



The Ore Car



SPRING 2017 Newsletter of the Plumas-Eureka State Park Association

Tim Hardie - PESPA Chair

Will this ICON Survive???



Can Department of Parks and Recreation, Plumas Eureka State Park Association, and Private/Public Parties agree to save this icon? Erected in 1876 this structure is failing after earthquake damage 3yrs ago and time. This monument deserves our attention; after all, it is the centerpiece of Plumas Eureka State Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation estimated in 2006 full restoration at \$6+million, lots of money in these financial

times. Years and years of fundraising by PESPA! WE all need your help and council to save this building.

National Historic Structure rules, DPR rules, State of California rules, Plumas County rules, and the dreaded ADA rules, let alone common sense rules. We need an active plan and hopefully will be allowed to stabilize while the plan is drawn up (5yr process). PESPA's guiding mantra as a 501-c-3 is "Plumas-Eureka State Park Association (PESPA) was established in 1977 to support the interpretive and educational programs at Plumas-Eureka State Park."

Publicize, educate, and interpret; because it cannot be replaced, help us find a sense of urgency in 2017.

Tim Hardie, Chairman of the PESPA Board.

<https://www.plumas-eureka.org>

Tim Quandt - Ranger

It's been the heaviest winter in over 20 years! That's what my Johnsville neighbors keep telling me about the snowfall we've seen at the park this winter. Actually, our snow started falling well before Halloween arrived and continues to drop now into the month of March, and the levels on the ground are still substantial, in spite of the heavy rains brought by various atmospheric rivers that have visited during the course of the season. I believe that we should still see snow on the peaks and the streams flowing healthy well into the summer season. This winter's annual Longboard races were attended by large crowds and may boast the best attendance in the events history. While our cross-country program took some hits from the weather this year, with trees down on the course and massive, deep wash-outs from the rains, the crew from PESPA was able to groom the Jamison Mine area and word is, the skiing was good! The road from the museum to the campground, however, was ungroomable for most of the winter season...in addition to being closed repeatedly for avalanche conditions. Snowshoeing in the park was also stellar this winter and based on the number of die-hard skiers willing to trek to the peak, the downhill experience was worth the effort.

Plumas-Eureka State Park is currently undergoing some changes to help enable accessibility for those with disabilities. The museum is currently under construction to provide better access, for those with mobility issues. This summer, visitors will notice a new entryway, a new information counter, a remodeled-retrofitted restroom and a raised platform in the mining room that will enable wheelchairs to enter for the first time in the parks history.

I'm looking forward to the arrival of the summer season! My romance with the white stuff is about over and I'm ready for the return of sunshine and warmer weather. When you have to dig down six feet to find the lid on the top of your propane tank...THAT is too much snow! For me, digging out that tank, having the satellite dish for my internet get buried by about the same amount of snow for over a month and finally spraining my knee after taking a tumble on snowshoes, I'm ready to see the nice dirty and solid earth underneath all of that white stuff. I'm also looking forward to the return of our familiar park staff as well as the new and returning visitors that make this place such a great place to work and serve. The summer season can't get here quick enough!

Carl Chavez - Park Manager 1975-1979

FORMATION OF PLUMAS-EUREKA STATE PARK ASSOCIATION

It seems hard to believe but it has been 42 years since I arrived in Johnsville on May 15, 1975. The first person I met was Ranger (P.I.) Paul Quant, grandfather of current Park Ranger Tim Quandt. Paul was busy painting the kitchen of the Ora White park residence where our family would be residing for the next four years. Johnsville at the time had only seven year round residents but in the summer experienced a population boom of as many as 35-40 people.

Upon arriving at the park I felt it important to establish good community relations as it was obvious I would have to work closely with the citizens of Johnsville, Graeagle, and other local communities. One way I could accomplish this was by establishing a local park association which not only helped the park develop interpretive programs and provide additional revenue sources, but just as importantly, brought park staff in contact with the locals in a positive manner that focus on mutually agreed goals. Too often in the past, the contact with locals had occurred only when there was an issue in dispute.

The formation of the Plumas-Eureka State Park Association PESPA was no easy task that began in 1976. Cooperative Associations in California State Parks were still in their infancy since establishment of the first ones in parks along the Central Coast. There was a blur and indistinct separation of powers and duties between the early associations and parks. It was difficult to determine when one was a volunteer, employee, or association member, to say nothing of keeping financial records separate.

The other problem was the laborious, bureaucratic paperwork procedures that needed to be accomplished to form a nonprofit organization. Fortunately on that front we had the models to follow from those associations that had preceded us. I had assigned Ranger Ken Leigh the task of wading through the "Red Tape" which he did admirably leading to establishment of PESPA in 1977.

