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Some History - Current Events - Fun & Adventure in The Heart of The State of Jefferson !

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One of the earliest images printed in the United States of an American Christmas Tree. Found at www.pastispresent.org.

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DUNSMUIR HISTORY

By Ron McCloud

Ron McCloud is the owner of Dunsmuir Hardware – which dates from 1894.

I almost missed it. Walking between the rows of grave markers I had been looking for a vertical stone with her name – but instead, here it was – a simple flat granite marker level with the ground. I lowered myself onto one knee and brushed the oak leaves away so I could read the inscription. Only her name; Florence Maude Silva. And the dates; 1867 – 1965.

Some time ago I had been given a pair of old photographs of Florence that started my interest in her. The street we know as Dunsmuir Avenue today was for many years called Florence Avenue and it was named for the young woman in those pictures.

But wait a minute! The Florence I was looking for was born in 1877, not 1867. I had traced her in the census records, had talked with family members, and located her in historical records about her father. 1867 can't be right. Yet the marker next to her is that of Louis Silva, her husband, and nearby is another for Grover C. Branstetter, her brother. This had to be the Florence I was looking for. I can only guess that the grave marker is not correct.

I walked between the rows of stones as I left the Dunsmuir cemetery wondering – “How can that be?” I wonder how many other grave markers are incorrect. I wonder if Florence would be upset that somebody made her ten years older than she actually was.



In a dark Victorian dress and a matching feathered hat, Florence appears to be trying to be serious but her youth and spirit show through her smile. About a year after these photos were taken Florence married Louis Silva, a Southern Pacific Railroad engineer. Photo courtesy of Ron McCloud.

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Dunsmuir History
Continued on Page 3



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DUNSMUIR HISTORY

Continued from Page 2

Florence would have been just ten years old when her father established a mercantile business in the new railroad town called Dunsmuir. The railroad had just reached the area and was building a roundhouse and turntable. The time was right for an enterprising businessman like William J. Branstetter to "get in on the ground floor." He had been successful in mining interests and business in Roseville, California and his retail business in Dunsmuir would be one of the town's first.

But the rowdy and undeveloped railroad town was no place to bring a family so William left his wife Susan Ann, and their three children – ten year old Florence, six year old Claude, and two year old Grover - in Roseville. Four or five years later – the records aren't clear – William's business was well established and he moved his family into the large two story home he had built on what is now called Branstetter Street near Rose Avenue. Florence was about fourteen, Claude about ten and Grover about six years old.

William had not only developed a successful general mercantile business on Sacramento Avenue, he had also invested in a great deal of property. In 1888 one of his investments was 160 acres on the south edge of the growing community. This property was at that time completely undeveloped and William originally intended to cultivate 20 acres of alfalfa, potatoes and vegetables on the more or less level ground. But then he had a change of mind. Instead of growing crops on his investment property, he chose to subdivide it into a residential neighborhood. He also donated a large piece of the property to the Odd Fellows for use as a town cemetery about 1890.

In developing the property, William laid out a grid of streets for the little neighborhood. Sacramento Avenue was the eastern boundary and Branstetter Street would be the northern boundary running toward the west from Sacramento Avenue. The south side ended at the edge of the cemetery property. One of the main east/west streets he named for his son Grover. The north/south street he named for his wife's sister Rose, and the west side boundary street he named for his daughter Florence. Other family members and friends probably provided names for the other streets; Edyth and Vernie.

In the 1880s the main road through Dunsmuir followed Sacramento Avenue. What we know today as Dunsmuir Avenue – then called "the back street" - did not originally go all the way through the town. The road only went as far south as Cedar Street since there was really nothing to connect with any further south and it was nearly impassable for horses due to deep gulches and rough terrain. When "the back street" was finally improved, extended to the south, and connected to the

short street known as Florence Avenue, then the whole length of the street took on the name. An 1892 map of the town clearly labels the street as Florence Avenue and it was known by that name until 1961 when the Interstate Highway bypassed the town and the name was changed to Dunsmuir Avenue. Only Florence Loop retains the name today.

What do we know about Florence? She was born on September 1, 1877, the first child of William Branstetter and Susan Ann Williams Branstetter. Throughout her life she was known to most people by

her middle name, Maude. The pictures that started my search and which are shown here were taken in June of 1897 and portray a pretty young woman of 19. about a year before she married a Southern Pacific Railroad engineer, Louis Silva. They had two children; a daughter Lena born in 1901 and a son Louis Carlos born in 1902.

Dunsmuir History
Continued on Page 24



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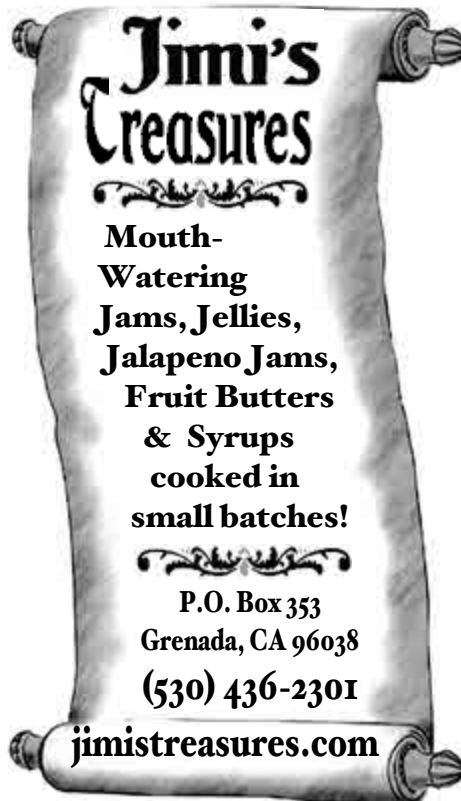
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<http://www.backwoodshome.com/articles/beattie47.html>



Here is Don Mason's Recipe for December!

Überbackene Kartoffeln, Bratwurst (Swiss Stil) und Käse Scalloped Potatoes, Bratwurst (Swiss style) and Cheese


- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5 to 7 Lbs. Potatoes peeled and 1/4 sliced. | 8 oz. grated sharp Cheddar cheese |
| 8 Bratwurst Swiss Style. | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 3 Tbs. Gray Poupon Mustard. | 2 beers |
| 4 cups warm milk. | 1 yellow onion peeled and quartered |
| 1/2 cup flour. | butter. |

Bratwurst Preparation: Grill brats on a BBQ to get some nice grill marks. In a large pot add brats, beer and the onion. Simmer until they are done. Discard liquid and onions and keep warm.

