



BLACK OAK CASINO RESORT



May 2019

Tuolumne, CA

California FMCA HMC Chapter News and Schedule of Events

30th Year



Vicky & Paula in Murphy's Mining Town

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David Althoff

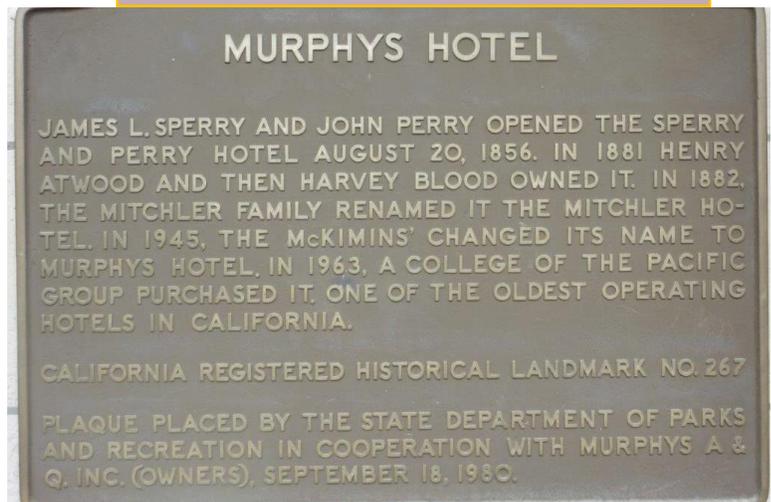


Our rally at the Black Oak Casino Resort in Tuolumne, California on May 15-22 was a great rally with many surprises! We had many places to go and visit, and I really think most of us attending this rally will be able to say we have never rallied in snow! And lots of rain!!!!

We had 14 coaches who made the long drive to a longer rally. We toured Murphy's Gold Rush Town, boarded a bus at the RV Resort to take a tour of Yosemite National Park, went to the Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and had time to view other places there. When a person can actually view these enormous trees, and to imagine that many of them are around 2000 years old, it is a sad thing (for me anyway) to realize that years ago, before our government made this a State Park, that people actually would cut these trees down. They are something special to see.

Continued on next page...

Murphy's Mining Town Hotel Plaque



2019 FMCA HMC Rallies

October 24-27, 2019

Stagecoach KOA

Banning, CA

January 5-6, 2020

Indio Western Area Rally

Indio, CA

April 30-May 3, 2020

Bakersfield River Run RV Park

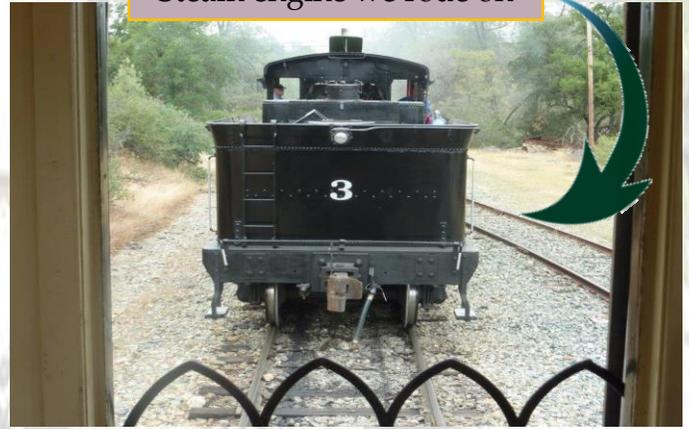
Bakersfield, CA

TRAILBOSSSES NEEDED FOR ALL

ALL ABOARD!

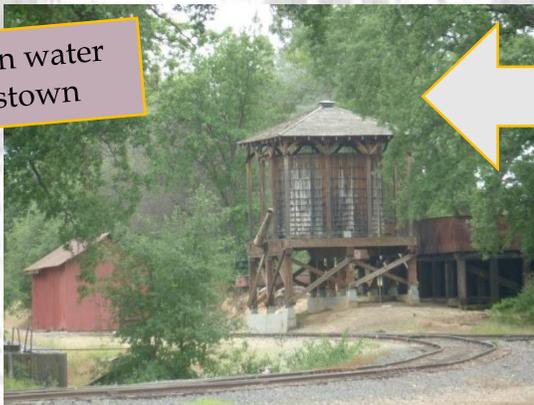


Steam engine we rode on

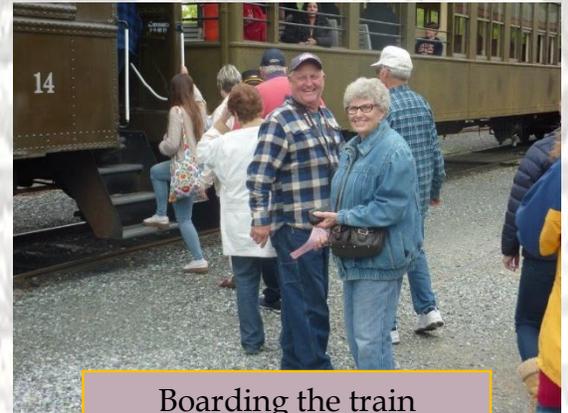
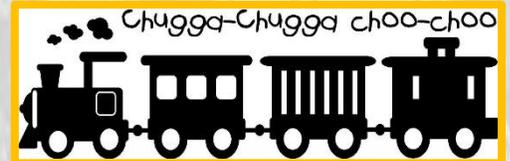


We also took a ride on a steam driven train. Remember *Petticoat Junction*? Many of you won't, but a lot of us will! The water tank there at our train station was the one used for all the Petticoat Junction TV series. Oh, we also saw lot of wild turkeys and geese at our campsite.

