

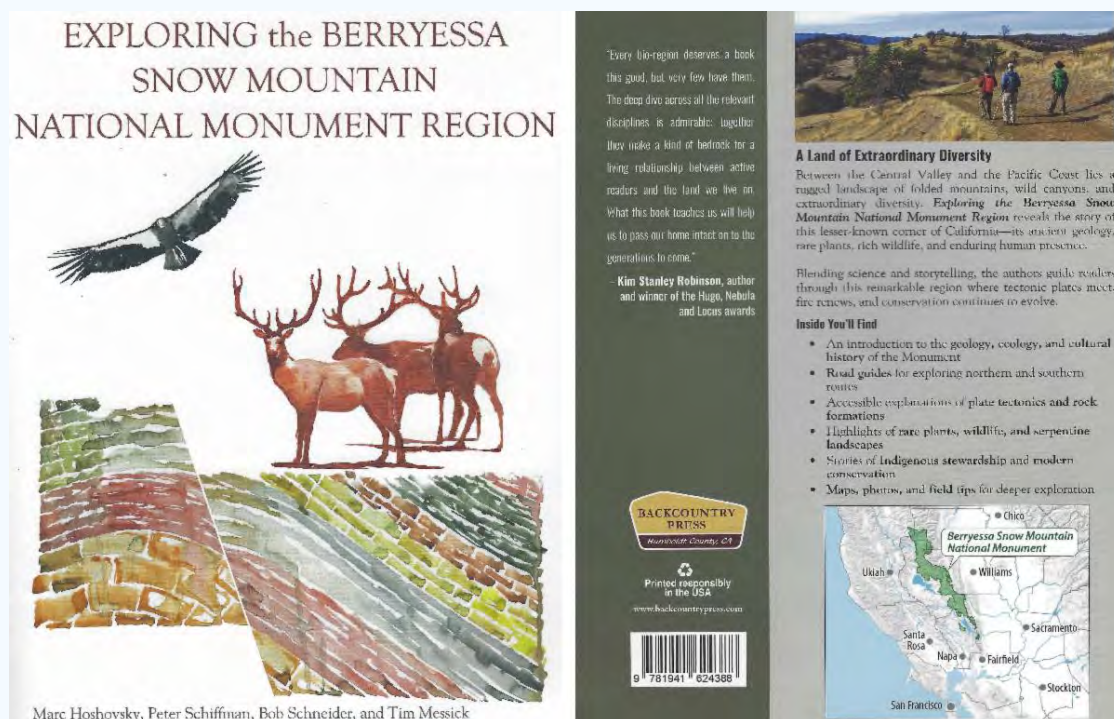


The Lake Berryessa News

February 1, 2026, Rev 1

I'm sorry to bother you with another email. I simply forgot to include a review of a great new book you may enjoy. You may have seen this on my website already. I apologize for the duplication, but this book is worth it

I just received a copy of the new book, "Exploring the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Region" from an old colleague, Bob Schneider. Bob is a co-author of this newly released guidebook. He and I go back about twenty years (!) when we were members of the Berryessa Blue Ridge Natural Area Conservation Partnership (BRBNA). For more on the BRBNA see the chapter East Side Story in my book Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource. Bob was also influential in proposing that the Lake Berryessa region become a National Conservation Area (NCA) which became the starting point for the final Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (BSMNM).

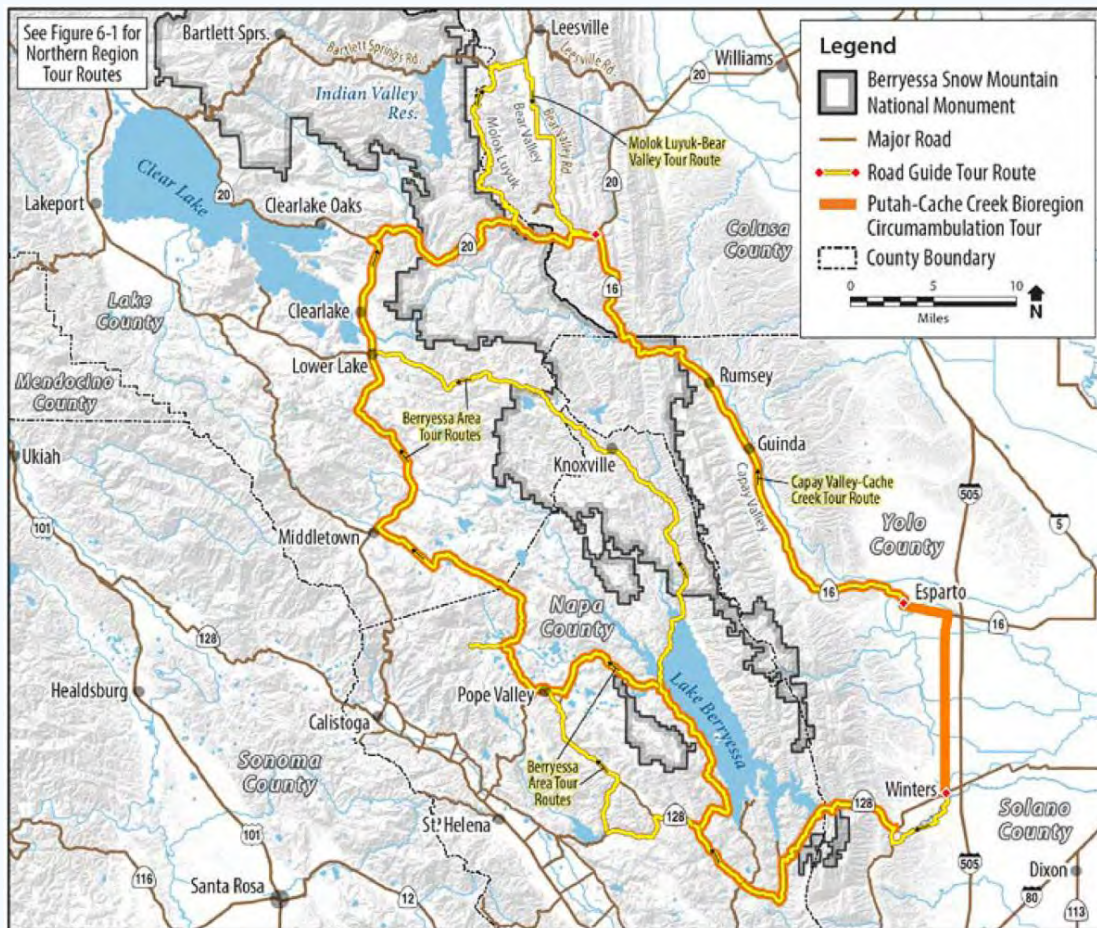


An amazing combination of science and art, richly illustrated with color photographs, maps, and sidebars, this book brings the region's stories to life, including Native diversity and history; 19th century mining, health resorts, and farming; rare plants and animals, wildlife habitat connectivity, and fire ecology; and the geological history of the region.

Detailed driving routes take readers deep into remote areas along public roads, highlighting the land’s natural, cultural, and geological wonders—perfect for day trips.

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Enjoy the welcoming front porch and both front and back yards, ideal for relaxing, gardening, or entertaining.

Located in Capell Valley Mobile Home Estates, a family park with no age restrictions, this home blends space, setting, and lifestyle in a sought-after Lake Berryessa area.



This 1991 Baywood manufactured home offers 1,448 sq. ft. of comfortable space with 2 bedrooms + den and 2 full baths perfect for flexible living, a home office, or guests. A newer roof and water filtration system add peace of mind and everyday comfort.

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Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands!
Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!
Just minutes to the lake's best recreation, this home offers
the perfect balance of character, functionality, and relaxed lake living.



Set on a flat gated corner lot with a covered carport, covered patio with hot tub hookups, and plenty of yard space (complete with a whimsical wishing well!), this 3-bedroom, 2-bath home blends comfort, charm, and potential. Inside, vaulted ceilings and natural light create an open, airy feel, complemented by a cozy wood stove for those cool evenings.



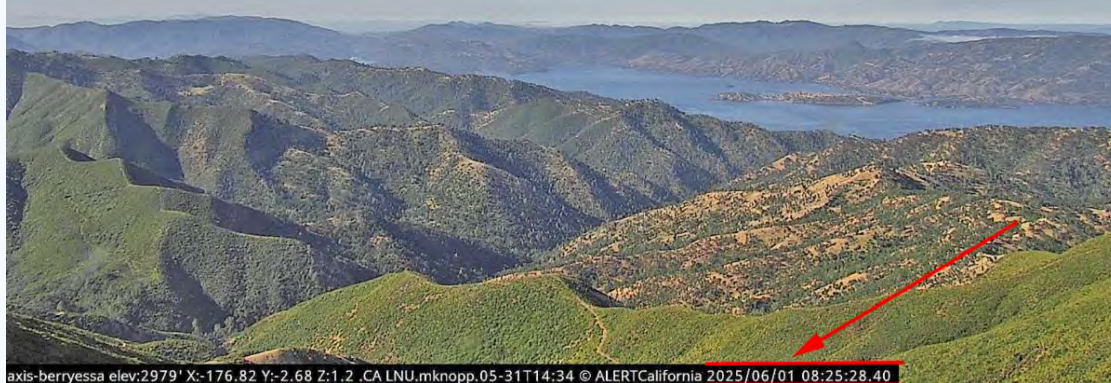
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www.amberpayne.net

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



axis-berryessa elev:2979' X:-176.82 Y:-2.68 Z:1.2 .CA LNU.mknopp.05-31T14:34 © ALERTCalifornia 2025/06/01 08:25:28.40



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

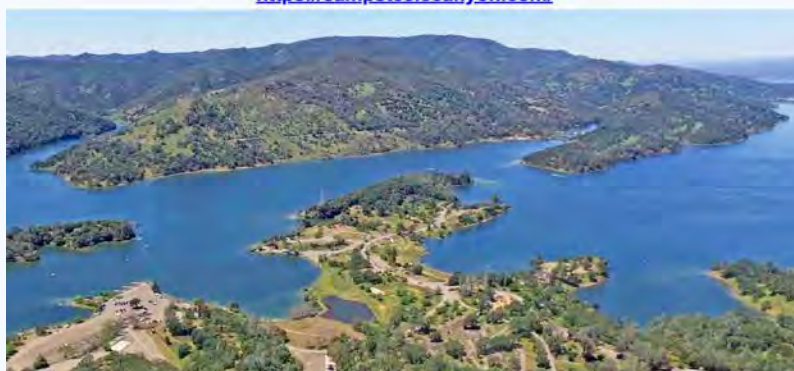
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

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Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

