

September - December 2017

# discover Rio Vista



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## What's Inside:

Delta Migratory Birds	3
Rio Vista by Air	7
70th Annual Bass Derby	10
Fall Salmon & Bass Fishing	15
Rio Rocks the Holidays	17

Photo by Diane King

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# Delta Migratory Birds

## *The Great Annual Autumn Migration*

Story by Linda Jensen

Photos by Yvonne Camper & Doris Noriega

More than one billion birds fly south each winter along the Pacific Flyway, according to the National Audubon Society, and about 4 million waterfowl make California's Central Valley their winter headquarters. The pattern of migration has continued for thousands of years, driven primarily by the availability of food and nesting resources. Our unique region offers flooded farm fields, wetlands and other marshy habitat of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, providing an ideal place for birds to spend the winter.

Locally, the Sandhill Cranes are the rock-stars of the winter migrants. Arriving as early as September and sometimes staying until March, these notable birds stand up to 5 feet tall with a wingspread of 6-7 feet. Their display includes a beautiful gray color with red caps.

The best viewing times are at dawn and dusk when cranes by the hundreds fly into shallow ponds and wetlands to roost for the night. Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife biology, described the bugling cry of the sandhill as "the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution." Ancient birds, they trace their roots to fossils millions of years old. Cranes like to return to the same sites each year, so fortunately we can track the best viewing locations in the Delta, including Cosumnes River Preserve, Staten Island and the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve/Isenberg Crane Reserve in Lodi.

Other winter waterfowl visitors, often at the same ponds, include Tundra Swans, White Fronted Geese, Ross's Geese, a wide variety of ducks (including Coots, Shovelers, Pintails, Mallards and more) plus shorebirds such as the Black Necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher and Curlew.

Cosumnes River Preserve, alone, is an ideal location for fall/winter birdwatching as it is home to over 250 species of birds. There are eleven miles of trails, a mile-long wetland boardwalk and a self-guided auto tour plus many other special event options.

Around Rio Vista, watch for a Belted Kingfisher who often hangs out on Jackson Slough Road, and look for the beautiful Cedar Wax Wings that return to town each year. Keep your eyes open for White Faced Ibis, often seen in the nearby fields. And if you detect a subtle change of sunlight, or hear a special wild call, look up to see the streams of birds making their way through the area.

November is prime-time for watching birds locally and the season for the City of Lodi's Annual Crane Festival. Held on the first full-weekend in November, the event includes exhibits, tours, and informative presentations along with entertainment, food and wine-tasting. For details on this year's festival go to their website at [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com).

One of the best things about birdwatching is the friendliness of bird aficionados and the many free tours, guided walks and paddle trips available. When planning your visit to a local preserve, it is a good idea to call or visit their website to get directions and hours and to see what events are planned. For Cosumnes River Preserve, call (916) 684-2816 or visit their website at [www.Cosumnes.org](http://www.Cosumnes.org). Information on Staten Island is also available through the Cosumnes River Preserve. Woodbridge Ecological Preserve/Isenberg Sandhill Crane Preserve has guided tours through the State Department of Fish and Game website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour).

Be sure to take a look at this informative article from *Ride Chronicles* that includes descriptions and directions for a bike ride to Delta-Cosumnes River Preserve at [ridechronicles.com/2016/12/13/delta-migratory-birds-staten-island-cosumnes-river-preserve/](http://ridechronicles.com/2016/12/13/delta-migratory-birds-staten-island-cosumnes-river-preserve/). Another resourceful website is from The Sacramento Bee at [sacbee.com/news/local/article5366184.html](http://sacbee.com/news/local/article5366184.html).

People visit the Delta from all over California to see the Sandhill Cranes and the rich variety of migratory fowl. Serious birders even travel from other countries to experience our beautiful gallery of Pacific Flyway Birds. During a solitary walk, a casual amble, or a planned family outing, the birds you may see will inspire your imagination and love of the environment.



