



CVTA NEWS



Carson Valley Trails Association

Fall 2004

President's Message

Barbara Slade

What do trails mean to you.....?

I grew up playing in the woods of New Jersey. The woods were my second home. It was there that I began to learn about myself and the many wonders of the world that we live in. It was a valuable schoolroom. We spent many hours walking through the fields, splashing in the creeks, swimming in the ponds, climbing trees, turning over rocks always excited by our finds and crawling through the heavy brush looking for the wild berry bushes.

I awoke one day 14 years ago with the urge to "walk". I had long since been away from my beloved woods, tossed into the grown up world - a world of work and responsibility. After many years of work and no play I decided to go on a trip to Chile and try white watering raft on the Bio-Bio River. It was to change my life forever.

During the rafting trip we took time to hike up to the summit of Callaqui, an active 10,000' volcano with

See Message on page 2

Trails Update

Richard Morissette

Faye-Luther Trail System

The Faye Canyon studies are almost complete but as you may be aware, BLM did not have sufficient funds to complete the documentation. CVTA is raising the funds necessary and will obtain a third party contractor to complete these studies. Donations can be mailed to Carson Valley Trails Association, P.O. Box 2668, Gardnerville, NV 89410.

River Fork Ranch

CVTA continues to work with The Nature Conservancy on the River Fork Ranch near Genoa. Grant writers are needed to help prepare the application for a grant under Question 1 funding. If interested contact Barbara Slade at 265-0901 or e-mail at jtslade@msn.com.

Job's Peak Ranch Trail Easement

CVTA is working with Douglas County to better define an easement being provided by Job's Peak Ranch that will allow building a sustainable trail. Douglas County has received Question 1 funding for this project and we are donating funds and in-kind services as a match. CVTA will identify a suitable corridor for the Job's Peak Ranch Trail that will meet the developer's criteria. Working with the property owners is critical to our success.

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Carson Valley Trails Association – 2004

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President – Barbara Slade
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scree and snow fields galore. We hiked up 2000' and camped over night. The next day we climbed 6000' to the summit and then all the way back to the river, 8000'!

Since then I have had the privilege of hiking all over the world. It put me in touch with people and cultures that still depend on a (balanced) relationship with nature. I was amazed by the large percentage of these people who were very pleasant and optimistic!

I began to realize that having a "stroll" daily would bring my life into balance, enhancing my inner peace, giving me strength and courage to handle whatever life presents. It is a place to share quality time with our loved ones, start new friendships and increase physical health and well being. Walking in nature reminds me that we are partners with it and not superior to it. Humans have a special bond with nature; after all it formed our character. It also opens my eyes and heart to all the beauty in our lives and increases my appreciation for being alive. The other wonderful thing is that trails are for everyone – young and old alike, 2 legged or 4 legged!

What do trails mean to you.....?

Do you think of creeks, pebbles, streams, and marshes? How about rocks, trees, wildlife and wildflowers? Are you calmer and more peaceful after walking? Are you filled with beauty that spills over into your life? How about your health; more energy, clearer thoughts, lower blood pressure? Does it bring more laughter and lightness to your being?

Go outdoors, experience nature.... whatever that means to you. Find motivation and you will be greatly rewarded! Find a trail, bring a friend and change their lives forever!

Welcome New Members!

The following new members have joined the CVTA since the Summer Issue of the newsletter.

Leora Cove, Don Moore, and Kim Vasey

Welcome to the CVTA. Your involvement will make Carson Valley an even greater place than what it is now.

Filling Barbara's Shoes

A Message from the CVTA Board

Barbara (Beans) Slade, CVTA President for the last three years, has chosen not to run for 2005. She plans to remain on the board and will still be very much involved in CVTA. Even so, it will be difficult to fill her shoes. She set aside her personal life and truly dedicated her energies to making CVTA succeed and succeed we did! We could not have done it without her. As you read in the *President's Message*, hiking is very important to her. What she didn't say in that message is that she has another love in her life that keeps calling her back. The following quote is taken from an early 1990's website about Barbara: http://www.horsereview.com/Franktown%20Meadows/franktown_beans.htm.

"Originally from the East Coast, Barbara moved West 12 years ago. She started riding (horses) and competing at the age of 5 and was fortunate to have a barn close to her home that she could walk to allowing her to spend much time with her 4-legged friends. It was obvious that she had found her niche in life."

The reins of the CVTA are being passed on so Barbara can retake her ever-familiar reins.

We thank you Barbara for all that you have done for the CVTA. This includes: attending hundreds of meetings with affected parties, Douglas County, The Nature Conservancy, BLM, and the US Forest Service; making presentations about the CVTA to various community groups; manning the CVTA information table at many events such as the National Trails Day and the Heritage Park Gardnerville Anniversary Days. We thank you for putting on great annual meetings at Walley's, organizing our Faye-Luther workdays, and hosting many board meetings at your home. The list goes on.

