

# discover Rio Vista hero

A guide to events and points of interest  
Spring 2016

**FREE!**

Photograph by Lori Makabe

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# Sheep Dog Trials

## McCormack Ranch Hosts Third Annual Event

By Jeannie McCormack & Susan Whitesell

Highly trained dogs and their handlers converge Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 3 at the McCormack Ranch outside of Rio Vista in hopes to win a place at the upcoming National Sheepdog Finals in September. The rolling Montezuma Hills are bucolic, the trial course is tough, the dogs amazing and the sheep typical, meaning they act naturally but not always as expected!

This all adds up to a challenging event for dogs and handlers alike and great fun for the viewing public. Bring your blanket or folding chairs and don't forget your binoculars!

Sheep dog trials have a long history in the area with the first dog trials in the 1930's at Hoyt Ranch. The trials were resurrected by Mrs. Eva Hamilton with the blessing of the Rio Vista Farm Bureau in 1946 or 1947. By the 1960's, with incidents of drunkenness and attendees numbering close to 2,000, it was decided to take a break. Trials were organized periodically in the 1970's or 1980's, however, the event never resumed with the same regularity and force. In the 1990's and early 2000's the Solano County Wool Growers held periodic trials at Hoyt Ranch, but those attempts too died out. In 2014, Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz revived the tradition started by the Hamilton family, resuming the dog trials at the Dan McCormack ranch on Montezuma Hills Road.

The McCormack Ranch course is among the larger and more complex on the trialing circuit. This complexity resonates with handlers. Ellen Skillings, Livestock



Photo by Al Medvitz

Manager at the McCormack Ranch and a talented handler in her own right, spearheads this year's event. Skillings enthuses, "Here is this course that looks like Scotland, especially this time of year, with huge rolling hills that dogs really get to work. It's so appealing to handlers to put that challenge before the dog and themselves to see if they can actually accomplish the task." She adds, "The course will be tougher than last year and there's a lot more terrain to cover."

And it's not only the size and complexity of the course that makes it challenging. It's the sheep. Skillings laughs,

"Our sheep are not forgiving to a dog that makes a mistake."

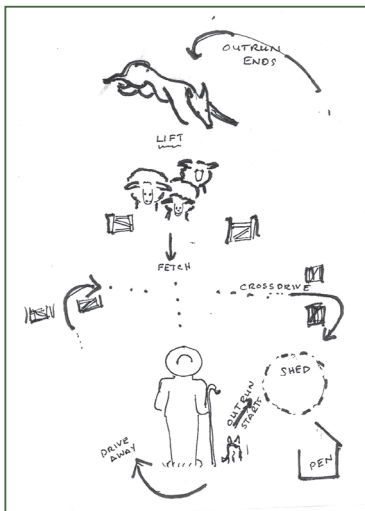


Illustration by Ellen Skillings

Participants also enjoy competing under a world-class judge. This year, Judge Derek Scrimgeour, a Scot and a past English National Champion and Reserve International Champion, officiates the event.

For judging purposes, the trial course is broken into sections, or phases and a time limit is imposed. Points are assigned to each phase based on the skills needed for competent stock work. Dog and handler teams begin with all possible points, and during each phase points are deducted for mistakes or forfeited for incomplete phases. Skillings elucidates on the purpose of the trial phases.

"The 'Outrun' is to gather sheep from huge areas. It's a positioning move that occurs before the dog does anything that affects the sheep. The judging is based on whether the dog can perform the Outrun on its own, even if no command was given."

"The 'Lift' is the small bit in which the dog takes control of the sheep, and where the relationship between sheep and dog is established."

"The 'Fetch' begins immediately after the sheep begin moving and is judged

on the straightness and pace of the sheep moving down the field." All three phases are what is known as the "outwork."

"The 'Drive' is sometimes the greater part of work that you do with the dogs. We gather sheep off these hills and might move them two or three miles from one end of the ranch to the other end of the ranch." This may include driving the sheep through several gates.

The "Shed and the Single" phase represents situations where the dog must separate an animal from the flock. "The dog needs to be able to take that animal away and control it so that it can be taken to wherever in needs to be."



Photo by Kelsey Nicols



# discover Rio Vista

Discover Rio Vista is a quarterly magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista.

Contact Laurie Oleksiewicz at [MinmayInc@aol.com](mailto:MinmayInc@aol.com) to place an ad or reserve space for a subsequent edition.

Deadline for articles and ads is the 1st of the month prior to the start of each quarter.

## Spring 2016 Edition

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**ON THE COVER:** Photographer Lori Makabe caught this dynamic shot at the 2015 Rio Vista Grand Slam on Sherman Island.

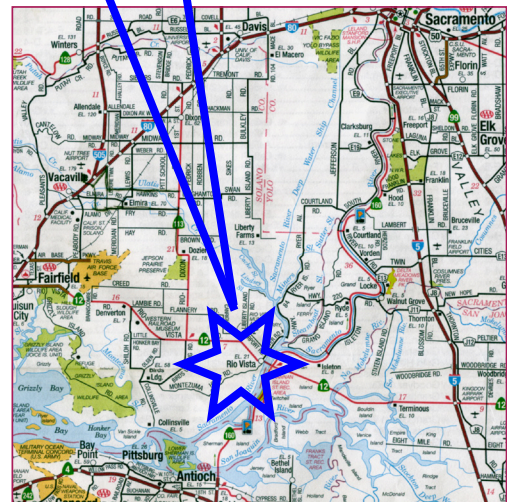
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# Downtown Rio Vista

Welcome to the City of Rio Vista, "The Gateway to the Delta." Rio Vista is located in the heart of the California Delta on the Sacramento River. Visiting us is as easy as a short drive, a flight into our airport or a cruise to our city dock or Delta Marina. Rio Vista is located on State Route 12, about 15 miles from Interstate 5 and 25 miles from Interstate 80.