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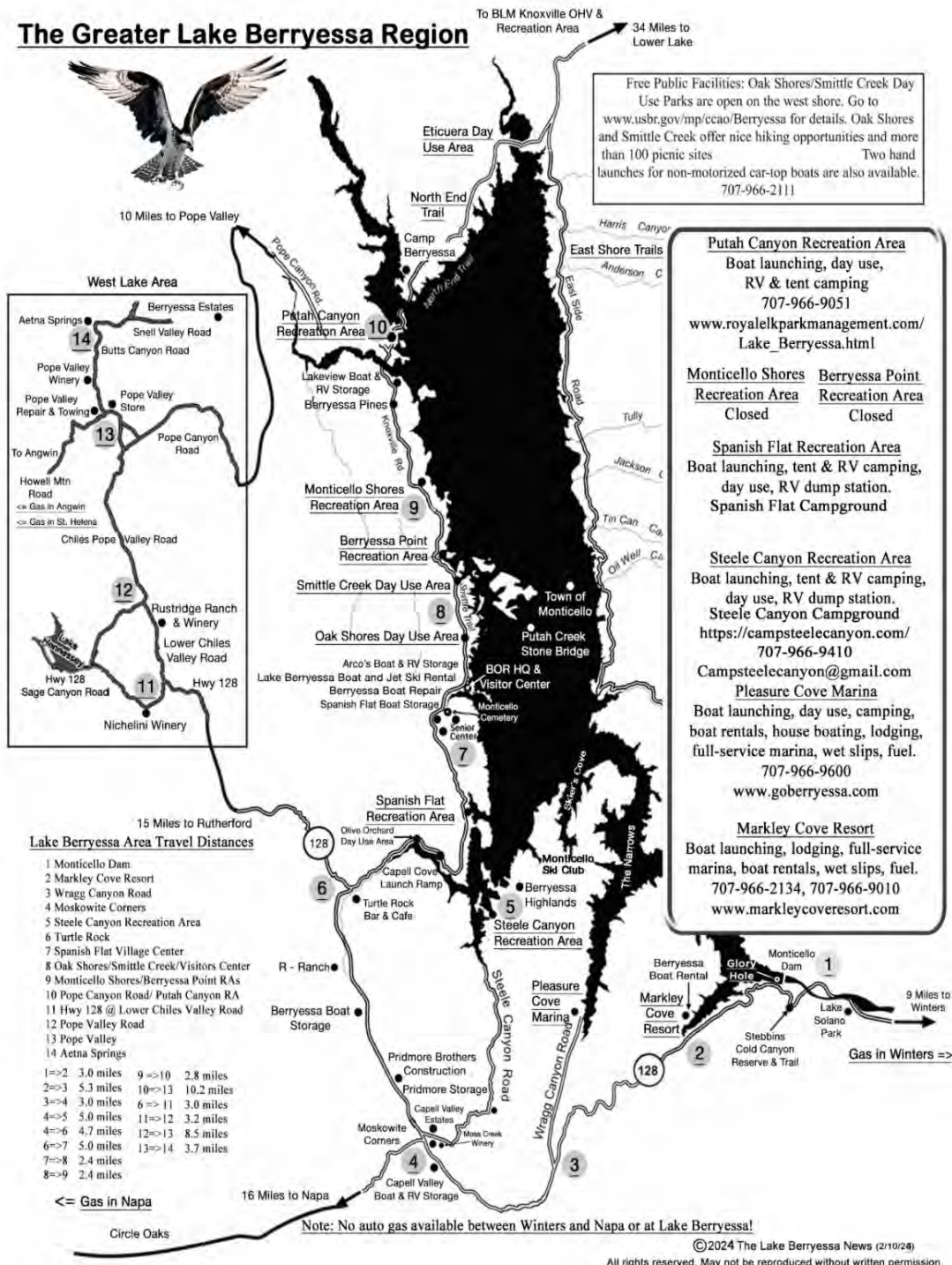
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 |

pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>





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The Lake Berryessa News

February 8, 2026

The long spell of nice weather may end as soon as Wednesday with "light rain", but it will have little effect on Lake Berryessa water levels. It's getting a bit late in the season for an exciting end to Glory Hole Watch 2026. "Hope springs eternal" for Glory Hole watchers, even though Lake Berryessa is full from a practical point of view. It should be a great summer. There are good chances of snow in the Sierras!

Lake Berryessa Statistics (2/8/26)

The lake level has been essentially stable for the last ten days at 436.8 feet, 13.2 feet below Glory Hole.

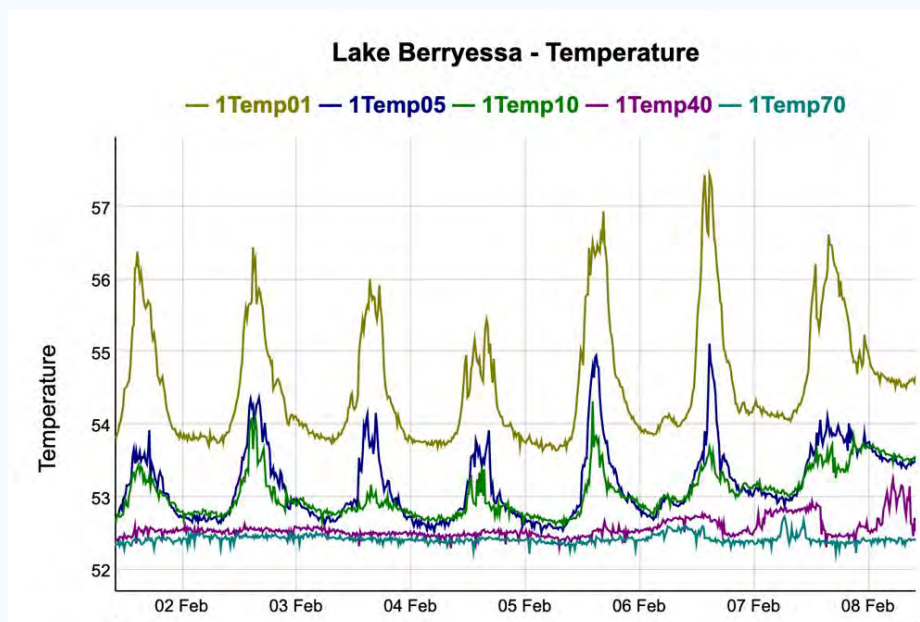
Rainfall at Monticello Dam is at 17.11 inches. Most creeks have stopped flowing.

The lake output dropped slightly to 90 cfs (cubic feet per second) - 178 Acre-Feet per day.

When full (Glory Hole level) the lake contains 1,551,292 Acre-Feet of water.

Lake capacity is now at 1,491,943 Acre-Feet or 96.2%.

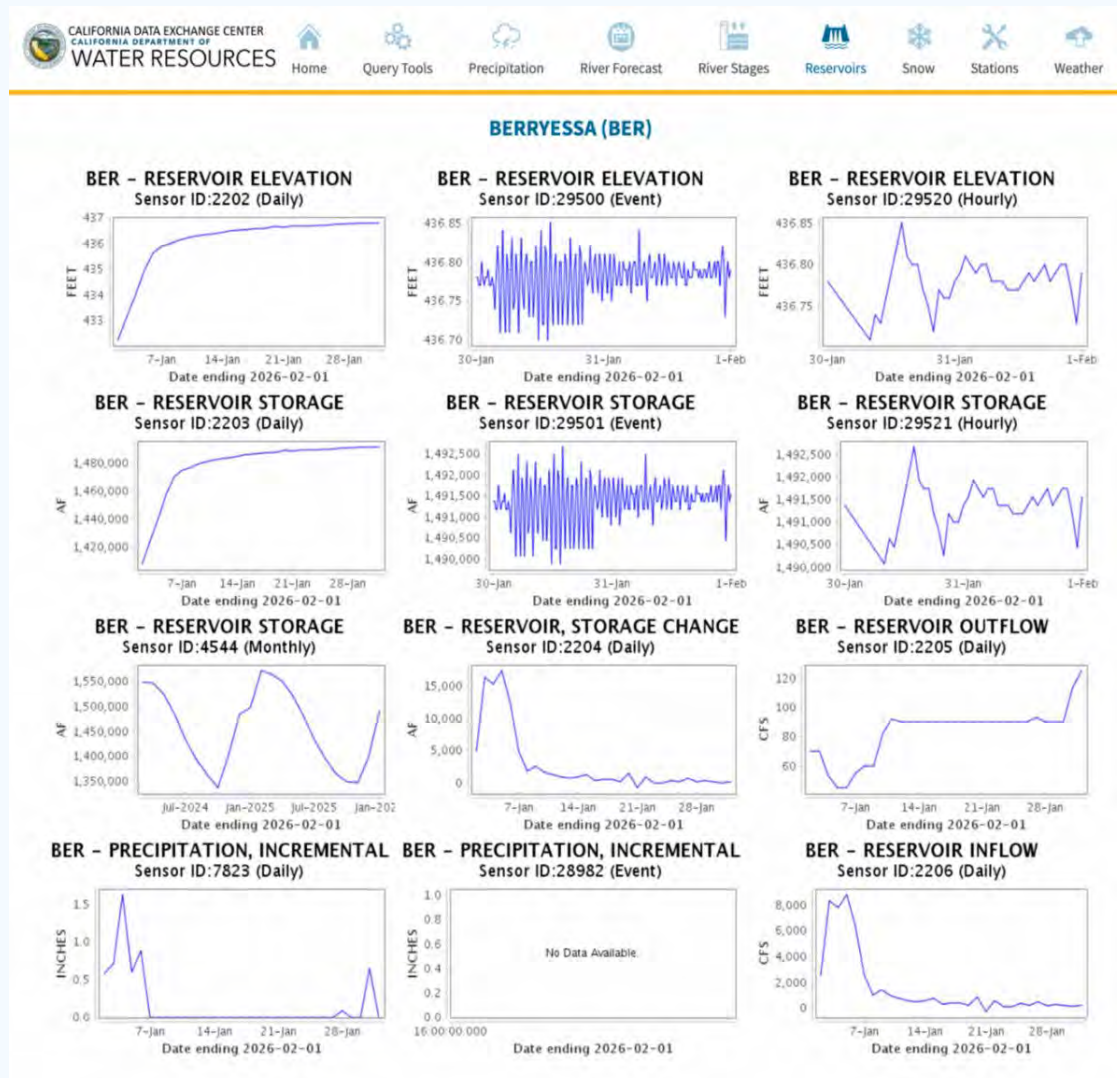
Water temperatures fluctuate with the sunny days and cold nights with a variation from 57 degrees to 52.5 degrees.



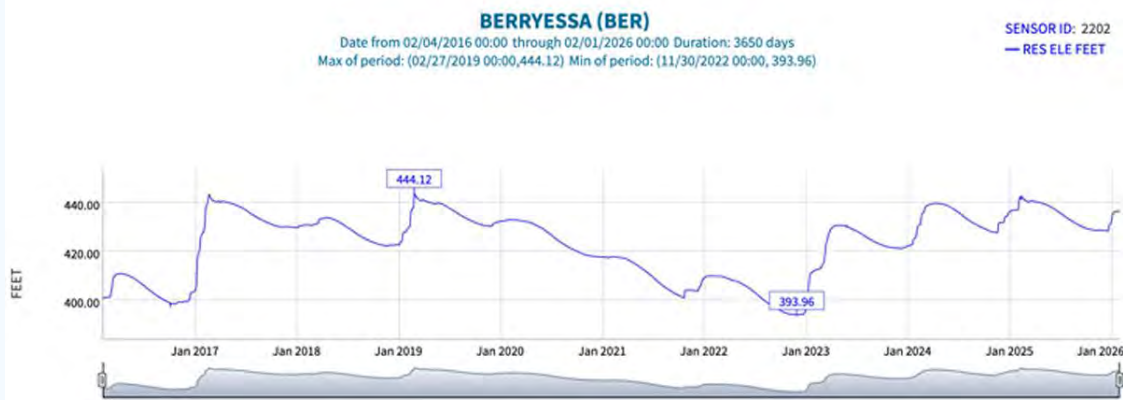


The California Department of Water Resources has upgraded their data reporting information website, California Data Exchange Center (CDEC). Multiple data sensor plots for Lake Berryessa are available. They provide historical date plots that can be modified by date range and saved as usable graphs.

