
The Lake Berryessa News: January 2023

Happy New Year



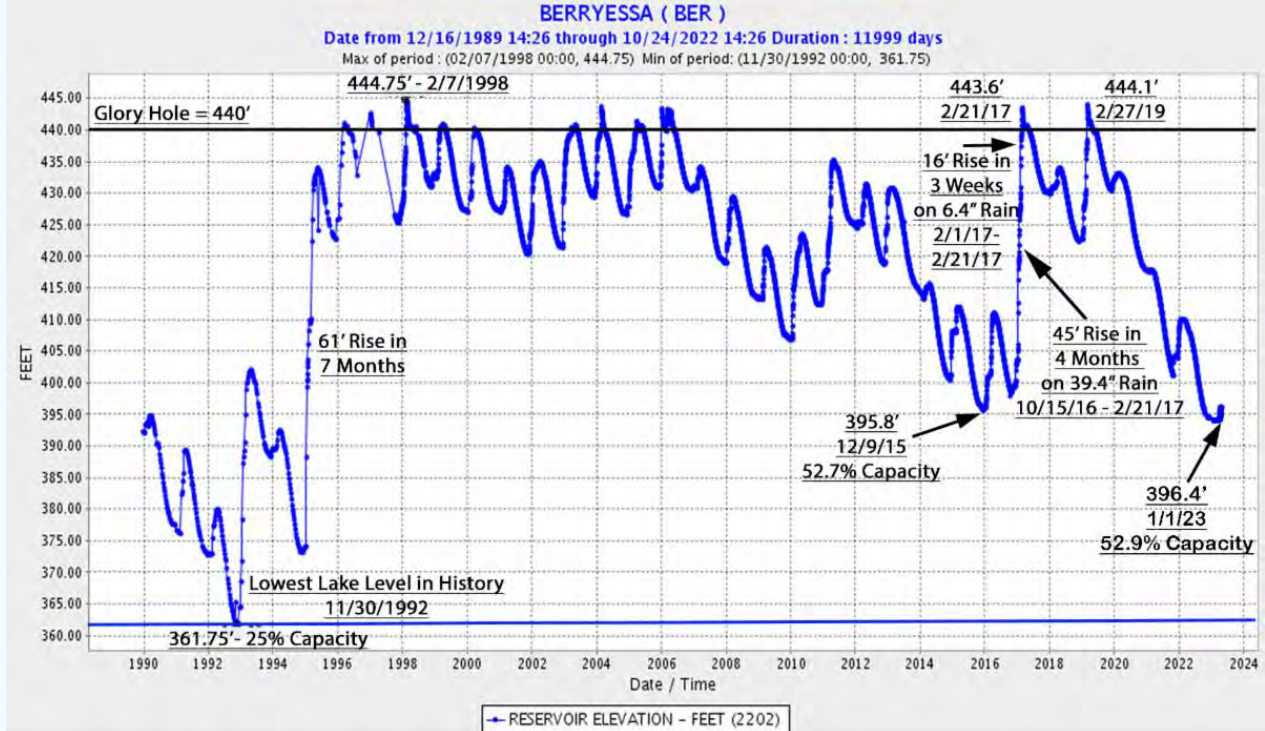
Lake Berryessa Statistics (1/1/23)

The lake has finally begun to rise, and runoff is filling the streams. It is now (Noon) at - 396.4 feet - 43.6 feet below Glory Hole. That's a 2.1 foot rise since its low of 394.3 feet on Christmas Eve. Rainfall so far is at 11.92 inches at Monticello Dam.

Last year at this time the lake level was at 409.2 feet - 30.8 feet below Glory Hole. Rainfall was at 15.4 inches but then stopped for many weeks so the lake never really rose much.

The Gamble Gage (lake capacity) has also started to rise again. It is now at 52.9% - up from its low point of 51.2%.

Lake water temperatures remain at 53.2 degrees at the surface and 52 degrees from 5 feet down to the bottom.



2023 is Here! and the 20 for 23 Program Continues

The Lake Berryessa News Still Needs Your Support in 2023!

Thanks to those of you who have already donated. We still need your support to continue our social media presence (www.LakeBerryessaNews.com, <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Berryessa-News-114810958535085/>) and publish the print version of the Lake Berryessa News this year.

Remember, without The Lake Berryessa News there is no Lake Berryessa news. I challenge you to find any. The Napa Register has had one or two stories during all of 2022, as did the Fairfield Daily Republic. Even the Winters Express, of all papers, doesn't cover any Lake Berryessa issues.

My regular email newsletter is read by about 500 people per issue. My Facebook page has 24,000 Likes. I distribute 1,000 copies of the print version on my 150 mile paper route every month from April to September. (Yes, many people do still read, and like, stories written on paper!)

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 \$20 (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 stick a crinkly old \$20 bill in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My account is under the name Peter Kilkus. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (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. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks,
Peter

Salmon Return to Lower Putah Creek

It has been a comeback year for salmon in Lower Putah Creek.

Max Stevenson, the streamkeeper for the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee and the Solano County Water Agency, estimates more than 500 fish are in the creek system. The boards at the Los Rios Check Dam were removed in late October, and the fish have been making their way into the creek ever since.

This after a year in which only four fish are known to have reached the spawning redds after an unusual series of circumstances led to dozens of salmon dying due to low levels of oxygen in the water. Heavy rains in late October 2021 dislodged loads of organic material and caused an overflow from the east levee to drain into the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

When the refuge then used that water to flood rice fields for waterfowl habitat, some of that water spilled into Putah Creek, resulting in low oxygen levels. Salmon are particularly susceptible to oxygen depletion, which is a reason why cooler water temperatures are best. The phenomenon had never been known to happen before.

This year, ironically, it is the drought that may have helped bring the fish back to Putah Creek. That's because, despite the lack of rainfall, the stability of Lake Berryessa has allowed for normal water flows in the creek, and that has given a place for the salmon to go. And the water temperature is very good.

Officials also put in about 80 tons of gravel to build and improve spawning areas. The fish have claimed the new territories and are using them for spawning. Up to 500 tons could be brought in to the creek next year. The fish are easily seen from the Winters park area, and specifically from the railroad and car bridges.

The past practice in the creek has been to simply dig up the redd areas, loosening the existing gravel and other materials in the stream so the fish do not have to work so hard to build the spawning nests. All the work is an effort to get the spawning numbers up to the record levels of more than 1,500 fish. Nearly 2,000 were counted in the fall of 2016.

Researchers are hoping they can show the salmon that have returned also started their lives in the creek, which in essence would mean Putah Creek would have its own race of salmon.

See original story at:

More than 500 salmon making way up Putah Creek by Todd R. Hansen

www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/solano-county/more-than-500-salmon-making-way-up-putah-creek/



Why Are There No Gas Stations at Lake Berryessa?

L.U.S.T. Is To Blame

No, not one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

According to Roman Catholic theology, the seven deadly sins are: greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth. But the L.U.S.T. that killed all the gas stations at the lake were the Leaking Underground Storage Tank.

Congress create the Superfund in 1980 aimed at paying for clean-up of contaminated toxic chemical sites, including LUST sites. Most of the Superfund activity occurred in the late 1980s and 1990s. The primary culprit for gas stations was obviously gasoline and its components, especially MTBE.

Since the dangers of leaded gasoline had become very clear and a replacement was needed. MTBE was that choice, although controversial at the time. MTBE had been used in U.S. gasoline at low levels since 1979 as an environmentally preferable additive to replace lead as an octane enhancer.

The cleaner-burning, pollution-fighting gasoline additive Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE) came under scrutiny as a result of gasoline leaking from underground gasoline containment systems. MTBE has not been used in significant quantities since 2005.

This is the period when Lake Berryessa lost all of its gas stations because it was too expensive for the owners to install the required double-walled leakproof gasoline storage tanks, especially when there was little profit in auto gas sales.

Almost every business and resort at that time had a gasoline station with underground tanks. The gas at the stores was a loss leader to attract customers. The boat gas at the resorts was high priced but a required service for boating customers. Many boaters simply filled up their tanks in surrounding cities before coming to the lake. Boats stored in the marinas or dry boat storage areas did not have that option.



After almost 14 years of remediation, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board confirmed the completion of site investigation and corrective action for the underground storage tanks located at the former Steele Park Marina

Steele Park L.U.S.T Cleanup Status History

4/10/1998: Open - Case Begin Date

4/10/1998: Open - Site Assessment

12/12/2000: Open - Site Assessment

4/5/2002: Open - Remediation

9/13/2002: Open - Site Assessment

5/6/2008: Open - Remediation

5/28/2009: Open - Verification Monitoring

12/8/2011: Completed - Case Closed

List of LUST projects:

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Site	Date Opened	Date Closed
Berryessa Marina Resort	1/12/96	7/2/01
Bureau Of Reclamation	4/5/91	9/12/91
CDF Spanish Flat Station	1/4/89	5/27/97
Corners Service Station	10/18/91	11/27/10
Lakeside Market	3/5/99	7/31/07
Markley Cove Resort	11/6/91	9/7/93
Pleasure Cove Resort	1/16/92	6/24/98
Pope Valley Garage	5/5/99	11/13/09
Pridmore Construction	4/9/90	10/20/91
Putah Creek Park	9/4/90	11/16/09
Rancho Monticello	3/18/86	2/21/07
Spanish Flat Marina	4/30/90	5/23/93
Spanish Flat Service	1/13/93	11/1/93
Spanish Flat Yard	1/28/91	12/18/07
Steele Park Marina	4/10/98	12/8/11
Sugarloaf Park	11/7/97	3/10/08
Turtle Rock	11/28/94	6/25/02

There are many clean-up technologies available to remove gasoline components, such as MTBE from soil and groundwater, including:

Soil Vapor Extraction. This technology pulls air through the soil to extract contaminants. MTBE is not easily adsorbed in soil and will vaporize readily, thus it can be readily removed.

Air Sparging. This technique pumps air through the groundwater to stimulate biodegradation and strip contaminants from the groundwater into the air stream.

In-situ Oxidation. MTBE can be removed from water sources by relying on the capacity of certain chemicals (e.g., hydrogen peroxide combined with iron) to rapidly oxidize organic molecules in water.

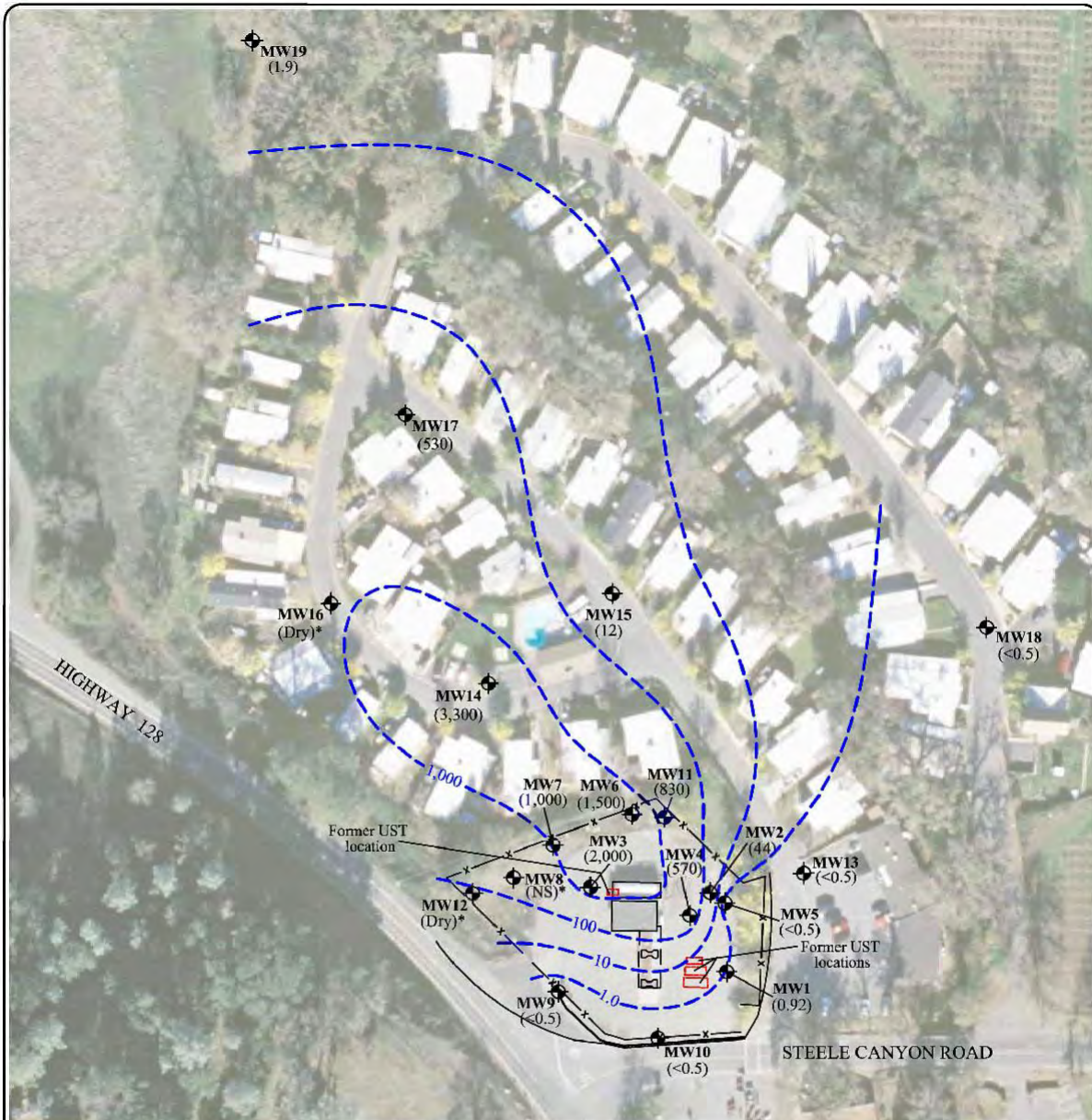
MTBE gives water an unpleasant taste at very low concentrations, and thus can render large quantities of groundwater non-potable. MTBE is often introduced into water-supply aquifers by leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) at gasoline stations or by gasoline containing MTBE spilled onto the ground.

This was the case at the Moskowitz Corners gas station which was polluting the soil and groundwater moving below the nearby Capell Valley Estates mobile home park. The residents of the mobile home park were not in any danger. A soil vapor investigation was conducted to evaluate the potential for migration of gasoline vapors into indoor air. The results showed that vapors from the groundwater would not impact indoor air.

A case study by the State Water Resources Control Board of this remediation program is available at:

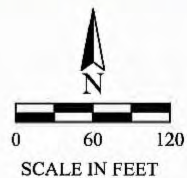
[FACT SHEET: MOSKOWITE CORNERS SERVICE STATION](#)

The diagram below from that report shows the location of monitoring wells and the concentration of MTBE at that time. The case was closed on 11/27/10.



Legend:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Monitoring well | MTBE Methyl-tert-butyl ether |
| Isoconcentration contour | UST Underground storage tank |
| (0.92) Concentration in ug/L (micrograms per liter) | Dry Groundwater below monitoring well |
| * Not used in contouring | IGW Insufficient groundwater to collect sample |



MTBE ISOCONCENTRATION MAP
FACT SHEET
 December 12, 2008
 6000 STEELE CANYON ROAD
 Napa County, California

FIGURE 1

DRAWN BY	TJC
CHECKED BY	EKM
PROJECT MGR	MEN
DATE	6/09
WKA NO. 5880.09	

LAKE BERRYESSA TIE DYE

"The Happy Corner"

www.lakeberryessatiedye.com/



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707-580-2345

Instagram: @lakeberryessatiedye

January 2023 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): The richer they are, the more money they have to spend paying you off. Remember that.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Compact Discs are very shiny, but using them to attract seagulls in order to bludgeon them to death with your shoe is neither good manners nor entirely legal.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): Life can be as romantic as you wish to make it. Like the old saying goes, a man with three fish has enough in his heart to help him build a picnic chair.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Destiny is more like a buzz-word than something you'll ever have to think about.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Always make time to shop for car insurance. It will make your day more fulfilling. When the fish wander home cooking

Virgo (8/23-9/22): You're not jinxed so staying in bed all day is not going to work.

Libra (9/23-10/22): The way you dance around the office may cause some to question certain parts of your personal life.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You must be cautious to ensure that you can make a quick getaway should unexpected events occur.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): You think you're so advanced, but when was the last time monkeys had to worry about their finances?

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Your words are, to some, like finger-nails scratching a black-board.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Walking to work in a clown costume can help you in your search for humility.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Try to avoid reading dusty old books that call themselves 'tomes'. Especially if they contain remarkably detailed information about the coming of the anti-christ.

New Listings

As Close to the Lake as You Can Get!

581 Putah Creek Drive

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,661 sq. ft.

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on a generous sized lake view lot.**

Offered at \$725,000



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707-235-1124 (M)
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Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments that take our breath away. ~ Maya Angelou.
The views from this house will take your breath away!

606 Noah Ct, Napa, CA

4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 2,612 Sq.Ft.

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Offered at \$850,000



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January Headlines

Existential Horror At Wealthy Elite Selling Off Humanity's Future Successfully Sublimated Into Yelling At Cashier

Man Peels Price Tag Off Gift For Dog

Christmas Tree Lot Guy So Ready For Annual 46-Week Vacation

Report: Many Companies Now Offering Women Permanent, Unpaid Maternity Leave

Disappointed Man Reaches Bottom Of Ice Cream Carton Right When He Was Hitting His Stride

Elementary School Lesson On Water Cycle Explains How Water Becomes Property Of Nestlé

The only thing your four-year-old wants for Christmas is more presents then you actually got them

"Glad to see they covered their plants," says Amazon driver delivering single tube of nasal spray during winter storm



Just Listed - 104 Parkview Lane

So much to this property! Nice single story home on a large flat corner lot! Spacious home with living room and family room. Open kitchen. Primary suite with upgraded tile shower with glass surround, new vanity. Kitchen with gas stove and stainless steel fridge, custom tile backsplash. Newer A/C, new siding, Washer/Dryer in Laundry Room. Outside features extra large attached 2 car garage. Boat/RV Parking and storage for gas and toys! Covered awning in rear yard with low maintenance landscaping. Water softener and filtration system, ice machine, outside speakers, outside TV. Property is graced by palm trees. Close to Steele Park Recreation area! Enjoy the lake life!

Visit www.ParkviewLn.com. **\$515,000**

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ICON PROPERTIES

104 Parkview Lane, Napa



Amber Payne
1302244 (CA)
707-235-1124 (M)
amber.payne@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net

[See a photo slide show at: https://youtu.be/20XSkc4dpr8](https://youtu.be/20XSkc4dpr8)

www.lakelifemeetswinecountry.com

In some ways it doesn't get any better than this. This property was literally the first property sold in the Berryessa Highlands more than 50 years ago and has never been on the market. It has views, land, a beautiful home, a pool, and more.

\$1,850,000



Amber Payne
Senior Sales Associate
CalDRE#01302244
amberpaye@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net



Amber Payne

Senior Sales Associate

CalDRE#01302244

amberpaye@corcorangl.com

Thinking of BUYING or SELLING?

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Lot: 292 Ridgecrest - Circle Oaks \$149K

Nice corner lot in beautiful Circle Oaks area of the Napa Valley! Unobstructed views possible! Geological report on file, topo map on file, site plan for house with garage and adu. Property is also surveyed. Local water and sewer district, PG&E close by.

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4420 KNOXVILLE ROAD | 3 MIN NORTH OF SPANISH FLAT RESORT

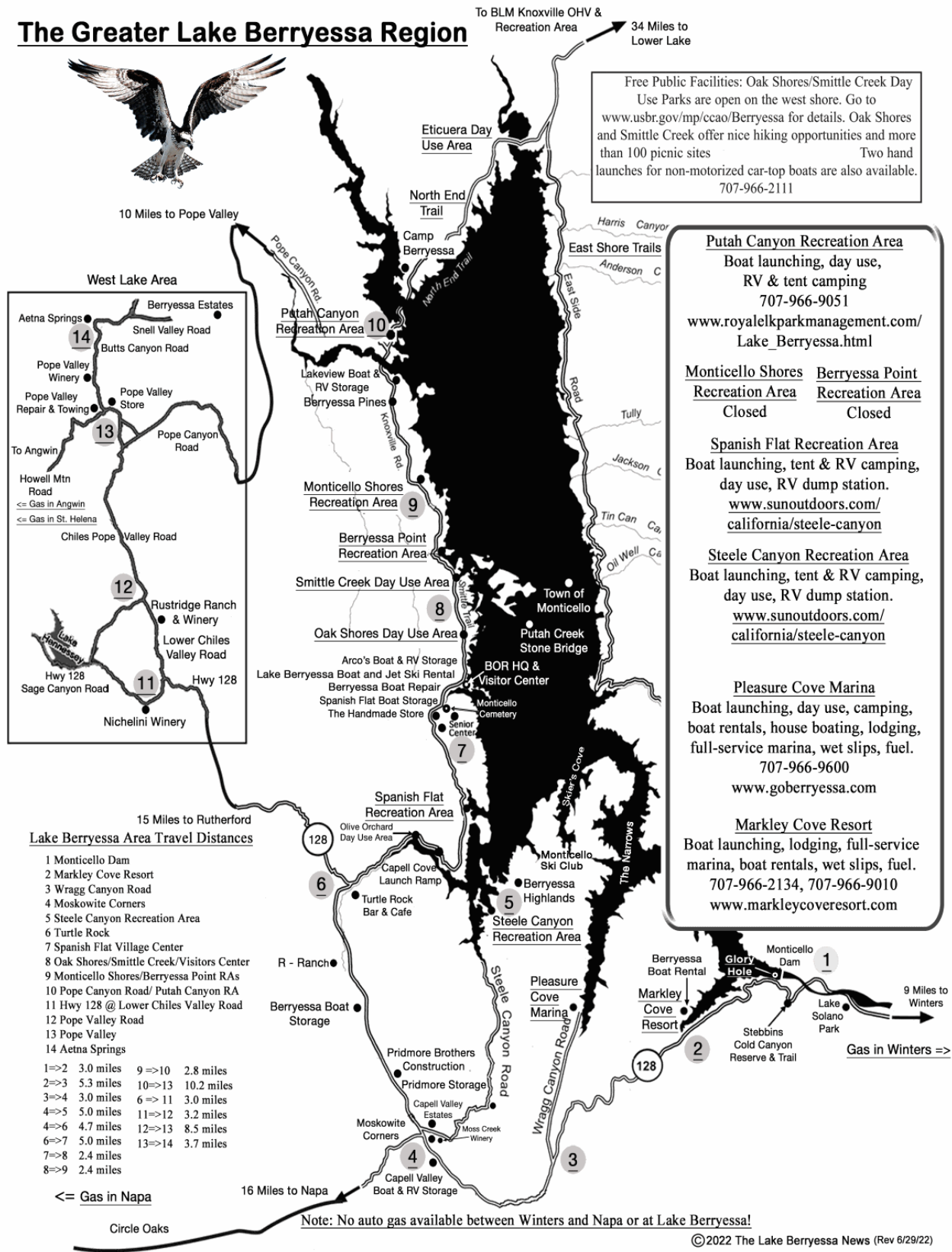
We offer quality repairs and a gated storage facility. We service all makes and models of Boats, Jet Skis, and RVs. Whether you need a basic tune up, rebuilt engine, gel coat or upholstery, we are your best choice. We are Mobile too, land or water, we can come to you! Outdoor Storage from \$50 per month is available. Our Parts Department is available to order anything you need, whether a battery or an engine. Proshop coming soon with basic boating supplies and hot new products for fun on the water!!

berryessboatrepair@gmail.com | 707.966.9954



Updated Lake Berryessa Map (June 29, 2022)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



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The Lake Berryessa News: January 8, 2023

Lake Berryessa Statistics (1/8/23)

Lake level has risen to a new milestone of 400.0 feet, 40 feet below Glory Hole - the highest since last August. That's a 5.7 foot rise since its low of 394.3 feet on Christmas Eve and 3.9 feet since New Year's Eve (396.1 feet). The rain has now stopped. Follow the real-time data at the Monticello Dam at:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

Official rainfall at Monticello Dam has reached 16.32 inches. The unofficial total at the Lake Berryessa weather station above the Berryessa Highlands now stands at 10.7 inches. Wind gusts at the Lake Berryessa News station hit 80 mph Friday and 107.6 mph Saturday night!