Sand Hill Cranes  
Photo: Doris Noriega



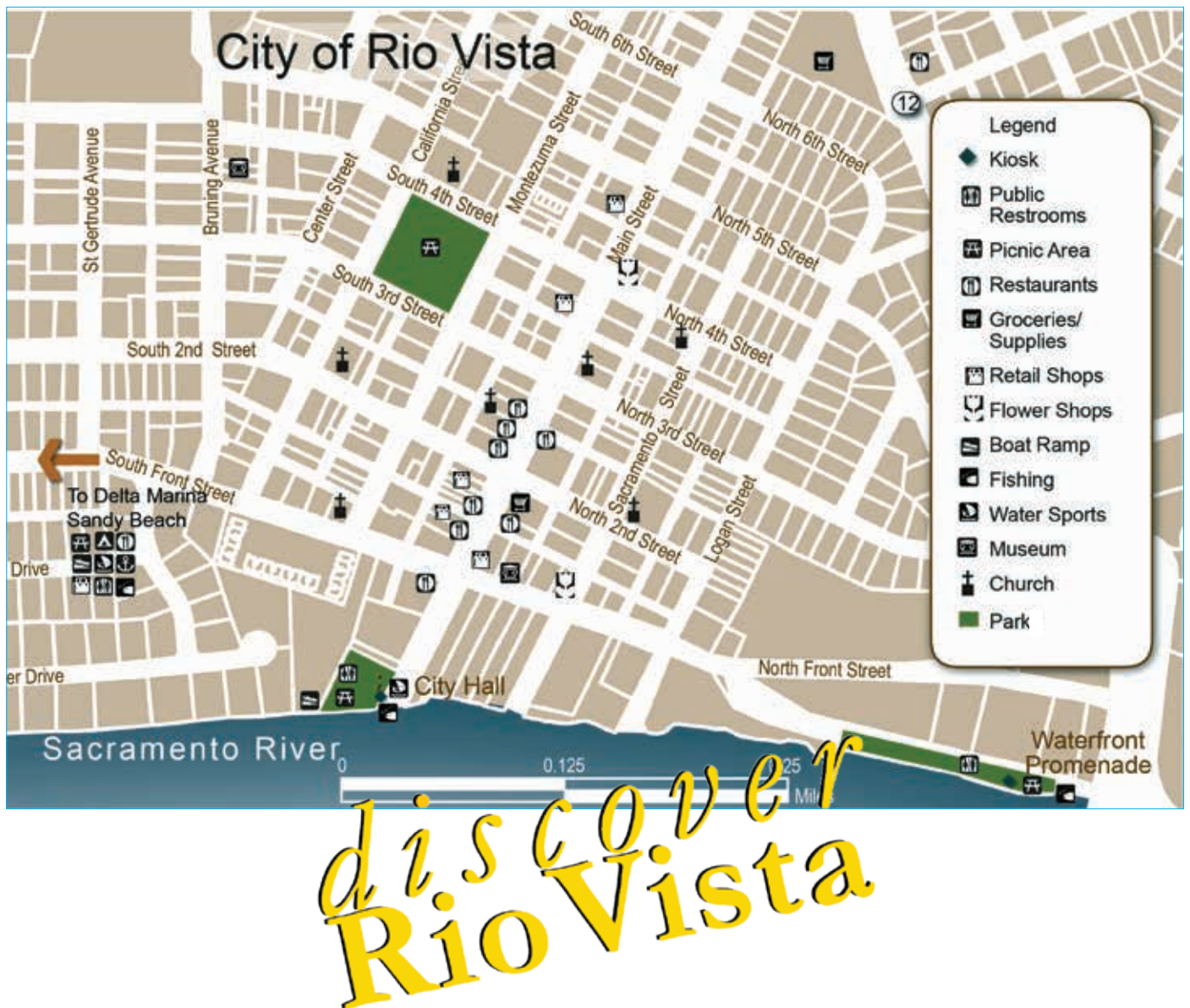
Snow Geese  
Photo: Yvonne Camper



White Egret  
Photo: Doris Noriega



Ducks  
Photo: Yvonne Camper



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

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See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at: <http://discoverriovista.com>. For additional information about RioVision see: <http://riovistavision.com> and [www.facebook.com/riovistavision](http://www.facebook.com/riovistavision). RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group. Donations are tax-deductible.

**ON THE COVER:** Photographer Diane King captures the exciting fireworks show at the Bass Festival. The fireworks are always on Saturday night of the Festival.

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# Jack London's Life in the Delta

Story by Blake Roberts

*"I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet....I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them." – Jack London*

At the time of Jack London's passing, he was one of the most widely read writers in America. His stories focused on human interactions with nature and the plight of workers, reflecting his many travels around the world, his upbringing in poverty and his socialist political views. His legacy lives on in the many places he visited and wrote about during his life, including the Delta as well as Alaska, the Sonoma Valley, and Oakland. In the Delta's Pittsburg, one of his favorite haunts was the Bay View Saloon, and the Pittsburg Historical Museum contains a reproduction of the interior in its London display. He was inducted into the Pittsburg Entertainment and Arts Hall of Fame, and his name is on an elementary school in Antioch, a park in Benicia and a street in Pittsburg.

London's first adventures in the Delta started when he found himself on both sides of the law, first as a teenage "oyster pirate" – a poacher – and then as a member of the "fish patrol" – a group of maritime game wardens headquartered in Benicia. He turned these experiences into *Tales of the Fish Patrol* (1906), a book of adventure stories for young adults. The stories reference Antioch, Benicia, Collinsville, Pittsburg, and Merryweather, an old coal-mining town east of Antioch.

As he became more successful, London enjoyed spending time in the Delta aboard his boats, called the Snark and the Roamer. Records show that one of his boats was built for him in Pittsburg, but the name of the craft was not recorded. It was outside of Pittsburg (then known as Black Diamond) that he and his wife, Charmian, appeared in his 1913 novel *Valley of the Moon* as "Jack and Clara Hastings" aboard a boat named the Roamer. The Hastings take the novel's protagonists, Billy and Saxon Roberts, on a tour of the southern Delta, pointing out the productivity of the Delta farmland and sermonizing on sustainable agriculture, a passion of London's. *Valley of the Moon* also describes the great cultural diversity of the Delta, though London's views on other racial and ethnic groups certainly reflected his era. As the Roberts travel on foot and boat from Rio Vista to Sacramento, London writes that, "They encountered – sometimes in whole villages – Chinese, Japanese, Italians, Portuguese, Swiss, Hindus, Koreans, Norwegians, Danes, French, Armenians, Slavs, almost every nationality save American."

Jack London was an incredibly prolific author of books, short stories, and poems, served as an overseas war correspondent, traveled around the world for pleasure, and managed his ranch in Glen Ellen (now Jack London State Park). He was indeed a "superb meteor", who certainly didn't "waste his days trying to prolong them."

