



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 2018

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FRIENDS OF HOPE VALLEY, PO BOX 431, MARKLEEVILLE, CA 96120



FRIENDS OF HOPE VALLEY NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2018

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

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*Photos courtesy of
Judy Warren-Wickwire*

Carson River's East Fork Hot Springs: A Quandary

By Debbi Waldear

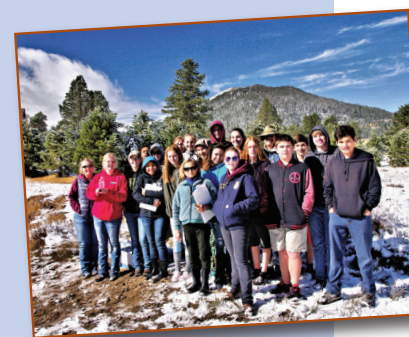
The hot springs area along the East Fork of the Carson River is being “loved to death.” For years it’s been overused and abused by several user groups. Rafter, hikers, and - most of all - people in off road vehicles (OHV) use this popular area. Floating the river, a seldom-used trail, and challenging rough roads access the area. The hot springs’ small beaches are scared with trash, the remains of trees cut for firewood, spent shells of gun target practice, and new user-created roads. These new roads lead to several river crossings, as well as straight up the river’s canyon walls.

The East Carson River Strategy was completed in 2007. The objective of this effort was to identify a plan of action for enhancing the management of lands in the East Carson River watershed. It stated concern was an increase in user-created camping sites and roads, fire rings, and trash along the East Carson River corridor. To date, the Alpine Watershed Group has completed projects up-stream along Highway 89. The problems at the hot springs area were discussed during mutli-agency and volunteer group river runs the last two summers. Many ideas were proposed to clean up the area but, so far, none of them have been acted upon. It’s up to the Forest Service to determine what next steps will be taken.

This devastated area needs attention. At times an OHV user group will clean up the area – only to be ‘loved’ with trash again.

Access roads leading across the river should be barricaded, user- created roads closed, and the hot springs’ natural environment restored. There are no signs in the area; friendly educational signs would be a good place to start. Friends of Hope Valley has volunteered to help pay for signs. The Forest Service (FS) has been reluctant to put signs in the area, for fear they will just be shot up. Presently the FS is looking into bulletproof signs. We are hopeful that signage will be put in place by next spring to educate the public as to the rules for using the area and the reasons for these regulations.

We will continue to pressure the Forest Service to address this ever-increasing problem.



Snapshot Day

Snapshot day is a one-day, volunteer-based event, designed to collect watershed information during one moment in time. All along the Carson River hundreds of volunteers in various key spots participated. The purpose of this effort is to promote environmental education and stewardship and to collect valuable water quality information.

On October 20th 24 students from Carson Valley High School arrived in Hope Valley to spend the morning on the West Fork Carson River. Friends of Hope Valley members participated as leaders and mentors as the students completed various tasks to measure the river’s water quality. All of the participants left wet, happy and with a better appreciation and understanding of water quality, watershed issues, and riparian buffers.



Alpine Aspen Festival

By John Barr

It took four paws to get one hand at the Mutt Strut Poker Run at this years' Aspen Alpine Festival, held during the first weekend of October in amongst the spectacular fall foliage of Hope Valley. Three dozen dogs and their human companions participated in this short trek through the meadow to five stations where they received cards to comprise a 5-card poker hand. More than 230 dogs attended the two-day Festival, accompanied by their family members, many of them closet 'leaf peepers.' One was overheard complaining that the "... the aspen are so beautiful, my eyes hurt."

It was estimated that 500-600 public and volunteer participants attended the Festival each day, sharing in its 38 activities – many of the activities being sold out, and hundreds of willows were planted by Friends of Hope Valley's own Judy Wickwire and volunteers. The Festival opened with a Washoe blessing. There were Dutch Oven cooking, photography and watercolor workshops, fly-fishing classes, nature and history hikes, a medicinal plant walk, and yoga in the trees. Al Graff and Anna Belle Monti lectured us on the geology and forests of the Sierra Nevada. And music of Jenn & Company and Suspect Terrane rolled out from under the Tent throughout the days.

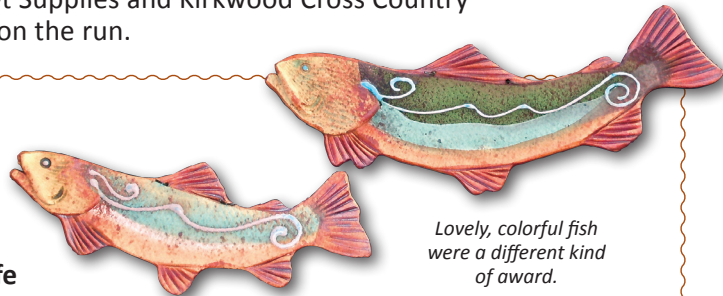
Of greatest import is that the Alpine Aspen Festival - a cooperative effort of the Friends of Hope Valley and the Alpine Watershed Group, celebrating the vital role of healthy ecosystems in providing clean air and water - again, brought the Alpine County community together. Local businesses, including Sorensen's Resort and Horsefeathers Fly Fishing, sponsored events; local ranchers, members of the Washoe Tribe, and state, federal and county land managers were present and supportive; members of the Alpine County Sheriff and Fire Department, California Conservation Corps and the California Highway Patrol were there helping us manage traffic and parking. Four Alpine County Supervisors and one Douglas County Commissioner attended the Festival; and staffs of over twenty partners in watershed management oversaw tables during the weekend. Grants and donations from the Carson Watershed District, the Alpine Chamber of Commerce and Jennings/Kaffer family made it all happen.