Last year at this time the lake level was at 409.8 feet - 30.2 feet below Glory Hole. Rainfall had stopped at 15.8 inches, There was no rain from 1/6/22 to 4/15/22. Only 3 inches of rain followed that - a very disappointing outcome. So, the lake never really rose much that year and only reached 410 feet last year - 30 feet below Glory Hole.

The Gamble Gage (lake capacity) also continues to rise. It is now at 56.0% - the highest since last August. Lake water temperatures have dropped to 52.7 degrees at the surface and 51.5 degrees from 10 feet down to the bottom.

January 7, 2023

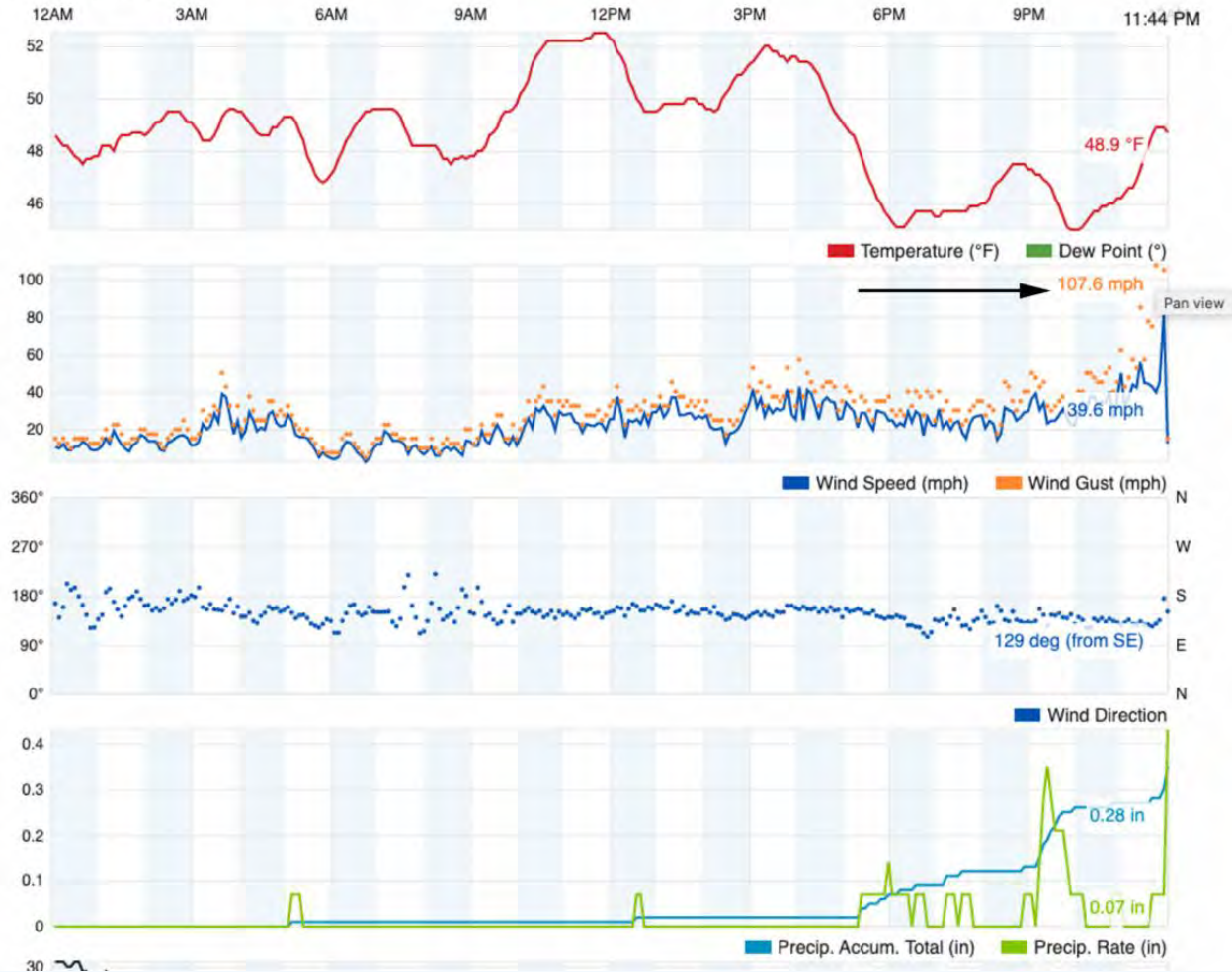
Lake Berryessa News Weather Station

	High	Low	Average
Temperature	52.5 °F	45.0 °F	48.6 °F
Dew Point	--	--	0.0 °F
Humidity	--	--	0 %
Precipitation	0.35 in	--	--

	High	Low	Average
Wind Speed	82.5 mph	0.0 mph	15.2 mph
Wind Gust	107.6 mph	--	20.3 mph
Wind Direction	--	--	SSE
Pressure	30.01 in	29.59 in	--

Graph Table

January 7, 2023



BERRYESSA (BER)

Date from 12/16/1989 14:26 through 10/24/2022 14:26 Duration : 11999 days

Max of period : (02/07/1998 00:00, 444.75) Min of period: (11/30/1992 00:00, 361.75)



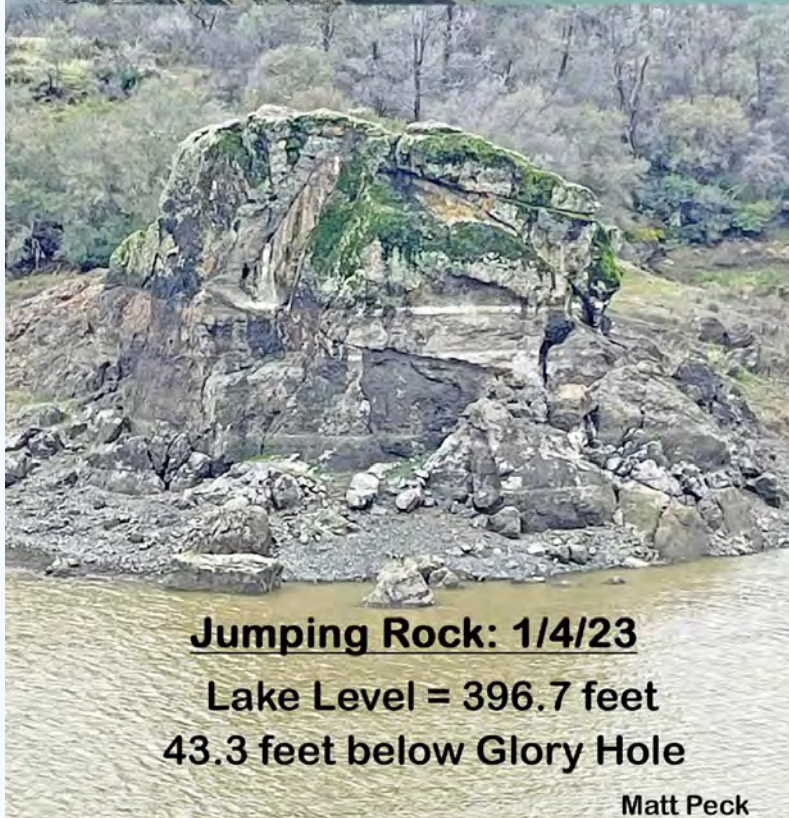


-43.3 feet

Glory Hole: 1/4/23

Lake Level = 396.7 feet
43.3 feet below Glory Hole

Matt Peck



Jumping Rock: 1/4/23

Lake Level = 396.7 feet
43.3 feet below Glory Hole

Matt Peck



Capell Launch Ramp: 1/4/23

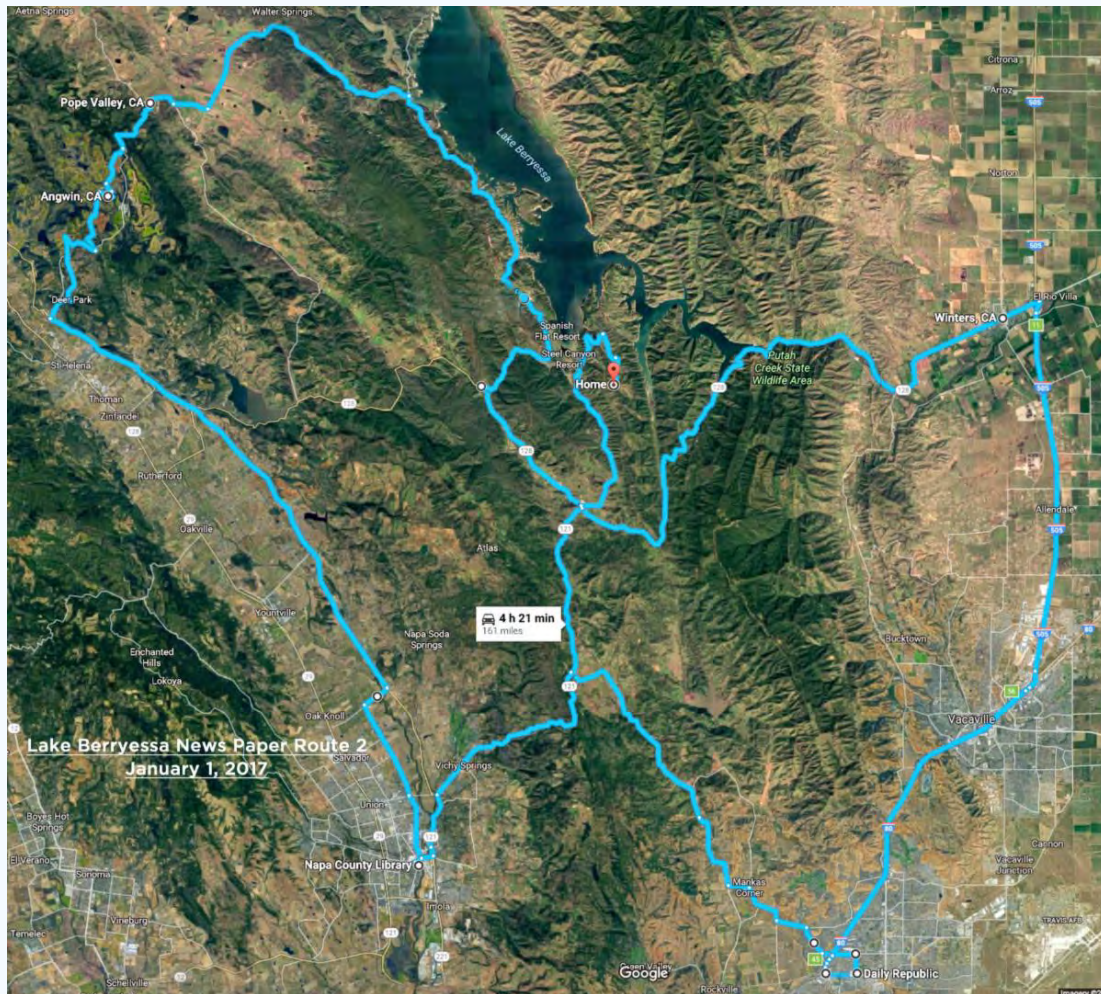
Lake Level = 396.7 feet
43.3 feet below Glory Hole

Matt Peck

The 20 for 23 Program Hits a Milestone! **But Still Can Use Your Support in 2023!**

My sincere thanks to those of you who have donated! Due to your support, the Lake Berryessa News will continue to publish in 2023! The print edition returns in April, 2023. We will continue our social media presence (www.LakeBerryessaNews.com, <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Berryessa-News-114810958535085/>).

Remember, without The Lake Berryessa News there is no Lake Berryessa news. I challenge you to find any reporting like the stories below. And yes, many people do still read, and like, stories written on paper! Below for your edification is an illustration of my 150-mile paper route.



One last appeal and I'll stop bothering you. My eight year old Lake Berryessa News Central Supercomputer (2014 iMac) is giving up the ghost. Software upgrades over the years have slowed it down drastically. And now some apps simply don't work well at all. It's finally time to face the need to get a new Master Supercomputer. I need to be able to publish the Lake Berryessa News as quickly and efficiently as possible.

If you haven't yet donated to the 20 for 23 program, I hope this may be a further incentive to do so. This will be the last time I ask for your support.

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 \$20 (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 stick a crinkly old \$20 bill in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My account is under the name Peter Kilkus. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (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. 2023 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

Lake Berryessa 1960: What Could Have Been

Napa County doesn't allow far-flung rural communities to be built anymore. But it did in the 1960s, when Berryessa Estates, Circle Oaks, and Berryessa Highlands all began taking shape. The impetus was the creation of 26-mile-long, 3-mile-wide Lake Berryessa by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Remote, eastern Napa County suddenly had a water recreation wonderland and developers saw dollar signs.

The existing public infrastructure facilities (water and sewer systems) are managed under the titles Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID - Berryessa Highlands) and Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District (LBRID - Berryessa Estates). These agencies have/had *no relation* to the various resorts being developed around the lake at the time. The history of the NBRID and LBRID processes are detailed in a Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) update report from 2010. Download the fascinating report at:

[Update on the Lake Berryessa Region Municipal Service Review - 2010](#)

The financing of the infrastructure development for NBRID and LBRID was done under a Public Resources Code, known as the Resort Improvement District Law. The law was enacted in 1961 for purposes of providing an alternative method for funding and furnishing a full range of extended municipal services – including land use planning powers – within large unincorporated areas to support seasonal recreational resort uses.

The law was fashioned by the Legislature to facilitate recreational resort sites similar to Squaw Valley in Placer County, which had been developed to host the 1960 Winter Olympic Games. In 1965, after the hearings were held by the Assembly into suspected abuses by affected special districts, the law was amended to prohibit the creation of new resort improvement districts. The law was further amended in 1971 to allow affected special districts to only provide those municipal services already provided or budgeted as of July 1, 1970. There are currently six other special districts operating under this law in California.

The original bond issues for the construction of the NBRID and LBRID water and sewer systems were paid off by the property owners decades ago.

Berryessa Estates

A Labry Corporation representative appeared before the Napa County Board of Supervisors in April 1964 and described an ambitious vision for the proposed Berryessa Estates. Berryessa

Estates wasn't to be a remote outpost of homes. Labry's pitch involved creating what amounted to a small town. This would be a \$25 million community on 2.8 square miles with 1,500 homes and 10,000 residents. It would have a shopping center, church, rest home, 100-room inn and community recreation center. The project was to be a benefit to the hundreds of thousands of people who were projected to enjoy Lake Berryessa in the future.

Labry Corp. put out markers showing where the shopping center and golf course would be. It told buyers there would be a marina. None of this happened. In 1975, Napa County and Contra Costa County prosecutors sued Labry Corp. on consumer fraud allegations. The resulting settlement had the company provide only an echo of the original vision — a boat ramp, floating pier and campground at Putah Creek.

The other Lake Berryessa communities, such as Berryessa Highlands and Circle Oaks, also fell short of the original, grandiose visions. The sprawling Berryessa area never became the growth hotbed envisioned in the 1960s. A Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County report predicted the population would rise from 489 to 500 by 2030, which would be far from making the Berryessa Estates a growth hotbed.

Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District

LBRID was formed in 1965 to provide a full range of municipal services in support of the development of Berryessa Estates, an unincorporated community remotely located along Putah Creek in northeast Napa County. Initial development plans envisioned the construction of approximately 2,000 residential units along with various commercial and recreational accommodations to serve an expected permanent resident population of 5,000 with over 40,000 annual visitors. Due to economic conditions, however, actual development within Berryessa Estates has been primarily limited to the creation of a 351-lot residential subdivision. Additionally, a 1971 amendment to its principal act has limited LBRID to providing only sewer and water services. LBRID currently has an estimated resident service population of 483. LBRID is a dependent special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Daily operations are managed by the County Public Works Department.

Berryessa Highlands

The Berryessa Highlands suffered a similar fate. A private individual who owned thousands of acres (Carlson's Lazy J Ranch) between the lake and the Highway 128 route to Winters also proposed a sprawling development with a plan for thousands of homes, two motels, a shopping center and golf course.

Napa County, true to its anti-development policy which exists to the present time, changed the rules regularly enough to prevent that development. The original owner gave up and sold his property to a corporate developer who was finally able to construct a modest development of about 900 quarter-acre parcels before declaring bankruptcy.

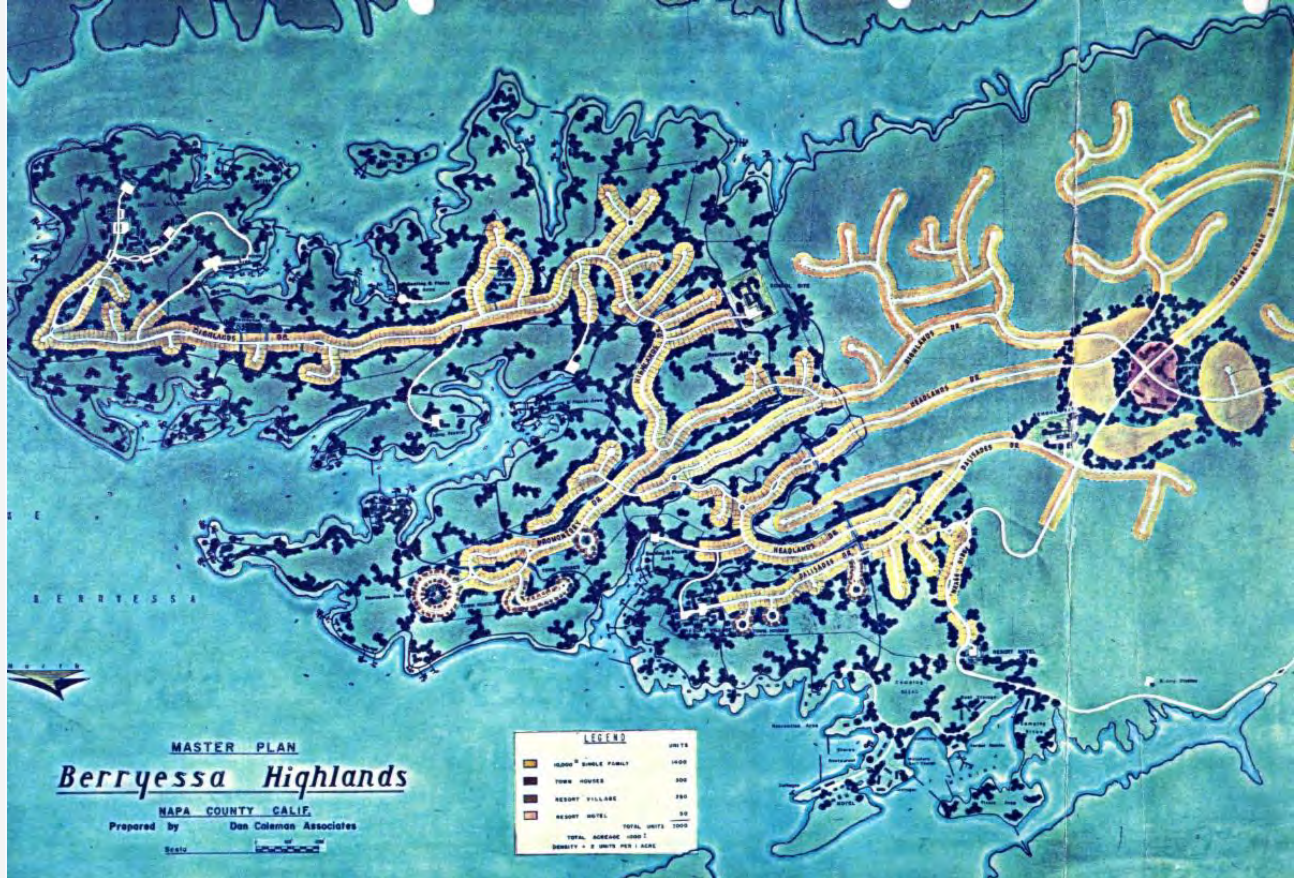
Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District

NBRID was formed in 1965 to provide a full range of governmental services in support of the planned development of Berryessa Highlands, an unincorporated community located along Lake Berryessa's southern shoreline in eastern Napa County. Development of Berryessa

Highlands was expected to occur over two distinct planning phases and eventually result in the construction of approximately 4,000 residential units along with various commercial and recreational uses. Due to various factors, however, the development of Berryessa Highlands has been primarily limited to the creation of two residential subdivisions in the western portion of NBRID collectively totaling 561 single-family lots. Additionally, a 1971 amendment to its principal act limits NBRID to providing only sewer and water services. NBRID currently has an estimated resident service population of 920 making the area one of the largest unincorporated communities in Napa County. NBRID is a dependent special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Daily operations are managed by the County Public Works Department

NBRID's formation was proposed by the Berryessa Highlands Development Company to help facilitate and support the planned development of Berryessa Highlands. The Commission approved formation proceedings in January 1965 and authorized NBRID to provide a full range of municipal services, specifically water, sewer, fire, police, roads, lighting, and recreation. NBRID's formation coincided with an ordinance change by the County to rezone the affected area from Watershed Recreation to Planned Community; an action paralleling a concurrent change in the Berryessa Estates community. Formation proceedings were approved in conjunction with the County Board of Supervisors agreeing to serve as NBRID's governing body. Voters confirmed the formation of NBRID in March 1965.

The Highlands ended up as a Napa County Planned Development District (PD). According to Napa County Regulations, "the PD district classification is intended to be applied in those areas of the county shown as "urban residential" or "rural residential" in the Napa County general plan. Planned developments increase the opportunity for diversified uses by providing the means for integrating townhouse, row house, condominiums and cluster housing in a desirable relationship to planned common use space, limited commercial, institutional, educational, cultural, recreational and other uses, while at the same time preserving the quality urban environment fostered by the general plan."