Petticoat Junction water tower in Jamestown



choo



Boarding the train



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **continued**



2 Kiwanis members cooking our Tri-Tip

And, our food? Always great, especially too since we didn't have the use of the Clubhouse until later in the week. We set up popups in one of the RV sites. Because of the rain on all days, Bart & Debbie bought tarps to go around the popups. The popups were different sizes and we did have some leakage between the popups. It was fun trying to keep dry. But - Rose was the first one to get water down the back of her neck! Before our rally was over, we all experienced getting wet. After the tarps were set up, we looked like a Shanty Town for homeless people.



Rain on our campsite

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to *dance* in the rain.



Bart dancing in the snow

My thanks to our trailbosses; (from left to right) Bart & Debbie Van Holland, Vicki Smith, and Judy & Alan Mersereau. They did a fantastic job and my special thanks to Vicki (who lives there) for all the arrangements she made for us to see everything there.



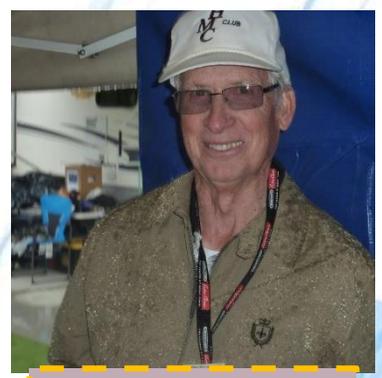
Trailbosses



Allan Twarados



Our group



Dave Hilber

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

*A big welcome to our new members:
Allan & Karen Twardos*

Allan passed our initiation for running the margarita machine, and by the end of our rally, he and Karen knew everyone and didn't feel like strangers!



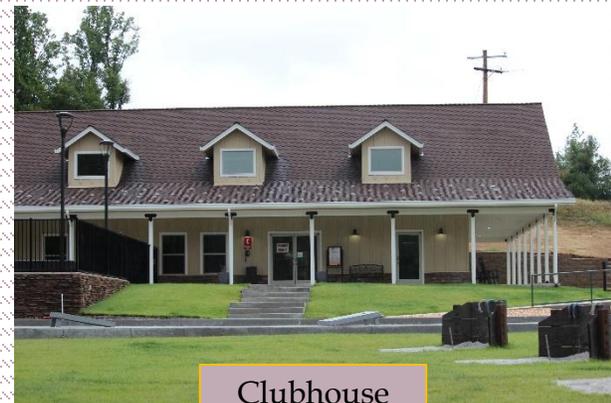
Margarita University - David & Allan



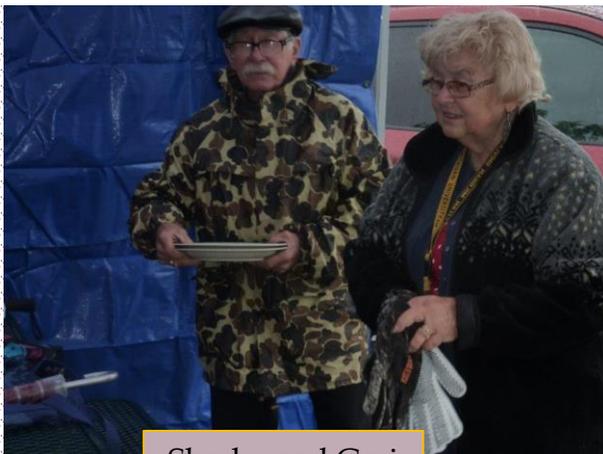
Our group hanging out under the tents



Our campsite



Clubhouse



Sherky and Geri

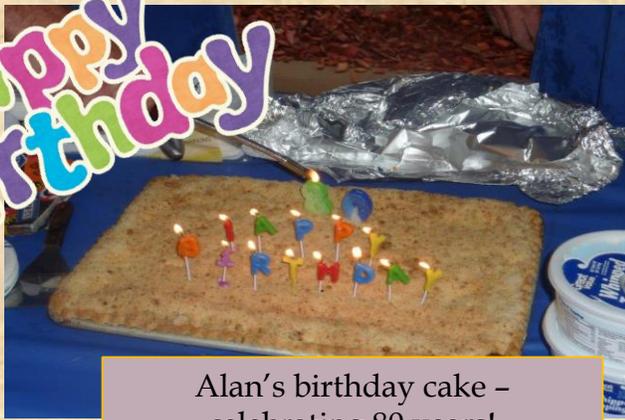
Our next rally will be October 24-27 at the Stagecoach KOA in Banning, California. This is our yearly Board and General meeting, and it is also our election meeting.

*** We do not have trailbosses for this rally. ***

Please step up and call Debbie to volunteer. If you haven't been a trailboss, you will always have help from all our officers.

Hope to see you all in October!

happy birthday



Alan's birthday cake - celebrating 80 years!



Larry, Rose, Alan, Judy, Paula & Rick



Duddy, Dave, Lottie & Marie



Duddy & Rose are patriotic twinsies!