Barbara was involved with everything at the CVTA and it will take several people to fill her shoes. The CVTA Board is optimistic that they will be filled. Our association is growing and the enthusiasm is building. We urge every member to become an active participant in our future.

China Spring Youth Camp to Help CVTA Build Trails

Richard Morissette

Snow has come to the Tahoe Rim Trail and the tools are put away for the season. As I reflect on completing my first season with the staff, crew leaders, and volunteers of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) I can honestly say that it has been a rewarding learning experience. Once I had learned the basic trail building techniques, I was soon asked to share those skills with others as a crew leader. With the TRTA you learn by doing and crew leading was no exception. You are given several first-time volunteers and a task to complete.

One of those learning experiences involved working with the boys from China Spring Youth Camp. Camp leaders Michael Beam and Dave Dunbar, both certified trail builders, have been bringing 8-10 boys, with ages ranging from 13 to 18, from the camp to help build trail for the last two years. It has been a win-win experience for both the boys and the TRTA crew leaders. After a hard day, the boys feel a sense of accomplishment when walking the trail they have just built. And the TRTA get a lot of trail done in a day. Mike told me that one boy was so proud of his efforts on the new Mt Rose section that when he returned home he took his family out hiking the trail.

China Spring Youth Camp located about nine miles south of Gardnerville is where juvenile offenders are educated and counseled for five or six months. The camp's mission is to prepare these at-risk youth for a successful transition back to their homes, careers, and communities. The camp accepts youth from throughout Nevada with the exception of Clark County.

A girls' camp, Aurora Pines, has recently been added to the China Spring facility. Mike, a Program Manager at the facility, is hoping to get a couple more of the camp staff certified as trail builders for next year's TRT season. Mike is also joining the CVTA and we expect to see both boys and girls from China Spring working on Carson Valley trails next spring. This will give our volunteer trail building effort a big boost!

Membership Committee

Richard Morissette

The committee is currently updating the membership database with updated postal and email addresses. Renewal letters were sent out this summer to all current and past members to help this update. The database will now include the dues payment date for each member and this will define their annual dues cycle. Responses would be appreciated whether your dues are due or not. Those who paid their dues in January 2004 should indicate that their dues cycle begins in January 2005. Those who may not have paid their dues in 2004 will be reinstated with an annual cycle starting on the date of receipt of the dues payment. We need to thank our new board members, Julie Snyder and Kim Vasey for getting this effort going. A membership development campaign is planned for 2005. CVTA is at a crucial point in our short history. Our success to date in obtaining legal access to public lands now requires our commitment to develop and maintain these accesses. We have several projects starting next year and we need to grow our association. Enclosed in this newsletter is an application form. The help of all our members is needed. Please give a copy of this form to friends who may be interested in helping fulfill our mission.

2005 CVTA Annual Meeting

All members and the public are invited to the general meeting January 10th, 2005 in the Gazebo at Walley's Resort. Social hour will be 6:30 pm and the program will be from 7-9 pm. County and Forest Service representatives have been invited. The program includes presentations from the CVTA outgoing and incoming presidents. This will be followed with a Powerpoint presentation on trail design and construction given by Phil Brisack, Director of Trail Operations at CVTA and the Tahoe Rim Trail. Please come and bring your friends.

Trail Operations Report – Faye-Luther Workday

Phil Brisack

A workday was conducted at Faye Luther with members and interested parties on November 13, 2004. Approximately 25 people participated in cleaning up the trailhead area, trail cleanup, and maintenance. Snacks and drinks were provided by the CVTA. We want to thank the folks that came out to help. Part of the volunteers worked on cleaning weeds and trash from the trailhead parking area. It was noted that this area was in better shape than last year and less material needed to be trucked to the dump. CVTA's aim is to be good neighbors and the Faye-Luther trailhead will be looked at by neighbors of future trailheads.

The dedication of our members was demonstrated by our the current president, Barbara Slade, and the past president, Mary Bennington, who took on the task of picking up dog poop left behind by hikers who chose not to use the new poop bag dispenser located a little ways up the trail from the trailhead. The Forest Service has made it very clear that it expects to see the implementation of a "leave no trace" policy. Barbara Slade purchased the new bag dispenser and sign while Jim Slade helped in the installation. Thank you Barbara and Jim! Now we need the support of our membership to get the word out that dogs are welcomed on the trail as long as their owners clean up after them.

An experienced trail crew performed repair work on several "rolling grade dips" on the steeper trails. This fairly subtle feature allows for proper drainage of rain water and snow melt off the trail to prevent erosion. The soil conditions in the area require that these be reworked every two years. Mike and Debbie Beam are shown completing one of these features on the Faye-Luther Trail.

Carson Valley Trails Association
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

