

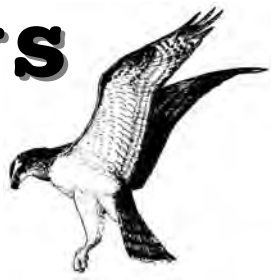


The Lake Berryessa News

Community News Makes a Better Community

Since 1994 - For things to know and places to go at Lake Berryessa!

July 6, 2005



25¢

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Lake Berryessa - Is It The Cleanest Lake Around?

From a drinking water perspective, the answer is a rousing YES!

Despite several years of what seemed to be a concerted effort on the part of the Bureau of Reclamation, some County officials, exclusionist environmental groups, and local media to portray the lake as a cesspool of sewage surrounded by decrepit trailer trash (people still call to ask if it is safe to swim in the lake), official water quality studies have always shown Lake Berryessa water to be exceptionally pure. The resorts have never had a measurable negative impact on water quality, although the Sacramento Bee, in an inane ignorant editorial last month, raised the issue of sewage contamination again. The only time there is even a blip on the measurement charts is during the first big rains of any season when small amounts of contamination from agricultural operations are washed into the lake to rapidly dissipate.

This was again confirmed at a meeting of the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership on June 22 at Steele Park. The group acknowledged that water quality is excellent - but is a state of grace that needs to be preserved.

Continued on Page 4

Lake Berryessa Resort Financials for 2004

(Reported by the Bureau of Reclamation)

Resort	Gross Revenue	Franchise Fee to BOR
Berryessa Marina	\$2,075,262	\$59,754
Markley Cove	\$1,014,854	\$14,958
Pleasure Cove	Not Reported	\$1,000 (Special Contract)
Putah Creek	\$990,168	\$28,895
Rancho Monticello	\$3,438,028	\$98,118
Spanish Flat	\$2,155,433	\$62,820
Steele Park	\$2,921,515	\$88,545
Grand Total	\$12,595,260	\$354,091

Totals by Quarter	Gross Revenue
Q1 (Winter)	\$2,434,756
Q2 (Spring)	\$3,818,292
Q3 (Summer)	\$4,434,818
Q4 (Fall)	\$1,907,393
Grand Total	\$12,595,260

In the News

- Napa General Plan Steering Committee
- Betty Pedersen, Senior Center Founder
- Lake Users Survey - Napa Wins

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The Lake Berryessa News

An Independent Community Newspaper

Published the first and third Thursday of each month.

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Shirl Katleba

Co-Editor & Writer
Peter Kilkus

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How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit? Unique Up On It.
How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit? Tame Way, Unique Up On It.

We’ve heard time after time from some County officials that Lake Berryessa is a budgetary black hole for the County and that County residents don’t use the lake. Some County Supervisors and local environmental groups, under the guise of no-growth “agricultural zoning” , seem to want “the Other Napa Valleys” - Pope Valley, Chiles Valley, Capell Valley, and Lake Berryessa - to be nothing more than a historical diorama in a museum.

Go see the quaint country folk in their natural rustic setting - real cows, horses, rundown (oops, vintage) structures. They want to do what! Fix things up. Modernize their property. Restore a historic old golf course. Build a house for their kids on their own farmland. Add a few homes. Create some additional lodging outside the resorts. Be treated like real Napa County citizens instead of impediments to the “open space at any cost” philosophy. No way.

But at a recent meeting of the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership at Steele Park, the County representative distributed a survey done last year of short-term users at the various lake marinas. Real Lake Berryessa users, by county, come from:

- Napa: 50%
- Sonoma: 20%
- Solano: 12%
- Yolo, Mendocino, Lake, and San Francisco: 3% each
- Alameda, Contra Costa, Out-of-State: 2% each

Hopefully County officials will finally change their tune.

Although there is more “affordable” housing around the lake than in some areas of Napa, it’s not so affordable if you have to commute to Napa, Fairfield, or Davis every day. Gasoline costs alone (not counting maintenance and depreciation) can run well over \$100 per month. I just bought a Toyota Prius since it was costing me about \$8 each time I drove my Durango to Napa and back. I now average about 40-45 mpg. So a recent news item caught my attention. Two out of three Americans, including 57 percent of conservatives and 67 percent of NASCAR fans, think buying fuel-efficient cars is patriotic and 89 percent agree that government action is important to achieve 40 mile-per-gallon efficiency standards, currently at only 27.5 mpg for cars and 20.7 mpg for trucks and SUVs. Any of you who are aware of the situation in Europe or Japan know that it can be done relatively easily. Maybe it’s because their gas costs almost \$5 per gallon.

The Board of Supervisors members chose 21 people for the steering committee for the county's new general plan. Eighty-eight residents with diverse backgrounds submitted applications. Unfortunately, the “Other Napa Valleys” are not well-represented. Members by Supervisor’s district are:

Brad Wagenknecht (Dist. 1): Mary Ellen Boyet, Jon-Mark Chappellet, Beth Painter, Jeff Reichel.

Mark Luce (Dist. 2): Carole Meredith, Michael Haley, George Bachich, Debra Blodgett.