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Just Listed - 104 Parkview Lane

So much to this property! Nice single story home on a large flat corner lot! Spacious home with living room and family room. Open kitchen. Primary suite with upgraded tile shower with glass surround, new vanity. Kitchen with gas stove and stainless steel fridge, custom tile backsplash. Newer A/C, new siding, Washer/Dryer in Laundry Room. Outside features extra large attached 2 car garage. Boat/RV Parking and storage for gas and toys! Covered awning in rear yard with low maintenance landscaping. Water softener and filtration system, ice machine, outside speakers, outside TV. Property is graced by palm trees. Close to Steele Park Recreation area! Enjoy the lake life!

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www.lakelifemeetswinecountry.com

In some ways it doesn't get any better than this. This property was literally the first property sold in the Berryessa Highlands more than 50 years ago and has never been on the market. It has views, land, a beautiful home, a pool, and more.

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Thinking of BUYING or SELLING?

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Lot: 292 Ridgecrest - Circle Oaks \$149K

Nice corner lot in beautiful Circle Oaks area of the Napa Valley! Unobstructed views possible! Geological report on file, topo map on file, site plan for house with garage and adu. Property is also surveyed. Local water and sewer district, PG&E close by.

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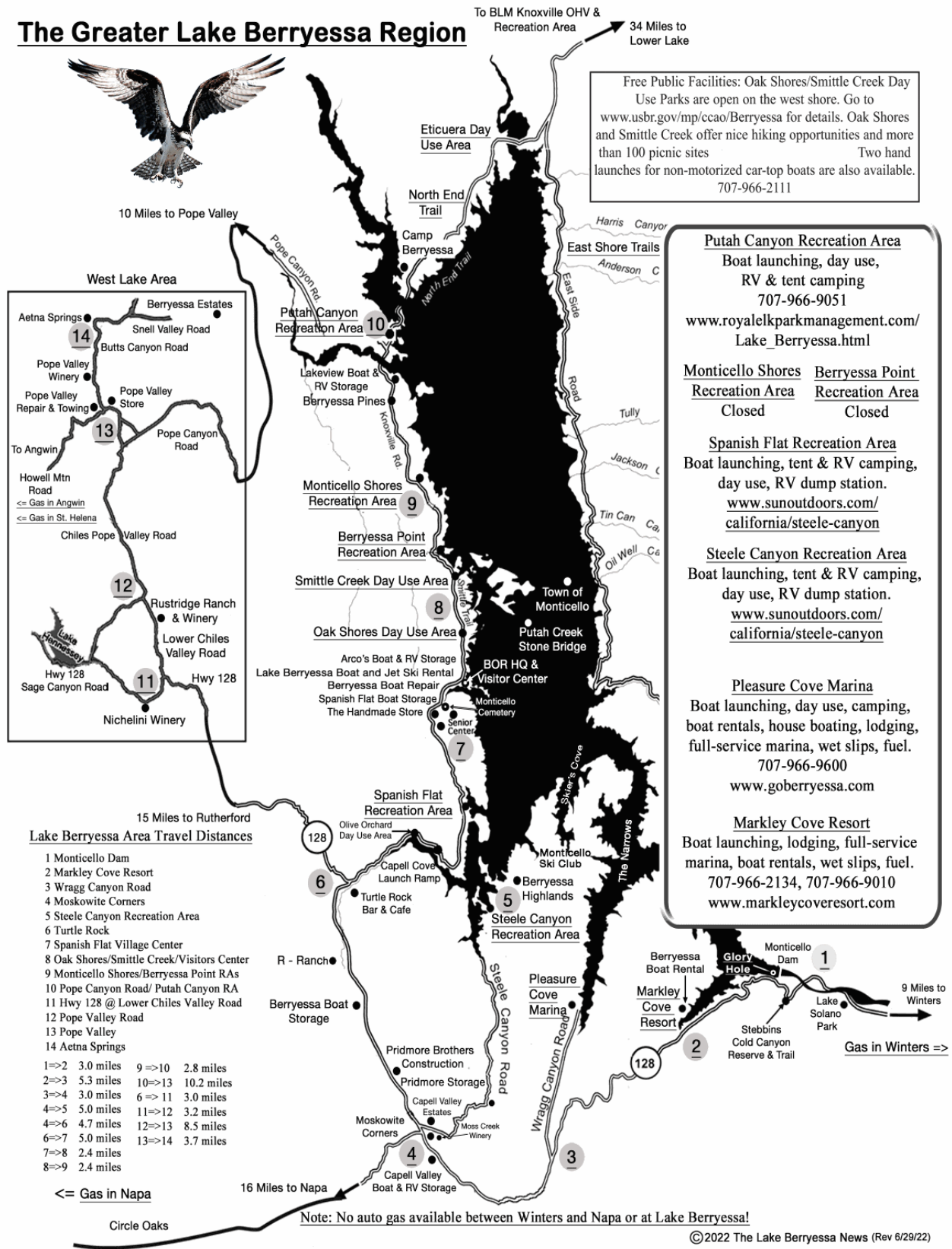
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (June 29, 2022)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



The Lake Berryessa News: February 1, 2023

February is here already! Happy Valentine's Day!

Here's a photo about men shopping I've used before, but it's still very appropriate.

Also one for cat lovers.



Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program

The good news is that the lake is already higher than its highest point in 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2022. Since it drops about 15 feet on average every summer, there will be plenty of water to enjoy in 2023!

All is quiet at the moment regarding the Lake revitalization project. Napa County has nothing new to report. Both Sun Outdoors and Suntex are still in the NEPA/CEQA process. Estimates are that those will take another year for SUN and two years for SUNTEX. What you see is what you get, for now.

The Capell Launch Ramp is open and free for the time being.

The work going on at Berryessa Point (previously Berryessa Marina) is a BOR project to remove the old retaining wall that is falling into the lake.





Obsolescence vs. Renewal - 2023 Version

Thanks to the generous contributions of more than 100 readers, I will be able to publish the

Lake Berryessa News in all its versions (paper, Facebook, website and email news letter) in 2023. Also I mentioned previously that joining me in my personal physical slide into obsolescence was my Lake Berryessa News supercomputer and its website software. They finally gave up the "ghost in the machine".

I try to prevent my own creeping premature irrelevance by maintaining my health and attitude with my writing, recumbent exercise bike, regular hiking, minimizing alcohol consumption (the most difficult - why are there so many drinks that taste so good?).

Thanks to my readers I was also able to buy a new iMac supercomputer - so fast that I've become at least 30% - 50% more efficient. My new web design software took some learning time but works well. You may notice some changes to my website in the next few days. Those of you have been through this computer upgrade process before know how frustrating it can be. Thanks for all your support.

In honor of my victory, here are a couple of software upgrade jokes.

Peter

Upgrade from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slowdown in the overall performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications that had operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, but installed undesirable programs such as NFL 5.0 and NBA 3.0. And now Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House Cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed,
Desperate

Dear Desperate!

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. At the command line, try entering C:\ITHOUGHTYOULOVEDME and download Tears 6.2 to install Guilt 3.0. If all works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5. But remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy-Silence 2.5, Happy-Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1.

Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will create snoringLoudly.wav files. Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-in-Law 1.0 or re-install another Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have a limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider additional software to improve memory and performance. I personally recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Lingerie 9.9.

Regards,
Tech Support

+++++++

Up from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0 and noticed that the new program began running unexpected child processing that took up a lot of space and valuable resources.

In addition, Wife 1.0 installs itself into all other programs and launches during system initialization, where it monitors all other system activity. Applications such as PokerNight 10.3, Drunken Boys Night 2.5 and Monday Night football 5.0 no longer run, crashing the system whenever selected.

I cannot seem to keep Wife 1.0 in the background while attempting to run some of my other favorite applications. I am thinking about going back to Girlfriend 7.0, but un-install does not work on this program.

Can you help me please?

Thanks, Joe

Dear Joe:

This is a very common problem men complain about but is mostly due to a primary misconception. Many people upgrade from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0 with the idea that Wife 1.0 is merely a "UTILITIES & ENTERTAINMENT" program. Wife 1.0 is an OPERATING SYSTEM and designed by its creator to run everything.

It is unlikely you would be able to purge Wife 1.0 and still convert back to Girlfriend 7.0. Hidden operating files within your system would cause Girlfriend 7.0 to emulate Wife 1.0 so nothing is gained.

It is impossible to un-install, delete, or purge the program files from the system once installed. You cannot go back to Girlfriend 7.0 because Wife 1.0 is not designed to do this. Some have tried to install Girlfriend 8.0 or Wife 2.0 but end up with more problems than the original system. I recommend you keep Wife 1.0 and just deal with the situation. Having Wife 1.0 installed myself, I might also suggest you read the entire section regarding General Partnership Faults (GPFs). You must assume all responsibility for faults and problems that might occur, regardless of their cause. The best course of action will be to enter the command C:\APOLOGIZE. The system will run smoothly as long as you take the blame for all the GPFs.

Wife 1.0 is a great program, but very high maintenance. Consider buying additional software to

improve the performance of Wife 1.0. I recommend Flowers 2.1, Jewelry 2.2, and Chocolates 5.0.

Do not, under any circumstances, install Secretary With Short Skirt 3.3. This is not a supported application for Wife 1.0 and is likely to cause irreversible damage to the operating system.

Best of luck,
Tech Support

Lake Berryessa Statistics (2/1/23)

The good news is that the lake is already higher than its highest point in 2015, 2016, and 2022. Since it drops about 15 feet on average every summer, there will be plenty of water to enjoy in 2023! The lake level has slowly reached 412.1 feet, 27.9 feet below Glory Hole - still higher than all of 2022! The last time the lake was this high was on June 5, 2021. That's a 17.8 foot rise since its low of 394.3 feet on Christmas Eve.

Rain was predicted to return this week, but there was no substantial precipitation. Hopefully the present dry spell won't dry out the ground too much or we'll need about 2 inches of new rain before the runoff starts again. With 27.9 feet to go to reach the lip of Glory Hole, we'll need at least 30 inches more rain to flow over the it.

Official rainfall at Monticello Dam remains at 23.64 inches. The unofficial total at the Lake Berryessa weather station above the Berryessa Highlands is still stands at 17.82 inches.

The Cape Launch Ramps is open and free to use for the present.

Follow the real-time data at the dam at:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

This is beginning to seem a bit like 2017. At this time in 2017, the lake was at 428 feet, 12 feet below Glory Hole - about 20 feet higher than today. Rainfall was at 26.7 inches - about 1.5 inches lower than today.

Follow Evan Kilkus' Lake Berryessa News drone videos of the dramatic rise of Lake Berryessa as it finally spilled over Glory Hole on 2/16/17 after an unusual 40 foot rise in about a month at: Evan's Glory Hole Drone Video You Tube links:

<https://youtu.be/bGJvoflyTwQ> 1/11/17: 10"+ of Rain Takes Its Toll, But Lake Berryessa is Rising

<https://youtu.be/PRWafVw9DBU> 2/10/17: Lake Berryessa Is Almost Full

<https://youtu.be/8pIPsgLFggk> 2/12/17: Lake Berryessa Splashes Over Glory Hole -With a Little Help

<https://youtu.be/EH0LQW7iduY> 2/12/17: Breathtakingly Beautiful Drone Tour of Lake Berryessa

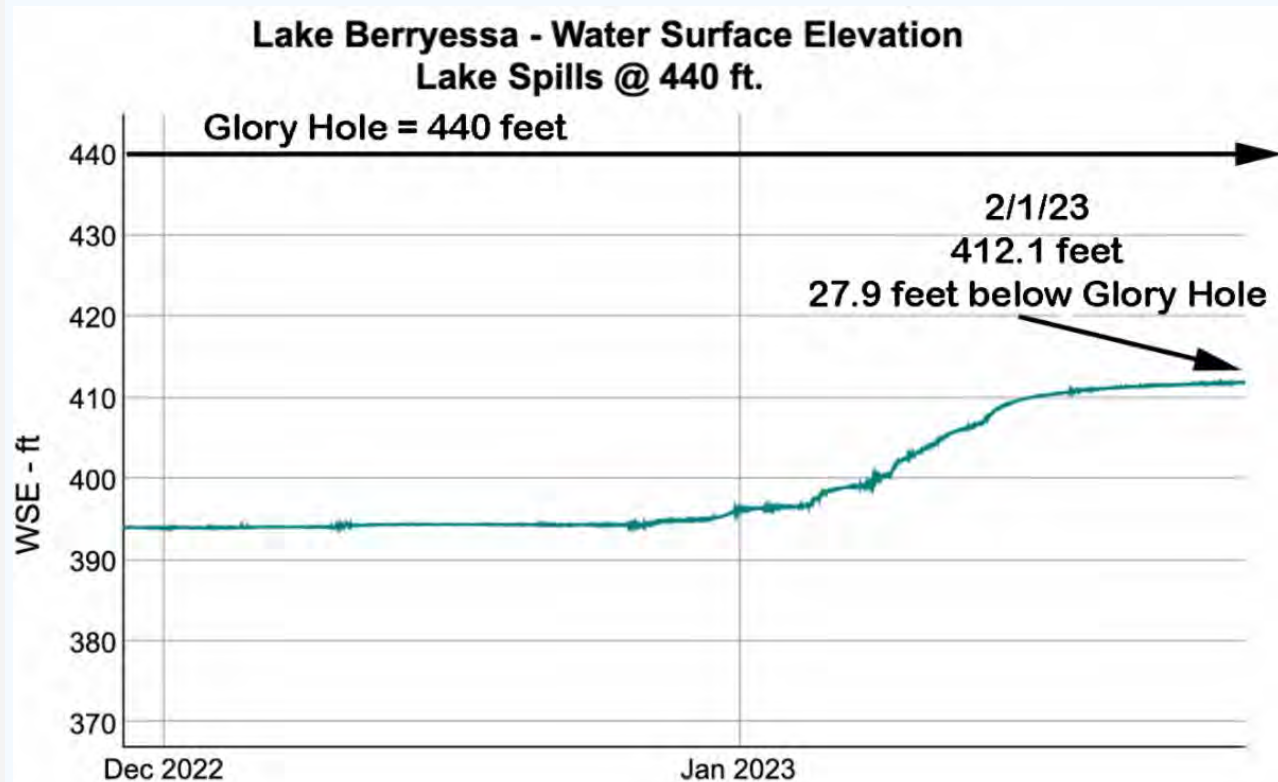
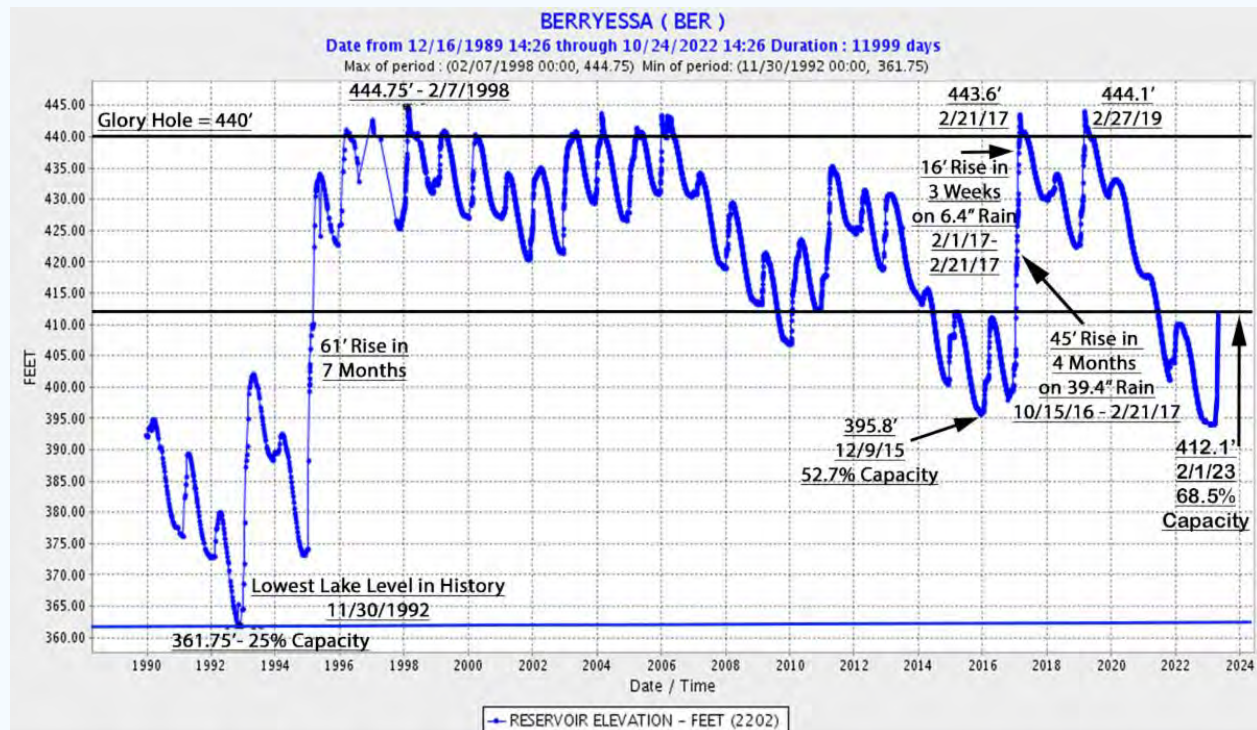
<https://youtu.be/cB0BKIm1EzM> 2/16/23: Lake Berryessa Is Full & Splashing Over the Spillway

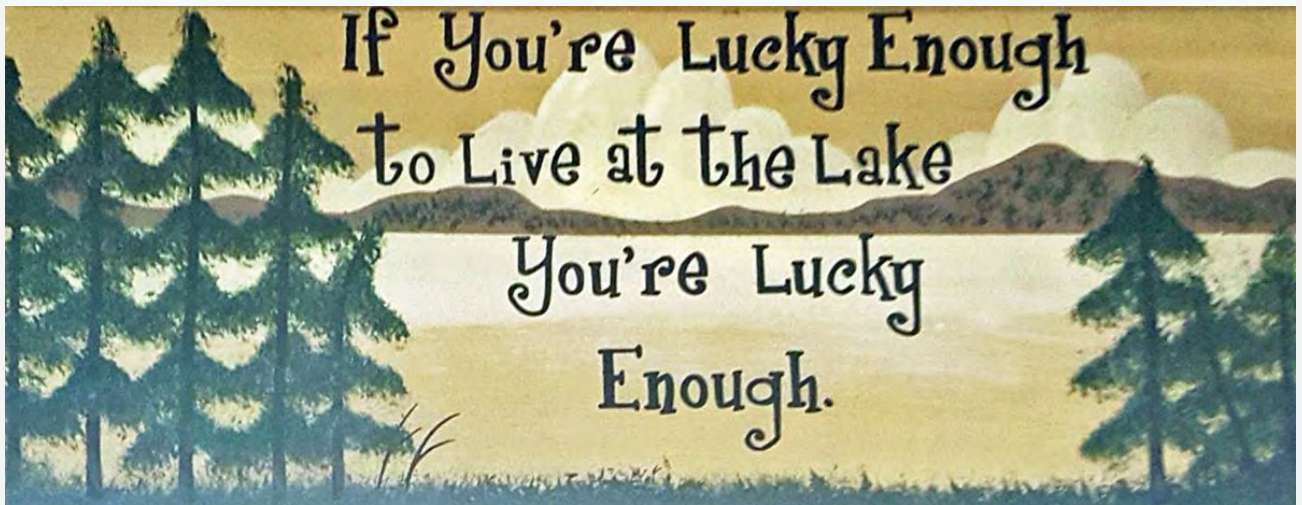
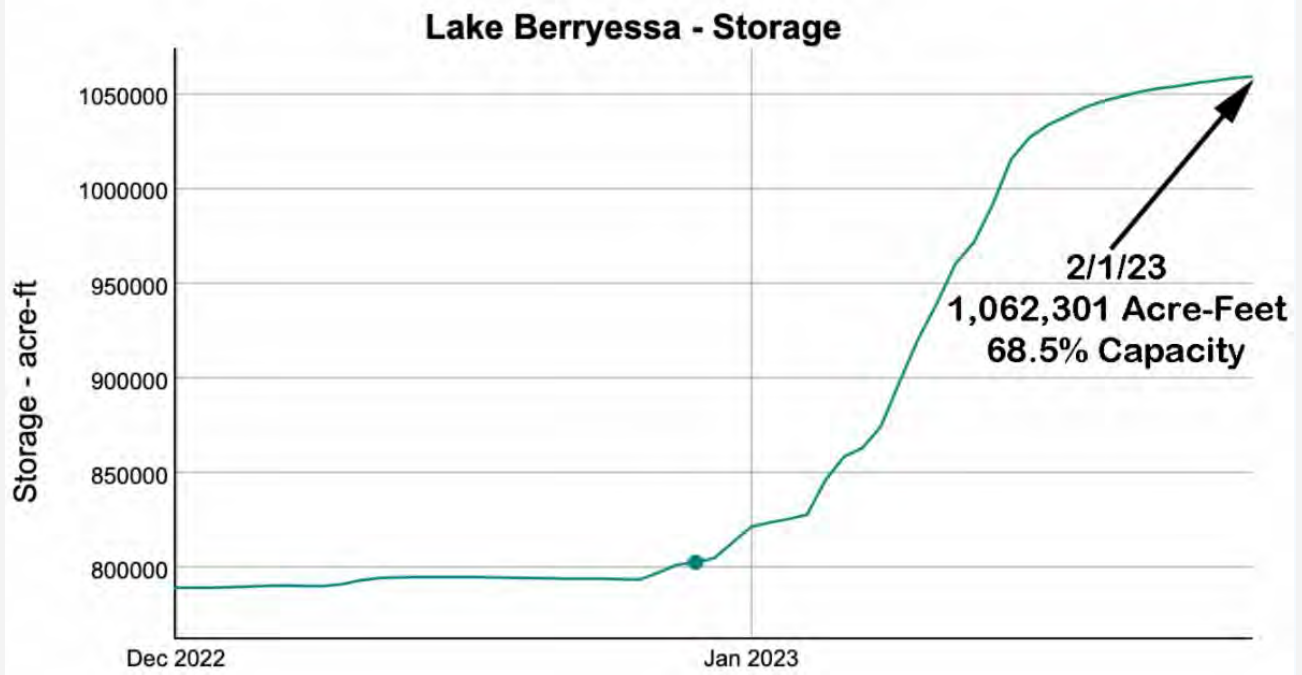
<https://youtu.be/uQp0QConILY> 2/18/17: Lake Berryessa Is Spilling 1 Foot Over Glory Hole

<https://youtu.be/-iHAjOrrU4k> 2/21/17: Lake Berryessa is 3.5' OVER the Glory Hole Spillway

<https://youtu.be/qhPzR2Gqzs0> 2/24/17: Another Breathtaking Drone Tour of a Full Lake Berryessa

<https://youtu.be/1TVX9Euix3E> 4/4/17: Spring Tour of a Full Lake Berryessa





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Lake Berryessa Rainfall vs Level - A Short Tutorial (1/29/22)

Peter Kilkus

On Christmas Day, 2022, Lake Berryessa was down to 394.4 feet - 45.6 feet below Glory Hole. The level had been dropping about an inch per day. The lowest level in 2022 was more than a foot below the lowest level, 395.78', on 12/9/15 during our last drought.

