

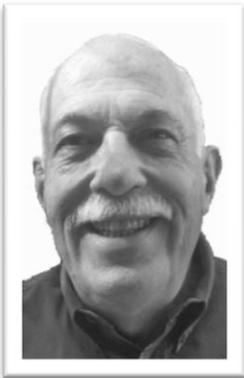


The Ore Car



Fall 2016 Newsletter of the Plumas-Eureka State Park Association

Tim Hardie - PESPA Chair



That's a Wrap!

The 2016 season began and ended with volunteers/docents enthusiastically giving their time and skills to further the Plumas-Eureka story to our visitors. discovering nature's serenity, mining history, or surveying our historical zones to explain the facts of this place and how it was done.

January-April...Ken McMaster, winter-crew and Mother Nature; constructed 15 km of skiing/snowshoe trails through the Park to provide a beautiful winter experience to a record number of visitors. These visitors donated \$5 per visit or \$35 for a season pass to defray PESPA's expenses for this unique "Winter Park". Thanks to all who gave their time, great work sharing the phenomenal winter trails of 2016 in the "Lost Sierra".

April-May....Bruce MacGregor put TEN YEARS research into "Plumas Eureka on Glass", a cultural history of the Plumas Eureka Mine into PESPA's tool box and expand our knowledge of this area's history providing a central theme to docents. Plumas County Historian Scott Lawson noted "this book is the most interesting book about Plumas County Mining History EVER!" <http://www.plumas-eureka.org>

May-September....Jane Roix's retail operation at the Museum surpassed the Directors' dreams of success...WOW, and thanks to all the Volunteers who kept the doors open 7 days/week for 18 weeks.

Thanks to our docents who participated in staffing the tours/demos all summer at the Assay Office, Black Smith Shop, Moriarty House, candle making, owl investigation and hikes to explore PESPA.

Partners and programs this season - 30 folks started annual clean-up, raking, oiling, polishing, washing, new register at the store, new bench placed at the trail head for Jamison Mine (thanks Matt W). School visits - 4th, 5th and 6th graders from Quincy, Portola, Grass Valley, and Paradise, 200 + kids and adults, day visits and overnights. Sonoma State and DPR provided a peek into Archeological past at Jamison Campground.

July - August - New laptop for Interpretive Ranger programs at campground (thanks Tim B). GDD's community celebration with Portola Rotary and Graeagle Lions providing the food and local merchants supporting the auctions to a successful event. Thanks to all including Docents/Volunteers/Rangers/Staff who manned the Stations for two days. Steve Hale who provided "Dinner at the Park" patrons with an eye opening performance of Stephen Mather...THANKS to all of you in supporting these endeavors. Again, 3000+ volunteer hours at PESPA for the third year in a row in supporting Plumas Eureka State Park. <http://www.plumas-eureka.org>

Tim Quandt - Ranger



A Great Year at Plumas Eureka State Park

The 2016 season has been a good one! From early on, when we finally received the first ‘real’ winter in recent years...though maybe not as heavy as some in years past, the snowfall began in the early fall of ‘15 and continued well into spring. This snowpack helped the watershed with runoff from snow-melt that kept Jamison Creek nice and healthy until late summer, before levels started to lower. However, even now, in early October, the stream is still flowing well and waiting on its winter bump to begin rising again. This was the first year in the past three seasons that I’ve been here, that the Johnsville Ski Club was able to host its annual Longboard Races...and it was able to host 3 events through the course of January to March.

This year also saw a rise in attendance at the park, both for day visitors and that of campers. I saw many returning faces and families that I’ve been getting to know in my time here, as well as many new to the park. All newbies ‘fell in love’ with our prized gem of a park, as I told them that they would, and rest assured, I certainly swore them to secrecy before they returned home.

Seasonal Interpretive Specialist, Patrick O’Reilly was back again, leading hikes, campfire programs and Jr. Ranger activities, as were Cindy Johnson and Kathy Osher, my seasonal right hands, working in the contact station at the museum, registering campers and providing information to the public. PESPA was a great partner at the park, as they always are...our docents interpreting the various park venues and operating the information counter and book/gift store, which I believe did outstanding business this season under the leadership of Jane Roix.