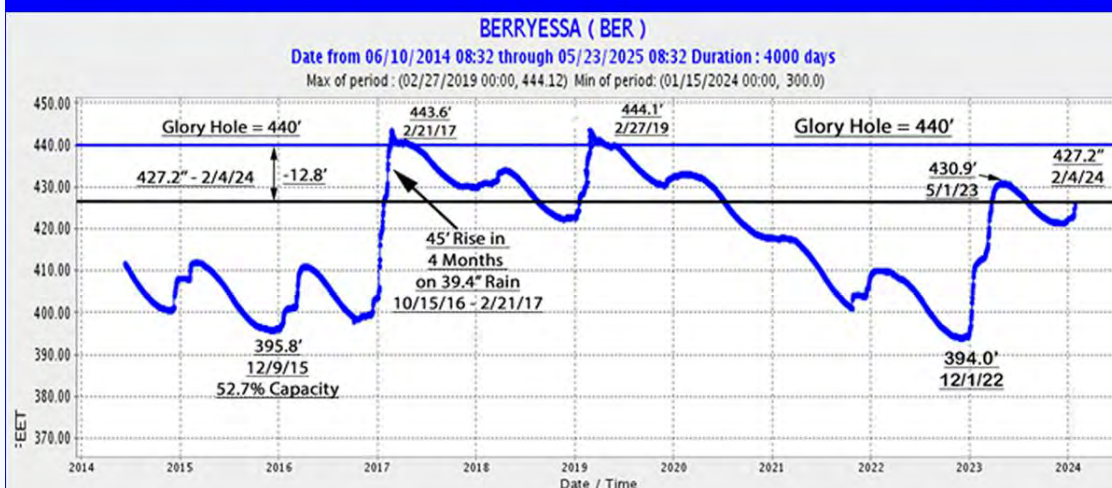
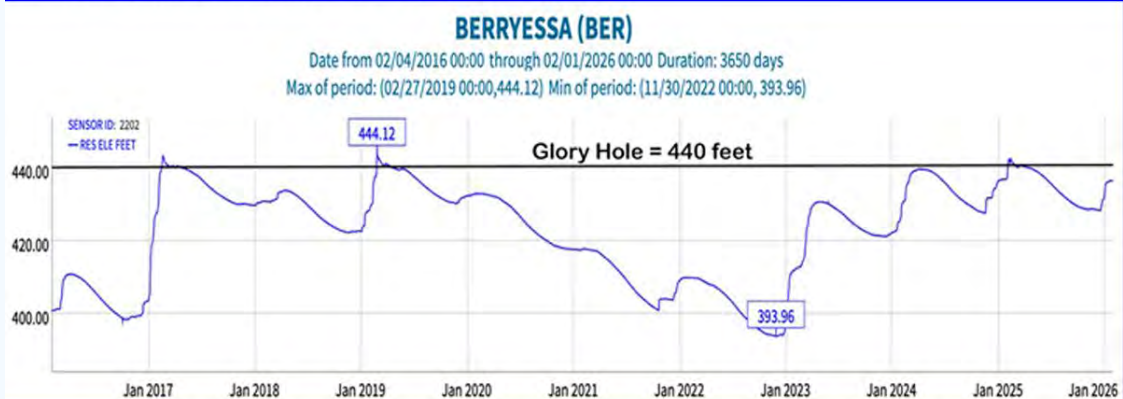
https://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecplotter/JspPlotAll?staid_id=BER&end=02/01/2026+00:00



The Lake Berryessa News usually takes the time to add relevant information to the raw charts. The three charts below show the evolution of the data provided by The Lake Berryessa News for additional understanding.



Generated on Thu Feb 05 2026 08:46:37 GMT-0800 (Pacific Standard Time)



How Do We Know What's Real and True?

By Peter Kilkus

In the present wonderland of political posturing, with certain folks willing to promote outright lies as truth, how can "normal" people navigate the media flow. The worst examples of mental gymnastics don't even try to reach the relatively low bar of "truthiness" coined by Steven Colbert in 2005.

Truthiness is the belief or assertion that a particular statement is true based on the intuition or perceptions of some individual or individuals, without regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination, or facts. Truthiness can range from ignorant assertions of falsehoods to deliberate duplicity or propaganda intended to sway opinions. Sound familiar?

We are bombarded by "content" that "influencers" are desperately trying to "monetize" to millions of people who have never been taught critical thinking in our schools. I know I'm "old", but we took logic classes and civics classes in high school. Logic classes teach structured thinking, argument analysis, and reasoning techniques to evaluate information,

identify fallacies, and construct sound conclusions. We were required to read the editorial pages of the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun Times weekly to dissect the logical strength of the opinions presented there. Then we presented our analyses to our teachers and classmates in written and verbal reports.

When legitimate objective journalism is blithely labeled "false news"; when the most cogent satirical analyses of the present state of affairs is presented by The Daily Show, Colbert, Kimmel, Meyers and Fallon; when watching Fox News (I do watch it for fun) is like tuning in to a twenty-four hour Saturday Night Live sketch; are we doomed?

Fact Checking in the "Alternative Facts" Era

"Alternative facts" is a phrase used to describe false or unsubstantiated claims presented as truth, often contradicting established evidence to serve ideological or political agendas. Coined by Kellyanne Conway in January 2017 to justify inaccurate claims about inaugural attendance, it is widely considered a euphemism for falsehoods, lies, or misinformation.

The term gained prominence on January 22, 2017, when Kellyanne Conway told NBC's Meet the Press that White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer provided "alternative facts" regarding inauguration crowd sizes. It has been closely associated with the "post-truth" political landscape, where emotional appeals and personal belief are given more weight than objective evidence. 1984 anyone?

An excellent antidote to the "alternative facts" is the Snopes website:

<https://www.snopes.com/>

Snopes defines itself as "The definitive fact-checking site and reference source for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation."

"When misinformation obscures the truth and readers don't know what to trust, Snopes' fact-checking and original investigative reporting light the way to evidence-based and contextualized analysis. We always link to and document our sources, so readers are empowered to do independent research and make up their own minds."

Snopes is a member of IFCN and in compliance with the International Fact Checking Network's highest standards of combating misinformation online. Every fact check on Snopes.com is rated in order to help readers quickly ascertain the credibility of a claim.

Snopes got its start in 1994, investigating urban legends, hoaxes, and folklore. As demand for reliable online fact checks grew, so did Snopes. Now it's the oldest and largest fact-checking site, widely regarded by journalists, folklorists, and readers as an invaluable research companion. Some of their recent reports including an in-depth report on how to spot "deep Fakes" now proliferating due to the rapid development of "Artificial Intelligence":

How to Spot a Deepfake: For starters, don't believe everything you see. In April 2022, a video supposedly showing actor Tom Cruise jumping over the shoulders of comedian Keegan-Michael Key racked up more than 12 million views on TikTok. This video, however, didn't actually feature the "Top Gun" star. Rather, this video used deepfake technology to turn an impersonator named Miles Fisher into a digital replica of the movie star.

The term "deepfake" refers to an image or video that was created with the aid of artificial intelligence (AI). GANs (generative adversarial networks, a form of AI) can learn various characteristics of a person in order to synthesize an artificial version. By using this technology, you can create a video that appears to show a person (say, Tom Cruise)

performing a stunt (or other action) even though they never did any such thing. This technology can also be used to fabricate an entirely fictional person.

Deep Fakes: How They're Made And How They Can Be Detected (NBC News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8FO0P2a3dA>

The technology to create sophisticated fake videos—deepfakes—is getting more advanced with serious implications for governments and businesses. As misinformation becomes an increasingly important strategy for nefarious actors, what are deepfakes, and how are they used to undermine governments and businesses?

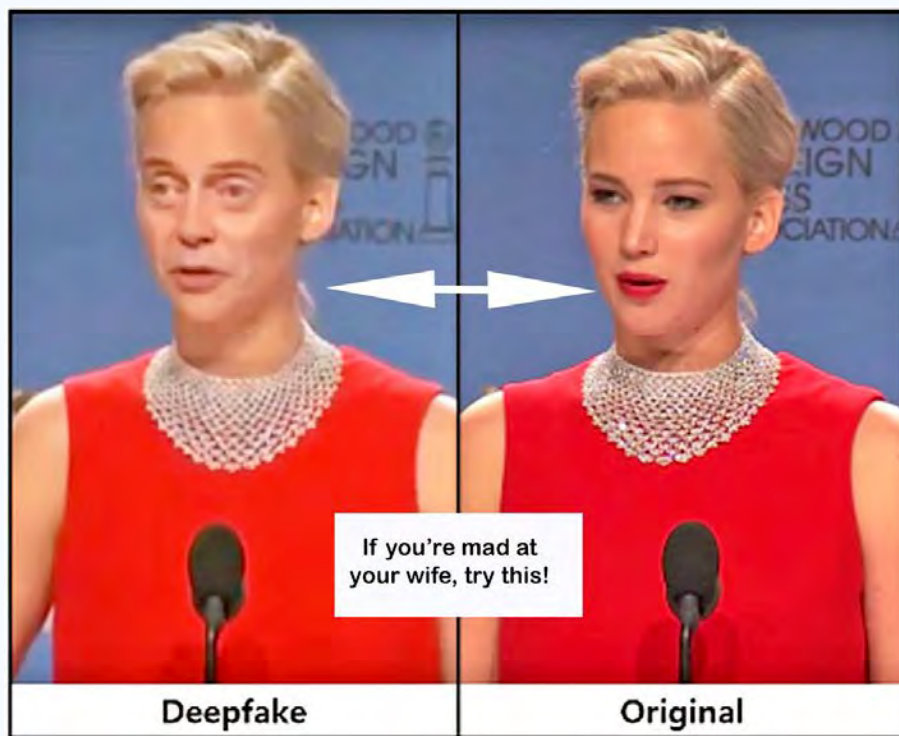
As deepfakes get more convincing, the best way to spot them is to look for the original source of the video. The video of Tom Cruise, for instance, was originally posted by @deeptomcruise on TikTok, an account that almost exclusively posts deepfakes.

Of course, not every source is going to explicitly tell you if a video is fake or not. In some cases, it's important to think about what the source should be. For example, if you see a video of U.S. President Joe Biden giving a speech, the source of that video should be the White House or a credible news network. If you see a suspicious video of Biden that originated with an anonymous or disreputable account, you may want to think twice about accepting the footage as real.

In many cases, a deepfake will be used to make it seem as if a person said something that they never said. In order to do this, creators will take existing footage of a person talking, swap out the audio, then manipulate the appearance of the person's mouth in an attempt to make the movements match the new fabricated script.

If you're skeptical of a piece of footage, one tool that you can use to find out more about the video is a reverse image search engine. A reverse image search will (hopefully) either show you other places that have posted the video (look for trusted news sources that can provide additional context to the footage) or the original version of the video before it was altered. If your search comes up empty-handed, you can always drop a link to the suspected deepfake video to the Snopes tip line and they'll pick up the investigation. Some deep fake examples are shown below.





People can even make their own "sort of deep fakes" without AI by using Photoshop.



Snopes Fact Check (Published Jan. 30, 2026)

Springsteen's 'Streets of Minneapolis' was No. 1 on iTunes in at least 19 countries. Here's what that means. The charts rapidly change, but data aggregation sites showed "Streets of Minneapolis" was the most-downloaded song in countries across the world.

Bruce Springsteen - Streets Of Minneapolis (Official Audio)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWKSoxG1K7w>

Snopes also reviewed charts from Jan. 29 and Jan. 30 through several different charting aggregate sites, including Kwordb, Chartoo, iTunesCharts.net and iTopChart.com. Such aggregates collect their data directly from Apple using its online API.

We checked as many sites as possible in the hopes that some of them had captured data at different times, in case songs changed position in the rankings throughout the day. That

proved worthwhile, because some sites showed "Streets of Minneapolis" dropping to No. 2 in Australia sometime on Jan. 30, while Kworb's data also noted that the song had hit No. 1 in Czechia (Czech Republic) and Greece.

In sum, between Jan. 28, when Springsteen released the song, and the time of publication, "Streets of Minneapolis" was at some point the most-downloaded song on iTunes in at least 21 different countries.

Here is another report in our recent medical series. I've always wondered about whom my doctor sees if they feel well. I've heard about "professional courtesy" but didn't know there were formal studies done about the subject. Here are the summary results of some of those studies.

Doctors Seeing Doctors

(This is not a dating app, but could it be?)

When doctors become patients, the dynamic of the medical encounter changes significantly. Research and professional guidelines highlight several unique aspects of "doctors seeing doctors":

The Challenges of Being a "Doctor-Patient"

-The "Worst Patient" Stereotype: Doctors are often considered challenging patients because they may attempt to self-diagnose, minimize their own symptoms to avoid missing work, or bypass standard procedures to conserve medical resources.

-Standard of Care Risks: When a physician treats a peer, they may inadvertently lower the standard of care by assuming the doctor-patient already knows certain information. This can lead to missed diagnoses or incomplete treatment plans.

-Professional Courtesy: Treating physicians often grant peers special privileges, such as spending more time during visits, sharing personal contact info, or waiving/discounting fees.

Communication Dynamics

-Efficient History: Physician-patients can often present their medical history and relevant data in a very condensed, professional manner (e.g., "30 seconds flat"), allowing for faster management planning.