Diane Dillon (Dist. 3): Guy Kay, Tom Gamble, Peter McCrea and Carol Kunze.

Bill Dodd (Dist. 4): Conrad Hewitt, Jim Hendrickson, Tom Andrews, Robert Torres.

Harold Moskowitz (Dist. 5): Brad Simpkins, Stephen Cuddy, Stuart Smith, Duane Wall.

Adventurer Betty Pedersen, Senior Center Founder

Communities evolve because people who care make things happen. Betty Pedersen is one of those special people. When she and her close friend, Ruth Spiteri, took walks they would talk about what their Lake Berryessa community needed. In 1983 they decided that a Senior Center would be a great resource for many local residents, especially since everything around the lake closes down in winter.

They laid the groundwork in 1983, originally meeting with a talented group of people at Moskowitz Corners, to create the by-laws and structure. Seventy people showed up for that original meeting! The membership age was set at 55 since they wanted members who were young enough to have energy and who also realized that the Center would be an investment in their own future.

They decided to incorporate as an independent, rather than County-run, Center to avoid becoming involved in bureaucracy. A \$293,000 State development grant helped build the Center, but all other financing was done through fund-raisers. The Senior Center

opened in 1984 and has since been a cornerstone of the community.

By the time the Center opened, Betty was already a veteran lake adventurer. She and her husband, Robert, were born and raised in San Francisco and started coming to the lake in 1957 after the dam was built. They and their two boys were avid boaters who spent days water-skiing up and down the lake. In 1966 they bought a lot in the Berryessa Highlands, built the basic house by 1968, and finished their home over the next few years. It was their summer place until they moved here permanently in 1982.

Betty said that when you bought a lot back then, it was just a spot on a plan. You didn't know exactly what you'd get. It took 10 years to get the Highlands going - 2 years just to do the grading! She fondly remembers the excitement of riding in jeeps on dirt trails as the realtor pointed out potential building sites.

They camped out on their land when the family came to the lake. Their place originally had no electricity. After a day of strenuous water fun they used kerosene lanterns for light and barbecued their supper. Other couples bought land at the same time and they would often get together to party all

weekend. (Sound familiar?) Fun with good friends and family is a major part of the Lake Berryessa spirit!

Betty and Robert are moving to Vacaville on July 23rd to be near their family. They have 3 kids, 6 grand-kids, and 4 great-grand-kids. Betty, who will be 87 in October, admits that it does hurt to move from something you created and love deeply. But she'll still visit since she's only an hour away. She's most proud of her 50 year marriage to Robert, her 3 children, and co-founding the Lake Berryessa Senior Center. She should also be proud to be an inspiration to those of us who just turned 60!

Calendar of Events Around Lake Berryessa

Senior Center Crafts

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
Call Betty at 966-2254

Every Monday – Bingo – 1 PM til??

Every first Monday is Bingo Pot Luck – Starts at Noon.

Seniors Pot Luck

Every 3rd Friday Night – bring a dish.

Senior Center – Call 966-0206

Valley Christian Church

Weekly Bible Study on Monday nights, 7:30 until 8:30 PM.
Currently meeting at the Community Church across from the Corners. For more information call 257-0527.

Sufi Center ~ Meditation & Healing Circle - Pope Valley

Every Thursday - 7pm ~ Every Sunday - 6pm
1st Sunday of every month - Pot Luck - 4pm to 6pm
Info - Call 707-965-0700, 2950 Pope Valley Canyon Rd.

Get your event on the calendar!

Call The Lake Berryessa News at 966-3806 or 287-6240
Email shirlake@myexcel.com or pkilkus@aol.com.

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Dinner 5:30 to 8:00 *** Dance 8:30 to 12:30**
Auction and Raffle

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Cont'd From Page 1

The goal of the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership is to protect the water quality of the Lake for all users. The specific objectives are:

- Educate Lake Berryessa users and local residents regarding water quality issues
- Implement best management practices for high-risk activities and conditions
- Develop contingency plans for emergency contaminant releases
- Coordinate water quality monitoring efforts to identify contaminant issues
- Develop a Source Water Protection Plan for Lake Berryessa

The Lake Berryessa News and Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce will work closely with the Watershed Partnership to accomplish these goals and to bring you progress reports.

Although the news is good for swimmers and H₂O drinkers, unfortunately for fisherfolk, the lake is impaired by mercury content originating from the soil and from historic mining operations in the watershed.

The State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment had this to say about Lake Berryessa in April, 1987: Because of elevated mercury levels, women beyond childbearing age and men should eat no more than the amounts indicated below per month. Women of childbearing age and children age 17 and younger should not eat fish from this lake.

- largemouth bass over 15" -1 lb.
- largemouth bass under 15"-2 lbs.
- smallmouth bass - all sizes - 1 lb.
- white catfish all sizes - 2 lbs.
- channel catfish over 24" - 3 lbs.
- channel catfish under 24" - 3 lbs.
- rainbow trout all sizes - 10 lbs.
- crappie - not tested

Although Lake Berryessa has not been retested since then, a more recent report (January, 2005) on Clear Lake and Cache Creek give some indication that things have not changed much in the region, with recommended limits in the 2-4 pounds per month range depending on species.