Some folks 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 2-3 inches of rain and runoff begins. This easy to remember rule is not completely accurate since the relationship between the lake level and its storage capacity is not linear. The lake profile is roughly a V-shaped bowl or funnel (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'.

Rainfall versus level for the first three months of 1998 showed that the lake rose 16 feet with 26 inches of rain – or 7.4 inches of level per inch of rain. However, the unexpectedly rapid rise of the lake in 2017 provided data that showed that during the largest consecutive rain days the rise was twice as great as the normal average – 14.5" per inch of rain.

The Lake Berryessa watershed encompasses the 576–square mile area primarily fed by Putah Creek which originates from springs on the eastside of Cobb Mountain in Lake County. Putah Creek enters Napa County about 11 miles east of Middletown. It merges with Butts Creek just before it empties into Lake Berryessa. Therefore, rainfall over the Cobb Mountain and Middletown areas provides the bulk of water entering Lake Berryessa. One reason that Lake Berryessa rose so quickly in 2017 was the very heavy rainfall that occurred on Cobb Mountain and Middletown.

For example, on 1/18/23 official rainfall at Monticello Dam reached 23.2 inches. The unofficial total at the Lake Berryessa weather station above the Berryessa Highlands stood at 17.81 inches. But rainfall at Cobb Mountain on 1/17/23 reached 52.01 inches. In 2017 rainfall had reached about 41 inches at the dam when Glory hole overflowed. At that same time rainfall at Cobb Mountain hit an amazing 130 inches!

The Lake Berryessa water level is actually measured on the Monticello Dam in a “stilling well” equipped with a float tape attached to a digital rotary encoder that measures accurately to 0.01 ft. Rainfall is measured using a tipping bucket rain gauge. However, the rain gauge on the top of Monticello Dam has never been very representative of precipitation in the overall Lake Berryessa area. The gauge is working well but the location, surrounded by mountains on two sides with a strong up-draft coming up the canyon and over the dam, prevents getting reliable data. Rainfall measurements at the dam may not be representative of the area, but they are also not the best indicator of how fast the lake may rise.

I've been keeping level and rainfall data at Lake Berryessa for 26 years. The table below shows that data. In several of those years we had early rainfall in September. But early rainfall is not an indicator of a high rainfall year. For example, last year we had an early September rain and a reasonable rainfall total by the end of December, but the rest of the year was a bust. The lake only went up about 10 feet. In 2021 the lake never rose at all. It stopped at about 417.5', stayed there for most of the winter, then started dropping again in April 2021. See Lake Level chart above.

Annual Rainfall Totals Monticello Dam vs Cobb Mountain		
Rain Year	Season Total (At Dam ¹) (7/1 - 6/31)	Season Total (Cobb Mtn ²) (10/1 - 9/1)
09-10	26.41"	77.1"
10-11	37.92"	73.8"
11-12	19.56"	46.6"
12-13	20.65"	27.0"
13-14	13.69"	27.8"
14-15	19.56"	57"
15-16	24.57	65.6"
16-17	47.55"	130.5"
17-18	14.89"	68.8"
18-19	40.53"	103.6"
19-20	10.93"	37.9"
20-21	9.21"	21.8"
1. Provided by the Bureau of Reclamation 2. Provided by the Cobb County Water Dist.		



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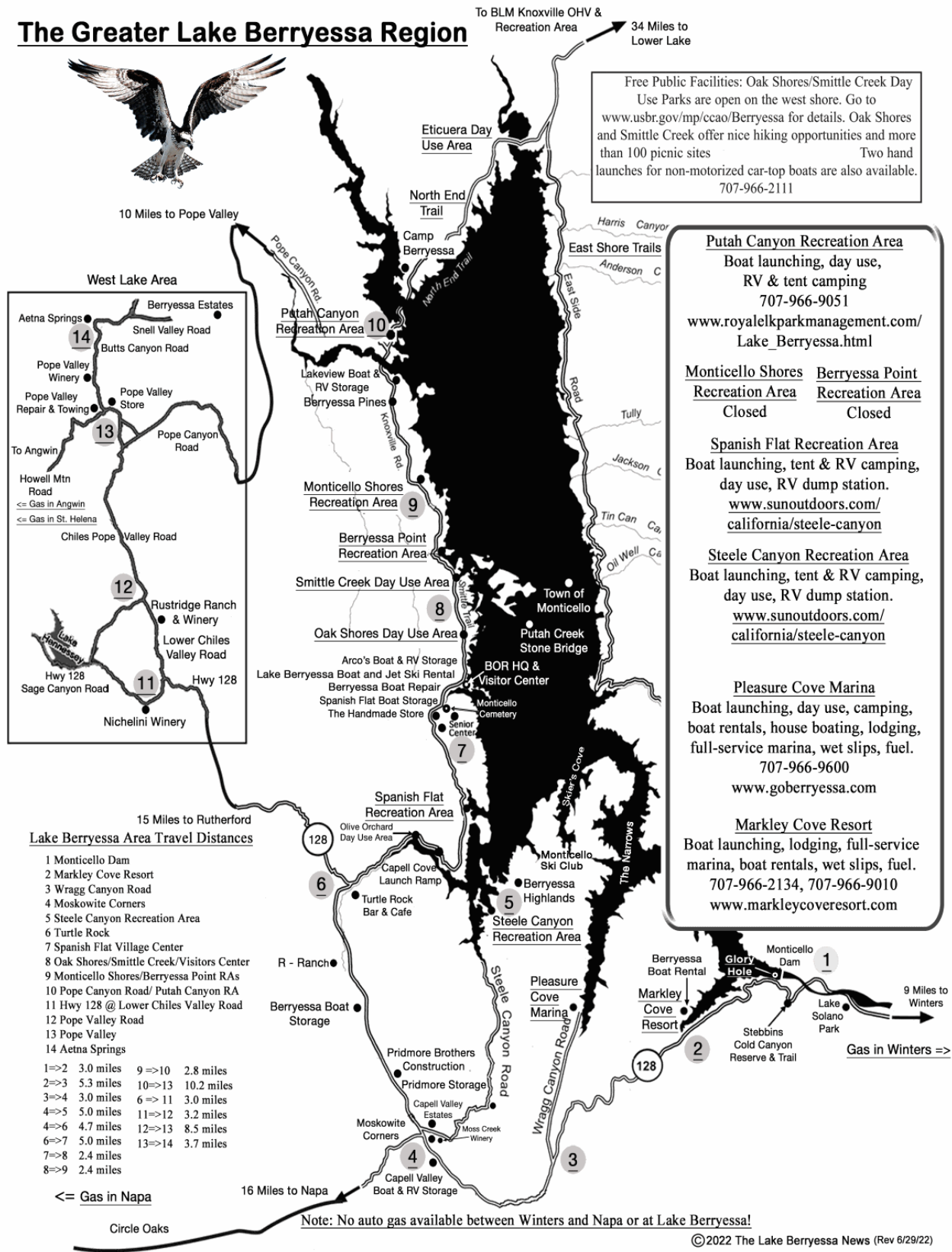
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (June 29, 2022)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



The Lake Berryessa News: March 1, 2023



Epic Snow Days

An epic snow day at Lake Berryessa on Friday, 2/24/23! For two days we felt like we were in Tahoe. Is this Evan, Lake Berryessa News associate editor and videographer, in the photo below, or our local Sasquatch? Evan actually used his tractor to plow our roads and push off fallen trees that were blocking it. The snow reached about six inches deep but only took 2 days for most of it to melt.





Lake Berryessa Statistics (3/1/23)

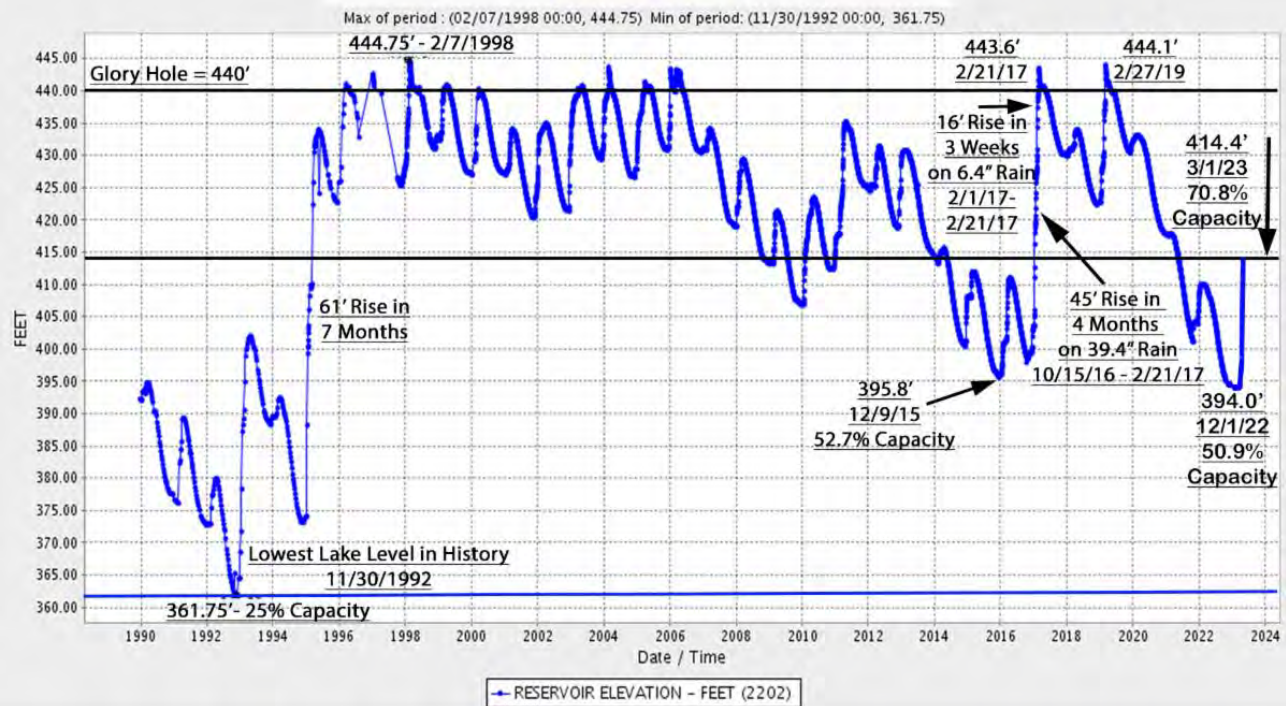
The lake level has started to rise slightly due to the rain and melting snow and has reached 414.4 feet - 25.6 feet below Glory Hole! That's a 20.4 foot rise since its low of 394.0 feet on December 1, 2022 - about a foot rise since the rain (and snow) started again on 2/24/23.

Rainfall at the dam is now 28.76 inches. With 25.6 feet to go to reach the lip of Glory Hole, we'll need at least 30 inches more rain to flow over it, which is unlikely based on the latest forecasts. The unofficial rain total at the Lake Berryessa weather station above the Berryessa Highlands now stands at 28.42 inches. And no, Lake Berryessa does not get any snow melt from the Sierras.

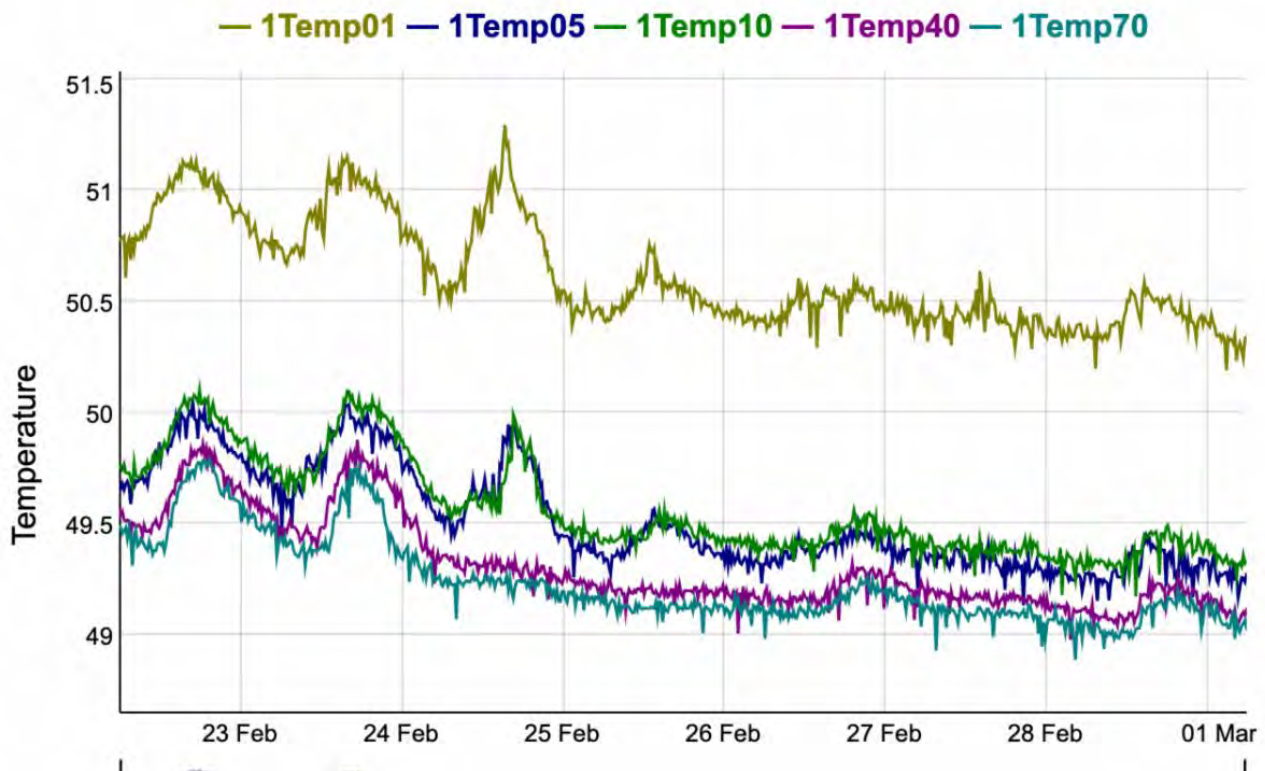
As a comparison rainfall at Cobb Mountain, a main part of the Lake Berryessa watershed, reached 60.45 inches on 3/1/23. They reported heavy snow last week.

The Gamble Gauge has topped 70.8% capacity (1,098,272 A-F). Water temperature has dropped slightly due to the snow and cold temperatures to 49.3 degrees from 10 feet down to the bottom. Follow the real-time data at the dam at:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>



Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Markley Cove Dock Fire (2/25/23)

A fire broke out and burned approximately 1/2 of a dock at Markley Cove. Once on scene, firefighters from CAL FIRE LNU/Napa County Fire and multiple cooperating agencies were able to stop the fire's forward progress on the dock.

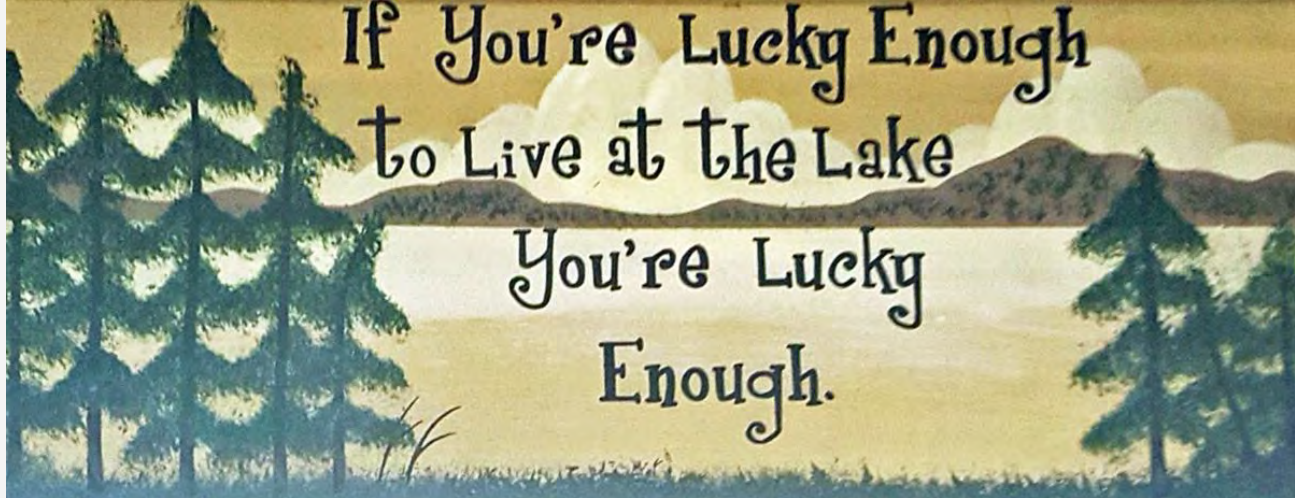
CALFIRE estimated that approximately 10-20 vessels of a mix of different boats burned & sunk. After a morning inventory, the number of boats destroyed in the dock fire rose to 23. This figure can potentially fluctuate as the investigation continues. The fire destroyed one-third of

boat dock D. There were no known injuries. It's cause is under investigation.

Additional responding agencies include the Napa County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, American Medical Response, the St. Helena Fire Department and the Winters Fire Department.

See video from the fire: https://youtu.be/m2_e64ZRA9k





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581 Putah Creek Drive

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,661 sq. ft.

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on a generous sized lake view lot.**

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3 bdrm, 2 bath; 1,944 sq.ft.; .32 acres



Luxurious primary suite with deck highlighting fabulous lake and mountain views!
Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, center island, and deck to peaceful views.
Family room with wood burning fireplace, formal dining room
and a living room with second wood burning fireplace



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In some ways it doesn't get any better than this. This property was literally the first property sold in the Berryessa Highlands more than 50 years ago and has never been on the market. It has views, land, a beautiful home, a pool, and more.

\$1,775,000



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2,200 Sq. Ft.
3 Bedrm, 2 Bath
Formal living room/
dining room
Open kitchen with
bar seating
Attached 2 car
garage
Prefer selling mostly
furnished
\$665,000

The ideal home to enjoy lake living life! Stunning lake and mountain views. Large deck for viewing and family BBQ's. ***Bonus!*** 25ft Pontoon boat and 16ft 1997 Klamath fishing boat & generator included!

Lots of Lots Available!

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Most people don't know the true story about the power generation capability of the powerhouse at Monticello Dam. Some folks even thought that during the California power crisis many years ago the Solano Irrigation District was letting out precious water to make money. Not true. The reality is that SID only gets power as a byproduct of the water required to be released under contract to the downstream users.

The following is a short version of a chapter in my upcoming book: Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource. The full version of this chapter is available to read at: <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/page/>.

Power Generation at Monticello Dam

The Monticello Dam Powerplant was completed in 1983 and has three generators, totaling a capacity of 11.5 megawatts (MW). The Powerhouse at the base of Monticello Dam is owned,

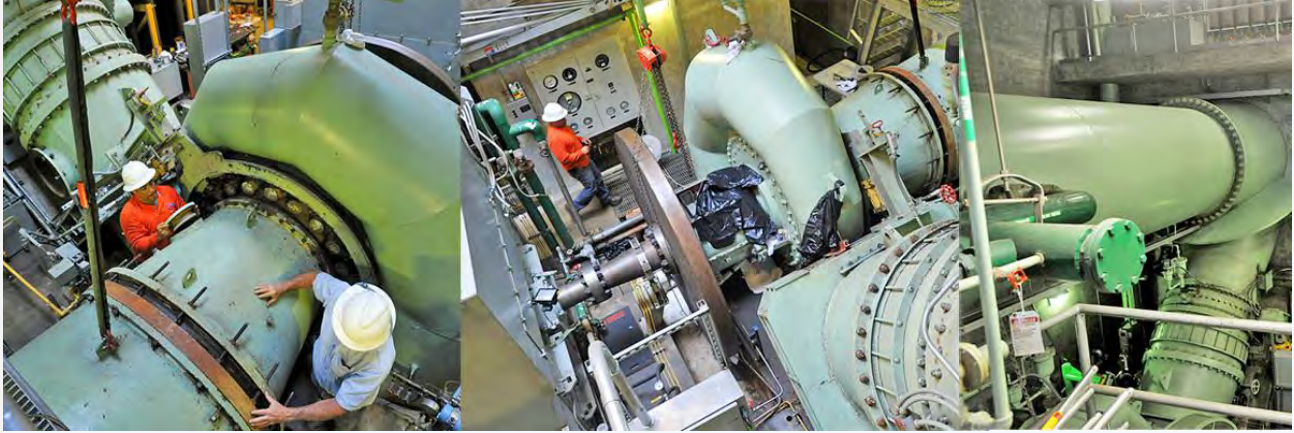
operated, and maintained by the Solano Irrigation District (SID). Monticello Dam, which began construction in 1953 and commenced operations in 1957, is also a backbone for local energy. Due to a 50-year contract that started in the 1980s, SID sells wholesale power to Pacific Gas and Electric, which they then place into their grid. During heavy rain conditions and rapid lake level rise, the generator produces 11.5 megawatts, which is peak production.

When Monticello Dam was constructed in the 1950's, installation of a hydroelectric plant was not considered economically feasible. However, penstocks were included to enable turbines and generators to be added sometime in the future.



All the water released from the dam or through the powerhouse is being used for agriculture and maintaining minimum flows in Putah Creek. When the powerhouse is operating all the flow is diverted through the turbines and is released below the concrete pad which is below the water surface. There is no indication it is running unless you look very closely and notice the turbulence from under the pad.

The water flows out of the dam and into the powerhouse through a massive pipe, with a giant manifold directing the flow to each of the three units. The water flows down through a 60-inch turbine shut-off valve. For each unit, the water enters the turbine, spins the "runner" and exits through a giant pipe. The water flow is controlled with "wicket gates" inside the turbine. They are what SID use to fine tune the amount of water that goes through. On the two larger generators, the runner is about 30 inches in diameter. It spins a 13,000-pound flywheel connected by a shaft, which extends into a big gray box that houses the actual generator. Electricity flows from there through conduit to a transformer on top of the powerhouse. Electricity is transmitted at 115,000 volts from the powerhouse to the PG&E grid.



The powerhouse only runs when there are water demands downstream. To ensure flow in the inter-dam reach, 45 cubic feet per second (CFS) is the minimum flow that always needs to be released from the dam. Starting at a lake level of 438 feet, the powerhouse can operate at the maximum output which is 700-750 CFS as long as this is never larger than the input to the lake. As inflow drops below this level the powerhouse will also decrease the flow rate so that the lake either maintains its level or is slowly increasing.



