



YosemiteDems.net

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



The Mountain Democrat

April - May

2014

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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 2014

Apr 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Apr 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

May 2014

May 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

May 10: 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
Bobcat Kittens
Lynx rufus
Wikipedia
David R. Tribble

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

**PLEASE RENEW
FINAL ISSUE**

If this label is on the cover of your newsletter it means that our records indicate your 2014 club dues have not been paid.

It's the beginning of the year, and time for **Mariposa** Democratic Club members to renew! Please fill out the form below and send it with a check to:

Mariposa Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268
Mariposa, CA 95338

Name(s): _____

MAILING _____

Address: _____

PHYSICAL _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

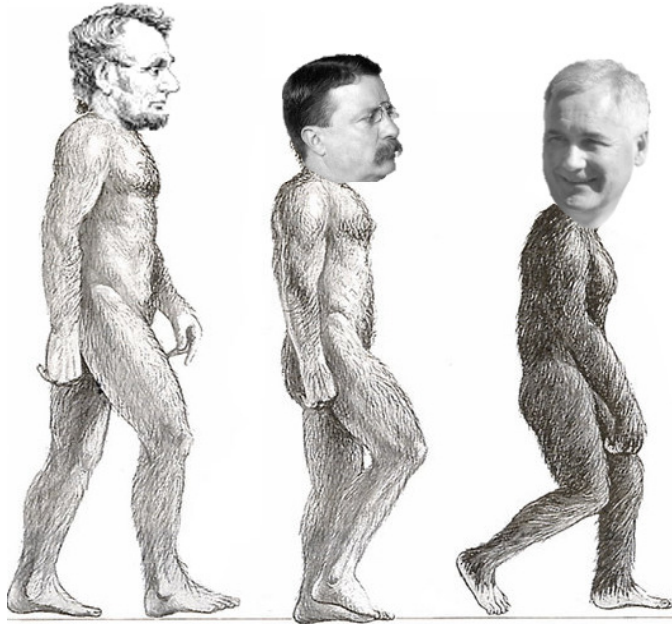
Email(s): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Note: Dues for the Mariposa Club are \$10 per person and \$15 per family, but please consider donating extra to help us do more!

How Far They've Devolved...

By Les Marsden



THE DEVOLUTION OF THE GOP

- with apologies to Charles Darwin

The GOP was born in 1854 as abolition's answer to the pro-slavery Democratic Party. Yup, WE were the party of slavery as the new-born Republicans demanded its end. Heck, I would've been a Republican back then: THEY were on the right side of history and we weren't. In no time, they became the power-party of the north and we were merely the southern pro-slave base.

And the GOP was influential right *here* from the git-go: their very first presidential candidate (in 1856) was none other than Mariposa's own John C. Fremont. He lost to Democrat James Buchanan of course, opening the 1860 election door to their next candidate: Abe Lincoln. The six-year-old GOP handily took the Oval Office and Congress that year. Which brings me to the next

How Far They've Devolved...(continued)

admirable act of the toddling GOP—with even greater resonance for our region.

In March 1864, California's (Republican) Senator John Conness, working with influential visionaries (many ALSO Republican) offered a novel, important bill with far-reaching impact: The Yosemite Grant Act. For the first time in history a federal government identified lands (specifically, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove) so incredibly special they were to be preserved for all people, for all time. Conness introduced this brief bill in the US Senate that May, ceding those Federal lands to the state of California, charging the state with their protection. Passed by the Senate, and then by the House in June, with Republican President Abraham Lincoln signing it into law on June 30, 1864. An act of monumental importance by a President who would never live to see what he had saved. An act we celebrate this 150th anniversary year.

It doesn't end there: in 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt (the greatest progressive *Democrat* the Republicans ever had—and the man called "The Father of the Conservation Movement") spent three days camping with John Muir in Yosemite. Roosevelt's ear was bent by Muir—who believed Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove needed desperately to "re-cede" from the state of California to be incorporated into Yosemite National Park, which was created in 1890. Three years later, Republican Roosevelt signed the Yosemite Reversion Bill, doing precisely what Muir had advised. As Roosevelt noted: "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias. Our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their Children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred." The Republican's presidency amazingly created five national parks, 150 national forests, 55 national bird sanctuaries and wildlife refuges and 18 national monuments.

