



# The Mountain Democrat

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## October - November 2013

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YosemiteDems.net

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

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

### October 2013

Oct 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Oct 5: Mariposa Flea Market  
(see page 3)

Oct 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

Oct 12-13: Oakhurst  
Fall Festival

### November 2013

Nov 2: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Nov 9: Mariposa Club Meeting

## CONTACT US

Mariposa Democratic Club  
209-742-1010

Oakhurst Democratic Club  
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

Newsletter Editor  
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

Cover Photo  
Yellow-bellied Marmot  
Wikipedia

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](http://YosemiteDems.net) or [MariposaDemocraticClub.org](http://MariposaDemocraticClub.org)

Mariposa Democratic Club



### **MARIPOSA DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

**SECOND ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, SAT. OCTOBER 5, 2013**

**MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Merchandise to please everyone and every pocket book**

**Furnishings, clothing, books, tapes, CDs and DVDs, tools, garden equipment, electronics, home décor, table ware, cookware and kitchen gadgets, Christmas lighting, Stocking stuffers, and gifts.**

**ALL PRICED TO PLEASE \*\*\* AND AN ADDED ATTRACTION**

**In conjunction with the Mariposa Contractors Association**

**Annual Home and Garden Show**

**Come and enjoy a great day**

## Déjà-Vu -- All Over Again

By Peter Cavanaugh

There's been nothing like it since "The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door."



On June 11, 1963, Governor George Wallace became a national symbol in bold defiance of federal law when he attempted to block the entrance of two black students to Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama. It was a symbolic effort to honor his inaugural promise to support "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." Confronted on the spot by Deputy U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, supported by a phalanx of Federal Marshals, Wallace abandoned his one-man blockade and many years later in 1979 stated, "I was wrong. Those days are over, and they ought to be over."

Whether House Speaker John Boehner will eventually experience a similar "Road to Damascus" conversion remains to be seen, but he now embarrassingly stands in open rebellion against the expressed will of the American people in abject surrender to the most conservative elements of his hopelessly divided, morally bereft Republican Party.

## Déjà-Vu -- All Over Again (continued)

Even while remaining under attack from ultra-extreme fringes calling for his immediate ouster as Speaker, Boehner announced last week in an abrupt turnaround that, while still not allowing a House vote on Immigration Reform for fear of instantaneous majority passage, he would yield to Tea Party pressure and approve a vote on defunding The Affordable Care Act of 2010 as the cost of approving a stopgap spending measure.

It was matter of principle!

"Limit" government?

Hell, why not just blow the whole thing up!

Or maybe that won't happen till a few more weeks when raising the debt ceiling to pay for things already purchased becomes hostage as it did thanks to the GOP in the summer of 2011—resulting in the first downgrade of credit in U. S. Government history. Factoring everything, a new study by the Bipartisan Policy Center indicates that fiasco will cost taxpayers \$18.9 billion over 10 years as a consequence of higher interest rates on government borrowing.

Experts warn that inability to make a deal this time around may well lead to an immediate risk of U.S. government default, a major financial crisis and downward economic momentum well on the road to deep and prolonged recession.

As President Obama properly observes, "We have not seen this in the past, that a budget is contingent on us eliminating a program that was voted on, passed by both chambers of Congress."

But that's where we seem to be—locked in a renewed confrontation with fantasy driven, tri-corner hat sporting, Obama hating, pretentiously posturing, self-designated "patriots" who

Déjà-Vu -- All Over Again (continued)

clutch to their hearts a Federal Constitution they seem amazingly incapable of fully understanding, truly appreciating or ultimately defending.

An ever-careening cartoon.

It would be laughable if it were not so terribly tragic.

“Those who stubbornly try to recover a past that no longer exists—they have a static and inward-directed view of things. I have never been a right winger.” Pope Francis I—New York Times (9/19/13).



Greg Noll, Candidate for Sheriff of Madera County, with his wife Leslie. Greg was the featured speaker at the July meeting of the Oakhurst Club

## Mariposa Democratic Club September Speaker: Office of Emergency Services

By Anne Brock

The Mariposa Democratic Club had a very interesting speaker at our Sept. meeting: Don Florence, head of the Office of Emergency Services. He covered a wide range of topics, including what the office does, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and ways to reduce impact of fires. The club declared we want to have him come back because due to a lack of time we couldn't cover everything we wanted to hear about.

A couple things he mentioned that might be of interest—2 out of 3 power lines from Hetch Hetchy to San Francisco burned in the Rim Fire; that's costing San Francisco \$30 million a day to buy power and is why they got declared a disaster area before the area of the fire did. Mr. Florence highly recommended shaded fuel breaks to help reduce the spread of fires (you don't have to clear cut), but have your trees separated and trim up the limbs. And if you haven't signed up for Code Red yet—do it! Code Red registers your phone number (landline or cell) with the Sheriff's dept so that they can contact you in case of an emergency in your area.

<https://cne.coderedweb.com/Default.aspx?groupid=8DJt1b8jNYIUOdN58kLEjw%3d%3d>

or go to the Sheriff's website and click on the “code red” link.

