

# Daily Report - Yosemite National Park Thursday, February 09, 2012

## WEATHER

### Yosemite Valley

Today: Sunny, with a high near 57.  
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 36.  
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 58.  
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 46.

### El Portal

Today: Sunny, with a high near 72.  
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 38.  
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 73.  
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 62.

### Wawona

Today: Sunny, with a high near 67.  
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.  
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66.  
Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 54.

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## HAPPENING TODAY

### An Important Sal's Taco Night

This Thursday, come enjoy a burrito from Sal's taco truck and a beverage provided by Yosemite Employee Association (YEA). While you're there you'll see that YEA is getting a makeover, and we want your input! YEA is making some important changes to the organization and its constitution, and on Thursday at Sal's we will host an informal public forum so you can learn about the proposed changes. Representatives from YEA and the El Portal Community Association (EPCA) will staff a table where you can see the proposed new constitution, read a fact sheet about what is changing, ask questions, and give feedback. YOU, Yosemite community members, are the reason YEA exists and we want you to be a part of the change! (M. Goldberg - 2/7)

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## PARK AND PARTNER NEWS

### IT Branch Welcomes New Permanent Employee, Tom Richie, and Detail, Cheryl DeShazer

Tom will be maintaining/expanding our Sharepoint site as well as general IT support. Originally from Dallas, TX, Tom Richie has lived in southern New Mexico for the past 20+ years. He got his start in IT as a computer technician at the NASA White Sands Test Facility and worked his way up to become a network staff member, where he oversaw web site development. Following NASA, Tom worked with the White Sands Missile Range Environmental Compliance Division where he developed web-enabled databases for the long-term monitoring program, the Title V air emissions reporting program, and tracking

programs for potential environmental problems and safety issues. After a brief role as Network Administrator for the City of Las Cruces, NM, Tom joined the National Park Service in 2005. Since then, he has served as the Data Manager for the Chihuahuan Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network. One of his most prized accomplishments with the Network is the integration of natural resources monitoring data stored in Microsoft SharePoint with an image management system and enterprise Geodatabase. Outside of work, Tom enjoys home improvement projects, wildlife photography, hiking and amateur astronomy. He is very much looking forward to exploring new territory at Yosemite National Park!

Cheryl will be doing general IT support and will be here until early April. For the past 8 years, Cheryl has been the IT Specialist at Brown v. Board of Education NHS in Topeka, KS. Her park consists of 17 users and she's also in charge of all of the audio/visual equipment in the exhibit space. She supports several smaller parks in the MWR as well: Nicodemus NHS, Effigy Mounds NM, Tallgrass Prairie NP, Fort Scott NHS, Fort Larned NHS, and Harry S Truman NHS. Cheryl works on computers and peripherals, Audio Video equipment, phone systems (both VoIP and analog), website and photo/video editing, and has some limited knowledge of radios. Cheryl has been married for 22 years and has two daughters. Emily attends Kansas State University and is majoring in photojournalism. Julie is a junior in high school and attends culinary arts class through a local vocational-technical school. Cheryl can be reached at 379 1176.

Welcome aboard Tom and Cheryl! (R. Watson - 2/9)

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### **Tuolumne Meadows Winter Conditions Update - 2/7**

Weather: (2/2 - 2/7)

High temp: 48°F (2/3)

Low temp: -2°F (2/5)

New Snow: 0 inches

Total settled snow depth: 18 inches as of February

Skiing Conditions and Weather: Ski conditions haven't changed much as of the last report except for maybe there are now more wind affected areas above tree-line. North aspects still hold some soft stuff. And there is still ample snow for touring. In spite of such a perpetual dry spell the skiing is pretty darn good!

Avalanche and Snowpack Conditions: For the latest avalanche advisory for this area go to [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org) for the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center and click on advisory. The ESAC site is updated several times a week and more often during weather events. The high density new snow, which fell at the beginning of the storm on January 19th, essentially fell on bare ground making for a good base layer. No avalanche activity has been observed since the last storm cycle.

Wildlife: A couple of Ravens have been spending time here in Tuolumne Meadows. Insectivore birds like the Red-breasted Nuthatch & Brown Creeper are pecking away on the Lodge pole Pines. Haven't seen the coyote lately but there's evidence that they're still out and about.