Oh, and breaking news: Dogs Merry Xmas, Koty and "Shasta" Pipal won the dog backpack, the gift basket and the cross-country ski package donated by Sportsman's Warehouse, Max's Pet Supplies and Kirkwood Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Center, respectively. The other winners are still on the run.

Conservation Champions received a Special and Unique Award

Judy Wickwire, a valued volunteer and Debbi Waldear, FHOV chair were thanked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for all their hard work and many hours of dedication. It was a very special moment for both of them and a complete surprise. Alpine County CDFW managers came together to honor the two.

Judy has dedicated her life to preserving the historical and natural the environment of Alpine County. Debbi has lead FOHV to become the strongest advocate for the preservation and protection of the unspoiled nature of the county. They are tireless volunteers who regularly participate in citizen water quality monitoring, bio-assessment programs, wildlife/fisheries enhancement and education. Truly they are conservation champions.



NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Members share a deep affection for the unspoiled beauty of the Sierra's eastern slope of Alpine country. Formed in 1985 in response to a proposal to run power transmission line through Hope Valley, the Friends has been successful in its on going protection efforts, including preserving over 25,000 acres of open space in Hope Valley and the eastern Alpine County.



Bagley Valley/Silver King Valley, Vaquero Cow Camp

By Judy Warren-Wickwire

Bagley Valley was included in the land purchase when Hope Valley was acquired in 1983 through the efforts of The Friends of Hope Valley.

This little traveled dirt road into Vaquero Cow Camp in Silver King Valley is rich in historical value for Native Americans and anglos. 10,000 years of Native American camping and trade routes with the eastern side during the summer make this area a significant part of Alpine history. The old freight wagon road went through this area to Antelope Valley and Bodie during the 1860's. Monitor Pass did not exist until the 1940's.

The Dangberg Land and Cattle Company took over the area in the early 1900's and started to develop the meadows into pasture for their cattle and sheep. These summer ranges were a vital part of the Dangberg organization. Heenan Lake dam was improved several times and a siphon was piped over the hill into Bagley Valley to augment the springs and clever ditch system that George McAllister, range manager, developed over 40 years. His crew built 3 log cabins near the old Koenig bunkhouse at Vaquero Camp. They also built the red brick line cabin just down the hill from Heenan Lake. The years have not been easy on the old bunkhouse and several supporting fixes have been made in recent years to make sure the building withstood the winters. The Humbolt-Toiyabe Forest Service crew attempted numerous trips in there this year with material to strengthen the building. Due to the heavy water year, many old springs were activated and the road was too muddy to make the trip. The Friends of Hope Valley was a major donator to the cost of those materials. They have been stored until 2018, when we are in hope of better road conditions. Volunteers were able to get some supports in place inside the building to make it stronger for the 2018 winter.

The area is now managed by Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest/Carson Ranger District and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Bagley Valley is located off of Monitor Pass near Heenan Lake.

Friends of Hope Valley: Its Beginning

By Greg Hayes

In 1985 the winds of change were blowing through scenic Hope Valley. A proposed electric transmission route through Hope Valley would allow Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Sierra Pacific Power (Northern Nevada's electric provider, now known as NV Energy) share electricity surpluses.

Local residents and lovers of Hope Valley were shocked that such a beautiful place would be permanently scarred for such utilitarian purposes, and soon came together to organize their resistance. The Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV) was formally established in March 1986 and immediately held public meetings to oppose the electric inter-tie plan.

As this nascent organization slowly worked toward federal non-profit status, FOHV made itself known, lobbying the local Board of Supervisors to take action to protect Hope Valley. FOHV also helped fund an ultimately successful legal challenge to the proposed project. In the end the "little guy" won the day. The following year, FOHV stood up again to help thwart an AT&T fiber-optic right-of-way proposal through Hope Valley.

The success of FOHV's early efforts to preserve Hope Valley and other lands in eastern Alpine County were greatly enhanced by other important events, including: the passage of California Proposition 70 in 1988, which provided funds for the purchase of the Picketts Junction area of Hope Valley as well as river bottom land along Blue Lakes Road; the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's purchase of 2,500 additional acres of Hope Valley, including the development-threatened Willow Creek area.

Now, more than 30 years later, FOHV continues to be a leading local environmental group, working with other local, regional, and statewide groups, the U.S. Forest Service, and BLM to protect, restore, and maintain sensitive areas throughout eastern Alpine County, and to lend support to the work of other environmental groups in adjacent parts of the Sierra Nevada range. FOHV also maintains a lasting focus on Hope Valley, including its annual workday in the valley to keep the polish on one of the true jewels of the eastern Sierra. FOHV appreciates your support of its ongoing work!