

Sierra Community Access Channel 2 is back on the air

Sierra Community Access Television is back on the air as Comcast Channel 2 (SCA-TV2) thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers. Since the city of Placerville renewed the community access television contract last spring, the volunteers have been busy behind and in front of the camera.

The revival of SCA-TV2 comes as a result of the leadership and efforts of Channel 2 President Jeanne Redmond, station manager Roger Ruby and board members and volunteers.

They have dealt with technical issues, programming and financing to get the station back on the air.

The board members at Channel 2 stress the importance of having a community access station not only on First Amendment rights but as a venue for public programming.

In the past, Channel 2 contract renewals came with \$10,000 to cover operating expenses. With government funding not in the budget at present the station now must rely on donations, underwriters and subscriptions.

The spunky band of Channel 2 supporters have the station up and running with the help of volunteers, a six-month loan of a Mini-T-NX video server from Leightronix, and donations and underwriting of programming by Minuteman Press, El Dorado Savings Bank, Sequoia and Vision Coalition, a well as, a growing number of subscribing members.

For now the station is on the air and the rent is paid according to the board.

Comcast subscribers can select Channel 2 (listed as "Government" on the directory).

Some of the recent programs have been videos on the American River Conservancy from Janice Stanley, a New Morning segment produced by Stan Okumura and Daren Coelho of Cinema Caldera, Court Appointed Special Advocates and Girls Night Out shows produced by Michelle Vien, the Cameron Park Spectacular 2010 and other events in Cameron Park produced by RJRuby Productions, Placerville events and local talent filmed by Leroy Goodenough, "The



Photo by Ben Ruby
GEORGE SABATO, volunteer, and Roger Ruby, station manager, at Sierra Community Access Television Channel 2, check on the installation of the Leightronix video server. Channel 2 is back on the air featuring community programming.

Power of the Sunflower" with Nancy Siegler produced by Bertie Byrne and Leroy Goodenough, segments about El Dorado County by Bill Thorpe's Sweet Mix Media, and "Charlie's Closet" movie trailer and Connor's Hope: A Bike Race Across America 2010 about recent Ponderosa High School graduate Spencer Reed.

The community calendar has a fresh new colorful design and graphics.

To truly be a community channel the station welcomes video content to enhance the programming. Edited, FCC compliant, DVDs can be sent to SCA-TV2, 537 Main St., Suite B, Placerville, 95667.

More on the Website
SCA-TV2 brings station content about El Dorado County to those who do not have Comcast through the station's Website at sier-ratv2.blogspot.com/p/sca-tv-video.html.

The SCA-TV2 is broadcasting the video "Remembering Placerville" by George McKee of Placerville.

Future plans include shows featuring the first Wednesday Comedy Night at Sequoia at the Bee Bennett House.

The SCA-TV2 Website also offers a links tab — sier-ratv2.blogspot.com/ — with a set of Internet links to sites serving or featuring El Dorado County.

There are links to everything from the Mountain Democrat, live Webcam sites around the county, community and government sites, calendars of events, news, weather, history, and even YouTube El Dorado links.

There are links to the sites of the station's underwriters as well.

Music for SCA-TV productions have been provided by Andrew Heringer and Marlana Sheetz, Greg Costa, the Malacas and Stephan Hogan.

Funding

Financing for SCA-TV2 and maintenance of the station is up to the community.

The board hopes that the community sees the value in having the station and that the

community will work to keep SCA-TV2 on the air.

Beyond all the volunteer help, Sierra Community Access Television needs financial help.

Board members see the need for a constant flow of funds to pay the rent and utilities totaling about \$1,000 a month. Other needs include \$5,000 for the purchase the Leightronix video server by December. Without the video server the station can not function.

Community members may help out by becoming a member or underwriter of SCA-TV2.

Go to sier-ratv2.blogspot.com/p/become-member-or-underwriter.html to join the mission.