Dish Preparation: In a # 14 Dutch Oven or a 11" x 14" baking dish that has been buttered. Layer the sliced potatoes, on each layer sprinkle some flour, salt and pepper and build layers until you use all the potatoes. In the warm milk add the mustard and mix well. Gentle pour the milk mixture over the potatoes. Cover the dish with foil and bake at 400 degrees until potatoes are done*. Slice the brat in quarters and place on top of the potatoes then return to heat. As soon as the brats are warm, add cheese. Serve when cheese is melted. Serves about 20 at an Oktoberfest Potluck.

Gut Essen, Iron Kettle


* Depending on the mass of potatoes it may take 2 or more hours to cook.



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"From Over
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By Che'Usa Wend

Che'usa loves writing stories about the amazing people and places she has discovered in beautiful Scott Valley. You can find more on her website: www.fromoverthehill.info.

Join her each month

Holiday Shopping . . . **locally**. When I began writing my 'From Over the Hill' webpages in July, I typed this at the bottom of every post: "**Thanks for shopping locally!**"

So I couldn't help but smile when I began receiving forwarded emails last week entitled: Christmas 2011 - Birth of a New Tradition . . . "As the holidays approach, the merchandise we see has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for their hometown small business establishments . . . **no more excuses** that nothing can be found that is produced by American hands."

Before you go out and buy another \$5 string of Chinese-made lights for the house (where only about 50 cents stays in the community), how about adding the following items to your shopping list: **gift certificates** . . . for a **local** barber or hair salon, massage therapist, pedicurist, manicurist, owner-owned eatery, oil change spot, house cleaning service, theatre tickets, garden supply shop, carwash or auto detailing service. Gift membership to your **local** Historical Society or donation to your **local** Library. Surprise someone by delivering a pick-up load of gravel, mulch, topsoil or firewood. Who couldn't use those?????

Shop for **locally made** hand-knit or sewn scarves, hats, purses; hand-crafted jewelry, pottery or wooden items. (This should give you the idea and you can take it from there!)

Visit craft fairs in your **local** area, shop in **local** artist co-ops and galleries. You will be amazed at the creativity that abounds here in the State of Jefferson . . . 'the Creative Capitol of the World'!!!!!!!!!!

One year my friends and I decided to start a new holiday tradition. Rather than shopping for all the friends on our list, we would each take the money we would normally spend on all those friends and buy **one** gift for ourselves that we **really** wanted. Then we would all get together, bring our special present, open it, ooh and aah at how **perfect** our gift was. All of us would have what we **really** wanted and we would have probably spent waaaaaay less than if we had bought gifts for all the others. Everyone would be happy and no wasted gas on returns! I imagine the Christmas 2011 - Birth of a New Tradition will go over a lot better than our idea of a new tradition!



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“From Over The Hill”
Continued from Page 6

There are many of us who still enjoy the feel of **holding** a **real book** while reading. This area is filled with fantastic authors. While I was in Yreka a few days ago I stopped in at The Book Store at 223 W. Miner Street and was amazed at the selection of books by Scott Valley authors: Gail Jenner & Bernita Tickner, Melinda Field, Murry Taylor, Bob Waymire, Catherine McElroy, and Betty & Monica Hall. Stop in and browse the next time you are in Yreka. And if you are in Etna you can find a selection of books by local authors at Scott Valley Drug.

Park downtown at any of the cities or towns in the State of Jefferson and just walk around and see what is available. It's good exercise and you might be surprised to find the perfect gifts for the dear ones on your list.

That's what I did. I had recently discovered 1908 and 1929 maps of Etna Mills and wanted to have them printed in 24" x 32" size, so I stopped in at Siskiyou Laser Products at 314 S. Broadway in Yreka. While talking to Jamie, the owner, he showed me a rare find, and a gift **most** have never seen, let alone already own . . . a print of the 1947 Map of the Western Portion of Siskiyou County showing Mines & Mineral Deposits. The bottom left corner shows the mineral names and symbols. The main map shows those symbols numbered and in red where the mine was located. The corresponding numbered list on the right shows the name of the mine. (see mini map above-right)

I couldn't wait to take the map home and show it to Eb, but first stopped off at my friend Mildred's for tea. She could tell I was 'beyond excited' the way I came in the door. I unrolled the map and said, "Look at **this**"!!!!!!! I found Etna on the map and then a red #24. The list showed it as 'Wild & Johnson Chromite deposit'. I barely got the words out and Mildred said, 'Yes, Basil Wild and Carl Johnson. They mostly did logging, but got in to mining along the way.'

When I got home and showed the map to Eb he said he had worked for Basil Wild in logging!

And this great map is 'the gift that just keeps giving' . . . At the Veteran's Day Service at Etna Cemetery I learned that American Legion Post 260 which serves Scott Valley, Salmon River and other outlying areas, is in need of new little flags for gravesites. If you have been to a Veteran's funeral in the valley, you have seen these gentlemen, many WWII and Korean War veterans, who feel their service to Country **did not end** when they were discharged. All these years they have been dedicated to serving their Community.

Jamie and I agreed that he would print this incredible 1947 Mine & Mineral Map and we would sell it as a fund-raiser for American Legion Post 260. The price is a mere \$10 and proceeds will be donated to the 'Flag Fund' of Post 260. I have Maps available here in Etna (467-5815 or email me at etnanews@sisqtel.net) **OR** call Jamie in Yreka at

841-1078 or email: sisqlaser@yahoo.com and make arrangements to pick one up there. Checks should be made payable to American Legion Post 260.

It is our **local** history, it's **supporting** an owner-run business, it **benefits** our Community, it **honours** our **local** Veterans . . . it truly is the gift that keeps on giving. And as Grandma used to say . . . 'If you can't find it **here**, you probably don't need it!' Thanks for continuing to shop locally and have a Merry and Happy Holiday Season! ♦





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On the Road to Subway Cave

by Bob Pasero

Bob writes for the Sacramento Valley Mirror and we will be re-printing some of the fascinating articles from his column: "On the Road - Adventures in the State of Jefferson." Bob is also the State Chaplain for an organization called The Missing in America Project, a Veteran Recovery Program. Please go to www.miap.us for more info.

Depending on one's perspective the State of Jefferson was either A) Scoured by glaciers B) Had an explosive volcanic past, or C) Was submerged beneath a shallow sea. If this were a multiple choice quiz the answer would be, D) All of the above. In the mountains west of Dunsmuir the effects of glacial action are evident at Castle Lake. South west of Redding are the rolling hills near Igo which are the floor of an ancient shallow sea. Here, with a little luck and some digging you might find a fossilized ammonite, an extinct sea creature that resembles a squid living in a snail shell. Finally, from the past and continuing to the present Jefferson has been very active volcanically.

In the distant past Mount Tehama erupted, collapsed then was scoured by glaciers leaving Broke off Mountain and Mount Lassen. The volcanoes of the Cascade Range were giving birth to rich fertile valleys, high mountain meadows and beautiful rugged mountains. The Pacific Plate was slamming into the continental plate at slow speed. The continuing nature of that collision is evident every time an earthquake rocks the west coast.