PESPA also got into the publishing business this year with the production of Plumas-Eureka On Glass by Bruce MacGregor. It’s a beautiful book, marvelously illustrated and details the history of the Plumas-Eureka Mine and the surrounding area as no book ever has before. If you haven’t procured a copy for yourself yet, let me encourage you to do so...you won’t be disappointed.

The summer also brought our regularly scheduled annual events back for everyone to enjoy. Whether you attended Gold Discovery Days, the Graeagle 4th of July Parade or PESPA’s Dinner in the Park...or all three, Plumas-Eureka State Park was represented well and all events were outstanding occasions to have fun and recognize the wonderful state park that we have up here in the Lost Sierra.

As we head into the fall/winter season, we’re gearing up for our winter programs. We’ve already had an early snowfall on October 2 (a month early than last year for first snow)...resulting in a couple of inches of white stuff – mostly gone now, but a promising start for our winter sports programs of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. I hope folks from outside the local area are able to come up and experience the park in the wintertime...it is truly a different and beautiful experience!

Cliff Romig - Director

The Assay Office, a Work in Progress

The Assay Office continues to be a work in progress. Expansion plans involve using the four available rooms in the back to house a rock collection, Mine Manager's office, and an adit diorama in which visitors can observe miners working, an ore car and an audio with sound effects of banging pipes, water dripping and drilling. Constructing the diorama awaits ADA compliance.

Putting together a miner's bunk house room is another possibility when we get permission to empty the fourth room of all the undocumented items that are stored there.

Things we are looking for next year:

More docents to enhance our limited staffing.

Rock Collection: We have a rock exhibit in the main Museum but when you walk into the Assay office the topic of discussion is ROCKS! How much gold is contained in these rocks? We are looking for rocks with character that are found locally and are associated with precious metals. Dick Short, a local Geological Engineer, generously donated a portion of his rock collection to PESPA but we are looking for larger rocks with unique crystals, color or shapes. If you find or have such rocks in or around your home we would be more than happy to display them in our Assay Office to share with our visitors.

Interested Assay Office Volunteers Contact: Cliff Romig (530)836-4406 or Curt Clarkson (530)836-0564.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Like us on Facebook or Online PESPA website: <http://www.plumas-eureka.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/Plumas-Eureka-State-Park-association-603967666318465/>

Testimony Of A First Year PESPA Volunteer

By: Nancy Degger, Volunteer

I always knew that once I sold my business in downtown Graeagle I wanted to volunteer in some respect at the Plumas-Eureka State Park. I am only sorry I waited so long to jump in as this experience has been both rewarding and amazing. I mostly enjoy all the volunteers who find such joy and commitment and sharing all their insights with our visitors. I have never experienced such a talented, positive and energetic group of folks ready to help in so many ways. In May when I aided Jane in setting up our new point of sale system I was so worried the volunteers would not be accepting to something new and a bit different, but most were so gracious and some very grateful for this new and simplified system. It thrilled me to listen to the comments of many volunteers who just jumped right in and took on the new challenge. Wow... thanks for being such awesome folks! And of course working with Jane is a delight in itself.

Being quite new to this position, I had a challenging but amazing time helping with Gold Discovery Days. Again discovering how it really does take a "village of dedicated volunteers" to hold such an enormous and successful event. Thanks to you all for sharing your talent, time and energy.

I was more than delighted to apprentice in the Blacksmith Shop under the amazing Lonnie! Watching him work was only second to watching the crowds admire his talent and interpretive skills. I had the opportunity to learn some brand new skills and I even made a few of my own creations. My absolute favorite was talking with the visitors and honing my own new interpretive skills. (And of course getting good and dirty!)

If you are standing on the sidelines and just thinking about volunteering, take the plunge and jump in. You will meet some fun folks, both volunteers and visitors. You can do as much or as little as you wish and you will find such satisfaction in this endeavor. Don't forget about the cross-country skiing this winter. We ventured out numerous times last season and so enjoyed the groomed trails and the experience of seeing this beautiful area in the snow. It's an experience you will not forget. Kudos to all our winter volunteers as well.

