

Discover Rio Vista

September - December 2018

FREE

Cover by Jan Vick

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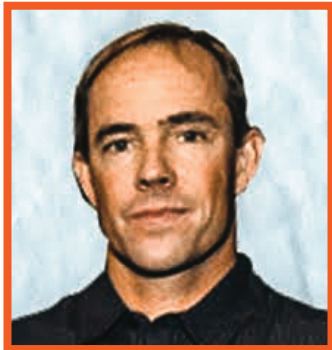
Story by Robie Williams Photo by Joe Dagna

September 8, 2018 is a memorable day! The festivities kick off at 10:00 am at Val de Flores Park as townsfolk gather behind D.H. White School to celebrate the grand opening of two new “mini” parks... the Skate and Dog Parks.

Val de Flores Park is now upgraded to include two “mini” parks within the larger park. The first is known simply as “Dog Park,” with ample frolicking room for all dogs. Little doggies get 7,000 square feet of reserved park space while another 18,000 square feet is devoted to the big dawgs! Fido and friends can tumble, run and jump from dawn ‘til dusk in the green grass.

An additional 6,000 square feet of the new “mini” park is the “Skate Park.” Once only a dream by many Rio Vistas; it is now a reality. But, that reality didn’t come easily. It’s taken years of hard work to get an approved park design and location.

Award winning Wormhoudt, Inc. was chosen to do the design layout for our fantastic Skate Park. With thirty-two years design experience in skate and bike parks, they bring an edge and “wow” factor like no other design firm. Zach Wormhoudt designed the unique layout for our Skate Park. He is the son of Ken Wormhoudt, who designed the still popular Derby Park for the City of Santa Cruz in 1974. Today, this skate park is considered the oldest skate park in the United States, and is still



Designer Zach Wormhoudt

heavily used.

“Ken Wormhoudt's legacy to the skate park industry is public workshops. He pioneered the method of asking skaters for input, inviting youth to meet with park designers and city officials, and providing them with modeling clay to

depict what they want in a skate park.” Feedback from Rio Vista skate boarders is clearly evident at our park, which is in the distinctive shape of a whale – a tribute to Humphrey the humpback whale who famously visited the area in 1985.

Zach is the principle landscape designer for Wormhoudt, Inc. located in Santa Cruz, California. Wormhoudt, Inc. builds skate parks internationally for local government, private citizens and for exhibitions. Zach is surrounded by designers, mechanical engineers and project managers who pull together to create their client’s complex designs. Rio Vista is lucky to have retained such an incredible talent in the industry.

Join the City of Rio Vista and RioVision on September 8 to welcome our four-footed friends and skater dudes to these new amenities in town. Listen to DJ Jose spin tunes for your listening enjoyment while you watch the dogs at play and the skateboarders exhibit their



Design concept Wormhoudt, Inc.

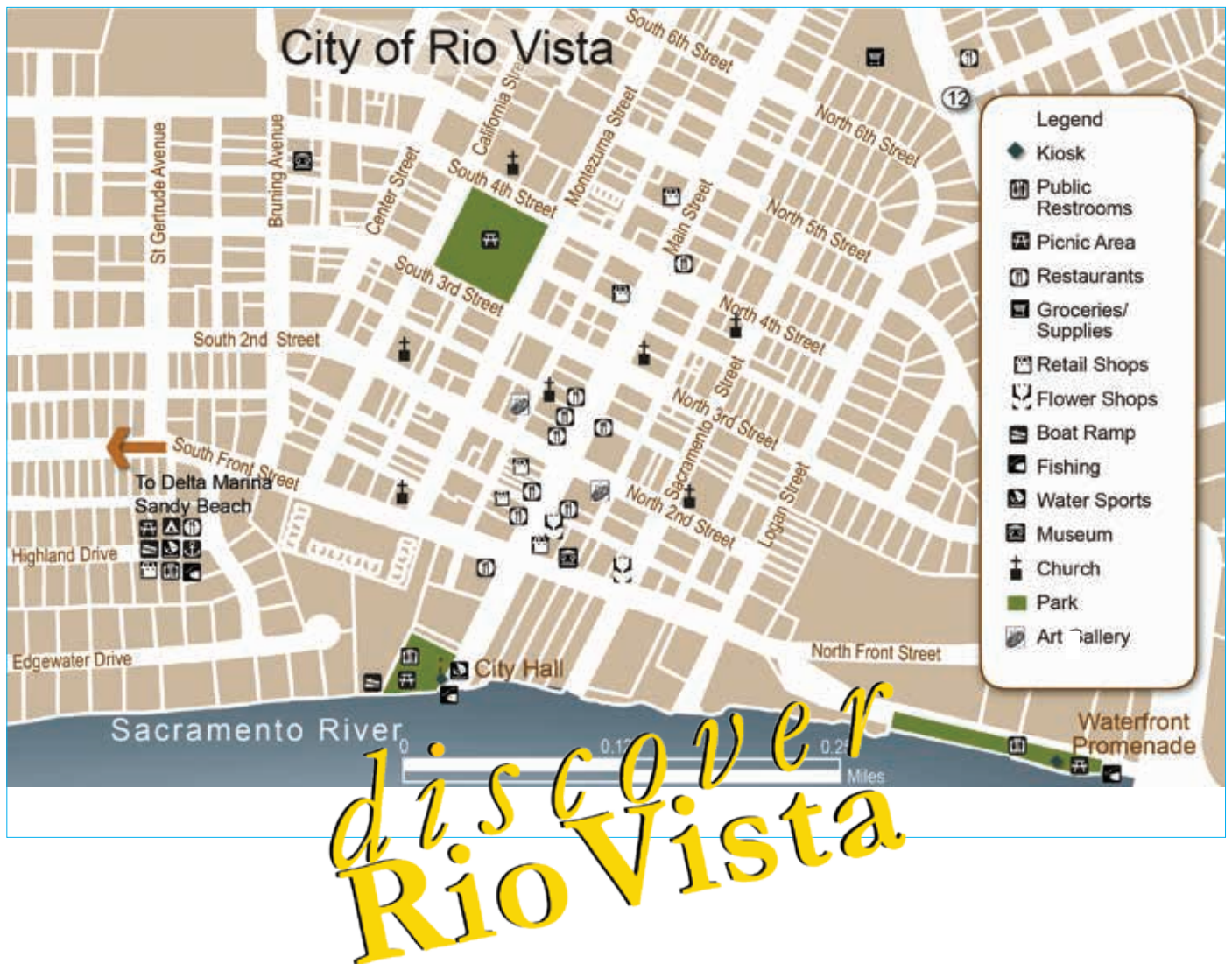
skills. Pets parading in their finest outfits and children getting their faces painted are just some of the events to enjoy while the party continues until 6:00 pm.