Since certain species of fish are regularly stocked in the lake and may not bio-accumulate much mercury during their lifetimes and thus should be safer to eat if caught during their first years in the lake. The Department of Fish and Game manages 19 fish hatcheries throughout California, including 11 trout hatcheries that produce fish for recreational anglers.

In 2004, these trout hatcheries produced approximately 5.4 million fingerling, 1.2 million sub-catchable, and 7.4 million catchable-sized trout, which were planted in waters throughout California. The DFG planted Berryessa in 2004 with 40,000 catchable rainbows, 100,000 chinook fingerlings and 50,000 kokanee fingerlings.

Do Vineyards Count?

Napa County is completing a major data gathering project called the Baseline Data Report. A summary was presented at the June 28th Supervisors Meeting. One analysis that jumped out was the Agricultural Resources section which showed that there are 51,000 active agricultural acres, mostly vineyards, and 54,000 acres dedicated to grazing. The total agricultural revenue for last year was \$360 million of which \$350 million was due to grapes! For the mathematically-challenged that means that 54% of the land (vineyards) produces 97% of agricultural revenue.

Lake Berryessa Tomatoes

Can you play darts with Lake Berryessa Tomatoes? Ask the dart

board at Turtle Rock. After all, they were apparently first discovered many years ago by Pete Leung's mother, Joann. Lake Berryessa Tomatoes can be found every month at different "growing" spots around Lake Berryessa. Let me know if you spot one or a vine-ripened bunch. More details later but a short description may help with identification.

A tomato is a fruit, but in the United States we treat it like a vegetable. They didn't become popular in the U.S. until after the Civil War. Now the tomato is the third most popular vegetable in the United States - after potatoes and lettuce. A real good tomato is sweet, tender and juicy with a real rich red color. We have lost that with our tomatoes, we want them hard and pink, that's not what a tomato is supposed to be. The key

to getting a great tasting tomato is maturity. The longer on the plant the riper the tomato is, the better the taste. Most tomatoes are picked green and shipped in refrigerated trucks because they are highly perishable. Tomatoes will continue to ripen once picked but they will not get any tastier, (sweet or juicy).

Let's Get Serious!

How Do You Get Holy Water? You Boil The Hell Out Of It.

What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours? Nacho Cheese.

Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive? Because It Scares The Dog.

What's The Difference Between a Bad Golfer And a Bad Skydiver? A Bad Golfer Goes, Whack, Dang! A Bad Skydiver Goes Dang! Whack.

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Mrs. Mallie Stafford, 1884

A few weeks spent in patient search for a location for a home, and at last Berryessa Valley, in Napa County, was selected.

There are long lines of fences—vast fields of grain and corn—homes of wealth, beauty and refinement—and herds of cattle and horses and flocks of sheep feed on the green hill pasture. For miles the valley is level as a floor, without hill or hollow, and save the numerous 'weeping oaks,' presents an open scene of beauty and prosperity. Through its entire length flows a crystal stream, and in its centre is the quaint and pretty village of Monticello.

It was midsummer—the early morning cool and balmy—and in company with a small party of friends with capacious vehicle and camping outfit, we were intent on a protracted journey for the purpose of visiting friends in the neighboring county. The morning air was laden with the delicious perfume of wild grape blooms, wild roses, and the flashing waters of the crystal stream of Putah.

On either side, the mountains, grand and imposing, reared their peak-like battlements. A ride of a few miles brought us to the Devil's Gate, a ponderous mass of boulders, between which the old road of Putah Canyon formerly ran. A sulphur spring in the vicinity, from which we drank, and which, when coupled with the Satanic title of the gate, was strongly suggestive of a very hot climate and things not pleasant to contemplate.

Here is the dividing line of Napa and Yolo counties. It is written in large, white letters on the black face of the rock, and at the right, a corner of Solano county juts out in a huge mass of mountainous rock.

Comments made in 1957:

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20."

"Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2000 will only buy a used one."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."

"Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."

"I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every new movie has either 'hell' or 'damn' in it."

"I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."

"Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."

"It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet."

"It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."

"I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."

**YOU KNOW YOU ARE
LIVING IN 2005, WHEN**

You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.

You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.

You have a list of 15 phone nos. to reach your family of 3.

You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.

You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.

You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.

You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.

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7/17 – Steve Gornall & The Blue Collar Blues Band
7/24 – Ralph Woodson
7/31 – The Treatment

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6/15/05 BERRYESSA
TROUT & SALMON

The trout and salmon have moved into their summer haunts at Lake Berryessa, as Dino Righetti at Spanish Flat Resort said that the trout are coming from the 50-foot range and the king and kokanee salmon have moved to 60 feet.

"Don Roberts of Spanish Flat has bagged his limit each day this week by trolling around 50 feet with Needlefish," Righetti reported. "The same lures are producing king and kokanee salmon at a slightly deeper depth."

