believe that an embryo at conception has more right to life than the woman who carries it. Another predominant issue: Religion and Government. Liberals? Strict

I'm a Liberal, So Hate Me (continued)

separation of church and state (remember #1 in the Bill of Rights?). Same sex marriage should be supported fully; all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, have equal rights. Social Security and Medicare should be protected at all costs, as a safety net for this nation's poor, needy, and elderly. Liberals also believe global warming is a bigger threat than terrorism (a direct result of arrogant foreign policy). The Conservative response to these vital issues? No. No. No. And No.

Here's a chart of opinions:

LIBERALS -vs- CONSERVATIVES

See people as individuals -vs- Follow the leader

Treat people as equals -vs- Tell yourself: I'm the best

War is wrong -vs- My country, right or wrong

Respect different cultures -vs- Know your enemy

Endless ideas of democracy -vs- Ends justify the means

Think. Examine all viewpoints -vs- Watch Fox. Read O'Reilly

Question authority -vs- Rush is Right

Accept diversity -vs- Don't ask. Don't tell.

Expect Courage to Change -vs- Be afraid. Again.

Empathy is vital to society -vs- Seek differences in others. Hate them for it.

Try something new -vs- No. Must go back to "the tweak it for the better way things were."

PHOTOS



Judy Hess, Progressive Democrats of America
Speaking to the Oakhurst Club, February 4th, 2012



Gene Roza, The California Alliance for Retired Americans
Speaking to the Oakhurst Club, March 3rd, 2012

PHOTOS



Jack Uppal
Candidate for U.S. Congress in California's 4th District



Marc Boyd, Candidate for California's 5th Assembly District
Speaking at the Mariposa "Meet the Candidates" event

It's Time to Turn Our Foothills Blue

By Marc Boyd

Over the past six months, I've traveled up and down our historic and scenic Foothill Assembly District (AD5). It has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Democrats in the foothills have good reason to feel confident and excited about the upcoming Primary Election on June 5th. Everywhere I go, Democratic Club events are packed with enthusiastic and energized Democrats eager to help our endorsed candidates get elected. From the United Democrats of El Dorado County to the Oakhurst Democratic Club in Madera County, Democrats in the foothills are committed to turning our district blue. I truly believe that it is just a matter of time.

I'm deeply honored to be the California Democratic Party's (CDP) endorsed candidate for AD5. I received 100% of the votes from the eligible voters who turned in ballots at the Region 7 Pre-Endorsement Conference held in Modesto in January. In February, at the 2012 CDP Convention in San Diego, my candidacy for AD5 received the CDP endorsement. In fact, I'm the only candidate in this election that has been endorsed by one of the two major parties.

The issues that I've been talking about on the campaign trail are economic development, education, public safety, and environmental protection. To reboot our foothill district's economy, I'm calling for a district-wide economic summit. The new redistricted Foothill Assembly District is now primarily a rural area that is more conducive to common economic interests. Rising gasoline prices, high unemployment, deep budget cuts, and record foreclosures have sent our district economy into crisis. We need to focus on the millions of tourists who visit here annually.

On education, I am calling for a special session of the California State Legislature to address unacceptable budget cuts. College tuition has doubled in just five years. For the first time, qualified

high school graduates are being turned away from colleges and universities. Community colleges are rationing classes. Our K-12 classrooms are overcrowded and under financed. We are not providing schools the resources they need to be successful. That is unacceptable!

I am also concerned that people are feeling less safe in their homes. We need to restore staffing levels at all emergency services. Sheriff Deputies are reporting that they don't have adequate backup. At the same time, prison expenses are skyrocketing. We need to develop effective rehabilitation programs that lower recidivism. 70% of released inmates in California end up back in prison within three years. That is the highest in the nation. We are spending almost as much money on corrections as we are on colleges and universities. That is unacceptable!

Finally, we must address the impacts that climate change is having on our natural environment. If you know someone who doesn't believe climate change is real, suggest that they ask insurance companies who paid out a record \$40 billion dollars on extreme weather events in 2011. We must lower our greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Wildfire season is starting earlier, lasting longer, and large fires are becoming more catastrophic and harder to contain. The Fresno-Madera area is one of the most air polluted metropolitan regions in the nation. We are still clear-cutting in our forests. That is unacceptable!

Throughout my campaign, I will work hard every day to show my dedication, my work ethic, and my commitment to the people of this district. I am running for State Assembly because I want to be a strong voice in our district's future. I'm a California native and I'm deeply concerned about California's recent decline. I'm also very disappointed with our district's current representation in Sacramento. I want to reboot our economy, rebuild our school system, and keep our neighborhoods safe. My Assembly campaign will be a positive one focused on solutions to these issues. I hope to earn your support. I also hope to see you on the campaign trail.

Meet the Candidates

By Steve Smallcombe

Marc Boyd, endorsed by the California Democratic Party for California's 5th Assembly District, demonstrated on February 23rd that he's the candidate we should all work to elect. His opinions and positions are entirely consistent with those of the Democratic Party and with most, if not all, of us in the Yosemite area. Let's get behind him and do whatever we can to ensure he wins the primary and the general election.

On February 23rd, the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce hosted the 5th Assembly District Meet the Candidates event. All five announced candidates were there:

Mark Belden, Independent, from Rail Road Flats
Frank Bigelow, Republican, from Madera County
Marc Boyd, Democrat, from Arnold
Tim Fitzgerald, Democrat, from Soulsbyville
Rico Oller, Republican, from San Andreas

All the candidates expressed some interesting points of view in a very civil discussion led by Lester Bridges of the Chamber of Commerce. Although most of the discussion and answers to questions broke along predictable party lines, there were places where they weren't as far apart as the typical political battles sometimes are.