Map courtesy of Delta Heartbeat Tours



Map: AAA



# The Hidden Delta Steamboat Acres & Steamboat Landing

By Susan Whitesell

Photos by Jan Vick

*This is the first of a series of articles on the "Hidden Delta," guided by Delta area tour guide Barbara Daly, owner of Delta Heartbeat Tours.*

Just 30 minutes north of Rio Vista and 30 minutes south of downtown Sacramento along the Sacramento River on State Hwy 160 at Steamboat Slough, two fun destinations beckon. Steamboat Acres offers a taste of life on the farm, and Steamboat Landing, an intriguing new eatery opening May 1, 2016, offers a unique dining experience by the river.



Tim Neuharth

Tim and Laura Neuharth and son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Tara, represent the family that first settled at Steamboat Slough in 1848. Originally farmers from Tennessee, the family arrived in the

area hoping to catch the Gold Rush. Instead, capitalizing upon the abundance of water and fruitful soil, the family decided to farm at the convergence of Sacramento River and Steamboat Slough on Sutter Island. They also recognized an advantageous location, roughly half way between Sacramento and San Francisco. At that time, barges and steamboats were the primary transportation, and the Sacramento River was what Interstate 5 is today. Steamboat Slough was a shortcut, reducing the trip between Sacramento and San Francisco by over two hours.



Steamboat Slough Bridge

## Steamboat Acres – "Taste Life on the Farm"

Currently, Steamboat Acres agricultural production is primarily certified organic pears and cherries. Some of the pear trees on the property are over 125 years old. The farm also grows alfalfa and chardonnay wine grapes.

Steamboat Acres is actively engaged in agri-tourism and agri-education, encouraging the general public to participate in agricultural events on the property. Neuharth vividly recalls a Sacramento radio show addressing farm issues in the 1980's, when a caller declared, "I don't really care what happens to farmers. I get my food from Safeway!" Tim states, "Ever since then, it's been a goal to let people know what we are doing. We can't talk about all the crops in the world, but we can talk about what we do with our pears and what

we do with our cherries and our grapes and so forth. We're also trying to get people to be aware that not only is there a Delta but there's value here. We're doing things that contribute to employment and the economy and we're doing it in a way that's sustainable."

Neuharth's family and Steamboat Acres is a founding member of Sacramento River Delta Grown Association, whose mission is to promote the agricultural sustainability and profitability of local farmers in the Sacramento River Delta area through agri-tourism and agri-education. Steamboat Acres is a participant in the "Passport Event" for the Delta Farm & Winery Trail in August, a Pumpkin Patch in October, sells fresh fruit and vegetables in the summer, and is soon adding curriculum-based school tours. The farm also participates in Sacramento Farm to Fork festivities. A quaint barn on the premises is available for special events such as weddings and private parties.



Gas Station at Steamboat Landing #1

Visit Steamboat Acres to taste farm fresh vegetables, organic pears and cherries and to experience seasonal activities and "life on the farm." Steamboat Acres is located at 15989 Sutter Island Road, Courtland, CA. The contact number is (916) 775-1166.

## Steamboat Landing – "A Place by the River"

The Neuharth family's latest endeavor is the "new" Steamboat Landing, an eatery, deli and bakery. Steamboat Landing has a long history. Neuharth is unsure when it was built, but the original Steamboat Landing stood on the river side of the highway, operating into the 1940's. After it burned down, Steamboat Landing #2 was built on the opposite side of the highway, operating into the 1980's. Then the structure stood vacant for 35 years. When it proved unfeasible to remodel, the old structure was torn down and replaced by a new structure built upon the historical foundation.

The Steamboat Landing Eatery, Deli and Bakery plans to open May 1, 2016. In addition to rotisserie chicken, ribs and smoked brisket or tri-tip, side dishes and other deli items, the Steamboat Landing Eatery, and Deli will feature many products grown at Steamboat Acres, such as pear cider and pear shakes and vegetables. The Bakery will feature scratch baked pear-themed items such as pear pies, pear tarts and pear breads. The emphasis will be "grab and go," catering to farm visitors, picnickers, beach goers, boaters and highway travelers. A small inside seating area accommodates about 25 with additional seating outside on the beautiful wrap-around deck overlooking the pear orchard. Beer and local Delta wines will also be available.

See Steamboat Acres & Steamboat Landing, Page 17



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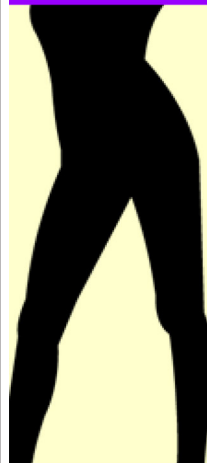


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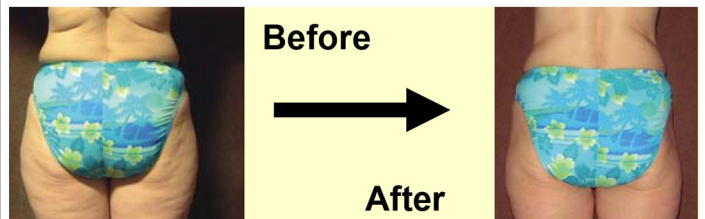
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# Delta Wine Tasting *Variety Abounds at Old Sugar Mill*

Story & Photos by Jan Vick

A not-so-hidden gem of the Delta is waiting for you in Clarksburg: The Old Sugar Mill, converted about twelve years ago from a derelict former sugar beet mill to a vibrant site for eleven wineries.

The Sugar Mill was relocated piece by piece from Utah to Clarksburg in 1934 to process sugar beets grown extensively at the time in the Delta. The mill operated into the 1970s when it eventually closed. It sat deteriorating until Carvahlo Winery began to rehabilitate the mill and turn the site into a wine lovers' destination. Six years ago it was bought by the Clarksburg Wine Company and has grown to the current eleven wineries. In addition to the wineries, an event center frequently for weddings, meetings and receptions. Soon, another part of the old building will be rehabilitated, which will allow events for up to 300 people. There are lawns, a few tables and a food truck on weekends. One winery is planning on adding a bistro, which will expand food options. Many people bring lunches and enjoy the day.

