

CVPA Newsletter

QUARTERLY NO. 24

JANUARY, 1997

CCI EXPANSION STUDY

Suppose it were suddenly announced that the California Department of Corrections was proposing to make yet another expansion of our Tehachapi CCI. What would CVPA do? We would probably start scrambling to gather information to support a position either for or against. Not only would it be difficult to acquire all the necessary information in time to be of use, but in reality such an effort might well be futile because once the decision to expand is made in Sacramento the chances of changing the bureaucratic mind are slim.

Rather than being in the position of having to react to such an announcement, your CVPA Board is looking at a proactive approach. This would entail doing a study before the fact, and if more prison would have a largely negative impact, we could make a "preemptive strike" by advising the Department that a major opposition would be mounted against an expansion and sending them a copy of the study.

We are considering having a graduate student adopt such a study as a dissertation topic as we did for the Cummings Valley Land Use Study in 1992. CVPA would be willing to pay a graduate student's direct expenses up to some agreed upon limit.

Although the existing CCI facility will serve as a basis for the study, it must be made clear that this is not a complaint against the existing facility. Our present CCI is a part of the community that we have learned to live with, and has every right to be there.

BUS TOUR

Plans are underway for our biennial tour of Cummings and Brite Valleys. As in the past, we will have running narratives on the history, fauna and flora, agricultural activity and, this year, we plan to do a bit more on the geology. There will be some new sites to visit along with some of the previous ones.

The tentative date is June 21. We will limit the num-

ber of participants to two bus loads. Final plans and details will be in the March 31 newsletter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

February. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 6 at Cummings Valley Elementary School. The speaker will be Charles Dodds presenting a history of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe line through Tehachapi. He will place special emphasis on the world famous Tehachapi Loop, the idea and the engineering.

April (or May). We are working on a program on Kawiisu habitation of Brite and Cummings Valley and the surrounding mountains. Although our meeting schedule is for April, this meeting could be changed to May to be a little closer to the bus tour during which some Indian sites might be pointed out.

June. This is the Annual Meeting at which we elect officers and set the amount of the annual dues.

Jon Hammond has generously offered the use of his old barn at his ranch on Cherry Lane for a musical program by himself and some of his musician friends.

This should be a nice change of pace from our usual meetings at Cummings Valley Elementary School. Details in the next newsletter.

YELLOW STARThISTLE

CVPA, in cooperation with the Stallion Springs CSD, will be working towards eradication of the weed in Cummings Valley and Stallion Springs. We expect to conduct a spray program in about March followed in about June by a program of manual removal of plants missed by the herbicide. If we have late spring rains, a second spray program may be necessary.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with these programs, so be prepared! If you can help with the first spray program, please call Chuck McCollough at 822-3478.

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CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

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CVPA Newsletter

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CVPA NEWSLETTER

STAR PARTIES

President Joe Fontaine has again arranged an invitation for CVPA members to participate with the Kern County Astronomical Society in viewing the vast universe that surrounds us. Society members are willing to share their telescope and explain what is being seen. Appropriate mountain locations for these star parties are not chosen until the last minute because of weather uncertainties. Dates have been set for February 1, February 8, March 8, and March 15.

Call Joe Fontaine at 821-2055 the day before these dates if you are interested in sharing the secrets of the night sky with a congenial group of amateur astronomers



MEMBERSHIP

Although we are halfway through the current activity year, there are approximately 100 members that have not renewed their membership.

If this newsletter includes a white envelope addressed to the membership chairman, you have not paid your 1996-1997 dues.

CVPA needs your support through your membership. Remember that CVPA's influence and clout come from having a large membership. The CVPA has taken an active role in working with elected officials, county planners, the land owners and the community in making decisions about the land use.

We are certain that you want to continue your support of the activities such as the partnership with Cummings Valley Elementary School, litter cleanups, eradication of the yellow starthistle, and opinion surveys about land use in Cummings and Brite Valleys. The results of these activities will be reported to you in the quarterly news letter.