Perhaps the greatest heat of the night was when the two Republican candidates called climate change a "fraud" and worse. These statements probably got the largest audience response of the night. Both the Democratic candidates gave thoughtful and accurate defenses of climate change science, and we were especially pleased with Marc Boyd's response on the current costs of climate change associated with recent climate related disasters, "Ask the insurance companies if climate change is real!" he said.

Meet the Candidates (continued)

Questions about high-speed rail and home schooling also provoked lively discussions with greatly differing opinions. Marc believes that a less expensive high-speed rail system, blended with existing rail systems in metropolitan areas, and with more money allocated from the federal government, will be a "great investment in our 21st Century economy." Marc also did a nice job of defending public schools and the need to strengthen our educational system rather than wound it further with a voucher system.

Marc is the only Democratic candidate that is actively pursuing the nomination for the Foothill Assembly District. His candidacy was officially endorsed at the California Democratic Party's Convention in San Diego on February 12, 2012. Marc has also been endorsed by a number of Democratic Clubs, including the clubs in El Dorado County, Tuolumne County, Calaveras County and the Mariposa and Oakhurst clubs. These endorsements are indicative of Marc's dedication and commitment and that he passionately represents the views of Foothill Democrats on all the important issues. His website is marcboyd.net

The independent candidate, Mark Belden, said he was a social moderate and a fiscal conservative and his remarks generally reflected that. Perhaps the best answer of the night was when Mark chose not to answer a question because he didn't really have knowledge of the facts involved, in this case about proposed legislation involving the Ferguson Slide and endangered species.

Both of the Republican candidates were very well spoken, although in some cases, were seemingly misinformed. Marc Boyd held his own, answering questions honestly and completely although it was obvious that most of the audience consisted of Republican or Tea Party members. All in all it was a very good discussion and it should be an interesting campaign. Let's do everything we can to support Marc.

Election Year Actions are Under Way!

By Anne Brock

At the March meeting of the Mariposa Democratic Club, we discussed what we could do to help elect Democrats to office this year. We came up with three areas to focus on for now:

1. Letters to the Editor – We’ve already had members getting their thoughts published in the papers. Let's get more letters written! To send in letters:

Mariposa Gazette - email: mariposagazette@mariposagazette.com

Sierra Sun Times - email: sst@goldrushcam.com

Fresno Bee – online form: <http://www.fresnobee.com/email/>

Merced Sun Star – online form:

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/284>

Sierra Star – email: editor@sierrastar.com

2. Take back the slogans! If you see a bumper sticker or see a slogan from the conservative viewpoint - let's come up with a positive Democratic slogan to counter it! Send your slogans in and if you have a positive counter, include that! We'll get them out to everyone once we have a bunch!

3. Reach out to Democrats who aren't club members. Much more on this to come; but so many Democrats in this county think they are the only ones around; let's reach out to them and let them know they aren't alone!

There were many more great ideas that we hope to work on later this year! It's great to see everyone so energized this year to keep the White House and the Senate Democratic, to take back the House and, of course get our two-thirds majority here in California!

New Web Page for Mariposa Democratic Club!

By Anne Brock

A lot of you have already heard the news, but we're super excited about having our own web page, put together by Steve Smallcombe with assists from Aaron Marcus. The URL is:

<http://www.mariposademocraticclub.org/> Go check it out!

I want to highlight a couple areas on the site – the first is that we are posting presentations from past meetings on the site. So if you missed one of the meetings or if you just want to refresh your memory, you can go to the page, click on “Presentations” on the left, and see them!

The other area I want to mention is that we started a recycling blog – on the page, click on “Recycle” on the left and then click on “Blog on recycling”. It's a little tricky to set up your login i.d., but once you do that and log in, just check the “remember me” button and you won't have to worry about logging in later. I know a lot of us had questions about what we can do to help the environment; so this is a great place for both questions and advice!

Of course, we have lots of other information out there, including the link to the Yosemite Democrats page, which also has plenty of good information, including all of the past newsletters!

Give it a look! And if you have ideas on how we can improve it, email them to: mariposademclub@gmail.com and we'll get Steve busy adding your ideas!

And by the way – both clubs have moved into social media! Look for both Mariposa Democrats and Yosemite Democrats on Facebook! Let's get chatting!

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**Be sure to
BECOME A FAN
Of our Facebook Pages**

(click the little "Like" button)



Mariposa Democratic Club

Organization · Mariposa, California

Wall **Mariposa Democratic Club** · Events (Top Posts)

Share:

Write something...

Mariposa Democratic Club
Got this heads-up from Yosemite Democrats! This looks like a GREAT event to help a great cause: Saturday, March 17, 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Saint Patrick's Day Concert - Veterans Memorial Auditorium (Fresno and O street in downtown Fresno. Que Viva Los San Patricios!

Click on the link below for much more information.
<http://fresnoalliance.com/wordpress/?p=4550>

Que Viva Los San Patricios! « Community Alliance
fresnoalliance.com

Saturday, March 17 · 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Saint Patrick's Day Concert - Veterans Memorial Auditorium (Fresno and O street in downtown Fresno. Que Viva Los

Recommended Pages See All

Sierra Foothill Conservancy
16 of your fans like this.

Yosemite
8 of your fans like this.

Valley Public Radio
6 of your fans like this.

Oakhurst Area
6 of your fans like this.

Democracy for America
12 of your fans like this.

YOSEMITE DEMOCRATS

Yosemite Democrats
87 likes · 2 talking about this

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: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail form and check payable to:

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