-Interpersonal Tension: Some doctors find it "weird" to see colleagues as patients, especially after physical examinations, which can create a social awkwardness when they return to being coworkers.

-Stepping Back: Many doctors choose not to intervene or reveal their profession when seeking care for family members (e.g., in the ER) to avoid making the treating physician feel pressured or second-guessed.

Professional Consultations

-Collaboration: Doctors frequently "see" each other for professional reasons. The American Medical Association (AMA) encourages physicians to consult with or refer to other professionals to promote the patient's best interests.

-Shared History Benefits: Research from Harvard Medical School shows that patients often receive better care—characterized by clearer explanations and greater engagement

—when their specialist and primary care doctor have a pre-existing professional relationship.

The 26 for 26 Program Continues!

My sincere thanks to those of you who have already donated to The Lake Berryessa News this year. Due to your support, the Lake Berryessa News has been able to continue publishing. Our social media presence and our email newsletters such as this one will provide the news you want, need, and more...

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928340101#>

If you know anyone who would like to receive our email newsletter, please ask them to send their email address to pkilkus@gmail.com. Remember, without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa news. I challenge you to find any reporting like the stories you see on our social media sites and in our email newsletters.

If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa community as it is revitalized, please send a donation check of \$26 (or more if you feel so inclined) made out to Peter Kilkus (not the Lake Berryessa News) and mail it to Peter Kilkus, 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558. You can also stick crinkly old bills in an envelope with your contact information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo (@Peter-Kilkus) or Paypal (Peter Kilkus) if you wish. (Note: Your donation is NOT tax deductible)

Your decision to support the Lake Berryessa News will show your vote of confidence in the future of the Lake Berryessa community. Hopefully, 2026 will be a positive year in the revitalization process for the lake. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks, Peter

An Insight into Local Berryessa Highlands Road Issues

Those of us who live in the Highlands regularly notice water coming up through the asphalt. This means that our old friends, the Pridmores, will soon be on the scene to repair the decades old underground water pipes.

[Napa County Board of Supervisors Agenda for Tuesday, February 10, 2026](#)

Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID - Berryessa Highlands)

Approve and authorize Agreement Nos. 260289B, 260290B and 260291B (NBRID) with Pridmore Brothers Construction, Inc. for a total of \$91,911 for urgent repairs made to water and sewer utilities. (Fiscal Impact: \$91,911 Expense; Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Fund; Budgeted; Discretionary)

High turbidities and amorphous debris from plant fragments in Lake Berryessa can be a perennial winter problem for the Roberts Pacer II contact clarifier / deep bed media filtration units. Pre-settling tanks are needed to agglomerate coagulated particles and settle solids within the tanks upstream of the Roberts Pacer II treatment units. Without the pretreatment tanks online the District could face Division of Drinking Water Operating Permit violations exceeding the turbidity standard.

Commissioning the pre-settling tanks to enhance water treatment performance prior to forecasted atmospheric river storms in December 2025 was paramount for regulatory compliance purposes and maintaining safe drinking water.

Between September 22, 2025, and October 6, 2025, the District's water and sewer system operators discovered two points of damage to a sewer service lateral on Woodhaven Court (10/02/2025) and one water service line/main leak on Poppy Lane (10/02/2025) and two on Rimrock Drive (9/22/2025) that needed repair.

Contractor provided the labor, materials, tools, equipment, trucks and other appurtenances to modify two pre-treatment settling tanks at the water treatment plant. Contractor provided the labor, materials, tools, equipment, trucks and other appurtenances to repair sewer lateral damage on Woodhaven Ct (10/1 and 10/2/2025), two water service line leaks on Rimrock Drive (9/22/2025) and one water service line leak on Poppy Ct (10/2/2025).

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Enjoy the welcoming front porch and both front and back yards, ideal for relaxing, gardening, or entertaining.

Located in Capell Valley Mobile Home Estates, a family park with no age restrictions, this home blends space, setting, and lifestyle in a sought-after Lake Berryessa area.



This 1991 Baywood manufactured home offers 1,448 sq. ft. of comfortable space with 2 bedrooms + den and 2 full baths perfect for flexible living, a home office, or guests. A newer roof and water filtration system add peace of mind and everyday comfort.

www.homes.com/property/6004-monticello-rd-napa-ca-unit-41/d8m93n0f9r7h3/

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Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands!
Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!
Just minutes to the lake's best recreation, this home offers
the perfect balance of character, functionality, and relaxed lake living.



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A gift from The Lake Berryessa News to my readers - Free Chapters from my books:

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource

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[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Much Water Does Lake Berryessa Hold?](#)

[Mean Sea Level: Is There Such A Thing As Accurate Height?](#)

[Water In, Water Out, But From Where?](#)

[Does the WALROS Like Lake Berryessa?](#)

[Why is Lake Berryessa Not a Part of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument?](#)

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[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

[Are There Quail on Quail Ridge?](#)

[Why Does A Hiker Cross The Road? To Get To Stebbins Cold Canyon!](#)

[Private Houseboats - Yes; Private RVs & Trailers - No: Why?](#)

[Motorized Boats Banned From Big Island Lagoon! Why!](#)

[Archeologists Can't Dunk But Can Dig](#)

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[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

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[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

[Glory Hole: Awesome, Frightening, But Dangerous?](#)

[Policy And Politics Betray The People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020,](#)

[I. The Five Tragedies Of The Berryessa Valley: A History Of Heartbreak](#)

[II. Lake Berryessa Political History Timeline](#)

[III. The "Big Lie": How It All Began](#)

[IV. The "Big Fail": Napa Abandons Lake Berryessa \(1975\)](#)

[V. The "Big Picture": Lake Berryessa Issues: 1957 - 2012](#)

[VI. The "Big Illusion": Notice Of Intent](#)

[VII. The "Big Fight": Facts Do Matter](#)

[VIII. The "Big Betrayal": Perversion Of Public Law 96-375](#)

[IX. The "Big Mistake": Pensus - The Beginning Was The End!](#)

[X. The "Big Hole In History": Post-Pensus Blues](#)

[XI. The "Big Boondoggle": Creation Of A Phony National Monument](#)

[Addendum 1. Dueling Napa Register Letters To The Editor](#)

[Addendum 2. The Napa Register View](#)

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Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Kilkus

When does history actually become HISTORY? The Jet Skis Rock story is really HISTORY. See Jet Skis Rock on my YouTube page "Jet Skis Rock" (@jetskisrock).

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/0--The-Jet-Skis-Rock-Story-Final-121125.pdf>

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Bt3jedg7wO7FVqZnOyzZE2x3Tb1cgLP>

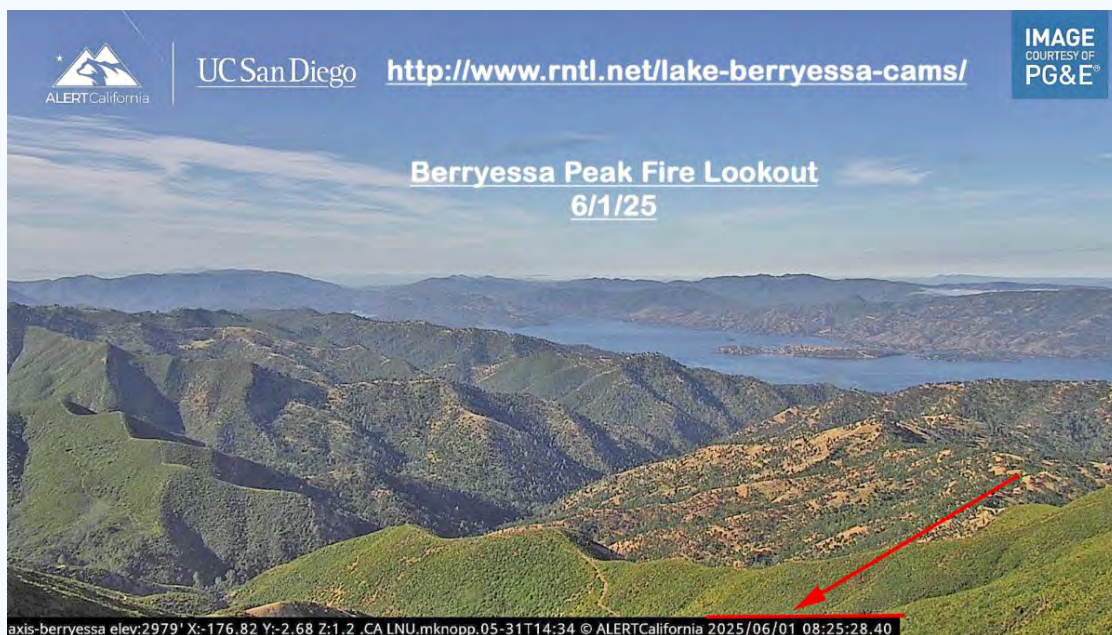
Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLtRl_fzc

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>





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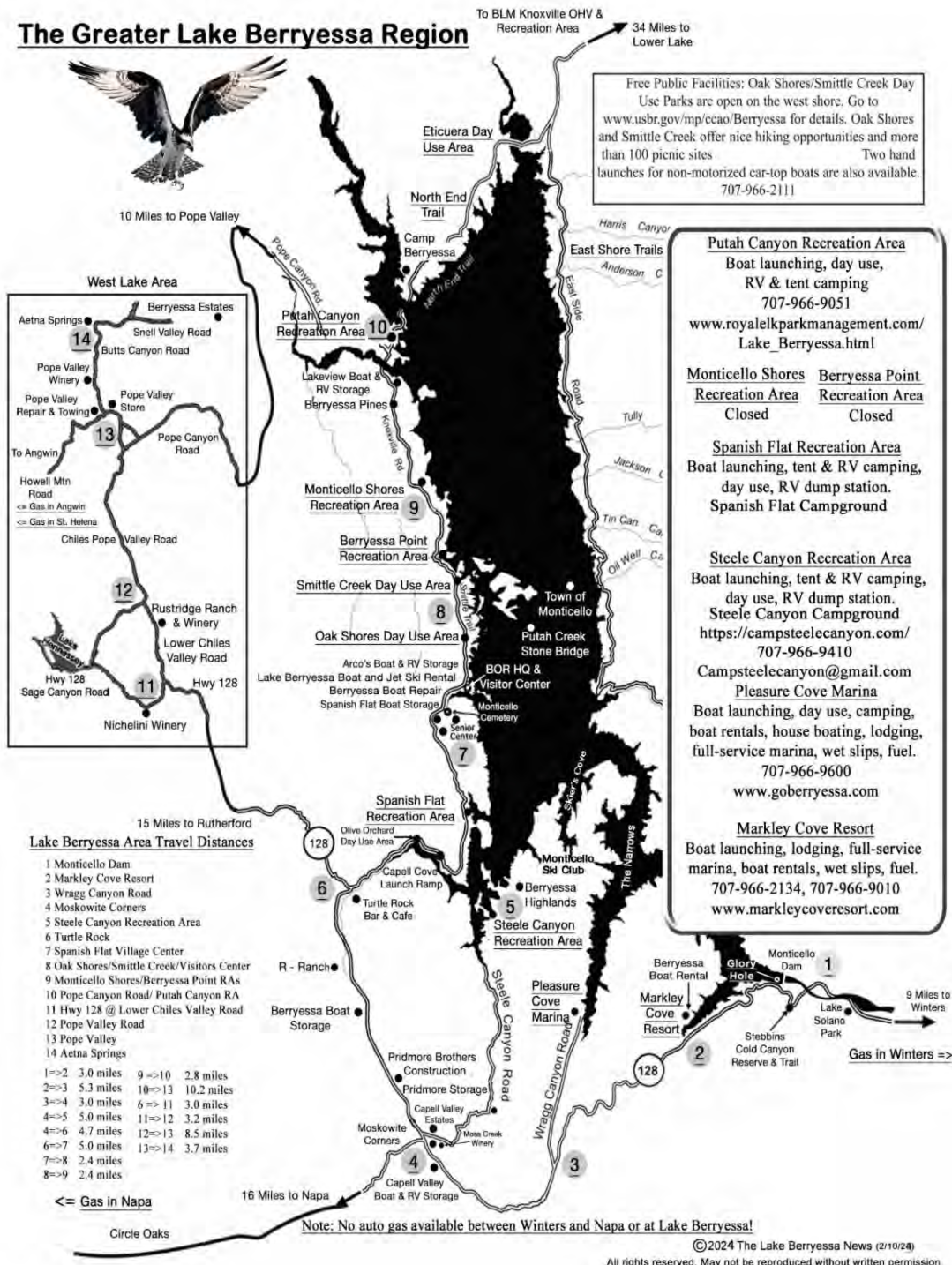
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News

February 15, 2026

The long spell of nice weather has ended. It's getting a bit late in the season for an exciting end to Glory Hole Watch 2026, but this may be the week it gets close! The skies are gray at Lake Berryessa now, with slight sprinkles starting. Stay tuned to The Lake Berryessa News website (www.LakeBerryessaNews.com) and The Lake Berryessa News Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928340101#>) for regular updates.

