

# The Ponderosa

The Pine Ridge Association Newsletter  
Henry W. Coe State Park

In 1994 I wrote an article on the building of the visitor center in the 1970s. Since then, there have been many changes to the interior of the building but little done to the outside. There have been hopes for years of upgrading the old center or building a new one, but it just hasn't worked out yet. Now the visitor center has a new roof and other fixes are sure to happen soon. It seems like a good time to remind everyone how the Pine Ridge visitor center came about. Here's the 1994 article:



Roof going on the new Pine Ridge visitor center  
Photographer unknown.

## From Under My Brim, September 1994

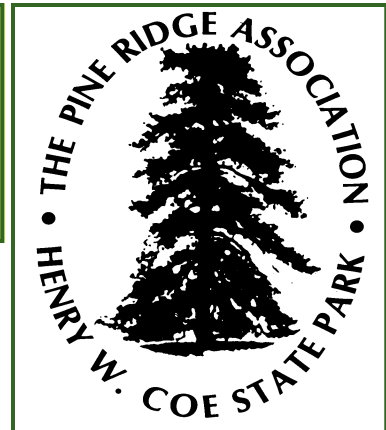
By Barry Breckling

May our awareness of what Sada Coe Robinson did for this park never diminish. Let the knowledge of "sturdy pioneers," the memory of swaying blackberry vines against a ranch house window, and a vision of what a Coe Park visitor center should be, persist as long as Henry W. Coe State Park exists.

The idea of building a visitor center at Coe Park predated the park's existence. In 1953, Sada gave her 12,230 acre Pine Ridge Ranch to Santa Clara County. Shortly afterwards, she told county representatives that she would like the park to have a visitor center and that she would donate the money required to fund construction of the building. County bureaucrats move slowly though, and nothing was accomplished during the five years the County held the property.

State bureaucrats move even more slowly. When the California State Park System took over ownership of the property in 1958, and actually before the property was fully transferred, Sada told state park officials that she thought the park should have a visitor center. She and park officials spent about 13 years getting paperwork done before construction was started in 1971.

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Summer 2014

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## The Pine Ridge Visitor Center continued....

Many interesting events occurred during planning and construction of Sada's Pine Ridge Visitor Center. I say "Sada's" because she was intimately involved with the entire process. To start off, Sada donated the money for construction of the visitor center. She gave \$80,000, earmarked for the Coe Park museum, to the California State Parks Foundation. Not long ago, as I was reading a collection of old state park correspondence, I learned that she had originally wanted to be an anonymous donor. In a letter to Area Manager Bob Stewart, District Four Superintendent Milton Frincke said, "Remember Mrs. Robinson wants to remain anonymous. The museum is a donation from the Foundation through anonymous donors." Sada was unaware that as time passed, more and more people would learn about her generous gift.

I don't know the details, but I believe Sada was instrumental in procuring the services of a man named Oscar Meyer (no, not the hot dog guy) as the contractor. Apparently, Mr. Meyer did a good job. Bob Stewart wrote in a letter to Milton Frincke that "...the quality of the work was superior."

Originally it was estimated that the building and displays would cost about \$55,000. Before long the price tag was up to \$75,000, and by the time the construction started it was up to \$94,700 without displays. A decision was made that about \$11,000 would have to be pared off for construction to be feasible. The fireplace and chimney planned for the east end of the building were scrapped, along with the rock walkways around the building and the tile work in the restrooms. Also, the state would provide the fixtures for the restrooms.

The state park's interpretive services staff in Sacramento would be the group responsible for construction of displays for the visitor center. As donated money for the displays diminished, tempers flared.

Sacramento: Coe displays should cost about \$12,000.

Field staff: We don't have \$12,000. We spent everything on building construction.

Sacramento: Here we go again with another unfunded project.

Field staff: Well, we really need \$10,000 for display work, but Sacramento will scream. We'll try for \$6,000.

Sacramento: Our budget for the whole year for the whole state is \$8,000 and you want what?