These geologic forces resulted in vast mineral deposits being forced through fissures to the surface that would one day lead to rich gold deposits in California, and the gold and silver deposits in the Comstock. Today we are heading 20,000 years back in geologic time. One of the little known one day get-aways in the state of Jefferson is a geologic wonder located near Old Station just a quarter of a mile north of the junction of Highways 44 and 89 in the Lassen National Forrest. To reach this volcanic attraction we need to get on the road to Subway Cave.

Subway Cave is an hour and 10 minute drive east of Redding on Highway 44. Heading east from Redding one begins to truly appreciate the volcanic nature of the region. The valley floor is littered with large volcanic stones, remnants of an ancient eruption and reminders of Mother Nature's volatile personality.



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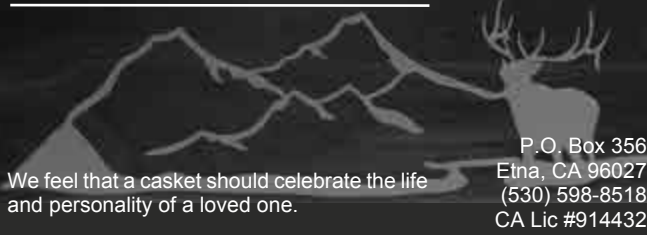
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Discovering The State of Jefferson

by Gail L. Jenner and Monica J. Hall

Follow along with Gail each month and enjoy another new story of the many historical towns and areas found scattered throughout The State of Jefferson.

Gold Discovery and Aftermath in Yreka

The richest and most extensive discovery north of the Trinity range of mountains was found near Yreka, but this site was ignored for several months until a party from Oregon camped at “Yreka Flats,” a popular camping ground between the Shasta and Scott Rivers. Most miners passing through were so intent on getting to the streambeds, they never dreamed that gold lay just below the surface of the ground – literally beneath their feet. But one day in March 1851, Abraham Thompson, did do a little ‘scratching’. “After washing three pans of dirt beside a small ravine, later called Black Gulch, a good prospect of coarse gold was found...He took it to his companions and finding ‘little scales of gold clinging to the roots of the long grass,’ convinced them ‘of the richness of their find.’”

It didn’t take long for Thompson’s Dry Diggings to mushroom into a tent city, first known as Shasta Butte City, then renamed Yreka. Within six months there were 5,009 men vying for thirty foot claims as well as the water that became more valuable than gold.

J. A. Cardwell, an early miner in Yreka, wrote in 1879: “...prospecting was carried on vigorously all that year (1851). Humbug Creek some eight miles from Yreka was struck in the spring and it all was immensely rich and afford room for a great many men to work. I was acquainted with a man by the name of Jones that took out \$95,000 on Humbug that summer.”

Humbug Creek, a tributary to the Klamath, was the site of one of the first quartz veins found in Siskiyou County. In

1852, a few arrastras and a mill were built. Joaquin Miller, who lived at Humbug during the 1850s, described a day in the life of a miner: “Now the smoke from the low chimneys of the log cabins began to rise and curl through the cool, clear air on every hand, and the miners to come out at the low doors; great hairy, bearded, six foot giants, hatless, and half-dressed. They stretched themselves in the sweet, frosty air, shouted to each other in a sort of savage banter, washed their hands and faces in



Miner at the Admiral Dewey Mine. Courtesy Jenner Family Collection.

Discovering The State of Jefferson

Continued from Page 10

the gold-pan that stood by the door, and then entered their cabins again, to partake of the eternal beans and bacon and coffee, and coffee and bacon and beans.”

A short distance away, the community of Yreka took root, beside Yreka Creek, and not far from Greenhorn Creek, which empties into Yreka Creek. T. J. Roach, a correspondent for the San Francisco ALTA CALIFORNIA, wrote (November 10, 1851): “A few weeks ago I visited Shasta Butte City (Yreka). I was much surprised to find such a large town on the very frontiers of California. I counted over two hundred and fifty frame houses up and occupied during a stroll through the streets, and ladies, dressed a la ‘Bloomer’ perambulated the streets, showing a state of civilization quite unparalleled in these wild parts.”

In 1852, Jacob Wagner wrote to his sister and brother back in Iowa: “There are about four or five thousand persons in Shasta Butte City (Yreka) and within ten miles of here, some living in brush houses, others in tents...There are about 30 stores and about the same number of gambling houses and liquor shops. We are about 300 miles from navigation. The provisions we get here are packed 300 miles on mules...At present, flour is 25 cents a pound, beans 20 cents, coffee 50 cents, butter \$1.25, boots from \$8.00 to 16.00 a pair, potatoes 25 cents a pound, liquor 50 cents a drink.”

By 1853, however, prices were soaring. According to Captain Alden from Fort Jones (May 31, 1853) in a letter to his wife, “Everything comes...(to Scott Valley) by pack trains at 20 cents a pound from Shasta City (Redding, CA)... Butter is \$2 a pound, eggs \$3 a dozen, hams \$5 a piece, potatoes \$15 a bushel (by June 6th he was paying \$22 a bushel; by June 9th, \$24 a bushel. And a CAT costs here and at Yreka (16 miles northeast) six dollars, and a hen is \$5.00.” ♦





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Gail Jenner Local Author

Gail is a contributor to NPR's Jefferson Public Radio series, "As It Was: Tales From the State of Jefferson." At left is her newest book, coauthored with Bernita L. Tickner.

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What IS The State of Jefferson ? By Gail Jenner



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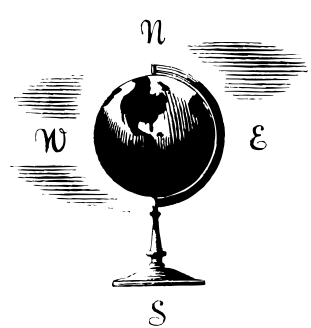
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HISTORY OF YREKA

by Claudia A. East

Join us each month for Claudia East's fascinating historical stories of the town of Yreka, California. Feel free to read and follow Claudia on her blog at: <http://yrekahistory.blogspot.com>. -Editor

The Clarendon Hotel Building

Walking down Miner Street in our National Historic District, one will find a nice sized two story building just past the parking lot area from the corner of Broadway and Miner. This building is known to locals as the "Clarendon Hotel" although it has not served as a hotel building for many years...

The building plans for this structure were announced in the papers by the owner, W. W. Powers in November of 1879. This block area had suffered from two devastating fires, one in 1862, and the "great conflagration" of July 4, 1871 which burned the major portions of the Yreka business district. This property had been vacant since the last fire in 1871.