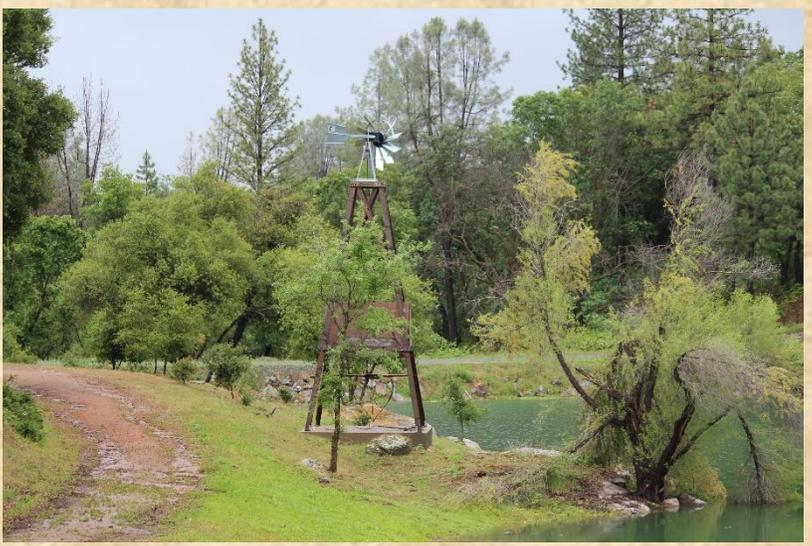
Vicky, David, Sherky, Tom, Geri & Kathy



Allan playing in the snow shower



Ray & Bart cooking potatoes and chorizo & eggs for breakfast



Trail Boss Report:

By Vicki Smith

I salute the brave souls who came to the Black Oak Casino RV park for a six-day outing. It rained and rained some more. We finally got the club house for dinner the last two nights which helped, no more eating with water dripping down your back.



Rain, rain & more rain!

The first night, we had a catered dinner and apple crisp to celebrate Alan's 80th Birthday. On Friday, we did get to go to Murphy's and most of the group went on to Calaveras Big Trees State Park, which they seemed to enjoy. It is a beautiful area. On Saturday, some went to the Rod to Rails car show in downtown Jamestown. We met at Railtown State Park for a tour of the historic round house and a train ride behind Engine 3 the movie train. Sunday was very rainy, some ventured out and visited Tent City in Columbia State Park. Monday was our day to go to Yosemite National Park. We rode the bus over and spread out to see and do the things we each wished to do. The falls were flowing really full and the dog wood was blooming.

We had lots of good food and company. Thank you all for coming to my county and your kindness to Maddie.

Happy Birthday Alan!



Vicki & Maddie

Assistant Trail Boss Report:

By Judy Mersereau

We met May 16th at the Black Oak Casino RV Park in Tuolumne. There were 14 coaches. We set up 7 easy-ups at the "Party Sight" (the club house was unavailable) Trail Boss Vicki Smith had arranged with the local Kiwanis club to cater a tri-tip dinner. We all enjoyed the meal but not the rain that came with it. We topped off the dinner with a birthday "cake" (actually apple crisp) to celebrate Alan's 80th birthday.

Vicki also introduced her foreign exchange student, Maddie Jop, from Poland. Maddie is a delightful 17 year old who even made "pierogis" for our potluck night.



Hanging out on a rain-free day

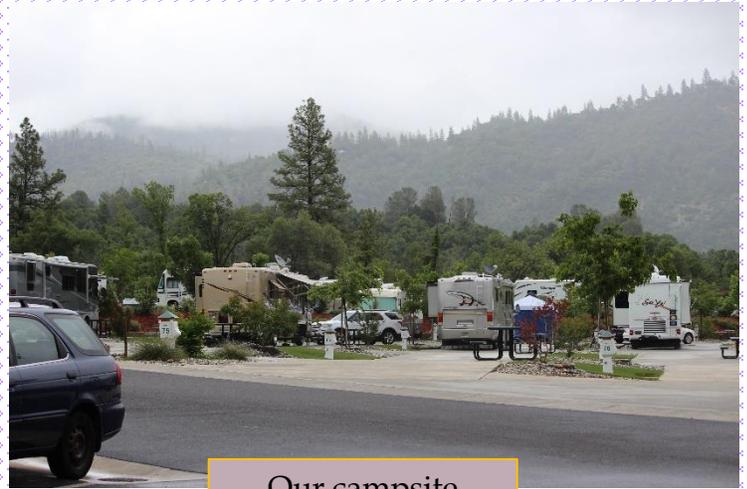
We had a couple of rain free days. We caravanned to Murphy's & Calaveras Big Trees State park, rode the steam train with engine #3 in Jamestown, and took the Yarts bus to Yosemite. Some of our campers went sight seeing on their own to Angels Camp and saw the "Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" contests. Others visited the Casino to spend the \$25.00 on their Players Cards.

Hope to see everyone at our final rally this year at the Stagecoach KOA in Banning the end of October.

Wagon Master/ Co-Trail Boss Report:

By Debbie Van Holland

Thank you to everyone who attended and were such good sports. We had nice clean spaces in the one-year old RV park, beautiful countryside to visit and explore but mother nature had different plans for our group. It was a challenge to do a rally for a whole week with out a club house or facilities to do our meals and get togethers. We knew there was no way to get the club house, this new RV park had over booked so we just held a space to use instead. Little did we all know the beautiful weather the week before would turn to quite a challenge for us. We had wind, rain, snow and colder than normal weather for that time of year in Tuolumne. We put the message out for everyone to bring an easy up if they had one. We created our own tent city; the pictures tell the tale. Poor Rose got a really cold shower by standing in the wrong place between two easy ups. The easy up decided it was too full of water and it poured down her entire body. If you had not seen it you would never have known, she was a trouper. Turned around and went to the motorhome to change then came back to the group.



