

The Wagon Wheel

Volume 18

Number 1

March – April 2018

Our Holiday Dinner Was “Talk of the Town” In the Mountain News.

Our 2017 Holiday Dinner at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club was called “The Talk of the Town” in a Mountain News Article about the evening held on December 14. 86 members and guests attended this event and it was a huge success. The food is always good at the country club and it is always a wonderful evening to honor our society, its members, and old friendships.

President Jeannie Venturini led the evening. She told every one about all the myriad improvements made in the museum this year and the other works accomplished by our volunteers. She said that “.an exciting part my job as president is to honor our Volunteers of the Year and present our Wagon Wheel Award.”

The ROWHS Volunteers of the 2017 Year were Greg Naylor, Harvey Durand, and Barbara Wilcox. Angela Yap was honored by being presented the 2017 Wagon Wheel Award. Angela gave our society a lot of support in our special events of the year, in particular the Antique and Classic Wooden Boats and Woodie Cars Show held in June. She was also a great help in publicizing our Annual Lake Arrowhead Tunnel Tours, which are one of our major fund-raising events.

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation by primo historian Russ Keller on the history of Grass Valley Lake and the Early Days of the Lake Arrowhead Country Club. Russ’ presentations are always quite interesting and, at times, amusing.

The new ROWHS Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in and given the oath of office by Mary Barlow. We know they will all serve us well in 2018.

Drawings were made for several beautiful gift baskets and a great painting by our famous mountain artist, Donal Jolly, was auctioned off.

In conclusion, Jeannie Venturini thanked all of our members, volunteers, and guests for their continued support, and wished one and all a “joyful and peaceful holiday season.”



A Good Time was had by one and all



President Jeannie Venturini



Our new Officers and Directors



RIM *of the* WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2017 LAKE ARROWHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

JANUARY 30, 2018

Dear Members and Friends

I have some very exciting news to share with you. Tonight, at its Annual Member Meeting, The Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce announced the Rim of the World Historical Society as the recipient of the Chamber's Non-Profit of the year award.

I am beyond overjoyed at our being selected among so many worthy non-profits. Over the last two years we have focused on being a stronger and more visible part of our community. Our Museum has gone through major updates this last year and we are especially proud of opening up our museum to other non-profits on the mountain for social events, at no charge. I am gratified that this award acknowledges our efforts.

This award is a testament to the hard work of our Board of Directors and our volunteers. And the ongoing financial support of our members and donors. You make it possible for us to open our Museum doors to visitors so that they may learn our mountain history, celebrate Smokey Bear's birthday, and visit with Santa Claus, all at no charge.

We are now busy updating our exhibits and getting ready for opening Memorial Day weekend. This year we will be open on Fridays from 12-4, and Saturday and Sunday 10::30-4:30. We are also working on our three signature annual fundraising events: The Antique Wooden Boat and Woodie Car Show (June 9th), our summer Tunnel Tours (in cooperation with the Arrowhead Lake Association), and our narrated Arrowhead Queen Tours.

Over the last two years we have placed a high priority on being a part of the non-profit community on the mountain, and that is what makes this award so special.

Thank you, Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce.

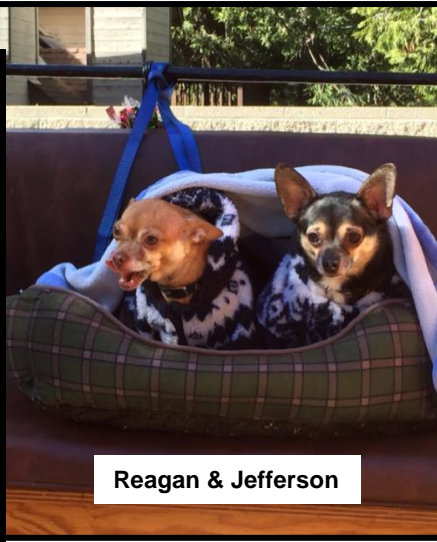
Jeannie Venturini
President



Blue Jay Christmas Parade

Of course, the world's shortest Christmas Parade, that held every year in Blue Jay, would not be complete without Santa and – you guessed it – the ROWHS historical Crestline - Lake Gregory Bus.