The original design was planned for a one story building and was to provide for three store fronts along Miner Street. Mr. Powers, however, had the foresight to build the foundation strong enough to support a second story thinking that someday the need might arise. Building continued through 1880 and 1881 and by 1882 the building was complete. The plans had changed and the building now had a second story and 20 rooms. The store fronts were turned into part of the hotel. It was known as the Powers Hotel. It boasted a large sample room for "drummers" (where salesmen could store their cases) equipped with a sleeping area. The building was lighted with gas and water was furnished from the Scheld's city water system. Later a fine dining room and kitchen were added. Mr. and Mrs. Powers operated the hotel until 1888.

In April of 1888 Mr. J. B. Cann and son purchased the Powers Hotel for \$9,050. It was known briefly as the "Commercial Hotel," but soon the name was changed to the Clarendon Hotel. In 1889 fire struck again and in July of that year Mr. Cann reported in the Yreka Journal that the "contract for rebuilding the Clarendon Hotel was awarded to C. B. Gentry. The builders had directions to raise the back walls higher and the kitchen was to be of eight inch thick walls made of brick. The parlor office and reading rooms were designed to be on the first floor and in back of these was a spacious dining room. When the rebuild was completed there was a celebration and grand opening.

Clarendon Hotel c 1900:
 Photo Courtesy of Siskiyou County Museum.



Photo from C. East Collection.
 The Clarendon on the left with the hotel sign circa 1928.



HISTORY OF YREKA

Continued from Page 14

Ten years later, in 1891, the hotel was sold (including all of the furniture and operating equipment) to Mrs. Octavia Julien, widow of N. Julien, a prominent Grenada pioneer. The price was \$11,375. By this time the Clarendon had a very nice observation deck off the second story which also served as a covered walkway for patrons and people walking along the boardwalk below. This deck was often favored during festivities and parades as it afforded a great view. In a description of the Clarendon Hotel in 1891 it was advertised that the rates for a room began at \$1.25. During the ownership by the Juliens, the building went into some remodeling during 1897 and was the first hotel in Yreka to be wired for electricity!

In 1902 the Clarendon was sold to a Peter Mugler of Sisson for \$10,000. Mr. Mugler turned around three years later and the building was sold again to an August Simmert of Yreka. It sold again in 1910 to E. Scott Howard, brother to Siskiyou County's Sheriff, Charles Howard. In 1912 further enhancements were made to the Clarendon, a large addition using concrete blocks was constructed on the south side of the building and on the top floor six bedrooms and four baths were added.

By 1948 the hotel had lost its appeal to the overnight clientele so considerable adjustments were made to the façade. Large plate glass windows were installed and accommodations for merchandise businesses were made on the ground floor. The veranda that once graced the front had long since been removed and the rental of sleeping rooms on the upper floor stopped during the 1960s.

Although we can view the building today and explain that the basic structure has not changed considerably, the façade has. For many years the exterior was brick but one can see today that the upstairs windows appear similar to early photos with the curved archway at the top. The stucco exterior is estimated to have been added during the 1930s or 40s. The building itself was a brick color for most of its life with a simple off white or gray color to the stucco until about 6 years ago or so when the top was painted with a pink and green scheme. ♦



Clarendon Veranda: In the foreground an image of the Clarendon Hotel Veranda at the Fourth of July parade, circa 1910. Photo from C. East collection.



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COS Performing Arts Series

Friday Dec. 2 at 7 pm the COS Concert Band will perform at the Yreka United Methodist Church, 502 N. Fairchild, Yreka.

Friday Dec. 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th at 8pm at the Black Box Studio Theater, the Drama Club Presents: "The Woolgatherer."

Sunday Dec. 4 at 3pm COS Orchestra Concert to be held at the COS Kenneth W. Ford Theater.

Monday Dec. 5 at 7pm COS Orchestra Concert to be held at Yreka's Seventh Day Adventist Church, 346 Payne Lane, Yreka.

Saturday Dec. 10 at 7pm the COS Community Choir and Ladies Chamber Singers Concert at the COS Theater.

Sunday Matinee Dec. 11 at 2pm at the Black Box Studio Theater, the Drama Club Presents: "The Woolgatherer."

Sunday Matinee Dec. 11 at 3pm COS Community Choir and Ladies Chamber Singers Concert at the COS Theater.

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Where to Go - What to See - When to Do It

We invite you to check on every page of this publication for many other Community Classes and Events that are included. Deadline is 25th of the month for upcoming events. Thank You!

Friday Dec. 2 - Fort Jones Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House at the Marble Rim Gallery. After the Tree Lighting, there will be a concert from 6 to 8pm with Local Singer/Song Writer Sara Knox, Travis Alford and Kyle Uwekoolani. Call 530-468-5442 for info.

Friday Dec. 2 Candles in the Canyon & Christmas Tree Lighting Event in Dunsmuir, California from 6pm to 7:30pm. Info 235-2177.

Dec. 2 and 3 - McCloud Olde Fashioned Christmas Tree lighting. Bonfire and marshmallow roast follows. Call 964-3113 for info.

Friday Dec. 2 Yreka Chamber of Commerce Night of Lights in downtown Yreka. Call 842-1649 for more info.

Friday Dec. 2 - 5:30 pm Christmas Tree Lighting. Join us in Happy Camp for our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Happy Camp Chamber and The Outdoor Club. Call 530-493-2900 for info.

Fri-Sat Dec. 2-3 COS Holiday Craft Fair at the COS Gym. Friday Dec. 2 starts at 5 pm and Saturday Dec. 3 starts at 9 am. Call the college for more info about vendors, etc., at 938-5555.

Sat. Dec. 3 Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert in Etna. Etna Volunteer Fire Department benefits. See AD at bottom of Page 17.

Sat. Dec. 3 & Dec. 10- Santa Paws Event. Please see AD on Page 28.

Sat. Dec. 3 - Siskiyou Motorcycle Association Christmas Benefit Fundraiser from 5-11 pm at Sons of Italy Hall, Weed. Entry fee is \$1 or an unwrapped toy for a child of equal or greater value - no stuffed toys. Happy Hour, holiday buffet dinner (addl charge), Chinese Auction, drawing for a 2012 Harley Davidson Dyna Super glide. Info 938-2309.

Saturday Dec. 3 Montague Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Festivities at the Railroad Park - at 6pm.

Saturday Dec. 3 Art Auction and Wine Tasting to be held from 7pm to 9:30pm at the Lake Shastina Golf Resort in Weed. All proceeds go to the Butteville Elementary School. For info call 859-2907.

Sat. Dec. 3 Christmas Tree Lighting - Lake Shastina at the Fire Dept. Includes caroling and visits with Santa. Each Child will receive a gift and framed photo of their Santa Visit. Hot Gogs, burgers and Tom Wetter's award winning chili available for purchase. Info 938-1423.