The production of electricity by the three generators in the 11.5-megawatt hydroelectric plant is not the main focus of the powerhouse, however. It's a byproduct. The electrical output is not what's driving the generators. The water orders drive the plant. Water orders come from Solano Irrigation District customers along the 33.3-mile long Putah South Canal that winds its way to the Green Valley area, as well as orders from the water treatment plants in Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Benicia and Vallejo. During the spring and summer water season, orders are gathered each day from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and submitted to the powerhouse. Changes are made in anticipation of what the next day's flow is going to be.

In the summertime, as the flows get higher there tend to be more changes required, sometimes

more than three or four changes during the day. The Solano Irrigation District wants zero water loss. They don't want to spill and lose water anywhere. If a user below the dam cuts off water requirements, the dam decreases water output to compensate. Providing enough water to customers without flowing too much requires the significant coordination of a team working together. SID has to do a lot of close coordination with PG&E when it changes flow rates, because they have to know how much load is being generated.



A Brief History of the Pope Valley Farm Center 1922 to the Present

Len Owens was given six months to live. In despair, he left San Francisco in the early 1880's to try the curative power of mineral waters at the Aetna Springs Resort in Pope Valley. Within a short time, his health was restored, a miracle he attributed to the healing qualities of the natural springs at the spa. So impressed was he that he bought Aetna Springs and thereafter enjoyed fifty-five years as its owner and operator. Throngs from San Francisco and elsewhere came to drink the mineral waters and to testify to their own health cures.

Always the entrepreneur, Owens constructed a bottling works over one of the springs in the center of the resort's nine-hole golf course. The bottled water became a popular retail item and, in 1904, Aetna Springs water won a silver medal at the Universal Exposition in St. Louis; in 1906 it won a gold medal at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. When whiskey was \$9 a case, Aetna Springs bottled water sold for \$11.

Sale of the water waned, however, as stricter health laws were enacted, and the bottling operation became unprofitable. Thus, in 1922, when the Pope Valley community began to discuss the need for a community hall, Owens offered the bottling building to them for \$700.

Also in 1922, in response to the community's desire for a hall, Henry and Celia Scheaffer donated 1.24 acres of land on Pope Valley-Chiles Valley Road as the future site.

The people of Pope Valley gratefully accepted the building and land and en masse stepped forward to work on the project. By 1923 they had completely dismantled the bottling building and moved the lumber to the new site. They then reconstructed the building as the new community hall and christened it "The Pope Valley Farm Center". One problem still remained: outstanding bills and insufficient funds to pay. Once again, Len Owens stepped up to the plate, paid the bills, and canceled the \$700 owed to himself.

The Farm Center became an important venue for agricultural happenings, such as buying and selling farm equipment, livestock and produce. It was also a social center for community activities and holiday celebrations.

Over the next seventy years Pope Valley gradually changed, with agricultural diversity giving way to vineyard development and small farms disappearing in the wake of a new economy. Reflecting these transitions, the Farm Center became less and less a site for agricultural exchange, even while it continued to be an important gathering place for educational and social events. But time was taking its toll and the building progressively deteriorated.

By 2012, the roof leaked, the floor had settled, walls leaned, windows were broken: the building had finally become unsafe for use. In order to save the Farm Center, which had been declared an historic landmark by the Napa County Board of Supervisors, a 501(c)(3) status was obtained for it, making restoration donations tax deductible. Over the next three years, generous community contributions were utilized to fund essential repairs and restorations. By 2015, this work was completed and the Farm Center restored to its historic appearance, complemented by a new foundation, new electrical, plumbing and heating systems and refinished floors and windows.

Once again the Farm Center is available for the kinds of educational and social events which have occurred over the years: Pope Valley School drama/theater classes, School Board candidate debates; Pope Valley 4H Club demonstrations of sheep shearing, horse shoeing, instruction on rabbiting, sewing classes; Pope Valley Fire Department - training exercises, annual barbecue; Pope Valley Ropers and Riders clinics on horsemanship; CA Dept. of Agriculture, U.C. Extension classes on invasive species control, erosion control, reforestation and maintenance of oak woodlands; Red Cross - First Aid/Life Saving classes; use as a Disaster Center; Napa County Historical Society - lectures on the history of local structures; plus arts and crafts fairs, flea markets, vet clinics, bingo nights, birthday parties, dances, wedding receptions, funerals, community dinners and holiday gatherings. Generosity created the Farm Center and has kept it going for a century.

The Lake Berryessa community considers the Pope Valley community part of us. Thanks to Phil Burton for providing this fascinating article to the Lake Berryessa News. Time to support the Pope Valley Farm Center by dancing the night away on March 18!

POPE VALLEY FARM CENTER
PRESENTS



POPE VALLEY
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2023

SATURDAY MAR 18TH
6PM - 10PM

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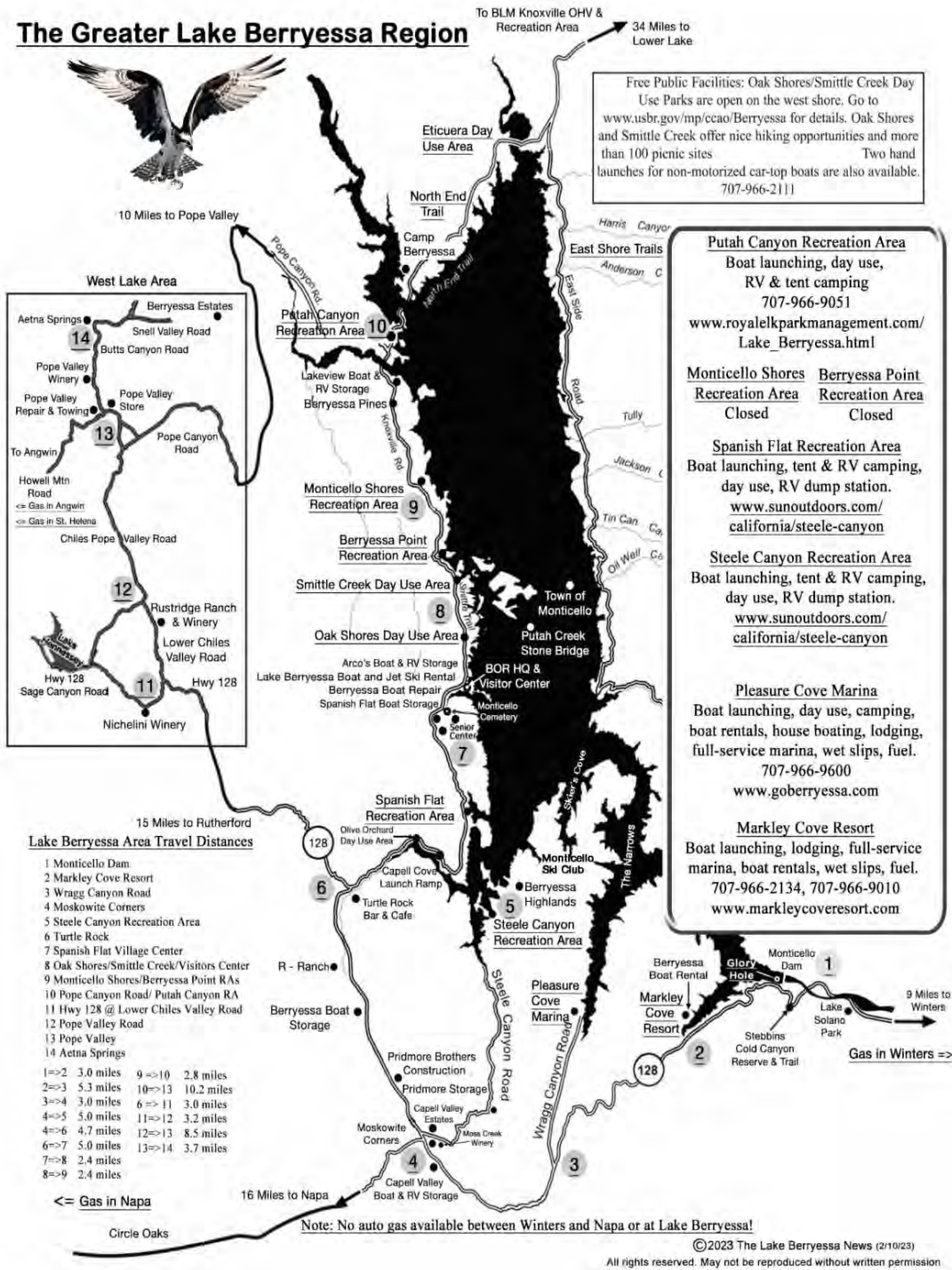
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (March 1, 2023)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



The Lake Berryessa News: March 26, 2023

Happy Sunday from a Dry and Sunny Lake Berryessa!

Thanks to the donations of so many generous Lake Berryessa News readers, I will begin publishing the print version of the paper next Friday. I will continue sending this newsletter twice per month. Please forward it to anyone you think might be interested. To get on my email list send your email address to pkilkus@gmail.com. Remember that you can get your daily dose of the Lake Berryessa News at my website and Facebook page:

www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

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

There has been much excitement regarding the rapid rise of Lake Berryessa this rainy season. The Lake Berryessa new website has been getting around 3,000 hits per day and the number of folks following the Lake Berryessa News Facebook page has risen to more than 32,000. Many people have questions and, although I have or can find most of the answers, I'd like to give my readers the resources to find the answers for themselves.

Which is why I'm in the process of finalizing my next book:

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major
Unnatural Resource

I hope to publish in a Kindle and paperback versions within the next few months. This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. My research, with the assistance of engineers at the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) and Solano Irrigation District (SID), has been aimed at answering these technical questions. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.

In this issue of the newsletter I'm providing links to resources you can use to find out in real time what is happening at and to Lake Berryessa. They are the same resources I use to create the charts and graphs you can find on my website - a Lake Berryessa data banquet!

Lake Berryessa Statistics (3/26/23 - 10 AM)

The lake level has risen only a few inches during the last three days to 427.4 feet - 12.6 feet below Glory Hole, a 33.4 foot rise since its low of 394.0 feet on December 1, 2022. Rainfall at the dam is still at 39.37 inches. As a comparison, rainfall at Cobb Mountain was a total of 80.89

inches on 3/22/23.

There has been no rain for 3 days, and no rain is predicted until next Tuesday (5 days), so the soil will dry out and runoff chances decrease. It will probably take about an inch of rain next week before we get any appreciable runoff again. The predictions are for about an inch from the next storm. It seems that the rainy season is coming to an end.

April is statistically a very low rainfall month. Hopefully the light rains predicted for the near future will get the lake above 430 feet. This will be a very good result.

Check the historical charts to see the present level relative to past years. The lake level has only reached 440 feet (Glory Hole) 25 times in the last 65 years.

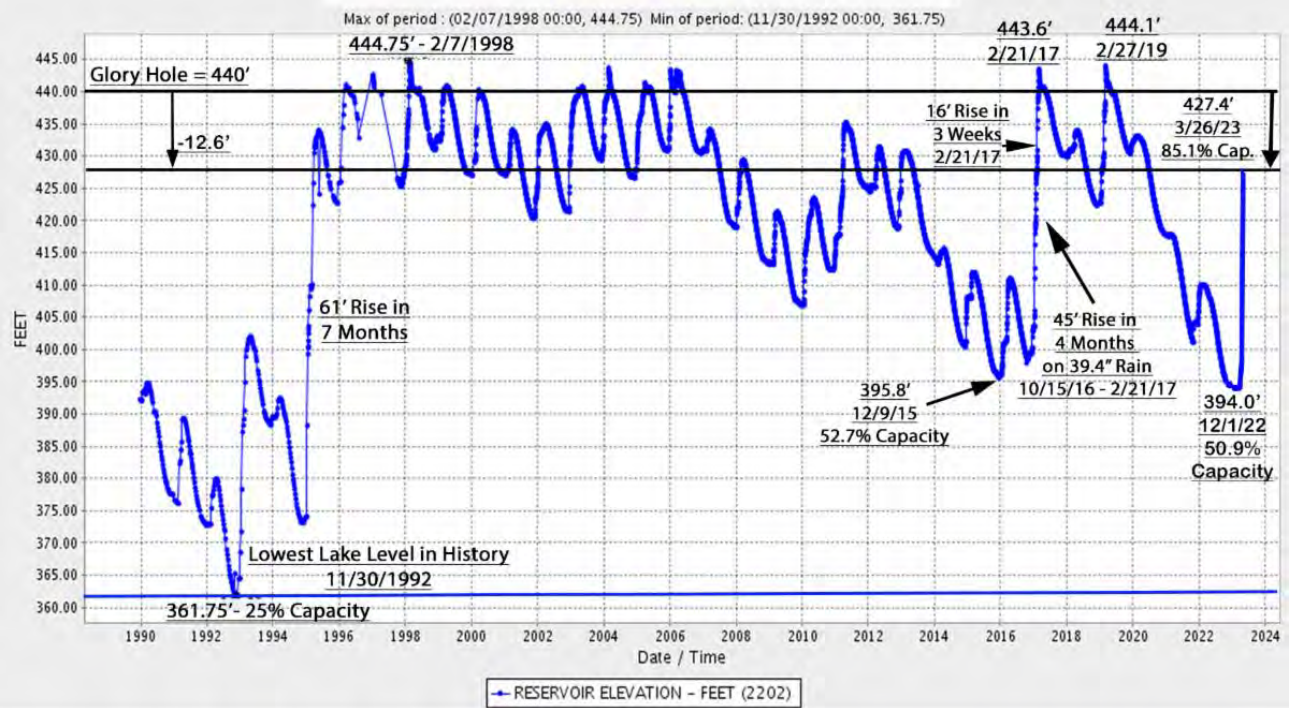
The Gamble Gauge has reached 85.1% capacity (1,320,426 A-F). Dam output is still at 45 cubic feet per second (CFS), water - the lowest allowed by law and contract. The release is not affecting the lake level in any significant way.

The lake warmed up a degree to around 54 - 51 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down but is at 50 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

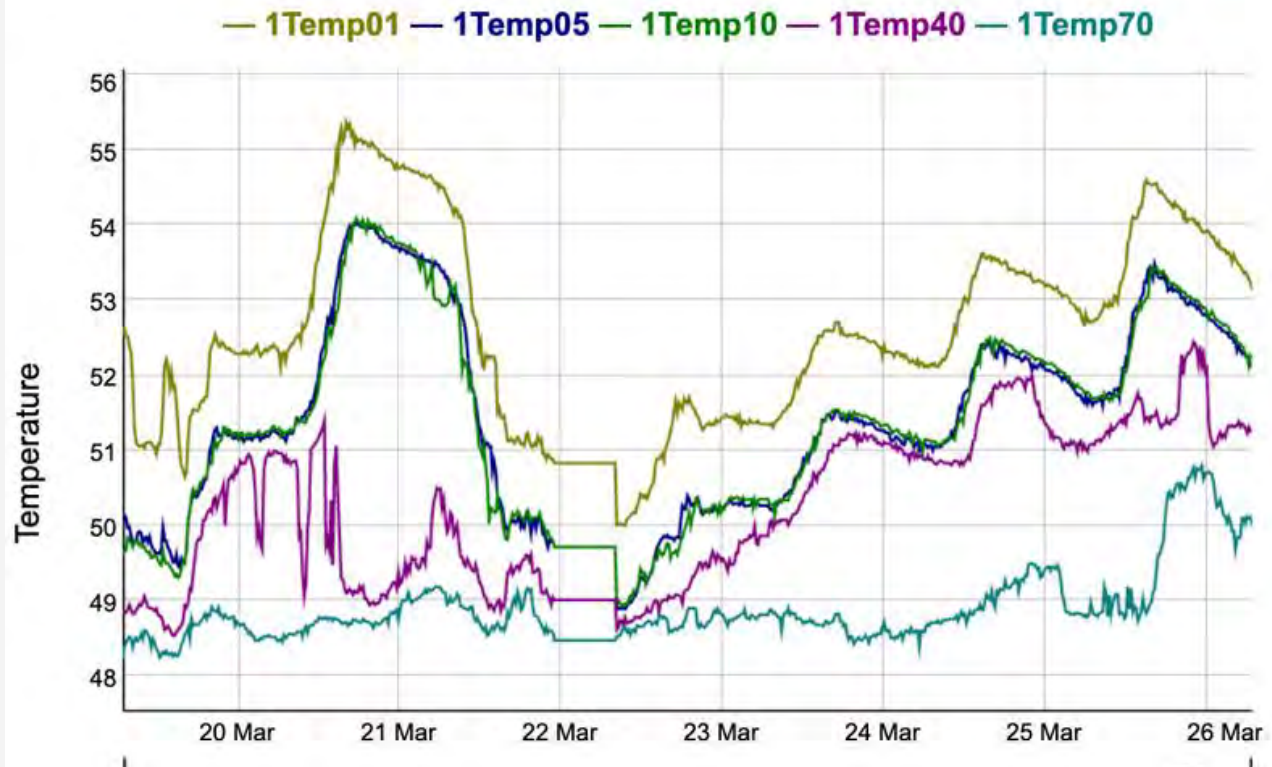
March rainfall remains at 10.94 inches. This will still be a higher than average March for rain. Only one year has been higher. The highest March rainfall since 2010 has been only 12.4 inches in 2011. Here are the rainfall numbers for the month of March since 2010: 2010 - 1.9"; 2011- 12.4"; 2012 - 7.5"; 2013 - 0.8"; 2014 - 1.3"; 2015 - 1.0"; 2016 - 8.3"; 2017 - 3.4"; 2018 - 4.5"; 2019 - 2.7"; 2020 - 1.2"; 2021 - 1.9"; 2022 - 1.0

April rainfall will not be enough to raise the lake level much further. Here are the rainfall numbers for the month of March since 2010: 2010 - 3.74"; 2011- 0.28"; 2012 - 2.49"; 2013 - 0.54"; 2014 - 1.32"; 2015 - 1.46"; 2016 - 1.46"; 2017 - 2.84"; 2018 - 1.7"; 2019 - 0.42"; 2020 - 0.8"; 2021 - 0.26"; 2022 - 1.65

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Lake Berryessa - Temperature





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Lake Berryessa Data Resources

There are many sources of Lake Berryessa water and weather conditions available. The Solano County Water Agency site is good for real-time graphs of level, capacity, and water temperature. The California Data Exchange Center has data going back decades for level, capacity, capacity change, dam outflow, dam inflow, and rainfall. Anyone can research their own data and create custom charts. This is the source of many of the charts on the Lake Berryessa News website.

The Weather Underground sells personal weather stations that become part of a public network that shows real-time and historical site data for real-time temperature, daily temperature range, real-time wind speed, wind direction, wind gusts, high and low wind speed limits, rainfall total, rainfall rate, atmospheric pressure, solar radiation, and UV index - a real weather nerd's delight.

Real-Time Lake Level, Lake Capacity, Water Temperature

Solano County Water Agency

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

Real-Time Monitoring

Solano County Water Agency

Monitoring Home North Bay Aqueduct Solano Project Water Quality Putah Creek Real-Time Rainfall and Creek Levels Lake Berryessa Login

SCWA Home

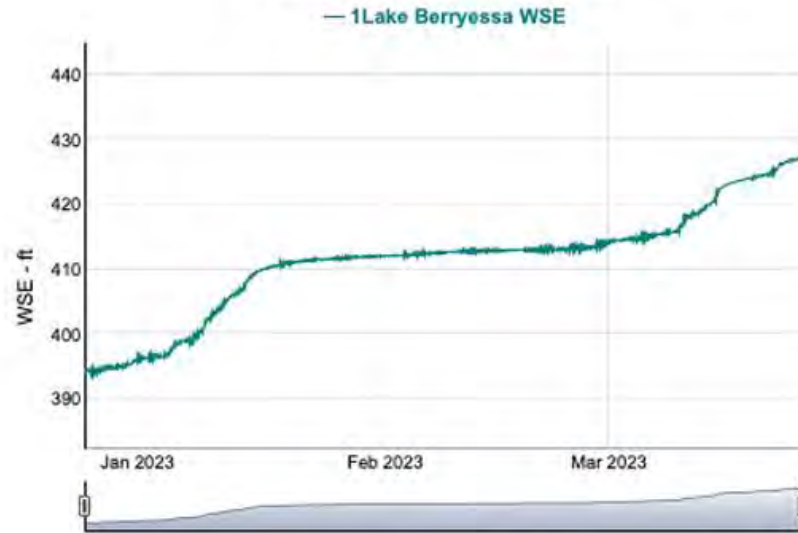
Lake Berryessa

All of the data and information on these plots is raw, unrefined, and has not yet been reviewed by qualified staff. The plots come directly from the monitoring equipment and are displayed in unedited format. All monitoring equipment is subject to intermittent fluctuations, or spikes, which can cause invalid readings. These plots are issued once or twice a day and may not reflect current readings. The data and information is subject to change at any time for a variety of reasons.

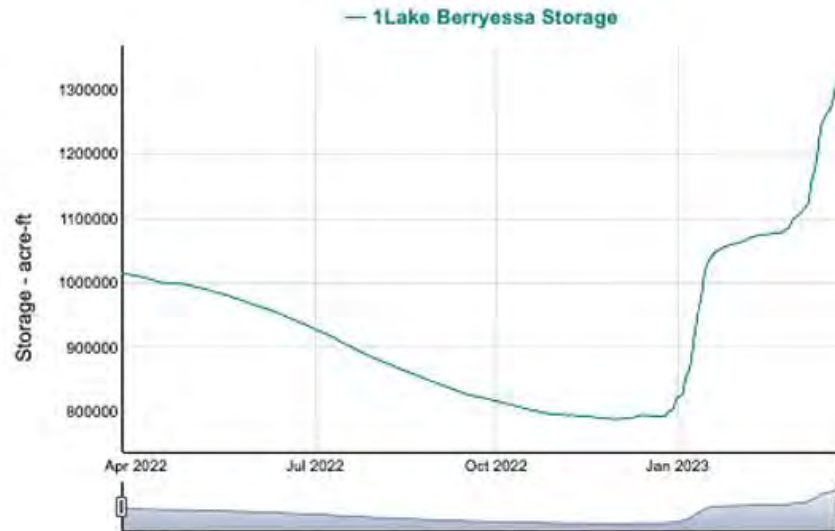
All times are Pacific Standard. Add one hour during daylight savings time (if the plot says 15:00, the real time is 16:00).

Active Scripting must be enabled in your browser settings to view the charts.