Questions: Power and phones are probably out for the season. Contact the Wilderness Office at 209/372-0740 with any questions or concerns. Come prepared; don't let the sunshine fool ya. -- Laura & Rob Pilewski, the Tuolumne Meadows winter rangers. For regular updates, bookmark our blog on the park's website:

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tmconditions.htm>. (M. Ortiz - 2/8)

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### **Yosemite Forum Tuesday**

Please join us for the Yosemite Forum on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 from noon to 1pm in the Yosemite Valley Auditorium. The presentation will be "Simulation of Rockfall Trajectories Using Process-based Models" by Sandra Melzner, Geological Survey of Austria. Sandra Melzner is a geologist with the Department of Engineering Geology at the Geographical Survey of Austria, and works in the field of rockfall and landslide hazard assessment. (M. Thornley - 2/8)

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### **Badger Pass Daily Snow Report - 2/9**

Base Depth: 12" - 24"

Snow Conditions: Powder, Packed Powder

Temperature: High 48 Low 32

Runs Groomed: Bruin, Eagle, Rabbit, and Turtle

Lifts Open: Turtle, Bruin, Eagle, Badger

Runs open: All, except Beaver

XC trail snow conditions: Good coverage from Badger Pass to Glacier Point. However, there are some small, bare spots with asphalt showing. (S. Costello - 2/9)

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## **EMPLOYEE NEWS**

### **Restored Leave Request Packages: Due March 1**

It's time to submit your 2011 leave year restored leave packages. In order to meet HROC's deadline, below, please forward me your complete request package not later than COB Thurs, March 1. Each of you requesting restored annual leave for the 2011 leave year must submit a package containing all of the following:

- Name
- Social Security Number
- Organization Code
- Number of hours to be restored
- A copy of your FPPS/Quicktime printout showing your use or loose leave balance as of the end of PP 1201 (December 31, 2011) - your timekeeper can help you with this. (Important: Region won't approve any requests that exceed that balance .)
- A written request for leave restoration, signed by the employee and supervisor stating the reason why leave was cancelled and could not be rescheduled by the end of the leave year.
- The signed and approved original leave slips dated prior to Nov 18.

Please submit complete packages only. Incomplete packages will be returned. Any questions? Give a holler. (Hint: Email is a really good way to get a hold of me.) (T. Hawkins - 2/8)

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### **Temporary Warehouse Closure Thursday**

The warehouse will be closed for routine shopping on Thursday, 2/9/12, from 11:30 to 1:00 pm. If you have an emergency, please knock on the door. (K. Kolbeck - 2/8)

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### **New Planning Division Employee**

Charlie Repath will be working for the Planning Division for the next two months. If you wish to contact Charlie you may phone him at his El Portal office at 379-1405. If you are unable to reach him, you may phone Doyle Harrison at 379-1110 to leave a message. (D. Harrison - 2/8)

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### **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

#### **Fire Management to Resume Debris Pile Burning in El Portal and Foresta**

Yosemite fire management may resume hand pile burning in El Portal and Foresta with help from the forecasted rain. Localized flames and smoke will be visible but impacts should be negligible and short lived. In an ongoing effort, park, state and private fire crews have created forest debris hand piles in and around the communities of Foresta and El Portal. These piles are being made to reduce biomass and create a 'defensible space' fuel break around Yosemite's vulnerable Wildland Urban Interface communities. Additionally, thinning, piling and burning can restore fire dependant ecosystems and set the stage for the progressive management of future natural or prescribed fires. Please contact Kelly Singer @ 372-0413 or Taro Pusina @ 375-9576 with any questions. (T. Pusina - 1/20)

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#### **Village Store Closed**

The Village Store will be closed for remodeling beginning Tuesday, January 17th and will reopen on Thursday, February 16th @ Noon. (1/18)

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#### **UPDATE - Foresta Road Closure thru 2/29/12 - Slide Repair Between Rancheria and Old El Portal**

The current road closure along Foresta Road will continue thru the end of February 2012. Due to the unseasonably dry weather crews made good progress on the upper (cut) slope stabilization and it is nearly complete, however the steep slopes required much of the work to occur with hand labor, so they were not able to make as much progress as planned. The remaining work includes the final seeding and mulching along the upper slope, then installation of a retaining wall along the lower (fill) slope, and then the final curb and pavement repairs. (M. Pieper - 1/6)

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### **ACTING DESIGNATIONS**

**Dave Humphrey** will be Acting Division Chief for Resources Management and Science on February 9th and 10th, 2012. He can be reached at 209-379-1029.

**Tom Tobin** will be the Acting Contacting Officer from 2/6 thru 2/21. Jody Auerbach is out to the office and will return on 2/22. Jody will periodically be checking her email. Tom can be reached at 379-1040.