2016 Archaeology Project at PESPA By: Denise Jaffke, Archaeologist

Last July we had the unique opportunity to revisit a part of Plumas Eureka's history that can only be told through archaeology. In 2011, we discovered a relatively dense deposit of historic artifacts in the Upper Jamison Creek Campground. We speculated that the deposit was associated with the Rough and Ready mining operation since a mineral survey plat map (1871) depicted an "Old Mill" (Figure 1) near the present day campground. At the time, we didn't have enough information to properly interpret the deposit. With financial assistance from Parks' Cultural Resources Division and field assistance from PESPA, we were able to investigate the domestic aspects of this small, short-lived mining community, while at the same time, providing campers and park visitors an opportunity to experience a "live" archaeological excavation.

The mining claim of the "Rough and Ready" was situated on the southeast side of Gold Mountain, about a half mile from the Washington company claim. The forty member company was one of the first organized groups working the new discovery on the mountain. They were obviously optimistic about their venture, wasting no time in developing the mine, building a twelve-stamp mill downslope and a railway to connect the two locations. After only a few years, the operation was suspended in 1854, resumed for a short time, and finally abandoned in 1858 (Jackson 1960).



A newspaper reporter from Daily Alta California commented about the Rough and Ready, "The locators entered into the wildest and most extravagant expenditure-sawmill, twelve-stamp quartz mill, hotel, numerous houses, a railroad from the ledge to the mill-room, built, I am informed, at an expense of \$200,000. Want of knowledge prevented successful working of the mine, and the result was bankruptcy and abandonment. All the portable fixtures about the mine and houses were packed off years ago. The mills and the houses rotted down, and "lay" as a monument to the folly of the builders" (July 12, 1867). Indeed, what remains today is the archaeology and the only means we have to explore the history of this short-lived enterprise. We can begin to piece together the story of their lives through careful recovery and analyses of the material culture that remains.

About 1800 items were recovered from 12 Shovel Test Probes (small exploratory holes) and 3 Controlled Excavation Units (1 x 1 meter square units). Of all the artifacts recovered, 1119 represent domestic activities associated with the mining community of the Rough and Ready company. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the 2011 and 2016 excavations are consistent with the 1850s era. A few tableware items had the C. and W. K. Harvey manufacturer's mark which dates from 1835-1853, and the shell edge ceramics are solidly 1850s. Aside from the typical items we usually find in these deposits (e.g., bottle fragments, ceramic sherds, nails), we recovered an adjustable pour spout of a gun powder flask, buck shot, smoking pipe bowls and stems, and numerous shoe fragments. A ceramic marble speaks to the possible inclusion of children at the mining camp. All the animal bone from the site represent medium to large mammals. Fish or bird did not appear in the assemblage. The large mammal fragments are likely cow while the medium sized animals are pig and sheep. We were somewhat surprised in these finding since we expected, at least some representation of wild animals in the groups' diet. In conclusion, the archaeological deposit represents a domestic refuse pit from a Rough and Ready miner household...a gold mine for any respectable archaeologist.

It was a rewarding experience for all in attendance and special thanks go to Mike Cook, Archaeologist University of Nevada, Reno, Judith Martin and Rick Martinez of PESPA. Thanks to all who came by the excavation and shared their knowledge and enthusiasm.

PESPA Board Members And Docents Visit State Parks Archives

And so can you!!! By: Lyn Nafzgar

In November of 2015 a group of PESPA board members and docents traveled to Sacramento to visit the California State Parks archives. The Archives is a clearinghouse for studies, surveys, bibliographies, reports, plans, and other records created by Parks staff which have enduring value. Materials collected pertain to the growth and development of the State Park System as a whole, as well as to individual park units. Finding aids developed to assist researchers in locating materials include internal and external electronic databases and documents, registers and guides hosted by the Online Archive of California, the Photographic Archives, and selected artifact records cataloged in the Statewide Museum Records System.

The archives are located on the west side of the former McClellan AFB, the warehouse was originally constructed for Air Force material and supply storage purposes. The thermal mass of concrete military warehouses provides the infrastructure for a self-regulating passive environmental system that reduces energy consumption while extending the life of State Parks historic and cultural collections. With the capacity for future growth in an environmentally sustainable facility, enhanced climate and humidity controls ensure long-term preservation of the historic collections. With 12 linear miles of shelving and 3.5 miles of pallet racking, the recently renovated building provides 160,000 square feet of space dedicated to museum collections care. The new facility ensures that our irreplaceable cultural heritage will be preserved for the education, enjoyment, and inspiration of present and future generations.



