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### Capell Launch Ramp To Be Poured - 1978

Assistant local Bureau Manager Bob Simmons informs us that the water is now low enough, and Mr. Lewis and his construction crew have been scheduled to begin work, as of Wednesday, September 27, 1978, to pour the launching part of the Capell Cove Ramp.

He said if the weather remains good, and everything goes according to plans, it should be completed in about three weeks.


\*\*\*\*\*

Sarcasm is the ability to insult stupid people without them realizing it.

There are two types of people in the world, 1. People who understand and appreciate sarcasm, 2. Idiots.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation... 50 years ago the owner's manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the content of the battery.



### Amber Payne

Senior Sales Associate

CalDRE#01302244

amberpaye@corcorangl.com

Thinking of BUYING or SELLING?

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

- 253 Sugarloaf Dr, \$87,500
- 1013 Arroyo Linda Ct, \$89,500
- 259 Sugarloaf Dr, \$87,500
- 208 Manzanita Ln, \$135,000
- 1102 Arroyo Grande Dr, \$48,999
- 1268 Steele Canyon Rd, \$75,000
- 1057 Arroyo Grande Dr, \$175,000
- 1121 Steele Canyon Rd, \$44,000
- 817 Bahia Vista Ct, \$59,000
- 1122 Rimrock Dr, \$49,900
- 1119 Headlands Dr, \$95,000
- 814 Bahia Vista Ct, \$69,000
- 1032 Eastridge Dr, \$140,000
- 1140-1144 Steele Canyon Rd, \$89,000
- 1046 Headlands Dr, \$120,000
- 32 Catalpa Ct, Circle Oaks, \$56,000
- Sunnyhill Ln #148, Circle Oaks, \$18,000



# The Lake Berryessa News

Without *THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS* there would be no Lake Berryessa news!

## August 2022



## Berryessa Point Recreation Area Concessioner Has Been Chosen - Suntex Marinas

Suntex Marinas, which currently operates Pleasure Cove Marina, has been chosen as the winning bidder for the Berryessa Point Recreation Area ( old Berryessa Marina).

Suntex is the leading owner, operator, and developer of best-in-class coastal and inland marina properties located throughout the United States. During the last five years, Suntex invested more than \$150M in actual capital expenditures and we are targeting over \$200M in projected capital expenditures in the next five years.

In addition to their capital projects, Suntex is currently developing over \$150M in "ground up" projects. Their development projects range from new restaurants to large-scale marina

redevelopments, and they have lasting relationships with design and engineering professionals, contractors and specialty trades, and regulatory agencies throughout the United States.

Their team manages all developments from concept to completion, and their development principals have substantial experience leading projects through the approvals process, engaging with local stakeholders and public agencies, and delivering high-caliber facilities.

Their development team focuses on "upland" development throughout their portfolio, as marina traffic and guest satisfaction is driven by the quality and amount of guest amenities, including

restaurants, recreational centers, boater services, lounges/"captains quarters," and other boutique amenities.

Renovations, additions, and general refurbishment routinely occur throughout their properties, as Suntex heavily reinvests into their properties to ensure they deliver a competitive and quality experience to their customers.

Suntex's development team will be responsible for taking Berryessa Point Resort & Marina from concept through construction, and will assign a single point of contact throughout the development process to ensure Napa County is able to easily access a principal decision maker.

Per the goal of the original Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Napa County wishes to make Lake Berryessa more accessible to a broad range of recreationists by offering a wide range of amenities affordable to families and individuals alike.

The lake used to have 8 million visitors per year. It now has only about 300,000 per year. The revitalization of Lake Berryessa is critical to Napa County and to our local residents and businesses.