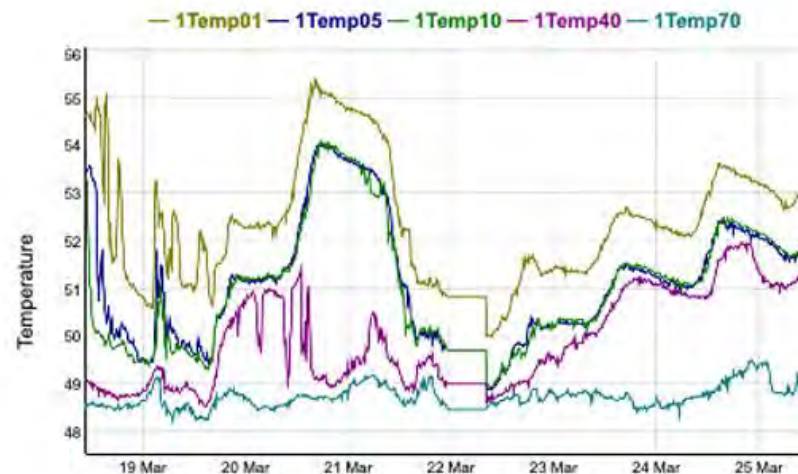
Lake Berryessa - Water Surface Elevation - 90 Day Lake Spills @ 440 ft. (1002.502)



Lake Berryessa - Storage - 1/2 Year (1002.504)



Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Lake Detailed Historical Data

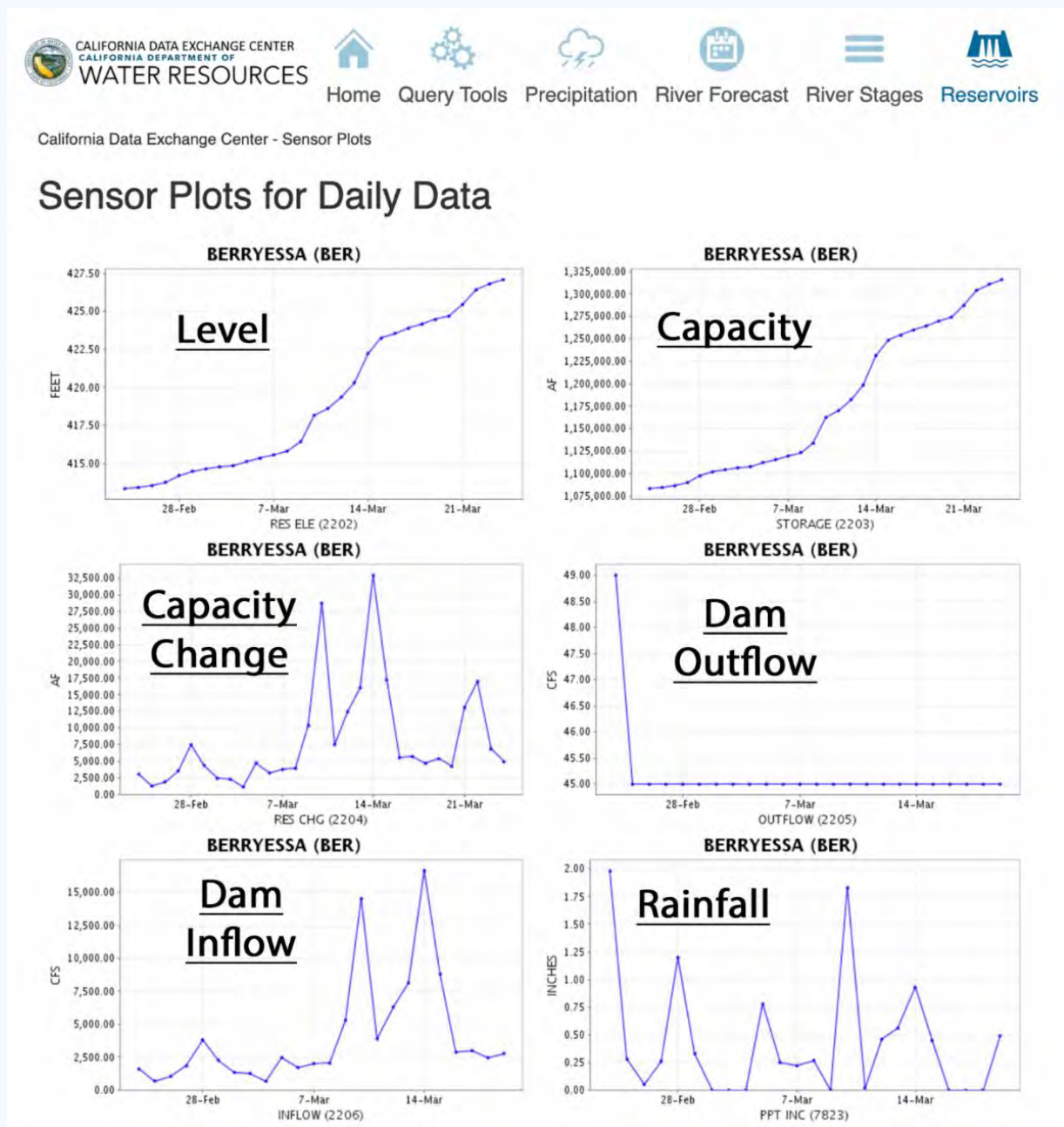
California Data Exchange Center

<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/>

Research historical data and create custom plots

Lake Berryessa Code: BER

https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/sensorplots?staid=ber&dur_code=D



Local Weather Stations (Weather Underground Network)

Berryessa Highlands (Somewhere in the Berryessa Highlands)

Berryessa Highlands - KCANAPA20

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA20>

Skiers Cove (Below the Berryessa Highlands)

Skier Cove - KCANAPA228

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA228>

East Side Road (Across from Big Island)

East Side Road, Lake Berryessa - KCALAKEB2

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCALAKEB2>

Spanish Flat (Near the Spanish Flat Recreation Area)

Roger - KCASPANI1

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCASPANI1>

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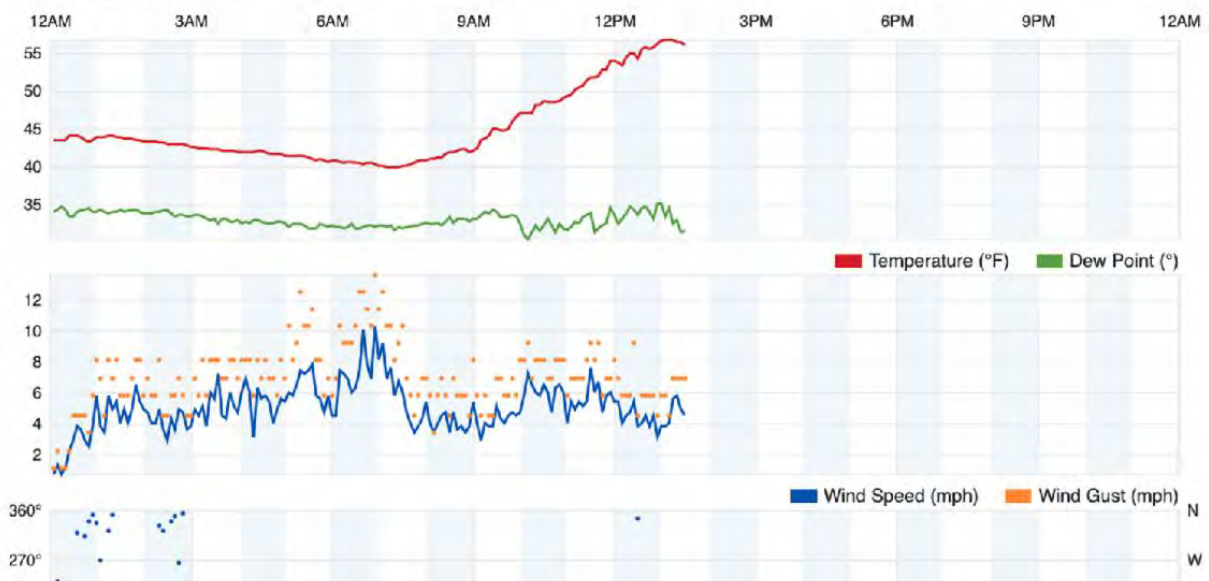
Summary

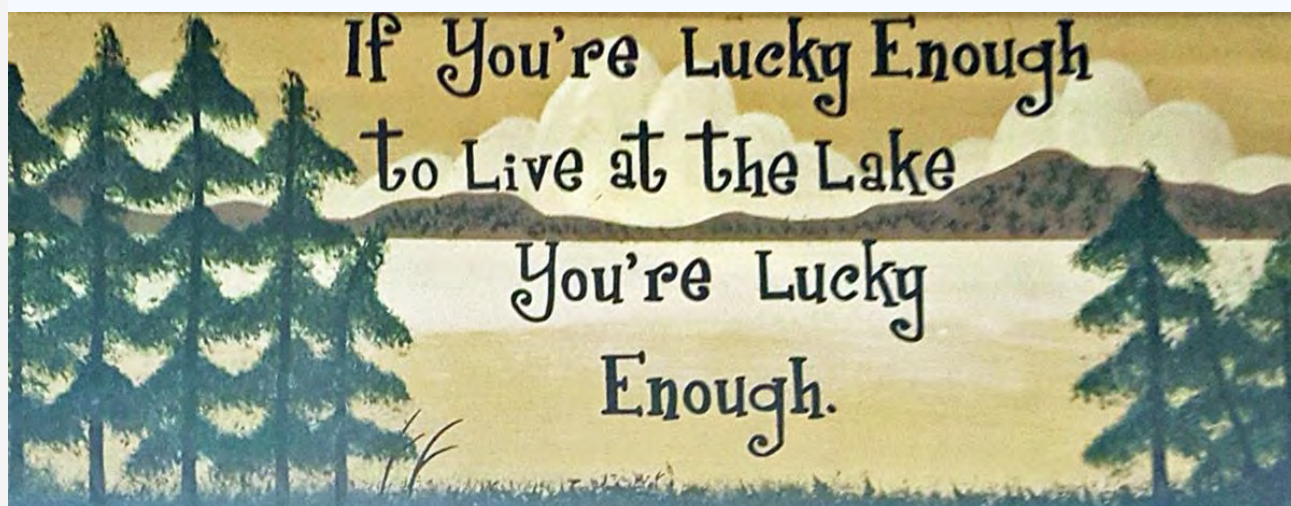
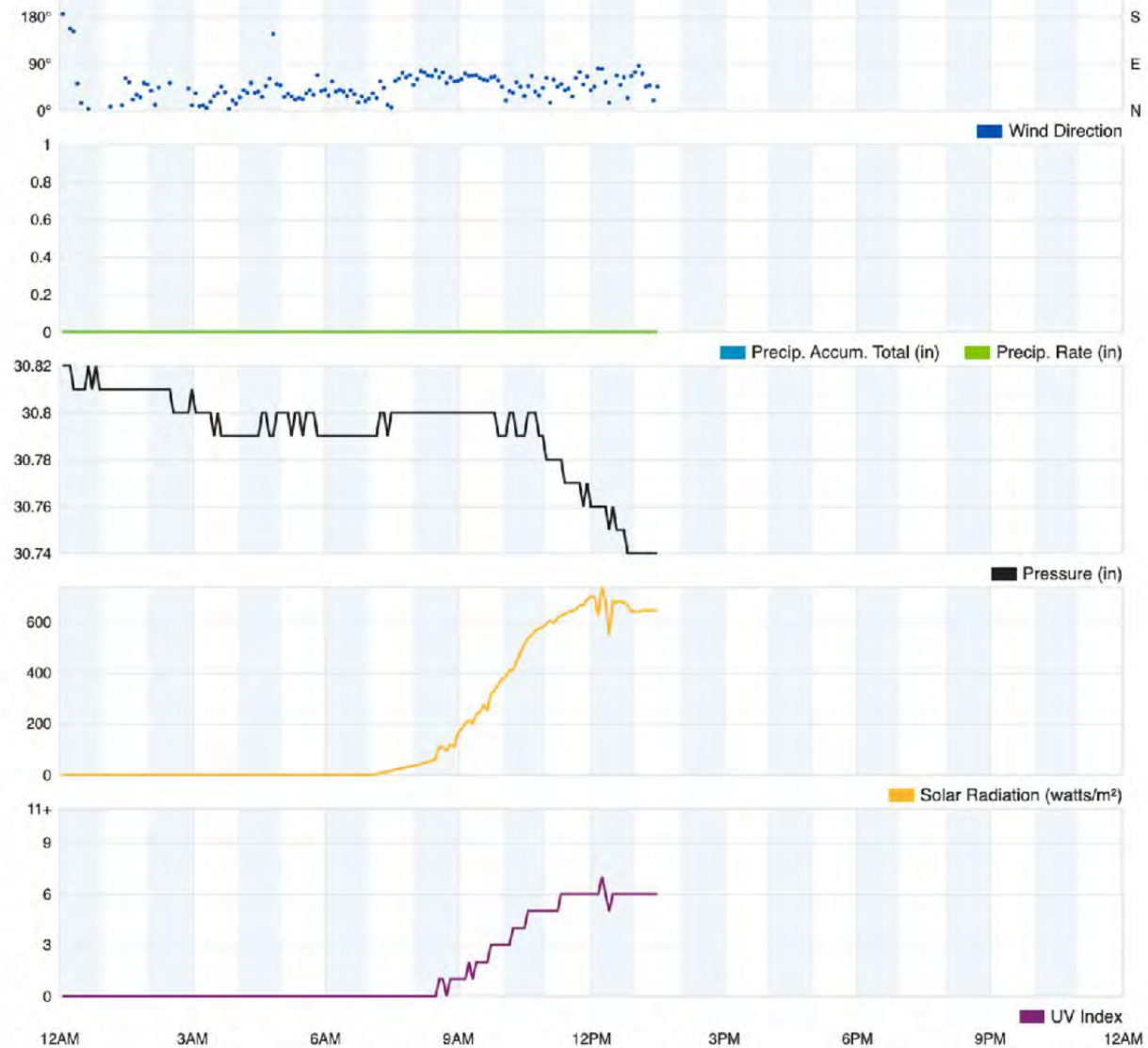
March 25, 2023

	High	Low	Average		High	Low	Average
Temperature	56.8 °F	39.6 °F	44.8 °F	Wind Speed	10.3 mph	0.0 mph	2.6 mph
Dew Point	35.1 °F	25.5 °F	32.3 °F	Wind Gust	13.6 mph	--	3.9 mph
Humidity	74 %	31 %	63 %	Wind Direction	--	--	North
Precipitation	0.00 in	--	--	Pressure	30.82 in	30.73 in	--

[Graph](#) [Table](#)

March 25, 2023





As Close to the Lake as You Can Get!

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In some ways it doesn't get any better than this. This property was literally the first property sold in the Berryessa Highlands more than 50 years ago and has never been on the market. It has views, land, a beautiful home, a pool, and more.

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3 Bedrm, 2 Bath
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Open kitchen with
bar seating
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Prefer selling mostly
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The ideal home to enjoy lake living life! Stunning lake and mountain views. Large deck for viewing and family BBQ's. ***Bonus!*** 25ft Pontoon boat and 16ft 1997 Klamath fishing boat & generator included!

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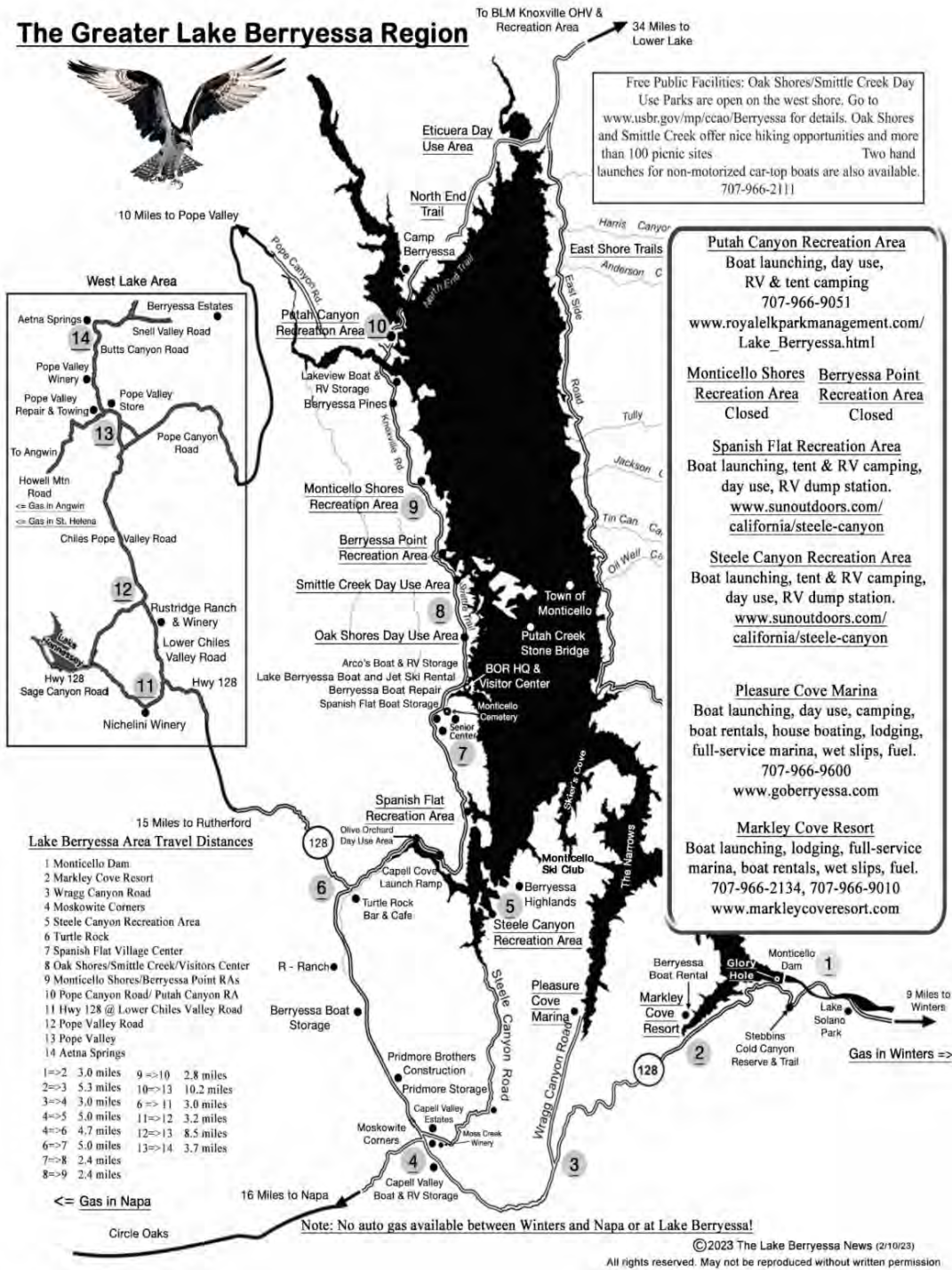
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (March 1, 2023)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News



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

April 1, 2023 - America's Favorite Holiday

Remember, if you read it in The Lake Berryessa News April 1 Special Edition it must be true?

The Lake Berryessa News Print Edition Is Back! Happy Saint Stupid's Day

Winters Whoopee Wheel of Wonder

Finally realizing that none of the highly promoted "economic benefits" of the silly Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument have materialized for their so-called "Gateway City", and that the Lake Berryessa renaissance project is moving slowly, the Winters Chamber of Commerce and Winters City Council have proposed a new method of increasing city revenue. Their new idea is to build an "Observation Wheel".

It has been dubbed the
"Winters Whoopee Wheel of
Wonder" (WWOW)

Observation wheels are gaining popularity all around the world. From the London Eye to the High Roller in Las Vegas, these attractions offer a new experience from your average fair ride. The great height of these rides allow for a beautiful view of your surroundings—the hills around Winters, the Sacramento



The Mousinbloom Tulip

Valley, and all the way to the Sierras.

One special feature of the WWOW will include cars built as replicas of local wildlife: American eagle, deer, wild turkey, bass, catfish, and rattlesnakes. But the most unique attribute will be its incorporation of self-inflating whoopee cushions in every car seat.

The Winters Chamber has contracted with the manufacturer of the largest whoopee cushion in the world to provide 250 units - each with a toot tuned to the notes of the musical scale. Imagine walking down Winters Main Street on a balmy summer evening hearing the music of the WWOW wafting through the air around you.

The Lake Berryessa News has the tag line, "Without THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS there would be no Lake Berryessa news". Turtle Rock has the "World Famous Egg Rolls".

Soon Winters will have won the honor as the home of the:

"Winters Whoopee Wheel of
Wonder - the World's Largest
Musical Wind Instrument!"



Winters Whoopee Wheel of Wonder

CHALLENGE OF THE DAY

Physics is Fun! Entropy 101



PLACE WATCH PARTS IN A SEALED BOX
SHAKE BOX UNTIL YOU GET A WATCH



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I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you!

Gravity Is Your Friend, But Water Does Not Flow Uphill!

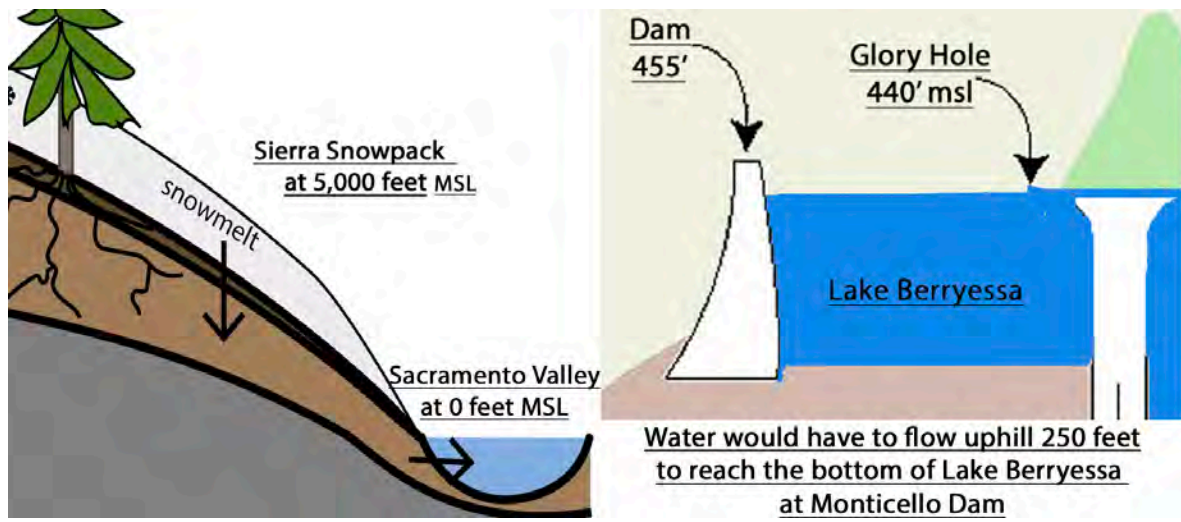
This year's higher than normal rainfall and rapid lake level rise has gotten everyone excited. The very unusual heavy snowfall at the lake was a beautiful event. And the record snowfall in the Sierras put a lot of water in the bank for this summer and future years.

But I'm still surprised at how many people think that Lake Berryessa gets some benefit from the Sierra snowmelt. Lake Berryessa has NO CONNECTION to the snow in the Sierras. The diagram shows why. Say the snowmelt flows down from the Sierra hills at 5,000 feet above MSL (mean sea level). Gravity is our friend in that case - no pumping necessary. But when it hits the Sacramento River it's now at basically sea level.