Our campsite



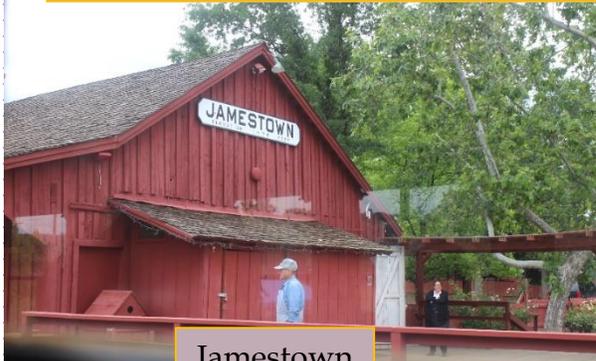
Easy ups set up

Our first night we had a nice catered Tri-Tip dinner, cooked by the Kiwanians club, and celebrated Alan Mersereau's Birthday. We had some dry time and were able to do some of the events we had planned out for the week.

We took a group over to Rail Town State Historic Park in Jamestown. Some ventured out early to attend the Car Show in Jamestown. Our Co-trail Boss Vicki Smith does a lot of volunteer work for the facility and was our guide on our train ride. Engine #3, which pulled our rail cars, is the same engine used in countless movies and TV shows. We were able to tour the round house and see several other engines being repaired in the only continuously operating steam locomotive roundhouse in the USA.



Vicki Smith -- our co-trail boss decked out in her Car Host uniform @ Railtown



Jamestown



Engine #3

Another day we took a group to Murphy's for a tour. Some picked up unusual items at the small local shops and others checked out the more than two dozen winery's, breweries and pubs in town. Not sure if anyone did any sampling but there were many to choose from. The group split off and some of us went another few miles up the road to the Calaveras Big Pines State Park, home of the giant Sequoia Trees. They had snow early in the day but it was clear by the time we arrived. Being from Southern California the fresh cool air was a welcome change.



Finally in the Clubhouse

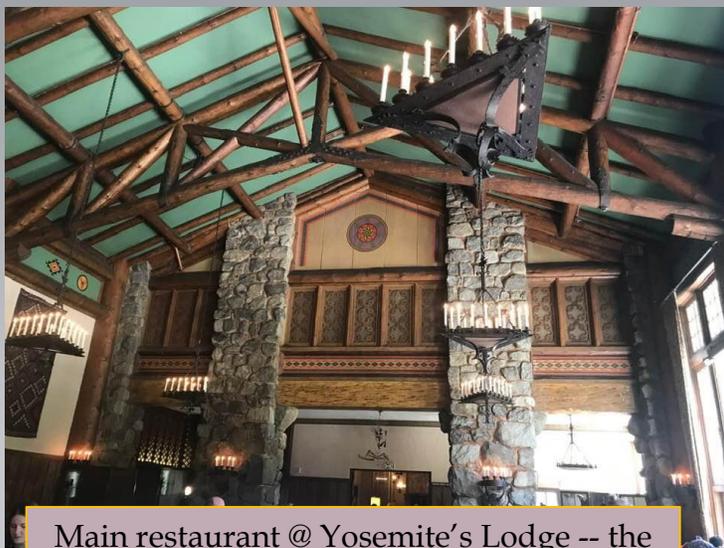


Monday was our scheduled day to travel by tour bus from the casino to Yosemite. Black Oak casino shuttle picked us up at our RV's and took us down to the bus stop. We were the first stop on the bus and the last stop off at the end of the day. Beautiful Chamber of Commerce weather the entire day. The roads were clear, no need to put snow chains on the bus (the driver had told us she had to chain up both directions all week) and we did not get stuck unable to return from Yosemite. There were so many waterfalls and the rivers were full from all the snow runoff. Everyone went on their own to see the sites of Yosemite. We rode the tour shuttle over to The Ahwahnee (now Majestic) Hotel and had lunch, thank you Don and Lottie for lunch.

The RV park cleared out enough we were able to get the club house for our last few days, so much nicer to get out of the weather and have a kitchen to prepare our meals in. A special thank you to Maddie, a foreign exchange student staying with our co trail boss Vicki. Such a trouper going to school and helping us all. We all got to learn about her home county, Poland. She even brought a home-made dish for our pot luck.

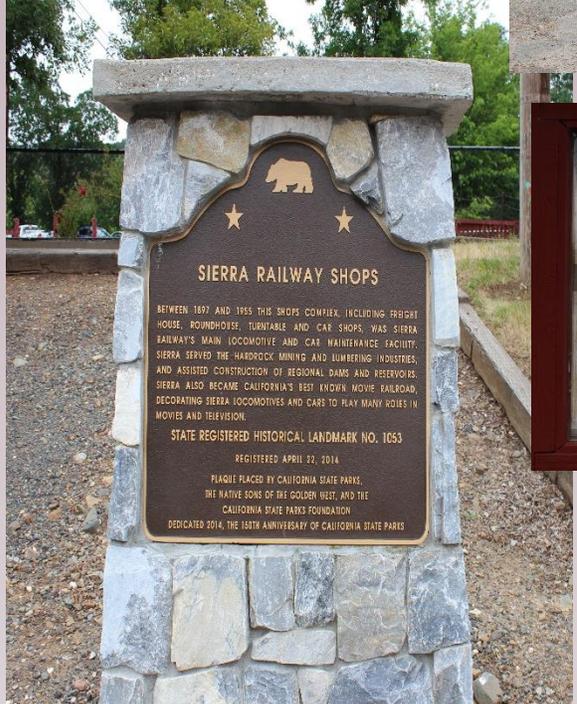
Our outing was over too quick, the weather was changing back to clear and dry. Everyone did their well wishes and headed for home or other destinations for their summer journeys. We took our time getting back home and for me and Bart, back to work.