The eleven wineries offer wines from a variety of appellations. An appellation is a legally defined and protected geographic district within which specific kinds of grapes are grown. All wineries within the Sugar Mill building offer wine tasting, usually a flight of 5 glasses of wine for \$5.00, which is credited if a bottle is purchased. Some wineries, such as Clarksburg Wine Company, Rendez-vous

Winery and Carvahlo Family Winery, crush 100% Clarksburg Appellation grapes. Others use grapes from as far away as Trinity County to Lodi, Russian River and the Foothills.

Clarksburg Wine Company, established in 2010, produces a range of full-bodied red and aromatic white wines from grapes. The Clarksburg

local region grows some of the best Chenin Blanc, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Franc grapes in California. Similar to the Napa-Sonoma region, over 35 varieties are grown in Clarksburg; some are bought by renowned wine makers from that better-known region. Located at the Sugar Mill, Clarksburg Winery has one of the few large crush facilities in the region and crushes for a number of private and boutique wineries.

It takes some looking for Draconis (Dragon) Winery, hidden in the back of the Sugar Mill along with Perry Creek Winery, but is worth the effort to find. Matt Powell, the wine maker has been making wine for over three years from his own vineyards in the Peltier Road area of Lodi. This small winery produces 850 cases of exquisite wines per year, including a French Oak Zinfandel, Petit Sirah and a "dark style" Zinfandel which is 95% Zin and 5% Sirah. Matt is an avid Dungeons and Dragons fan and makes beer in addition to his wines.

Wines made from Italian grapes are harder to find outside the foothills, and Due Vigne di Famiglia Winery offers "Italy in a Glass." Wine maker Ken Musso's grandfather came to San Francisco and made wine in the basement of a mortuary. Ken, a firefighter for 30 years, was always fascinated by this piece of family history, which was rekindled when a cousin found some wine bottled in 1937 in a basement. Although the wine had not survived well, Ken bought some Zinfandel grapes and began to make wine for his family and friends. Ultimately, in 1995, he and his wife bought a parcel of land on Cinnamon Hill in El Dorado County at 2,400 feet and began to grow the classic Italian grapes: Nebbiolo, Dolcetto, Barbera and later Sangiovese. Today the Musso Family Vineyard produces some of the best Nebbiolo and Dolcetto in El Dorado County. The soils of El Dorado County and the foothills are ideal for growing the Italian grapes in addition to Zinfandels and other lesser known varieties.

In 2004, Due Vigne (Two Vineyards) di Famiglia was formed by Ken Musso with business partners Ron and Barbara Houle and Nina Fadelli. Now Due Vigne provides the Italian wines from El Dorado County along with the Houle's elegant Napa Valley Cabernet.

The Old Sugar Mill is well worth a trip upriver. Take Highway 160 north from the Rio Vista Bridge, crossing the river at Isleton. Stay on the west side of the river through Clarksburg and follow the signs to Willow Point Road, then take Willow Avenue to the center. Bring a lunch and plan to spend some time enjoying the wine. All wineries are open weekends and some are open during the week. The web site for the Sugar Mill is: [www.oldsugarmill.com](http://www.oldsugarmill.com).



Draconis Winery



Old Sugar Mill



Old Sugar Mill



Ken Musso, Wine Maker





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# Historic Albert Church Home

By Phil Pezzaglia Photo from the Rio Vista Museum

The fine elegant ranch style Victorian home, originally owned by Albert Colby Church, is located two miles outside of Rio Vista on Montezuma Hills Road. Many old timers refer to the home as the "Perry Anderson Ranch." However, the Anderson family did not own the property until 1902.

Albert Colby Church was born in 1842 and spent his formative years in Michigan. His wife, Sarah Margaret Smith, was also a native of Michigan. She was born in October 1848 in Waterford, Oakland County. The couple met in Michigan and after marrying, made their way across the plains to California in a "prairie schooner." A "prairie schooner" was a half-sized version of the commonly used "Conestoga wagon."

Upon arriving in California, Albert and Sarah settled in Dixon for approximately five years. During this time Albert began to accumulate extensive farming interests near Willows and in the Montezuma Hills. The couple eventually relocated to the Montezuma Hills and set up a home on some of their land.

In the early years Albert partnered with James Hamilton, "Dobe Jim" as he was known to many, to avoid confusion with the other James Hamilton living in the area at the time. The partnership produced the firm of Church & Hamilton. L. L. Palmer's published a "Historical Sketch of Rio Vista, Cal. and Reminiscent Sketches – Forty Years Ago" containing a very detailed account of Rio Vista in the 1870's. His description regarding Albert Church was as follows: "I do not recall the exact location of the following people but they all lived out in the heart of the Montezuma Hills somewhere. First comes the firm of Church & Hamilton. Albert C. Church was one of the best business men in that section and I recall him with pleasure. He and James Hamilton were certainly a great success at wheat growing in those early days when the ground yielded to the full." Early on, Albert became a member of Rio Vista Lodge No. 208, Free and Accepted Mason and by 1882 he had reached the rank of Master Mason.

Besides farming, Albert found time to raise a family with his wife Sarah. The couple had six children: Emery Ephraim (1871-1941); Mark Israel (1873-1937); Louis Henry (1876-1927); Harriet Marie (1878-1935); Jessie C. (1879-1893); Smith Colvin (1883-1934); and Albert Colby (1887-1908).

In 1891, the family had expanded enough that it was the right time to erect a larger home to make life a little more comfortable for the family of eight. Albert enlisted the services of Weston Campbell, a local builder to erect a fine Victorian style two-story ranch home located approximately two miles outside of Rio Vista in the Montezuma Hills. The entire community watched in anticipation as the construction of the two-story Victorian ensued.