MOTOR BOATING & MARINA-BASED	COMMERCIAL VENUES & OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full-Service Marina with Wet Slips</li><li>• Suntex Circle of Boating Boat Club</li><li>• Marine Store</li><li>• Captain's Lounge</li><li>• Floating Docks</li><li>• Dedicated Watercraft Launch</li><li>• Watercraft Rentals (Ski Boat, Center Console, etc.)</li><li>• Kayak, Paddleboard &amp; Canoe Rentals</li><li>• Equipment &amp; Gear Rentals</li><li>• Dinner &amp; Themed Cruises</li><li>• Fishing Charters</li><li>• Fish Cleaning Station</li><li>• IGFA-Certified Weigh Station</li><li>• 24 Hour Security</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waterfront Promenade Connected to the Shoreline Trail</li><li>• Waterfront Farm-to-Table Dining with On-site Herb Garden</li><li>• Waterfront Wine Tasting</li><li>• Sunrise / Sunset Provision Packs - Prepared Meals / Meal Kits</li><li>• Indoor &amp; Outdoor Wedding &amp; Event Venues</li><li>• Corporate Retreat Venues</li><li>• Neighborhood Fresh Market &amp; Convenience Store</li><li>• Outdoor Massage Service by Certified Masseuse</li><li>• Breakfast-in-Cabin Service by On-Site Restaurant</li><li>• Interpretive Center with Touch Tank &amp; Interactive Exhibits</li><li>• Water Taxi to Sister Marina, Pleasure Cove Marina</li><li>• Boutique Coffee &amp; Tea Shop</li><li>• Sunshine Amphitheater</li><li>• Lookout Point Pavilion</li><li>• Day-use Pass</li></ul>
NATURE-BASED	LODGING & ACCOMMODATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expanded Shoreline Trail Hiking, Biking &amp; Walking Opportunities</li><li>• Dirt Bike, Fitness, Multi-Use Trails &amp; Accessible Paths</li><li>• Outdoor Fitness Stations</li><li>• Bike Rental &amp; Service Center</li><li>• Vista Points &amp; Lookouts</li><li>• Birdwatching Points and Feeder Stations</li><li>• Skate Park</li><li>• Playing Fields (Soccer, Frisbee, Badminton, Volleyball, Kites, etc.)</li><li>• Dedicated Swimming Area</li><li>• Shaded Rest Areas with Seating</li><li>• Shaded Communal Picnic Area with Grilling Facilities</li><li>• Children's Tree House &amp; Playground</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable Fully Furnished Family-Friendly Cabins</li><li>• Tent Camping with Views</li><li>• Sanitary Disposal</li><li>• Houseboat Rentals</li><li>• Multiple Hot Showers &amp; Restrooms</li><li>• Laundry Facilities</li><li>• Clubhouse &amp; Pool</li><li>• Dedicated Small Children's Playground</li><li>• Splash Pad</li><li>• Separate Large Dog and Small Dog Runs with Pet Comfort Stations</li><li>• Screened Dumpster Areas</li></ul>

## BOAT & JET SKI RENTALS



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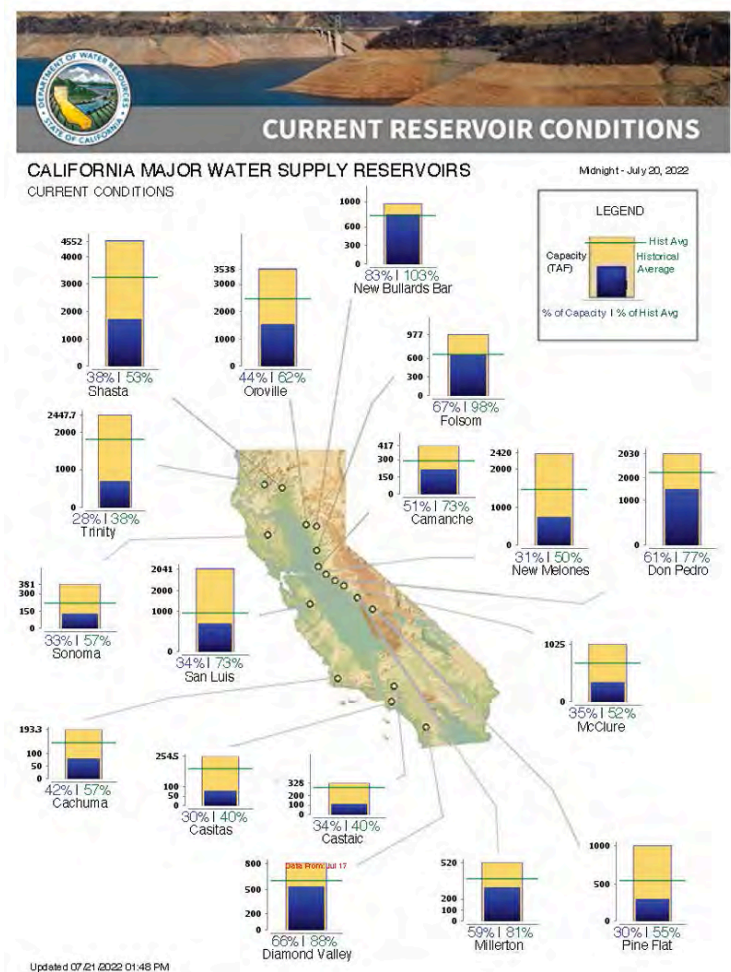
**Reservations Recommended**  
**707-966-4204**  
**lakeberryessaboats.com**

## 2 A History of Lake Berryessa Droughts

Lake Berryessa is not a part of the statewide water supply. The water held in our reservoir is used exclusively for Solano County, and a little bit for the homes around the lake in the communities of Berryessa Highlands, Spanish Flat, Berryessa Pines, and Berryessa Estates. Some water is also allocated to the resorts and to ranchers on the east side of the lake.

While most reservoirs across California get drained for statewide use, Berryessa always stays fuller and more functional for boating/outdoor recreation, while providing more consistent water for residents, agriculture, and industry in Solano County.

The graphic below yshows current % of capacity of the primary state reservoirs. Most of these fluctuate a lot every year as they fill with rainwater and snow melt, and then get drained in the summer for use across the state. You can see that our state water supply is much lower than average. The previous drought lasted from 2005 to 2017. In the drought of 1990-93 the lake was at 361.8 feet and only 25% capacity. The preesent capacity is at 57.5%.