Bass anglers are spending the low

light hours of the mornings and evening looking for topwater fish before turning to plastic worms. Look for shady pockets with trees to be productive throughout the day with split hot, darter head or drop shot plastics. The bass are in the 15 to 30 foot range on average.

Crappie anglers are still getting results on the bottom with small worms, minnows or mini jigs around the Cappell Cove area and catfish anglers are getting some cats at night using dip bait or chicken livers.

Paul Kneeland, Fish Sniffer advertising director, Dan Bacher, Fish Sniffer managing editor and Gary Caruso experienced good salmon and trout fishing at Lake Berryessa during Project Kokanee/CIFFI's Third Annual Kokanee & Trout Fishing Derby out of Markley Cove on June 11.

The three anglers landed their limits, a mixture of kokanee salmon, king salmon and rainbow trout, while trolling a variety of offerings in the Big Island area. The king salmon and kokanee hit best on red Sockeye Slammers, tipped with white corn, at 45 to 65 feet deep. Caruso landed the big trout of the derby - a 17-3/4 inch holdover rainbow - while trolling an Apex lure.

In spite of surface water temperatures of 72 degrees, Bacher nailed two trout on a top-lined green/silver Cripplure, although the majority of rainbows hit in deep water. The trout ranged from 12 to 17-3/4 inches long, while the king salmon and kokanee were in the 15 inch class.

Berryessa is one of the few lakes in California, including Don Pedro and Trinity, where both king salmon and kokanee are

stocked. These plants are made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Department of Fish and Game and Project Kokanee/CIFFI. The DFG planted Berryessa in 2004 with 40,000 catchable rainbows, 100,000 chinook fingerlings and 50,000 kokanee fingerlings.

Reporters interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked.

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

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Remember the Guy in Helium Balloon Lawn Chair - Here's the Upgrade?

Anyone who's ever been eight years old has wondered the same thing: How many balloons would it take to carry me up into the sky? John Ninomiya has logged 32 flights - and ascended as high as 21,400 feet-dangling beneath clusters of between 40 and 120 helium balloons. An avid hot-air balloonist, Ninomiya first attempted his boyhood dream in 1997, when he flew a cluster of seven custom-built Mylar helium balloons. The rig worked, but it suffered from buoyancy-control problems. Later he switched to smaller balloons made of latex, which were lighter, cheaper, biodegradable, and easier pop. The only way he can descend is by selectively popping balloons! Each balloon can lift as much 10 pounds. He flies eight to 10 times a year - each flight lasts around two hours and costs about \$2000.

Jet Ski Races at Clear Lake

July 9th & 10th Pacific Coast Entertainment is hosting another round of jet ski races and a PWC Poker Fun Run in downtown Lakeport off Library Park at Willow Point Campground. New racers and riders welcome! If you have a PWC, PCE wants to give you the opportunity to put it *and you* to the test! Lakeport is a great place for new racers because of its convenient location and nice venue. Check out the entry form and sign up at www.pacificwatercross.com/05.clear.lake.htm or call 415-497-8621.

After the races on Saturday PCE will light up the "Open Grill". Bring your steaks, chicken, sausages, or whatever else and you will have a good time!!! TNT's Restaurant and Bar will be open until 10:00, downtown Lakeport is within walking distance, and a local Casino is only a 5 minute sober drive away. As if that is not enough, the Rodeo is in town the same weekend, and the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a live band on Friday night in Library Park. First time racers receive free APBA Memberships worth \$70.

Fishing With Sid

Father's Day weekend was good for fishing. Friday and Saturday it rained on and off. Saturday night I took my new friend Justin, who is nine, and his father Rob out for an hour to show them how to catch fish. As we left the dock I told Justin he might as well troll because it is a five mile zone and bam he hooked a nice bass. We fished one of my favorite spots using a grub. Justin cast it himself and started to catch fish. In forty-five minutes Justin landed seven fish and was a very happy boy. Sunday, Father's Day, we went towards the Vineyards and we picked up a few fish trolling. Could not find the fish breaking on shad that day. Water was pretty calm but a lot cooler than last weekend. "til next time... good fishing!!!! www.fishingconnection.net

Some U.S. Statistics for the Year 1905

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years. Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower! The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home. Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!! Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet. Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the



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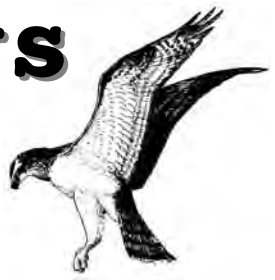


The Lake Berryessa News

Community News Makes a Better Community

Since 1994 - For things to know and places to go at Lake Berryessa!

July 21, 2005 - August 4, 2005



25¢

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Parking Crunch for Rowdy Bunch - But What About Public Access?