One positive note about the displays was Sada's donation of thousands of dollars worth of the Coe family antiques. Basically, Sada invited people from our interpretive services to go through her house and pick out what they wanted to use for the two "house rooms," the dining room and the parlor.

Sada had definite ideas about what the visitor center should look like. When an architect from the state drew up plans for a modern building, she objected. A private architectural firm, George Livermore and Associates from San Francisco, gave it a first try but didn't quite meet Sada's expectations. In a letter to the architect, District Superintendent Frincke said, "...I have discussed this project with Mr. Mott [then Park Director William Penn Mott, Jr.] and the changes that Mrs. Robinson wants to effect. He and I both agree that as far as the State is concerned...the exterior must conform to the old farm buildings which are in the area. It would be completely incongruous and obtrusive to allow the building as it is designed here to go into the location we have chosen." Livermore and Associates submitted revised plans, the plans were approved by all parties, and the design of our visitor center was established.

On April 27, 1971, eight months and a day from the time Sada and Superintendent Frincke picked the location for the visitor center, the ground was broken for the new building. Construction went quickly. The foundation was in by May 12th, dry wall was up by June 8th, and the building was wired by early August. The shake roof was done by June 17th, and painting was finished by August 6th. The building was completed and handed over to Area Manager Stewart on August 10th.



Luncheon honoring Sada, 1972.

Photographer unknown.

Continued on page 3....

## The Pine Ridge Visitor Center continued....

It took a number of months to complete the displays and get them into the place, and Sada's furniture was not moved into the building until March of 1972. On May 17th of that year, Park Director Mott, Superintendent Frincke, Area Manager Stewart, Park Supervisor Ed Strouse, Architect Livermore, and others honored Sada Coe Robinson with a lunch in the completed visitor center.

It should not be forgotten that we have our visitor center thanks to Sada's generosity and persistence, and by the way, there is that other act of generosity, the genesis of Coe Park—Sada's donation of the original 13,000 acres.

## What the....!

Outdoor writer Ron Erskine's poignant portrayal of a father and son as they trek along the John Muir trail, *Measureless Mountain Days*, won him top honors as 2014's Outdoor Writer of the Year presented by the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC).

Erskine, Morgan Hill, California, who writes for the Gilroy Dispatch, Morgan Hill Times, and Hollister Freelance, began his professional writing career only ten years ago. He had been a homebuilder and home brewer for decades before his passion for the outdoors blossomed into his writing career.

"I have strength of passion for the outdoors that comes out and needs to be said, so I write about it," said Erskine. Time with his son on the John Muir Trail inspired *Measureless Mountains Days*. "I had an experience that I thought would connect with people and cross a lot of lines—it wasn't just a personal experience, it was universal."

Presentation of the coveted award was made by the organization's president, Bob Semerau, at the OWAC Spring Conference in Tuolumne County.



Erskine's book met with the strong approval of the judges from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, who evaluated all of OWAC's entries.

"The story evolves over a short time period, but contains the raw interaction and references to a complicated father/son relationship whose meaning is found in the beauty of the natural," said the judge from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. For Erskine, the book reflected the belief he has in his son.

"He's a kid who needs to know he has substance," said Erskine. "He is such a beautiful person who faces challenges I can't even imagine, and he did something extraordinary that exceeded the limits he has placed upon himself. He can do so much more."

Erskine published his book on Amazon after evaluating the economics of putting a book into print and the effort needed to distribute it. It is the first electronic book to catapult its author to Writer of the Year for OWAC, but in Erskine's view he looked at electronic publishing as a way of getting the book out and reaching people.

Article and photo courtesy of GCG-Communications. OWAC is a non-profit association of media professionals who communicate the vast array of outdoor recreational opportunities and related issues in California and the surrounding western region. The membership includes newspaper and magazine staffers, freelance writers, book authors, radio broadcasters, video producers, editors, photographers, artists, lecturers, and information officers.



# Mother's Day Breakfast 2014

By Sue Dekalb

The Mother's Day Breakfast event ran very smoothly this year, the volunteers putting into practice everything they learned last year. A new layout at the Ridgeview site made for a much more efficient working environment and this year the volunteers went above and beyond in working together to have delicious breakfasts hot and ready for the visitors. Planning starts in January, so it's a lot of work and takes many great volunteers help to make it happen.

