

Daily Report - Yosemite National Park Tuesday, November 24, 2009

*Due to technical troubles the Daily Report was not published yesterday, Monday, November 23. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, it will not be published again until next Monday, November 30. Thank you for your patience and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Weather

Yosemite Valley

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 34. East northeast wind around 11 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 64. East northeast wind between 10 and 13 mph becoming light.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35. East wind between 7 and 11 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. East southeast wind between 8 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

El Portal Area

This Afternoon: Sunny, with a high near 66. West wind around 7 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. East northeast wind between 7 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. East northeast wind between 10 and 13 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. East northeast wind between 7 and 10 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. East southeast wind around 9 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Tuolumne Area

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. East wind around 7 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 55. East wind between 3 and 8 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25. Southeast wind between 3 and 7 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Southeast wind between 10 and 13 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Happening Today

Tioga Pass Road and Glacier Point Road are closed today due to snow and icy conditions. For updated road information, please call 209-372-0200 press 1 then 1.

Park News

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Training

Yosemite's CISM team is looking for new members. There is a Basic CISM course

being held in January. Peer Supporters are not counselors but are trained to help fellow employees deal with the emotions that can arise after incidents. If you are interested in being a Peer Supporter in Yosemite as well as signing up for national callouts, please consider taking this training. If funding is an issue, the Protection Division may be able to help with tuition and related expenses. Funding would need to be pre-approved by Charles Cuvelier so please send your one-page nomination to him. We ask that you have your Division Chief's support and approval to become a member of Yosemite's team as even local debriefings can take you from your worksite for several hours. Time is running out as the deadline is December 5th. Please see the following announcement.

January 11 – January 15 – Basic CISM Peer Support Training, Albuquerque, NM. The basic CISM peer support training course is designed for those employees interested in helping their fellow employees deal with the emotional aftermath of a critical incident. The training program will encompass the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum. The course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services including pre and post incident crisis education, significant other support services, on-scene support services, crisis intervention for individuals, demobilizations after large-scale traumatic incidents, small group defusings and the group intervention known as critical incident stress debriefing (CISD). The training will prepare participants to provide several of these interventions, specifically demobilizations, defusing, and the CISD. The need for appropriate follow-up services and referrals when necessary will also be described. This course is open to any person wishing to know more about crisis intervention techniques. Emergency services and disaster workers, security, safety, military, industrial and school system personnel, EAPs, human resources personnel, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and others can benefit from the training. You must register by December 5th. To register, please visit the InsideNPS CISM website at <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/waso.cfm?prg=175&lv=3> (S.Grinn 11/24/09)

PLEASE NOTE THE PRESENTATION DESCRIBED BELOW AND ANNOUNCED EARLIER HAS BEEN CANCELLED On Tuesday, November 24th from 12:10-12:50pm in the EP large break room there will be a presentation on the American Samoa tsunami cultural resource salvage operation, by Tammy Duchesne. Tammy was the Chief of Cultural Resources/Curator for Guam and Samoa (2003-2009), and is now the Management Assistant to the Regional Director in the NERO. Tammy was involved in the Incident Command cleanup operations post-tsunami and will provide a photo presentation of the cleanup operations. (J Bayless 11/23/09)

It is that time of year for the Toy Drive and Coat Drive which Yosemite has participated in the past several years. If you would like to donate any toy new or used coat for a boy or girl (infant to 18 years of age), please bring your toys or used coats to the Facilities Management Division at the El Portal Maintenance Warehouse and see Diane Stewart (379-1059/1331), or in Yosemite Valley in the Admin Building and see Rhonda Soden (372-0496). We will be accepting gifts and coats up until the Employee Holiday luncheon on December 15, 2009. (R Soden 11/23/09)

YEA is looking for new board members for the 2010 term. If you are a member in good standing and interested, please contact a board member by Dec. 1st. Board members: Eric Abbot, Nancy Bissmeyer, Romina Pasten, Lothy Stewart, Missy Carter, Mara Dale and Devon Rothell. (R Pasten 11/23/09)

Updates

Yosemite News Release
November 23, 2009
For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:
Scott Gediman 209-372-0248
Kari Cobb 209-372-0529

Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson wins National Freeman Tilden Award

Highest Award in Interpretation Presented to Ranger Johnson

Shelton Johnson, Interpretive Park Ranger at Yosemite National Park has been selected as a recipient of the 2009 Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation.

Johnson received the award Thursday, November 19, at the National Association of Interpretation conference in Hartford, Connecticut. This is the highest award given by the National Park Service for excellence in interpretation. Johnson was one of the seven finalists from regions throughout the country competing for the national award.

