



Friends of Hope Valley Newsletter

Spring, 2009

Volume 24, Issue 1

For the preservation
of the scenic,
recreational, and
historic use of Hope
Valley and Alpine
County's eastern
Sierra slope.

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Make A Difference

Sam Lebaron

Help preserve and protect the natural winter environment in Hope Valley. Become an advocate for muscle powered adventures in the snow. Snowmobiles are illegally using areas of Hope Valley and its adjacent areas. There are restrictions on snowmobile use in order to protect the land and streams and to allow for uninterrupted and undisturbed adventures by people using snowshoes and skies.

On January 29th, Snowlands Network, held a snowmobile monitoring clinic on Forestdale Road near Red Lake. The purpose was to educate backcountry skiers how to monitor and respond to the misuse of snowmobiles on public lands designated for non-motorized use.

Forestdale Road is seasonally closed to snowmobiles when there is enough snow to open Blue Lake Road to snowmobiles. The Forestdale area borders the Mokelumne Wilderness which is always closed to motorized use. Snowmobile users often enter both of these areas illegally.

It was a beautiful day for the group attending the seminar to ski along Forestdale Road. While enjoying the out-of-doors we learned what to look for, how to document it, and then report illegal intrusions.

In our leader's words, "Unsolicited comments from citizens/forest users may indeed be the most valuable and important information the US Forest Service ever receives. A plain, forthright summary of your observations as a visitor can build powerful leverage on behalf of land managers who seek to do the right thing."

Next winter, step up and help in our efforts to monitor this pristine area. Report your observations to the U.S. Forest Service, District Ranger, Genny Wilson at (775)-884-8100

Contact Snowlands and add your report to the growing database. With your help and documentation we can more effectively work for better snowmobile regulations. <http://www.snowlands.org/issues/conflicts/tracking.html>

It's not enough to understand the natural world, the point is to defend and preserve it." Edward Abbey.



The Case to Reopen Pleasant Valley Trail

John Barr

Despite FOHV's extensive efforts over several years, it has been unable to reach a compromise with the Dresslers that would allow a limited public trail easement in Pleasant Valley. As a result, FOHV is poised to file a lawsuit against the Dresslers to ensure that the public's right of access to the Pleasant Valley Trail (PVT) is recognized, and the public is again allowed to use the trail. The lawsuit would ask a judge to recognize that the public's extensive and diverse use of the PVT over the past century has given rise to a public easement over the trail that the Dresslers cannot legally interfere with. It would seek an injunction to prevent the Dresslers from blocking access to the trail in the future.

Your voice and membership are needed. If you have not renewed your membership, please consider doing so. If you would like to make a special donation to this cause, we would greatly appreciate it.

We are eager to record the memories of anyone who has used the scenic trails that pass along side of and through Pleasant Valley, leading into the Mokulomne Wilderness and up to the Pacific Crest Trail.

2009-2012 Strategic Plan

John Barr

The BOD approved the goals and objectives of FOHV's Strategic Plan. At its next meeting it will choose the specific tasks to achieve these objectives. Our objectives are to: proactively preserve, protect and enhance the scenic beauty of Alpine County's eastern slope; monitor the impact of demographic and economic land use and the management of federal lands; increase muscle powered recreational activities; improve fisheries' habitats; advocate for public access to public lands via historic trails; preserve and replace historical landmarks; increase active participating members; improve communications with members; maintain a strong financial condition; and collaborate with like-minded organizations.

The document can be viewed on our web site.

Membership

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2009 use the form on the back of this newsletter and do so today. Your voice and support are needed this year on several important issues. We can make a difference but only with your help and support.

Please pass this newsletter on to friends who might be interested in FOHV.

<http://www.hopevalleyca.com>

Mark Your Calendar

Debbi Waldear

MAY 23, ANNUAL WORK DAY

Join the Friends of Hope Valley on its annual workday. This is a day for all ages and abilities. Participants meet at Pickett's Junction (Hwy 88/Hwy 89) in Hope Valley and join the work party of their choice. Projects include watershed habitat improvement, general clean up, removing barbwire, and fencing. Spend the morning working and playing with us. Bring work gloves, shovels, clippers and fencing pliers. Lunch is provided. "Friends" members are encouraged to stay and attend the general membership meeting following lunch.

JUNE 14, FOHV BENEFIT CONCERT

The Back Forty Bluegrass concert and barbeque at Sorensen's makes a perfect summer day. Accompanying the Back 40 will be "local folks" Larry Nair and Beth Oliverto. This benefit for FOHV is held at Sorensen's Resort located on Highway 88 in Hope Valley, near Pickett's Junction. Music starts at 1:00PM

Spend an afternoon in a beautiful setting at Sorensen's Resort. Good music and good food will be guaranteed.

JULY 11, Death Ride

Come by the FOHV booth. Our mugs sell out quickly and you will want to get one.

Markleeville Peak

Jim Donald

Markleeville Peak, at 9415ft., is not the most challenging peak in eastern Alpine County, but it's a great warm-up or conditioning climb with excellent views, and you won't find a crowd at the summit. So get out your Mokelumne Wilderness map or that old 15 minute Markleeville topographical map and take a look.