## 3 How Much Water Does Lake Berryessa Hold?

Heights are usually shown on maps by contour lines which give the height above Mean Sea Level (msl). The volume of water is a function of the difference in depth between two successive depth contours where the area of the lake within the outer depth contour is compared to the area of the lake within the inner contour line under consideration. The procedure consists of determining the volumes of successive layers of water, and then summing these volumes to obtain the total volume.

Local residents use a rule of thumb that the lake increases a foot in level for every inch of rainfall after the ground has been saturated by several initial inches of rain. This is not completely accurate since the relationship between the lake level and its storage capacity is not linear. The lake is shaped roughly like a bowl (with peaks and valleys and inlets and large flat areas), which means that the higher the water level gets the more rain is needed to raise it further. It takes about 25% more rain to go from 430' to 440' than it does to go from 390' to 400'.

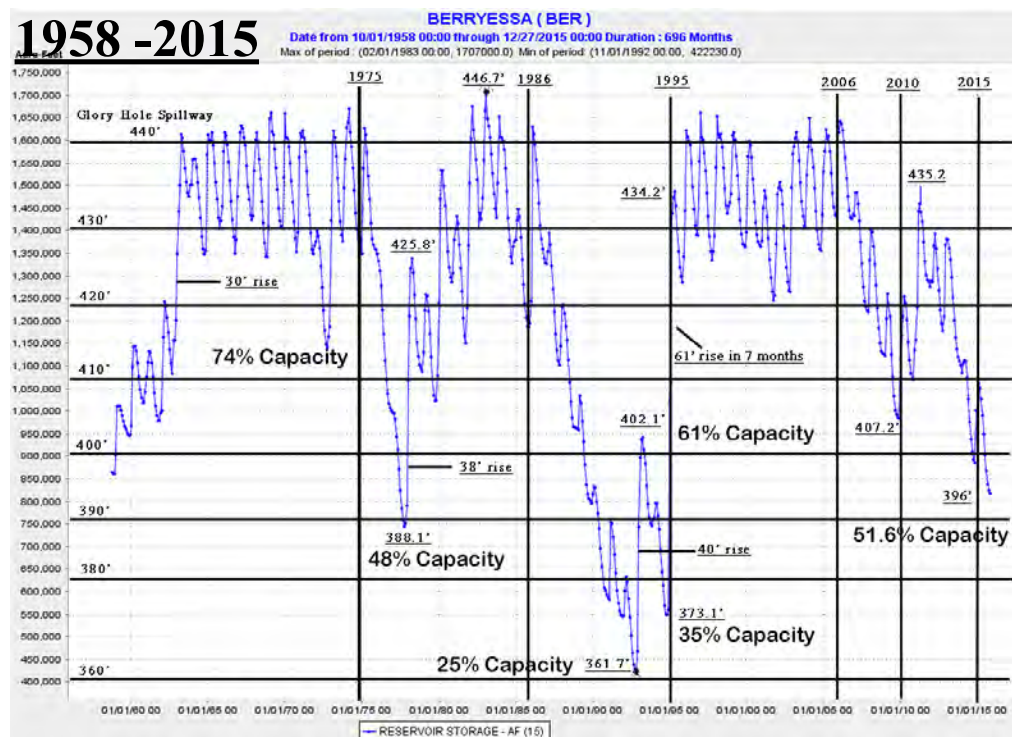
However, the unexpectedly rapid rise of the lake in 2017 provided data that showed the rise was twice as great as the normal average. The published data defines the surface area of Lake Berryessa when it is at a lake level of 440' msl (the Glory Hole spillway height) as 20,700 acres with a total volume of 1,602,000 Acre-Feet.

Using the published standard capacity of 1,602,000 acre-feet (AF), they noticed that as the level approached the 440-foot mark (100%), the capacity was less than that figure. In fact, at 440 feet (100%) the official storage value was only 96.2% of capacity - a 3.2% discrepancy.

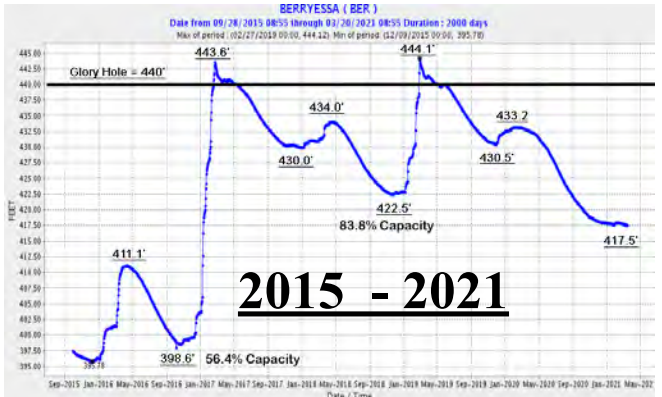
During this study a new Area-Capacity curve was developed that was slightly lower than the previous curve. This new lake level versus

capacity was officially adopted by Reclamation and SCWA in 2009. The new curve has a lake capacity of 1,551,292 AF at a level of 440 feet - 50,708 AF less than previously calculated.