*This article, part of Delta Narratives - a project funded by the Delta Protection Commission, was reprinted with permission from the [VisitCAdelta.com](http://VisitCAdelta.com) web site. Visit this site for great information about Delta fishing, boating, dining, camping, wine tasting, and sightseeing.*



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# Visit Rio Vista by Air

## *Our Regional Airport Has Lots to Offer*

Story by Susan Whitesell    Photos by RV Muni Airport & Linda Solomon



Aerial shot of Rio Vista Municipal Airport. Photo: <http://riovistacity.com/airport-home/>

Not many towns are accessible by land, river or air. Rio Vista has something special that many towns our size do not – an airport. It was

established in 1953 to serve the aviation needs of the local community and the surrounding agricultural lands. The original Rio Vista Airport was closed in 1995, when it was replaced by the new Rio Vista Municipal Airport, 2 miles to the northwest.

According to the city's website, the Rio Vista Municipal Airport, known as Jack Baumann Field, is located on the western boundary of the city of Rio Vista in the heart of California's Delta. On 273 acres of land, the Rio Vista Municipal Airport has a 4,200-foot long, 75-foot wide primary runway, along with a 2,200-foot long, 60-foot wide general aviation runway and a helipad. The airport boasts pilot-controlled runway lights for night flying. A terminal building and 24-hour avgas 100LL facility is also available for your flying convenience. Be sure to check the city's website at <http://riovistacity.com/airport-home/> for comprehensive information about the airport and airport services.

Norm Crabtree, former Aviation Director of Ohio, once said, "The airport runway is the most important main street in any town." Rio Vista's airport is a unique value added asset to our great little town on the river. The airport generates revenue from aviation gas sales and from the rental of 46 hangars, approximately 75 tie downs, and 2 corporate hangars. Rio Vista Municipal Airport has a great future potential for growth. Many of the hangars have electrical outlets and interior lighting. Some have office space and water service. Check the airport web site at <http://riovistacity.com/airport-home/> or call David Melilli at (707) 374-6451 x1116 or Judi Craner at (707) 374-6451 x1122 for more information about available services.

Another attractive amenity is the flight school, provided by Air Force Services Aero Club Flight Training Center.

The center offers training for Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, and Commercial Pilot as well as Private Pilot Ground School two to three times a year, and Discovery Flights all year long. For more information call (707) 374-0081.

Many Rio Vistans are drawn to this community for the airport amenities. With a background in military aviation and attracted by the area's vast waterways, airport volunteer Gerry Nolan

and his wife moved to Trilogy, an over 55 community outside of town, 14 years ago "simply because the airport was here."

For visitors, the fabulous Delta scenery, our charming downtown and local restaurants, including the newly reopened "Larry's" restaurant at Trilogy, are great incentives to fly to Rio Vista. According to Nolan, "We have planes coming and going 24/7 here. We have lots of visitors from the City." Park your airplane either on the outside ramp or hangar for rates unmatched anywhere in the Bay Area. Rio Vista Delta Breeze offers "Dial-A-Ride" transit services to and from Rio Vista Municipal Airport between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Call (707) 374-2878 at least fifteen minutes in advance for pick up. Another incentive, our competitive aviation fuel prices, draws pilots to Rio Vista.

The sky's the limit. Where else can you tour the great expanse of Delta waterways in less than an hour by air? Come to our airport and realize a whole new aspect of Rio Vista!



Airplanes at the airport. Photo: Linda Solomon

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# Spotlight On Delta Pharmacy

By Ken Wudel & 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.

same car! As a teen, he had fun working on

For 39 years, Ken Wudel has been Rio Vista's pharmacist. Delta Pharmacy is also the location of a wonderful gift shop operated by Ken's wife Brenda.

Ken was born in Lodi, which was a small town at the time. Fond childhood memories include family vacations with his parents, brother, sister, grandparents and an aunt - all in the



Brenda, Ken and the helpful staff at Delta Pharmacy.

cars with his friends and skiing. Ken continued to enjoy the great outdoors, especially when getting away to the family cabin in Bear Valley, near Arnold, California.

Ken always wanted to work in a small-town pharmacy. And his dream came true. He takes pride in the customer service offered at his pharmaceutical establishment. "You are a valued customer and friend when you come to Delta Pharmacy. We try to fill your prescriptions

as soon as we can, so you don't have to wait long. We do everything we can to take care of your particular problem. We try to carry everything you might want. If we don't have it, we try to get it for you." Indeed, excellent customer service is evident in the helpful and friendly staff. Even if you have to wait for a few minutes, there are so many interesting items to see that it makes waiting fun.

Delta Pharmacy is a well-known and respected business in Rio Vista. Ken and his staff support the community in many ways. Ken happily states, "After 39 years, I should be looking at retirement. But I enjoy what I do and plan to keep doing it." We hope Ken and Brenda will continue to serve our community for many years to come.

Be sure to visit Delta Pharmacy to experience their full service pharmacy and amazing gift shop. They are located at 470 Main Street, in the heart of Rio Vista, and are open Monday through Saturday.