How Far They've Devolved...(continued)

How far they've devolved. The party that once preserved public lands has become greed-privateers—with oft-stated goals of selling OUR public lands to the highest private bidder. Our own representative tars anyone who disagrees with his destructive views as “the most radical and nihilistic fringe of the environmental left.” When the conservative Merced River Plan draft was presented last year, he bullied we concerned by the very same issues that prompted Lincoln and Roosevelt. He threatened to use the GOP House majority power to undo Yosemite's needed protections. He even dared evoke Lincoln, citing the act's language of preserving Yosemite's lands for “public use, resort and recreation” without comprehending the fact that as we commemorate these 150 years, today's boggling annual attendance of 4 million is destroying the land itself through their “use, resort and recreation.”

It's why I'm relieved we've evolved into today's Democrats while they bungled down the wrong evolutionary fork in the road: the one leading to institutional extinction.



Mariposa Club February Meeting Featured Ameen Khan

By Anne Brock

The Mariposa Democratic Club was happy to host Ameen Khan, Senator Barbara Boxer's Director for Central and Eastern California, at our February meeting.

Mr. Khan gave the club a run-down on what Sen Boxer's position was on issues of concern to the group. Among other positions, the Senator would like more funding security for Secure Rural Schools and for PILT instead of having to re-authorize them annually, but wasn't able to get it this year. She feels the House Water Bill is divisive and will gut the Endangered Species Act; she doesn't think it will pass the Senate. Mr. Khan said that Sen Feinstein will be introducing her own water bill.

Mr. Khan urged everyone who has good stories or bad stories re: the Affordable Care Act to contact the Senator's office in Fresno (559-497-5109). Mr. Khan covered many more issues and will be getting back to the club with more details where needed.

In other business, Rosemarie Smallcombe updated us on the status of some initiatives that are likely to be on the ballot in November, including a bill by David Jones to treat requests for increases in health insurance rates like auto insurance rate increases (including public hearings) and bills on legalizing marijuana, parental notification, and voter id laws. She reminded us that the Democratic party in California has a very active voter rights committee who will be fighting the voter id bill if it gets on the ballot.

The Mariposa Democratic Club meets the second Saturday of every month at Miner's Inn Restaurant. Join us at 9:00 a.m. if you want to purchase breakfast or at 9:45 a.m. for the speaker. Call 209-742-1010 if questions. For more information on the club, please visit our website at

<http://www.mariposademocraticclub.org/> .

Wooly Bully

By Peter Cavanaugh

*“Matty told Hatty about a thing she saw.
Had two big horns and a wooly jaw.”*

“Wooly Bully” – Sam the Sham (June 1965)

Beware the wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Vladimir Putin may pugnaciously posture with a scary pit bull stare, but the top ten bullies on my scorecard don’t have Russian names.

They even pretend to be a friend.

They are Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Raytheon, Halliburton, BAE Systems, United Technologies, Huntington Ingalls Industries and SAIC, Incorporated.

They steal billions of our collective lunch money every year with a time-honored scheme unbelievably simple and perfectly legal.

They hire thousands of lobbyists recruited from top military decision makers, important congressional staffers and duly elected public officials, thereby providing a sweet payoff for “good behavior” over decades of unspoken, unwritten complicity in advancing and approving costly new weapons systems and associated schemes, rarely critical and often completely unneeded.

Right now, these lobbyists are pushing the insane notion that the new proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2015 will reduce “our military strength to a level not seen since before World War Two”, ignoring the fact that 21st century warfare operates with completely different dynamics.

Wooly Bully (continued)

Global troop strength will be reduced by only 9.2% with the active-duty Army trimmed from 520,000 to 450,000, the Army National Guard moving from 355,000 to 335,000 and Army Reserves drawing down to 195,000 soldiers—10,000 less than currently participate.

Here’s current Mississippi Senator (R) and probable future Lobbyist Roger Wicker:

“Amid Russian President Vladimir Putin’s aggression in Ukraine, President Obama is proposing defense cuts that could jeopardize the future vitality and preparedness of America’s armed forces. At a time for demonstrating “peace through strength”, the President’s budget blueprint instead suggests America is on retreat.”

Are you kidding me?

Consider this one critical FACT: Even with the reductions outlined above, the total United States Military Budget for fiscal year 2015 will still be larger than the next DOZEN nations of the world COMBINED.

The day we can simply “send in the jets” and have our way in the world has long since disappeared—if it ever existed in the first place.

As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates properly observed last year at the Dwight David Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas—*“Does the number of warships we have and are building really put America at risk when the U.S. battle fleet is larger than the next 13 navies combined—11 of which are our partners and allies?”*

President Eisenhower, the only general elected to our nation’s highest office in the 20th century and victorious Supreme

Woolly Bully (continued)

Commander of Allied Forces in World War Two, warned against the dangers of a powerful “military-industrial complex” threatening our American way of life in his famed “Farewell Address” to the nation on January 17, 1961.