Here are a few pictures of some of our members (and furry friends) who participated in the parade.



We Need Museum Docents

The Rim of the World Historical Society is looking for Volunteers to work as docents for the upcoming Summer season at the History Museum. Being a docent is fun, and does not require a large time commitment. The Museum is open Friday through Sunday, June through October, and a shift is only 3 hours long. Volunteers can sign up for as little as 1 day a month, or more, depending on their schedules. It's also not necessary to have previous knowledge of the area. You can learn on the job and will always be teamed up with a seasoned Volunteer.

By being a Volunteer Docent, you get a chance to become involved in the Historical Society's on going activities, as well as make some new friends. Not to mention, it is also a great way to learn about our Mountain Communities. Events planned for Volunteers this year include a Pot Luck Meet and Greet in March, Volunteer Coffee and Training Day in April, Exclusive Pre-Opening Party in May, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in October, Arrowbear Music Camp Concert, and opportunities for field trips to other area museums.

The Mountain History Museum is located at 27176 Peninsula Drive, Lake Arrowhead, Ca. For more information, please contact Cindy Burnett at (909) 273-4291, or email her at cindyburnett123@gmail.com.

New Officers and Directors for 2018

Jeannie Venturini - President
Cindy Burnett - Vice President
Greg Naylor - Treasurer
Barbara Wilcox - Assistant Treasurer
Peter Venturini - Secretary and Assistant Treasurer
Duane Banner - Director
Jim Grant - Director
Jinna McBee - Director
Bill Pumford - Director

We wish to introduce our 2018 Officers and Directors. We are happy to announce that Jeannie Venturini has volunteered to serve a second term as President. Cindy Burnett has stepped up to be our new Vice President. Greg Naylor will remain in the Treasurer's seat with Peter Venturini and Barbara Wilcox as Assistant Treasurers. In addition, Peter Venturini will be the new Secretary.

Returning Directors Duane Banner, Jim Grant, and Jinna McBee will be joined by a new Director, Bill Pumford.

We know this new slate of Officers and Directors will serve our society well and help make 2018 a banner year for our society and museum. We also wish to extend words of appreciation for retiring Officers and Directors: Allene DuFour, Harvey Durand, Russ Keller, and Rhea-Frances Tetley. Your contributions over the years have helped our society grow and prosper.

Membership Update

I have some exciting news to share with you. Bill Pumford, a new director this year, will be handling the Membership Database for the Society. Bill will enter new members into the database, enter membership renewals, and update member information. I will still handle mailing out the renewal letters and the annual donation request letters. I really appreciate Bill helping with this very important task. I should be switching the database over to Bill on March 1. If you have any questions about your membership, contact us at our new email address:

MOUNTAINMUSEUM@ICLOUD.COM

Thank you Bill.

On another matter, I will be sending out membership renewals via regular mail. I heard from a number of you that you preferred receiving the renewal notice by mail and like having the return envelope as well. Renewal letters have gone out to those of you whose renewal date is January 2018. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Society and our Museum.

Peter Venturini

A Brief History of Blue Jay

When the Arrowhead Reservoir Company Road became a free public road in 1906, the area next to Little Bear Creek, which had been cut over by the Caley Sawmill, attracted many fishermen. Camp Blue Jay opened in 1907 for those who wanted to camp and fish in the mountain. The creek was filled with fish, and the daily limit of fifty trout per person was easily achieved.

Camp Blue Jay was named on August 10, 1907 for the blue, loudly squawking Steller's Jays that inhabited the area. The fishing camp remained popular until 1914.