The Archives are open for public visits!

California State Parks, Statewide Museum Collections Center (SMCC), 4940 Lang Avenue, McClellan, CA 95652

Lobby Phone #: 916-263-0805 Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=789

Lobby Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm -4:00pm

For additional information you can email SMCC at the following addresses:

SMCC.Tours@parks.ca.gov (tour information, book tours)

SMCC.Research@parks.ca.gov (questions about objects or collections, research appointments)

SMCC.Info@parks.ca.gov (general questions about the building & collections)

PESPA Board of Directors for 2016-17

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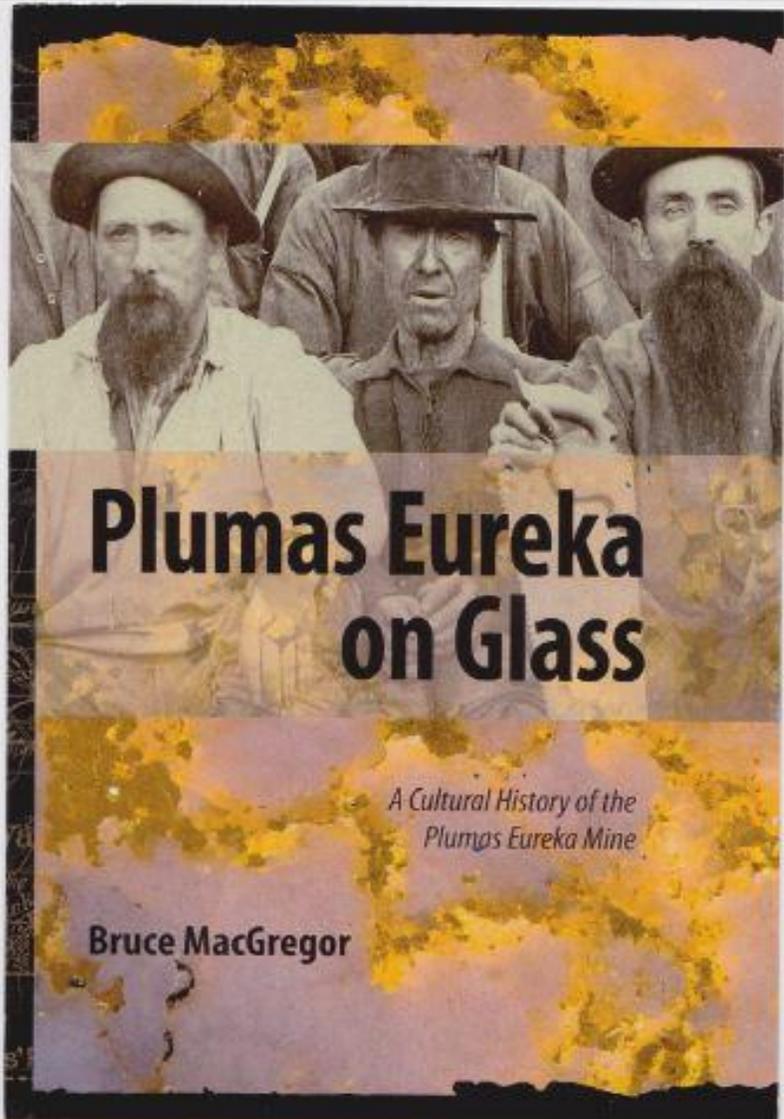
PLUMAS EUREKA ON GLASS, a gift for the history buffs on your list: supporting PESPA.

Scott Lawson "director Plumas County Museum" states "this is the best rendition of Plumas County mining History ever."

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PLUMAS EUREKA ON GLASS

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE
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BRUCE MACGREGOR

The first comprehensive history of the famous Plumas Eureka Mine, this book explores the rise and fall of the fourth-largest hardrock gold mine in California, and the diverse communities that supported it. Painstakingly researched in the business papers of the mine and richly illustrated with period photographs, *Plumas Eureka on Glass* takes its title from both nineteenth-century glass plate photography and from the darkened window through which we must view the history of the mine, over a hundred years later.