Saturday Dec. 3 Christmas Dinner in Yreka - Chamber of Commerce Event. Call 842-1649 for more info.

Friday Dec. 9 and Saturday Dec. 10 at 7pm at the Yreka Community Theatre, the Yreka Seventh Day Adventist Church presents "A Spiritual Christmas" - 30th Annual Christmas Concert. Info 842-4536.

Dec. 9th and 10th and 16th and 17th at 7:30pm - The Siskiyou Performing Arts Center is putting on a Musical Performance: "Little Women - A Merry Christmas." Location: The Dunlap Theater, 315 Yreka Street, Yreka. For information please call 842-5442.

Saturday December 3, 2011

Before and After the Etna Christmas Tree Lighting - The Friends Of the Etna Library Are pleased to host An Open House & Book Signing by Local Author and Artist Catherine McElroy.

Check Page 25 for Butte Valley Upcoming Events

Saturday Dec. 10 - Fort Jones Vol Fire Dept Pancake Breakfast starts at 7am. Christmas Parade follows. Then come enjoy the many artists and crafters at the Fort Jones Junior High School's Christmas Craft Fair, sponsored by the Marble Rim Gallery. For info call 530-468-5442.

Saturday December 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Siskiyou County Museum Conference Room. Local Author Gail Jenner will be speaking on "Publishing and Selling Local History, Both Fiction and Non-Fiction." For Info 530-842-3836.

Monday Dec. 12 - Clarence Barger's Big Band will perform music from the 1940s and 1950s at the Yreka Church of the Nazarene Community Center at 415 Evergreen Lane in Yreka. Please call 530-842-2689.

Thursday Dec. 15 - Annual Senior Nutrition Christmas Luncheon at Noon. Music by Evelyn Horner & The Holiday Fiddlers. Door prizes & treats! Call for Reservations at 926-4611.

Dec. 16th and 17th 7:30pm The Siskiyou Performing Arts Center is putting on a Musical Performance: "Little Women - A Merry Christmas" at the Dunlap Theater, 315 Yreka Street, Yreka. For information please call 842-5442.

Sunday Matinee December 18 at 2:30 pm, The Siskiyou Performing Arts Center is putting on a Musical Performance: "Little Women - A Merry Christmas." Dunlap Theater.

Tuesday December 20, 2011 at 6:30 pm Concert in Yreka. Come for a performance by Jacek Mysinski, pianist and Kinga Augustyn, violinist, world class musicians. For info: www.yrekapreservation.org. See AD on Page 25.

Saturday Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Dance 8-10pm at the Yreka Elk's Lodge. "Thunder in the Shade" performing. Open to the public! Door prizes all evening. \$10 at the door includes finger foods and New Year's Trinkets. Call 842-1980 for info.

Saturday Dec 31 - Mt. Shasta Ski Park New Year's Eve Celebration 4 to 7pm at the Ski Park. See AD on Page 24.

Scott Valley Community Lunch Program

Starts at Noon - Open to All Scott Valley Residents and Visitors

Mondays:	Valley Oaks Senior Center 7300 Quartz Valley Road Greenview (530) 468-2120
Tuesdays & Fridays	Etna United Methodist Church 137 Duggles Street Etna (530) 467-3612
Wednesdays:	S.V. Family Resource Center 11920 Main Street Fort Jones (530) 468-2450
Thursdays:	Scott Valley Berean Church 134 Church Street Etna (530) 467-3715

SCOTT VALLEY THEATRE CO. Entertainment Schedule

Saturday Dec. 3 early evening

Christmas Concert Fund Raiser for the Etna Volunteer Fire Department will start directly after the Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration in Etna.

Thursday Dec. 8 at 7pm

Clarence Barger Big Band Concert. Bring your favorite Seniors over the mountain to enjoy this AMAZING Performance!

Sunday Dec. 11 at 5pm

"Afternoon with The Authors" - A group of amazing local published authors will discuss writing and will read from their books. For information, please call 530-598-9157.

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Saturday December 3, 2011

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Sand Hills Christmas

Story by Ron McCloud

There had been very little snow and my dad didn't have to worry about driving his brand new 1949 Pontiac the eighty miles or so to spend Christmas day at my Uncle Loran's farm. The roads were clear and the weather was crisp and cold. By the time we arrived at the farm, my grandparents and my dad's other brothers and sisters and their families were already there. After unloading the car, dad joined the men-folk gathered in the large living room to catch up on family news. Mom joined the women-folk assembled in the kitchen to chat and work on preparing the Christmas dinner. The youngest kids were underfoot throughout the house and I joined my older cousins (if 8 to 10 year olds are considered older) outside to engage in a discussion of what we got for Christmas.

During that warm part of the day – the early afternoon – I wandered around the farm with those cousins close to my age – Bill, Karen, Sandy, Tom, Sonny and Smokey. Then the call came. Dinner was ready. We ran back to the house and followed directions. Wipe your feet. Don't throw your coat on the floor. Wash your hands. Tuck in your shirt-tail.

Adults got the prime seating at the big round table expanded with its leaves to make room. Kids were directed to sit at one of the three card tables that had been set for us. My grandmother said the blessing. Dinner was typical of those family gatherings – lots and lots of wonderful home-cooked food.

After dinner the men-folk again settled in the living room, women-folk cleaned up in the kitchen, younger kids went back to being underfoot and we older ones went outside again until the cold and dark finally drove us back in. When the dishes were done, my mom, aunts and grandmother joined with my dad, grandfather and uncles in the living room. And that's when a beautiful thing happened.

They sang. Instruments came out – Aunt Mary Lou's guitar, my dad's fiddle, and my grandfather's banjo/mandolin (which I now have and treasure). They sang Christmas songs – urging the kids to join in – and they sang songs that were popular at that time, and they sang old favorite hymns and ballads. I remember "Goodnight Irene", "Beautiful Brown Eyes", "Amazing Grace", "Just as I Am", and others that have slipped from my memory.

As the evening went on, the younger kids – most of whom were sprawled on the floor around the room – dropped off to sleep one by one. We "older" ones fought to stay awake and listen. I finally lost the battle and don't even remember being bundled up and carried to the car by my dad. I just remember waking up as the car pulled into our driveway at home.

I don't remember what I got for Christmas that year. I don't remember exactly what we ate at that

Christmas dinner. But I do remember the warmth of the family. And I remember the singing. I treasure that Christmas memory, and I wish you and your family a memorable Christmas. ♦



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See AD at the top of this page for contact information.*



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“Food That’s Gold”

By Chef Caroline White Brask from Siskiyou Harvest

The stories that go with the Manger Herbs are old and filled with the charm of the season. Rosemary is the symbol of remembrance and is the chief herb of the Christmas season. All rosemary, according to legend, bore pure white flowers until the shrub offered shelter to the Holy Family during their flight into Egypt. Exhausted and dirty, the family took refuge in a thick strand of rosemary. They spent the night and day on the bank of a brook resting, washing and laundering. Mary, after a good sleep, washed the baby’s swaddling clothes and her own cloak in the brook. She spread the wash to dry on the thick, soft, fragrant branches of the flowering rosemary. When the garments were removed, the white flowers had changed to the soft blue of Mary’s mantle. They remain so even today. They will be in full bloom here in Siskiyou County soon and will signal the arrival of Advent.