Although Happy Valentine's Day was yesterday the humor goes on forever.



Lake Berryessa Statistics (2/15/26)

The lake level has been essentially stable for the last 5 days at 436.9 feet, 3.1 feet (37 inches) below Glory Hole. The predicted rainfall for the next few days will definitely raise the level. The rise should be about 7 inches per inch of rain. Rainfall needed to overflow Glory Hole is approximately $37/7 = 5.3$ inches.

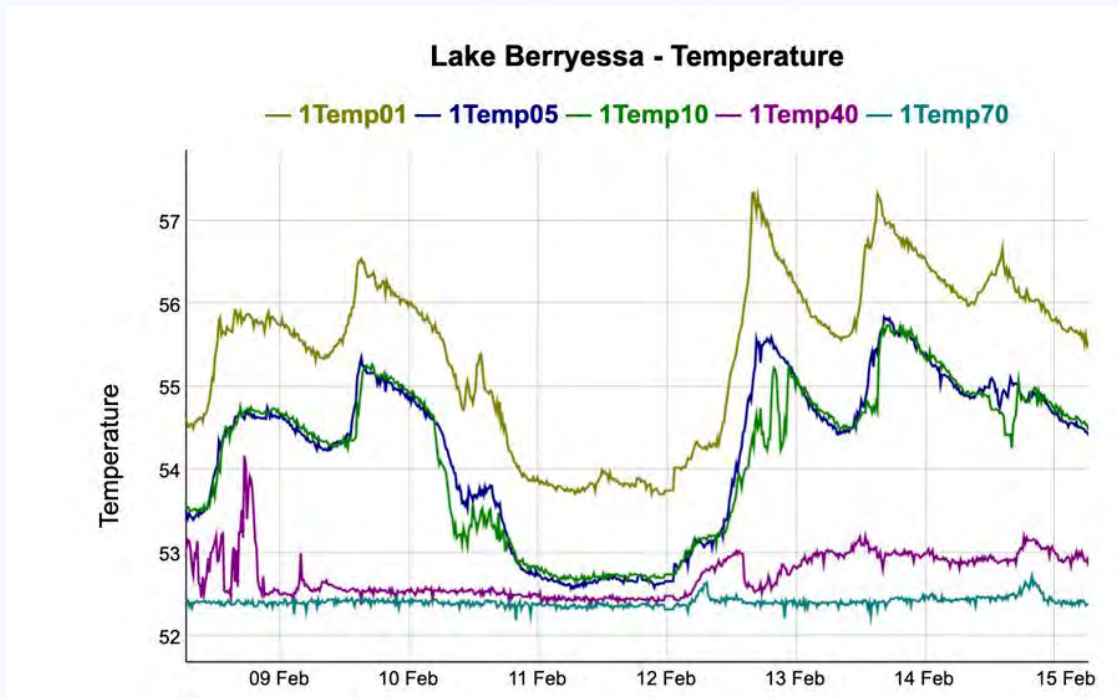
Rainfall at Monticello Dam has risen to 18.16 inches on some light rain: 0.67" on 2/11/26 and 0.38" on 2/12/26.

The lake output is 125 cfs (cubic feet per second) - 248 Acre-Feet per day or 807,896 gal/day.

When full (Glory Hole level) the lake contains 1,551,292 Acre-Feet of water.

Lake capacity is now at 1,494,560 Acre-Feet or 96.3%.

Water temperatures fluctuate with the sunny days and cold nights with a variation from 57 degrees to 52.5 degrees.



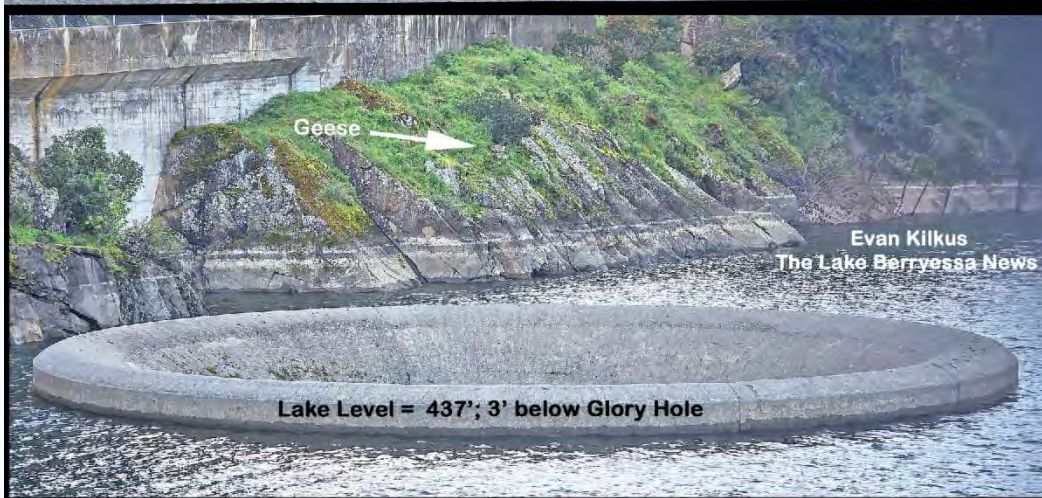
Putah Creek Inflow Measurement Station





Lake Level = 437'; 3' below Glory Hole

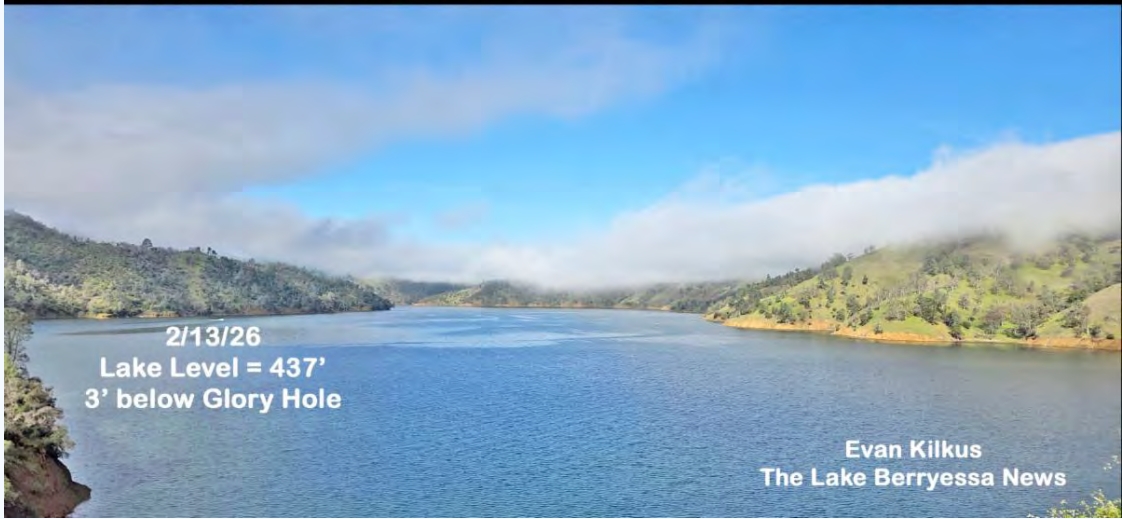
**Evan Kilkus
The Lake Berryessa News**



**Evan Kilkus
The Lake Berryessa News**



**Evan Kilkus
The Lake Berryessa News**







Lake Berryessa Visitor History - Who Went Where When?
(Peter Kilkus, 2/15/26)

Although the total number of visitors to Lake Berryessa in many past years are available from Bureau of Reclamation traffic studies, I am not aware of any available reports that provide the number of actual visitors at any given resort. Here's what we know about the past visitor numbers from available public documentation. The disastrous drop caused by the destructive BOR Visitor Service Plan imposed on the Lake Berryessa community twenty-six years go in 2000 is clear. As a reality check, if you were around in 1975, we'd be talking about something that happened in 1950!

Looking back at this historical disaster perpetrated by the BOR always reminds me of the Steve Miller Band 1976 song, "Fly Like an Eagle".

Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future.

2005 Future Recreation Use and Operations at Lake Berryessa
Final Environmental Impact Statement
Solano Project, Napa, California, Mid-Pacific Region (October 2005)

Current and Predicted Visitation Numbers

As Table V-1 and Figure 9 illustrate, visitation at Lake Berryessa does not climb steadily, but instead goes through a cyclical pattern of rising and falling visitation numbers. Since Reclamation began keeping visitation statistics in 1981, the greatest increase in the number of visitors over the period of a year occurred in 1982. Visitation climbed by 634,850 persons, an increase of nearly 40% over the 1981 baseline total. The trend did not continue, however, but declined over the next two years. By 1984, visitation had dropped back to the 1981 level. The next three years saw a steep and steady increase, peaking in 1987 with a total 1,852,584 visitors.

Visitation began declining again in 1988, and finally bottomed out in 1994 with 1,231,162 visitors. That year was the final season of a lengthy drought, which left the lake at the 63 feet below crest on Labor Day weekend. Low lake levels combined with an economic recession at that time may have discouraged visitation. Visitor numbers rose steeply again in 1995, presumably corresponding with increased lake levels and an improved economy, and reached an all-time high in 1996 when 1,854,996 persons visited the reservoir. Between 1997 and 2001, visitation numbers continued to fluctuate, with the greatest percent change occurring in 1999, which had a 34 % drop in visitation.

While numbers steadily increased the following two years, 2002 saw the greatest decline in visitation ever recorded in a single year at Lake Berryessa, as the total plunged to 1,079,466, a drop of more than 56% from the previous year. Severe drought conditions throughout the West, a sagging national economy, and preoccupation with the possibilities of war and terrorist strikes against the U.S. crippled recreation and hospitality providers nationwide. Those factors probably were responsible for the dramatic decline of visitation numbers at Lake Berryessa.

Editor's Note: This last paragraph is patently untrue since it was written in 2005 in an official BOR document that was attempting to justify the 2000 Visitor Service Plan. By the date of this report, the mandate from the BOR to demolish the resorts had become clear and was already driving down the visitor numbers. With the demolition of all the resorts by 2009 the visitation had dropped to less than 400,000.

Table V-1. Visitation and Lake-Level Trends at Lake Berryessa

Year	Total number of Visitors	Change from Previous Year	Percent Change from Previous Year
1981	1,040,506	No data	No data
1982	1,675,356	+634,850	+61%
1983	1,345,415	-329,941	-20%
1984	1,046,283	-299,132	-22%
1985	1,318,357	+272,074	+26%
1986	1,597,846	+279,489	+21%
1987	1,852,584	+254,738	+16%
1988	1,577,701	-274,884	-15%
1989	1,614,609	+36,908	+22%
1990	1,426,557	-188,052	-12%
1991	1,495,013	+ 68,456	+5%
1992	1,505,284	+ 10,271	+1%
1993	1,330,911	-174,373	-12%
1994	1,231,162	-99,749	-7%
1995	1,704,581	+473,419	+38%
1996	1,854,996	+150,415	+9%
1997	1,788,731	-66,265	-4%
1998	1,818,207	+29,476	+2%
1999	1,354,567	-463,640	-25%
2000	1,445,987	+91,420	+7%
2001	1,685,362	+239,375	+17%
2002 ⁺	1,079,466	-605,896	-36%

Total number of visitors over 22 years: 32,789,481

Average (mean) number of visitors per year: 1,490,431

** The number of visitors is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles tallied by automatic traffic counters by the average number of persons (2.96) per vehicle.*

The BOR only required the resort operators to report annual gross revenues for the calculation of the resort concession fee to be paid to the BOR. The resort operators thus had an incentive to keep those gross revenues as low as possible. Therefore, the reporting accuracy was generally questionable, especially since these businesses had a large cash input. Also, the BOR had only a minor financial audit process. The last reported financial data from the BOR is given below for Steel Park, Spanish Flat and Rancho Monticello.