### How Many Droughts Have Occurred?



Per the chart, from 1958 several droughts are evident, the most serious of which was in 1993 when the lake dropped to 25% capacity. The droughts ended with dramatic increases in lake level due to large rainfalls - 38 feet and 61 feet for example. The latest drought which began in 2005 ended in 2017 with a 41 foot lake level increase in 3 weeks!



Although climate change has been scientifically verified, the actual results, aside from sea level rise, are still an unknown. The predictions are that weather may become unpredictably extreme. Could a long drought be followed by excessive rain? Those of us who lived through the unpredicted storms of February 2017 saw it happen personally.

## World Environment Day at Lake Solano and Lake Berryessa

September 17th

The main event takes place at Lake Solano County Park on Pleasants Valley Road, approximately 4 miles west of Winters. Volunteers participating in the trash cleanup will remove trash at both Lake Berryessa and in Lake Solano Park along Putah Creek.

World Environment Day helps build global awareness and concern for the environment and draws political attention to environmental issues. The Lake Berryessa cleanups bring together multiple agencies and groups to care for what's described in the press release as a beloved and indispensable resource. Anheuser-Busch, brings an employee volunteer squad to the cleanup every year.

To learn more about these and other Solano County cleanup activities, including Solano County Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 17, visit the Clean Up Solano website, <http://cleanupsolano.org/>

### But do we really want to own Canadians?

(An oldie, but still funny.)

On her radio show, Dr. Laura said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22, and cannot be condoned under any circumstance. The following response is an open letter to Dr. Schlesinger, written by a US man, and posted on the Internet. It's funny, as well as quite informative:

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them.

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?

2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness - Lev. 15: 19-24. The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev. 1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?

6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination, Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination

7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?

8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?

9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev. 24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I'm confident you can help.

Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is as eternal and unchanging.

Your adoring fan,  
James M. Kauffman,  
Ed.D. Professor Emeritus,

## Onion Headlines

In a 5-4 decision, Supreme Court overturns Marbury v. Madison, creating a legal paradox.

Supreme Court overturns Roe v Wade and replaces it with Sharia Law

Overheated Homeless Man Hallucinates Living In Compassionate Society

State Department Brokers Alliance In Destabilized Region By Providing Arms To Texan Warlords

Exasperated Aquarium Staff Demand Visitors Stop Tapping On, Yelling At Vending Machines

Area Baseball Fan Excited For First-Round Draft Pick They'll Never Hear About Again

Nashville Hot Dog Eatery Offering Free Milkshake With Proof Of Vasectomy

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) Unzips Costume to Reveal He is Actually Senator Joe Manchin (R-WV)

BREAKING: Tucker Carlson Is Now Only The Last Public Figure To Reveal Himself As Liberal Planted In Order To Make Republicans Look Stupid; Current Count Of Those Figures Is At 8

GOP blames Inflation for record heat wave instead of climate change

Florida Bans "Schindler's List" For Glorifying Rescuing People From Death, AKA Social Emotional Learning

Aiming for Trifecta this Session, Conservative Supreme Court Overturns Right to Vote 6-3 Just for the heck of it

Clarence Thomas won't stop until his wife can legally own him

Scientists discover that science is wrong. Has never been correct at any time in history.

Downtown Austin addresses homeless issue by dressing them better

E-Biker Astonished by Effort and Exertion Required for Actual Biking

## August Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Good fortune will stalk you like a mean-spirited vulture today and won't spread any of his juicy fortune charm over you. Being righteous will only make you enemies.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Terrible news is headed your way - the best way to save your sanity is by implicating as many people as possible in your demise.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): A week of rest may be all you need for your broken leg to recover. Doctors may be stunned by a random discovery they make whilst examining you.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Tomorrow will bring fresh excitement and vigour to your otherwise dull self. Walking down the street with a spring in your step is a great way to let the world know how insufferable you really are.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Reading through a dictionary is the least effective way to learn more about the world. Get out there! The army has always held a fascination for you. Today might be a day where new things start to happen.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Knowing your hand span may become useful over the coming days, although the mystics will not give me any information as to how or why.

Libra (9/23-10/22): "Thinking strategically" is a cop-out. You did what you did because you're a selfish competitive little person.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): A lot of your work will be undone today as someone evil and vicious sets about making your life less nice. All the time you spent on learning French is never going to pay off.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Money is a source of evil you can't do without. Credit card companies may seize on your lack of self-control.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Homeopathic treatments are not generally carried out by psychopathic people. I'm not entirely sure you know that the 'pathic' part of those two words doesn't mean that they're related.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): You have a personality that makes people smile, and that is worth exploiting today in any way you see fit.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Damage To The Central Nervous System - a phrase you're going to be hearing a lot over the coming days.

These Are Supposedly Actual Complaints Received By "Thomas Cook Vacations" In Edinburgh From Dissatisfied Customers. And remember, if you saw it on the internet, it must be true.

