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# **FEBRUARY**



On Friday, February 18 at 1:00 pm, SRS will have a presentation at the Mother Lode Lion's Club Hall in Diamond Springs. The hall is located at 4701 Missouri Flat Road.

## **February Presentation**

### **Skiing the Muir Trail by Art Baggett**

Ninety years ago, while Californians were experiencing the security and success of the roaring twenties, a lone mountaineer was skiing his way up the 300-mile crest of the Sierra Nevada from south of Mount Whitney toward Yosemite Valley. This little-known feat in the annals of American Mountaineering was accomplished prior to the existence of the John Muir Trail, the advent of organized search and rescue teams, or cell phones.

Orland Bartholomew carried a 70-pound pack, a folding bellows camera and a double bit ax. He skied on custom made wooden skis without metal edges with only a crude wax system for climbing. He slept in a down robe with a half tent and no stove. Fortunately, Orland wrote extensive journal entries and shot over 320 photographs. Thanks to his son, Phil, these documents have been preserved.

Art Baggett, his daughter Allison and daughter in law Lindsey Eilts recreated this great adventure. They followed most of the original route of Orland Bartholomew based upon his original journals and photographs. The group left Cottonwood Creek on April 8, 2008 and arrived in Yosemite Valley on May 2 after skiing over 290 miles, completing a winter ascent of Mt Whitney and Mt Tyndel, crossing over 10 passes above 12,000 feet elevation, and spending 26 nights out in the high mountains.

This was Art's third long-ski along the Sierra crest. He first skied the Muir Trail in 1975 on nonmetal edge wooden skis with light 3 pin bindings. In 1999 he skied the 30-day High odyssey II trip to recreate as accurately as possible Orland Bartolomew's 1929 adventure with Howard Weamer, Tim Messick and his then 17-year-old son Fritz.

The purpose of this third trip was three-fold. The first goal was to take "the missing pictures" for a book that will publish many of Bartholomew pictures and journal entries to compare and contrast to present condition. The project also includes projections based on climate change modelling into the future state of the winter snow pack and backcountry of the high Sierra. The second goal was to make good on an 8-year-old promise to Allison to ski the Muir Trail with her. The final goal was to have no blackberries, cell phones, meetings or emails for three weeks and just be in the high Sierra.

Art will show maps and pictures of his trips as well as some of Bart's 1929 photos, discuss experiences and lessons learned, and demonstrate some of the gear they used and its evolution from 1929 to present.

### **About Art Baggett**

Art Baggett is a resident of Mariposa County and has lived near Yosemite National Park for over 40 years. He has been skiing the backcountry of the Sierra Nevada Range almost as long. He is a water lawyer and has served as a county supervisor for Mariposa County and as chair of the State Water Resources Control board. He is the only chair to have been appointed by both a Democrat and Republican Governor. Now retired he spends much of his time in the alpine zone and claims to have the highest house in California with a year-round cabin located near Virginia Lakes at 10,000 feet elevation. He remains an avid skier and hiker and devotee of exploring the Sierra Nevada wilderness.

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<b><u>2022 Date</u></b>	<b><u>Presentation Title</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>
January	<i>No meeting</i>	-----
February 18	<b>Skiing the Muir Trail</b>	Art Baggett
March 18	<b>Women of Influence: Making History in El Dorado County</b>	Mary Cory
April 15	<b>Helping Community Love and Respect Each Other</b>	David Zelinsky
May 20	<b>History of Native American Tribes in our Region</b>	Guy Nixon
June 17	<b>World Religions</b>	Margaret Maughn
July	<i>No meeting</i>	-----
August 19	<b>Mushrooms and their Uses</b>	Dr. Hobbs
September 16	<b>Skeletons in the Closet: Gold Rush Stories of El Dorado County</b>	Mary Cory
October 21	<b>Better Smartphone Photography</b>	Bill Robinson
November 18	<b>Annual Business meeting &amp; Presentation</b>	
December	<i>No meeting</i>	-----

## **2022 SRS Presentations**

We are a local, El Dorado County California organization that does these presentations for local residents.

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## **Words from SRS President Mary Lynch**

Dear Members and guests, Welcome! Such a simple greeting, but one that hasn't been heard in way too long. Our February meeting kicks off a year of monthly presentations that are sure to enthrall, engage, and or enlighten, along with the most precious gift of each other's company.

Now for the brass tacks of the organization: COVID and time have forced changes on each of us and SRSEDC has not escaped these formidable foes. Two Board positions are open and we invite volunteers and or names of people you would like us to invite. Also, the office of Treasurer is open. Help is also needed in the areas of computers and databases and providing treats for each meeting. Please help ensure the continuation of our organization by volunteering to help

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*Happy St. Valentine's Day!*

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Those Darn Cats!

Starlink works great until the cats find out that the dish gives off a little heat on cold days.



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