

TESLA PARK TELEGRAPH

DECEMBER 2009

Welcome

Welcome to our first edition of the *Tesla Park Telegraph*, our e-newsletter for *Friends of Tesla Park*. [Friends of Tesla Park](#) is dedicated to protecting and preserving the biologically unique and culturally significant landscape known as Tesla Park as a historic and low impact recreation park and natural preserve.

We plan to issue quarterly e-newsletters, but will provide more frequent updates as needed. Let us know if you have items for future issues or topics you would like presented. The *Telegraph* is a tool to keep us informed and able to work together to protect Tesla Park.

In this issue:

- Where is Tesla Park?
- Pass the word
- Historic resources need protection
- Suit filed to enforce water quality regulations at Carnegie SVRA

Where is Tesla Park?

We have added some maps to the [TeslaPark.org web site](#). You can also find the Tesla parkland using Google Maps and the address of [Carnegie SVRA, 18600 W. Corral Hollow Road, Tracy, CA](#). But take note - Carnegie SVRA is already showing the Tesla parkland as part of the existing Carnegie off-highway vehicle park even though it is not approved for expansion or use. The 'creep' effect of incremental expansion is something we must guard against.

Pass the word

Now that we have the [TeslaPark.org web site](#) up and a mechanism to connect and organize our efforts, we need your help to pass the word along to your friends and colleagues who share the goal of protecting the Tesla parkland and establishing a low impact historical and recreation park and preserve. You can help us by building a strong group to advocate for Tesla Park. Pass the word to join *Friends* and subscribe to the e-newsletter.

Historic Resources Need Protection

By Dan Mosier

State laws (California Environmental Quality Act and California Public Resources Codes) mandate that prehistoric and historic resources on public land must not be disturbed, destroyed, or removed. The historic resources on the Alameda-Tesla expansion property of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area are protected by these laws. But no laws can actually protect historic sites without continued monitoring and enforcement of the laws.

A major effort to protect historic resources on public land in California is being conducted by the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP). This program was established in 1999 by the Society for California Archaeology to increase and promote protection of archaeological and historical sites through site monitoring, education, research, and public awareness. Since its inception, CASSP has trained over 600 volunteers who help to monitor over 125 sites throughout California.

CASSP partners with archaeologists, public land management agencies, Native Americans, and citizen volunteers. The archaeologists who work for public land management agencies do not have the time or resources to monitor all of the sites on their lands. Through CASSP, archaeologists supervise the site stewards, who act as additional eyes and ears in the field. Citizen volunteers become site stewards through two-day training workshops offered by CASSP. Site stewards commit to making regular visits to their assigned sites to note changes, inspect for damages, and report vandalism and trespassers. They do not have any law enforcement responsibilities. But when a problem is caught at an early stage, then the agency can take action to repair it and prevent additional loss, before it becomes more serious and expensive.

Archaeologist Phil Hines (now retired) implemented CASSP in 2003 to help monitor the prehistoric and historic sites on the Alameda-Tesla expansion property. From 2002 to 2003, Hines and his crew recorded all of the prehistoric and historic sites on the property. Then in September 2003, Hines asked Beth and Chris Padon of CASSP to conduct a training workshop at Tesla. This spawned six new site stewards for the Tesla property. A second CASSP workshop held at Tesla in December of that year, brought over a dozen site stewards to help Hines conduct archaeology at one of the sites. Here, site stewards enjoyed the opportunity to learn the hands-on techniques of the archaeological excavations and recordings.

Tesla site stewards have since reported on several acts of vandalisms, including lootings, dumpings, and graffiti, as well as trespassing. The rangers at Carnegie Park respond when notified of trespassers on the property. Damages by looters have been repaired by rangers and volunteers. Fences have been installed around sensitive historic sites that were easily exposed to damage. The results proved the value of implementing CASSP for the Tesla parkland.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer site steward for CASSP can register for future training workshops by contacting Beth Padon at bpadon@discoveryworks.com. The next training workshop will be held on December 5-6, 2009, in Sacramento with fieldwork at Tesla. The fee is \$25 per person. For more information about CASSP, visit their website at <http://www.cassp.org/>. This is a great opportunity to join those who are serious about protecting historic resources while learning about their history.

Suit filed to enforce water quality regulations at Carnegie SVRA

The two groups, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), filed a law suit in September 2009 charging the State Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is violating State law by failing to file required Reports of Waste Discharge for vast amounts of sediment and heavy metals being discharged into the creek from Carnegie's heavily-used off-road trails and open areas.

While *Friends of Tesla Park* is focused on protecting the Tesla parkland from the destructive effects of OHMV use seen in Carnegie, we can learn from the experience of the adjacent Carnegie SVRA.

For more information about the CSPA and PEER legal challenge go to:

- [California Sport Fishing Association](#)
- [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#)

To open links, highlight, right click, then click on 'Open Hyperlink'. If you would like to be removed from our Tesla Park Telegraph e-newsletter list please [reply here](#) and put UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.