"They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

"We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."

"We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."

"The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."

"We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."

"It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."

"No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."

"Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."

"The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

"The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

"When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."

"We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

"It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

"I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

"My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

"Is today really August? Or are Julying to me?"

"My childhood crush and I are finally getting married this year! Me in August, and her in November."

My little daughter came to me all excited, saying, "Daddy! Daddy! Guess how old I'll be in August!" I said, "Oh I don't know princess, why don't you tell me?" She gave me a huge smile and held up four fingers... It's now three hours later, the police are annoyed and she \*still\* won't say where she got them.

"I'm not superstitious, but I am a little stitious."

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."

"I used to jog but the ice cubes kept falling out of my glass."

"Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired."

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."

"Here's all you have to know about men and women: Women are crazy, men are stupid. And the main reason women are crazy is that men are stupid."

"My husband and I fell in love at first sight. Maybe I should have taken a second look."

"From the ages of eight to 18, my family moved around a lot. Mostly we would just stretch, but occasionally one of us would actually get up to go to the fridge."

## Napa County's Moskowitz Corners gets new owners, again.



The Lake Berryessa pit stop at the location known to generations of visitors as Moskowitz Corner has new owners. Phil and Tamra McGill of Walnut Creek area bought the parcel from its previous owner, Jim Keller. The nearly one-acre property sold for \$579,000.

"The lake has always been something precious to me," said Phil McGill. "My grandfather bought a place at Rancho Monticello at 1960s. I've been going up there my whole life."

The McGill family hopes to turn the Moskowitz Corner property into a coffee bar, offering quick-service food and beverages and eventually food and wine, said McGill. In the future, it could include a small market. "My wife and I want that place to be thriving," said McGill, whose family runs a six-bed care facility in Walnut Creek.

His dream "is to have it be a hub for people to have a good cup of coffee and sit down and hang out with friends and family." He plans to decorate the inside with "cool, old-school" vintage items and memorabilia, said McGill. "It's absolutely going to be a family place."

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## Dogs Welcome at Lake Berryessa

On a patio boat trip last week, I saw a jet ski with a dog riding on the front. It reminded me of our old dog, Koda. He was the best dog Evan and I ever had. He also loved riding on the front of a jet ski, in the front of our boat, and swimming in the middle of the lake with friends.



Seeing the dog on the jet ski reminded me of passage from a thriller I just read: Dark Horse by Gregg Hurwitz – Orphan X series. The main character's name, coincidentally, is Evan.

## The Dog's Perspective

"You? Talk something out emotionally?" She stiffened up and gave him Robot Arms and Robot Voice, one of her many preferred means of impersonating him. "Me am Orphan X. Me want to have conversation about feeling states of living organism. But me Cylon programming is not enabled to compute human eye juice."

"What's a Cylon?"

Robot Voice continued, "I lack knowledge of all things pop cultural. This is another infuriating trait that makes me feel superior to my human counterparts."

"Josephine."

At the sound of his voice, Dog the dog padded over into Joey's workstation and stuck his snout up into the frame. His big tail was wagging, audibly thwacking the curve of desk behind him. Joey scratched his scruff, her voice softening. "Who's a sweet boy? You want a bite?" She offered him the remaining half of her hot dog,

which he scarfed down.

"You know," Evan said, "you don't have to feed him *every time* you eat."

She pinned him with a bruised expression. "See? That's *you*. Not thinking about it from his perspective."

"The dog's perspective?"

"*Yes!* Think how friggin' pissed you'd be if someone ate all kinds of food in front of you and you had to eat the same canned crap over and over. Like, you have no opposable thumbs and can't get, like, your *own* food for yourself 'cuz you've been taken out of nature into a world of opposable-thumb privilege.

And this selfish a-hole buys whatever she wants and opens it up with, like, her superior digits, and it smells all delicious, and she can't even spare a scrap? Oh - and by the way, you *bred* me to be, like, super loving and loyal, I mean, I'm *literally* evolutionarily designed to *have to* be nice to you, like,

it's *in my DNA* to not kill you and take your food, but hey, tough shit and just sit there and watch me eat, 'cuz, screw you, right? You want to raise a dog with dignity. Not just to *obey*. See, that's what you still don't get, X. Sometimes you have to take care of people the way *they* want to be taken care of."

"Dogs."

"Huh?"

"You mean *dogs*. Sometimes you have to take care of *dogs* the way they want to be taken care of."

"That's what I *said*."

Big or small they're welcome at Lake Berryessa

## Can you see the little guy?



4 Editor's note: I found this article from 1983 which describes Napa's back roads at the time. Although it doesn't say much about Lake Berryessa, it is a fascinating history of East Napa County. Doug Ernst became a Napa Register editor before his death a few years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Travel the back roads of Napa

By Doug Ernst, Register Staff Writer, 1983

A tour of Napa County's backcountry can begin like any other tour of the Napa Valley on Silverado Trail, heading north out of Napa. Instead of visiting one large valley, however, you will see several small valleys, each with unique characteristics, each with a story to tell. On Silverado Trail, shortly after passing Oakville Cross Road, the backroads tourist will come upon Highway 128 toward Lakes Hennessey and Berryessa. A right turn there begins a marvelous, all-day journey through some of the most enchanting valleys and scenic countryside one can find anywhere in the state.

