



# The Mountain Democrat

JUNE - JULY

2014

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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

### June 2014

June 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

June 14 Mariposa Club Meeting

### July 2014

July 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

July 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

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### Cover Photo

*Clarkia Amoena*  
Farewell to Spring  
Wikipedia  
Stephen Lea

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)

# WE NEED YOU TO VOTE



## Tuesday, June 3, 2014

## Where Do We Go From Here?

By Peter Cavanaugh

*“Hey shout, summertime blues.  
Jump up and down in my blue suede shoes.  
Hey kid, rock and roll, rock on.*

*And where do we go from here?  
Which is the way that's clear?*

David Essex, “Rock On” (1973)

With the June Primary Elections behind us and a red-hot summer on the way, November 4th seems a long way off, but we all know how the passage of time seems to be moving along with ever increasing velocity and there’s vitally important work that needs to start today.

With Jerry Brown’s powerful presence leading the Democratic state ticket, California seems likely to maintain our party’s dominance in Sacramento and, although our club must refrain from officially endorsing Republican candidates as a matter of established protocol, Art Moore would appear to offer the Fourth District a viable alternative to Tea Party darling Tom McClintock—something I suggest merits serious reflection and consideration.

Our club’s offer to sponsor a debate between Moore and McClintock right here in Oakhurst remains on the table, although understandable timidity from Tom in accepting such a challenge will probably prohibit further serious exploration of such an adventure, but we have our bid in and will keep you posted.

Correspondingly, I feel the national front is where our attention and efforts should be primarily focused from this point forward, for either Heaven or Hell wait straight ahead.

## Where Do We Go From Here? (continued)

Heaven will see Barack Obama’s last two years as President provide an outstanding opportunity to finally achieve all those hopes and promises unrealized since his inauguration in January of 2009, but impossible without maintaining control in the Senate and regaining House dominance with Nancy Pelosi grabbing her gavel back from John Boehner, ever more the lamest of leaders—a party patsy without clean conscience or clear conviction.

Hell would bring us at best a continuation of grid-locked government for two more dreary years and, at worst, the possibility of a Republican dominated Congress strangling even the most modest of meaningful reforms from their moment of inception and a GOP Senate sure to impact decisively on any Supreme Court nominees offered for consenting approval.

May 22nd of this year marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society” address to graduating seniors at the University of Michigan, introducing a set of domestic programs that changed our nation in astoundingly dramatic fashion.

Subsequent legislation brought about Medicare, enhanced federal aid to education, high-speed mass transit, rental supplements, truth in packaging, environmental safety legislation, new provisions for mental health facilities, a teachers’ corps, manpower training, Operation Headstart, aid to urban mass transit, a demonstration cities program, a housing bill that included rental subsidies, and an act for higher education.

These and other measures made our 89th Congress the most productive in history. By contrast—our current 113th Congress enjoys the dubious distinction of being the least productive session ever held, having passed absolutely nothing of lasting significance other than measures necessitated by pressing precedent.

Where Do We Go From Here? (continued)

Whatever influence we can exert in helping to form a more functional and persuasively progressive 114th Congress is an immediate challenge and one to which we can respond efficiently and effectively thanks to the incredible capabilities of social media.

From these Sierra foothills, we can help change the world.

Rock on!



Assemblyman Frank Bigelow discussing football with Peter Cavanaugh

## Update on Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee

From Anne Brock, Chair

I wanted to give you a quick update on what your Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) has been up to.

This year, we are focusing on getting our bylaws revised. We've been trying to do this for a couple years; this time I think we are making real progress.

We also have engaged an outside accountant, Greg Sanborn, to work on our filing statements and to get us all up to date with the latest regulations. Mr. Sanborn is quick, efficient, and has taken all the stress out of the process!

Finally, along with the club, we sent a mailing to newly registered Democratic voters; we chose voters who registered from June 1, 2013 through late April. We sent out 80 letters; we feel reaching out to Democrats in the county is part of the MCDCC's purpose, and we want to be more active in this area, so this is just the first step.