This year we had over 270 paid guests attend, many people walking the trails out to the breakfast site and others, especially older folks and people with young children, catching one of the shuttle vehicles. Everyone had a great time and we all enjoyed the wonderful weather, sunny but not too hot.

More than 50 volunteers and park staff give their time to make the event the success that it is. Many thanks to all of you, but the following people especially put in the extra effort to make the event memorable for all the visitors: Bev VanderWeide, Dale Combs, Mitsi Shine, Jill Kilty Newburn, Dave Perrin, Rob and Martie Sinclair, Bruce and Rosemary Rideout, Bob Kass, Cameron Bowers, Patrick Goodrich, Tony Oldofredi, and Eric Griggs.

Most of all, thank you to all the visitors who enjoyed their special day with us on Pine Ridge. See you next year!



Photos by Mitsi Shine.



# Hunting Hollow 5K/10K Run/Walk

By Ken Howell

June 14, 2014 was a beautiful day for the Henry W. Coe State Park 5K and 10K Fun Run and Walk along the banks of Hunting Hollow Creek amidst late-blooming wildflowers. The evening before the run, Coe Park volunteers arrived to stuff envelopes with T-shirts and race day numbers. Some volunteers camped at Hunting Hollow so they were ready early on Saturday morning and by 6:30am the rest of the volunteers arrived to finish set up and prepare for the runners. Jim Brady and his parking team were ready and able to squeeze every foot of space for the arriving cars. Concurrently, Sandy Voechting and her crew at the registration table passed out envelopes to each runner and also registered the late runners for the run.

At 9:00am sharp, Ready! Set! Go! rang out at the starting line. All the runners and walkers charged down the Hunting Hollow Trail and the run was on! Past the wildflowers, past the oaks, past the sycamores, past the bays, but alas over 13 dry creek crossings. Hopefully, El Nino will bring rain this winter so we can splash through the creek next year. Waiting at the first aid station were Don Savant and his crew to pass out water and make sure that the 5K runners and walkers turned around and headed back while the 10K runners and walkers continued. Waiting at the second aid station at the end of Hunting Hollow at Wagon Road, Mike Hundt and his team provided water and sent the 10K runners and walkers back to the finish line.

At the finish line, Steve McHenry and his team tore the labels from the bibs of each runner and put them in finish order for the results table. In addition, timers Manny Pitta, Don Weil, Don Wong, and James Wong noted everyone's time, and times were added to the labels at the finish table by Bruce Tanner and his results team. Then the first, second, and third place finishers for each distance, gender, and age group were determined for medals.

Results were announced by Ranger Cameron Bowers. Jorn Jensen of Morgan Hill won the trophy for overall 5K male finisher. Daisy Perez of Livingston won the trophy for overall 5K female finisher. Andrew Blackley of Gilroy won the trophy for overall 10K male finisher. Tiffany Verbica of Santa Cruz won the trophy for first 10K female finisher. Each medal winner was presented with their gold, silver, or brass medal.

Linda and Jodie Keahey provided refreshments for the end of the race. Dave Raiman and Dave Perrin transported race equipment from and to the PRA storage room at the visitor center. Dave Raiman was also the photographer for the run.

It was a great day and both participants and volunteers had a great time. Some of them were an enthusiastic group of people over 70. Due to their demand, there will also be a 70+ age group next year. For those of you who haven't run or walked in this event, please think about doing so the second Saturday of June next year. More details will be available at [coepark.net](http://coepark.net) in January.



Ready! Set! Go! They're off!

Photo by Dave Raiman.



Tiffany Verbica, female winner of 10K run.

Photo by Peter Coe Verbica, Tiffany's husband and great-grandson of Henry W. Coe.

# Remembering Jim Tuomey

by Lee Sims



Jim Tuomey and former Park Superintendent Kay Robinson, in the background Chris Weske, the top of Lee Sims's head, the late Kevin Gilmartin, and Teddy Goodrich at a celebration event in 2000.