296 pages; available in both hardbound (color) and softbound (black & white) editions directly from the Plumas-Eureka State Park Association. Please contact PESPA at:

email: PESPABLAIRSDEN@GMAIL.COM

WEB: HTTP://WWW.PLUMAS-EUREKA.ORG

FROM:

PLUMAS-EUREKA
STATE PARK ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1148
BLAIRSDEN, CA 96103

TO:



PLUMAS-EUREKA STATE PARK ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your PESPA membership for 2016. Please fill out the form below and send along with your tax-deductible check!

PESPA is dedicated to supporting interpretation and education at Plumas-Eureka State Park and your continued support through memberships and donations also helps in the efforts to keep the park open.

Plumas-Eureka State Park Association Membership Form

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You will receive correspondence and newsletters electronically if you provide your email address.

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Membership type:

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- Annual Business Membership (\$50)

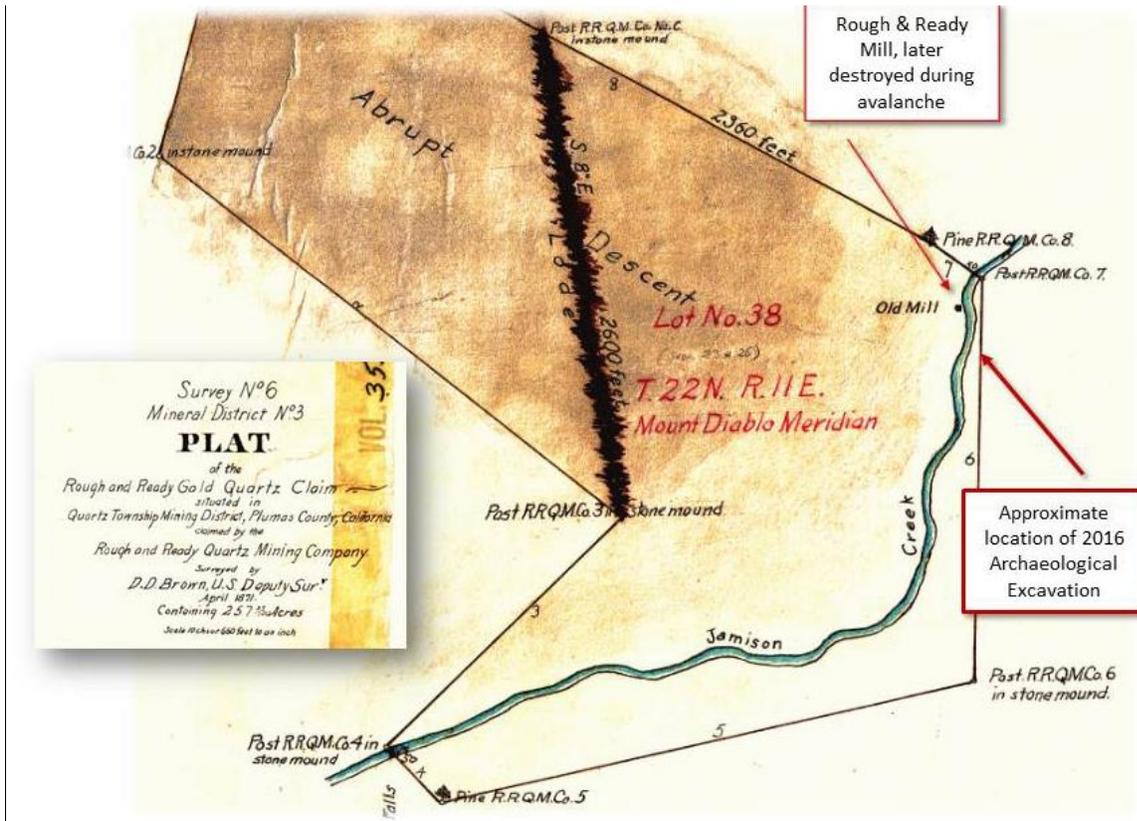
I'm including a tax-deductible gift of:

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