**Madelyn Ruffner** (379-1226) is on a 120-day detail as Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager. Madelyn may be found at her regular desk location in the EPC Trailer. Elaxis Mayer (379-1377) has temporarily moved to the Planning Trailer to continue her work on the Merced River Plan. For further assistance, you may also contact

Jessica Zeek (379-1002), Administrative Support Assistant for Environmental Planning and Compliance.

**Jack Hoeflich** will be acting Valley District Ranger until further notice.

**Andy Fristensky** will be Acting Deputy Chief of Interpretive Operations until further notice. He may be reached at 372-0599.

**Jeffrey Trust** will be Acting Yosemite Valley Field Interpretation Supervisor until further notice. He may be reached at 372-0307.

**Ron Watson** will be the Acting Supervisory Information Technology Specialist until further notice. He may be reached at 379-1074.

**Brenna Lissoway** (379-1283) is on a detail as the Park Archivist. If you have need to access the Archives, or have archive related questions, you can call 379-1282 or 379-1104.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### For Rent

In the Jerseydale section just before Mariposa Pines. Access off Hwy 140 from Triangle Road, 37 miles from YNP. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Justus Cedar home with full kitchen (refrigerator, oven, dishwasher), washer & dryer, central heat and air, wood-burning fireplace, large redwood deck, pool on a 10 acre private property in the Sierra Natl Forest. Reduced rent (\$500. a month) in exchange for minor caretaking and security, per simple lease agreement. Available February on a month to month basis. Property (which also includes a Main House and garage/studio) is on market for sale, but likely many months before that becomes an issue. Some furniture may be available for purchase from previous tenant. Pet OK. If interested, please send email covering your needs and interests and a Resume with local references. (K. Cohen - 2/9)

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### Job Posting - Yosemite Conservancy - Theater and Program Promotion Assistant

The Theater and Program Promotion Assistant is a full time, seasonal position promotes Yosemite Conservancy education programs (outdoor adventure, wilderness, art, volunteer and Theater) and provides logistics and on-site support to the performers in the Yosemite Conservancy Theater program in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. This position will supervised by the General Manager and work cooperatively with the Theater program performers, NPS staff and Yosemite Conservancy staff. For more information about Yosemite Conservancy, the position and how to apply, see <http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/employment> (R. Miller – 2/9)

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### 6th Street Cinema

Located upstairs in the historic Old Masonic Lodge on 6th Street, in downtown Mariposa. [www.sixthstreetcinema.org](http://www.sixthstreetcinema.org). This month's Met Live in HD Opera schedule. For more information, visit the NY Metropolitan Opera Live website: <http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/liveinhd/LiveinHD.aspx>. Admission to all operas is \$22 gen. admission; \$18 6th Street Cinema members; \$15 students. Please note different starting times for each performance: "The Enchanted Island," Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Wagner's "Gotterdammerung," Feb. 11, 9:00 a.m. Verdi's "Ernani," Feb. 25, 9:55 a.m. (T. Arfsten - 2/8)

### **Another 6th Street Cinema Event**

Film Entrance is \$7 per film for non-members; non-member students pay \$5. Monthly membership is \$12 allowing film entry for \$3 each. (Please note: we are not accepting credit cards this year.) [www.sixthstreetcinema.org](http://www.sixthstreetcinema.org) This week: Feb. 10th-11th (Friday Saturday) 7:30 p.m. SENNA . A documentary of Formula One Brazilian race driver Ayrton Senna , who won the F1 world championship three times before his death at age 34. See preview:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeFqsWWG1qE&list=UUN9iRpSgh38oN5kOySVznWQ&index=10&feature=plcp> (T. Arfsten - 2/9)

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### **For Rent**

Newer 2 bedroom/2 bathroom house on 5 acres. Mariposa - Yaqui Gulch Area. \$1150/month + deposit. Call Cindy Z. at (209) 742-4373. (Y. Radanovich - 2/8)

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Entries must be in by 7:00am the day of publication. There are no weekend or holiday editions. Submissions must be concise and will be posted for two days, then on the day of the event. Submissions: email [yose\\_daily\\_report@nps.gov](mailto:yose_daily_report@nps.gov) (there's no need to email anyone else). Yosemite's *Daily Report* is an internal memorandum of long standing intended to provide timely administrative information needed for daily park operations. The primary purpose of the report is to serve as a communication tool for park management to pass specific operational information to field employees of Yosemite National Park, park partners, concessioners, and related government agencies in a fast and efficient manner and offer a format for interdivisional, interagency, and general intra-park notifications. Although the Daily Report is intended exclusively as an internal memorandum, it is posted here in an effort to extend timely operational information to the communities surrounding the park.