Photo courtesy Lee Sims.

Jim Tuomey's Brooklyn roots were obvious when he spoke of grasses, menus, birds, the Dewey Decimal System, and his many experiences in Coe Park and in the great wide world. Jim died in New Mexico on July 14 of complications from a type of acute leukemia weeks after the illness was diagnosed. He was 72.

Jim volunteered at Coe from 1990 until 1999 and brought into the program no personal agenda except the desire to learn and a desire to share. He was eager to help hikers and backpackers in the visitor center, but his most remembered achievement was learning the grasses of Coe Park—a subject he chose because no-one else had.

He attended grass identification workshops and spent hours in the field examining Coe's native and non-native species. As Winslow Briggs noted: "I well remember Jim's early efforts with grasses. I admired him greatly for tackling such a difficult topic. He was a dedicated volunteer and he was also a lovely guy! We were very sorry when [he and Ann Ellen] moved away."

When park superintendent Kay Robinson said that a volunteer hike into Robison Canyon needed some interpretation, it was Jim who gathered the hardy group around him near the pass between Snod and (appropriately) Grass peaks and talked expertly about native bunch grasses and the effects of cattle grazing on the landscape.

Former Coe Park ranger Barry Breckling recalls Jim as a "guy with a wonderful sense of humor. As a volunteer, he could always see what needed to be done and took on the work with serious vigor. He was always working at learning more about nature. ... We had a going-away lunch for Jim just before he moved to New Mexico. It was both a sad and enjoyable event. ... The wonderful memories I have of him put a bit of joy in my heart."

Jim was a professional cook, trained in New York and England, but tested by the terrain of Coe. Libby Vincent remembers the meal he catered in September 1992 at the Arnold Cabin cleanup. "He appeared late in the afternoon riding herd on huge canisters of pasta and pasta sauce, half standing in the back of maintenance worker Dean Meyer's truck, rocking and rolling through the billowing dust down the hill to the East Fork to bring us a delicious dinner."

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## Remembering Jim Tuomey continued....

Jim was a handsome man with a disarming grin and easy manner. He loved the New York Mets and mystery books and was an accomplished photographer. Ann Ellen added “Jim was a teacher of history in public schools in Virginia and NYC and he was an Assistant Professor of English and American Studies at a college in Kumamoto, Japan. All before he began his cooking career.”

He and Ann Ellen left the South Bay and Coe in 1999 after the early death of their daughter, Jeanne, from an unrelated form of leukemia. They moved to the Taos, New Mexico, area. Many old-time Coe volunteers will remember a memorial tree planting at Live Oak High School in remembrance of Jeanne.

In New Mexico Jim volunteered at the library and was soon hired on full time, only to later retire and volunteer again. Birds also became a focus, particularly after Jim and Ann Ellen found a common redpoll on their thistle sock in 2007. After reporting the bird to the New Mexico Bird Records Committee, they learned that it was the first confirmed sighting of a common redpoll in the state. For a week as the redpoll hung around, Jim and Ann Ellen hosted birders from all over New Mexico eager to expand their state lifelist by one.

Jim and Ann Ellen loved to travel and explore new places. They entertained their Coe friends in New Mexico; I remember a hike down to—and back up from—the Rio Grande River followed by a delicious chicken dinner. Bonnie and I also shared time with them in Great Basin National Park and in the shadow of Mt. Hood. Jim always brought his humor and stories and a bottle of wine when he visited friends in California.

Libby noted: “Jim was a man who said it straight and meant what he said; he was delightful company and I loved his dry, New York sense of humor.”