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# 70<sup>th</sup> Annual What It Takes to Produce

Story by Noel O'Brien

Imagine that you are in charge of putting together a major event that lasts 3-4 days and impacts numerous resources in the community as well as people from other towns, cities, and states. Each year activities or events are added and many vendors clamor to get the best location in your festival area. That creates the backdrop for the 70th Annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival. This year's event starts Thursday, October 12 and runs through Sunday, October 15, 2017. Preparation and logistics by local community volunteers dedicated to the success of the event began about 6-8 months earlier. Rio Vista, The "Gateway to the Delta," is well known for promoting this outstanding event year after year, an amazing feat when you consider that it's accomplished entirely by a committed group of local volunteers.

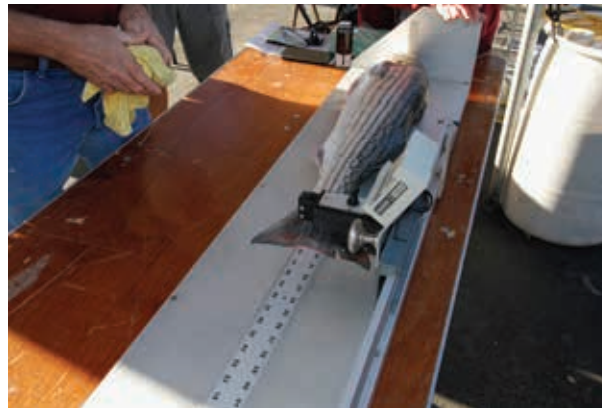
Now that the stage is set, let's look at some of the planning details. The planning committee develops ideas and looks at past successes to incorporate into this year's Derby and Festival. Numerous requirements must be met earlier in the year to avoid complications later on. Key to event success is a request to the Department of Fish and Wildlife identifying the dates and approval to fish the different species during the event. The request varies from year to year depending on the population of certain fish species, in particular Sturgeon and Salmon. The Rules and Regulations are defined before the Chamber of Commerce can promote online and outlying location ticket sales at select bait shops and distributors. An ongoing function is obtaining sponsorships vital to the success of the Bass Derby.

Letters to property owners requesting use of their land are sent early on for timely approval. Coordinating city support for water, electricity, sanitation, security and street barricades – overall logistics, that's just a start. The Carnival itself is a separate entity that must be committed early in order to have all the necessary and required support for the Festival. The parade, car show and the Down Hill Racers need organizing. Thankfully, organizations such as the Rio Vista Lions, Rotary Club, Soroptimist and American Legion step in to provide support. The Chamber

of Commerce administrative oversight and constant communication is truly necessary to bring it all together.



2016 winner Andy Doudna. Photo: Noel O'Brien



Processing an entry. Photo: Noel O'Brien

The wine and beer area and food booths are coordinated to provide a seamless experience for the Festival goers. Adequate and appropriate lighting is reviewed with a contingency plan in case there is a power outage. Generators are supplied and used as needed. Tables and chairs along with tents and fencing for barrier use are contributed by various supporting groups in our community.

Did someone mention fireworks? The overall effort and legal guidelines are far beyond detailing in this article. Just to say that it is a pyrotechnical feature that has been outstanding over the years is an understatement. You do not want to miss the exciting fireworks display from a barge on the Sacramento River.

And don't forget the huge effort to plan the great musical entertainment. Live music is performed nightly by local talent including The Derek Abel Band, Solid Gold, Afterglow, Two Tone Steiny and the Cadillacs, The Primates, Livin Daylites, and Mobility (from Travis Air Force Base).

## Thursday

Now that you have much of the logistical background, add the details about the "fun" parts of the 70th Annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival. The Carnival starts at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12. Rides are half price Thursday only. The Kick-off Celebration opens at 6:00 p.m. and wraps up at 9:30 p.m. Our own Radio Rio provides music.

## Friday

The official start to the Fishing Derby is Friday, October 13 at 6:00 a.m. The weigh-in station at the foot of Main Street is the hub of activity throughout the day as participants bring their catch in to be measured and weighed. The Striped Bass target size is announced that morning. The target size is a randomly selected size – usually mid-range so the participants try to catch the Striped Bass that is closest to the announced size. The Salmon and White Sturgeon is determined by size and weight. In the event of



# Bass Derby

## This Amazing Event

Photos by Diane King, Doris Noriega & Noel O'Brien

a tie, a winner is determined by the time of entry. All of the details are in the Official Rules and Regulations.

If you are participating, be sure to read the Rules and Regulations! The weigh-in station, staffed by California Striped Bass Association (CSBA) Isleton/Delta members closes at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday, October 15, 3:00 p.m. is the deadline for the official weigh in and measurement recording at the foot of Main Street.

For the past couple of years, the Derby has promoted a separate entry for youth. Youths 15 years and younger can participate for Striped Bass or Catfish at a cost of \$5.00. The youth event is a great opportunity for families with children to go fishing, compete, and win prizes. The event involves youth in our community, opens up new opportunities and promotes a healthy environment for all.

### Saturday

On Saturday, Rio Vista's Lion's Club holds their Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station on Main Street from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Pancake Breakfast is a great way to start your day of Derby and Festival activities. The Lion's Club Car Show runs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You are in for a treat with everything from Classics to Muscle Cars.

On lower Main Street the Farmer's Market runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stop by the Senior Center Bake Sale for delicious goodies while supplies last. The Bass Festival Parade struts down Main Street in the afternoon. Foodies delight and enjoy the abundance of quality foods offered by

food vendors at the Festival. Many are local. Vendor booths present unique and specialty items to discover. Fireworks

erupt over the Sacramento River in the evening. The Carnival runs until midnight. Check the events schedule times for this and all the other activities throughout the weekend.