We are still looking for additional people for the MCDCC; if you are interested, contact me at:

209-742-6872 or [mcdemcc@gmail.com](mailto:mcdemcc@gmail.com)

## A Mad Tea Party

By Les Marsden

*(Based upon Chapter 7 "A Mad Tea Party" from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Really! That's what Chapter 7 in the book is actually titled. Life imitates insanity...with apologies to Lewis Carroll. By now the June 3 primary results should be known, but as I write I can only HOPE Art Moore makes it into the top two, so we can have a fighting chance of ridding ourselves of McClintock on November 4.)*

There was a table set out under a tree, and Tom McClintock and Ted Cruz were having tea at it: John Boehner was sitting between them, fast asleep, and the other two were using Boehner as a cushion, resting their elbows on him, and talking over his head, which wasn't difficult either on a literal or metaphysical level as Boehner is not terribly bright.

"Very uncomfortable for Boehner," thought the approaching Art Moore; "only, as he's asleep, I suppose he doesn't mind."

The table was large, but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it: "No room! No room!" they cried out when they saw Art coming. "There's plenty of room!" said Art indignantly and sat down in a large arm-chair at one end of the table.

"Drink the Kool-Aid," McClintock demanded, giggling. "Drink up—just as we have!"

Art looked round the table, finding nothing on it but tea. "I don't see any Kool-Aid," he remarked.

"There isn't any," snapped McClintock.

"Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it," said Art angrily.

"It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited," said Cruz.

"I thought this was the Fourth Congressional District of California; I didn't know you had turned it into your personal Tea Party," said Art, a bit angered by their temerity.

## A Mad Tea Party (continued)

"I can do whatever I want! I'm McClintock!" he bellowed, "and ho! Boehner is asleep again." McClintock poured a little hot tea upon the House Speaker's nose. Boehner shook his head impatiently, and said, without opening his eyes, "Of course, of course; just what I was going to remark myself."

A bright idea came into Art's head. "And do you fancy that all the voters of the 4th CD are as insane as you? So far to the right and so thoroughly mad as to not even consider voting for any other candidate? Is that the reason so many tea-things are put out here?" he asked.

"Yes, that's it," said McClintock: "it's always tea-time. Don't want to give them a chance ever to think, and thereby realize just how little I do for them. Or how thoroughly I scuttle and subvert their needs."

"So all you offer is insani-tea, which only the mad fringe eagerly swallows? And before anyone's the wiser, you keep moving round, I suppose?" said Art.

"Exactly so," said McClintock: "and after all good things in a District are used up—goodwill, patience, pensions—I pack my valise and run off to the next."

"Take some more tea," Ted Cruz interrupted.

"I've had nothing yet," Art replied in an offended tone, "so I can't take more."

"You mean you can't take less," said McClintock: "it's very easy to take more than nothing."

"Nobody asked your opinion," said Art.

"Who's making personal remarks now?" McClintock asked triumphantly.

Art did not quite know what to say to this, so he helped himself to some bread-and-butter but avoided the tea.

"I want a clean cup!" suddenly sputtered McClintock. Being quite experienced as a Carpet-Bagger, he moved on to the next chair as

## A Mad Tea Party (continued)

he spoke, and rather than lead, Boehner followed him. Cruz moved into Boehner's place, and Art rather unwillingly took the place of McClintock, who was the only one who got any advantage from the change.

“Really, now you ask me,” said Art, very much confused, “I don't think—”

“Then you shouldn't talk,” said McClintock.

This piece of rudeness was more than Art could bear; he got up in great disgust, and walked off. Boehner fell asleep instantly, and neither of the others took the least notice of his going, though he looked back once or twice, half hoping that they would call after him. The last time he saw them, they were trying to put Boehner into the teapot.