On the evening of September 14, 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Church entertained a large housewarming party, even though their home was not to be completely finished for another six weeks. Approximately 150 people arrived

at the new home on the hill to attend an event that started around 9:00 p.m. and lasted until dawn the following morning. The guest list that evening read like a who's who of the area: Stern, Pressley, Dozier, Emigh, Paulson, Elliot, Anderson, Mayhood, Offerman, Fraser, Allendar, Lauritzen, Christianson and Fallman, to name a few. Many of these names probably sound familiar; some of the families still reside in the area while others are namesakes in the annals

of Rio Vista's history. The party was one that was long remembered in the community.

The finishing touches on the stately hill-top home were finally completed the first week of November 1891.

In February 1892 a large gathering took place to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of Albert Colby Church. Friends and relatives from different parts of the state were invited to the celebration. In April 1892 a large

surprise party was held for the eldest son, Emery. As with the house warming, this celebration saw over fifty guests having dinner at midnight and then dancing to the music of the River View Orchestra until past 3:00 a.m. The most splendid event held in the home was the wedding ceremony of Albert and Sarah's daughter, Hattie, to James L. Emigh. Once again the large home was the destination for more than one hundred guests to share in the nuptials between members of two pioneer families. With so many festive events taking place at the home, it became one of the most well known homes in the Montezuma Hills.

Albert Colby Church passed away in 1898. His wife, Sarah, and sons, Mark and Emery, continued to operate the ranch. Unfortunately there were some losses felt over the next four years. The first was the loss of one of the large barns due to a fire. Shortly thereafter a new barn was erected on the very same spot. Unfortunately for the Church family, a few years later another of their barns was destroyed by flames. On Saturday, November 22, 1902, a fire broke out in the building used as a blacksmith, tool and wagon shed across the road from the residence and the large barn. As the north wind continued to fuel the flames and send sparks flying, all efforts were concentrated on keeping the flames from attacking other buildings on the property. Luckily the one barn was all that was lost and not a single flame touched the fine Victorian home. However the building that did burn, contained all of the wagons, buggies, farm implements and tools, totaling approximately \$3,000.00. Unfortunately the insurance policy expired only five days previous.

Four years after the death of Albert, his widow Sarah decided to sell the ranch to Perry Anderson in 1902. This is the reason why many old timers refer to the home as the "Perry Anderson Ranch." By 1899 Anderson owned 700 acres of ranch land and with the purchase of the Church property gained an additional 330 acres. Perry and Anna Anderson raised 13 children in the home. The home remained an Anderson family home until 1962 and then became a rental property until 1999, when it was sold to the present owners, Al and Jeannie (McCormack) Medvitz.







Photo by Lori Makabe

By Noel O'Brien & David Mertens



Photo by Lori Makabe

# 2016 Rio Vista Grand Slam

As we shake off the winter weather and the days begin to get longer and sunnier, the winds are preparing for another cycle of outstanding conditions for this year's Grand Slam Windsurfing event. The event was so successful last year that there is an even stronger following this year. The Rio Vista Grand Slam is part of the American Windsurfing Tour that involves numerous locations throughout the world. Last year's tour included Maui, Peru, San Carlos and New York — to name a few of the locations to ride on the wind.

The Rio Vista Grand Slam event takes place June 17, 18 and 19 at Sherman Island County Park at the convergence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, a perfect spot for the strong thermal summertime winds to take on the best of the challengers. The level of professionalism that this sport demands has developed some top athletes. Events such as the Rio Vista Grand Slam encourage windsurfing enthusiasts to develop increased membership and participation to take on these challenging events. Last year's event made note that the resurgence is real and continuing to grow; and the Delta is a welcoming location for this event year after year.

The stiff and steady summer winds at Sherman Island provide a sizable chop and swell that windsurfers love to take on. Combine the wind with the tidal flow, and the water can take on a life of its own, creating some exciting wave action. Contestants can put on quite a show for us spectators who are there for the day. To address the level of expertise is important. There is a new generation of windsurfers learning from their

more seasoned elders (Grand Masters 45 and older) and are ready to join them as they hit the waves. The interest and camaraderie from both the teacher and student is great. There are no secrets as they show their stuff and learn new tricks to develop their acrobatic skills.

As anticipated, this event draws a wide range of windsurfers. From the pros to beginners, seniors to juniors, competitions take place in various age and skill categories. Family, friends and fans flock to Rio Vista to observe all levels during this outstanding windsurfing presentation. This year expect windsurfing celebrities to have some fun too! For example, ex multi-World Champion Kevin Pritchard from Hawaii, US National Champion Jesper Verstertroem and freestyle champion Casear Fenés from Bonaire (Dutch Antilles).

The competitive events and the ongoing demonstrations introduce windsurfing to those unfamiliar with this thrilling wind and water sport. Windsurfing is performed on a large surfboard type craft with a large sail attached and a horizontal control bar for the windsurfer to hold onto and execute various turns and jumps. This demands the knowledge and skill of both sailing and surfing while applying an acrobatic flair. Commitment to strength, endurance and stamina develop advanced techniques for competing at top levels. The best of windsurfing pros are continually learning new skills and tricks as they travel the international circuit of great windsurfing sites in Maui, Hood River in Oregon, and the San Francisco Bay Area.







Photo by Lori Makabe



Photo by Doris Noriega

# Grand Slam

The Grand Slam features the following events: Speed Open - World Cup style speed runs (Bring your own GPS if you are competing); Slalom Pro/Am - short or long downwind run depending on course conditions; Kid's Slalom - in the flat water area near the beach; Freestyle Pro/Am - for those with creative, acrobatic skills being held close to shore to allow spectators a really good view as participants execute jumps, inverted loops, spins and other freestyle moves; and the Freeride Slalom for the amateur and possible beginners to have fun. Folks, there are competitors of all ages out there riding the wild. Come witness generations of experience in this world class event.