### Sunday

Sunday marks the final day of the Derby and Festival. However, by no means is it a quiet day.

The Rio Vista Corvette and Motorcycle Clubs display their vehicles. Vendors continue to delight the Festival goers; the Downhill Racers get underway at

noon down the middle portion of Main Street. The Travis Air Force Band, "Mobility," performs live at 11:30 a.m. followed by Open Mic in the afternoon. The Fishing Derby Awards and Ceremony commence at 4:00 p.m.



The always popular carnival. Photo: Diane King



The vendor area. Photo: Doris Noriega

Join us at the 70th Annual Bass Derby and Festival, a living expression of Rio Vista's past, present and future. We look forward to celebrating this amazing Rio Vista event with you.

Tickets are sold online and at various locations throughout the Bay and Delta area.

Find detailed entry information and a listing of all the ticket locations at [www.bassfestival.com](http://www.bassfestival.com), [www.riovista.org](http://www.riovista.org), or the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce at 33 North

2nd Street, the main point of contact for information. You can also reach the Chamber at (707) 374-2700.



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# Historic Homes of J.P. Mortensen

By Phil Pezzaglia    Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

*Rio Vista historian Phil Pezzaglia begins a two-part series about noted architect and builder J.P. Mortensen. Look for the second and final installment in the next edition of Discover Rio Vista.*

There have only been a handful of individuals that can truly be said to have left a mark in Rio Vista's history. Jens Peter Mortensen is one of those outstanding individuals. Mortensen was a prominent residential/commercial builder and architect who resided in Rio Vista for more than five decades. Many of the buildings that he erected are landmarks in Rio Vista. Additionally, his architectural masterpieces graced the Sacramento Delta, from Grand Island to Isleton.

J. P. Mortensen, born June 20, 1865, was a native of Ribe, a small village on the western coast of Denmark. He was the youngest of eight children born to Anders Jensen Mortensen and his wife Agnethe. Anders owned a dairy and was also a violin teacher and a game hunter.

All young men in Denmark reaching the age of twenty-one were required to serve in the Danish military. Both Jens' father and brother had served, but Jens had other ideas. He did not want a military career, nor did he want to be a farmer. As a young man, he moved to Oakland, California, where his sister Mrs. Christine Bayer resided. He became an architect and builder with offices at 801 E 21st Street in Oakland.

While living in Oakland Jens met Miss Emma Graber, whom he married on October 4, 1896. From this union one daughter was born, Elizabeth. Unfortunately Emma passed away in 1903 at the age of twenty-five. After his wife's death, Jens and Elizabeth moved to the small delta town of Rio Vista, where he resided until his death. He lived in a fine home, located on the corner of California and Second Streets, for most of his time in Rio Vista. This home has since been torn down. Mortensen built and remodeled countless homes in Rio Vista, on Grand Island and in Isleton, many of which still stand. Those homes contribute to the everlasting beauty of both Rio Vista and the Delta.

## 1903-1910

One of the first projects J.P. Mortensen was hired to build in Rio Vista in May 1906 was a charming "Cottage Style" home for E.S. Egbert on Main Street. Then Mortensen was hired in 1910 to build a beautiful "Colonial Revival Style" home for James Hamilton. Colonial Revival became a widespread nationalistic architectural style popular with architects, builders and property owners in the United States towards the end of the 19th and into the 20th century.

This home was situated in what is known as the "Hamilton Addition" of town, and was originally located one lot over

to the north. When Rio Vista High School was expanded in 1939, the home was moved just south, across the alley, to its present location.

In 1917 Mortensen was hired by John and Mary

McCormack to remodel and enlarge their home located on the corner of St. Gertrude Avenue and South Fourth Street. The McCormack's wanted to transform their decade old two-story home into a "craftsman style." Rumor has it that several of the ornate modifications and remodeling was because of a "competition" between Mr. McCormack and another prominent homeowner, Peter Cook, who was remodeling his home, located on the corner of Main and Fifth Streets.

## 1915-1920

Between 1915 and 1920 Mortensen spent a great deal of time working on Grand Island, remodeling the homes of Albert

Reynolds, Edward Myers and William J. Smith. Albert Reynolds hired Mortensen sometime between 1915 and 1920 to remodel his Grand Island home erected in the 1880's. The house was located on the west side of the Sacramento River upriver from Walnut Grove. The original two-story structure was in the "Greek Revival Style," built on an artificial earthen knoll. The home contained a pediment portico enclosed by diagonal latticework and supported by square

pillars. During the early part of the century Edward Myers also hired Mortensen to remodel his 1880's home.

By far Mortensen's architectural masterpiece was the "The Castle" remodeled for William J. Smith on Grand Island. The house was located on Smith's Hiawatha Ranch on Grand Island, which was originally constructed in 1880. The concept was to create a home with the appearance of a castle on the Rhine River in Germany. This remodel kept Mortensen busy from 1917 to 1919. The home was turned and raised so that a new foundation could be laid under it, to support an additional third and fourth floor.

When completed, the home contained twenty-one rooms, including on the first floor: a poolroom, ballroom, living room, dining room, office, kitchen, two pantries, servant's quarters, and storage room. The second floor contained a master suite, five additional bedrooms, and three bathrooms. A library, bathroom, and three bedrooms made up the third floor. During the 1930's the home was razed, due to high taxes and the financial state brought forth by the Great Depression. Unfortunately, all that remains of the stately castle is the remnants of the garden.