In 1914, Art and Nora Wixom, along with their kids, homesteaded the 22.5 acres from Camp Blue Jay through the canyon area next to what would become the western shore of Little Bear Lake. Art retired as a forest ranger in 1917. On the homestead, they planted crops, raised chickens for eggs and had seven cows to supply milk at the store for the campers and local residents.

Each year, they built one additional vacation cabin. They constructed a small lake for spawning trout and a pay-to-fish pond next to Little Bear Creek. Their log cabin general store (shown below, from the author's collection) became known as "Wixom's Corner."

Since Blue Jay was at the crossroads, the Mountain Auto Stage and, later, the Pacific Electric Motor Transit line stopped at Wixom's Corner. Soon, they had thirteen rental fishing cabins, mostly built from abandoned wood from the closed Grass Valley Sawmill. The store had the first phone line in the area, which the Wixoms allowed the community to use. The first Blue Jay Post Office opened in Wixom's store on July 17, 1924, with Art Wixom serving as postmaster until 1936.

With Lake Arrowhead full of water, Blue Jay was located on the lake's shore. Blue Jay Bay was shallow and would freeze each winter, which was the beginning of the tradition of ice skating in Blue Jay. Actually, the ice skating on Blue Jay Bay was one of the many activities that the ALC advertised to lure winter visitors. The ALC needed a four-season resort to support its investment.

Stoney DeMent owned a vacation cabin in the Blue Jay area for several seasons. In 1932, the DeMent family moved full time to Blue Jay because of Stoney's poor health and his love of the area. He leased the property from the Wixoms, purchasing it in 1934, allowing the Wixoms to retire.



The above article is from "Lake Arrowhead Chronicles" by Rhea-Frances Tetley. This fascinating book is available from our historical society web site (<http://www.mountainhistorymuseum.org>) or from the museum gift shop when the museum reopens Memorial Day weekend.

ZIPLINE AT THE CLIFFHANGER

The following article is reprinted with permission from Russ Keller's weekly historical article in The Mountain News.

This week's image (below) is taken from a video 'shot' the summer of 2016. I chose this topic for a couple of reasons. First, history does not have to occur many years ago. Some historically significant 'things' may have just happened. Second, I found this zip line so fascinating that I just had to share it with my readers. The photo shows where the zip line started. The 'rock' in the background is known as "Sphinx Rock," located just s/o State Highway 18, east of Hortencias at the Cliffhanger.

Sphinx Rock is one of the most interesting natural or geologic formations in our San Bernardino Mountains. From various angles, the head and shoulders of the famous sculpture of the Sphinx at Gaza magically appear in our mountain bedrock. The 'rock' was a filming location for the 1917 film *Eyes of the World*, based on the novel by Harold Bell Wright. The zip line ran all the way, in full view of Hortencias Restaurant when looking south, and ended near the pull-out on Highway 18 located shortly before reaching the restaurant. I would guess the distance to be 600 feet. The gentleman, in the photo, on the line has just begun his trip down the line. As he approaches the other side, the line begins an upward route. This required that he pull himself forward toward the terminus.

The zip line only appeared the summer of 2016. How these folks managed to string the *line* remains a mystery to me. I would love to have a member of the team that constructed this zip line contact me. The video was courtesy of Vanesa, a server who works at Hortencias. UPDATE: the line was actually a Tyrolean traverse.



Note: If Russ didn't know about this, then none of the rest of us probably did.

Way Back When: ROWHS Events in January – April 2008

We were really beginning to do the heavy work on the museum ten years ago while still maintaining a schedule of events for our members. Here are some of the things we were doing back in that distant past.

In the March-April Newsletter, we discussed our wonderful Annual Membership Christmas Dinner at the UCLA Conference Center. Despite the cold, we had a full-house turnout. All agreed that the food was excellent and the company was enjoyable, as always. Historians Putty Henck and Pauliena LaFuze were in attendance, as always.