“At any rate I'll never go there again!” said Art as he picked his way through the foothills in search of intelligent voters desperately seeking to rid themselves of McClintock. “It's the stupidest tea-party I ever was at in all my life!”



Les and Diane's new puppy "Yukon Jack"  
He was NOT at the Tea Party

## Notes from the CDP Convention

From Rosemarie Smallcombe

### Summary of the Rural Caucus Activities:

The Rural Caucus focused on a second education panel pulled together by Christina Oborn and Rosemarie Smallcombe. Speakers were Dr. William Scroggins, President and CEO of Mt. San Antonio Community College; Gayle Bilek, California Teachers Association Board member representing coastal communities such as San Benito and Santa Cruz; and Jose Alcala, California Teachers Association Board member representing Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The discussion centered on advancements in Career Technical Education from kindergarten through community college courses.

### Democratic National Convention Highlights:

Become an activist by countering the Republican brand using social media. Check out factivists at <http://www.democrats.org/> The DNC encourages Democrats (and friends) to post “wallboard” (prepared messages with some graphics), learn the facts about various issues (for example, the minimum wage) and share them on Facebook and Twitter. DNC is heavily focused on ensuring turnout in November 2014.

The DNC is also initiating the Voter Expansion Project. They're planning to expand voter rights through legislation, education and registration drives in addition to protecting existing rights. March is Women's History Month and Nancy Pelosi succeeded in passing a resolution encompassing women's economic agenda. LOTS of good information at <http://www.democrats.org/>

## Notes from the CDP Convention

From Steve Smallcombe

### Summary of the Environmental Caucus

For many in the Environmental Caucus, including its leader R. L. Miller, fracking has been the major concern since Governor Brown signed a law (kind of, but not really) regulating fracking, but definitely not banning fracking in California as most all environmentalists would have wished. It was therefore a much discussed dilemma for the Caucus members, most of whom wanted to display their concerns in terms of a protest during the Governor's convention speech, vs. those who wanted to respect the Governor in his first major speech after announcing he was running for reelection.

In the end, a small number of protesters stood in front of the podium waving signs and chanting anti-fracking slogans at critical times in the speech. Others sat in their normal seats and held up signs when appropriate. The Governor reacted negatively during the speech, but ended with "keep protesting". Part of the drama was that many of the protest signs were confiscated at the entry to the main convention hall, causing some free speech concerns but, in the end, the Party allowed the signs to be distributed to those who wanted them.

The Environmental Caucus itself focused on California's water problems and featured three speakers, including Dr. Peter Gleick, an expert on California's water crisis. As homework one of the articles we were asked to study was one in the Modesto Bee that, among other things, noted that the recent conversions of non-irrigated rangeland to orchards supported by ground water in Stanislaus County actually consumed more water than the city of Sacramento. That is just a piece of the puzzle. The causes of California's water crisis, and its solutions, is not something that will fit into an article in the Mountain Democrat.

## PHOTOS FROM THE CDP CONVENTION

From Steve Smallcombe



Environmental Caucus



Rural Caucus

## Report from Lowell Young, AD Rep.

In the December and February issues of *The Mountain Democrat*, I began introducing you to our State Party's 2012 platform with its preamble and the first part of the Party's platform on Business and the Economy. The following is the final part of the 2012 platform on Business and the Economy. Some highlights of the revisions for 2014 are presented later in this newsletter.

*To grow jobs and assure a prosperous future for all Californians California Democrats will: (continued from the Mountain Democrat, Feb – Mar 2014)*

Support the implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of tax equity;

Continue to support and fund job retraining and/or vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the manpower needs of California's changing economy;

Oppose new and unfair trade agreements and renegotiate existing agreements;

Provide new funding mechanisms and legislative support for the promotion of progressive big businesses to foster the legitimate democratic aspirations of individual investors and employees to build strong, profitable corporations with elected accountable leadership, separation of powers, checks and balances, and other tools of an economically democratic society;