Enjoy liquid refreshments for adults and kids, as well as food and craft vendors sharing their wares.

Don’t forget about the personalized brick sales program. Personalize a brick for your fur baby or skater buddy to be installed at the park. Proceeds from the bricks fund additional amenities for the parks. Brick order forms are available at Pets 4 All, the Visitor Center and Highway 12 Diner, in the Beacon, as well as online at <https://www.brickrus.com/ord>.



Skate park from above. Photo: Joe Dagna



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.

This magazine is a volunteer effort. We always need distributors who are willing to drop our magazines off to merchants in the Delta area. To volunteer, call RioVision at (707) 360-5244.

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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. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group. Donations are tax-deductible.

ON THE COVER: Photographer and Assistant Editor Jan Vick captures Tom Thompson and his grandson Wylder Hollenbeak enjoying a day of fishing on the Mokelumne River.



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Historic When paddle wheelers

Story reprinted from www.riverboatdaves.com

For nearly 100 years paddle wheeler steamboats churned their way through the myriad Delta waters, leaving a heritage that lives on through the present time. It was a colorful era, marked by steam boating characters who were bigger than life. They were adventuresome men who stood at the helm, often taking their vessels into uncharted waters; spirited men who were quick to take the challenge of a race with another steamboat, often to the peril of their passengers who were egging them on.

Some 300 paddle wheeler steamboats churned Delta waters during that era. The only one of them to live on to operate today is the *Delta Queen*, busy with excursion service in the Mississippi River system. The *Delta Queen* and her sister (brother?) riverboat *Delta King* were bigger-than-life projects, launched in Stockton in 1927 at a time when the heyday of steam boatin' in the Delta was about over. The two riverboats never operated successfully from a financial standpoint. Their primary runs were between Sacramento and San Francisco — one coming and one going, passing in the night somewhere around Rio Vista. They were pressed into military service during WWII, serving as billets and to transport troops around the Bay Area. The *Delta King*, engineless and sunk, was rescued from her sad fate by Sacramento entrepreneurs, beautifully restored and transformed into a dockside inn and bistro at the Old Sacramento wharf.

It was a miracle of sorts that there was any steam boating at all in the early Delta. The first steamboat to make an appearance here was the tiny *Sitka*, 37 feet in length, off-loaded in pieces from the Russian bark *Naslednich* and reassembled at Yerba Buena (San Francisco). In November of 1847, the petite side wheeler made its way up the Sacramento River to John Sutter's New Helvetia, taking six days and seven hours to make the voyage. The first Eastern steamboat to arrive was the *Lady Washington*, shipped in to Sutter's Embarcadero on a sailing ship and there reassembled. She thrashed her way up the American River to Coloma, only to be snagged and sunk on the return voyage.

The grand 226-foot side wheeler *Senator* arrived in October of 1849, taking more than seven months to make the run from her home port of New York. For more than 30 years she was a familiar sight on the San Francisco-Sacramento run, taking time out now and then to make a run down the coast to San Diego. She soon was joined by others from the

East Coast, including the *Commodore Preble*, the *General Warren*, and many more. Stocktonians were introduced to steam boating when Captain Warren arrived with the *John A. Sutter* in late 1849. Within three months, it is said that he had pocketed some \$300,000 in profits from his steamboat runs.