Individuals may become a member at \$50 and students and seniors at \$35.

Memberships may be sent to SCA-TV2, 537 Main St., Suite. B, Placerville, or go to the station's Website sier-ratv2.blogspot.com/p/donate.html and use a Visa, Mastercard or PayPal at the donation tab.

To find out more call 530-344-7848.

Preston Castle gets a facelift thanks to dedicated volunteers

For the second year in a row, members of Washington State Paranormal Investigations and Research (WSPiR), traveled from the Seattle area to Preston Castle in Ione.

This year members donated their time restoring the roof over the porch, which after weathering over 100 years, was falling down in decay. Sixteen members of the group spent five days renovating by day and paranormal investigating by night.

Also part of the WSPiR group was a master electrician who installed and updated electrical wiring in the visitor center and basement area of the Castle.

According to Darren Thompson, WSPiR founder, "We have an appreciation for historical buildings and last year during our visit we fell in love with Preston Castle. We are honored to help preserve its history anyway we can."

Jill Thompson, WSPiR co-founder agrees, "Just as gravestones give a voice to those who can no

longer speak, these historic buildings tell stories of times long past. Everyone, including paranormal groups, should take an active role in preserving these magnificent buildings so they can tell their stories to future generations."

The porch restoration project came about earlier in the year when Darren Thompson contacted Howard Coote, Preston Castle Foundation, chairman of building and grounds committee, and asked if there was a way WSPiR could help out.

The project was decided on, materials ordered and travel plans set.

"The project never would've gotten started if it wasn't for Darren contacting me, on behalf of WSPiR. We're already getting a lot of compliments on the porch restoration. Folks love to see how the money they donate is being spent. I asked WSPiR to come back next year. That sums it up. We can't wait to have them back. The foundation will come up with another project

idea and let WSPiR have at it," Coote said.

The Preston Castle Foundation, staffed by volunteers, is working to preserve the building and its history.

Andy Aguilera, ground's keeper, Preston Castle Foundation was one of several foundation members who spent the week assisting the group in restoration.

"It was great they took vacation time from work to come down and help us. We had a lot of new electrical work done in the basement and visitor's center. I even got a light in my tool closet so now I don't have to hit my head all the time in the dark. We were sorry to see them have to go," Aguilera said.

Local contractor Jake Herfel, who volunteered as project manager commented, "The amount of work these folks have gotten done is phenomenal. Not one of them has a construction background, but they've been up on the scaffolding tearing down rotten boards, carrying off debris, painting and rebuilding the porch. They just keep going. I

have to beat them off with a stick to get them to knock off for the day."

As part of restoration and preservation of Preston Castle, the Preston Castle Foundation welcomes the involvement of volunteers in an effort to preserve the integrity and history of the building.

For information on volunteering contact Yvonne Funderburgh at 209-256-3622.

The Preston School of Industry, founded in 1894, remained open until 1960. The building remained vacant and fading into disrepair until Sept. 10, 2001, when the Preston Castle Foundation received a 50 year lease for the property.

The mission and purpose of the Preston Castle Foundation is to promote the stewardship of the Preston Castle through restoration, preservation and community utilization.

In 2008, The California Preservation Foundation Board of Trustees honored the Preston Castle Foundation for their outstanding work to advance historic preservation in California.

The Preston Castle has also been named a California State Historical Landmark (No. 867) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NPS-75000422).

For more information go to prestoncastle.com.

The Washington State Paranormal Investigations and Research was established in April 2005, by six founding member. WSPiR now has 60 members with varied areas of expertise who are dedicated to assisting those experiencing unexplained phenomenon by in-depth investigation and historical research.

It is also important for WSPiR to assist in the preservation of valued historical landmarks and "forgotten" cemeteries for future generations. WSPiR maintains a local cemetery, transcribes cemetery gravestones for genealogical research, and encourages the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives.

For more information go to wspir.com.

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The person with the scariest story will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a haunted restaurant!

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