This year's Rio Vista Grand Slam event is located at the Sherman Island County Park, 5147 Sherman Island Road, Rio Vista, CA 94571 (at the western tip of Sherman Island). There is no admission fee to come and watch the event, and parking is ample and free. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday night dinners can be purchased at Delta Windsurf and Watersports, located on Sherman Island Road just off Hwy. 160, and at the event headquarters in the county park. Dinners feature live music, a raffle and silent auction with great prizes. Event sponsors demonstrate select boards, sails and other items for your interests. Come on out and enjoy some outstanding professional level competition right here on the Delta where people come from near and far to enjoy this great summer event. It offers you an opportunity to experience, firsthand, the sport of Windsurfing.

The schedule of events may change based on weather conditions and the number of participants. Check the website for updates and more details at: [riovistagrandslam.com](http://riovistagrandslam.com).

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# Spotlight On Richards Real Estate

By Laurie Oleksiewicz

Welcome to "Spotlight On", your chance to learn about some of Rio Vista's unique businesses, and the people who own and staff them.

Rio Vista has several real estate offices to serve the ever growing needs of Rio Vista. One such real estate office is Richards Real Estate located in downtown Rio Vista at 25 South Third Street, just off Main Street.

Owned by Sam Richards, he and his wife Peggi, both of whom have their Broker's license, work with a staff of agents knowledgeable in all aspects of real estate. "We work from a premise of customer service and education in our field." Both Sam and Peggi are graduates of the Realty Institute (GRI), and only 5% of Realtors nationwide hold that distinction. Sam brings that knowledge to the community with his Real Estate Q & A column in the weekly Beacon and River News Herald newspapers.



Peggi is a California girl, growing up in San Leandro, while Sam lived all over the U.S. before coming to California in 1971 from Minnesota. Both Sam and Peggi were single parents who merged their families together in 1983 and lived in Pleasanton. They had a weekend home in OxBow Marina, outside of Isleton, to keep them close to their love of water skiing and boating. They hated going home on Sunday, so they left their corporate jobs to become permanent Delta residents.

In 1999 Sam started looking for a business to buy or open in the Delta area around Rio Vista, and ended up getting his Real Estate license. He started working as a realtor associate in Isleton. In 2002 Sam passed the Brokers exam and opened his own brokerage in Rio Vista. Sam then encouraged Peggi to get her Brokers license, which she did.

When asked what Sam likes best and least about the business, Sam said "We like making a positive impact on people's lives, putting people into ownership and securing their future." He has fond memories of a large "Thank You" board they used to have on the wall when they were in a larger space, that was always full. The thing he least likes about his job is the intensity of bookkeeping that goes with rentals and landlord statements, although they have recently streamlined that process.

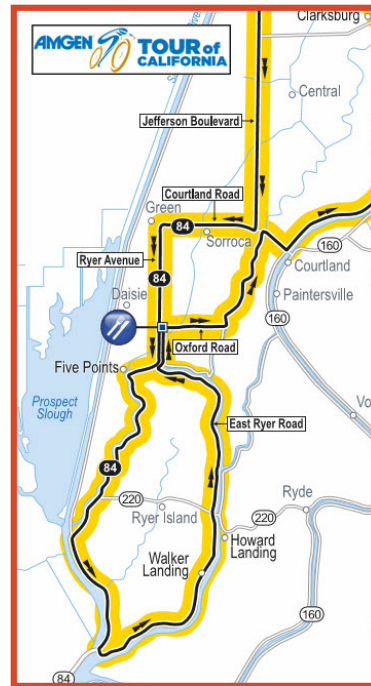
So if you are in the market for some new digs, or have a real estate question, be sure to look up Sam or Peggi at Richards Real Estate. And stay tuned to Sam's weekly Q & A column in the local newspapers.



# Amgen Tour of California Returns to the Delta

By Vic Thiry & Tom Surh

Amgen Tour of California, the premier cycling event in the U.S., is now in its 11th year. It draws the very top competitors from around the world. For the second year, the event passes through the Delta Region. While this year the race does not come through Rio Vista as it did in 2015, it does encircle nearby Ryer Island.



[www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/uploads/images/2016stages/AmgenTOC16\\_M\\_012816\\_stage08pdf](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/uploads/images/2016stages/AmgenTOC16_M_012816_stage08pdf)

The tour progresses through 8 stages beginning on May 15 in San Diego. It proceeds northward to the final stage in Sacramento. On May 22 cyclists head south through the Delta and return to Sacramento for the overall race finish.

Here are some tips for viewing this exciting event:

- On May 22, the best viewing from Rio Vista is on Ryer Island. A favorite spot is the bridge at the very top of the island where Highway 84 crosses Miner Slough. The race crosses this bridge twice and the maneuvering to cross the bridge slows the pace for better viewing. There is also more parking in this area. Expect the riders to arrive southbound around 1:00 p.m. and then return northbound approximately 1 hour later. Consider approaching Ryer Island from the north, or take the J. Mack Ferry, which runs on demand, from Grand Island (Ryder).
- A second viewing spot close to Rio Vista is the southern end of Ryer Island. If you plan to take the Real McCoy II Ferry to Ryer Island, it is suggested that you go before 11:00 a.m. since the ferry service is only every 20 minutes, with a maximum capacity of 8 cars. You can also park your car and ride over on the Real McCoy II Ferry as a passenger (a very good idea). Remember that Hwy 84 is a State Highway and you must have all 4 tires off the roadway or chance getting a ticket.
- To get an up close look at the riders, their teams and all of the vehicles, equipment and people involved in the race, go to the staging area for Stage 5 of the race on May 19 in Lodi. Stage 5 begins at 10:00 a.m. on West Elm, Lodi, so plan to get there before 9:00 a.m. to see staging and set-up for this leg which concludes in South Lake Tahoe.

For full information and details, including Stage 6 on May 20 in Folsom (time trials only) and Stage 7 on May 21 in Santa Rosa, go to [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).