Thank you again to all the help and support, we could not have done it with out your assistance. Hope everyone has a great summer. See you at our next scheduled outing at the KOA in Banning October 24-27, 2019.

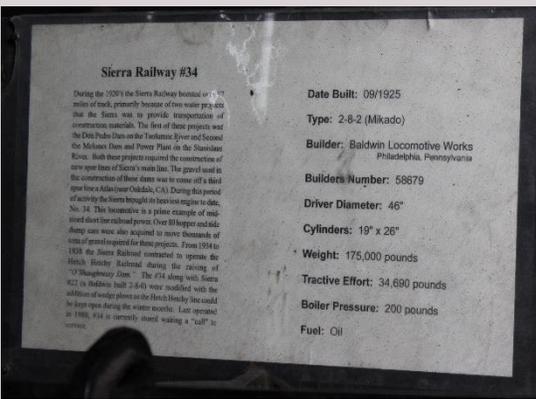


Main restaurant @ Yosemite's Lodge -- the Ahwahnee (now Majestic) Hotel

Our trip to Railtown



Linda



Ray & Linda



Did You Know?

“The Movie Railroad”

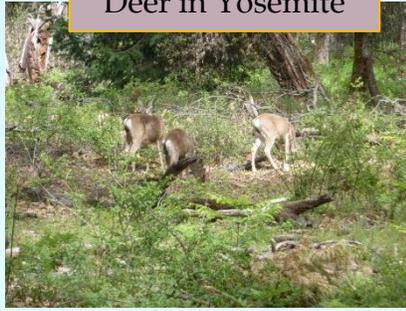
As its freight-hauling days were ending, the Sierra Railroad was still being used for Hollywood movie productions. It had everything — a ruggedly perfect “Old West” landscape, miles of tracks, and a wealth of very old trains and railroad settings. Film producers the world over clamored to use this special location. Between 1919 and the present, the Sierra Railroad would “star” in more than 200 motion pictures, television programs, and commercials — including High Noon, Back to the Future III, Rawhide, and Death Valley Days. Several of the Sierra Railroad’s featured roles may be seen in the park’s movie exhibit next to the blacksmith shop. Even during tough economic times, Hollywood helped keep the railway afloat. If not for the vital importance of these venerable locomotives and railroad cars to the film industry, many may have become sources of wartime scrap metal.



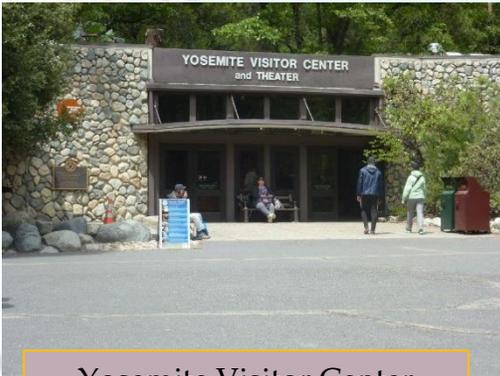
Yosemite



Snow on our trip to Yosemite



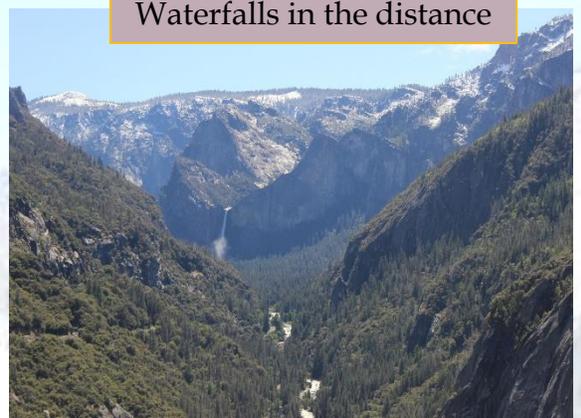
Deer in Yosemite



Yosemite Visitor Center



Absolutely gorgeous



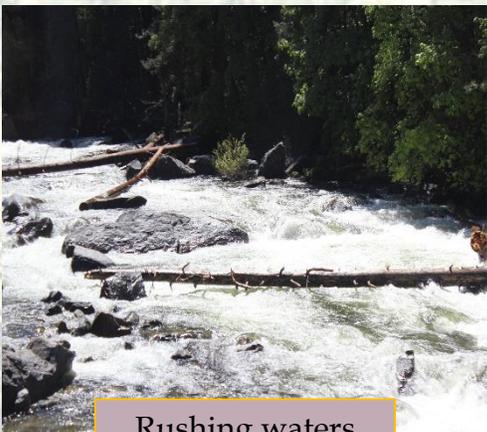
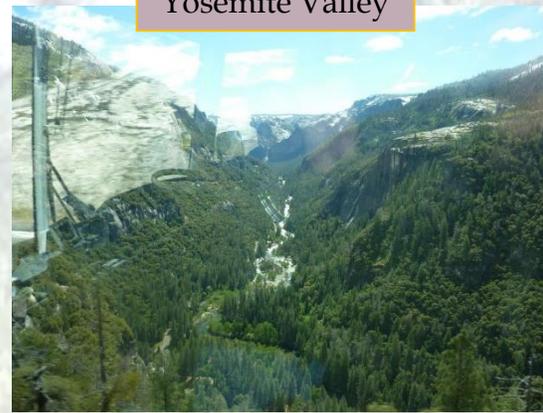
Waterfalls in the distance