At the dinner, President Lee Cozad presented our annual awards. The Lake Arrowhead Resort was chosen to receive the coveted Wagon Wheel Award for their contributions to our society. Jim Huff, Russ Keller, and Dennis Sharp were recipients of the Presidents Award for service to the organization in rebuilding the San Moritz cupolas that originally delineated the boundaries of the San Moritz development in Crestline.

The after-dinner speaker was Bill Treadwell from the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. He gave a slide show that told us all about their wonderful and interesting work.

Some of the upcoming events back then were:

April 26: (Saturday) “Rebuilding Together” – painting the Firehouse/Museum. Get some old clothes on, bring a roller or brush and help out. Come and see our future museum home. There are many little jobs that can be done to help out on this day (or other days, as far as that goes). For example, Larry don Vito recently donated over 100 thousand old postcards to our society. We would like to put together sets of these to sell at our historical society information booths at the various events we attend this year. We could use someone to sit and put together these sets. We are also thinking about installing wood shelves in the museum attic. Maybe we can get that work going on this day. Call Jim at 338 - 0225 or Lee at 337 - 5850 for further details.

May 1: Historian and board member, Stan Bellamy, is to receive one of the Crestline Rotary Club’s Certificates of Merit at a banquet on May 1 at Thousand Pines Camp. Seating is quite limited. We will be reserving two tables. Cost is \$30/person. Call Jim or Doe at 338-0225 for details.

May 4: Putty Henck Birthday Bash at Pinecrest. 2:00 in the afternoon. Come and help celebrate the 90th birthday of a man who has done so much for our mountains and their history. Cake and light refreshments.

In February, our board meeting was held at the Lake Gregory Yacht Club clubhouse because our new museum building parking lot was blocked off by a four-foot berm of snow.

We continued our “Flick Night” of mountain-connected movies at the Lake Arrowhead Resort under the aegis of Lee Cozad. Here are the ones we saw in April of 2007:

April 1: Mademoiselle Fifi (1944) - Starring Simone Simon and Kurt Kreuger in a tale of intrigue and treachery in occupied France.

April 8: Act of Violence (1949) – Starring Van Heflin, Robert Ryan, and Janet Leigh. War veteran is tormented by his memories and a man who wants him dead.

April 15: The Moon Is Down (1943) – Starring Sir Cedric Hardwicke and Lee J. Cobb in a John Steinbeck tale of War-time collaboration gone wrong.

April 22: Conflict (1945) – Starring Humphrey Bogart, Alexis Smith and Sydney Greenstreet. Classic tale of a married man who opts out of his marriage the easy way – Murder.

In the President’s Message, Lee Cozad told us that during the drier periods of the winter, the contractors were able to complete the ADA bathroom in, what will be, the public area of the museum and that the roof will be replaced in the next few months. He said we had been chosen as the non-profit organization to benefit from this year’s Rebuilding Together Program in April (was Christmas in April). The project we needed the most was the painting of the outside of the museum structure and the Rebuilding Together group has agreed to provide, not only the labor, but also is donating all the paint. We are working on several outings for this next year and also speakers, and the dates will be firmed up in your next newsletter.

In conclusion, Lee thanked Ianita and Ralph Wagner for their generous donation at year’s end. They are our newest Silver Members. Also joining the ranks of Silver Members are Past President Larry Don Vito and his wife Sydne.

Upcoming Events

Our 31th year has been our greatest year yet, with we had many fun and informative events for our membership. As the year wanes down, we are already planning for a great bunch of events in 2018. Upcoming events for 2018 are mostly in the planning stage at this point. As a “heads up” at this point, we can say that the Annual Wooden Boat and Woodie Car Show will be held on Saturday, June 9.

President's Message

Our Museum is in the winter, quiet phase right now. As you drive by you see the doors closed and the dormant front garden. But, don't let the quiet exterior fool you! Inside, the elves are at work. The exhibit committee is already busy changing out the main exhibit, adding a new phase to the Mary Putnam Henck exhibit, and generally making magic happen in the main gallery. Stay tuned for updates.