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# NIFTY THRIFT

By Robie Williams    Photos by Monica Giannini

Are you budget conscious? Looking for a treasure piece? Downsizing your home and want to make some extra money? Upsizing and need to find the right gewgaw for that empty niche you've been trying to fill? Rio Vista has a thrift shop to meet your needs!

## SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

Driving east into town from Highway 12 onto Main Street, your first stop is the Social Butterfly Consignment Shop. This nicely decorated store located at 321 Main Street is run by C.J. Tavares. Walk in the door to find an array of pleasantly displayed items from art pieces to Zen home decorations ranging



from new to gently used. Wandering through the store notice the thematic seasonal displays scattered throughout. As items change from week to week so do the displays as the go. Social Butterfly is open Tuesday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact the store at (707) 374-3373 for any questions regarding consigning with them.

## BRAND YOU CONSIGNMENT

Proceed east to the next block. Located at 299A Main Street is Brand You Consignment. Proprietor Angela welcomes you with a warm smile and an invitation to take your time browsing her collection of accessories, jewelry, and clothes. Brand You carries a wide variety of name brand clothing in children's sizes, women's sizes from 0 to plus sizes and an assortment of men's t-shirts and pants. Use the fitting room to try on whatever you find on the attractively organized racks. Join the potluck lunch every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except for the third Thursday each month when they are open until 7:00 p.m.) Bring a treat to share as you chat and shop.



Check out their Brand You Consignments Facebook page for the latest news and sales. Consignments are accepted by appointment on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Call (707) 374-2000 to make arrangements to drop off your items for consignment. Brand You is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## 3 SISTERS THRIFT SHOP

Continue down the opposite side of the street. At 116 Main Street is 3 Sisters Thrift Shop. Owned and operated by Jamie, Star and Christina, the three sisters opened the store as a family enterprise. The display windows facing Main Street change with the holidays and seasons and showcase some of their best pieces.

Entering the small well-kept store, find an eclectic variety of goods including collector edition Barbie's™, glassware, knick knacks, household items, tools and clothing. Ask if you what you're looking for inventory frequently and may have just what you're looking for in the back room! 3 Sisters Thrift Shop is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contact the store at (707) 374-6333 for more information.



don't see as they receive new inventory frequently and may have just what you're looking for in the back room!

## ROBIN'S NEST

Traveling north on Front Street from Main Street arrive at Robin's Nest Thrift at 295 North Front Street. Entering the store, the Robin's Nest family team makes you feel right at home. Owned and operated by Robin Sibert, and run as a family business, the here changes almost daily. Find Rio Vista memorabilia, like the movie projector from the old movie theatre downtown, household necessities, vintage furniture, records, books and magazines, jewelry and seasonal items. Browse the nooks and crannies in the store to find a treasure hidden among the many items on display. The merchandise is fairly priced interspersed with some fantastic bargains, Robin also runs estate sales where there are more bargains to be found. Robin's Nest is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Check out their Robin's Nest Thrift Facebook page for pictures of their newest inventory and sales or call the store at (707) 374-4004.



## NATASHA'S ATTIC

Natasha's Attic, located at 26 South Second Street and owned by proprietor Anna Ulrich, was voted Rio Vista's 2015 Best New Business. The store was closed at the time this article was written. Contact Anna Ulrich at (707) 374-1300 for more information.



# FOOD, FESTIVALS & FUN!

By Tom Surh

Springtime in Rio Vista offers events that highlight the produce and cooking talent in the region.

## **RIO VISTA FARMERS MARKET BEGINS SATURDAY, MAY 14**

The weekly Saturday Market returns for its third year beginning May 14, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The state certification of this market assures consumers that they are purchasing directly from the producers of the agricultural products being sold. The sellers are happy to discuss how and where their products are raised so consumers can learn about the fresh and high quality food being offered. The market manager, Bill Harlow from All Bay Farmers Market Association, notes that this year will feature new vendors of free range beef, an Asian vegetable producer, ice cream made on the spot, and a new bakery to join the Cobblestone Bakery that has been nearly selling out every Saturday since the market began in 2014. The Main Street Farmer's Market location, with live music performers and vendors of information and crafts, promises a fun and informative experience as well as excellent fresh food choices. The market is sponsored by the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce at [www.riovista.org](http://www.riovista.org).



## **ENDIVE EXPERIENCE SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

Now in its third year, this June 11, 2016 event celebrates a product unique to Rio Vista: Endive (pronounced on-deev) or Belgian endive. This form of the very versatile chicory plant is grown in two stages: once in the field, then followed by a sojourn in the dark, temperature-controlled environment of California Endive Farm. This



local business provides the endive delicacy to the entire country and is the host site of this dinner-fundraising event that benefits the Rio Vista community through the sponsor, Rio Vista Lions Club. The history and story of how this unusual food product is created may be found at [www.endive.com](http://www.endive.com).

The June 11 event begins at 4:00 p.m. with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. The event includes tours of the California Endive Farm facility, endive appetizers prepared by local chefs, wine tasting, beer tasting, musical entertainment, live auction, raffle drawing, door prizes, and a New York strip steak/chicken dinner. Individual tickets are \$50.00

and Sponsor Tables are \$500.00. Ticket reservation forms will be available at Pets 4 All, or online at [www.Eventbrite.com/e/rio-vista-endive-experience-2016](http://www.Eventbrite.com/e/rio-vista-endive-experience-2016) for credit cards only. For further information, contact Penny Schardt at [plschartd@aol.com](mailto:plschartd@aol.com) or (707) 245-7380. All proceeds benefit the Rio Vista community.