Paula & Rick Ammerman



Yosemite Valley



Rushing waters



Half Dome

Did You Know?

Interesting facts about Yosemite National Park

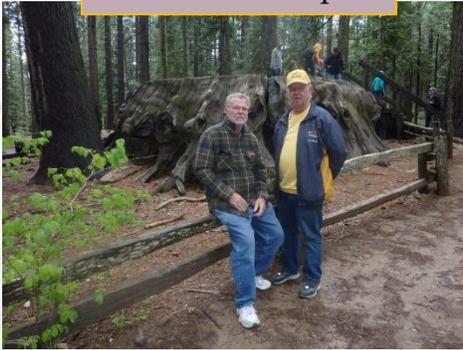
- There are 747,956 acres of land in Yosemite National Park.
- The Ahwaneechee Native Americans lived in the Yosemite Valley for at least 4,000 years.
- Yosemite National Park, established October 1, 1890, is one of the oldest nature preserves in the US.
- It is believed that a glacier is responsible for producing the shape of Yosemite Valley.
- Yosemite Falls is the tallest waterfall in North America is located in Yosemite National Park. Its flow peaks in May and dropping a total of 739 meters (2,425 feet) from the top of the upper fall to the base of the lower fall.





Do you know your trees?

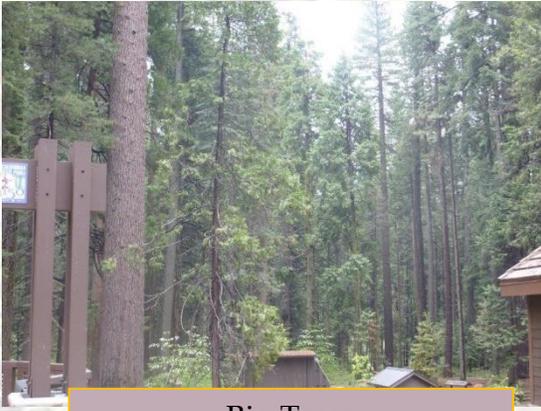
David & Tom by 30' tree stump



Big Trees - 30' tree stump



Look way up!



Big Trees

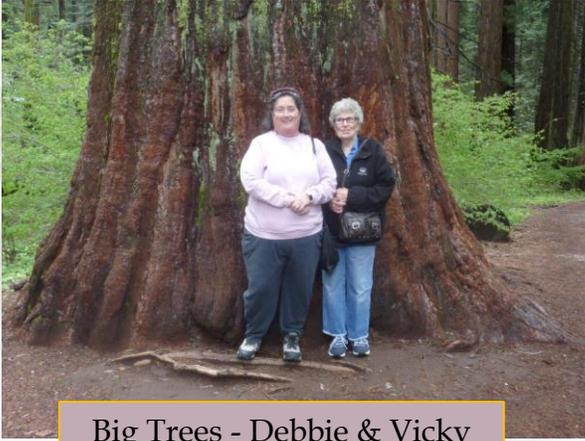
Calaveras Big Trees State Park



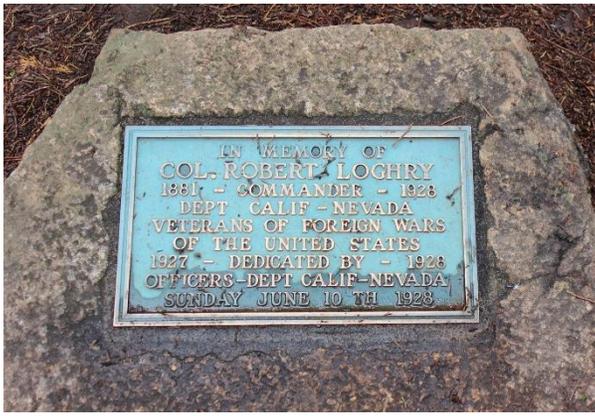
Off to explore!



Group at Calaveras Big Trees



Big Trees - Debbie & Vicky

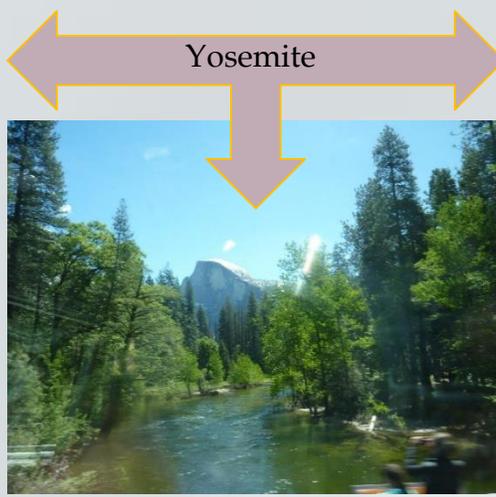


Did You Know?