Just looking across the Sacramento Valley at the mountains to the west should be a clue. Driving from Winters to Markley Cove should smack you in the head with the obvious. Lower Putah Creek flow downhill fast and furious to Winters in a big rain - and it's not all from Lake Berryessa. Most of the rain flows into Lake Berryessa, not out of it.

One way to get Sierra snowmelt into Lake Berryessa without pumping it uphill from the Sacramento River would be an airtight pipe starting at a higher level with an output lower than the higher level. The hydraulic pressure at the high end would push the water down to and out the other end even if there were a low spot in between. You can see this principle in action if you take any short hose and fill it with water. If you now lift one end the water flows out the lower end due to hydraulic pressure caused by the force of gravity. Doing this with a hundred fifty mile pipe from Auburn to Lake Berryessa would be a monumental endeavor!

But for additional excitement, the pipe output from the mountains could be connected to the output of Glory Hole making it the input to the lake. It would be an awesome site to see water gushing up out of Glory Hole during the spring and early summer when the Sierra snow starts to melt in volume



April Fools' Day is a great day to pull pranks. Except on me, if you're smart.

Excuse me, sir. Do you think they named April Fools' Day in your honor?

What monster plays the most April Fools' jokes? Frankenstein.

Did you hear about the guy who swapped the labels on the pumps at the gas station? It was an April Fuels' joke.

You should know that no one understood it was an April Fools' joke. No one expected you to have a sense of humor.

Why was everyone so tired on April 1? Because they just finished a long 31-day March.

What's one bone a prankster doesn't want to break on April Fools' Day? The humerus.

Why do omelettes love April Fools'? They enjoy practical yolks.

What kind of pickles do spring flowers like? Daffo-dills.

What do bees use to fix their hair? Honeycombs.

What do storm clouds wear under their pants? Thunderwear.

New Lake Berryessa Recreation Opportunity: A Clothing Optional Lifestyle

In a highly unpopular move with no real public support the Bureau of Reclamation arbitrarily closed Big Island Lagoon, a traditional family boating rest area, to motorized recreation more than ten years ago. The final 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) simply stated that "certain areas of the lake are reserved for non-motorized water craft and trolling engines." The areas so designated were not actually described in the ROD, but were simply drawn on a map of the lake - Big Island Lagoon and the area near Steele Park known as Willi's Cove. No other public notification nor request for public input was made prior to the release of the 2006 ROD.

The justification for this action was silly then and has been proven by observation over the following years to be completely false. The Lake Berryessa News believes this restriction should be eliminated because years of data show that almost no one now uses that "exclusive use" space except a few random kayakers per year.

Although the BOR recognizes this unfair situation, they have decided to keep it in place but expand the cultural inclusion and usage of the Big Island Lagoon, and Big Island itself, by declaring them "clothing optional" recreation areas as of April 1, 2023.

Possibly following the Bureau of Reclamation's inclusiveness policy lead and hoping to open an underserved market segment in the liberal Napa Valley and San Francisco Bay Area, the new concessioner for the Monticello Shores Recreation Area (formerly Rancho Monticello Resort) may be contemplating a "clothing optional" section for their new resort. They would be in competition with Laguna del Sol, a "Premier Clothing Optional Resort" located in southeast Sacramento (<https://www.lagunadelsol.com/>).

The following internal memo was leaked to the Lake Berryessa News, ostensibly for release on April 1, 2024, when the resort may be reopened. The Lake Berryessa News could not confirm whether the proposed announcement was factual or a humorous attempt at an April Fool's joke - as many large corporations attempt at this time of year.

"A Clothing-Optional Getaway For All Seasons Luxury Camping...Try a view yurt or luxury cabin at Monticello Shores ...the ultimate value in clothing-optional relaxation and nude recreation in the San Francisco Bay Area. Vacationers can escape the pressure-cooker of Silicon Valley, or the political drama of Sacramento, and enjoy one of the premier vacation lakes in California and the nearby Napa Valley. Experienced vacationers swear that only a few hours spent au naturel at Lake Berryessa provides the de-stressing equivalent of a seven-day cruise. Just imagine how relaxing an Eden-like vacation or holiday getaway might feel at one of California's most scenic naturist resorts on the shores of one of the most beautiful lakes in California."

Fabulous Home at Lake Berryessa
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<https://capecodct.com/>
3 bdrm, 2 bath; 1,944 sq.ft.; .32 acres

\$599,000

Luxurious primary suite with deck highlighting fabulous lake and mountain views! Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, center island, and deck to peaceful views. Family room with wood burning fireplace, formal dining room and a living room with second wood burning fireplace

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amber.payne@corcoranl.com
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As Close to the Lake as You Can Get!
581 Putah Creek Drive
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,661 sq. ft.
<https://lakeberryessahome.com/>

Custom home along with spectacular views in a terrific location in Berryessa Pines on a generous sized lake view lot.

Offered at \$695,000

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1. 1051 Blueridge Dr. \$599K
2. 121 Parkview: \$650K
3. 527 Neptune: \$850K

www.lakeberryessaland.com

www.circleoakslots.com

Lakeview Living!
572 Putah Creek Road

2,200 Sq. Ft.
3 Bedrm, 2 Bath
Formal living room/
dining room
Open kitchen with
bar seating
Attached 2 car
garage
Prefer selling mostly
furnished
\$665,000

The ideal home to enjoy lake living life! Stunning lake and mountain views. Large deck for viewing and family BBQ's. **Bonus!** 25ft Pontoon boat and 16ft 1997 Klamath fishing boat & generator included!

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www.lakelifemeetswinecountry.com

In some ways it doesn't get any better than this. This property was literally the first property sold in the Berryessa Highlands more than 50 years ago and has never been on the market. It has views, land, a beautiful home, a pool, and more.

\$1,575,000

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Senior Sales Associate
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Adorable Home with Serene Setting!
1021 Arroyo Grande Dr.
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\$475,000

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath property, open floor plan with cozy wood burning stove nestled in the hills above Lake Berryessa.

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Onion Headlines

More Ethical Mouse Trap Convicts
Rodents Of Capital Offense Before
Sending Them To Electric Chair

Disappointed Man Reaches Bottom Of Ice
Cream Carton Right When He Was
Hitting His Stride

Congress Rules Food Stamps Can Only
Be Used For Rutabagas

Government Subsidies Awarded To Any
CEO Who Says 'Climate'

NPR Launches New Podcast Exploring
Lives Of Employees They Just Laid Off

Outraged Parents Demand Teachers Raise
Kids Like They Would If More Involved

Donald Trump's 'Truth Social' Enters
Guinness World Records As 'Most
Ironically Named App In History'

Former Secretary of State Henry
Kissinger has been diagnosed with
immortality

Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene
declares she's succeeding from the union

GOP proves they are not racist by
heckling a white president during State Of
The Union

Nebraska coffee chain bakes world's
largest cake ball

Mom Warns Son to 'Watch Out for
Idiots,' Then Rear-Ends His Motorcycle."

Cemetery superintendent job ad: The
ideal candidate must be able to supervise
in a fast-paced environment

Marshall County Sheriff's Candidate
Disputes Report of Own Death

April Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): If you pick yourself up by your shoe laces or bootstraps you are likely to fall flat on your butt.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Hope can solve nearly all of your problems today. Until tomorrow when all of your dreams will be dashed to pieces.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): The loony-left is a phrase that you quite like. Everything you are thinking about will end up getting lost in some sort of fuzzy logic.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Any satisfaction you had about not having a police record, may be undone today.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Sitting at a computer in order to read websites is not advised. Prepare to gape at the beautiful horror you'll experience.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Bevels. You like bevels - both the word, and the effect. However, the bevel may cause you distress today as it takes away your dignity in some random manner.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Dance like a madman, win the respect of colleagues and foes.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Money makes the world go round only in a metaphorical sense. Now that you understand that, try not to embarrass yourself in front of other by declaring that other metaphorical phrases are indeed based on science and physics.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Don't be in the market for any of what anyone is selling. The shop you like to buy your food from may suddenly disappear with a whooshing sound as you approach it.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Armchair politicians will affect your life today as they rise from their dank pits and begin to conquer the known world.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Many of your hang-ups would disappear if you started wearing clothes that more suited you.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): The good and the great come together today and miss you entirely during all their endeavors. Which is a bit sad, really.

Lake Berryessa Data Sources

There are many sources of Lake Berryessa water and weather conditions available. The Solano County Water Agency site is good for real-time graphs of level, capacity, and water temperature. The California Data Exchange Center has data going back decades for level, capacity, capacity change, dam outflow, dam inflow, and rainfall. Anyone can research their own data and create custom charts. This is the source of many of the charts on the Lake Berryessa News website.

The Weather Underground sells personal weather stations that become part of a public network that shows real-time and historical site data for real-time temperature, daily temperature range, real-time wind speed, wind direction, wind gusts, high and low wind speed limits, rainfall total, rainfall rate, atmospheric pressure, solar radiation, and UV index - a real weather nerd's delight.

Real-Time Lake Level, Lake Capacity, Water Temperature

Solano County Water Agency
<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

Lake Detailed Historical Data
California Data Exchange Center
<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/>

Research historical data and create custom plots

Lake Berryessa Code: BER
https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/sensorplots?staid=ber&dur_code=D

Local Weather Stations (Weather Underground Network)

Berryessa Highlands - KCANAPA20
<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA20>

Skier Cove - KCANAPA228
<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA228>

East Side Road, Lake Berryessa - KCALAKEB2
<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCALAKEB2>

Spanish Flat - KCASPANI1
<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCASPANI1>

COME HEAR THE EASTER STORY!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

EASTER MORNING

Sunday, April 9th at 10 AM

Valley Christian Church

1193 Capell Valley Rd.

Napa, Ca 94558

Services every Sunday at 10 AM

Biblical teaching and weekly bible fellowship

For information please contact:

Pastor Steve White

707-628-7542

pastorsteve@vcclb.net

This year, start a new Easter tradition and join us at Valley Christian Church! We will be having a special service with an encouraging message that remembers the events of that first Easter. Enjoy uplifting music in a causal atmosphere! We believe in developing authentic relationships, raising strong families, and staying connected to the community. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ ! Hope to see you Easter morning!

A new portable car exhaust grill that's heated by your vehicle's emissions!



Napachar Creates Unique Biochar Vintages

Founded in eastern Napa county, Napachar (<https://napachar.com/>) converts woody waste from vineyard management and local forest fuel-reduction efforts into Biochar, one of the richest soil amendments and most stable forms of carbon capture available today.

Biochar is a remarkable soil amendment for grape growing. In particular, it increases grape production and grape quality by aiding water and nutrient retention in the soil. And because biochar does not degrade it does not require frequent reapplication. The increased grape production can result in a rapid return on investment. (Here's a link to a report from the Department of Water Resources with data from a 7-year experiment adding biochar to Pinot Noir vines in Salinas that saw a 30% increase in grape production: <https://pacificbiochar.com/wp-content/uploads/Final-Oasis-Vineyard-Biochar-Field-Trial-Science-Report-2.pdf>).

Since much of its present production of biochar is create by processing wood waste from Napa vineyards replacement of old grape vines, Napachar has the opportunity to create unique biochar products based on the old vines from which they produce the biochar. Cabernet, chardonnay, pinot noir and other biochar varietals may soon be available after April 1, 2023. Napachar also produces unique biochar products from various types of wood salvaged in wildfire prevention activities.

One unintended benefit of the biochar process is that the conversion of wood to biochar produces a unique flavored candy. Napachar founders discovered this when testing their latest biochar converter pictured below. They intend to incorporate a new Napachar subsidiary on April 1, 2023, to produce biochar bbq-broiled marshmallows.



St. Stupid's Day and the Dumbing Down of America

St. Stupid is the patron saint of religion, politics, and the Internet. He and his followers are responsible for the dumbing down of America by the methodical destruction and purposeful elimination of the means by which a society educates and enlightens itself.

Historically there have always been stupid people, but the trend seems to be accelerating with attitude triumphing over substance in so many areas of modern culture – especially lately in politics and on various social media (another major source of blatant stupidity.)

Although April Fools Day celebrates sly wit and twisted humor, it also inadvertently highlights the serious lack of scientific and mathematical knowledge of the American public, as well as a complete lack of the ability to think analytically on the part of many.

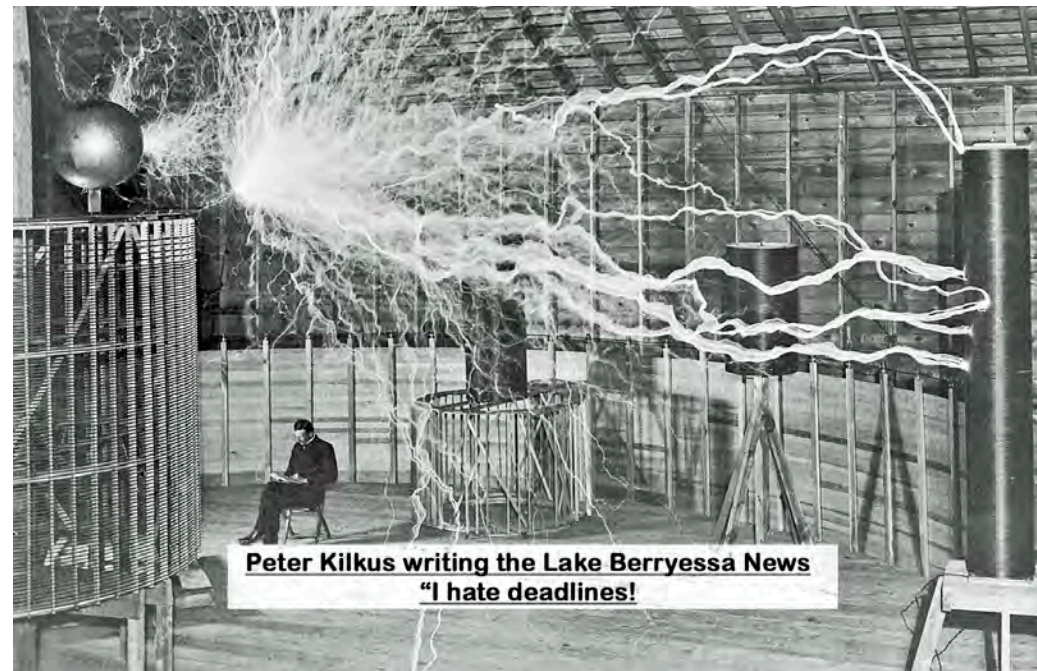
This issue of the Lake Berryessa allows readers to hone their own mental skills as they decide how much truthiness of each article.

Berryessium Discovered!

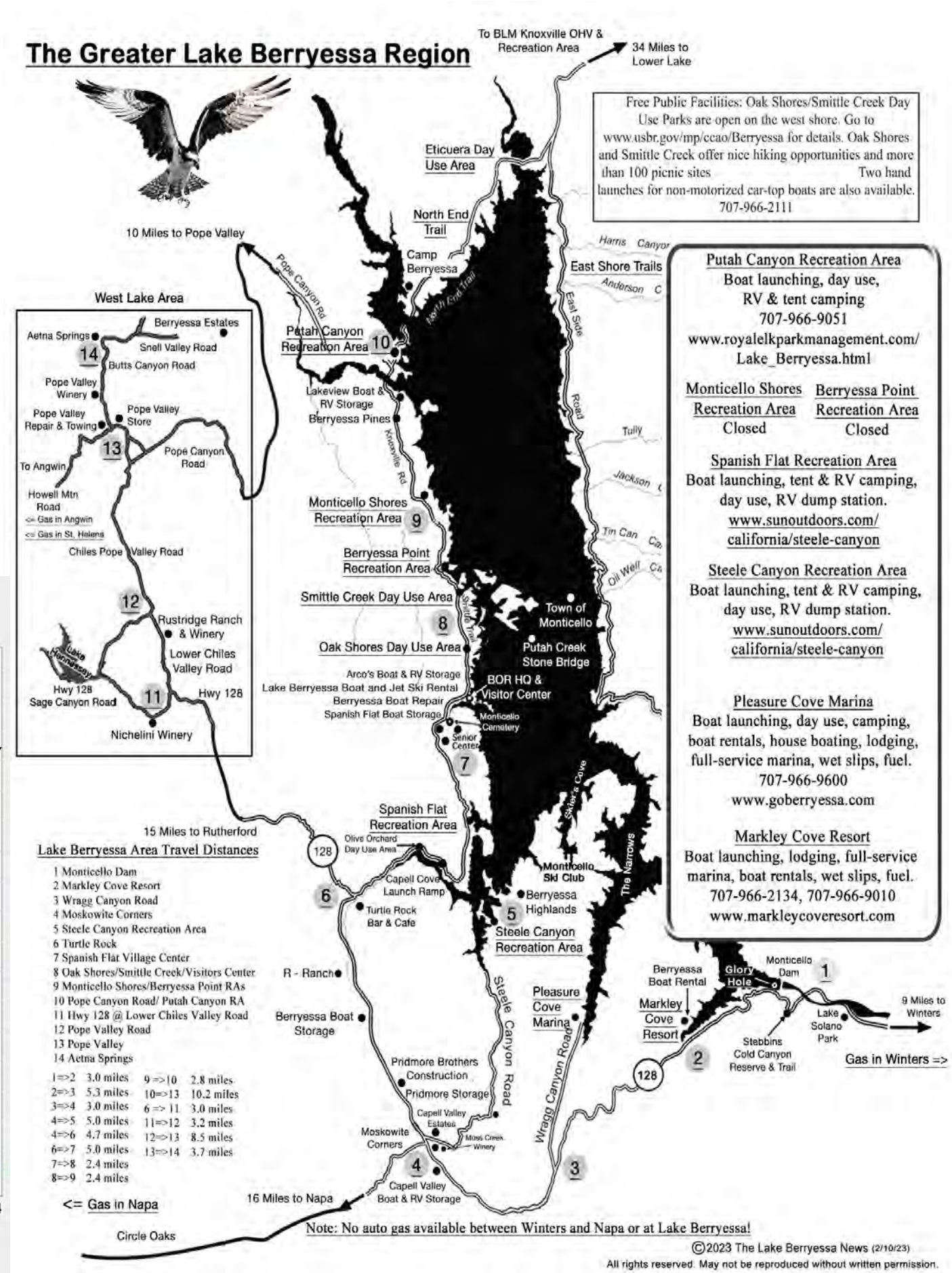
The virtually unexplored East Side of Lake Berryessa is a mountain range upthrust from the Earth's core many thousands of years ago. The area was the scene of several oil rushes during the late 1800s and early 1900's, although no significant amounts of oil were actually produced.

The recent heavy rains have washed some small valleys clear of soil and uncovered a strange looking mineral. A local rancher found some of this mineral and took it to the nearby University of Lake Berryessa labs under Big Island. ULB scientists determined that the new mineral, dubbed Berryessium, would make a radical new battery material.

Batteries are now in demand in such huge volumes that extensive research is taking place to find efficient materials to manufacture them in high volumes. Batteries constructed of Berryessium, unlike lithium and nullium, do not overheat and burst into flame when being used or charged. Berryessium's unique quantum chemical properties actually cause it to cool itself when charging or in use. The University of Lake Berryessa intends to release it's first scientific paper describing the properties of Berryessium on April 1, 2023.



Peter Kilkus writing the Lake Berryessa News
"I hate deadlines!"



Lake Berryessa Statistics (3/29/23)

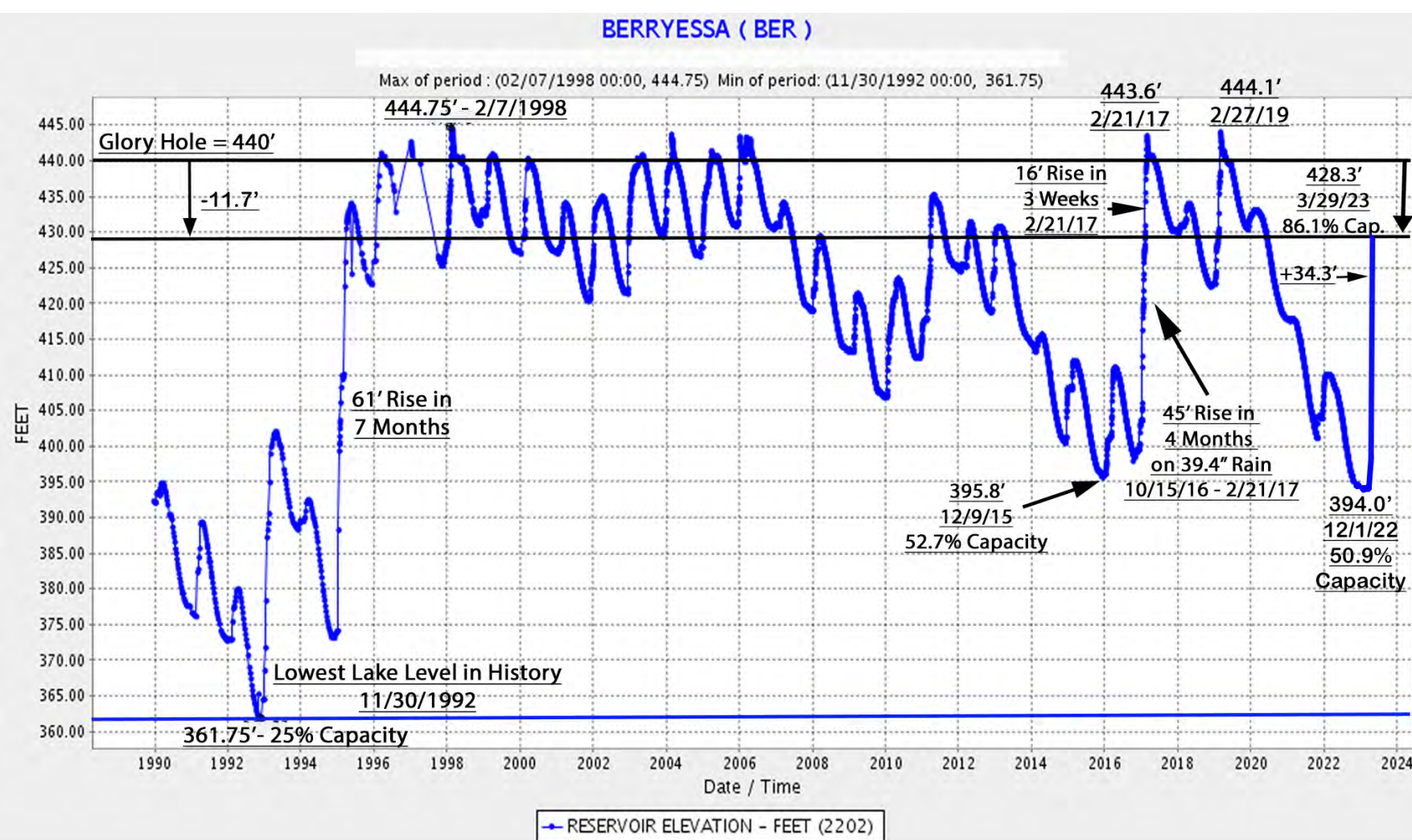
The lake level has risen only 1 foot during the last four days to **428.3** feet - **11.7** feet below Glory Hole, a **34.3** foot rise since its low of 394.0 feet on December 1, 2022. This last "storm" only produced 1.2 inches of rainfall at the dam which brought the total this year to **40.52** inches. As a comparison, rainfall at Cobb Mountain was a total of 80.89 inches on 3/22/23.