Also, we find ourselves, happily between two major social events. Our Holiday party was ever so nice. We celebrated the end of our year with the Installation of our new 2018 Board of Directors. We are “fired up” for a busy year ahead. We also honored our Volunteers of the Year, Harvey Durand , Greg Naylor and Barbara Wilcox. Our Wagon Wheel Award was given to Angela Yap, for her extraordinary support of our Museum through the print medium. Our next special event will be the Chamber of Commerce Gala on March 23, 2018 at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa. The Rim of the World Historical Society has been honored as the Non-Profit of the Year for Lake Arrowhead. Please plan to come and celebrate with us. Every docent, every visitor, every member, every volunteer and every donor, made this award happen. You may contact the Chamber office for your tickets.

And, as Spring approaches, think about joining us as a volunteer. I have been known to say, as I am floating through the Collections Room, “busy hands are happy hands”. We have so many opportunities in which you can help. Come add your special gift and you too can help us “preserve and share our rich mountain history”.

Hope to see you at Gala.

Jeannie Venturini

Year-End Donors To Our Society

We wish to extend a hearty thanks to those of you who made your generous donations to our year-end appeal. Included this year are individuals whot also made significant financial contributions during the year. We will spend this wisely to advance our continued work on the museum as well as advancing our membership programs. Thank you to all of the following:

Dickinson, Mary Ann
Durand, Harvey & Ginny
Dwyer, Arlan
Kip, Chris & Anne
Lewis, Sidney & Renee
Mueller, Michael & Margaret
Naylor, Greg and Marlena
Newquist, Steve & Robin
Pearce, Scott & Cindy
Preston Tom

Rains, Patrick & JoBonita
Reisman, Midge & Ed
Salkin, Avram
Snaer, Mary
Venturini, Catherine
Venturini, Peter & Jeannie
Waghorn, Ken & Penny
Wilcox, Barbara
Williams, Walker & Pam

Grant From the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead

We are very pleased to let you know that we received a grant from the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead to complete cementing our patio area. Thank you Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead. We also want to thank Mud Wiz & Custom Framing for agreeing to do the work and only bill us for the materials. Labor is being donated. We are so grateful.

With the completion of this project, we will have more space to host community groups for socials, pot lucks, and get-togethers. We are very excited about being able to expand our capabilities to host our fellow community organizations.

Peter Venturini,
Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

Business Memberships

We wish to thank the following businesses who have purchased a *Business Membership*. Their generous support is greatly appreciated. If you have, or know of, a business, which would be interested in a business membership, give them the Membership Renewal form in this newsletter. If you are in need of the types of services they offer, please give them your consideration.



Running Springs
Senior Citizen's Center

Gary
POARCH
Construction

Gary Poarch
General Contractor, Owner
poarchconst@aol.com

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Duane & Carol Banner

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The following two mountain businesses have given generously their time, skills, and labor in restoring the Crestline Bus. As our thanks, we are giving each of them a business membership in the Rim of the World Historical Society.

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Green Valley Lake

Actually, the picture below is Green Valley in 1910. The lake was added a few years later with the resultant change of name to Green Valley Lake. This looks like a pleasant place to kick back and just enjoy life - like the dog laying on the bench by the car. The man by the pump is waiting to fill your car with Red Crown Gasoline. It would be fun to go back in time and visit, wouldn't it?



Rim of the World Historical Society

ROWHS, PO Box 1550, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

2018 Officers & Directors

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Cindy Burnett, Vice President 909-273-4291

Greg Naylor, Treasurer 909-337-8210

Peter Venturini, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer
909-337-7220

Duane Banner, Director 909-337-8298

Jim Grant, Director 909-337-8842

Jinna McBee, Director 909-336-2325

Bill Pumford, Director 909-338-3544

www.mountainhistorymuseum.org

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