Amazing Giant Sequoia Facts

- Giant Sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) are the largest trees on earth.
- The most massive Giant Sequoia known is the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, which is 275 feet tall and 36.5 feet in diameter. If you wanted to hug this tree, your arms would need to be 103 feet long!
- The oldest known Giant Sequoia lived for 3,200 years. Think about it!
- The ancestors of Giant Sequoias date back 150 million years to the Jurassic Period and were once widespread across North America and parts of Europe.
- The only place Giant Sequoias grow now is on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. The 75 distinct groves are found within a narrow band about 260 miles long and 15 miles wide, at its widest point.
- One cone from a Giant Sequoia contains an average of 200 seeds. A mature big tree can have 7,000 cones. That means each large Giant Sequoia can have as many as 1,400,000 seeds!
- One seed is about the size of a flake of oatmeal. It would take 91,000 seeds to weigh one pound.
- Giant Sequoias not only are adapted to surviving fire, they need fire to clear the ground for their tiny seeds. Thick bark, high branches, and fire-resistant tannins protect the trees from fire.
- Giant Sequoias have shallow roots that can extend 100 feet out from the tree. It takes a lot of water, nutrients and sunlight to grow a Big Tree!
- Native American people have lived near these trees for thousands of years. Some early European explorers noted sightings in their journals as early as 1833, but it wasn't until A.T. Dowd stumbled upon the Calaveras North Grove in 1852 that the world learned of these trees.





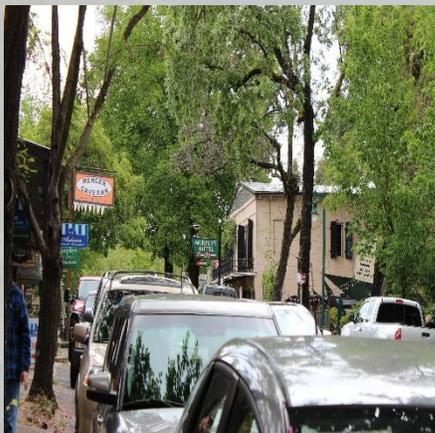
Oh the places we will go...