Lake Hennessey, formed in 1945-48 with the construction of Conn Dam, contains the confluence of Sage, Chiles, Moore and Conn Creeks. The lake is named in memory of the late Edwin R. Hennessey, a longtime Napa councilman and water department chief. The lake today provides Napa with its supply of water.

Instead of continuing on Highway 128 to Lake Berryessa, the backroads tourist should veer left onto Chiles-Pope Valley Road, a country road that follows the meandering Chiles Creek. Along the way, one can't help but savor the freshness of farm country that conjures an image of a simpler way of life. There was nothing simple about Col. Joseph Ballinger Chiles' life, however. Shortly after coming to California in 1841, Chiles was asked by fellow pioneer George C. Yount to return to Missouri and bring the Yount family to California. Chiles returned in 1843, not only with the Yount family, but also with 60 farmers to help till the land.

In 1844, Chiles gained a Mexican land grant for 8,545 acres known as Catacula Rancho that included what is known today as Chiles Valley. On the east side of Chiles-Pope Valley Road, just before Lower Chiles Valley Road, is the state historical landmark commemorating Chiles for building the first American flour mill in California. The mill site is located on the west side of the roadway, across from the marker. Today, the site resembles little more than a foundation, however. Built in 1845-46, the grist mill produced breadstuffs for the region, supplying bread until the 1880s under its brand name, Catacula, an Indian word meaning five girls.

Chiles-Pope Valley Road continues through the heart of the Chiles Valley and toward the end of the valley offers a panoramic view of Locallomi Rancho, known today as Pope Valley. Locallomi, which means goose place, was given to Julien Pope after Pope came into the valley from Sacramento, staked out land he wanted and the continued south to Mexico where he applied for a land grant. The 8,872-acre ranch was granted to Pope in September 1841. Pope severely cut his leg while building a log cabin shortly after settling the valley and is believed to have died in Santa Rosa, where he sought medical aid.

The center of town has always been the Neil Store, run first by E.R. Neil and later by his son, Tom. Today the store is an antique shop. On Pope Canyon Road, three miles north of the Pope Creek Bridge at Lake Berryessa, is the trailhead for the 5,000-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area. Access by outdoorsmen to the Bureau of Land Management property is by way of a one-mile trail originally built in 1969 by the California Department of Fish and Game, and rebuilt in 1981 by the

California Conservation Corps. The trail is open year-round to hikers, birdwatchers, nature photographers and hunters. Wildlife in the area includes deer, black bear, quail, fox, coyote, ground squirrel, chipmunk, rabbit and many kinds of birds.

En route to Moskowite Corners south of Lake Berryessa, the backroads tourist will enjoy a wide variety of vantage points of the largest man-made lake in the state. Oak Shores Park, a tree-studded picnic ground on the shores of the lake, is the perfect place for a pack lunch before beginning the afternoon leg of the journey. From Moskowite Corners, the backcountry traveler turns south onto Highway 121 toward Napa, and then left onto Wooden Valley Road. The valley was known as Rancho Chimiles to Jose Ygnacio Berryessa when he received it in 1846 the same year that 500 wagons and about 2,000 pioneers left Missouri, headed west.



The pioneers included the Donner party and John Wooden, 45, who stood six-foot-eight-inches and who wore size 13 shoes. Wooden, his wife and their three children stayed with the wagon train that continued to Oregon, out the ill-fated Donner Party separated from the rest to take what was supposed to be a short cut.

From Oregon, the Woodens came to California. Wooden joined the army of Capt. John C. Fremont and was stationed in Santa Clara, where his wife and one of his daughters died from pneumonia. Wooden then came to Napa with his surviving daughter, Hannah, and in 1852 purchased Corral Valley, a part of the Chimiles land grant, for \$4,000 from Jose Ygnacio Berryessa. The

valley later became known as Wooden Valley. Wooden was buried there.

Farther down the road is Gordon Valley, a portion of the Chimiles grant purchased from Berryessa in the late 1840s by William Gordon and his son-in-law, Nathan Coombs, for \$1,750. Gordon, an educated mountain man and fur trapper, was born in Ohio in 1801 and came west to engage in a fur trading partnership in Taos, N. M., in the 1830s. In 1840, Gordon and his family left New Mexico and settled in Yolo County on the Quesesosi Grant.

In 1846 the family participated in the rescue of the Donner Party and the Bear Flag Rebellion. The 17,762-acre Rancho Chimiles, which means an oven for baking caterpillars, an Indian delicacy, was split for many years between Coombs in the north, Wooden in the southwest, and Gordon in the southeast.