Soon, both Stockton and Sacramento had more steamboat passenger-carrying capacity than they had passengers. There were fierce price wars, and at times the price of passage was as low as 25 cents rather than the \$30 earlier charged by the *Senator*.

There was a push for speed too. In June of 1850, that same *John A. Sutter* that ran out of Stockton so profitably, exploded on a run to Marysville and became a total wreck. On November 1, 1851, the steamer *Sagamore* had a boiler explosion as it was departing from the wharf at San Francisco, killing or injuring 50 persons. Major John Ebbetts, who discovered Ebbetts Pass, met his maker August 15, 1854 when a boiler exploded on the steamer *Secretary*. Ten lives were lost when the *J. Bragdon* ran

down and sank *Comanche* in Suisun Bay in 1853.

One of the Delta's most beloved steamers was the side wheeler *Yosemite*, which also was the major player in perhaps the area's largest maritime disaster involving riverboats. The 248-foot *Yosemite* was pulling away from the docks at Rio Vista on the evening of October 12, 1865 when her boilers let go, killing 45 persons. Barely a year earlier, just a few miles upriver from this fine town, a boiler on the steamer *Washoe* exploded, killing 16 and injuring 36.

Yet these disasters did not deter steamboat travel one whit. Eventually, the occurrence of such disasters diminished, in part probably because builders learned how to make better boilers. As settlements grew along the Delta waterways, the steamboats became a dependable means of transportation. The river towns began to have sentimental feelings about their favorite steamers. At least two generations of Stocktonians could remember the first time they set foot on the stern wheelers *T.C. Walker* and *J.D. Peters*. Isleton folks were smitten with the *Isleton* and *Pride Of The River*. Sacramentans felt the "Chrissie," the 245-foot side wheeler *Chrysopolis* built in San Francisco in 1860 for the then-staggering sum of \$200,000, was the classiest boat on the river. On December 31, 1861 heading downstream from Sacramento, she set a new record of five hours and 19 minutes for the Sac-S.F. run. She could carry 1,000 passengers in comfort.



1906 riverboat to Sacramento.

Riverboats sloshed through the Delta

and the book, "Cruising California's Delta"

Chrissie's time bested by 11 minutes the record time set some 10 years earlier by the renowned Eastern-built steamer *New World*. Yet no one could best *New World* and her erstwhile captain Ned Wakeman when it came to courage and sheer guts. While this new 220-foot side wheeler was still on the ways at New York Harbor, the sheriff had seized her because of a creditor's lien. Through chicanery and the force of an armed crew, Wakeman had the boat launched with the steam up and a full load of coal on board, and headed off for San Francisco via the only route possible — round the Horn.

It was no easy voyage, and included a yellow fever epidemic in Rio de Janeiro that killed 20 of his crew (as well as 24,000 people in that city), dodging cannon balls fired from a British frigate and from Brazilian Army forces, and warding off vessel confiscation by armed sheriffs in Panama City. On July 11, 1850, *New World* steamed through the Golden Gate with 250 cash-paying passengers on board and enough money in her safe to pay off creditors. On *New World's* first run to Sacramento April 1, 1850, Wakeman halved the best time heretofore made by any other steamer, setting a record that held for a decade.

Well, those big beautiful side wheelers and stern wheelers garnered most of the glory, but there also was a sizable fleet of smaller paddle wheelers that hauled freight and a few passengers on the upriver runs, and into the smaller rivers and sloughs, often in water so shallow that passengers were obliged to climb out with shovels and help dig the boats off sandbars or mudbars.

Most of these little guys were less than 100 feet in length, and you might have to dig hard to find their names mentioned in any historical tomes. These were the kind of boats that ventured up the Sacramento River to as far as Redding and Red Bluff, and when the river was heavy enough from spring rains, up the San Joaquin nearly to Fresno. They went up the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers, up the American, Feather and Yuba. They parted the tules

on French Camp Slough, went into the South Delta to Old River, and slogged their way into Suisun City and up the Petaluma River — and to many waterways in between.

The 106-foot *Empire City* traveled up the Tuolumne River to its namesake city. In 1911, the 106-foot *J.D. McDonald* made the last run up the San Joaquin River to Firebaugh on the outskirts of Fresno, with a barge in tow. The return trip downstream was only made possible because some local irrigation districts were coaxed into releasing enough water into the river to float the vessel. Small paddle wheelers

such as *Esmeralda*, *Blossom* and *Islander* went upstream on the San Joaquin, also navigating rivers that flowed into it. *Blossom* and *Islander* hauled the last loads of river oak wood to leave the now-gone Stanislaus River town of San Joaquin City in 1911, delivering the wood to docks in Stockton. Tiny paddle wheelers *Mint*,

Fairy, and *Game Cock* made early-day runs to French Camp.

The little steamer *Pert* was the first to make it up the Mokelumne River to the fledgling settlement of Woodbridge, and soon was followed by the *O.K.* Yet these were perilous outings and reliable runs up the Mokelumne River were never established.