The following recipe is a delightful skewer that can be served hot or they can be made up the day before and served cold. The main trick is getting sturdy fresh rosemary branches for skewers and taking off all of the leaves except for a few at each of the tops. You can thread these skewers with an assortment of meats and vegetables. Be sure to make a hole in each piece of meat or veggie with a bamboo skewer to make sliding the food onto the rosemary skewer easier.



“Rosemary Holiday Skewers”

Ingredients:

- 1 Golden Pineapple cut into 1 inch square chunks
- 1 Red Onion cut into wedges so you can thread the onion chunks easy
- 1 Red Pepper cut into good size chunks
- 1 Green Zucchini cut into good size chunks
- 1 large Chicken Breast cut into about 9 even chunks and seasoned to taste

These ingredients will thread about three 10 inch rosemary skewers. I chose these vegetables because this is what my family likes but you can use anything on these skewers and it will turn out great. Remember the natural sugar in the pineapple is the key ingredient to making the chicken and the veggies taste so good! When all the prep work has been done, begin threading the branches using alternate colors. When all the branches have been threaded put what’s left on bamboo skewers.

Light up the BBQ grill, brush the grates with oil, set on medium heat and lay on the colorful skewers.

If the tips seem a bit dry fold a piece of aluminum foil in half and half again and lay the tip of the branches on the foil. That way they won’t catch on fire. Turn carefully about three times until the meat is done and the veggies are edged in brown.

When serving these as an appetizer for a party save the top of the pineapple and use it to press in and hold the cold skewers.


This makes a colorful centerpiece along with a few cherry tomatoes stuck on skewers here and there to give the look of a “little tree.” Happy Holidays! ♦



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On the Road to Subway Cave

Continued from Page 8



Subway Cave - Photo Courtesy of Bob Pasero

Ranchers and farmers have, for years, collected and used the volcanic stones to construct fencing and property markers many of which are still standing. Some of the pyroclastic bombs in the fields alongside Highway 44 are as large as a car. The explosive power required to propel stones of this size miles through the air is staggering. The entire northeast region of Shasta County is the result of these geologic forces.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 years ago magma worked its way to the surface from deep fissures in the earth's crust. These cracks run roughly north to south. The large volume of lava extruded here is called the Hat Creek flow. This lava flow was a river of molten rock located near the present community of Old Station. The thick lava worked its way north for 16 miles covering the Hat Creek Valley. As the top crust of the lava cooled it hardened. The molten lava inside was protected and insulated by the hardened upper crust and continued to flow beneath the surface. As the lava flow diminished it left tubes, or tunnels, beneath the hardened crust. Subway Cave is the largest accessible lava tube in the area created by that long ago lava flow.

On a recent visit my family and I wondered why there were no petroglyphs or pictographs in the cave as there are in similar caves in the Lava Beds National Monument a few miles north. We theorized that perhaps the local Native Americans had not discovered the cave. That thought was put to rest while researching Subway Cave. Historically the region was inhabited by the Atsugewi, more commonly known as the "Hat Creek Indian Nation." Research indicated that the Atsugewi knew of the cave but avoided it believing that it was the dwelling place of an evil spirit.

Subway cave is 1,300 feet long with a one third mile self guided trail. The cave is open to the public from late spring through early autumn. The actual opening dates are dictated by the regional weather. It usually opens in late May and closes by the end of October. There is no ambient light in the cave so a powerful dependable flashlight will be a necessity. My recommendation is quartz or incandescent flashlight. The inexpensive (\$3.00 to \$5.00) LED flashlights do not produce sufficient light for spelunking and the light from them is not a strong penetrating light.

The self guided trail begins immediately with placards posted throughout the cave complex. There are a couple of words of caution when visiting the Subway Cave. The ceiling height ranges from a low of 6 feet to a high of 17 feet. Taller individuals will need to be conscious of the lower ceiling heights. Wear a jacket or sweatshirt. In the summer when it is 100 degrees outside that may sound silly. However, the temperature inside the cave remains a constant 49 degrees. Remember too that this is a lava tube cave.



Continued on Page 23



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On the Road to Subway Cave

Continued from Page 22



Entrance to Subway Cave - Photo Courtesy of Bob Pasero

The walls are oddly quite smooth but the floor tends to be uneven and rough. Just after entering the cave at the “Devil’s Doorway” you will enter an area appropriately named, “Stubtoe Hall.” Watch your footing it is easy to misstep throughout the cave and an injury in a cave with no light source is, at best, frightening. Progressing into the cave you enter the “Wind tunnel,” a narrow, relatively straight portion of the lava tube that bends slightly to the right. Approximately half way through the Wind Tunnel you will encounter “Lucifer’s Cul-de’sac” on the left, then a large expansive area that has been named “The Sanctum.” The Sanctum is a large, open, high ceilinged room approximately two thirds of the way through the cave. You will next encounter the “Lavacicle Lane” and a partial collapse. The collapsed area of the roof is a strong reminder of how this cave and others like it were formed and how access to them is made possible. The final area is called the “Rattlesnake Collapse” and exposed “Lava Bubbles” in the floor near the exit.

The short hike through the Subway Cave is a great one day getaway and it is family friendly. But there is more to this region than simply walking through the Subway Cave. For a weekend adventure the area is well appointed with campgrounds, fishing in Hat Creek and hiking. Across the highway from the Subway cave is the Cave Campground featuring 16 year round sites and 46 sites in total (no hookups) from \$10-\$16 per night depending on season. There are restroom facilities and during the summer potable water is available in the campground. Each campsite is equipped with a table, fire ring and barbecue. A weekend stay will allow the opportunity to take the 7 mile “Hat Creek Rim and Subway Cave” trail. This is a wonderful trail that affords a moderate hiking experience that both children and adults can enjoy.

Photographing caves in total darkness can be a bit tricky. The flash units on most over the counter cameras will offer sufficient lighting for basic photography. However, to get well lit photos of an area as large as the “Sanctum” in Subway Cave you may want to expand your photographic skills. Obtain a camera that allows for longer exposures, a tripod and a strong flashlight. Set the exposure to a long exposure time. Stop down the aperture as much as you need and open the shutter. Once the shutter is open use your flashlight to light the interior of the cave using the flashlight as a paint brush to illuminate the entire scene. This is called painting with light. With digital cameras you can view your photo immediately, make any necessary adjustments and repeat the process until you are satisfied with your photograph. If there is something particularly interesting that you want to highlight, you can linger over that area a bit longer with your flashlight, to give it more exposure.