After a few hours taking the backroads tour, a modern-day explorer can deduce why pioneers traveled across the country to settle in Napa County

### Lake Berryessa Statistics (7/29/22)

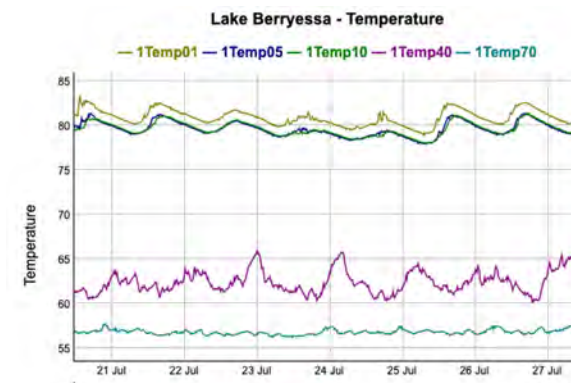
The lake is now down to 400 feet – 40 feet below Glory Hole.

The official rainfall total as of July 31<sup>st</sup> at Monticello Dam is 18.73 inches. No more is expected this rain year. Hope for an early season start next October.

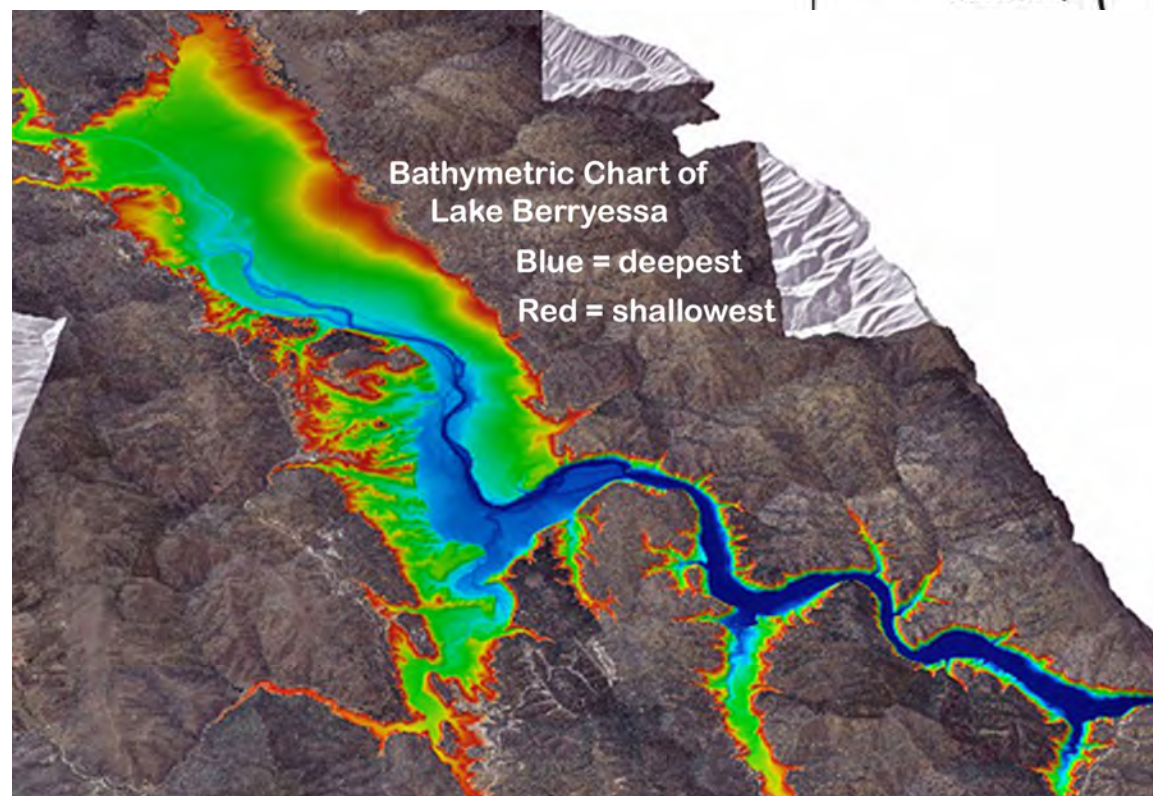
The Gamble Gauge shows the lake dropped to 57.5% capacity. The lowest capacity the lake ever reached was 25% in 1993.

The Storck Metric is "about 8 buoys down".