As people from Putah Creek Resort will tell you, the Memorial Day holiday was a disaster. Several say it was the worst they have ever seen. Those of us who remember the “rap concert” summers may think this is an exaggeration, but from personal observations and police reports, it was not a pretty sight. One perennial problem is the attractive nuisance of the Pope Creek Bridge party. But this year the situation was exacerbated by a wrong-headed decision by the State Water Resources Control Board, actively encouraged by a local Bureau of Reclamation manager, to force Putah Creek Resort to shut off running water to the campground showers and toilets. The replacement porta-potties were soon overwhelmed and campers were not thrilled.

Although temporary No Parking signs had been set up, some drivers threw them to the side and parked where they wished, climbing fences into the resort and campground. Resort security was hard-pressed to respond and mobile homeowners and normal campers were both upset by the chaos. Although some parties tried to lay the blame on the owner of Putah Creek Resort, cooler heads realized that the situation required cooperative enforcement on the part of the resorts, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the County Sheriff's Department.

By the 4th of July weekend a large number of permanent, well-placed and visible “No Parking” signs had been installed along Knoxville Road near the bridges and campground. The parking lot at Pope Canyon Road was open during the day but closed for overnight parking. This alleviated a large part of the problem and the cars that ignored the signs were ticketed and towed. On July 12th the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to create permanent no-parking zones in that area.

Not everyone was happy with the new level of enforcement. Several local people complained about being towed. Since they had always parked on the road in the past, they assumed it would be acceptable despite the signs, since it was a holiday and other parking was limited. Many were unhappy with the lack of public access outside the resorts to enjoy the lake.

Two obvious problems exist. One is that in a democracy public facilities are open to all - the good, the bad, and the ugly. The other is that you can't economically design facilities (roads, campgrounds, etc.) to meet the highest peak demand. Society is a bell-shaped curve of intelligence, civility, and respect for others. Sometimes even good people get a little rowdy. But consistent enforcement of basic rules is critical to providing the most enjoyable experience for the maximum number of people. If things are not allowed to get too rowdy, then the too-rowdy will go somewhere else the next time. This was proven when strict enforcement of parking capacity and traffic laws broke the back of the “rap concert” multi-year disaster. That last rap weekend was sheer chaos - close to a riot at the Corners - but it never happened again.

As for capacity, long-time Berryessa observers say that both Oak Shores and the old Boy Scout Campground could potentially be used as overflow camping areas. More than two years ago when the Boy Scouts relinquished their permit for the North Shore campground, the Bureau of Reclamation said they would open that campground within a year. Why hasn't it happened?

In the News

- Property Rights, Wood Smoke, Fed Funds
- Berryessa Featured in PWC Magazine
- National Parks Re-open to PWC

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An Independent Community Newspaper

Published the first and third Thursday of each month.

Owner & Editor

Shirl Katleba

Co-Editor & Writer

Peter Kilkus

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From the Editor

Tailgaters: Local Mental Cases?

What makes people think they deserve to drive fast on the freeway? Or any other road? Roads are a technology developed to get people from place to place more conveniently than chopping a new path through the weeds every time they traveled. A friend told me stories about his grandparents taking two days by horse and wagon to get from Salinas to San Francisco. They carried guns to protect themselves from “road agents”. I wonder if tailgaters galloped up behind them, passing in a cloud of dust at a wide spot in the road to get there faster?

Take a step back and imagine that the fastest an engineer could design a car to go was 40 mph - quite a bit faster than a horse. What would life on the road look like? The most important result would be that it would take longer to get places and we would all have to plan ahead to start earlier. But isn’t this the same thing we need to do now if we travel during “rush hour”? Just because a car can go 100 mph doesn’t mean we must design all our roads to allow everyone to go 100 mph. If you want to go fast on the freeway, drive when no one else is on it. Stop whining about how the government “has to do something about traffic” just because rush hour means slow driving. There are very few highway improvements that can affect rush hour drive times significantly. Widening Jamieson Canyon from 29 to 80 might be one of them.

For people around Lake Berryessa there is basically nothing that can be done to improve the roads for faster travel. From the Berryessa Highlands down Monticello Road to Soscol & Trancas in Napa is approximately 20 miles. At an average of 40 mph, which is a reasonably comfortable speed on such a twisty, bumpy road, the trip takes about 30 minutes. Averaging 50 mph, dangerously fast, gets you there in 24 minutes. But even at 30 mph, a bit pokey, you still make it in 39 minutes. Every morning we can waste 5, 10, 15 minutes getting ready for work. Why then when we get behind the wheel do we lose our sense of civility and try to save a couple of minutes by driving like idiots on Monticello Road?

I’m not a slow driver, but I’ve been tailgated on the way to and from Napa by some strange people. Psychological problems must come into play. Tailgaters somehow believe that leaving no space between themselves and the car in front is getting them somewhere faster. Maybe they just like testing their brakes a lot. Others must enjoy being thrown from side to side in their cars as they speed around curves. Perhaps it appeals to their self-image as can-do individuals dedicated to their jobs. The scariest one was a woman in a truck who kept driving up to my bumper at high speed, falling back a long way, and doing it again. There was a child in the car and she was screaming and waving at me. The only problem was that I was about 8 car lengths behind two more trucks and couldn’t go any faster. I think she just wanted me to tailgate the trucks in front of me on principle!