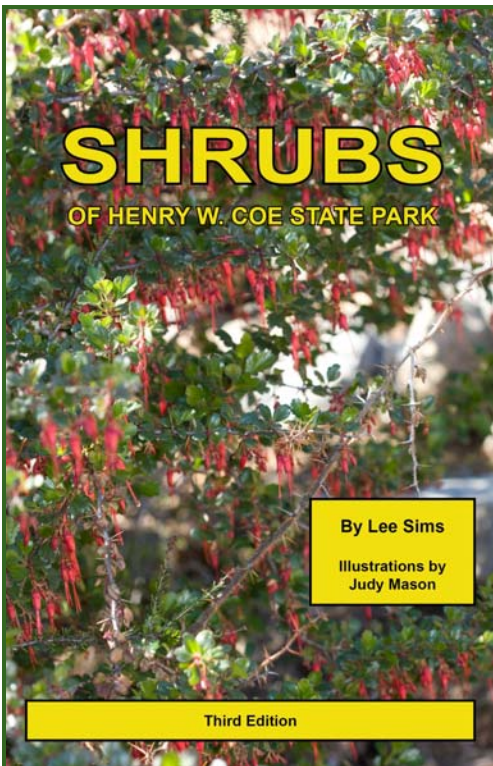
Jim knew that life had to be lived and no-one would do it for him. He went at it.

He will be missed by Ann Ellen and their son Drew (who lives in San Francisco), and those of us who had the good fortune to work and play with him.

Donations can be made in his memory to Friends of the Taos Public Library or the New Mexico Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

## New Shrubs Book

By Lee Sims



The new, third edition of Shrubs of Henry W. Coe State Park is now available for sale in the visitor center. It has a shiny new cover photo by Dick Rawson of fuchsia-flowered gooseberry and a back cover photo by Winslow Briggs of deerweed blooming on a former chaparral hillside after the Lick fire.

Since this key to shrubs was first published in 1988, several factors have led to revisions. Previous editions have sold out; the park has now increased to 87,000 and some acres; there is increased interest by visitors and volunteers in the shrubs in Coe Park; and nomenclature has been revised per The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, second edition.

Also included in this third edition is a list of bloom colors coordinated to the bloom dates of shrubs, the fruit colors for some of the more showy shrubs, and a list of shrubs sorted by their botanical families as listed in Jepson.

Finally, Winslow Briggs has added an essay on the effects of fire, and the Lick Fire in particular, on the shrubs of the park.

Thanks as always to former volunteer Judy Mason for her fine illustrations.

I hope you enjoy the book, learn more about the shrubs in the park, and share what you know with anyone interested in learning more.

# Ranch Day, May 17th, 2014

By Chere Bargar

Over 200 people enjoyed the many animals, displays, and crafts at this year's event. Some new additions this year were a very tame cow that gave kisses, a demonstration on how to milk goats, and some new crafts for kids, who made prairie dolls and all sorts of creatures from oak galls. The imagination and artistic ability of some of these kids is amazing.



Wyatt King and the doll he made.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



Ranger Jen and her daughter at the butter churn.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



Yenna and Hanna Seo on the saddle.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



Sandy Voechting and her miniature horses.  
Photo by Sue Dekalb.



## Park Events and Information

Mark your calendars—important dates and other announcements

Also visit [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) for more information about all activities.



**Saturday October 4**  
the annual Tarantulafest.  
More information including ticket  
sales at  
[www.coepark.net](http://www.coepark.net)

Come to the Coe Park Tarantulafest and rub elbows (so to speak) with some of our fuzzy, friendly eight-legged guests of honor. The event is held at the visitor center campground, which has breathtaking views across the ridges and canyons of the backcountry. With a meal ticket you can sit down and enjoy great home-cooked food at our barbecue.

Take a leisurely nature walk with a volunteer naturalist and search for tarantulas or go on a geocaching hike. Enjoy live music by The Tarantulas, a jug band of musical Coe Park volunteers and friends. Hang out at our kids' activities table and create Tarantulafest keepsakes.

This year we have brought back the raffle with some great prizes available. Visit [www.coepark.org](http://www.coepark.org) for more information regarding the raffle and buying meal tickets.

The ever popular snakes will be back this year.

Wildlife Education Rehabilitation Center of Morgan Hill will also be there with an educational exhibit.