One way to estimate "customers at the gate" would be to compare revenue items such as gate revenue divided by gate entry fees and launch fees - a relatively speculative approach. A large percentage of the resort revenue was from mobile home leasing charges. I developed the following tables during our decades-long opposition the BOR's misguided Visitor Services Plan (VSP). The column titled "Appraised Value" was very controversial since the resort owners thought they would be paid fair market value for their property and did their own appraisal which was much higher than that of the BOR and included things like the original earth moving costs.

Sadly, this turned out to be a moot point since the BOR, at the request of David Finch, president of Pensus, simply declared all the property as worthless and asked the BOR to require the resort operators to remove their "valueless" property which would require them to demolish almost everything that could not actually be moved. I documented this tragedy in my book in Chapter VIII. The "Big Betrayal": Perversion of Public Law 96-375.

<u>Lake Berryessa Resort Financials, 2004: Reported by the BOR</u>		
Resort	Gross Revenue	Franchise Fee to BOR
Lake 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	\$2,434,756
Q2	\$3,818,292
Q3	\$4,434,818
Q4	\$1,907,393
Grand Total	\$12,595,260

<u>Lake Berryessa Resort Revenues (2009)</u> (These were the latest figures prior to the demolition of all resorts.)				
Resort	Annual Revenue	Appraised Value	Mobiles Revenue	Mobiles %
Berryessa Marina	\$1.61M	\$3.3M	\$0.76M	47%
Putah Creek	\$1.03M	\$4.15M	\$0.38M	37%
Rancho Monticello	\$3.32M	\$11.22M	\$2.1M	63%
Spanish Flat	\$2.09M	\$4.06M	\$0.78M	37%
Steele Park	\$2.62M	\$9.59M	\$0.66M	25%
Markley Cove	\$1.09M	\$6.48M	0	
Pleasure Cove	\$0.85M	\$1.07M	0	
Total	\$12.61M	\$39.87	\$4.68M	37%

As we age we usually become more philosophical. Many of the great physicists (Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrödinger, Werner Heisenberg, Richard Feynman) who developed the basics of quantum mechanics, wrote books of their personal philosophies in their later years. I found this exchange in a very good book I'm reading.

"Tempus edax rerum: time, devourer of all things. Time is our deadliest enemy. But also our fast friend.

The past is immutable and the future unknown. This moment - now - is the only reality. It is our challenge to accept the rule of time - which is to say that we accept the past for what it is, and cease worrying about the future and what it might bring.

"You mean, enjoy the present."

"Not 'enjoy.' Live. There lies the difference."

This brought back memories of my high school Latin courses. Of course, so does every Super Bowl!

Super Bowl LX in 2026, represented the 60th championship using Roman numerals to denote the game's grandeur and avoid confusion with the calendar year. Introduced with Super Bowl V (5), these numerals are standard, with a notable exception for Super Bowl 50 (instead of L). The system is credited to Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt to add prestige and clarity to the championship game's numbering.

Key Roman Numeral Breakdown

I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100

Subtractive Notation: Smaller symbols before larger ones are subtracted (e.g., IV = 4, IX = 9, XL = 40, XC = 90).

Example: LVIII = 50 + 5 + 3 = 58.

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www.homes.com/property/6004-monticello-rd-napa-ca-unit-41/d8m93n0f9r7h3/

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www.amberpayne.net

A gift from The Lake Berryessa News to my readers - Free Chapters from my books:

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Much Water Does Lake Berryessa Hold?](#)

[Mean Sea Level: Is There Such A Thing As Accurate Height?](#)

[Water In, Water Out, But From Where?](#)

[Does the WALROS Like Lake Berryessa?](#)

[Why is Lake Berryessa Not a Part of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument?](#)

[East Side Story](#)

[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

[Are There Quail on Quail Ridge?](#)

[Why Does A Hiker Cross The Road? To Get To Stebbins Cold Canyon!](#)

[Private Houseboats - Yes; Private RVs & Trailers - No: Why?](#)

[Motorized Boats Banned From Big Island Lagoon! Why!](#)

[Archeologists Can't Dunk But Can Dig](#)

[What Can't You Do At Lake Berryessa?](#)

[Napa Opposes Building the Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

[Predicting the Future & Glory Hole Drone Videos](#)

[As Lake Berryessa Turns!](#)

[The Ins and Outs & Ups and Downs of Lake Berryessa](#)

[Does Lake Berryessa Sweat in the Summer?](#)

[Glory Hole Introduction](#)

[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

[Glory Hole: Awesome, Frightening, But Dangerous?](#)

[Policy And Politics Betray The People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020,](#)

[I. The Five Tragedies Of The Berryessa Valley: A History Of Heartbreak](#)

[II. Lake Berryessa Political History Timeline](#)

[III. The "Big Lie": How It All Began](#)

[IV. The "Big Fail": Napa Abandons Lake Berryessa \(1975\)](#)

[V. The "Big Picture": Lake Berryessa Issues: 1957 - 2012](#)

[VI. The "Big Illusion": Notice Of Intent](#)

[VII. The "Big Fight": Facts Do Matter](#)

[VIII. The "Big Betrayal": Perversion Of Public Law 96-375](#)

[IX. The "Big Mistake": Pensus - The Beginning Was The End!](#)

[X. The "Big Hole In History": Post-Pensus Blues](#)

[XI. The "Big Boondoggle": Creation Of A Phony National Monument](#)

[Addendum 1. Dueling Napa Register Letters To The Editor](#)

[Addendum 2. The Napa Register View](#)

[Index Of Primary Documents](#)

Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Killus

When does history actually become HISTORY? The Jet Skis Rock story is really HISTORY. See Jet Skis Rock on my YouTube page "Jet Skis Rock" (@jetskisrock).

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/0--The-Jet-Skis-Rock-Story-Final-121125.pdf>

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Bt3jedg7wO7FVqZnOyzZE2x3Tb1cgLP>

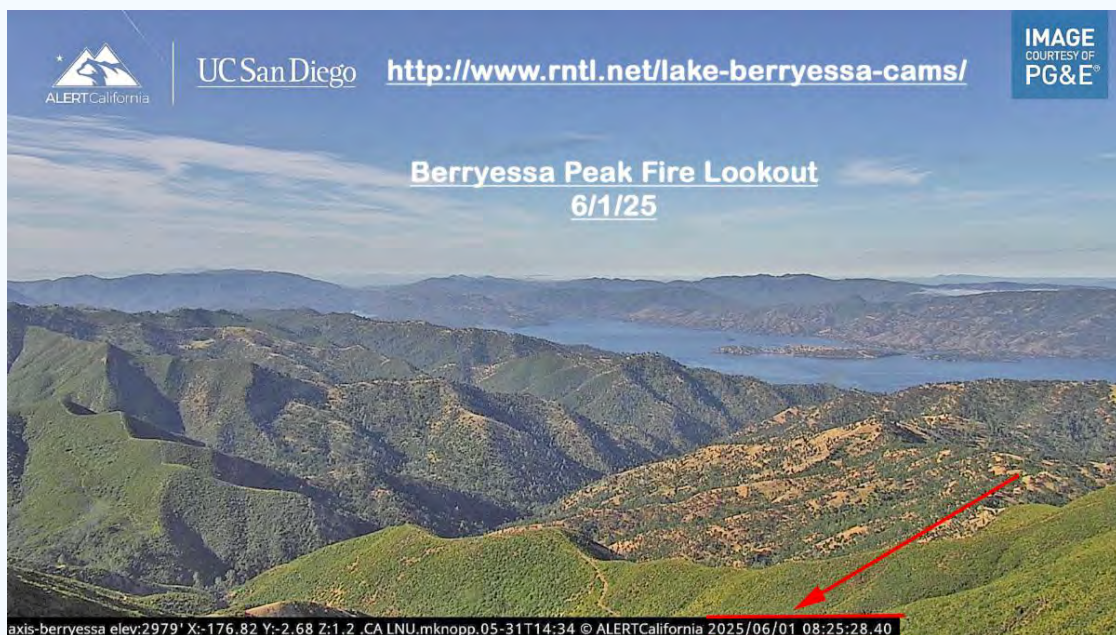
Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

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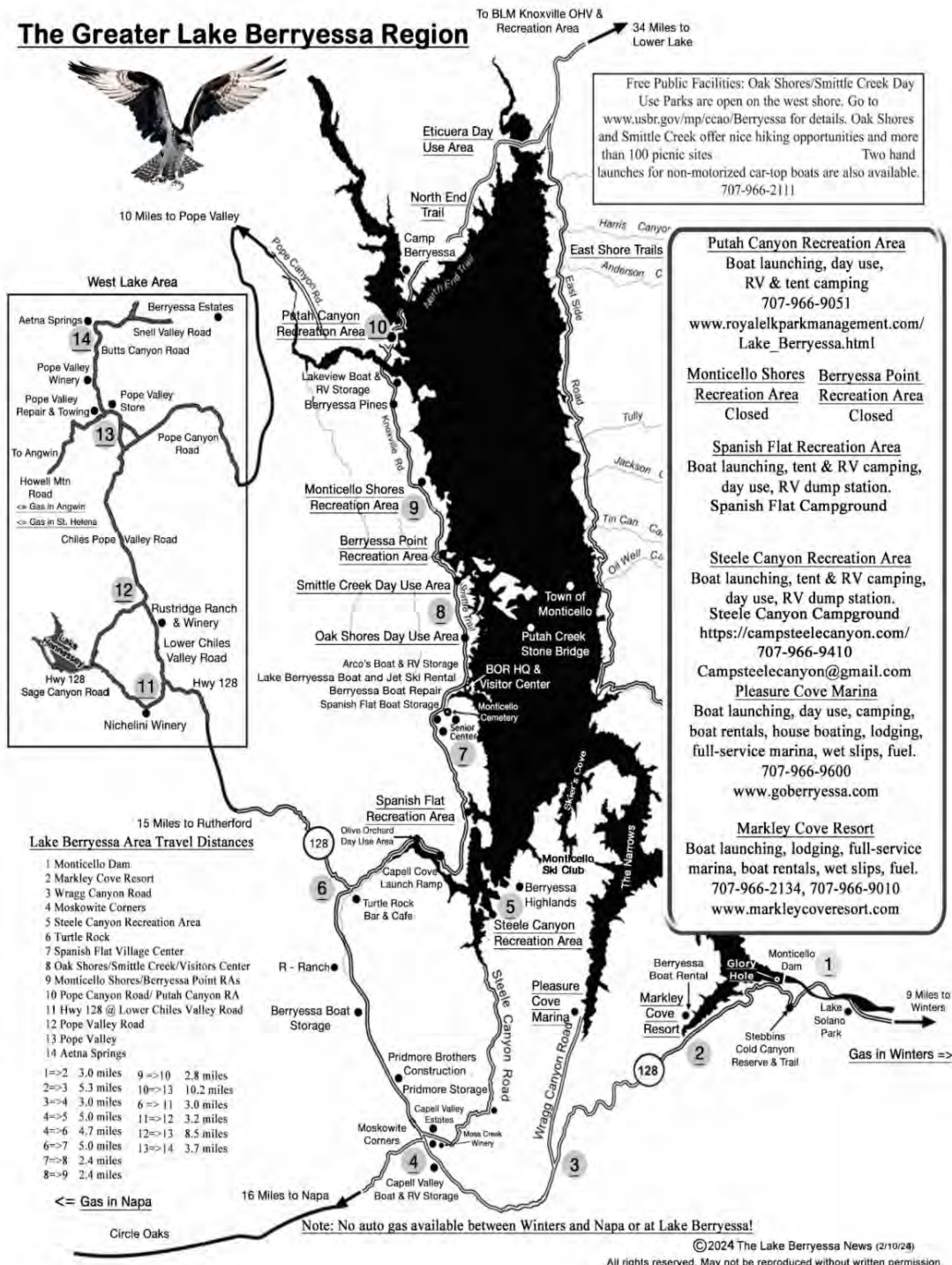
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Lake Berryessa News

2/22/26

Sunday Philosophy Notes

Dialogue between friends from a recent book:

"Tempus edax rerum: time, devourer of all things.