*For the continuation of this fascinating story about J.P. Mortensen from the 1920's to his death in 1955, don't miss the next edition of Discover Rio Vista...*



J.P. Mortensen (1865-1955).



"The Castle" on Grand Island.

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# Fall Salmon & Bass Fishing In The Net with Fish'n Dog Drew

By Drew Gidlof Photo by Janie Thompson

*Drew Gidlof, owner of Fish'n Dog Drew Guide Service, offers his expertise on fishing the vast waterways of the Delta.*

There is nothing like hot summer days and a Sacramento River full of water from abundant snow pack in the Sierra Mountains to get very excited about fall Chinook salmon season. The season opened July 16 for the inland waterways of the state. The following is an overview of a technique for salmon fishing that you may not have tried before in the Delta and Sacramento River, along with some helpful ideas for the upcoming Bass Derby.

Over the last couple of seasons a new and improved technique for fishing salmon has become popular for the Sacramento River and Delta: using large flashers, sometimes called fenders, with a cut plug packed with tuna.

This style of fishing uses a three way splitter tied to the main pole line. On one end of the splitter tie a two to three foot drop line using an eight to ten pound test fishing line. A non-braided line works best. At the end of this line, attach a ten to fifteen pound weight. Water depth, conditions, and tide, are factors to consider when selecting the weight. Using a lighter test line for the weight allows this section of your trolling rig to break off when you get into a snag situation. It is a lot cheaper to lose a weight than an entire lure rig.

On the other end of the three way splitter, attach a three foot section of fifty pound fishing line with a swivel attached to the other end. The swivel is used to attach an eight inch Pro-Troll flasher. The flashers come in a nice variety of colors. Start out with popular colors Glow Green and Blue. Experiment with other available colors to find out what works best for you on any given day. Attached to the other end of the flasher is another swivel with a three foot section of fifty pound fishing line attached to a cut plug using another swivel.

You may wonder, "Why use such a heavy fishing line for leaders and so many swivels?" First off, you don't want to lose fish. The swivels allow you to quickly and efficiently change your flashers and cut plugs to a different color combination. Plus, it reduces the effect underwater grass can have on your fishing rig. Time out of the water changing a setup, or removing grass, reduces your opportunity to catch fish.

The final ingredient to your setup is placing tuna inside the cut plugs. Simply open the cut plug, pack it with tuna, and close up the plug by sliding the rubber band back into position. Try tuna packed in oil found in any supermarket.

Now that the salmon rig is complete you are ready to fish. Putting a rig setup like this into the water can be a challenge. The secret is to be patient and to start by placing the cut plug lure into the water first and feeding the rest of rig out in a slow manner to prevent creating a tangled mess. Another technique you may wish to try is laying the cut plug rig out along the top of the side wall of the boat. Drop the plug into the water first and continue placing your rig into the water in a sequential manner until everything is out.

Fish this setup thirty to forty feet back from the boat. Using a bait caster reel allows you to "let it out" in a slow, and meticulous, pace. Once you are out the desired distance, set the clicker, check the drag and make adjustments as needed, and set the pole into your pole holder.

With this fishing technique use a medium heavy pole that is seven to eight feet in length.

Sensitivity of the tip is not critical with this setup. You need the additional stiffness in the pole to handle the movement created by the flasher in the water, and to retrieve your fish, along with the cut plug rig when you catch your fish. Do not be afraid to try a variety of speeds on the boat while trolling.

The upcoming bass tournament is a good opportunity to address some bass fishing techniques. As you know, the Delta offers a lot of opportunities for bass and other species of fish. Finding bass to fish can be just as challenging as any other species. The various types of structure in the water need to be pursued when fishing bass. Look for the rock walls or ledges, rip rap areas along the levees that protrude into the water, the remains of trees that have fallen or floated into the area and are now underwater, and the inevitable assortment of vegetation that exists.

If the variety of options for hiding out was not enough for the bass, consider the impacts of the tides from the San Francisco Bay and our old friend – wind. Know what the tide schedule is when you go out and be prepared for the changes it creates.

Some of the favorite presentations to use with bass are the tried and true selections: Jigs, Top Water plugs, and Buzz Baits. It never hurts to have a plastic mouse lure for those times you need to go extreme, or think outside the box. It may be the lure that puts you over the top for the day.

*In closing, "remember to keep those fishing lines tight", and "take time to take a child fishing..." Drew and Boonie the river dog hope to see you on the water this fall!*



*Local fisherman Tom Thompson celebrates a successful day of fishing with his grandsons.*

# Delta Wine Crush!

Story by Marilyn Nelson

In the Fall, many wineries hold special events during the wine crush. Some of those wineries in the Delta and their events are listed below. Have some wine and have some fun at the following...

## **Bogle Vineyards & Winery**

37783 Rd. 144, Clarksburg



### **Movie Night, Sat. Sept. 23**

Showing the film, *The Breakfast Club*. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for wine tasting. Movie starts at 8:30 p.m. Adults only.

### **Fondue Night, Sat. Nov. 11, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**

Wine tasting and appetizers, then a dinner of salad, cheese fondue with all the accompaniments and dessert paired with Bogle wines at each course. Advance tickets required.