Johnson was cited for his extensive collaboration with Ken Burns during the filming of the landmark documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Ranger Johnson appeared in the film extensively reflecting on his experiences as a National Park Ranger. Additionally, he worked on a collaborative project telling the previously untold stories of diverse peoples in national parks. These messages are reaching far beyond Yosemite National Park and have facilitated lasting connections between African Americans and their national parks.

“We are extremely proud of Shelton and couldn't be happier that he has been recognized by receiving this award. It is even more meaningful that this award was given by his peers. Shelton's work here in Yosemite and on the Ken Burns film will reach millions of people for generations to come,” said Tom Medema, Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education at Yosemite National Park.

Shelton Johnson has worked for the National Park Service for over 20 years. Prior to working in Yosemite National Park, Johnson worked in Yellowstone National Park, Great Basin National Park, and the National Mall in Washington D.C.

Johnson was selected by a panel of interpretive experts from around the country. As the recipient of the 28th annual National Freeman Tilden Award, Johnson received a sculpted portrait bust of Freeman Tilden and \$4,000.

Employee Corner

Health Fair

Where: Large Break Room in the El Portal Admn/Facilities Complex

When: November 30th from 11:00am through Noon

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield & Mail Handlers Representatives will be on site to answer any questions pertaining to their plans. We will have a limited number of brochures on hand for your review. Please stop by and ask questions! See you there! (T.Barton 11/24/09)

Acting Designations

Deron Mills will be the acting Fire Chief through Dec 4th while I am on annual leave. You can contact Deron at 209-379-1902.

Kristina Rylands, Acting Division Chief for Planning, will be out of the park November 23rd through the 27th. Jim Bacon will be the Acting Division Chief in her absence. You may phone Jim at 379-1375, or if unavailable, you may leave a message with Doyle Harrison at 379-1110.

Scott Jackson is Acting Branch Chief for Anthropology & Archeology Monday through Wednesday, 11/23 - 25.

Carol Knipper is Acting Branch Chief for Anthropology & Archeology on Friday, 11/27.

Jeffrey Trust will be Acting Valley Field Interpretation Supervisor through November 28.

Tami Barton will be the acting Human Resources Officer until further notice, she can be reached at (209) 379-1810.

Community News

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite would like to announce a special book signing of Gloryland by author Shelton Johnson. Gloryland is the fictional memoir of a buffalo soldier – a black U.S. cavalryman and the son of slaves, who finds true freedom when he is posted to patrol the newly created Yosemite National Park in 1903. The book signing will take place on Tuesday, **December 1 from 11:00am-1:00pm in the lobby of the Ahwahnee Hotel**. The hardcover book is available for purchase at the Ahwahnee Hotel Gift Shop, the Village Store, the Wawona Gift Shop and the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Gift Shop for \$25.00. Hope to see you there! (K Leonard 11/23/09)

The El Portal and Briceberg Open Studios 2009 is happening on Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 10am-4pm. This year there are 6 locations including Briceberg Visitor's Center in Briceberg and 5 homes/studios in El Portal. Over 20 artists will have new work for your viewing and shopping pleasure. Locations will be clearly marked and maps will be available on request. This is an exciting holiday event and we hope to see you there! (L Stewart 11/23/09)

39th Annual Holiday Party: Village Store. Friday December 4th. 25 % off of all store items during business hours (excluding alcohol and tobacco) Refreshments at 5:30 p.m. Door Prizes at 6:30 p.m. One raffle ticket per person, winner must be present. Santa Claus will visit from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (P Bugess 11/23/09)

Mine Waste: How, What & Now What? The discovery of gold in 1849 changed

California forever. In their quest for wealth, gold miners left a legacy of lasting impacts on the environment. The Upper Merced River Watershed Council, a project of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, invites you to come and learn about the history of gold mining in California. Randy Bolt, Park Interpretive Specialist with the California Mining and Mineral Museum, will present a look at mining methods from the early days as well as some used in modern times. You'll see the various kinds of waste each method creates, where chemicals have been introduced, and why they are still here. You'll come away with a factual foundation of knowledge about the effects of mining in the watersheds of our Golden State.