My job in the establishment of PESPA was to create the spark of interest for the organization and recruit board members and general membership to make PESPA a viable organization. I utilized what I considered a "Fail Proof" formula. I quickly identified individuals who were leaders in the community and sought their support. Our first Board of Directors consisted of Harvey W., Graeagle town developer, Jack R., instructor at Feather River Prep School, Michael Y., Feather River College Forestry Instructor and his wife Sally, Larry and Pat F., Johnsville residents, Ed B., local historian, and Terry S., Editor of the Feather River Bulletin whose newspaper in Quincy provided us with lots of free publicity. Each of these individuals brought different interests and talents to PESPA that laid the foundation for the success and growth that continues today. They also each brought \$5 to put into the hat that we passed around as our initial membership dues to pay for the State filing fee and start us down the road to financial independence!

I kept the museum open year round back then and organized community potlucks and "Saturday Night Movies" in the museum to break the monotony of cold winter nights that were well attended since radio and television reception was so poor (our time pre-dated cable and satellite service).

AND WHAT A WINTER IT WAS...!

A pictorial view of the 2016-17 Cross Country/Snowshoe volunteer grooming program...
from Snowmageddon to Rainmageddon to Shovelmageddon
Compiled by Ken and Debbie McMaster
(For more photos of this winter, go to plumaseureka.org and click on winter activities)



The view of Eureka Peak from the Jamison Trailhead, one of the many reasons we groom and ski at the Park!



Skiing the groomed trails, near Jamison Creek Bridge



Snow overwhelming the Museum, and this after significant melting!



Massive snowfalls, unrelenting rains and the multitude of downed trees, closed the Museum Trailhead early in the season.



Debbie McMaster digging out one of the snowmobiles in order to start grooming...one of many such tasks this winter!



Shoveling into 8 foot banks of snow to create ramps for the grooming machines to cross the washouts.

PESPA 2017 Calendar of Special Events

April 29 – Docent Orientation – A date for all new and veteran docents alike to remember. This is a time for you to meet or get reacquainted with the Rangers who oversee our District and in particular Plumas Eureka State Park, PESPA Directors, and each other. You will have an opportunity to decide where and how your personal skills and talents will fit in PESPA’s role at the Park, or where you might find a new personal challenge through volunteering. Also, the volunteer registration paper work will be completed and lunch served.

May 6 – Work Day at the Park – This is the day volunteers and their friends and neighbors break out their yard tools and come to the Park to clean up the historic area of the park. It involves raking up pine needles, leaves and any debris that has fallen from the trees during the winter and sprucing up the museum and other venues to be ready for the Park to open for the season.

May 20 – Blacksmith Training – Don’t let blacksmithing become a lost art, come on **Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm** and learn to become a PESPA blacksmith. You will learn under the able teaching of Dennis Black and other seasoned docents.

Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 – 29 – Official Opening of Plumas Eureka State Park – This official date can change forward or back depending on prevailing weather. Call the Park for updates – (530)836-2380.

July 15 & 16 – Gold Discovery Days – A summer highlight at PESPA, a time for you to venture back into that period during the days of “gold fever” can be yours: gold panning, wood working, blacksmithing, assaying to learn the ore’s gold content, milling the ore, what home life was like, touring Johnsville in a horse drawn wagon and putting it all together by donning period costumes for photographs. There will be food to satisfy your hunger including the annual Portola Rotary pancake breakfast on Sunday morning. **ENJOY!!!**

August 17 – Dinner in the Park – Come to this annual fund raiser and enjoy a great dinner followed by a special opportunity to meet **John C. Fremont** (aka Chautauqua impersonator Steve Hale). “John C. Fremont played a role in almost every major American political and military event of the mid-19th Century. His quick rise to national fame at an early age propelled him towards the pinnacle of his turbulent life.” “Fremont barreled through life blazing new trails and pushing against the norms of his day. His setbacks were offset by his achievements and the steadfast support of his wife Jessie. Their devotion to each other and their American legacy set them apart as the power couple of the 1800’s.” **ENJOY!!!**



August 31 – Docent Appreciation Dinner (location to be advised) - Docents come to this dinner where PESPA and DPR can express their most sincere appreciation and thank you for your work and support for the PESPA mission at Plumas Eureka State Park.