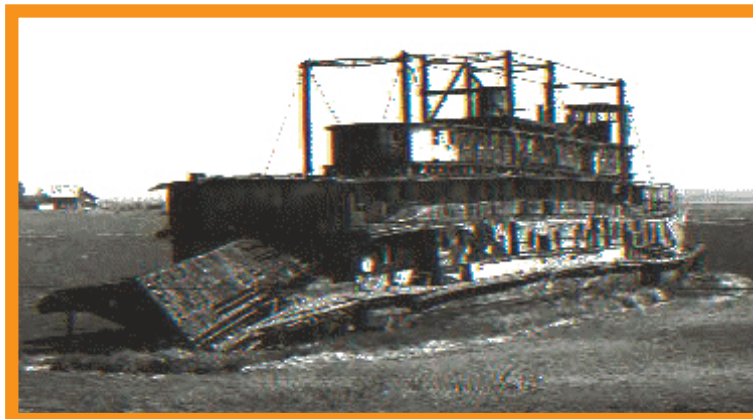
Old-timers can tell us of the sad days when fleets of once-popular paddle wheelers languished along the Stockton waterfront, and across from Sacramento in what now is West Sacramento. *Cherokee* became a clubhouse for the River View Yacht Club. *Fort Sutter* for a while was

a floating bistro on Threemile Slough, then burned on the beach in San Francisco. The *T.C. Walker* became the clubhouse for the Poop Deck Gun Club in the Suisun marshes. The *J.D. Peters* and *Navajo* became inland bunkhouses on Mandeville Island. Fire struck a mass of paddle wheelers languishing in West Sacramento. Others just disappeared without much notice, without ado.

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The Delta King.



The last days of the Navajo.

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Spotlight On Books Rio V

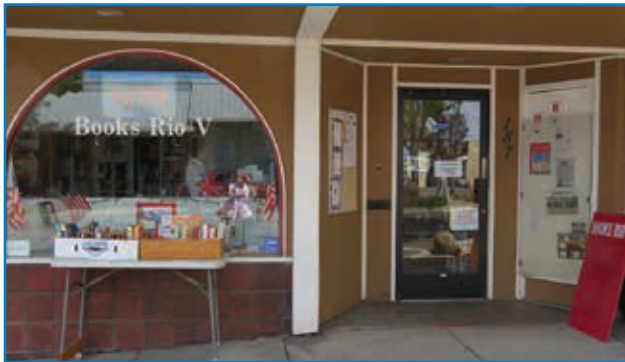
By Laurie Oleksiewicz Photos by Susan Whitesell

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

As you take a stroll down Main Street you'll come to a mural at the corner of Second and Main that depicts the story of what the building used to be. Behind that wall sits a gem called Books Rio V. As you step inside you will be greeted by the proprietor, Sue Conklin, who has operated the business for almost nine years and has been at the current location, 187 Main Street, since 2013.



Owner Sue Conklin at her front counter.



Books Rio V storefront at Front and Second Streets.

Sue was born in Omaha, Nebraska. She moved to Northern California in 1959 to attend college. Since college, Sue has resided primarily in the Bay Area with a two-year stint in Boise, Idaho. She first met her future husband in graduate school at Stanford University. They were re-introduced thirty-five years later and married in 2002.

Sue and Hale moved to Rio Vista in 2007. Hale would tease Sue about not wanting to live anywhere that did not have a used book store. Since Rio Vista did not have one, Sue opened Books Rio V herself with encouragement from Mary Ellen Lamothe, another active Rio Vista business owner and civic leader. Sue says, "I'm grateful for that."

Books Rio V is not just some ordinary used book store. "Unlike many used-book stores, my inventory is organized on the shelves and recorded on my computer. So, my customers can call and ask if I have a book, before they push that Amazon 'buy' button."

Folks, whether you are a resident or visiting our beautiful city by the river, take a walk down Main Street and stop by Books Rio V to check out their great inventory and chat with Sue.

"Find Bessie Bass" Contest!

September through December, find me, Bessie Bass, to win a \$50 gift certificate redeemable at local merchants! I'll be "hanging out" each month at one of the retail stores advertised in this magazine. Find me, then send an email to discoverriovistaeditor@gmail.com with the merchant location and your contact info (name and phone number). We'll draw the winning name at the end of each month.



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71st Annual Bass Fantastic Fun and

Story by Mary Ellen Lamothe and Noel O'Brien

71 Years of Tradition

The annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival in October is the oldest fishing contest in the state, running every year for 71 years. Sponsored and organized by the Chamber of Commerce to publicize the Delta region and bring people to Rio Vista starting in 1947, the Derby is sanctioned and judged by the California Striped Bass Association (CSBA). The fine print of the rules outlines the boundary for fishing, which extends from the Golden Gate Bridge, to Sacramento and Stockton, and over 1,000 miles of narrow Delta waterways in between. For over 50 years the winning Striped Bass was the largest fish by weight. The rules and regulations are now a bit lengthier and can be downloaded on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.bassfestival.com.

A Fishy Tale

One can attribute a lot of things to fishing success, a combination of skill, knowledge of the area, and luck. Fishermen can be impressed with your catch, or suspect foul play. In 2001, within the first couple hours of the Derby, a 40.65 lb. Striped Bass was submitted to the weigh-in station attended by the CSBA. The fish didn't look quite right, some said it had a glassy appearance (which may mean not a fresh catch). The experienced fishermen receiving the entry questioned the integrity of the fish — and the fisherman too. Where had it been caught and how long had it been out of the water? The angler's answers were non-specific. Nonetheless, it was accepted and put on ice in a large display case for all to see until the end of the Derby, when the largest fish would win.



A SF Chronicle article from 2001.

At that time, as part of the application, all Derby participants signed an agreement to take a polygraph test if they won. In the previous two years, the tournament had a polygraph operator on standby, should they need them. In 2001 the prize was a Klamath GTX Fishing Boat with a 50 hp Mercury motor, plus a trailer. With this kind of purse at stake they had decided that the winning fisherman would have to pass a polygraph test, no matter what. The young fisherman took the polygraph test and failed. The Derby prize then went to the fisherman with the 2nd largest fish.

It was a news item, this big fish that had been denied a prize. The fisherman, who was refused his prize, got lawyers involved to bringing suit against the Chamber board of directors. San Francisco news stations drove to Rio Vista to get the details of this fishy story. It was a moment of spotlight on the Bass Derby. The fishing community in Northern California watched with interest as this played out, as many seasoned anglers had for years been suspicious about prizes unfairly given or fishermen who bent the rules to take winnings. The Derby recovered in force, as the next several years brought in the largest number of fishermen ever, over 1,500 entries at bait shops around the area. Sportsmen cheered on the Derby organizers who held their ground on a suspicious fish.



A youth Derby winner with Noel O'Brien, Bass Derby Director and CSBA Isleton/Delta President.

Rule Changes for a Fair Derby

Looking for a way to avoid this kind of dispute in the future, the derby organizers changed the rules of engagement. Now the winning fish is no longer the heaviest weight, but a target length, drawn at random, then announced and posted at 6:00 am Friday morning when the Derby officially starts. The Striped Bass is measured from the tip of the head with mouth closed, to the fork in the tail. As fish close to that length are caught, they are brought in to the weigh station at the end of Main St. and photographed (no longer put on ice). If the angler knows the fish is not in competition, it can be released back into the water. In case of a tie, the Striped Bass with the greatest weight wins. If two are the same, the first weighed in takes the prize.

Derby & Festival and Fishy Tales!

Photos by Diane King & Doris Noriega

2018 Bass Derby

Striped Bass are migratory and return in great number to the waters of the Delta from late summer to December, then again in the Spring, while some remain local throughout the year. Avid fishermen and fisherwomen love the challenge of this voracious and hard fighting game fish. The tournament also hosts King

am Friday, October 12th through 3:00 pm Sunday, October 14th. Awards are presented at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 14th at the foot of Main St. The Visitor Center at 33 N. Second St. is ground zero for all Derby information, open 10:00 am – 4:00 pm every day. Also go online to

www.bassfestival.com for updates about the 71st

Bass



Scouts march in the parade.

Photo: Diane King

Salmon and Sturgeon fishing. Last year the winning Sturgeon came in at 53.81 lbs. The winning Salmon catch is the biggest by weight, last year at 28 lbs. The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) promote continuously greater numbers of returning salmon in the years to come. The department releases salmon smolts at the old Army Base next to the Coast Guard Station in Rio Vista at select times, giving these young salmon a greater opportunity to reach the Pacific Ocean to begin their 3-5 year growth and eventually return to the Delta waterways.

Derby tickets are \$50 and include a Derby commemorative hat. Tickets are available online up to 5:45 am on Friday Oct. 12th for people 16 years or older. A separate youth entry keeps the Derby exciting and fair. For only \$5 youths 15 and under can participate in the Striped Bass or Catfish categories. The youth program has been growing each year as more prizes are donated and more family involvement develops. This is a great opportunity for families with children to compete and win prizes, opening up opportunities for the next generation to be on the water in this Delta. If you haven't been on the Sacramento River yet, this is the time to see the activities and involvement as you enjoy the local food and hospitality of Rio Vista.

The carnival starts at 4:00 pm Thursday, October 11. Rides are half price Thursday only. Derby fishing runs from 6:00



Ferris wheel at the carnival.

Photo: Doris Noriega



Downtown vendors.

Photo: Doris Noriega

Derby and Festival.

More Than Fishing

The Bass Festival is about more than fishing. The Rio Vista Food Pantry hosts a huge daily "Catch of the Day" rummage sale, with proceeds benefiting the needy right here in Rio Vista and throughout the Delta region. A fantastic car show for all "show class" cars line both sides of Main St. on Saturday from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Live music from Friday night through Sunday features well-known and locally established groups. The festival features small town events like down-hill racing for kids who can still fit into the tiny soapbox-type cars, and a carnival with a three-story Ferris wheel to give you an awesome view of the town and the river. Enjoy a remarkable display of fireworks over the picturesque Sacramento River starting at approximately 9:00 pm Saturday. A wine and beer garden operates outside for three days, while all the classic bars on Main St. are full and fun. Many local food and treat booths are available and there are many unique vendors throughout the festival. As one walks through the displays and arts, taking in the smells and sounds of the festival and the breezes along the waterfront, it indicates a time that stands today and still reflects on the past generations of Rio Vista. Don't miss this small town event with plenty of parking and a Riverwalk promenade.

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Historical Stewart Home

By Phil Pezzaglia Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

The homes of Rio Vista reflect numerous styles of construction, depending upon the decade they were built.

One of the local homes which stands out is the elegant English Tudor style home located on South Fourth Street. The home, located a few lots above Rio Vista High School, was originally owned by the Stewart family and built by Rio Vistan, Jens Peter Mortensen. He was a prominent and much sought after residential/commercial builder and architect. Many of his buildings have become landmarks in Rio Vista.

Although more than 85 years old, the Stewart home is remarkably well preserved and retains much of its original detailed woodwork in the interior. Its many rooms are very spacious and illustrate the architectural design of that era. Construction began in 1932 on this 3,138 sq. ft. home with detached garage, located on lots 7 and 8 (each lot measures 30' x 120') of Block 37 of the J.W. Hamilton Addition. The lot was originally purchased by Louis P. Kerner, Jr., who was both the owner of Kerner Ford Motors and the local fire chief.

When completed, the home consisted of a 1,391 sq. ft. second floor with four bedrooms and two bathrooms and a 1,604 sq. ft. first floor with a living room, entry, dining room, family room, kitchen, utility room, and bathroom. The living room was "sunken" or a step down from the formal entry and featured a fireplace and large front window. The dining room had a beautiful oak built-in hutch. Throughout the home was hardwood flooring. One bathroom featured green ceramic tile, with black trim (a popular color choice for that era). And as the years went by the basement was finished, complete with a bar.

The exterior featured front facing gables, a steeply pitched roof covered with wood shingles, false half-timbering employed as decoration, a brick wall on the ground floor with stucco wall treatment, tall narrow windows with multiple glazing on the floor above, and an entry with a round-topped arch. The 480 sq. ft. detached two-car garage was accessible from Riverview Avenue.

Since the day the home was built only a few families have resided in it, including: the Stewart's, the Seiden's, the Jackson's, and the present owner, who purchased the home in March 2018. Each owner injected their own decorating style and improvements to the home. The most notable being the built-in pool, during the Jackson's ownership.

The Stewart Family (1931 – 1954)

The original owners Harry Kennison and Vera (Matthews) Stewart raised three sons in the home. Harry held extensive farming land on Ryer Island and the Holland district near

Clarksburg. Known for his sense of humor and kindly acts, Harry was active in local government and community organizations, being elected to city council, and served as mayor. He was on the board of directors of the local grammar school and the Baptist church, served on the county grand jury, and was an active member of the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Scottish Rite Ben Ali Shrine, and Elks Lodge.



Vera Stewart (Matthews)



Stewart Home



Kenneth and Gordon Stewart

The neighborhood was very much a family neighborhood as Harry's brother David, and his wife Pearl (Rawlings) built the home across the street at 500 South Fourth Street, in 1915. During the 1930s the homes of South Fourth Street and St. Gertrude's Avenue consisted of several large families, including: the Stewart's, the Hamilton's, the McCormack's, and the Pezzaglia's. The stories of the antics of the neighborhood children are plentiful and reminiscent of episodes of the popular Our Gang series (a.k.a Little Rascals) of the 1930s.

The Seiden Family (1955 – 1968)

Ira B. "Skip" and Dorothea Seiden purchased the home in the 1950s. Skip was the owner of a local crop dusting business, Westaire Service, and was a major player in the establishment of the Rio Vista Municipal Airport in 1952/53. Financially, Westaire Service's commercial operations supported the new airport through its decisive years.

A plaque at the base of the flagpole at Rio Vista Municipal Airport-Baumann Field reads, "Dedicated to the Memory of Frank 'Tiny' Mershon, Ira 'Skip' Seiden, John 'Johnny' Inouye For Their Contribution To Aviation In Rio Vista."

The In-Between Years (1969 – 1974)

During these five years the home was not always occupied. In 1970, local school teacher Bud E. Rook and his family resided in the home for a short period of time. Other than the Rook's, residency information is unavailable during these years.

The Jackson Family (1975 – 2017)

Kent and Val Jackson purchased the home in 1975, moving across town from Logan Street. Kent was an optometrist with offices in Rio Vista and Fairfield. He was also the judge for the Justice Court for the City of Rio Vista. Val was a teacher at Riverview Elementary School, teaching 5th grade during the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

In Conclusion

The Stewart Home most recently sold in March 2018. Who knows what architectural changes may appear next?

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IN MEMORY

Of Those Members Who Have Recently Passed

<i>Bob Burns</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>Harvey Felt</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>Warner Griggs</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>
<i>Leo Jackson</i>	<i>Korean War</i>
<i>Joe McKeown</i>	<i>Korean War</i>
<i>Roscoe Messenger</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>Ken Powell</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>George Romweber</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>
<i>Earl Smith</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>Marvin Soroken</i>	<i>Korean War</i>
<i>Hank Tussy</i>	<i>WW II</i>
<i>Gene Voltattorni</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>

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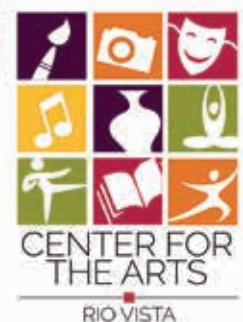
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Where Are The Salmon? In The Net with Fish'n Dog Drew

By Drew Gidlof

The 2018 inland water Salmon season started on Monday, July 16 and ends Sunday, December 16, 2018. It is surprising the State Fisheries Commission and State Department Fish & Wildlife did not shut down the Chinook salmon season completely after the February report from the Pacific Fishery Management Council stated the Fall-run Chinook salmon was "overfished."

The most significant change as a result of this report, and subsequent various State Department meetings, is the reduction of Chinook salmon on a daily and in possession limit. This season we are allowed one Chinook salmon each day and 2 Chinook salmon in possession when fishing the Sacramento River between the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Carquinez Bridge.

Those of us who have fished for Chinook salmon over the past few years have noticed a reduction in the annual return run. According to reports, Fishery managers consider 122,000 to be the minimum number of spawning adult Fall-run necessary to sustain the Sacramento's salmon population. 112,947 returned to the Sacramento River in 2015 and only 89,674 returned in 2016. In 2017 44,574 Fall-run fish were counted swimming upstream. This has apparently led to the regulatory designation of "overfished" by State officials.

Many fishermen do not believe the Fall-run Chinook salmon are overfished. Instead, they argue, we have a fishery management problem that has significantly impacted this run. And if continued, they predict additional restrictions or the end of Fall-run Chinook salmon completely, similar to what occurred with the Spring salmon runs in this state.

2014 and 2015 were drought years in our state, leaving us with a limited annual run off into our creeks, streams, and rivers, especially the Sacramento River. 2016 was a much better Winter for annual precipitation. 2017 showed the return to drought water conditions and who knows what this year will bring.

Some may ask why this is an issue for the annual Chinook spawn. Low flows in the river system cause the water to be much warmer. Chinook salmon, and other species, need cooler water to generate the instinct to spawn upriver, lay and spawn their eggs, and for the salmon hatch to survive.

Marc Gorelnik, a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, was recently quoted in a March 19, 2018 Chinook salmon article about the drought and the way the United States Bureau of Reclamation

managed water flows for plunging salmon numbers. "In 2014 and 2015, they were supposed to impound enough cold water behind Shasta Dam for the fish and they didn't," he said. "Instead, the agency released so much water from Lake Shasta early in the year that, by the time the salmon had returned to the Sacramento to spawn, the lake's cold water was gone – delivered largely to Sacramento Valley rice farmers. This proved lethal for the fish's temperature-sensitive eggs."



A fisherman and his catch.

It is understood that farmers need water to grow their crops that we rely on. Many of us have family members who are farmers and we understand the hurdles and regulatory issues they deal with each year.

The critical issue is that we do not have enough water storage to meet the current demands. It has been decades since our state has built a new addition to our amazing water storage and delivery system. Yet, how many additional people

and businesses have been added to our state population? Hundreds of thousands, if not millions. These increases add to the demand for water and reduce what we have to support our wildlife, including the Chinook salmon.

Building the Delta tunnels to move additional hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water to others in the state could easily tip the scales and cause this fishery to become extinct, or under additional draconian regulations by Federal and State regulators.

Common sense decisions and regulations by State officials would create an opportunity for the Chinook salmon population to rebound. The annual returning spawn for a Chinook salmon is between 3 and 4 years. Each female salmon lays an average of 5,000 eggs.

The Central Valley salmon run was reported to have collapsed to around 53,000 spawning adults in 2009. The reproduction capacity of the Chinook salmon allowed the adult spawn to be in the range of 163,000 in 2010. That was an amazing turn around.

Continued awareness of the problem and advocacy by various organizations are essential, as well as continued pressure on our State officials to make decisions that both benefit and balance the needs of everyone, including our wildlife.

By the way, do not forget about the upcoming annual Bass Derby. It is a lot of fun and a great opportunity to "take

time to take a child fishing."

Boonie, the river dog, and Drew hope to see you on the water this Fall!

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Delta Holiday Fun

Check out these cool yule happenings!

Story by Marilyn Nelson

Photos by Nora Crane, Debbie Dorn, Diane King & Robie Williams

Trilogy Craft, Gift, Art Faire and Jewelry Show

Saturday, November 17, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Trilogy Vista Club, west of Rio Vista



Photo: Debbie Dorn

Just in time for the holidays! Don't miss the 16th Annual Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art & Jewelry Faire. This convenient and unique shopping experience is open to the public at the Trilogy Vista Club. Find unique hand-crafted gifts for yourself and others. Denny James performs from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Grand Living Room. Grab a cup of coffee or lunch at Café Vista, open until 3:00 pm.

Enter the Raffle to win amazing hourly prizes. The proceeds go to the Rio Vista Senior Center's "Meals on Wheels." Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

10th Annual Olde Tyme Christmas Faire

Friday night, November 30 - 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday, December 1 - 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, December 2 - 11:30 am - 4:30 pm
Rio Vista Museum, 16 N. Front Street, Rio Vista



Photo: Nora Crane

Take a trip back in time and delight in the holiday atmosphere at the Rio Vista Museum. Enjoy Christmas music while you browse the displays from local artisans. Buy unique Christmas gifts or something for yourself! Shop for ornaments, pottery, jewelry, soaps, wreaths, quilted and knitted items and local homemade jams and jellies. Stock up on delicious holiday confections and baked goods.

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

Main Street Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 1, 5:00 pm
Main Street, Rio Vista



Photo: Pixabay

There is no better way to catch the spirit of the season than watching the charming Rio Vista Christmas Parade. Get cozy with your blankets and hot chocolate as you watch the parade march down Main Street.

To be a part of the parade, pick up an entry form after October 31st at the Chamber office located at 33 N. 2nd Street. Participation is free. For more information, email info@riovista.org or call the office at (707) 374-2700.

Hospice of San Joaquin Tree of Lights

Saturday, December 1, 5:30 pm
Main Street, Rio Vista, in front of City Hall

Following the Parade, Hospice of San Joaquin illuminates their Tree of Lights at the end of Main Street in front of City Hall. Remember or honor a loved one by dedicating a light on the tree. Your donation 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 here in Rio Vista.

To donate and dedicate a light, go to www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights.



Photo: Diane King

Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 1, 6:00 pm
Waterfront from Marina to the Public Fishing Pier

The celebration continues with the annual Lighted Boat Parade sponsored by the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. Find a spot along the waterfront and enjoy the boats decked out in lights and wired with music. Weather permitting, boats depart from the Marina's guest dock at 6:00 pm and head north to the bridge and back.



Photo: Robie Williams

125 Year Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, December 2, 4:00 pm
Veteran's Memorial Hall, 610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista



Photo: Pixabay

On December 30, 1893, the citizens of Rio Vista held a vote to incorporate as a town. 2018 marks 125 years since that historic vote. Sunday, December 2, starting at 4:00 pm we culminate a year of celebration with a 125th anniversary dinner at the Veterans Hall on St. Francis. Chef Arvell Howell is preparing a memorable meal for us to finish off the year and to celebrate this momentous occasion. Join us for a weekend of fun and a fitting end to our anniversary year. Check at the Visitor Center and Pets 4 All for tickets.



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EVENT CALENDAR

Third Saturdays through Oct 20, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sidewalk Saturday

September 15 & October 20
Downtown Rio Vista

Sidewalk Saturday runs concurrently with the Farmers Market on third Saturdays each month through October 20.



Saturday, October 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Trilogy Community Garage Sales
Trilogy, 55+ community west of Rio Vista

Hundreds of houses participate in this semi-annual sale! Furniture, kitchen appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques and more! Gates open for buyers at 9:00 am.



Saturdays through Nov 18, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Farmers Market
End of Main Street at waterfront

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

Weekends, Oct 13 - 29, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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! Check admission prices at www.wrm.org.



Thu - Sun, Oct 11 - 14

71st Annual Bass Derby & Festival

Downtown

See the *2018 Bass Derby & Festival* article by Mary Ellen Lamothe and Noel O'Brien on page 10 for more info.

Fri, Oct 12, 11:30 am - 8:00 pm

Sat, Oct 13, 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

Sun, Oct 14, 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

"Catch of the Day" Rummage Sale

45 N. Main St. (Youth Center)

Don't miss out on what might be your best Bass Derby "Catch of the Day." Buy furniture, art, small appliances, kitchen items, tools, sporting goods,

linens, jewelry and more! Proceeds benefit the Rio Vista Food Pantry. Whatever isn't sold is half-off Sat, Oct. 20, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm and Sun, Oct 21, 11:30 am - 4:00 pm.



Sat, Sep 22, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Fire Department BBQ

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

Support this 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 and at the Rio Vista Fire Station.

Sat, Nov 17, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show
Trilogy Vista Club, west of Rio Vista

See the *Delta Holiday Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.



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Main Street Christmas Parade

Main St., Rio Vista

Photo: Nora Crane

See the *Delta Holiday Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.

Sat, Dec 1, 5:30 pm

Tree of Lights

Main St., Rio Vista

See the *Delta Holiday Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.

Sat, Dec 1, 6:00 pm

Lighted Boat Parade

Waterfront from Marina to Public Fishing Pier



Photo: Monica Giannini

See the *Delta Holiday Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.



Photo: Robie Williams

Sun, Dec 2, 4:00 pm
125th Anniversary Dinner

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

See the *Delta Holiday Fun* article by Marilyn Nelson on page 16 for more info.



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