Promote and guarantee low interest small business loans to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating small businesses and/or cooperative member/worker owned small businesses and provide for growth of already successful businesses;

## Report from Lowell Young, AD Rep. (continued)

Facilitate sustainable economic development by introducing strategies for peace, and green technologies, and to improve the business environment and conditions that are hampered by violence in its many forms in the United States and internationally;

Provide low interest start up loans to National Defense contractors to convert their products and /or services to meet the needs of a Sustainable Peacetime Economy;

Schedule a phase out of unwarranted corporate farm subsidies to create a more equitable and local food market system;

Maintain and enforce food labeling and strict production standards for organic and GMO products (Genetically Modified Organisms) grown or marketed in California; promote government research on long-term environmental and health effects of genetically engineered food and monocrop production; and support policy change to address issues of food safety and humane treatment of animals in food production; support a uniform criteria for determining what is truly a "small business" and eliminating loopholes that allow large corporations to benefit from preferences intended for small businesses;

Address the crisis of long-term unemployment by supporting efforts to extend by 14 weeks federal unemployment benefits to those who have exhausted their benefits; and,

Target resources to the communities of interest who have been most impacted by the economic recession.

## 2014 Platform Highlights

from Rosemarie Smallcombe

The past Platforms of the State Party have been fantastic comprehensive statements of core Party values and beliefs and the Platform Committee worked hard to ensure the 2014 version meets this standard. Highlights are:

**Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination Anti-Human Trafficking:** California Democrats believe every person is endowed with inalienable human rights, including the right to individual autonomy and to be free from violence and exploitation. California, as one of the most diverse states in the Union, is a magnet for domestic and global labor and sex trafficking. While predominantly affecting girls and women, human trafficking also includes boys and men. The CDP is committed to working with state and federal lawmakers to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts that do not criminalize victims and survivors, to provide sex trafficking victims an affirmative defense against solicitation and related charges, and to provide a procedure for survivors to vacate any such prior convictions so that they can pursue a future livelihood with a clean record. We will also urge lawmakers to budget for direct services to aid such victims and survivors.

### **Energy and Environment Transportation:**

Support light and heavy duty vehicle regulations to help provide healthier air for all Californians, support strong and workable low-emission and zero-emission vehicle standards that will continue to be a model for the country, support Clean Vehicle Incentive programs to include the installation of charging infrastructure, and provide assistance to small businesses to meet the low-emission standards;

Support strategies and infrastructure to reduce driving, such as promoting smart growth, creating "complete streets;" teaching bicycle traffic skills; and improving transit, from local systems to high speed rail;

## 2014 Platform Highlights (continued)

Work for equitable and environmentally-sound road and parking operations; and, provide support for driving reduction targets shown to stabilize the climate at a livable level.

**Environment:** Support an immediate moratorium on fracking, acidizing, and other forms of oil/gas well stimulation, with such a moratorium to remain in effect until legislation and regulations are put in place that repeal the exception in the Safe Drinking Water Act, guarantee public health and safety, mitigate the effects on climate change, protect the environment and allow government access and testing of the chemicals used in all sites;

**Energy:** Urge Congress, the California Legislature, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the California Energy Commission to reduce long-term reliance on non-renewable nuclear power including the phaseout of reactors that cannot be shown to be economically viable, to ensure the safety and fully evaluate the economic viability and full lifecycle costs of nuclear power, to quickly decommission and withhold funding for license renewal for Mark 1 nuclear reactors that cannot be made safe, and to provide emergency plans and adequate liability protection for populations within 50 miles reactors and in the event that nuclear reactors are decommissioned due to safety or economic concerns that there shall be a comprehensive employment plan that includes Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for workers affected by plant closures;

**Criminal Justice:** Support the legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana, in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol.

The complete Platform is available at:

<http://www.cadem.org/admin/miscdocs/files/2014-Platform-FINAL-DRAFT.pdf>

*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

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(click the little "Like" button)



**Mariposa Democratic Club**

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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  
(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
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