## **SLOW FOOD FESTIVAL SATURDAY, JUNE 25**

The fifth annual Rio Vista Slow Food Festival takes place Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the local chapter of Slow Food, a worldwide organization with chapters in 160 countries, and 200 local chapters in the United States. Slow Food supports the preservation of food and beverage traditions, biodiversity, and consumption of locally produced food. Slow Food envisions a world in which all people can access and enjoy food that is good for them, good for those who grow it and good for the planet, summarized as "good, clean and fair food." The Rio Vista Festival highlights the sentiment of Carlo Petrini, founder of Slow Food, who says "If you want to change the world, don't do it with sadness, do it with joy!"

The festival is all about enjoyment: a full five hours of wine and beer tasting, appetizers, musical entertainment, an excellent meal, food, art and craft vendors, information booths, and raffles in an outdoor café atmosphere on the Sacramento River for an all-inclusive ticket price of \$30.00 (\$35.00 at the door). Because of the free flowing wine and beer servings, this is an adults only event.



Check out the photos of past festivals at Slow Food Rio Vista web site [www.slowfoodriovista.org](http://www.slowfoodriovista.org), where ticket purchase is also available. For more information, call (707) 374-6118 or email [slowfoodriovista@gmail.com](mailto:slowfoodriovista@gmail.com).

## **KING OF THE KITCHEN SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

This fun food event is in its second year. It features 20 to 25 male chefs donating their food, time and talents to bring you samplings of dishes that have brought them local renown. This friendly competition for votes from the crowd results in awards for the most favorite offerings, with the top chef being crowned King of the Kitchen. This year's event includes music by DJ Rich Victor. It has sold out in the past so order tickets early. Tickets are just \$20.00 and proceeds go to support Rio Vista CARE. The event is Saturday, April 23 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Rio Vista Veterans Memorial Hall, 610 St. Francis Way. Tickets are available at Robin's Nest, Books RioV, [www.riovistacare.org](http://www.riovistacare.org) or by calling the CARE office at (707) 374-5243. Male chefs wanting to join the competition should contact LeeAnn Fable at (484) 707-0935 or the CARE office.





## McCormack Ranch Sheep Dog Trials

Continued from page 3

In the "Pen" phase, the dog moves the sheep into the pen and the gate is closed by the handler without the dog or handler touching the sheep.

The event, at 7680 Montezuma Hills Road, is open to the public Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 3 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission, is \$15.00 per day for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under are free. Separate tickets are available for a delicious lamb barbecue, hosted by the Montezuma Fire Department, Saturday, April 2 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for \$15.00. Rio Vista Youth Services sells drinks and barbecue hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs every day from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Alcohol is not sold. Tickets are sold at Pets 4 All, Books Rio V, Awender Chiropractic (all on Main St.), Galleria Bras (on 2nd St.), and Hwy12 Diner (at Hwy 12 & Hillside Terrace) in Rio Vista. Tickets are also sold at the gate. The event takes place rain or shine so tickets are non-refundable. Attendance is limited to 200 people per day. Parking is free. A farm wagon takes you from the parking lot to the event.

The only dogs allowed at the dog trials are those dogs entering the contest. No other dogs or pets are permitted to enter the gates, except for legitimate service dogs for disabled persons.

Event sponsors are the National Border Collie Association, McCormack Sheep & Grain, Rio Vista Youth Services and Soroptimist International of Rio Vista, with much help from the wider Rio Vista community.

For information, please call Jeannie McCormack at (707) 374-2254, Ellen Skillings at (707) 374-5236 or Hope Cohn at (925) 550-0566.

## Steamboat Acres & Steamboat Landing

Continued from page 5

Visit Steamboat Slough to soak in the history, enjoy the natural sand bar beach, swim, picnic, fish, or simply relax along the river. Most importantly, visit the new Steamboat Landing Eatery, Deli and Bakery for wonderful food and the beautiful setting at "A Place by the River." Steamboat Landing is located at 12414 State Highway 160, Courtland, CA. The contact number is (916) 775-1121.

### Directions

To visit Steamboat Acres or Steamboat Landing, take one of two scenic routes from Rio Vista:

**Land Route 1** – From State Highway 12, cross the Rio Vista Bridge, then turn left onto State Highway 160. Continue to follow CA-160 for about 6 miles. Following the CA-160 signs, turn left across the Isleton Bridge, then right, continuing north along CA-160 /State Highway 160 on the opposite side of the river for about 14 miles. Cross the Steamboat Slough Bridge then turn left onto Sutter Island Rd.

**Ferry Route 2** – From Main St in Rio Vista, turn left on Front St continuing under the overpass. Turn right on River Road and drive about 2 miles to the Ryer Island Ferry. After crossing the river, turn right on East Ryer Road for about 6 miles to the J-Mack Ferry. After crossing the river, turn left on Grand Island Rd and continue for about 6 miles. Turn left at the junction of CA-160 /State Highway 160. After crossing the Steamboat Slough Bridge turn left onto Sutter Island Rd.

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# Event Calendar



Photo by Kelsey Nicols

**Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 3**  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Sheepdog Trials

7680 Montezuma Hills Road, Rio Vista

Enjoy watching these amazing dogs at work. Admission \$15.00 per day for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Tickets sold at the gate and at Pets 4 All, Books Rio V, Awender Chiropractic, Galleria Bras, and Hwy12 Diner. Tickets are non-refundable. For information see [www.siriovista.org](http://www.siriovista.org) or call Hope Cohn at (925) 550-0566.

**Saturday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.**

## Affair of the Arts

Sir Flair's, 1000 Summerset Dr., Rio Vista

Attend this great event benefiting the Art and Drama departments at Rio Vista High School. A \$50.00 ticket includes a 5:30 p.m. wine social and silent auction and 7:00 p.m. dinner, wine and entertainment. Buy tickets at at Pets 4 All and Books RioV. For information call Donnie Surla or Megan Brooks at (707) 374-6336.



**Saturday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

## Delta Marina Crafts & Crap

Delta Marina, 100 Marina Drive, Rio Vista

With over 35 vendors, there's "Something for Everyone" from hand crafted jewelry and candles to garage sale junk. For more information call Monica Giannini at (707) 374-2315.