Whether you go for a one day get away or a weekend trip it doesn’t get much better than being on the road to Subway Cave. ♦



Exiting Subway Cave. Photo Courtesy of Bob Pasero



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Ken Joling & Earl Joling

Florence is remembered by her family as being an artist who won awards with her paintings. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She had a baby grand piano in her home which she played to entertain her family, friends and neighborhood children. Her garden was known for its dogwoods, camellias and roses.

Florence was living in Dunsmuir when a massive destructive mudslide swept across the town in 1902. She was here when the terrible fires of 1903 and 1924 nearly destroyed the town. She lived in Dunsmuir during World War One and World War Two and the great depression of the 1930s. Her husband died in 1945 but Florence stayed on in Dunsmuir. In her later years she was affectionately known by her family as "Grammie." She passed away at her home on Rose Avenue on October 18, 1965. She was eighty-eight years old.

So the naming of the principal street of Dunsmuir was not a dramatic event. Florence didn't perform some heroic act that she was honored for. She didn't win a contest to have a street named for her. There was no grand dedication ceremony. It was simply a father's love for his daughter and his wish to preserve her memory. And she is remembered. As I drove home from the cemetery and passed the street sign that says "Florence Loop" – I smiled and thought of the pretty girl in the pictures taken over 100 years ago.

Ron McCloud is co-author with Deborah Harton of A History of the Town of Dunsmuir published by the Arcadia Publishing Company in 2010. ♦



Florence signed the back of this photo "Maude Branstetter" and dated it June of 1897. She was nineteen years old and as the only daughter of a successful Dunsmuir merchant she posed in a fashionable dress that would fit in Sacramento or San Francisco. The unique three-legged chair gives her serious pose a whimsical mood. Photo courtesy of Ron McCloud.

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BUTTE VALLEY HAPPENINGS

Butte Valley Resource Center is having A Holiday Soup Social

Date: Mon. Dec. 5, 2011 at 11 am
 Location: 232 S. Oregon Street, Dorris
 Phone: (530) 397-2273



Merry Christmas!

Free Chili Feed and Candlelight Vigil Honoring our Veterans

Date: Wed. Dec. 7, 2011 at 6 pm
 Location: Dorris City Hall
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Senior Bingo and Lunch at Butte Valley Resource Center

Date: Fri. Dec. 9, 2011 at 1 pm
 Location: 232 S. Oregon Street, Dorris
 Phone: (530) 397-2273



Butte Valley Christmas Pageant and Dinner

Date: Fri. Dec. 9, 2011 at 6 pm
 Location: Butte Valley Lions Club and Community Center
 Phone: (530) 397-5466



Butte Valley Christmas Parade

Date: Sun. Dec. 11, 2011 at 5 pm
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by Ralph Fain

Backroads Winter Wonderland

"Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat."

- Author Unknown

Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is around the corner. Now is the time for getting out and partaking in the myriad of winter recreational activities throughout Siskiyou County. Regardless of your favorite way to play in the snow, you will find it in our neck of the woods.

A couple of places come quickly to mind if you are looking for snow. The obvious are Mt. Shasta and Mt. Ashland with their traditionally heavy snowfall and ski parks. Snowman summit between the city of Mount Shasta and McCloud has a great place to sled on the south side of highway 89. On the Everitt Memorial Highway approximately 12 miles out of Mount Shasta is the Bunny Flat and Sand Flat parking area with 3 miles of marked cross country trails and unlimited backcountry access. The Mt. Shasta Avalanche Center is an excellent source for current climbing conditions and avalanche advisories, www.shastaavalanche.org or you can contact the Mt. Shasta Ranger Station (530) 926-4511. Callahan Summit and Etna Summit will have snow accumulations measured in feet with great access for cross country skiers and snow shoe enthusiasts. Follow the folks from Otter Bar Lodge www.otterbar.com on Facebook to keep updated with conditions and photos from Callahan summit.

Those who like to snowmobile will find Deer Mountain (located southeast of Yreka, northeast of Weed), Four Corners (located south of Macdoel) and Pilgrim Creek (located east of McCloud) Snowmobile Parks the perfect winter trailheads. Known as the *Tri-Forest Snowmobile Trail System* due to the trails passing through the Klamath, Shasta/Trinity and Modoc National Forests, these snow parks are within a day's travel of each other. They access approximately 260 miles of signed snowmobile trails. Each park offers plowed roads and parking areas, warming huts, restrooms, loading ramps, picnic tables, fire grills and garbage service. All trails are shared with cross country skiers and those who snowshoe. Found on the Klamath



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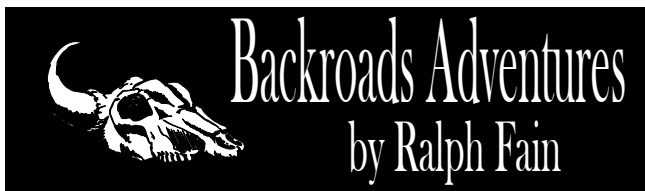
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Continued from Page 26

National Forest website, www.fs.usda.gov/klamath the *Tri-Forest Snowmobile Trail Conditions Report* is updated every week or as trails are groomed. Check conditions before you go! If you want to rent a snowmobile or a snowmobile and guide, contact The Fun Factory (530) 926-5387 or contact funfactory@snowcrest.net for reservations. Check out their website at www.snowmobileshasta.com.

Mt. Ashland Ski Park is located on the west side of I-5 on the Siskiyou summit north of Yreka. The base elevation is 6,350 ft. with a summit elevation of 7,500 ft. giving you a vertical drop of 1,150 Ft. There are 200 Acres of skiable terrain with 40 acres of twilight skiing. Mt. Ashland offers 2 runs, the longest, of which, is 1 mile, plus open bowl skiing. With an average annual snowfall of 285 inches and an average winter daytime temperature of 25 degrees F skiing is great! The ski slopes are comprised of 5% Beginner/Novice - 20% Lower Intermediate - 25% Upper Intermediate and 50% for advanced skiers. Mt. Ashland is open from 9am to 4pm with Twilight Skiing from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on specified days. Be sure to check their schedule for exact days. Mt. Ashland is tentatively scheduled to open early December weather permitting. The operations calendar includes 94 skiing days and 20 night skiing opportunities. The season will end on April 15. Visit their website at www.mtashland.com

THE mountain of snow in Siskiyou County is Mt. Shasta! Rising to 14,179 ft. this volcano captures every storm that passes through the State of Jefferson, wresting snow from the sky before allowing the storms to pass.