Time is our deadliest enemy. But also our fast friend."

"The past is immutable and the future unknown. This moment - now - is the only reality. It is our challenge to accept the rule of time - which is to say that we accept the past for what it is, and cease worrying about the future and what it might bring."

"You mean, enjoy the present."

"Not 'enjoy' - 'Live'. There lies the difference."

"Live, Laugh, Love" is a popular, alliterative phrase used as a motto for a positive, fulfilling life, urging people to embrace the present, find joy, and cherish relationships. Originating from a 1904 poem "Success" by Bessie Anderson Stanley, it became a major home decor trend in the late 2000s and early 2010s.

BESSIE ANDERSON STANLEY

Success

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often,
and loved much;

who has enjoyed the trust of pure women,

the respect of intelligent men and the love of little
children;

who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;

who has left the world better than he found it
whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a
rescued soul;

who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty
or failed to express it;

who has always looked for the best in others and given
them the best he had;

whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a
benediction. ”

Lake Berryessa Statistics (2/22/26)

Lake Berryessa has risen to 438.4 feet, 1.6 feet below Glory Hole, on 2.75 inches at Monticello Dam during the last 7 days. Rainfall at Monticello Dam reached 20.91 inches for the rain year. Future rain forecasts do not look promising for a Glory Hole overflow this year, although a few of the last 20 years have had significant rainfall after February. At this level, we need at least 3 more inches to top Glory Hole.

The lake rose 1.4 feet (16.8 inches) on those 2.75 inches of rain or 6.1 inches per inch of rain.

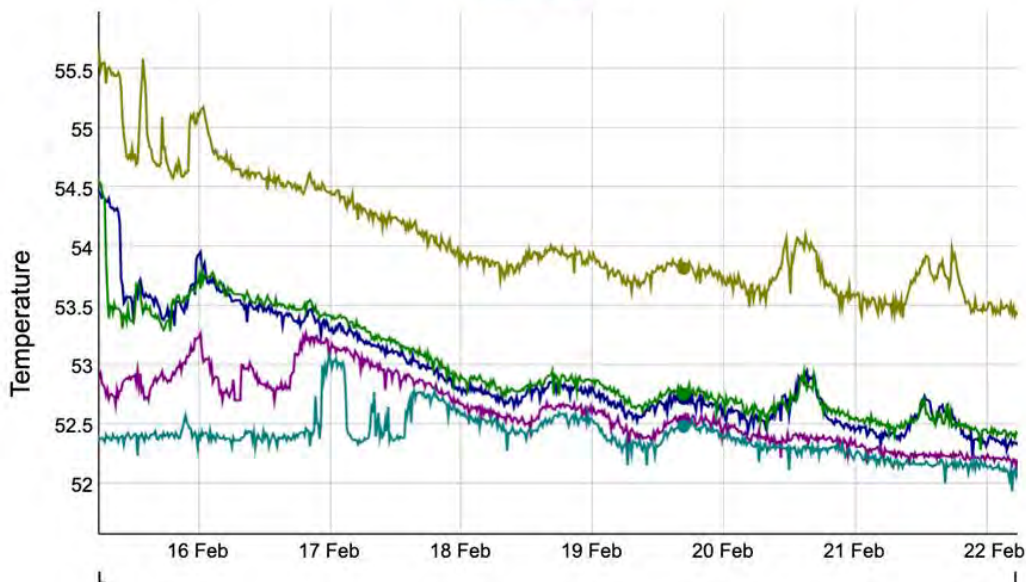
The lake output was steady at 90 cfs, 178 A-F per day. When full (Glory Hole level) the lake contains 1,551,292 Acre-Feet of water.

Lake capacity is now at 1,519,339 Acre-Feet or 997.9%.

Water temperatures are dropping. It's interesting to see how the upper level temperature varies with the sunny warm days, but the temperature below 5 feet remains constant at 52.5 degrees.

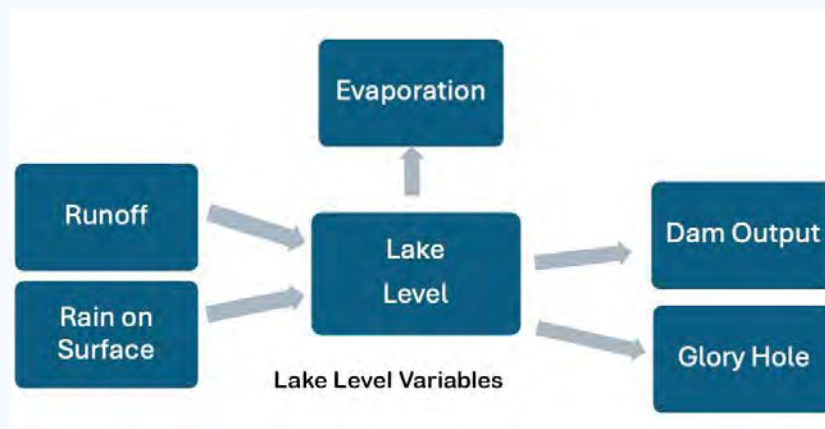
Lake Berryessa - Temperature

2026/02/19 16:45: 1Temp01: 53.8 1Temp05: 52.7 1Temp10: 52.8 1Temp40: 52.5
1Temp70: 52.5



Messing with Math - Lake Berryessa Version

For those of you who enjoy playing with numbers, you can check my math. There are so many variables involved here, with some accurate data such as lake level and evaporation combined with a few imprecise assumptions such as runoff volumes.



Lake Berryessa water input calculation methodology, 2/21/26

If one inch of rain falls on the surface of Lake Berryessa itself, clearly the lake level would rise one inch (not counting the runoff inflow minus the dam outflow). Since the lake surface at this lake level is approximately 20,700 acres, the one inch of rain produces 20,700 A-I (acre-inches) or $20,700 \text{ A-F} / 12 = 1,725 \text{ A-F}$ of volume, not including run-off from the surrounding water shed nor the output at Monticello Dam.

The dam output has been running at 90 CFS (cubic feet per second) or 178 A-F /day for the last seven days. The input as measured at the main Guenoc measuring station shows an approximate median flow of 501 cfs or 993 A-F/day. This station is used by the Solano

County Water Agency (SCWA) as an inflow indicator which they multiply by 2 to account for all the other runoff from the watershed for an estimate of $993 \times 2 = 1,986$ A-F/day.

Rainfall over the lake surface itself has been approximately 2.75 inches (.229 feet) in the last 7 days.

$.229 \text{ feet} \times 20,700 \text{ acres} = 4,744 \text{ A-F of surface rain.}$

The output of the dam for the last 7 days of has remained at 90 cfs (178 af/day) or $178 \times 7 = 1,246 \text{ A-F.}$

The median Guenoc monitoring station input for the last 7 days has been 501 cfs or 993 A-D/day. So the total Guenoc input has been $993 \times 7 = 6,951 \text{ A-F} \times 2$ (SCWA conservative adjustment) = 13,902.

Grand total input = $4,744 + 13,902 = 18,646 \text{ A-F.}$

Predicted lake rise (2.0 - Guenoc conservative SCWA adjustment) = $18,646 \text{ A-F} / 20,700 \text{ Acres} = .90 \text{ feet} = \underline{11 \text{ inches.}}$

Predicted lake rise (2.7 - Guenoc higher SCWA adjustment) = $23,512 \text{ A-F} / 20,700 \text{ Acres} = 1.14 \text{ feet} = \underline{13.6 \text{ inches.}}$

Actual measured 7 day rise at Monticello Dam was 1.4 feet = 16.8 inches.

Variables

Rainfall over the lake surface is variable.

Runoff over the watershed is variable.

Evaporation is a variable.

The SCWA input adjustment is an estimate.

Glory Hole output (when flowing) is a variable.

From Jay Cuetara, Solano County Water Agency, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

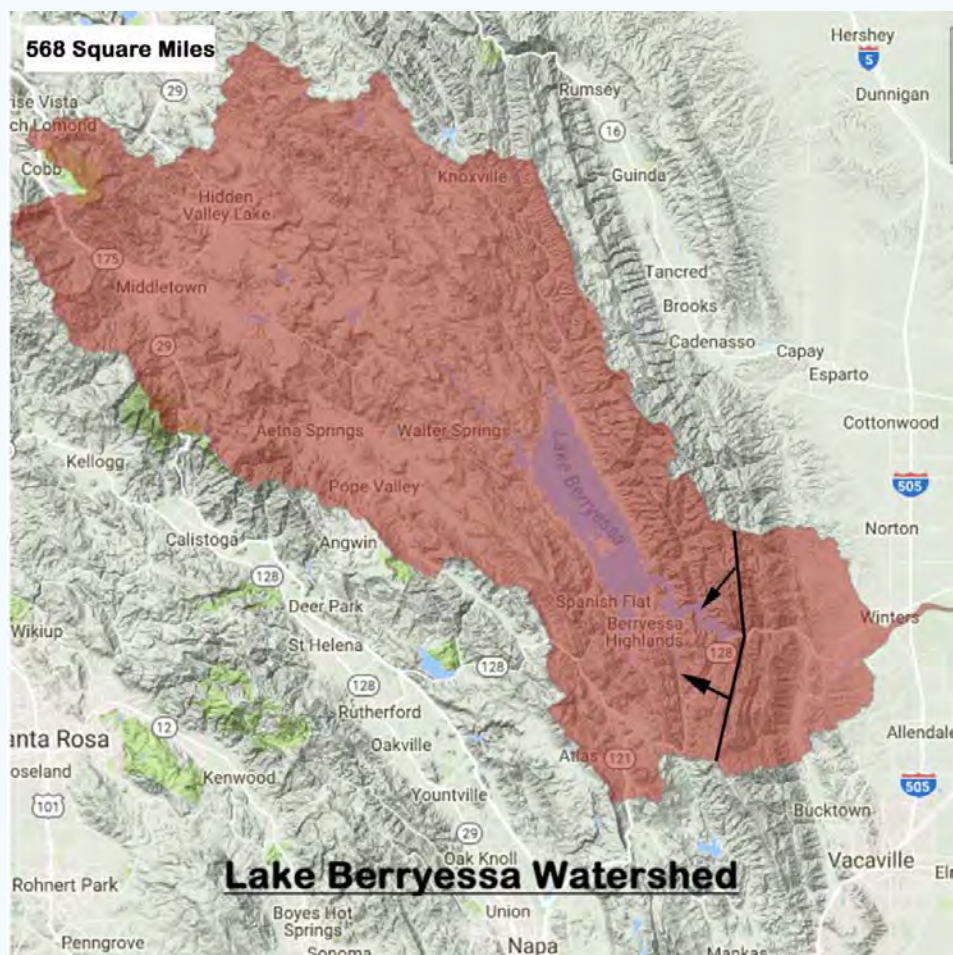
Upper Putah Creek inflow to Lake Berryessa at Guenoc north end of the Lake Berryessa watershed.

This site is a good one to visit for inflow to Lake Berryessa. The total inflow is closer to 2.7 times this flow (when considering the other tributaries), but the Solano County Water Agency use 2.0 as a conservative estimate. This information can be used to calculate the rate of lake level increase.

Monitoring Location: Upper Putah Creek Near Guenoc, CA.