PESPA Board of Directors for 2016-17

Tim Hardie Chair

Dennis Black Vice Chair

John Sciborski Treasurer

Rich Martinez Secretary

Cliff Romig Director

Curt Clarkson Director

Jane Riox Director

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

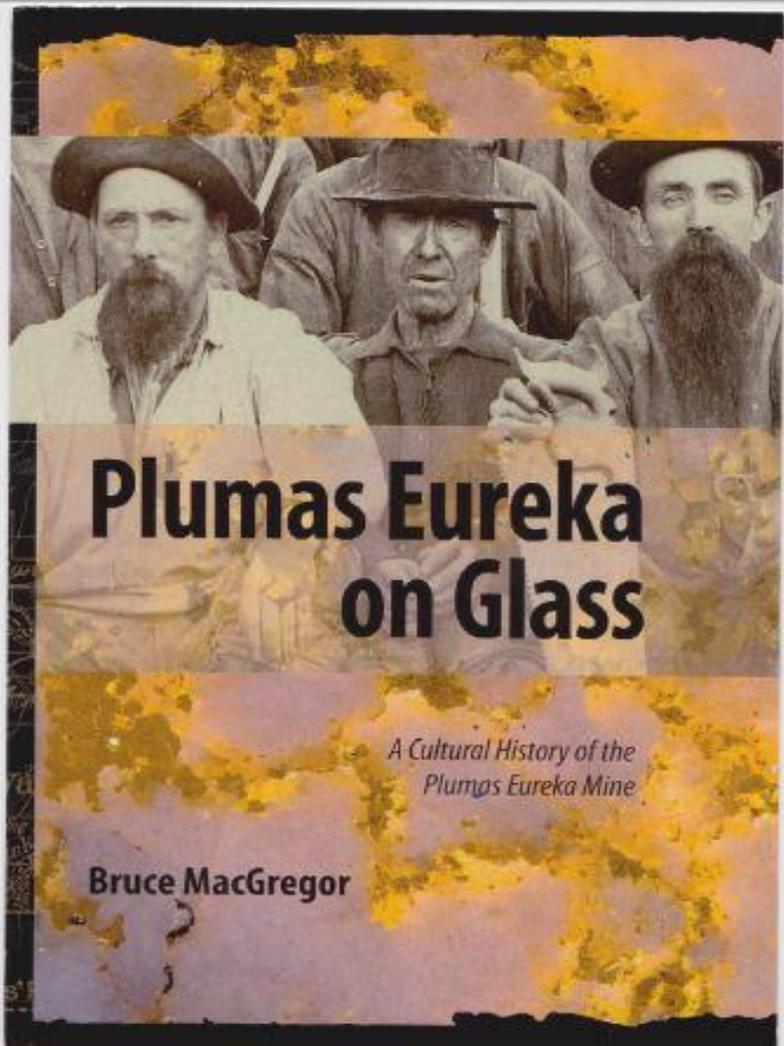
Scott Lawson "director Plumas County Museum" states "this is the best rendition of

Plumas County mining History ever.

Call Tim Hardie (530 836-1995) or Jane Rijk for immediate delivery.

Color Hard cover version signed by author \$89.95+Tax+shipping (40 copies left)

Soft Cover version \$29.95+tax+shipping



PLUMAS EUREKA ON GLASS

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE
PLUMAS EUREKA MINE

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](http://WWW.PLUMAS-EUREKA.ORG)

FROM:

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

TO:



PLUMAS-EUREKA STATE PARK ASSOCIATION 2017 MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your PESPA membership for 2017. 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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Membership for a friend:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

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

Membership: **NEW RENEWAL** (Circle One)

Membership type:

- Annual Single Person Membership (\$25)
- Annual Family Membership (\$35)
- Annual Business Membership (\$50)

I'm including a tax-deductible gift of:

\$_____ to support PESPA and help keep our Park open

Please mail your tax-deductible check to:

PESPA
P.O. Box 1148
Graeagle, CA 96103
Attn: Membership

If you're moving or would no longer like to receive our mailings, please let us know. By emailing us at pespa@digitalpath.net

Experience
Plumas-Eureka
State Park

Live the history
of The Lost Sierra

- CAMPING and event info: <http://www.plumas-eureka.org>
- Museum & Historical Area with Docent Demonstrations
- Hiking, Fishing & Cross Country Skiing
- Junior Ranger Program & Activities
- Gold Discovery Days Celebrations - July 15-16, 2017

Location: 5 Miles West of Graeagle on County Rd. 4-14 in Johnsville

Visit: www.plumas-eureka.org
530.836.2380 • 530.836.1995

Plumas-Eureka State Park Association (PESPA) is a 501-C3 nonprofit cooperating association that supports the interpretive and educational programs at the Park.

PLUMAS-EUREKA STATE PARK ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1148
Blairsden, CA 96103

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTOLA CA
PERMIT NO. 15

TO: