



San Ramon Historic Foundation

Dedicated to the Preservation of San Ramon's Early Farms and Homesteads

www.srhf.org

The Barn Burner

President's Letter



As you know we have helped with financial support for major projects like the windmill and water tank at the David Glass house. We are now facing our largest project ever: saving of the Old 1850s Barn. The cost exceeds \$756,000.

We need help! First we need to lay out a plan for raising that kind of money. We have some ideas, but if you have any bright ideas, please contact me or any Board member. We need to start thinking outside of the "box".

Next we need to execute the plan. If you would like to help in any way, please contact any Board member. I doubt that anyone is going to step up and contribute a large portion of what we need. Therefore it is going to take a substantial number of smaller donations to reach our goal. It's going to take time and effort.

HELP!

Paul Truschke
President
San Ramon Historic Foundation

Saving the "Ole 1850s Barn"

In 1997 Ruth Quayle Boone gifted the 16 acre Boone family farm, known as Forest Home Farms, to the city of San Ramon for use as a municipal park in honor of the memory of her late husband, Travis (Bud) Moore Boone. In 1998, when Ruth passed away, the city dedicated the site and its 18 buildings (if you count the two outhouses!) as a Historical park to preserve it for future generations.

In 1999 the city hired a consultant to develop a master plan to identify the work that would be required to restore and rehabilitate a small number of the buildings for use by the city and the public at large. While some of the identified structural, electrical and plumbing work has been performed many of the identified upgrades remain to be completed.

With the passage of time it became obvious that the cost estimates generated 15 years ago could no longer be relied upon, and while some of the identified work has been performed much remains to be done.

Accordingly, the Foundation entered into an agreement with the City of San Ramon to jointly fund a project to evaluate four of the structures on the property with the objective of determining

- 1) Future use of each structure, and
- 2) Cost to update each structure to meet the identified usage.

ATI Architects and Engineers was hired to perform the review and assessment of the four structures identified as the most in need of attention, namely the Old 1850s Barn, the 1930's era "Meat House", the "Grotto" structure and the Tractor Barn.

ATI, in the person of Robert Desautels, met with a committee composed of City staff and Foundation board members to evaluate the vision of future use for each structure, and determine what level of work was desired for each, namely either preserve it "as is", restore it to its original condition, or some level between these two efforts.

After reviewing the draft report the Foundation determined that our priority should be to renovate the "Ole 1850s Barn" to a point that would ensure its survival for future generations. We also wanted to give the public access to a portion of the interior of the structure to allow the viewing the building from the inside to see the techniques used in its construction. This would also allow for the placement of display cases where artifacts from the past can be displayed in a secure environment.

This will be a very large task, and the Foundation is about to embark on a fund raising campaign to generate funds necessary to start the project. At this time the preliminary estimate is that this effort will cost about \$756,000. This estimate will likely change as we move forward.

As the project develops we will provide more information on how you can help us with this effort, either by participation in the process or donations towards the work. We envision that this will be a lengthy process and we will post periodic updates on the Foundation web site at www.srhf.org. We will provide updates on this project, as well the vision for the other three structures included in the study, in future editions of this newsletter.

by Dall Barley

Upcoming Events



**Monthly Historic
Park Tours**

**2nd Saturday of
Every Month**



Ice Cream Social

**Saturday
Aug 09, 2014**



Oktoberfest

**Saturday
Oct. 11, 2014**

Sheep Shearing Day

**Saturday April 26, 2014
11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Order Early Bird Tickets
at SRHF.org**

Early Bird (before April 20)

Adult- \$5
Children(3-12) -\$3
Under 3 free
SRHF Member - \$3
Member Child under
13 is FREE

After April 20 and at the gate:

Adult \$7
Child (3-12) \$5
Under 3 FREE
SRHF Member \$5
Member Child under
13 is FREE



Sheep Shearing

The San Ramon Historic Foundation presents Sheep Shearing Day 2014 at Forest Home Farms Historic Park – 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon.

Sheep Shearing is a unique opportunity to experience a day on the 16-acre Boone family farm. This event has quickly grown into one of the San Ramon Historic Foundation's largest annual events drawing over 1000 community members. This year the monies raised will go directly to restore The Ole 1850's Barn. The Ole 1850's Barn is one of two of the oldest structures in San Ramon. Its outstanding architecture has survived 164 years and it is in need of restoration. Get your tickets on line and come early to get the best parking or better yet ride your bikes or walk.

At the farm you will be greeted and encouraged to spend the whole day learning, exploring and having fun. Over 100 sheep will receive their annual haircuts and will provide us an opportunity to demonstrate the wool process from the sheep to yarn – all while the sheep dogs are herding the next sheep into line.

During your day you will have an opportunity to browse around the historic buildings many of which are listed on

California's Historic Landmarks. Within the buildings the East Bay Banjo Club will perform throughout the day. Children will be entertained with Vintage Games, Crafts and 4H Animals. The Maypole will inspire us all to celebrate the coming of spring. Enjoy watching the sheep, horse and chickens in their coop. The 7,000 sq foot open barn will house Quilters, Wood Carvers and Lace Makers. The Walnut building has a significant value to the San Ramon Valley as Travis Boone was an inventor of much of the walnut process. The Walnut Barn will be open with a walnut truck game. Men and women alike will enjoy the Tractor Museum, Hit and Miss Engines and Tractor Rides. Finally take time to walk around The 22-room Dutch Colonial Boone House where Minnie and Numa Boone raised their two children, Travis and Eleanor, on this very beautiful farm.

Farm tours, docents, farm hands and the Welcome Center will be available to provide more information and history throughout the day. The Foundation Gift Shoppe will be open to pick up a souvenir from your special day on the farm.

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch or purchase food & refreshments and enjoy your lunch on farm.

by Cindy Duffy Chase

Upcoming Events



Holiday at the Farm

**Saturday
Dec. 13, 2014**



The Annual Crab Feed

**Saturday
Jan 24, 2015**



Monthly Historic Park Tours

2nd Saturday of Every Month

Crab Feed 2014

Thanks many times over to everyone who assisted at the annual Crab Feed this past January 2014. I am delighted to announce that for the first time at hosting the Crab Feed we made the goal of \$10,000. This will aid greatly in restoring our "Ole 1850s Barn."

The night was so much fun which started with a social hour including music by "Jimmy – the Vocalist/Guitarist" followed by delicious crab. Pasta was donated by the San Ramon Marriott.

Many thanks goes to Tammy who always makes sure we have the pasta as well as cakes and personally assists Mary at the Ticket Table. The auctioneers were superb in starting our fantastic cakes at \$400, which enabled us to earn more than \$2,700 from our live cake auction.

There are so many people to thank who helped with the cake auction, our wonderful servers from St Raymond Church School as well as those companies that donated cakes or special desserts, the super helpers in the kitchen, cake assistants, setting up the event and all the Historic Board of Directors. This could not be possible if it wasn't for many, many wonderful people.

If you didn't attend this year, you will not want to miss the next crab feed which is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2015 (the fourth Saturday in January 2015).

Thank you to each and every person who assisted.

Carol Lopez



**Newest City Councilman
Harry Sachs and Family**



Volunteer

We are always searching for adult and teen volunteers to assist with Foundation events, serve as docents, help restore tractors, and keep our gardens growing.

For more information please visit our Volunteer Page at www.srhf.org.



Subscriptions

The Barnburner Newsletter is distributed four times a year. If you'd like to receive a copy, please send your email address to:

sanramonhf@gmail.com

You can also view the newsletter on our website at: <http://www.srhf.org/newsletter/>



Monthly Tours

Second Saturday of every month

Forest Homes Farm Tours
11 AM and 1 PM

Glass House Tours
10AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, and 1PM
At Forest Home Farms Historic Park



Membership

General: \$35.00

Includes:

- * Free docent led tours
- * 10% discount on purchases
- * Discount on adult admission to select events and children under 13 are free

For more info: <http://www.srhf.org/about-srhf/membership/>



San Ramon Historic Foundation



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