Note mileage turning onto Blue Lakes Road, drive past Charity Valley, and park at the pull off 8.4 miles in. Traverse northeast up brush covered steep slopes. The initial steepness gives way to gentler, thinly treed slopes with western white pine and hemlock on the north slopes of the gully to your left.

This outing is all off-trail. There's faint evidence of a trail on the southwest ridge near the top, but winter has erased most of the trail. Total elevation gain is about 1,700 feet with a distance of about 2 miles each way. This is the easiest way up. This peak can be climbed from Grover Hot Springs via the northeast ridge, a strenuous hike of about 12 miles round trip and 3800 feet of elevation gain.

Continue more easterly as you get higher and gain the southwest ridge where a left turn to the north will take you behind a false peak and the summit. Sign the register (sometimes there, sometimes not), hunker down out of the wind, and take a break.

Surprisingly good views can be had from the summit. To the west, Round Top is the high point and the snow covered ridges of the Sierra crest hide Blue Lakes. Red Lake, Stevens, Waterhouse, Thompson, and other peaks range across the north to the Freel – Jobs Peak complex. Just across Charity Valley is Hawkins Peak while further east are the Pine Nuts, Mt Grant and the Sweetwater Range. Impressive peaks to the south include Silver, Highland, and Tryon with the Raymond – Reynolds group closer and Jeff Davis immediately to the south.

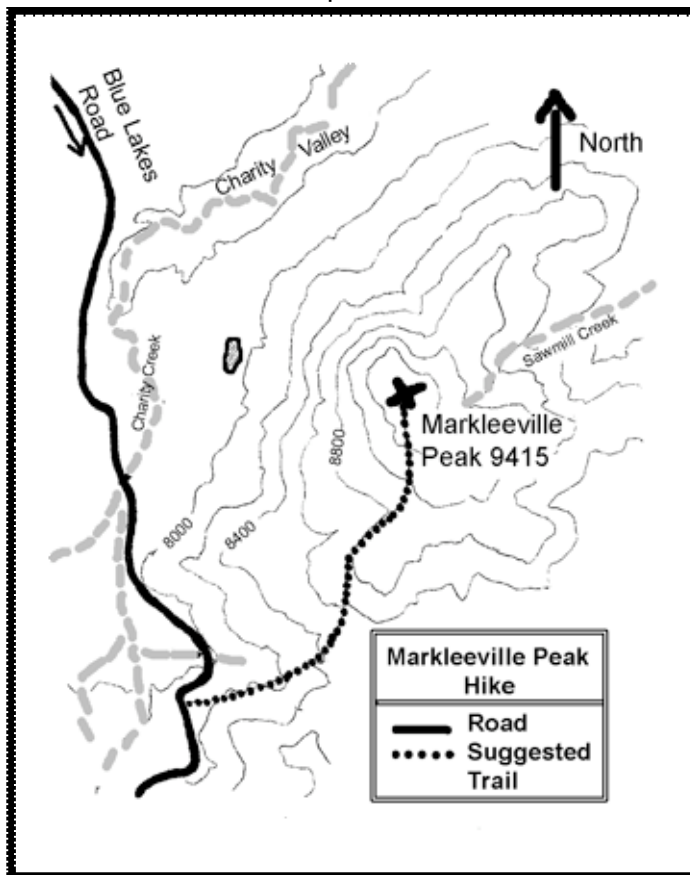
Mid-June through mid July will bring the most colorful displays of wildflowers in this area. Phlox, lupine, mule ears, paintbrush, buckwheat and sego lilies will be in bloom. Along moist slopes or snow-

melt rivulets, you might find the common monkeyflower, columbine, and perhaps even elephanthead .

Deer, coyote, bear, and many varieties of smaller mammals can be found here. Numerous bird species inhabit these slopes also. Insects are abundant – seasonally you'll find ticks (which are actually arachnids, not insects), no-see-ums, mosquitoes, biting flies and finally yellow jackets by late summer. Flying insects are kept down by the winds on the mostly open upper slopes.

Start early or pick a cool day for this hike. There's little cover and the sun can be intense. Be prepared for wind. Absolutely know the weather before ascending any peak. Go lightweight but bring layers appropriate for the weather. Pack at least 2 liters of water (cache extra water in the car) and high energy snacks. Depending on where you park, you will summit in 1.5 to 2 hours and a side trip to Jeff Davis on the way out could mean 4 – 5 hours start to finish.

Eastern Alpine County has more than a dozen walk up peaks that can be climbed in similar fashion. Pick one, enjoy the hike, go at your own pace, and bring the 10 essentials. And please, leave no trace.





Friends of Hope Valley
PO Box 431
Markleeville, CA 96120

The Friends of Hope Valley want to thank you for your past support. We hope that you will continue your membership in this non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic, recreational, and scenic values of Hope Valley and Sierra Nevada's eastern slope in Alpine County. With your help we can continue to address the sensitive environmental concerns of the eastern Sierra.



Friends of Hope Valley 2009

_____ \$35 Friend _____ \$50 Sponsor _____ \$\$ other

Name (Print clearly) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

The FOHV email list is used only for the purpose of alerting our members and friends about time sensitive issues.

Friends of Hope Valley is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Please return this form and your tax deductible check to:

Friends of Hope Valley, PO Box 431, Markleeville, CA 96120