For more information and prices, check <http://www.boglewinery.com>.

## **Carvalho Family Winery**

Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Avenue, Clarksburg

### **Barrel to Bottle**

Enjoy being the winemaker – sample, bottle your own blend, cork, and label! Winery provides wine, bottles, corks, and labels... you provide the fun! Events occur Labor Day weekend, and the three days after Thanksgiving.

### **Ports and Chocolate, Every Sat & Sun**

Taste their port and Kobasic's dark chocolate.

For more information and prices, go to [www.carvalhofamilywinery.com](http://www.carvalhofamilywinery.com).

## **Heringer Vineyards & Winery**

37375 Netherland Rd, Clarksburg



### **Owl Release, Sat. Sept. 9, 4:00-8:00p.m.**

Heringer Estates teams up with Sacramento's Wildlife Care Association for their 7th Annual Owl Release in the Vineyards, a family-friendly afternoon full of live birds, wildlife education, wine for adults and slushies for kids.

### **Wine and Paint, Sept. 10, 2:00-4:00p.m.**

Local artist, (and Heringer's very own) Cara

Emilia, guides guests in painting succulents on a 16x20 canvas with acrylics.

### **Christmas Soiree, Sat. Dec. 9, 6:00-10:00p.m.**

Enjoy a beautiful evening celebrating the holiday season and the joy of giving with friends and family.

To find out more about both events, go to [www.heringerestates.com](http://www.heringerestates.com).

## **Scribner Bend Vineyards**

9051 River Rd, Sacramento



### **Annual Chili Bowl, Sat. Nov. 4**

Check out this chili cookoff where contestants use Scribner Bend wines in their recipes and are judged by attendees. The winners receive prizes and trophies. There is music to accompany the tasting.

### **Music & Food, Every Sat & Sun**

Paesanos Restaurant cooks delicious pizza and has small plates with music to appreciate while eating and enjoying Scribner's wines.

Learn more at [www.scribnerbend.com](http://www.scribnerbend.com).



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# Rio Rocks the Holidays

*Rio Vista shines during the holidays beginning with the Trilogy Fall Gift, Craft Art Faire & Jewelry Show followed by the annual Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire, Main Street Holiday Parade, Tree Lighting and Boat Parade. The Holiday Home Tour is back by popular demand.*

## Fall Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show

**November 18, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Trilogy artisans host this unique selling and shopping experience just in time for the holidays! Enjoy musical entertainment in the Grand Living Room 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Plus, the Café Vista is open until 3:00 p.m.! Raffle sales and drawings are held throughout the event with all proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels.

For more info contact Member Services at (707) 374-4200 or Debbie Dorn at [ddorn@actionlife.com](mailto:ddorn@actionlife.com).

## Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire

**December 2, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**December 3, noon - 4:30 p.m.**



Photo: Jan Vick

Enjoy Christmas music and revel in the holiday atmosphere while perusing intriguing museum displays at the annual Rio Vista Museum "Olde Tyme Christmas Faire" at 16 N. Front St. Come in and take a look at our new displays! Local artisans sell hand-crafted items including pottery, ornaments, soaps, wreaths, jewelry, quilted and knitted items, and local homemade jams and jellies. Stock up on holiday confections and baked goods too.

Interested vendors can contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191 or [onetwin1960@gmail.com](mailto:onetwin1960@gmail.com).

## Holiday Home Tour

**December 2, 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Photo: Grace Lin

RioVision's Holiday Home Tour returns from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on December 2nd, showcasing Rio Vista's intriguing historic and contemporary homes and their unique Christmas decor! Tour only tickets are \$25.00 per person.

Check <http://discoverriovista.com/events/> for more information (once available) about the event, a link to online ticket sales, and

updates about a possible after tour waterfront home VIP Reception or email [riovistaholidays@gmail.com](mailto:riovistaholidays@gmail.com). Pick up your tickets at the Visitors Center in Rio Vista. The event benefits RioVision, a 501(c) (3) non-profit.

## Main Street Christmas Parade

**December 2, 5:00 p.m.**

Is there anything more fun than a small-town Christmas parade? Cozy up with blankets and hot chocolate on Main St. to watch our charming Christmas Parade. Better yet, be a part of this wonderful festive event! Don your "gay apparel," pull some friends together, deck out

the kids or spruce up the dog to entertain the crowd! Entrants assemble at 4:30 p.m. at Lira's and the parade begins at 5:00 p.m. Parade participation is free. Pick up your entry forms at the Chamber office at 33 N. 2nd St. after October 31st.

For more info email the Chamber at [info@riovista.org](mailto:info@riovista.org) or call the office at (707) 374-2700.



## Hospice of San Joaquin Tree of Lights

**December 2, 5:30 p.m.**

The Hospice of San Joaquin holiday tree lighting event takes place at the end of Main Street in front of Rio Vista City Hall. Donate at [www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights](http://www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights) to dedicate a light to remember or honor a loved one.

Your donation buys a light for the tree and supports the agency's programs of nursing care and bereavement services for terminally ill patients and their families throughout San Joaquin County and neighboring communities such as ours.



Photo: Diane King

## Lighted Boat Parade

**December 2, 6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy the annual Christmas lighted boat parade sponsored by the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. Decorated boats

depart the marina's guest dock at 6:00 p.m. and head north toward the bridge for a beautiful show of lights and music on the water. View the parade along the waterfront from the marina up to the public fishing pier and promenade. As always, this event is "weather permitting."