When: **Wednesday, December 2, 5:30 pm**

Where: The Bodie Room, Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort, 6979A Highway 140, Midpines

Cost: Free

For directions, call or email the watershed office at 966-2221 or watershed@sti.net. (11/19/09)

The "Pride of the Sierras"! You may have heard of this, but may not have been aware of what it referred to: our Yosemite region's own Mariposa County High School Grizzly Band! Our award-winning, small but dedicated MCHS band is a fine representation of how a diverse group of our own children can show the outside world the kind of talent that grows up around Yosemite. They compete in band competitions, perform in parades (watch them in our local Dec 12th Mariposa Merry Mountain parade), play in concerts, and have even appeared on nationwide TV! However, the costs of operating a viable band program are significant. In addition, this year the band program lost all their funding from the school district for transportation. In response to this, please help support our own Grizzly band by participating in the band's fundraiser, and purchase some "Grizzly Band Blend" and "Grizzly Band Decaf" gift packages of coffee at a customer cost of \$8.00 per package (one pound). There will be four types of choices for customers: whole bean regular and decaf, and ground regular and decaf. These have been made available through the generosity of Mariposa Coffee Company. To purchase (checks should be made out to MCHS Grizzly Band), please contact any member of the MCHS band. One local representative is Katie Sheetz, who can be reached by calling (209) 966-3722, or contacting her parents Yosemite employees Linda or Skip Sheetz (we'll get the order to her). Delivery will be before Christmas. Thank you for supporting our band! (L Sheetz 11/23/09)

Yosemite Association Thanksgiving Weekend Sale !

The Valley Visitor Center Bookstore and the Yosemite Museum will be hosting our annual storewide Thanksgiving Sale this Thursday, November 26th through Sunday, November 29th. 15% off all merchandise; 30% off for all active Yosemite Association members! The YA stores are open from 9 to 5 throughout the weekend. This is a great opportunity to purchase the Ken Burns/Dayton Duncan book or DVD boxed set for "The National Parks: America's Best Idea", or our 2010 Yosemite calendar, now reduced to \$5.95. It is also a great time to purchase a collectable basket, or some unique hand made jewelry at the Museum store, all with substantial savings. Happy Thanksgiving and thanks to all our devoted supporters who help us help Yosemite ! (T. Arfsten 11/24/09)

A Double Feature from the EPTS!

This December the El Portal Travel Series will sponsor TWO presentations! Don't miss either of these events!

As always, we meet on **TUESDAYs, 7:00pm, El Portal's Clark Community Hall.**

December 1st - George Jaramillo - *Architectural Wonders of Catalonia*

The warm blue waters of the Mediterranean contrast against the high jagged peaks of the Pyrenees . Cathar ruins straddle lofty peaks, while the energy of a once hidden culture of Catalonia comes back to life. This two week adventure shares the 2000 year old story of southern France and northeast Spain , told through images of the ancient Roman theaters of Arles and Nimes , the Papal palaces of Avignon , the fortified citadel of Carcassonne , the tranquil shores of Cadaques, and the vibrant city of Barcelona . So bring your sangria and come share in a night of architecture, history and culture. There may even be a few surprises here and there.

December 15th - Lynn McMichael *Palestine & Israel: Creative non-Violence on Both Sides of the Wall*

Lynn McMichael is a true hero of the Peace & Justice movement. First in 1989 and then in the early 1990's she was a delegate under the auspices of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, travelling to Israel , Palestine & Iraq. From 1998 to 2004 she made three more trips with the Fellowship to the Middle East . In 2003 she joined Voices in the Wilderness, bringing medicine and toys to Iraq just before this current war began. Lynn is currently working on the Crosses Project on a hillside in the city of Lafayette , where she and others have installed more than 5,000 Crosses, Stars of David's, and Crescents to honor U.S. forces that have died in Iraq .

This Fall Lynn is again working in Israel/Palestine with the Inter-Faith Peace Delegation. Conditions are worse that she expected, with the continuation of the Gaza blockade, settlement building, and housing demolitions. Please join us tonight for Lynn 's first-hand account of the Israeli/Palestinian "Peace Process," from a perspective rarely covered in the US Media. (P.Amstutz 11/24/09)

Entries must be in by 7:00am the day of publication. There are no weekend or holiday editions. Submissions: email yose_daily_report@nps.gov
Yosemite's *Daily Report* is an internal memorandum of long standing intended to provide timely administrative information needed for daily park operations. The primary purpose of the report is to serve as a communication tool for park management to pass specific operational information to field employees of Yosemite National Park, park partners, concessioners, and related government agencies in a fast and efficient manner and offer a format for interdivisional, interagency, and general intra-park notifications. Although the *Daily Report* is intended exclusively as an internal memorandum, it is posted here in an effort to extend timely operational information to the communities surrounding the park