In this last public speech of his phenomenal career, Eisenhower also stressed: *“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft. The cost of one modern, heavy bomber is this: a modern, brick school in more than 30 cities.”*

And then he thoughtfully added: *“Together, we must learn how to compose differences, not with arms—but with intellect and decent purpose.”*

How often might we hear such lofty, rational sentiments expressed openly within the torch bearing, pitchfork-waving ranks of today’s tragically hijacked Republican Party?



Woolly Bully

The Great DA Debate

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Peter Cavanaugh stirred the pot again (as he is wont to do), and suddenly the Oakhurst Democratic Club was sponsoring a debate on February 28th among the Madera County District Attorney candidates.

There’s more to putting on one of these gigs than may meet the eye. The Club’s Executive Committee had to coordinate with the candidates to settle on a date; find an available venue; locate 4 microphones; place publicity with all available outlets; decide on the rules, questions, refreshments, etc. And all this with very little lead-time.

How did it turn out? *Fabulously!* On a dark and stormy night, 150 mountain residents sat raptly for 1 ½ hours with nary a peep while the candidates addressed some hard-hitting questions. It was a *definite home run*, but would not have been possible without strong club member support.

We want to thank Terri Anderson, Charles and Nancy Bednar, Ed Estes, Scott Hill and David Lopez for room set-up and clean-up; Kirk and Monika Moulin for their technical sound assistance and use of their equipment; Peter Cavanaugh for expert emcee work and general coordination and publicity; Eileen Cavanaugh for photo-taking; Phyllis Campbell, Bill and Jan Fjellbo, Joe and Ingrid Fox, and Bob and Ruth May for baked goods and libations; Ed and Shirley Bailey for greeting; Charles Richie for assisting Scott in timekeeping, AND all our wonderful members who attended and submitted questions!

We’ll keep showing the Tea Partier/Republican folk how to do it right!

GO MOUNTAIN DEMOCRATS!!!!

Setting Goals for the Future of Mariposa County

By Karen Smith

Candidate for Mariposa County Supervisor, District 1

Mariposa County needs jobs. The issue is how to create new job opportunities outside of tourism while working to solve our infrastructure challenges. To entice entrepreneurs to bring their visions to Mariposa County, we need to offer a trained workforce, reliable broadband, affordable housing, safe roads and transportation options. We also need to expand sewer and water systems to our Economic Zones to accommodate business activity. Growth as a goal is often met with opposition, but if we determine the countywide benefits and slowly move forward, that goal can be met.

The need to focus on job creation outside of tourism has been discussed for years. The last two years we experienced one major economic setback after another because of our dependence on tourism. Starting with the outbreak of the Hantavirus in the summer of 2012, followed by several wild land fires, and the Park closure in the fall of 2013. We need to stop talking about refocusing our economic direction and take steps to set the process in motion. But as we expand our thoughts to diversify our economic base, we still must maintain support for tourism as our current economic base. To offer more diversity and options in job opportunities for all ages is a win-win situation for the whole County.

Tourism will always play a major role in Mariposa County because of the high percentage of publically owned lands and diverse recreation opportunities. A partnership between public and private land owners can also offer new opportunities for environmentally responsible forest related businesses that will significantly reduce fire hazards and improve forest habitat. Expansion of agri-businesses will also be in keeping with the general plan and maintain the rural atmosphere we all enjoy. Communities that

Setting Goals for the Future of Mariposa County. (continued)

invest in themselves attract and keep people who have vision and create new businesses.

My goal is to pursue a vision of cooperative and sensible economic growth, yet preserving and enhancing our rural quality of life. As a rural decision maker, I will look for ways to balance the competing needs of nature and economic growth to create sustainable and flourishing communities throughout Mariposa County.



Karen Smith

Mariposa Central Committee Endorses Rosemarie Smallcombe

Anne Brock, Chair, MCDCC

I am pleased to announce that Rosemarie Smallcombe, candidate for District 1 Supervisor in Mariposa County, was endorsed by the Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee. Rosemarie is running for the seat now held by Lee Stetson; as he retires, we are looking forward to having another strong, progressive Democrat in that seat.

Since I have known Rosemarie, I have been impressed at everything she has done for the Mariposa Democratic club and the Mariposa Democratic Central Committee. She doesn't just support Democratic issues; she supports the local Democratic groups. With her husband, Steve, she jumped feet first into co-presidency of the club. She wasn't just there for exec committee meetings and for club meetings; she also hauled items to and from the Flea Market fundraisers, she helped assemble the float and rode on it in the Labor Day Parade, she worked on the fair booth every year and she got us started tabling at the Spring Fling in El Portal. While of course Rosemarie would be the first to say "it takes a village", from my perspective (and that of many people in the club) she has been a true leader, pulling the club together and making us successful.