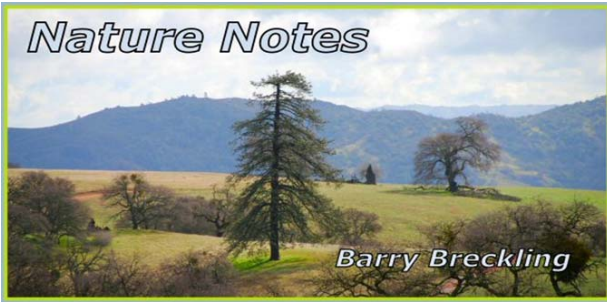
## Bat Boxes are in Place

The bat boxes are installed and ready for occupancy. A few bats have been seen checking them out, but none have moved in yet. It's not unusual for bats to take several years to take up residence. We're anxious to start interpretive programs, will be purchasing an echo locator thanks to some generous donations that will be a great help in finding these small flying mammals.

Bat box in Hunting Hollow, ready for occupancy.  
Photo by Heather Ambler.



## Nature Notes



## Aestival

Hot, dry, often breezeless days, day after day. That's late summer in the Diablo Range, a tough time for hikers and wild plants.

Most plants in our area grow and bloom in the spring when it is wet and warm, but there are exceptions. Long-time Coe park hiker and flower photographer Dave Hildebrand always says that you can find wildflowers every month of the year at

Coe. This is very true and there is actually a second major blooming season, the Aestival Season. Few park visitors know about this because it reaches its peak in the months least favorable for hiking—August and September.

Many aestival blooming plants can be found along the creeks. At the edge of dry, gravelly streambeds you can find California Sunflowers with their golden sunshine blooms seeking the sun from atop 10 feet or taller stocks. If you follow a fluttering Monarch Butterfly, it is likely to land on the fireworks-like explosion of blossoms of the Narrow-leaf Milkweed. Nearby you can see the glowing purple flower spikes of Leather Root, and at the edge of a stagnant pool will be a spiny bramble with the beautiful bright pink flowers of the California Rose. One of the most notable creek-bed plants is the Scarlet Monkeyflower with its bright lipstick-red flowers. Nearby you might find Dense-flowered Willow Herb. Run your hand up the bright green foliage and you'll see why I call it Cool Plant. It draws water up from deep roots and keeps cool through evaporation, much like a swamp cooler. It's easy to understand how plants can survive the summer heat in creek beds, but how do they do it on dry hillsides?



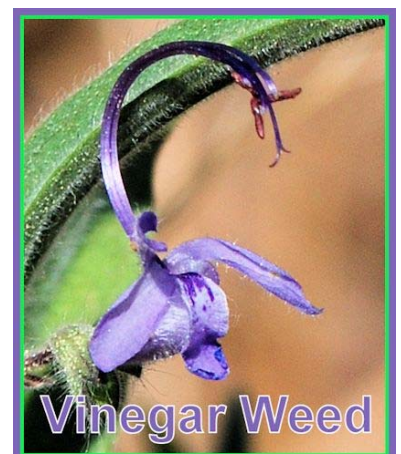
There are some advantages to blooming in the summer. There is less competition for moisture, pollinators, and nutrients. Aestival blooming plants of dry areas have numerous strategies to survive the harsh summer.

Some plants like the cute little California Aster have silver hairiness or coatings to reflect the desiccating heat of the sun. Many have waxy or sticky coatings to hold in moisture. A green plant in the middle of summer looks like a treat to deer and insects, but the sticky material is often stinky and deters these herbivores. In Miller Field and on Mahoney Meadows you can find fields of yellow tarweed. A walk through one of these fields of oily plants will not only leave you pants a mess (or your bare legs worse off) but will leave a smell that is rather unpleasant to most people.

If you smell a turpentine odor, look at your feet and you're sure to find the poorly named Vinegar Weed with its small, blue curly-anthered flower. Watch insects such as skippers getting nectar from the flower and when they hang from the flower the long curled stamens and style spring into action, thumping the heads of the insects in the process of pollination.

One of my favorite summer flowers is the California Fuchsia. It grows on dry hillsides often in rocky areas where it attracts hummingbirds to its bright red tubular flowers. They bloom from summer into fall and are a very important food plant for fall migrating humming birds.