So take a deep breath, people. You don’t deserve to go fast because of some inalienable right. Patience and civility behind the wheel are the only real long-term solutions to our traffic problems. Oh, did I hear someone whisper public transportation?

Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce Meeting

The next membership meeting will be on Monday, July 25, 2005 at Boone’s Saloon at 7 P.M. We will finalize the Board of Directors at that time. New members are encouraged to attend. Board Candidates are: Yevo Jeworowski - Boone’s Saloon; Shirl Katleba - The Lake Berryessa News; Pete Leung - Turtle Rock; Susan Meyer - RustRidge B&B/Winery; Jeff Parady - Pope Valley Repair and Towing; Gil Pridmore - Pridmore Bros. Inc.; Sharyn Simmons - Cucina Italiana; Linda Tschida - Squeaky Clean; Bob White - Rancho Monticello Resort; Bonnie Zimmerman - Pope Valley Winery

Feds Pay Napa for Berryessa Support

Napa County will receive \$85,740 from the federal government for what is known as Payment In Lieu of Taxes to compensate jurisdictions which contain tax-exempt federal lands. The lands around Lake Berryessa qualify for the payments.

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton recently announced payments to 56 of California's 58 counties. She said, "This money will help pay for essential services such as firefighting, search and rescue operations and a host of other badly needed on-the-ground services."

Wood Smoke Ordinance Fails to Ignite

Napa County Supervisor Wagenknecht had requested that County Staff investigate development of an ordinance related to fireplaces/wood stoves. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District provided a model ordinance for review. Several individuals and groups thought this was a waste of staff time and protested the proposed action. They felt that that wood-burning for heat had several environmental benefits.

At the last Supervisors meeting, Wagenknecht was unable to get support from even one other Supervisor. He introduced his idea at considerable length as one that would complement the many good things Napa County has done to help maintain clean air.

But several local citizens were present in the meeting room to object to the proposal. Only one resident of the City of Napa and two out-of-County residents, one from the American Lung Association and the other from the Bay Area Air Quality Control District spoke in favor of a wood smoke ordinance.

Harold Moskowitz indicated during those presentations that he could not support this idea, and Bill Dodd's body language and loaded questions clearly signaled the same attitude. Diane Dillon then noted that there were many others still waiting to speak, and wanting to save everyone wasted time, she stated that she also opposed the idea, making it a majority. Mark Luce followed, also opposing the idea. So when Supervisor Dillon again opened public comment, there was really no need for anyone else to say anything. The wood smoke ordinance never got off the ground.

Benicia Waterfront Festival - Bay Area Watercross Races **July 29 - July 31, 2005**

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Calendar of Events Around Lake Berryessa

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Every Monday - Bingo - 1 PM til??

Every first Monday is Bingo Pot Luck - Starts at Noon.

Seniors Pot Luck

Every 3rd Friday Night - bring a dish.

Senior Center - Call 966-0206

Valley Christian Church

Weekly Bible Study on Monday nights, 7:30 until 8:30 PM.
Currently meeting at the Community Church across from the Corners. For more information call 257-0527.

Sufi Center ~ Meditation & Healing Circle - Pope Valley

Every Thursday - 7pm ~ Every Sunday - 6pm
1st Sunday of every month - Pot Luck - 4pm to 6pm
Info - Call 707-965-0700, 2950 Pope Valley Canyon Rd.

Get your event on the calendar!

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Property Rights and Wrongs in a Democracy

It's easy to sympathize with those who instinctively question the harsh result in the property rights case, *Kelo v. New London*. A 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court allowed the New London City Council to use eminent domain - a government's right to seize property in its jurisdiction so long as it provides just compensation - to take nine homes from their owners in order to develop office buildings to complement a nearby pharmaceutical research facility the city believes will create jobs.

Many citizens, understandably, view this outcome as unfair. Nevertheless, as explained in *The New Republic* magazine, defenders of judicial restraint, particularly liberals, should applaud the Court's refusal to second-guess the economic judgments of city and state legislatures. Had the Court come out the other way, as libertarian

supporters of the so-called Constitution in Exile urged it to do, the decision would have unleashed a torrent of judicial activism that might have called into question everything from local zoning ordinances to environmental laws.

The appropriate response to the unfairness inherent in individual cases involving eminent domain is political, not judicial. Senator John Cornyn of Texas has introduced the Protection of Homes, Small Businesses, and Private Property Act of 2005, which would prohibit any government - state, local, or federal - that accepts federal funds for a development project from using eminent domain to promote economic growth.

A bill like this might help to discourage eminent domain abuse - that is, condemnation of private homes for private profit - without asking judges to second-guess the economic decisions of legislators,

a task for which they are notoriously ill-equipped.

As George Bachich of the Napa Valley Land Stewards notes, "According to the Institute for Justice, which litigated and lost this case, 'the ruling has emboldened governments and developers seeking to take property from home and small business owners.'" It may similarly embolden certain conservation groups who might like to see our property taken for greenbelts, or for their versions of habitat or stream protection.