**Third Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## Third Thursday

April 21, May 19 & June 16, Downtown Rio Vista

Experience art, entertainment, fun activities and the Rio Vista Museum while leisurely shopping our quaint downtown.



**Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

## Recycle Art Show & Auction

45 Main Street, Rio Vista

Bid on incredible art pieces created by artists big and small as part of the Earth Day Trash to Treasure Art Contest. Contest rules and entry forms available at Pets 4 All and Books Rio V or [www.riovistavision.com](http://www.riovistavision.com).

**Saturday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

## Rio Vista Earth Day Cleanup

45 Main Street, Rio Vista

Join Rio Vista's effort as part of the worldwide campaign and Solano County Earth Day to clean up the river, highway, Sandy Beach and other areas in our community. Bring your family - it's a great way to instill the value of a clean planet and show pride in your own community!



**Saturday, April 23, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## CARE King of the Kitchen

Veterans Memorial Hall, 610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista

Sample signature dishes by local chefs and vote your favorite in this friendly competition benefiting Rio Vista CARE. Tickets are available at Robin's Nest, Books RioV, [www.riovistacare.org](http://www.riovistacare.org) or by calling the CARE office at (707) 374-5243.

**Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

## Ring-In-Spring Craft Fair

Rio Vista Museum, 16 N. Front St., Rio Vista

Browse and shop amazing arts and crafts from local artisans in our intriguing museum. There is also a raffle and bake sale with delicious home-baked items. For more information contact Nora Crane at [onetwin1960@gmail.com](mailto:onetwin1960@gmail.com) or (707) 334-6191.



**Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Begins May 14**

## Farmers Market

Main Street, Rio Vista Between 2nd & 3rd

Enjoy locally grown fruits, vegetables, artisan baked goods and foods while overlooking the picturesque Sacramento River.

**Saturday, May 21, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## A Night at the Museum

Dutra Museum of Dredging  
345 St. Gertrudes Ave., Rio Vista



The Dutra Museum Foundation fundraiser supports the Dutra Museum of Dredging and the Rio Vista High School Art Department. Enjoy tastings of Delta wine and food, local jazz, Art Show by RVHS students, Art Exhibit by Skyler Stanley of Lost in the Delta Gallery and Dutra Museum tours. Tickets are \$100.00 per person. See [www.dutramuseum.org](http://www.dutramuseum.org) for more details and to purchase tickets or call Denise Dutra at (209) 915-5073.



**Sunday, May 22, About 1:00 p.m.**

## Amgen Tour of California

Ryer Island

Amgen Tour of California, the premier cycling event in the U.S. drawing top competitors from around the world, for the second year passes through the Delta Region, encircling nearby Ryer Island. See article on page 13 for viewing tips. For full information and details go to [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

**Saturday, June 11, 4:00 p.m.**

## Endive Experience

15 Poppy House Rd., Rio Vista

This Rio Vista Lions fund raiser, benefiting the Rio Vista community, includes tours of the California Endive Farm facility, endive appetizers prepared by local chefs, wine and beer tasting, musical entertainment, live auction, raffle drawing, door prizes and a New York strip steak/chicken dinner. Individual tickets are \$50.00, available at Pets 4 All or online at [www.Eventbrite.com/e/rio-vista-endive-experience-2016](http://www.Eventbrite.com/e/rio-vista-endive-experience-2016). For more information contact Penny Schardt at [plschardt@aol.com](mailto:plschardt@aol.com) or (707) 245-7380.



**Friday, June 17 - Sunday, June 19**

## 2016 Rio Vista Grand Slam

Sherman Island County Park  
5147 Sherman Island Road, Rio Vista, CA 94571

This fabulous windsurfing competition is back for a second year! View races for pro's, recreational and next generation (kids) including Speed Open, Slalom Pro/Am, Kid's Slalom, Freestyle Pro/Am and Freeride Slalom. Spectator admission is free. Check the website for updates and more details at: [riovistagrandslam.com](http://riovistagrandslam.com).

**Saturday, June 25, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

## Slow Food Festival

35 Main Street, Rio Vista



The Slow Food Festival features musical entertainment, an excellent meal, food, art and craft vendors, information booths, and raffles in an outdoor café atmosphere on the Sacramento River for an all-inclusive ticket price of \$30.00 (\$35.00 at the door). See [www.slowfoodriovista.org](http://www.slowfoodriovista.org) for tickets. For more information, call (707) 374-6118 or email [slowfoodriovista@gmail.com](mailto:slowfoodriovista@gmail.com).





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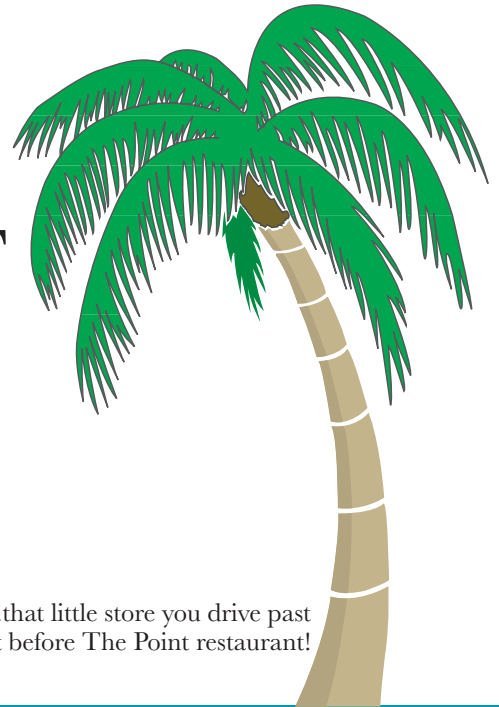
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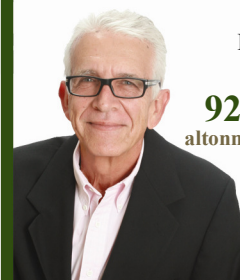
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