Murphy's Mining Town



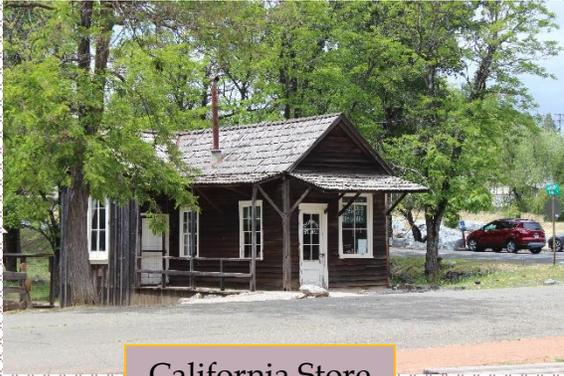
E.C.V. Wall of Comparative Ovations



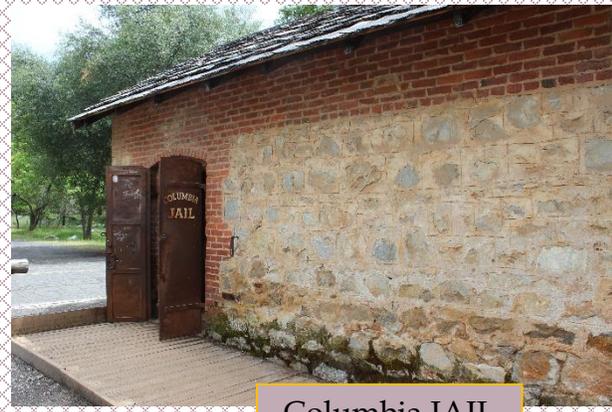
Street near Murphy's Motel



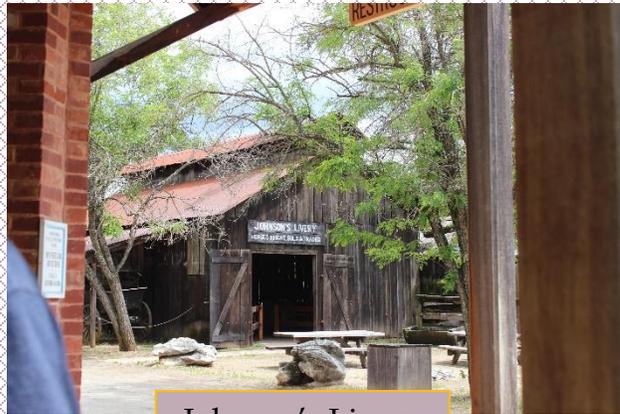
The adventures continue



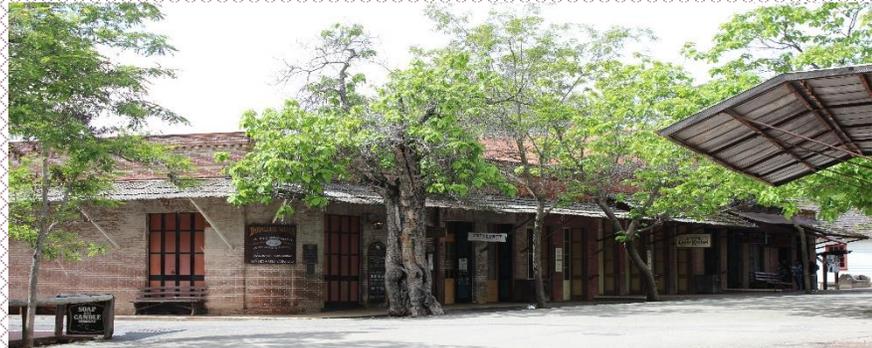
California Store



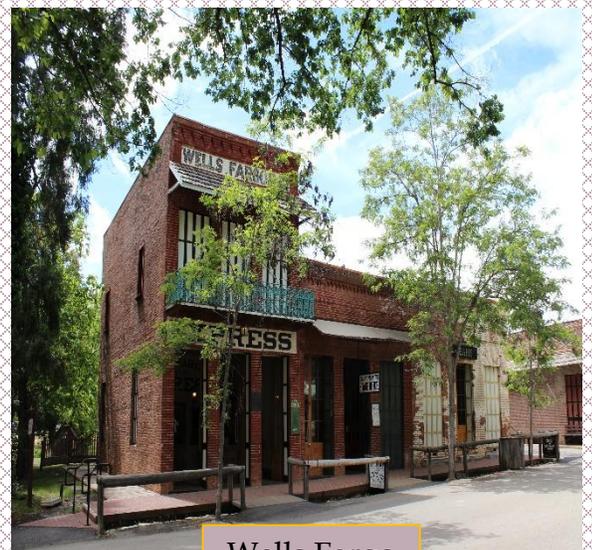
Columbia JAIL



Johnson's Livery



Douglass Saloon, Justice Court, Nelson's Candy Kitchen & the Columbia Museum

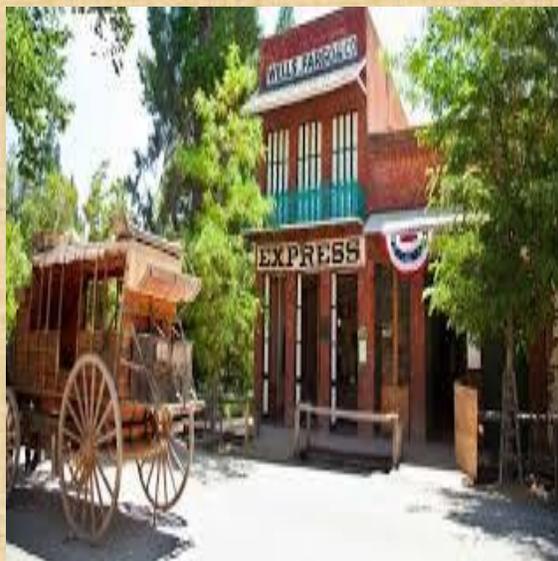


Wells Fargo

Did You Know?

Columbia State Historic Park

Gold was discovered in the area that became Columbia on March 27, 1850, and was one of the richest finds of the California Gold Rush. The surface-level deposits were amenable to placer mining, but lacked water needed for such operations. Over the next seven years, a network of water supply aqueducts was built (at a cost of over \$1 million) to the area to support mining operations. By 1852, sufficient water was arriving to support the development of a mining boom town, and large-scale mining operations began in 1856. The town was incorporated in 1854, and its population fluctuated in the 1850s between 2,000 and 5,000 people. The town was repeatedly struck by fire, and much of the construction after an 1857 fire was in brick.



A note from Maddie...

The recent RV outing in Black Oak Casino was definitely an unforgettable experience for me as a foreign exchange student from Poland. I stayed with one of the club member Vicki Smith. I had to travel almost 2 miles from home, but it does not change the fact that it was exciting to be part of this event and feel the atmosphere of camping. The weather was one of the most surprising part of this rally, because nobody expected such a rainy week in the middle of May. However, this weather had also some advantages and it was a good excuse for me to just go and relax in the swimming pool or warm jacuzzi while it was raining (or snowing) around. In these more sunny mornings I enjoyed running around the beautiful pond located close to the RV park area. The biggest bumner for me was the fact that I had to go to school during the week so I could not participate in all the activities with other participants. I had a great opportunity to share some polish dish which was pierogies during Friday potluck. I hope other participants enjoyed this polish accent, especially Rick who received an extra portion takeaway as a gift. On Saturday we enjoyed casserole breakfast and I fell in love with raspberry coconut casserole made by Vicki. After that we traveled together to the Railtown Historic Park located in Jamestown, where I used to make popcorn for most of Sundays, but this time I was just a guest on the train. Vicki was carhosting and she did her job as good as always telling the most interesting facts about railroads. Sunday was a lazy day, it was raining again, but it was an opportunity to play a little bit in the Arcady in the Casino. Monday was the day when I ditched school and went for a trip to Yosemite. The day was beautiful and the whole park was just magical. I was honored to stand in the bus on the half way back, as the bus was packed and there was no empty seats, but it was still fun. Tuesday was my last chance to say goodbye to everybody, what was very sad for me, because all the people were so kind to me and I felt very welcome. I have to mention that my dad was so jealous when told him about the rally, because he is a really big fan of American motorhomes and I had an opportunity to live in one for a week, but he did not. I am so grateful for being part of this event and I collected a lot of memories that I am going to take back to my country.



-MADDIE



**2018-2019 Officers
California
FMCA HMC Chapter**

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- VP-Wagonmaster.....Debbie Van Holland
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