What many of you may not know is the work that takes place out of sight. When we needed to stain the deck of the float—Rosemarie stepped right up to do it. When we need to relocate the club inventory of stuff from one place to another to yet another—she was there. On the Central Committee, she is the e-Board rep as well as Vice-Chair, and has been one of the people working to make the Central Committee more effective in reaching out to local Democrats.

But of course the Board of Supervisors position is non-partisan; so a good question to ask is will Rosemarie be able to work across

Mariposa Central Committee Endorses Rosemarie Smallcombe

party lines? And the answer is YES. I could point to her work on MERG or as a Master Gardener, but I actually want to bring up one of my favorite examples. The local Lions Club one year announced they could no longer put on the Labor Day parade; they did not have the resources. Rosemarie asked me if she should get involved; I told her not just NO but HECK NO. Rosemarie ignored my advice, got in touch with Troy Foster (a local, die-hard Republican who also wanted the parade to go on) and between the two of them they got enough local groups involved that the parade went on. Rosemarie doesn't let partisanship stand in the way of getting things done for the community.

As voters, we all want to support candidates who are smart; who understand the issues; and who have an independent voice. And as residents of Mariposa County, we want someone who understands the balancing act of rural vs. development, who can help retain our unique character but still find ways to help us get more jobs and more variety in our revenue stream. Rosemarie can do all this. But as a Democratic Central Committee, I think we have another obligation: to endorse candidates who are proud to be Democrats and who will fight for Democratic values. And this Rosemarie will do. The fact that she also has been so active in local Democratic organizations is just another of the reasons she is the candidate who truly deserves our endorsement.



Why Not Grey Water?

By Lucille Apcar

We are today in the middle of a drought so severe records are being broken almost every day throughout our winter months, the only months we can count on to bring lifesaving water to parched California. Yet precious water is still being wasted, to almost a criminal degree.

A relative of mine from the San Francisco Bay Area visited a few years ago. She asked why I ran a hose from my clothes washer out into the yard.

“I use the waste water from laundry to irrigate my trees,” I replied.

She was shocked. “They would never allow it in San Francisco,” was her response.

Yet a recent news article in a Bay Area paper advocated the use of grey water from laundry, shower and bath and suggested it be made mandatory in all new construction. Unfortunately the proposal never got off the ground.

Grey water is not only reusable, in some cases grey water is even beneficial. Detergent soaps have long been known to act as fungicides, and may safely be used instead of the expensive chemical products being sold in nurseries and hardware stores. Whenever I see mushrooms or other indications of fungus both in my potted plants and those planted directly in the ground, I simply give them a light sprinkling of mild laundry powder and the results are gratifyingly quick, the fungus disappears almost overnight. Black spot on roses and other vulnerable plants may be treated with a hand sprayer of mild detergent and water, even grey water.

The problem is ignorance of natural ingredients and their uses. And the ignorance is widespread, even into the building trades.

Why Not Grey Water? (continued)

When I had a bathroom remodeled I asked the carpenter if a separate waste pipe could be installed to catch the shower/bath/basin waste water, with a simple attachment that converted the waste pipe to accommodate a hose connection. He didn't know what I was talking about. Yet all it took was a trip to the hardware store to purchase such an attachment to my waste line from the laundry and voila! The job was done.

Not only the trees benefit, several shrubs and plantings are thriving as well.

Another use of water is often ignored. To preserve nutrients, I almost always steam vegetables rather than boil. Do not throw away the water used in steaming. Instead let it cool and water your indoor or outdoor pots with it. The used water is highly nutritious and can save expensive fertilizers.

So when you wash your hands or take a bath or shower, try to think of ways you can save that water even if it means carrying a bucket outside. In this severe drought we are finding ourselves battling, there are many ways of preserving your beautiful plants, and this is one of them.



Editor's Note

It is very unusual, but sometimes I get too much material for an issue of the newsletter, and that is what happened for this issue.

In order to make things fit I made the decision to delay the reports from your E-Board representatives until the next issue. The photo below is a small teaser from their reports.

My sincere apologies and thanks to Rosemarie Smallcombe, Steve Smallcombe, and Lowell Young for the reports they submitted.



Governor Brown Speaking to the California Democratic Party Executive Board

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Jul. 1 - Jun 30)

___ 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