"The Court said it is up to State and local governments to defend our property, so we must now ensure that our local jurisdictions provide the necessary protections. This means our General Plan, our County government's guiding document, now being updated,

must include some protection for property rights. Historically, private property rights have been ignored in our General Plan because State and Federal protections were considered adequate. Now that the Kelo decision has refuted that idea, we must protect ourselves by encouraging our County Supervisors to include property rights in the new General Plan.

"Our General Plan should be a balanced document that reflects all the values important to our community, not just our 'green' values. Protection of private property is an important community value that deserves inclusion."

"Sentiment without action
is the ruin of the soul."

Edward Abbey



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The following articles are reprinted with permission from the July/August, 2005 issue of Ride Magazine. Ride is the official publication of the American Watercraft Association. The AWA (www.AWAHQ.com) is dedicated to protecting your freedom to ride against the attacks of the no-access extremists.

Ride the Wine Country

Say "Napa County" and most people immediately think of wine. But there's another, more rural, side to this area north of San Francisco that many grapevine tourists never see. And that's where boating enthusiasts find Lake Berryessa.

Formed on Putah Creek in 1957 when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built Monticello Dam, Lake Berryessa was originally intended to supply hydroelectric power for the area's growing towns and cities, as well as water for drinking and irrigation. But it soon became a recreational lake, as well.

Not that the lake is easy to reach, says Peter Kilkus, an AWA member who recently helped found the Nor-Cal R2R (Ready2Race, Right2Ride) AWA Charter Club based at Berryessa. The lake lies 70 miles north of San Francisco, 40 miles west of Sacramento and 17 miles east of tourist clogged Napa Valley, at the end of long, narrow roads that impose their own low speed limit.

As a result, the casual merlot-tasters and city day-trippers have always been fairly rare visitors. From the beginning, however, boaters and anglers flocked to enjoy the uncrowded waters. When PWC came along, they were welcomed, too.

"Lake Berryessa has always been a place for power sports," Kilkus says, and local residents focus more on land use issues than on who's running up and down the lake.

Lake Berryessa is 26 miles long and 3 miles wide and can store 1.6 million acre-feet of water, making it one of the largest lakes in California. When the dam is at capacity, it releases water through the "Glory Hole," the nickname for the much-

photographed spillway.

Nor-Cal R2R members hold some PWC races here, but the hundreds of coves and varied scenery make for many hours of recreational riding.

The 165 miles of shoreline range from gentle grassy banks at the north end to steep, rock slopes in the south. Water depth also drops as you head south, so fishermen have their choice of cold and warm water angling. The lake brims with rainbow trout, bass, catfish, crappie and bluegill.

A 2,000-acre federal-state managed wildlife area runs along the east side of the lake, where public access is prohibited. The oak trees and manzanita are a haven to many kinds of birds including eagles, wild turkeys, Canada geese, hawks, loons, herons, ducks and even pelicans. Deer and other wildlife can be spotted along the shores, as well.

The Bureau of Reclamation runs two day-use areas on the western side of the lake, Oak Shores and Smittle Creek, a boat launch ramp at Capell Cove, and a number of other day-use areas scattered around the lake. You'll find plenty of places to pull in for a rest break, try your fishing skills, or have lunch and a swim.

The Bureau currently has contracts with seven resorts that provide RV and camping sites, marinas, boat ramps, restaurants and picnic spots, convenience stores, and shower, laundry and toilet facilities. Several of the resorts rent boats and other watercraft. So, if you're in the Wine Country on vacation and can't stand to hear another wine snob ponder whether the cabernet has hints of vanilla or old leather, leave the wine whine behind and head east.

NOR-CAL R2R PWC Club

The members of the Nor-Cal R2R AWA Charter Club travel in fast company. That's because most of them are PWC racers, and most of their outings are part of an organized slate of races, rather than strictly recreational rides. But, says founder Peter Kilkus, they came together not only because of the common bond of speed, but also because they wanted to show solidarity with riders

elsewhere who are fighting hard just to take a simple ride.

Based out of Lake Berryessa in the eastern part of Napa County the Nor-Cal club was formed to help support AWA's battles for access in other areas, Kilkus says. Lake Berryessa has always been a popular watersports lake, and although there are no major initiatives by exclusionist groups, the Sierra Club and Bluewater Network have made negative comments regarding PWC and motorized water sports in responding to the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed future plans for the lake.

Peter's son, Evan, is the IJSBA

Region 2 racing promoter affiliated with the APBA. He sets up the IJSBA/APBA sanctioned races. "Evan has been combining closed course racing with endurance races. We set up a course that's a mile or a mile and a half, running out into the lake and back. Each race lasts for 45 minutes."

"We also have started AWA poker runs for families and friends who just want to go out and enjoy a ride," says Peter, who used to race PWC. "I got my First Place Master's trophy and thought I was the oldest racer out there, until I went to an event where a guy in his 60's beat me," he laughs. "Now I am the photographer and videographer."

