



TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Fall/Winter 2022

Connecting people to the outdoors through a system of trails

A Message from CVTA President Neal Falk

The August flooding damaged parts of our beloved Fay Luther Trail. The response from our VP of Trails Operations, Jeremy Vican, along with his corps of tireless volunteers was spectacular! Repairs were completed shortly after the storm subsided. In this issue of our Newsletter, you will read about Jeremy's efforts and will also learn a little bit about one of our very special volunteers who helped with the repair effort.

On October 15th, we celebrate at James Lee Park the grand opening of CVTA's Clear Creek Trail Extension. Details of the celebration are included in this Newsletter. The celebration commemorates more than 60 miles of trails and the collective efforts given to CVTA by its donors, members and volunteers. We are also delighted by CVTA's expanding relationship with local businesses and stakeholders, which will be on full display at our celebration.

As to future trail building opportunities, CVTA is taking steps to update the Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan. Preliminary information on this matter is provided in this Newsletter issue.

Thank you everyone for all you do! I look forward to seeing you at James Lee Park!

— Neal



Coming to James Lee Park Oct 15th

Opening new trails is always something worthy of a celebration. That's why, when planning the official dedication of our latest addition to the Clear Creek Trail system, we decided to wait for the fall weather to hold a larger ceremony than usual. What we have planned is something more akin to a block party than a trail dedication.

With help of many volunteers, local businesses and the Indian Hills General Improvement District, we are excited to be holding our first-ever Carson Valley Trails Fest. While we are specifically celebrating the 9 miles of additional trails that were completed this

(Continued on last page)

TRAIL REPORT

Jeremy Vlcan

August 4th Rainstorm

As you may recall, several inches of rain pummeled the Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail System in a short amount of time on August 4th. This deluge caused sheet

and rill type erosion across much of the landscape. In some areas, mudslides poured out of ravines and upslope chutes, burying sections of trail under a new layer of sand, dirt and rock. Some adjacent landowners also had severe damage to their yards and homes.



After several trail workdays, most of the trail system was cleaned up, tread rebuilt and repairs finished. Although these events are uncommon, their occurrence over time is evidenced by the alluvial fan that much of the trail system and adjacent homes are built upon.



Left: A deep channel at the trailhead was the first evidence that we had major repairs ahead of us.

Above: Buried trails and damaged signage were swiftly repaired thanks to a quick response from local volunteers.

Clear Creek Trail System



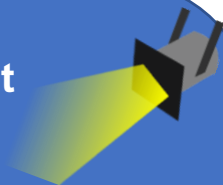
Nine more miles of trail was completed this past winter and spring on the lower portion of the Clear Creek Trail System south of Jacks Valley Road. The Clear Creek Trail now continues over 7 more miles to the James Lee Park Trailhead. The 6.5-mile Jacks Valley Loop overlaps much of the Clear Creek Trail with continuous views of the Carson Valley, Jacks Valley and Carson City. Up to 6 more easy miles



of trail loops are still awaiting approval in the vicinity of James Lee Park and Jacks Valley School. For more detailed information on the trail system and a

map, go to [Clear Creek Trail System – Carson Valley Trails Association](#).

Volunteer Spotlight Mary Erba



Mary Erba is definitely one of our most inspirational CVTA volunteers. Since 2008, Mary has volunteered over 1,500 hours building and maintaining our trails including the recently completed Jacks Valley Loop of the Clear Creek Trail.

When not building or maintaining our trails, Mary loves hiking and backpacking. In fact, despite double knee replacement surgeries, 81-year-old Mary recently completed backpacking the entire Tahoe Rim Trail for the second time.

Sometimes, Mary combines her hikes with her trail maintenance work. Every year, our volunteer Director of Trail Operations, Jeremy Vican, drives Mary along with her trail tools to the top of Sierra Canyon. Mary then hikes the 10+ miles back to Genoa repairing the trail as she goes.

Mary says that the trail team has a job for everyone no matter their experience or fitness level including meeting work crews at the trailhead with cold drinks, monitoring trail users and communicating their presence to the crew to allow for safe passage, being a trail steward or even patrolling for forgotten dog poop bags! Plus, Mary says it's a great way to have fun and meet some really nice people.





Getting to Know a Major Fault in Our Valley

As you gaze upon the Carson Range on the western side of our valley, it's difficult to imagine those high alpine peaks growing taller but the fact is, they are. The Sierra Nevada are young mountains (among the youngest on our continent) and will not reach their full potential for millions of years. Faults along the border between the Sierras and the basin allow the mountains to rise while the block to the east (including Carson Valley) drops and stretches. One of these faults is a resident of our valley and subject of great importance to geologists.

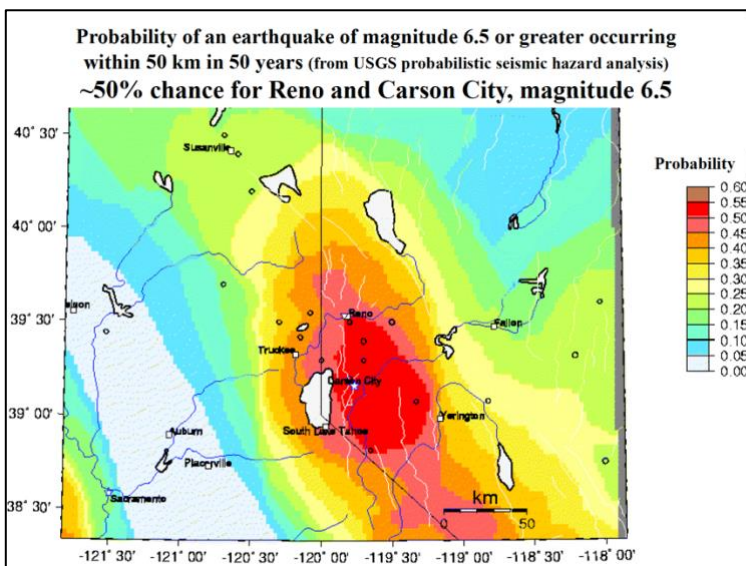
Research shows that Genoa Fault is one of the most active faults in western Nevada and is responsible for some of our valley's most prominent geologic features. It allows the Carson Range to grow and the hot springs to flow including popular Walley's and Grover Hot Springs. Unfortunately, the uplifting of the mountains and sinking of the valley happens in spurts accompanied by earthquakes.