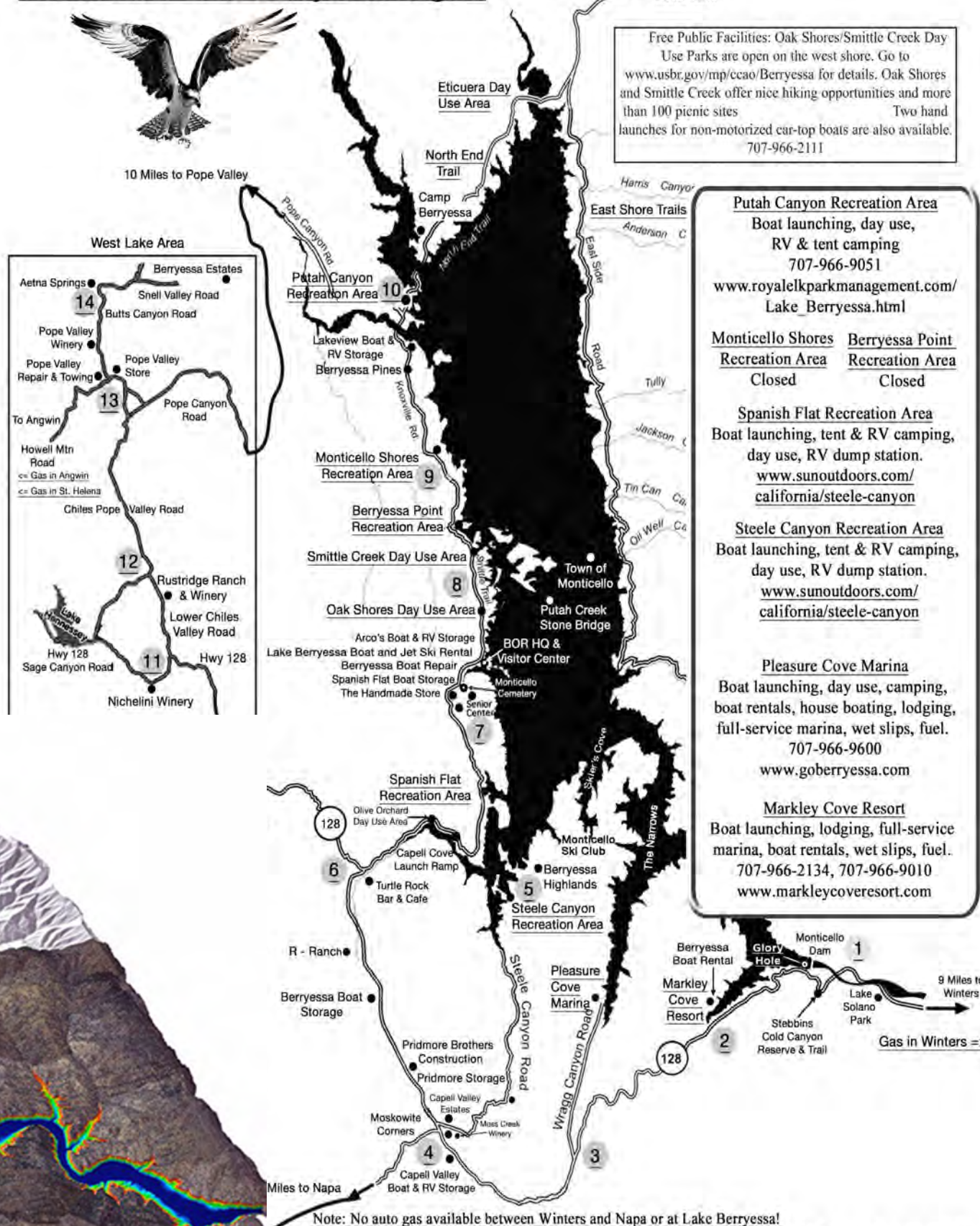
Surface water temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down. Temperature is around 57 - 64 degrees at 40 feet and below.



Lake Berryessa Summer Water Level Decrease				
Year	June 1 Level (Feet)	September 1 Level (Feet)	Decrease (Feet)	Monthly Decrease (Feet)
2016	408.8	400	8.8	2.9
2017	439.1	433	6.1	2.0
2018	432.4	425.6	6.8	2.3
2019	439.9	433.9	6.0	2.0
2020	429.6	422.1	7.5	2.5
2021	412.5	404.2	8.3	2.8



### The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Free Public Facilities: Oak Shores/Smittle Creek Day Use Parks are open on the west shore. Go to [www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/Berryessa](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/Berryessa) for details. Oak Shores and Smittle Creek offer nice hiking opportunities and more than 100 picnic sites. Two hand launches for non-motorized car-top boats are also available. 707-966-2111

**Putah Canyon Recreation Area**  
Boat launching, day use, RV & tent camping  
707-966-9051  
[www.royalelcparkmanagement.com/Lake\\_Berryessa.html](http://www.royalelcparkmanagement.com/Lake_Berryessa.html)

**Monticello Shores Recreation Area**  
Closed

**Berryessa Point Recreation Area**  
Closed

**Spanish Flat Recreation Area**  
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.  
[www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon](http://www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon)

**Steele Canyon Recreation Area**  
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.  
[www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon](http://www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon)

**Pleasure Cove Marina**  
Boat launching, day use, camping, boat rentals, house boating, lodging, full-service marina, wet slips, fuel.  
707-966-9600  
[www.goberryessa.com](http://www.goberryessa.com)

**Markley Cove Resort**  
Boat launching, lodging, full-service marina, boat rentals, wet slips, fuel.  
707-966-2134, 707-966-9010  
[www.markleycoveresort.com](http://www.markleycoveresort.com)