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Congress Supports

PWC Use

The members of Congress who sit on the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Committee on Resources are not satisfied with the length of time that it has taken to reopen the National Parks to PWC use. At a recent hearing, elected officials were clearly not content to sit back while the no-access crowd made accusations about alleged environmental harm caused by PWC technology without substantiating their claims.

Anti-PWC extremists' rhetoric has consistently been shown to be far from fact. Fortunately, the members of Congress now understand that PWC have come a long way and are among the most environmentally-friendly motorized vessels on the water today.

Congressman Jimmy Duncan (R-TN) became emphatic at the hearing, frustrated with the frivolousness of the bans caused by the anti-PWC extremists. He explained that millions of hard-working Americans have invested in a PWC as their family boat, yet they've become an easy target for all the wrong reasons.

Congressman Duncan asked the anti-PWC extremists why they aren't seeking an outright ban on all boats and boaters, to which they simply replied, "because we can't win that battle, and we would be considered un-American."

Those who are fixed on banning PWC from every body of navigable water won't win. Every single National Park unit that has completed an environmental assessment of PWC use has found that PWC should be allowed to

return and eight have already reopened to PWC users.

West Nile Virus in Napa

A snowy egret found in southeast Napa on June 29th tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). County officials emphasized that human illness from WNV is rare even where WNV has been found in mosquito populations and approximately 80% of the people who are bitten by a mosquito with WNV will not get sick. A mosquito bite does not require medical attention or testing for WNV. People who do become ill may experience mild, flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache and body aches, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands and a skin rash. These symptoms generally resolve in three to six days. The elderly and those with lowered immune systems are particularly susceptible to illness

caused by WNV. Currently, there is no specific treatment for WNV infection. Since it is a virus, it does not respond to antibiotics. Residents who find freshly dead (usually less than 24 hours old) crows, blue jays, magpies, ravens, sparrows, finches, cardinals, snowy egrets and raptors such as owls, hawks, or eagles are encouraged to contact the California Department of Health Services West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at 1-877-WNV-Bird (1-877-968-2473) or log onto www.westnile.ca.gov.

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DRAFT KNOXVILLE WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Knoxville Wildlife Area Management Plan, Berryessa-Knoxville Road, provides a description of the Wildlife Area with emphasis on the natural ecological processes and native and non-native plants and animals that exist there. It also includes evaluation of public uses that are compatible with the purpose of the Wildlife Area and of the appropriateness of adopting a State Wilderness designation. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration comment period is 30 days ending August 15, 2005. The Plan is available at the Napa and other local libraries and can be downloaded from the California Department of Fish and Game Internet Site at: www.dfg.ca.gov. Questions regarding project specifics should be directed to Tina Fabula, Project Manager at (707) 944-5538. Your views and comments should be submitted to the following address by August 15: Department of Fish and Game, Attn: Project Manager, Knoxville Wildlife Area Management Plan, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599 FAX (707) 944-5563, email: cfabula@dfg.ca.gov

Fishing Putah Creek and Lake Berryessa

Cold water is released from the bottom of Berryessa Reservoir to flow downstream for about eight miles before it is diverted into the Putah South Canal, with a small amount also allowed to continue downstream. Because water demand is greatest in summer when farmers in Solano County are irrigating their crops, the creek has much higher flows in summer than in winter. When flows are low in winter, air temperatures are cool, so the between-dam creek stays cold year-round. This means that the reach is really good habitat for trout and it supports one of the best trout fisheries in the region. In the winter, the stream is given over to catch-and-release fly fishers. They pursue brightly colored wild rainbow trout that hang out in the deep pools and runs. Some of these fish are over two feet long. The trout move up to spawn in the gravel beds just below the dam, where they can be observed mid-December through early January.

In summer, the main anglers are fishing from the bank, using marshmallows and worms for bait, for hatchery fish planted by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These fish are domesticated animals conditioned to taking pellets of food from the surface. They are likely to die of starvation and predation if not caught in a couple of weeks. The fishery is very popular, especially with kids, because catching is easy. Curiously, few wild fish are caught in the summer fishery, evidence that two very different kinds of trout fisheries can co-exist.

Alien fish do, however, dominate Lake Berryessa, an alien habitat. They are symbolized by the large common carp, native to Europe, which you can often see if you peer through the fence down into the water near the dam. They will be cruising about or browsing on the bottom with their fleshy lips. One of the main fisheries in the reservoir is for warm-water panfish: various kinds of bass, sunfish, and catfish that readily take baited hooks or lures. There is also a fishery for rainbow trout. Hatchery rainbows find life in the lake easy compared to life in the stream below, and they quickly learn to feed on abundant forage fish, mainly threadfin shad, a small herring. They grow quickly on this diet, feeding at the surface in the winter, when temperatures are cool, and in deeper water during the summer. In recent years, CDFG has been planting surplus juvenile chinook salmon which can also feed on shad and grow rapidly. These fish are unlikely to reproduce in the reservoir although steelhead-like rainbow trout do spawn every year in Putah Creek and other tributaries to the lake. These fish may be descendants of steelhead that got trapped above the dam and learned to complete their life cycle without going to sea.



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