



Sierra Vista View

Newsletter of the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association

Vol. 4, Issue 1

www.sierravistascenicbyway.org

March 2010

It's the beginning of a new season for the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway. The first major event of the year is our annual meeting to be held on April 19th. Highlights of the season include two Byway tours and a refurbishment project at Redinger Overlook. Our website, www.sierravistascenicbyway.org continues to be a valuable communication and advertising tool attracting site visits from our membership, the local community and interested people throughout the nation. As always, the Byway Association is promoting our beautiful Byway to tourists and locals alike. Read more about the year's activities below and on our website.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association is scheduled for April 19th, 2010 at 6pm in the National Forest Ranger District Board Room, 57003 Rd 225 in North Fork. The agenda includes a short business meeting, the election of Board members, a Byway photo contest and a presentation by Brenda Negley on the history of Nelder Grove. To enter the photo contest, email your favorite Byway photos (JPEG format, file size less than 100KB, 640x480 preferred) to Jack McGowan by April 12th. Everyone is encouraged to attend & participate! For more information call Jack at 877-3952.

Summer 2010 Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Educational Tours

Two "Learn from the Experts" Byway tours are planned for 2010. The first, on Saturday, July 17th will feature Connie Popelish, retired U.S. Forest Service archeologist. During the tour Connie will share some not so familiar history about such things as, "Was Mormon Jimmy really a bad guy?", "Did Teddy Roosevelt visit Globe Rock or not?", "How did Graveyard Meadow get its name?", "What is the history of all the mines around the Scenic Byway?", and much more. The second tour on Saturday, August 7th will feature Tom Burdette, local and nationally known geologist (you may have seen him on PBS) Tom will tell us about the geology of the Central Sierra Nevada, including Table Top, Brown Cone, Balloon Dome, Mt. Ritter, the San Joaquin River, and more. For both tours meet at the North Fork Post Office at 9am. You'll need to provide your own vehicle, but once we gather, we can form carpools to travel up the Byway together. For a donation of \$5 to the Byway Association, lunch will be provided to you. Please email Doug Waltner for more information and to RSVP for the tours.

Redinger Overlook Refurbishment

Since January of this year, Gayne Sears, representing the Bass Lake Ranger District, Mike Nolen representing the Grizzly Bike Tour and the Scenic Byway Association have been working together to refurbish the dilapidated visitor facilities at the scenic Redinger Lake Overlook. This overlook provides



the Byway visitor with a stunning view of the San Joaquin River gorge and one of the many power producing reservoirs along the way. On a still day, the sinuous lake reflects the sky and the adjacent mountains like a mirror. On moonless nights, the visitor is rewarded with an unobstructed view of the stars. For years the facilities (a bench and a handrail) at the overlook have been deteriorating. The wooden posts and bench have been carved into and even burned during acts of vandalism. The partnership between the Byway Association and Forest Service will construct a new metal handrail, install a new bench and place new

signs to serve the visitor and enhance the scenic aesthetics of this overlook. Other planned enhancements will help provide for those visitors with special mobility needs. The Byway Association is able to provide funds for this partnership project due to generous donations from the Grizzly Century bicycle event held each fall. The Byway Association will be requesting volunteer assistance to help paint the handrail and possible other portions of the project. For more information about this project please contact Jack.

Nelder Grove

Nelder Grove is the name given to an area of the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway featuring a grove of ancient giant sequoias. Visitors to the grove enjoy the many historical replicas found at the interpretive center. Among the displays are life sized replicas of a two-pole chute, a cross-log chute, and a tramway used to transport lumber from the mill to the flume. Also a life sized replica of the flume is planned for display at the grove by June 2010. Nelder Grove has many walking & hiking trails for visitors to explore. The Bull Buck trail and the Shadow of the Giants trail are among the most popular for locals and tourists alike. A more advanced trail which starts near the interpretive center offers a higher elevation gain than the most popular trails, but also offers the adventurous hiker more to see. Visitors will have many views of giant sequoia tree tops rising above the surrounding shorter trees. The trail leads to many of the more unique sequoias in the grove. After the first two miles the trail flattens out and you begin to walk on an old railroad grade. The highlight on the trail for Brenda Negley (of the Friends of Nelder Grove Organization) and her family is the Hawksworth Tree (named after her grandparents, John and Marge Hawksworth). For more details about Nelder Grove please attend the Byway Annual Meeting on April 19th to hear Brenda's presentation about the History of Nelder Grove. More info may also be found at the "Friends of Nelder Grove" website: www.neldergrove.org



Join the Byway Association

Current members are encouraged to renew their Association memberships for 2010. Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family. As always, any community member interested in the Byway is welcome to join as a new member.

Please join us for our annual meeting on April 19th !

~~~~~  
**Travel Caution:**

The Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway is a SEASONAL ROUTE with no snow removal. There are no services and no cell phone signals in this area. Please be prepared and check with the U.S. Forest Service (559-877-2218) or the Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau (559-683-4636) for road and weather conditions before starting your trip.

**The Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose it is to stimulate interest in educational, interpretive and related activities along the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway. All donations are tax-deductible