The club is looking forward to great speakers at our next two meetings as well. Rep. Bigelow is speaking at our October meeting—bring all your great questions for him—and Sheriff Binnewies will speak at our Nov. meeting.

## Where did America Go?

By Les Marsden

I swear I remember living in a nation that cared about its down-trodden. Didn't we used to have compassionate leaders who did their best for the needs of the many? And weren't the non-responsive electeds voted out of office darned quick? So how did we become a nation of leaders openly scornful of constituents even as the office-holders receive rah-rah, back-slapping support from a hardly-alert electorate—an electorate so blissfully dim they keep defending the politicians who're making their lives miserable?

The idiot-controlled House has voted to cut food stamps EVEN as income inequality in America has grown to such an outlandish level that it now breaks all previous records. How much? 2012 filings show that the top 1%'s income grew by just under 20% last year. That in itself broke all previous records (the old record was 19.3% in 1927) while the bottom 99%'s household income grew a great big (yawn) 1% in 2012. Yippee. Doesn't amount to anything for those at the bottom when you factor in the increased cost of living. The disparity between those at the top and bottom is greater than ever in our nation's history. And yeah, this news probably isn't stirring many people—because we're growing numb to hearing such things.

But with this latest remarkable difference between the haves and have-nots, the Republican House has just reacted by cutting \$39 billion in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years. Let's face it: \$39 billion in our Federal budget is a drop in the bucket. And it's especially ridiculous when compared to our \$925.2 billion military budget for last year. But the true measure of the stupidity of this slash-and-burn action by the GOP House is the fact that we're talking FOOD. SNAP helps families desperately trying to survive in this increasingly top-heavily rich country—we're talking about multiple wage-earning, multiple-job-holding working poor in America. This cut means even greater pain for single mothers, children—and I'm damned

Where did America Go? (continued)

embarrassed to live in an America in which we have a rising level of children (and adults) who go to bed hungry every night. In this—the land of plenty, the land of opportunity, the land of the American dream—there should not be a single starving child. But damn it, there are countless masses of them. Nearly one in five American children lives in such a household—that's 16 million American kids. And that makes me dismayed to be an American in 2013. Which states will be worst-hit by this cut in SNAP? You guessed it! Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana and Kentucky—the South: hotbed of GOP and conservative support. So why in the hell do these morons keep re-electing those who further restrict the American dream, make it harder for them to survive, remove the desperately-needed safety nets and in general, just make their lives more difficult?

Besides this sick anti-American action, the House has wasted OUR time voting to repeal “Obamacare” 42 times to date though they know that any such attempts will fail in the Senate. Yet the totally spineless Boehner is terrorized by the small cadre of terrorist tea party House members and their latest act of stupidity is to pass a budget that defunds Obamacare. This is yet another attack on the poor, the working poor—and all those who will actually receive a subsidy under Obamacare to assist in purchasing health insurance. While I hope we can eventually enact a single-payer system in America, the more I know about Obamacare and California's planned health exchanges, the more I support it as a pretty good interim step on that road. I'd love Medicare for all—at the monthly rate I pay, it's a pretty good deal. And—in case you don't know it, under Obamacare many Americans will qualify for subsidized health insurance at about the same rate Medicare recipients pay—about \$100 a month or less. (Sidebar: in a September 6-9 Fox News poll, twice as many Republicans responded favorably to the Affordable Care Act than Republicans who favor Obamacare. Of course, the two titles are the same

Where did America Go? (continued)

thing. Democrats are apparently much brighter: the same number favored the plan regardless of what it was called.)

But in the meanwhile, the GOP continues its defunding effort, wholeheartedly backed by our own extremist, Tom McClintock. I don't know about you, but I'm sick as hell of McClintock (and so many other GOP prattlers) who begin their rants with "The people of America don't want Obamacare" (or—insert any other far right bugaboo, including "gun control," "more regulations," "GMO labeling,") when what they REALLY mean is that a small cadre of extremists doesn't want those things. The great majority of Americans I know—including those proud Americans right here in our mountain area DO want those things. So, McClintock: you definitely do NOT speak for me. And it's about time those Republican voters who are hurting—direly—from the actions of their own party, realize the same thing and start saying NO to the McClintocks of the world.



George Whitmore, a member of the Sierra Club, spoke to the Oakhurst Club about the Yosemite Plan

## Labor Day Weekend Fair Booth and Float With Pictures

By Steve Smallcombe

For Mariposa Democrats, Labor Day weekend is one of our busiest and most rewarding times of year. It is our chance to stand up and be counted as active and engaged Democrats by riding the Dem Club float in the labor day parade and by working in the Dem Club booth at the Mariposa County Fair, where we provided a lot of information on the Affordable Care Act.



## Labor Day Weekend Fair Booth and Float continued



*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

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BECOME A FAN  
Of our Facebook Pages**

(click the little "Like" button)



**Mariposa Democratic Club**

Organization · Mariposa, California

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

Share:

**Mariposa Democratic Club**  
Get 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 Vivan Los San Patricios!

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

**Que Vivan 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 Vivan 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.
- DFA 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:

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