Taking full advantage of the bounty and to the benefit of all who love snow is Mt. Shasta Ski Park. Entering their 26th year of operation, the ski park is going strong, providing enjoyment and employment to the surrounding communities.



View of Our Mountain from Grenada by MFain

Mt. Shasta Ski Park has 425 acres of skiable terrain including 20% beginner, 55% intermediate and 25% advanced runs. The longest run is 1.75 miles. The vertical drop from the ski park summit to its base is 1,390 ft. With 32 trails, 3 triple chairs, 1 rope tow lift, 1 conveyor lift and a Super Half pipe 300 ft. long there is something for everyone! Night skiing occurs on 14 trails and 3 lifts. They offer three terrain parks one each for beginner, intermediate & advanced. Mt. Shasta Ski Park enjoys an average of 275 inches of annual snowfall. Cross country skiers can enjoy 30 kilometers of nearby trails which wind through forest and meadow providing incredible panoramas when the weather is clear.

Tentative opening day is in mid December weather permitting and running through April 2012. Thursday through Saturday they will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday through Wednesday they will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit their website at www.skipark.com.

Keep your fingers crossed for lots of snow this winter! Big snows mean big spring runoffs with lots of water for those of us who partake in the whitewater adventures on our rivers!

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." - Edith Sitwell ★

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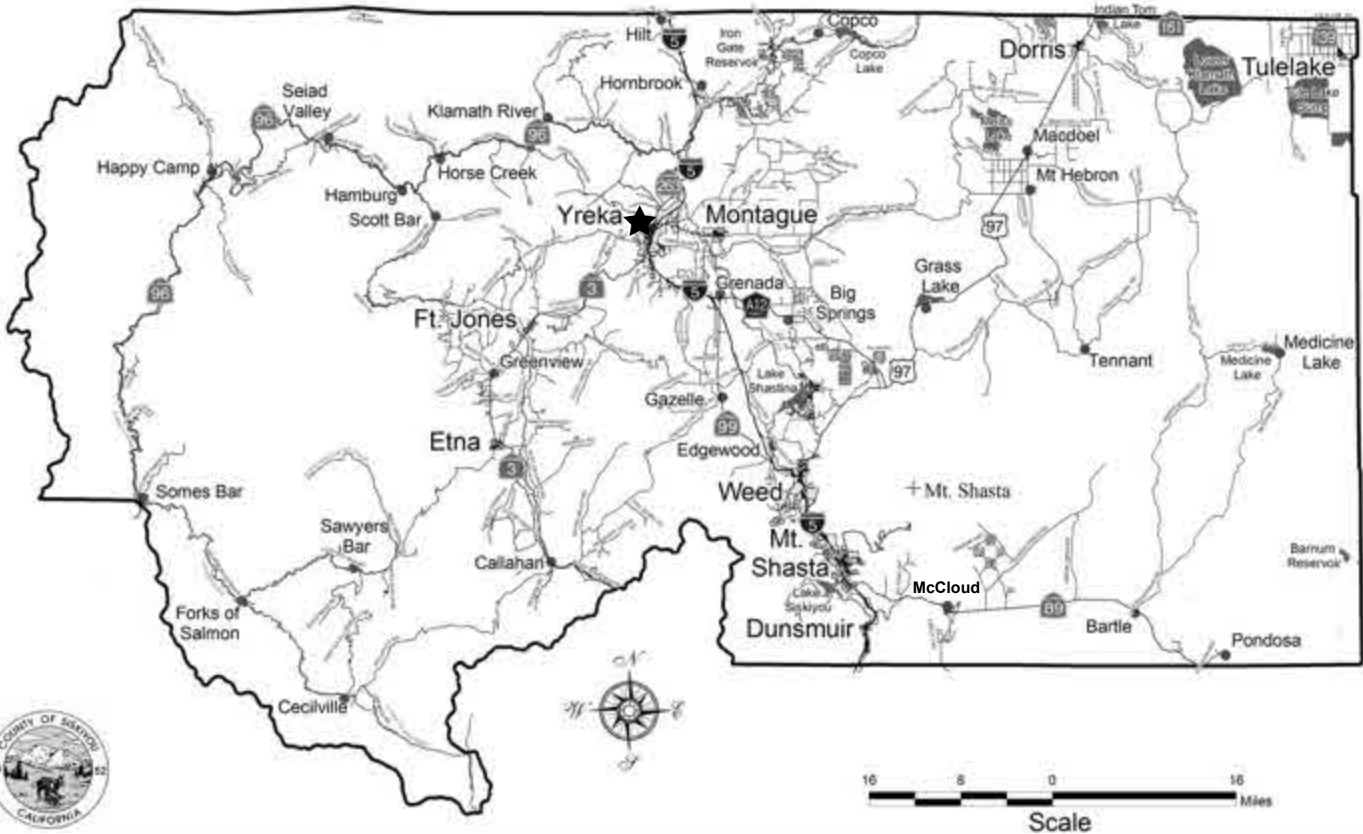
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Siskiyou Sled Dog Races 2012



Siskiyou Snow Dog 2011/2012 Winter Events.

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Free Kids Dogsled Rides Day, to be held this December 17th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take Hwy 89 East to McCloud from Mt. Shasta. Turn left onto Ski Park Hwy. Dogsled rides will be at the Dogsled Express area between the Nordic Center and Mt. Shasta Ski Park. Rides are first come first served. A parent or guardian must be willing to sign the release form, no exceptions. This event is made possible by Dogsled Express Winter Sled Dog Tours and the Yreka Kiwanis Club.

ALSO: mark your calendar for the **Siskiyou Sled Dog Races** scheduled for February 11th & 12th, 2012. This year they will be held at Deer Mountain Chuck Best Snowmobile Park off Hwy 97, just north of Weed. Mushers and their dog teams arrive from around the continent to compete in two days of exciting sprint and mid-distance races. Musher demonstrations and kids activities will be held each day. Hot food, beverages and snacks by the Lake Shastina / Weed Kiwanis Club. Show your support for the SSDSA with a purchase of 2012 Race T-Shirts or Snow Dog Knit hats. Free Parking.

For more info on the SSDSA, their 2011/12 winter events, and where to purchase race merchandise, visit siskiyousleddograces.com or call 530-926-3641, or 530-598-0466. Check out the picture galleries of past events.

Siskiyou Sled Dog Races and Free Kids Rides Day are projects of the SSDSA, a federally recognized non-profit organization. The races are held under a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service on a non-discriminatory basis. ♦

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Thank you so very much for allowing us to serve you.

Editor	Michelle Fain	
Feature Writers	Ralph Fain	Gail L. Jenner
	Claudia East	Robert Pasero
	Ron McCloud	Caroline Brask
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- Our first monthly issue was published in April 2010.
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