Photo: Monica Giannini

# Event Calendar

**Third Thu, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

## **Third Thursday**

Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16 & Dec 21, Downtown

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

**Sat, through Nov 18, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## **Farmers Market**

End of Main Street at waterfront

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



**Tue, Sep 12, 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

## **Women's Improvement Club**

Larry's (formerly Sir Flair's 19th Hole)

The Women's Improvement Club starts off their 2017/18 year with a luncheon at Larry's (formerly Sir Flair's 19th Hole). If you are interested in joining WIC, please contact Renee Tingey at (707) 374-2455.

**Thu, Sep 21, No-Host Bar 4:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.**

## **American Legion Pasta Feed**

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Wy, Rio Vista

"Basta pasta" for a great cause. Molto bene!

**Thu – Sun, Oct 12 – 15**

## **70th Annual Bass Derby & Festival**

Downtown

"Get Hooked on the Delta" at the 70th annual Bass Derby & Festival. Read more on pages 10 and 11 or check <http://bassfestival.com>.



**Fri, Oct 13, 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Sat, Oct 14, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Sun, Oct 15, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

## **"Catch of the Day" Rummage Sale**

45 N. Main St. (Youth Center)

Buy furniture, appliances, art, kitchen items, tools, sporting goods, jewelry and more with a clear conscience! Proceeds benefit the Rio Vista Food Pantry. Whatever isn't sold is half-off Sat, Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sun, Oct 21, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Sat, Oct 21, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

## **American Legion Open House**

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Wy, Rio Vista

Celebrate the grand re-opening of the Veterans Memorial Building and the anniversary of American Legions Post 178's 92 years in Rio Vista.

**Sat, Oct 7 – Sun, Oct 22, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## **Western Railway Pumpkin Patch**

5848 State Hwy 12, Suisun City

Catch special trains to the Pumpkin Patch and enjoy some old time family fun, great food, and don't forget to pick out a pumpkin! Stock up on amazing Soroptimist baked goodies Oct 21-22. Check admission prices at [www.wrm.org](http://www.wrm.org).



**Sat, Oct 28, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

## **Fire Department BBQ**

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Wy, Rio Vista



Support this barbeque fund raiser, sponsored by the RVFD Hot Shot Volunteers, to show appreciation for our local heroes – the firefighters that serve Rio Vista! Ticket price is \$25.00. Purchase tickets at Pets 4 All, Books RioV and at the Rio Vista Fire Station.

**Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

## **Trilogy Community Garage Sales**

Trilogy, 55+ community west of Rio Vista

This is the biggest semi-annual sale in the Delta with hundreds of houses participating! Furniture, kitchen appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques and more! There is no entrance prior to 9:00 a.m.



**Thu, Nov 16, No-Host Bar 4:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.**

## **American Legion Turkey Trot Dinner Dance**

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Wy, Rio Vista

Enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings then dance afterward to the band "Solid Glow." For tickets or more info call the American Legion at (707) 374-6554.

**Sat, Nov 18, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

## **Trilogy's Fall Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show**

Vista Club, Trilogy, 55+ community west of Rio Vista

Shop for unique hand-crafted holiday gifts in the Grand Living Room.

Raffle sales and drawings are held throughout the event.

**Thu, Nov 23, 8:00 a.m.**

## **Turkey Trot 5K**

The Gym, 40 N. 2nd St., Rio Vista

Burn off calories and support Rio Vista youth cross country. Visit <https://riovista5k.eventbrite.com> to register or for more info. Adult tickets are \$25.00 or \$30.00 after Nov 1. Youth tickets, 14 and under, are \$15.00.



© Cani Stock Photo Inc.

**Sat, Dec 2, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Sun, Dec 3, noon – 4:30 p.m.**

## **Olde Tyme Christmas Faire**

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

Celebrate the holidays the olde fashioned way at this charming faire selling hand-crafted items by local artisans and home made jams, jellies and baked goods in our intriguing museum.



**Sat, Dec 2, 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

## **RioVision's Holiday Home Tour**

135 N. Front St.

Tour Rio Vista's intriguing historic and contemporary homes and see their unique Christmas decor! Check <http://discoverriovista.com/events/> for more info (once available), a link to online ticket sales, and event updates. Pick up your tickets at the Visitors Center.

**Sat, Dec 2, 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

## **Christmas Main Street Parade**

Main St., Rio Vista

Small town charm shines as celebrants march in their holiday regalia down Main St. from Lira's Supermarket to Rio Vista City Hall.

**Sat, Dec 2, 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

## **Tree of Lights**

Main St., Rio Vista

The 13th Annual Tree of Lights benefiting Hospice of San Joaquin tree lighting ceremony begins at the end of Main St. Buy your light in memory of or to honor a loved one at [www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights](http://www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights).



**Sat, Dec 2, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

## **Lighted Boat Parade**

Sacramento River, Rio Vista

Boats strung from bow to stern with holiday lights cruise between the Delta Marina and the Rio Vista Bridge for a magical beginning to the holiday season.



**Sun, Dec 31, Time To Be Determined**

## **New Years Eve Dinner and Dance**

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Wy, Rio Vista

Ring in the New Year with a lovely dinner then dance to the music of "After Glow" while aiding our veterans. For more info call the American Legion at (707) 374-6554.





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