Grab your hat, fill a couple bottles of water with ice added, and take an early evening aestival hike at Coe.





# The End of an Era

By Susan Ferry

As park staff and most volunteers know, Central Communications for California State Parks, CenCom, which was located in Monterey, has closed. There are now only two emergency dispatch centers in the entire state for State Parks and California Fish and Wildlife. One dispatch center, Northern Communications, NorCom, is located in Rancho Cordova at Prairie City, east of Sacramento, and the other is in Southern California at Lake Perris. The majority of CenCom's service area, including Henry Coe State Park, is now dispatched by NorCom.

With the change in centers come some changes for us in the field:

- The dispatch center we use is referred to as "Northern" on the radio. For example, when Ranger John needs to call dispatch, he will say "Northern, 15G42 on Sizer" (fifteen-George-forty-two on Sizer).
- Volunteers will no longer go in service with dispatch. Instead, they will radio the duty ranger and let him or her know when they are in service. If you do not know who the duty ranger for the day is, you can call "Coe Ranger, Vxxx" and the ranger on duty will respond. Or listen to radio transmissions to find out which ranger is on duty and then radio them.
- **If you have an emergency and have access to a phone, call 911.** This will help the dispatch center sort and prioritize calls.
- If you have an emergency but your only communication is a radio, call Northern just as you would have with CenCom, and include "priority traffic"; for example, "Northern, Vxxx on Sizer, priority traffic." Wait for Northern to acknowledge you and describe the emergency and what assistance you need. As always, keep your transmissions concise and to the point.
- Because of the large service area, many tasks that CenCom used to take care of are being returned to the districts.
- The radio system, repeaters, etc. remain the same.

Park staff call signs are:

15G16, Stuart Organo  
 15G41, Cameron Bowers  
 15G42, John Verhoeven  
 15G44, Jen Naber  
 15G43, Derek Davis

Keep this information with you when you're out in the park with a radio.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ranger John ([john.verhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:john.verhoeven@parks.ca.gov)) or me ([susan.ferry@parks.ca.gov](mailto:susan.ferry@parks.ca.gov)).

# Coit Campout

By Chere Bargar

Mother nature treated us well with mild weather unlike last year when it was HOT. Guests enjoyed riding on trails that had been pruned by Mounted Assistance Unit members, eating gourmet meals and spending time with old and new friends.

Breakfast served by the hardworking crew.  
 How do you want your eggs?  
 Photo by Colleen Combes.



## News from the Board of the Pine Ridge Association

By Ron Erskine

The board of directors of the Pine Ridge Association met on Tuesday July 9, 2014 in the meeting room of the Gilroy Library.

Treasurer Cynthia Leeder reported that through July 8, 2014, the PRA has total income of \$54,413 and total cost of goods and expenses of \$47,540 for a net income of \$6,873. The board was encouraged that we are “in the black” despite increasing costs for insurance and unusual maintenance items (for example, a contribution of \$8,000 to the new roof for the visitor center).

Ken Howell reported that candidates for the fall volunteer class were a disappointing five or so at this date. Alternatives, including websites that connect people with volunteer organizations like ours that have worked so well in the past, were discussed.

The Pine Ridge Association’s standard agreement with the California Department of Parks and Recreation has been completed and submitted to the state for their signature. The agreement will renew on August 31, 2014 and run for five years to August 31, 2019.

The anniversary for PRA insurance coverage is September 20, and the board is working with a local broker familiar with markets for nonprofits to put in place coverage at a lower cost. In recent years our insurance costs have increased dramatically as it became clear that the coverage we had did not include many of the activities the PRA conducts.

Laura Dominguez-Yon presented the newly published impressive book “A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs,” which will be available for sale in the visitor center.

Two board members will work with two other PRA members to create a more aggressive fundraising program to support the work the PRA does.

At the next board meeting, members will discuss a few amendments to the PRA by-laws to update the document. These amendments will be voted on by PRA members.

The next PRA board meeting will be at 6:30 pm, Tuesday September 9, 2014 in the Gilroy Library meeting room. PRA members are welcome to attend.