[Guenoc Stream Flow Measuring Station](#)





Under the Hood: Napa County's Housing Problem Is Pay, Not Scarcity

By Tim Carl

NAPA VALLEY FEATURES

FEB 19, 2026

(The Lake Berryessa News Is A Paid Subscriber)

<https://NapaValleyFocus.Substack.Com/>

Napa County's housing challenge is a mismatch between what local jobs pay and what local housing costs, even when units are available. This report compares median household income (about \$109,000) with the income needed to buy the median-priced home (about \$937,500) under common affordability benchmarks and current mortgage rates, estimating roughly \$230,000 in gross income to qualify at today's rates. It notes that because nearby counties offer lower housing costs, adding supply alone can increase inventory without making homes affordable to many working households in Napa. It concludes that without growth in higher-paying industries and roles, the practical outcomes will remain longer commutes, higher turnover and demographic shifts.



STATEMENT OF VOTES CAST

**January 20, 2026 -
Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Election**

CANVASS AND STATEMENT OF VOTE

I hereby certify that on February 17, 2026, the official canvass was completed for the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Election held on January 20, 2026, in Napa County. The total number of votes cast in the respective precincts is attached and the totals as shown are true and correct.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my seal this 17th day of February, 2026.


John Tuteur - Registrar of Voter

Seal Affixed

Napa County Statement of Votes Cast
Napa Berryessa Resort improvement District
January 20, 2026

Measure A (Vote for 1)

Precinct	Registered Voters	Times Cast	Turnout	Total Votes	YES	NO
4011774	304	127	41.78%	127	91	36

Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Grants — Now Open

Napa County is now accepting applications for the **Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Grant Program**, offering funding for projects that improve **water quality, watershed health, and flood protection** throughout the Lake Berryessa watershed and tributaries.

Who Can Apply

Public agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, federally recognized Tribes, consultants, and contractors with projects that deliver measurable watershed benefits. Applications must be received by June 1, 2026.

Why Apply

- \$1,250,000 available
- No minimum grant amount (projects over \$5,000 preferred)
- Protect natural resources
- Strengthen watershed resilience

Learn more & apply: www.napawatersheds.org or
www.napacounty.gov/1190/Water-Resources
(707) 259-8602
mark.snyder@countyofnapa.org



Beautiful new video from Amber Payne

See Lake Berryessa from above in a new video focusing on Spanish Flat.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lXnrV8UHRU>



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Single-Level Living Just Minutes From Lake Berryessa!

6004 Monticello #41

\$99,950

Enjoy the welcoming front porch and both front and back yards, ideal for relaxing, gardening, or entertaining.

Located in Capell Valley Mobile Home Estates, a family park with no age restrictions, this home blends space, setting, and lifestyle in a sought-after Lake Berryessa area.



This 1991 Baywood manufactured home offers 1,448 sq. ft. of comfortable space with 2 bedrooms + den and 2 full baths perfect for flexible living, a home office, or guests. A newer roof and water filtration system add peace of mind and everyday comfort.

www.homes.com/property/6004-monticello-rd-napa-ca-unit-41/d8m93n0f9r7h3/

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
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Your A-Frame Retreat Awaits!

www.1017headlandsdr.com/

\$499,000

Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands! Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!

Just minutes to the lake's best recreation, this home offers the perfect balance of character, functionality, and relaxed lake living.



Set on a flat gated corner lot with a covered carport, covered patio with hot tub hookups, and plenty of yard space (complete with a whimsical wishing well!), this 3-bedroom, 2-bath home blends comfort, charm, and potential. Inside, vaulted ceilings and natural light create an open, airy feel, complemented by a cozy wood stove for those cool evenings.



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www.amberpayne.net

A gift from The Lake Berryessa News to my readers - Free Chapters from my books:

[Lake Berryessa Technical Manual](#)

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Much Water Does Lake Berryessa Hold?](#)

[Mean Sea Level: Is There Such A Thing As Accurate Height?](#)

[Water In, Water Out, But From Where?](#)

[Does the WALROS Like Lake Berryessa?](#)

[Why is Lake Berryessa Not a Part of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument?](#)

[East Side Story](#)

[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

[Are There Quail on Quail Ridge?](#)

[Why Does A Hiker Cross The Road? To Get To Stebbins Cold Canyon!](#)

[Private Houseboats - Yes; Private RVs & Trailers - No: Why?](#)

[Motorized Boats Banned From Big Island Lagoon! Why!](#)

[Archeologists Can't Dunk But Can Dig](#)

[What Can't You Do At Lake Berryessa?](#)

[Napa Opposes Building the Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

[Predicting the Future & Glory Hole Drone Videos](#)

[As Lake Berryessa Turns!](#)

[The Ins and Outs & Ups and Downs of Lake Berryessa](#)

[Does Lake Berryessa Sweat in the Summer?](#)

[Glory Hole Introduction](#)

[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

[Glory Hole: Awesome, Frightening, But Dangerous?](#)

Policy And Politics Betray The People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020,

[I. The Five Tragedies Of The Berryessa Valley: A History Of Heartbreak](#)

[II. Lake Berryessa Political History Timeline](#)

[III. The "Big Lie": How It All Began](#)

[IV. The "Big Fail": Napa Abandons Lake Berryessa \(1975\)](#)

[V. The "Big Picture": Lake Berryessa Issues: 1957 - 2012](#)

[VI. The "Big Illusion": Notice Of Intent](#)

[VII. The "Big Fight": Facts Do Matter](#)

[VIII. The "Big Betrayal": Perversion Of Public Law 96-375](#)

[IX. The "Big Mistake": Pensus - The Beginning Was The End!](#)

[X. The "Big Hole In History": Post-Pensus Blues](#)

[XI. The "Big Boondoggie": Creation Of A Phony National Monument](#)

[Addendum 1. Dueling Napa Register Letters To The Editor](#)

[Addendum 2. The Napa Register View](#)

[Index Of Primary Documents](#)

Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Kilkus

When does history actually become HISTORY? The Jet Skis Rock story is really HISTORY. See Jet Skis Rock on my YouTube page "Jet Skis Rock" (@jetskisrock).

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/0--The-Jet-Skis-Rock-Story-Final-121125.pdf>

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Bt3jedg7wO7FVqZnOyzZE2x3Tb1cgLP>

Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLtRI_fzc

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

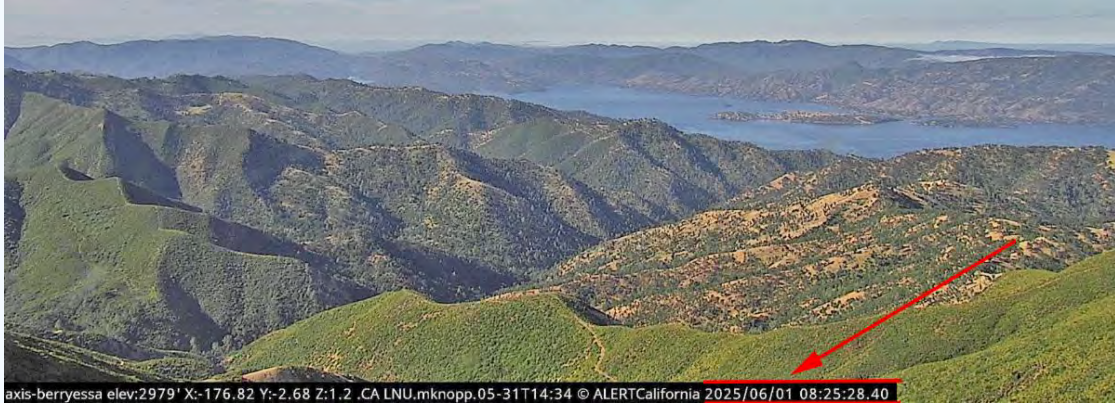


UC San Diego

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

IMAGE
COURTESY OF
PG&E®

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



axis-berryessa elev:2979' X:-176.82 Y:-2.68 Z:1.2 .CA LNU.mknopp.05-31T14:34 © ALERTCalifornia 2025/06/01 08:25:28.40



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

Take advantage of our low off-season rates through May 17th

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

We include the gas in all our rentals. Which will save you \$\$!

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
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Call or go online to book now



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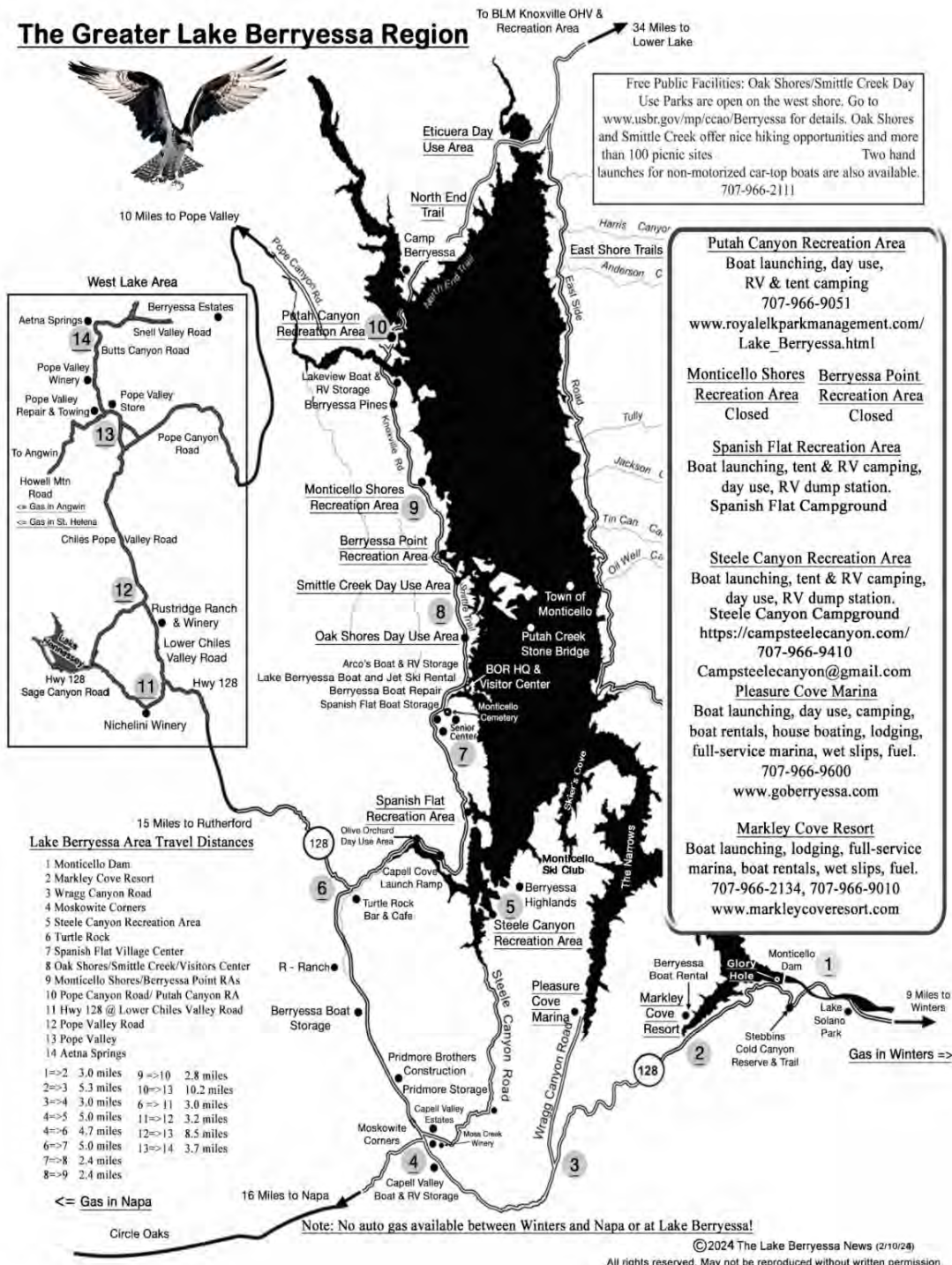


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707-480-3157

Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 |

pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>





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