A strong earthquake with a magnitude of about 7.5 is believed to have occurred along the Genoa Fault

within the past few hundred years.¹ Will history repeat itself? Geologists estimate the chance of having a damaging, magnitude 6 earthquake within 30 miles of any location in the Reno-Carson City-Tahoe urban corridor over the next 50 years ranges between 60% and 75%. Furthermore, according to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology's *Earthquake Loss Estimation Report* of 2007, a magnitude 7 earthquake along the Genoa fault could kill as many as 27 Douglas County residents and leave as many as 400 households in need of shelter. Keep in mind, those numbers were based on a 2000 Census when Douglas County had roughly 10,000 fewer residents than we do today.



On the bright side, without the Genoa Fault and others on either side of our valley, we would be living on a flat high-desert plain devoid of the Carson River, Lake Tahoe Basin and the topography that gives us exquisite views in all directions. In a sense, it's one of our valley's treasures and it's interesting to catch a view of it from our trail system.



Getting to Know a Major Fault (continued)

In some places, the Genoa Fault leaves visible scars on the surface of the ground called scarps. These appear as darker ridges where there is a transition in the topography and are best viewed from a distance in late afternoon sun. Visible or not, you can imagine the fault running along the base of the Carson Range from Diamond Valley in the south up through Carson Valley to Jacks Valley in the north. If you hike up the Clear Creek trail or Jacks Valley Loop until you have a view down through Jacks Valley, you can trace the fault as it runs along the base of the mountains creating visible scarps to beyond

Just south of the gravel quarry, the fault has uplifted outwash terraces (meltwater deposits from ancient glaciers located higher in the Carson Range) at the mouth of a drainage. The very large scarp (more than 50 feet high) at this location is the combined effects of several earthquakes.

Although Nevada is the third most seismically active state behind Alaska and California, we don't seem to have the same level of personal awareness and preparedness as those other states. Maybe it's because we're less populous than California which does happen to have more frequent damaging earthquakes. Still, it pays to understand the risk and prepare for the next big jolt.



When hiking up the Clear Creek Trail, look for fault scarps (scars) along the base of the mountains in Jacks Valley.

Genoa.

Farther south, you can view an exposed portion of the Genoa Fault from afar as you hike out from River Fork Ranch. Looking toward Walley's Hot Springs, you can clearly see a rock face on the fault that has been exposed thanks to a gravel pit along Foothill Road. Grooves on the bedrock formed as rock faces on either side of the fault moved past one another. You can identify these grooves if you view it up close.



To learn more about the earthquake risks in Douglas County visit these sites:

- homefacts.com/earthquakes/Nevada/Douglas-County.html
- seismo.unr.edu/

To learn more about how to prepare for earthquakes including how to make an emergency plan, protect your home and stay safe during and after an earthquake, visit: [dem.nv.gov/Resources/Earthquake-Information\(1\)](http://dem.nv.gov/Resources/Earthquake-Information(1)).

1 Alan Ramelli: Prominent Fault Scarps in Western Nevada. Nevada Geology. Quarterly Newsletter of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. Spring 1992 [www.nbmng.unr.edu/_docs/Newsletters/nl14a.htm].



past spring, we see this as an opportunity to hold an annual celebration of the many recreational opportunities that our trails provide to the Carson Valley.

Our celebration will take place at James Lee Park on Saturday October 15th between 11 a.m. and 1:30 pm. Expect lots of fun for the whole family with

festivities that include:

- Official dedication of the new lower extension of Clear Creek Trail which connects our Jacks Valley Rd trailhead to the new trailhead at James Lee Park, including the new Jack Valley Loop trail.
- Live Music by Robin Orr & Co. featuring a mix of contemporary pop and original music.
- Kitchen 1851 food truck, CV Flyte beverage truck and possibly others.
- Silent auction featuring numerous items donated by local businesses.
- Kid's bike rodeo by Safe Routes to School.
- Information booths from many local businesses and organizations including Alpine Trails, Bike Habitat, Carson Valley Medical Center, Muscle Powered and many more.

This event is open to the public so invite your friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

2022 CVTA Officers and Board

President: Neal Falk

Vice President: Linda Kleiner

Secretary: Vickie Kieffer

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VP/Chief Information Officer: Michael Hartstein

VP/Trail Operations: Jeremy Vican

VP/Outreach and Publicity: Judy Larquier

VP/Marketing: Bill Rogers

Directors-at-Large

Juan Guzman

Carlo Luri

Laura Parks

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Lori Chitwood

Mary Bennigton

Barbara Slade

Your annual membership dues and donations to the Carson Valley Trails Association, a Nevada 501(c)(3) organization, may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of section 170.c. of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 170.c. All proceeds support trail construction and maintenance, project planning, community events and trail access in the Carson Valley.