### PRA New Members

**We are pleased to welcome the new members listed below. Thank you for your support.**

We need your help to keep our membership list current and accurate. If you have any questions regarding your membership or to let us know of any change of address, please contact us. If you have chosen to receive *The Ponderosa* electronically and, for some reason, it is undeliverable, we will send the next issue via USPS.

Bert Endsley, Palo Alto  
 Henry Millstein, San Jose  
 Thomas Reynolds, Los Altos  
 Bruce Riter, Los Altos  
 Terris Sadler, Morgan Hill  
 Dave Schellinger, Palo Alto  
 Lori Van Houten, Redwood City

Email: [membership@coepark.net](mailto:membership@coepark.net)  
 US mail: 9100 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
 Phone: 408-779-2728





## News from Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs

By Laura Dominguez-Yon

I've heard many requests over the years for a book about Gilroy Hot Springs so I'm pleased it's finally here. "A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs: 1860s through 1960s – A Visual History of Gilroy Hot Springs and Magic Springs, California." The publisher and authors are collaborating in offering a special deal for us: join at the \$45 (individual) or \$60 (family) membership levels and get a free, autographed copy of the first run of the book! Download the order form from <http://www.GilroyYamatoHotSprings.org/book>. You can buy the book for \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping. A limited number of copies will be available at the Coe Park visitor center in the fall.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who contributed to another successful public event at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (GYHS) on May 24th:

- Coe Park uniformed volunteers: Olga Eames, Buddy Schwabe, Mark Deger, Dan Healy, Dean Yon
- Lester Schuabe
- GYHS volunteers J.J. Sasaki, Karen Pogue, David Godkin, Stephanie Lee, Joyce Amador, Miriam Taba, Henry Kato
- Community volunteers Rhonda Pellin, Steve Eddlemon, Bill Headley, Annie Bradford, M/M Afonso Almeida, David Almeida, Mary Hathaway, Lily Kawafuchi, Clayton Frederick
- Musician/composer Janet Thompson
- Reiki practitioners Steve and Sandy Wong, Teruko Shimizu, and Susan Yamashita
- South Valley Oyama Karate Dojo Sensei Motoi Fukunishi and students Jared Ramsey, Naoyabi Shiraishi, Jun Shinagawa, Sengey Merkuicu, Bryan Klingman, Katsushi Sakajuchin, and David Godkin
- Health and lifestyle coaches Kazuyo Shimokawabe, Adrianna Steinwedel, and Paul Barbaro, Tim Lantz
- California State Parks Monterey District staff: Matt Bischoff, Pat Clark-Gray, Cameron Bowers, Jennifer Naber, Stuart Organo, Randy Neufeld.

### Restoration News

Full funding for restoring the Texas cabin has been received by the Monterey District thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation plus a Monterey District appropriation of \$100,000. All that's needed now is the green flag to start work.

### Grant Award

Many thanks to a California State Parks Foundation discretionary grant that will allow us to purchase folding picnic tables, pop-up canopies, and possibly a pop-up tent. This means relieving volunteers of schlepping equipment up and down the hill between venues. Thank you also to Lily Kawafuchi for her monetary donation plus the very useful folding table. Lily also invited us to exhibit at the recent National Convention of the Japanese American Citizens League, which led to meeting the Flower Growers Association who were excited to add names to the faces in the 1939 group photo taken at GYHS.

### Save the Date

Saturday October 18, 2014 for our annual fall event at GYHS. Volunteers welcome. We get to use the new equipment!



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*The Ponderosa* is a quarterly publication of the Pine Ridge Association. The PRA's mission is to enhance and enrich the public's experience at Henry W. Coe State Park through education and interpretation. Articles and artwork relating to the natural history, history, and management of the park are welcome. Also, interested in volunteering? Email Jim Wright, [jimtina@yahoo.com](mailto:jimtina@yahoo.com).

Please send submissions and ideas to the editor at: [PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net](mailto:PRAnewsletter@wildblue.net).

**Deadline for the next issue: October 31, 2014**

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