April is statistically a very low rainfall month. The light rains predicted for the near future will get the lake above 430 feet - 10 feet below Glory Hole. That would be a very good result. The lake will definitely NOT hit Glory Hole this year. Lake level has only reached 440 feet (Glory Hole) 25 times in the last 65 years. But this has been a very good year for rain and lake levels. Summer should be an excellent year for fun at the lake.

The Gamble Gauge has reached 86.1% capacity (1,335,590 A-F). Dam output is still at 45 cubic feet per second (CFS), water - the lowest allowed by law and contract. The release is not affecting the lake level in any significant way. The lake warmed up a bit to around 54 - 51 degrees from the surface to 70 feet down.

March rainfall rose to **12.09** inches, closing in on the highest March total in the last 12 years. The highest March rainfall since 2010 has been only **12.4** inches in 2011. Here are the rainfall numbers for the month of March since 2010: 2010 - 1.9"; **2011- 12.4"**; 2012 - 7.5"; 2013 - 0.8"; 2014 - 1.3"; 2015 - 1.0"; 2016 - 8.3"; 2017 - 3.4"; 2018 - 4.5"; 2019 - 2.7"; 2020 - 1.2"; 2021 - 1.9"; 2022 - 1.0

April rainfall will not be enough to raise the lake level much further. Here are the rainfall numbers for the month of March since 2010: 2010 - 3.74"; 2011- 0.28"; 2012 - 2.49"; 2013 - 0.54"; 2014 - 1.32"; 2015 - 1.46"; 2016 - 1.46"; 2017 - 2.84"; 2018 - 1.7"; 2019 - 0.42"; 2020 - 0.8"; 2021 - 0.26"; 2022 - 1.65"





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Glory Hole Drone Video Links

As part of my editing of my new book, I again watched the amazing 2017 Glory Hole drone videos recorded by Lake Berryessa News Associate Editor, Evan Kilkus. These videos have actually gotten millions of views around the world. This is one reason so many people know about Lake Berryessa, and its Glory Hole Spillway.

They are fun to watch - actually mentally soothing - and bright with promise of how great summer will be here at Lake Berryessa this year. I just had to post the links for all you friends of Lake Berryessa to enjoy. Watch them in full screen mode with the speakers on.

Glory Hole Drone Video Links

December 2014: The lake is LOW:

<https://youtu.be/5d-WIJcmu60>

January 10, 2017: The Action Begins:

<https://youtu.be/bGJvoflyTwQ>

February 10, 2017: Only 2 Feet To Go!

<https://youtu.be/PRWafVw9DBU>

February 12, 2017 - First Water Splashes
Into Glory Hole!

<https://youtu.be/8pIPsgLFggk>

February 13, 2017: Lake Berryessa Is Full!

<https://youtu.be/EH0LOW7iduY>

February 16, 2017: Lake Officially Spills

<https://youtu.be/cB0BKIm1EzM>

February 18, 2017: Overflowing Glory Hole:

<https://youtu.be/uOp0QConILY>

February 21, 2017: Lake Hits 2nd Highest
Water Level In History:

<https://youtu.be/-iHAjOrrU4k>

February 21, 2017: A Full Lake Just Feels Good:

<https://youtu.be/qhPzR2Gqzs0>

April 14, 2017: Spring Comes to a Full Lake
Berryessa:

<https://youtu.be/1TVX9Euix3E>



The Lake Berryessa News

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

May 2023



Warm Weather Is Finally Here! Cold, Windy, Wet Days Are Over?

Rain Ends After Record Rainfall Year - Rapid Lake Level Rise Has Stopped - 2023 Summer Fun Looks Good!

Lake Berryessa Psychology: Green or Blue? Asymptote Excitement and Frustration

On April 6, 2023, the lake level finally reached 429.9' - 10.1 feet below Glory Hole. This report is dedicated to Robert "Mr. 430 Feet" Stedman. Many people have been excited by the original rapid lake level rise, but Robert has been one of the most consistent Lake Berryessa News Facebook followers since February!

Two things struck me about Robert's personal involvement in this lake level adventure. One was how his final goal of seeing the lake level hit 430 feet was a great example of the mathematical concept of an asymptote. The other was the emotional impact of mathematics on the human psyche. Robert's connection to Lake Berryessa is very obvious, and the human drama of the rise in lake level in his and other Lake Berryessa lovers lives is very compelling.

I've proposed to the Mathematics Department of the University of Lake Berryessa that they partner with their Psychology Department to begin a study of the emotional impact of mathematics on the mental well-being of people who feel connected to Lake Berryessa. This is a much more subtle concept than that of the effect of the colors blue and green on human mental health discussed below.

What is an asymptote? Asymptote: a mathematical value that continually approaches a given target value (like 430' Lake Berryessa water level) but does not meet it at any finite distance.

So, many thanks to Robert Stedman for his dedication. Due to it, we now have the new Lake Berryessa mathematical

principle, "The Stedman Asymptote".
(See Page 2.)

Robert "Mr. 430 feet" Stedman's target finally came true. Lake Berryessa hit the Stedman Asymptote! Per the Solano County Water Agency real time tracking system, the lake officially reached 430.0' (10" below Glory Hole) on 4/6/23 at 7:15 PM. The previous daily report put the lake level at 429.99'.

The data supporting the newly created "Stedman Asymptote" is shown by the actual Facebook posts by Mr. Stedman:

4/6/23, 429.9': 429.99?? I'm beating my head against the wall!! COME ON!!

4/4/23, 429.75': 0.3"? COME ON!

4/3/23, 429.64': Hey! 429.6 rounds up to 430!!!!

4/2/23, 429.48': Torture! Come on 430

4/1/23, 429.32': You're teasing me!
Come on 430'!

3/29/23, 428.60': We just hit 1.0" of rain since midnight in Vacaville!
Berryessa will hit 430' easily.

3/26/23, 427.49': Come on 430'! I see downpours Tuesday.

3/25/23, 427.31': Inching towards 430' elevation!

3/24/23, 427.08': Come on, 3 more feet! Let's hit 430 at least!

3/18/23, 424.15': 30' rise i amazing!

3/15/23, 422.7': Getting close to 30 foot rise!

3/13/23, 419.7': My prediction was 420' on Monday, Monday ain't over yet!

3/9/23, 416.43'; Top of Glory Hole is 440'. We are approaching 416' now. I am predicting 420 by Monday morning.

Reader Nicole Rabaud commented:

"The fundamental cause for this asymptote is that the top layers of the lake hold the greatest volume of water since the bottom is narrower than the top. So as the level rises, it keeps taking more and more water to fill the reservoir, and by late spring, we're usually done with rain. I know that watching water flow into the Glory Hole sure helps my mental health, every Californian has feelings about water

But I was hopping onto your point about the psychological value of feeling connected to the lake - the water approaches the lip asymptotically, so the frustration of not seeing it flow over also grows asymptotically. People can't help but want to see that asymptote broken with a big gully washer."

Nicole's comment reminded me of research that shows how color and water are psychologically important to humans. Personally, as much as I enjoy hiking through green countryside (not always possible in California) I prefer scuba diving in blue water or boating on Lake Berryessa. So, I'm fortunate to live right above Lake Berryessa and only a short flight to Mexico and the Caribbean!

Why do humans love green? The most obvious reason why we're so in love with green is the association with nature. Green gives us the feeling of being closer with nature and all the perks that come with, such as boosting our mood and soothing our stress. In fact, the human eye sees green better than any color in the spectrum.

But human beings need the blue just as much as the green. A human brain is hardwired to react positively to water and

that being near it can make us experience soothing familiarity and exciting novelty. Water has the power to increase innovation and insight and heal us on a deep level.

There is a clear correlation between close proximity to a body of water and better psychological and overall health outcomes.

The term "blue mind" describes the mildly meditative state we fall into when near, in, on or under water. Research has proven that spending time near the water is essential to achieving an elevated and sustained happiness.

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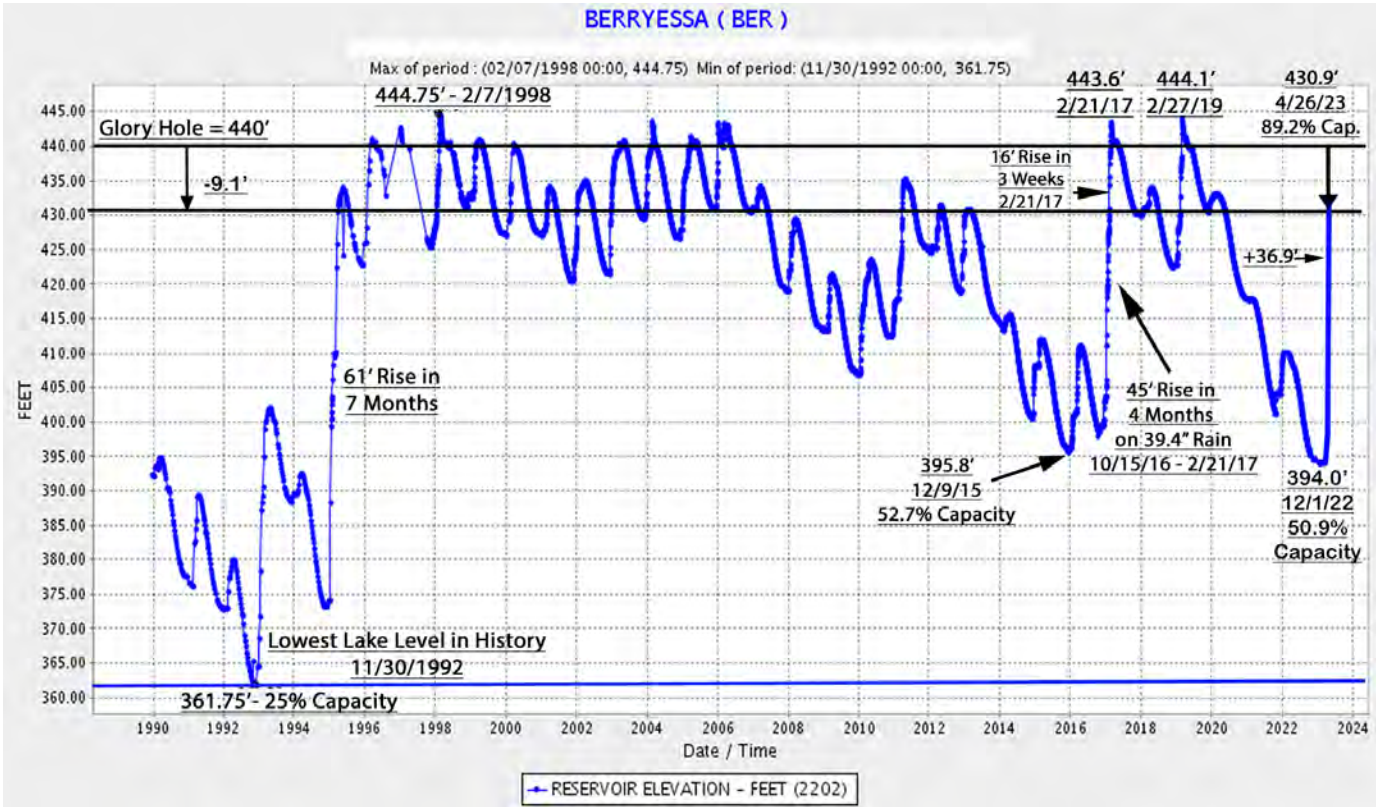
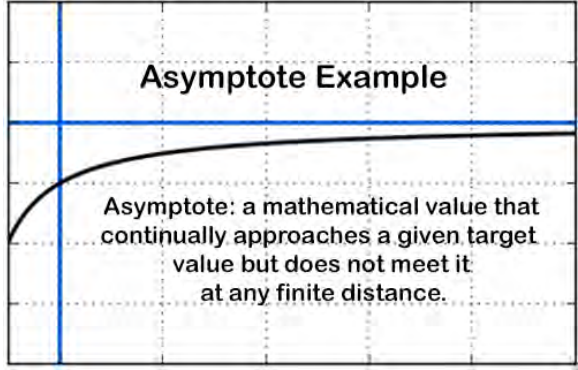
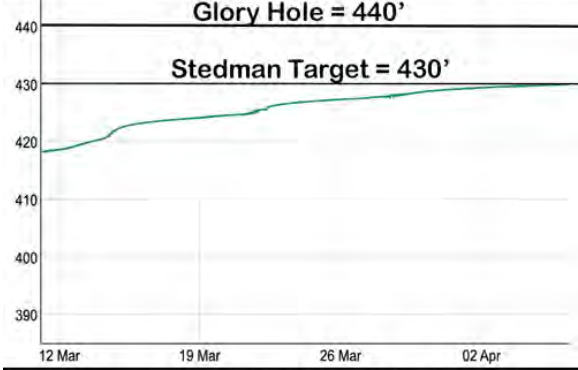
VOLVO
PENTA



The lake has essentially stopped rising, barely hitting 430.9' three days ago - 9.1 below Glory Hole - and has not changed. That's also a near record rise of 36.9' since its low of 394 feet on 12/1/22.

The rain has stopped raining. A record 2022-2023 rainfall season of 41.1 inches is the second highest since 1998 (46.3"). Lake Level should start decreasing soon since the dam output has risen from the minimum 45 cfs required by law and contract to 160 cfs driven by Solano County agricultural requirements as the weather warms and the growing season begins. On historical average (see chart below) the lake only drops about 15 to 20 feet per summer. We should have plenty of water to enjoy for years - even if another drought begins.

Lake water temperatures have begun to rise noticeably to 70 degrees at the surface. Considering that summer water temperatures hit 80+ degrees, there's a bit of a way to go. The water temperature rose to around 54 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.



Reader Allison Ballinger Keesey commented, "Well, I'm glad to see that it's almost all the way to the Glory Hole. it's come a long way and I hope that it will be sustained and not empty out for years to come."

In fun I responded, "A new lake level measurement: 10 feet = "almost all the way"! means 20 feet = "almost all the way to almost all the way". A new number to add to the Stedman Asymptote! Should we call it the "Keesey Kilofoot"?"

Reader Nina C Baker commented, "Because I am ever the (very distant) optimist I am going to point out that you have said it has stopped rising before and yet here we are with another 0.2" added to the asymptote!!"

Again, I responded humorously, "I am suitably chastised. You're not so "very distant" an optimist if you consider 0.2" a "rise". It was actually 0.2' feet = 2.4 " inches. That's within the margin of error in the equipment that SCWA & SID use to measure the level.

The lake "falls" a quarter inch a day (1.75" a week) during the summer due to evaporation. Am I a "very distant" pessimist to call that a "fall". More water evaporates from Lake Berryessa during the summer that is let out of the dam during the winter." In the fun with numbers category, should our lake "rise" - the number that gets us all so excited, be 2 inches of 440 feet lake level (.0378%) or 2" of 430' Stedman Asymptote level (.03875%) or 2" of 394' our lowest level this year (.0423%) or 2" of 36.2' rise this year (0.46%)?

I just noticed that Lake Berryessa's level of 440' MSL when full is equal to **5,280 inches**! Is that some kind of a vertical mini-mile since 1 mile = 5,280 feet? Or was it a secret joke by the original design engineers?

Last year Pleasure Cove Marina, owned by Suintex Marinas, decided to get out of the houseboat rental business and sold all their houseboats. The previous resort management company, Forever Resorts, a South African company, was a leader in luxury houseboats vacation rentals, and the largest manufacturer of luxury houseboats in the world.

Pleasure Cove was the only place to rent houseboats for many years. When Suintex Marinas took over Pleasure Cove, they continued renting the houseboats that they acquired in this transaction.

Houseboat rentals came with their own maintenance and security problems. Once someone rented a houseboat and sailed it up to the party bridge. Within a short time an estimated 70 people were partying on the boat decks and roof and nearly sank the houseboat.

Seventy-five commercial houseboats are authorized by the 2006 Record of Decision - Action 30, "Commercial Houseboats/ Overnight Occupancy Vessels (OOVs)": Allow 75 commercial houseboats or other types of commercial OOVs to occupy Lake Berryessa. A higher quota may be imposed if supported by sufficient studies."

But now there are none.

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For information please Contact: Pastor Steve White, 707-628-7542
pastorsteve@vccblb.net

Jesus asked his followers " who do you say I'm ?" Two thousand years later people are still asking that question. Come and find out why. Enjoy uplifting music in a causal atmosphere! We believe in developing authentic relationships, raising strong families, and staying connected to the community. All are welcome!

Hope to see you Sunday morning!

Idiot Tornado Tears Harmlessly Through Empty Field

Midwestern Woman Can't Believe It's Snowing When It Was 80 Degrees Just 10 Months Ago

Carnival Worker Practically Held Together With Duct Tape

Woman Seems Genuinely Upset That Younger Sister's Hair Longer Than Hers

Ron DeSantis Ends Disney Feud After Being Given Guest Role On 'The Mandalorian'

Absent-Minded Billionaire Almost Forgets To Pay \$0 In Taxes

Job Applicant Makes Memorable First Impression By Having Weird-Looking Face

Drunk Woman Murmurs Something About Learning To Love Self Before Immediately Passing Out

Biden Speeds Away In Truck After Dropping Dianne Feinstein Off In Empty Field

The Secret Word That Will Force Tigger To Pull You Around In A Pedicab And Other Disney World Tips

Fan Respects Women Too Much To See Their Bodies Commodified As Athletes

Something Called 'Guacamole Donut' Burying News Of Dozens Of School Shootings

Backlog In Legal System Leads To Trump Trial Scheduled For 2037

Fox News sends \$750 million dollar bill to Trump

The only jobs that Trump created more of throughout his one term was fact checkers

Local Parent Prepares Speech Explaining Why Cheaper Birthday Gift is 'Superior' to Expensive Gift Child Asked For

Bud Light sees spike in sales thanks to "patriots" purchasing the beer solely to be thrown away.

May Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): By agreeing to read this horoscope you may be bringing on yourself several levels of suffering and/or pleasure. If you agree to this, please stop reading now. Or carry on, depending on whether you're willing to take that chance.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Money is a source of evil you can't do without. Credit card companies may seize on your lack of self-control.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): The Nigerian bank that is holding your email-friend's money does not exist.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Employee of the month awards carry a penalty - the penalty of ridicule.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Today will be full of computer related mishaps. Hope in your heart is all well and good but you know deep down inside that when your computer crashes, it will not have automatically saved the document you'd been working on for the past four hours.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Time and time again you are asked to wait outside the room whilst the "adults" discuss your situation. This week, make sure you are one of the "adults".

Libra (9/23-10/22): When we tell you that it's 'cryptic', we basically mean that we made it up. In the land that time forgot, everyone had a hard time.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): "Hunky-dory" - a beautiful phrase that will sum up the day, week and month for you. You see, it's just going to be tip-top from here-on-in and the smile on your face is going to bug the living hell out of everyone.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Be playful at heart and you'll reap the reward of having more friends under the age of 10.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Your aim to drink 10-15 liters of water today may come crashing down on you when you're stuck in traffic later this week.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Catch-22 is better in at least 2 ways than Catch-20. Don't be caught in the Catch-20 loop - you're unlikely to ever see your family again.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Deja vu is the feeling that someone's patronized you before (often by telling you what deja vu means).

Does the WALROS Like Lake Berryessa?

Don't think that the Bureau of Reclamation may not have a sense of humor! Just regard their "Water and Land Use Recreation Opportunities Spectrum (WALROS)". Unreliable inside sources report that at the close of every policy meeting relating to the WALROS process, the meeting chair declares "I am the WALROS!" to which the meeting attendees respond, "goo goo ga joob". According to Beatles lore, "goo goo ga joob" or "goo goo g'joob" in Australian are the last words uttered by Humpty Dumpty before his fall.

The WALROS is a actually a quite serious and well-executed policy that was approved and adopted by Reclamation in 2009. It is an inventory, planning, and management tool.

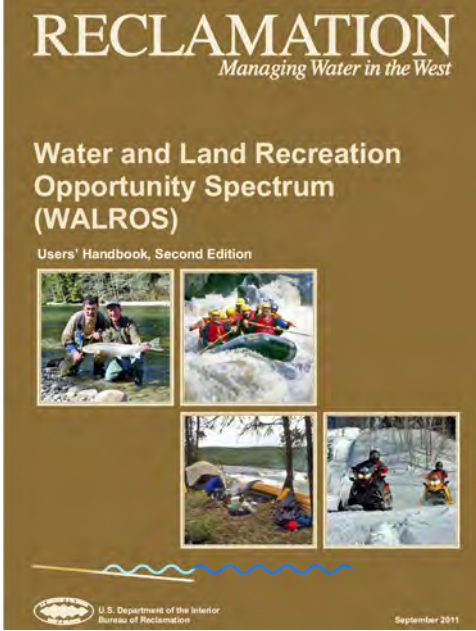
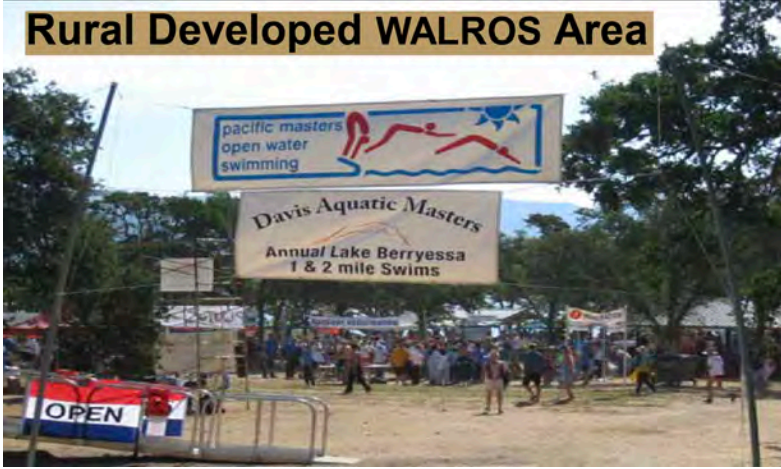
Lake Berryessa is not another natural “lake in the country”. It is a major economic, social, and recreation resource in an urban-proximate setting. Lake Berryessa clearly falls into the Rural Developed Setting category in WALROS.

A rural developed WALROS area is defined as beyond a metropolitan area and the suburban ring of development. Rural developed areas may serve as “bedroom” communities for urban areas and may contain working farms, ranches, and towns. In this setting, primary road networks are common.

Although development will be prevalent and common, the setting has a pastoral sense because of an interspersing of forests, water resources, hills, valleys, canyons, wetlands, open spaces, and agricultural lands. Naturally appearing shoreline edges are common, although various water controls or other structures are also common.

Photographic examples of Lake Berryessa are actually used in the WALROS to support the Rural Developed WALROS Area classification. Example photos show the annual Davis Aquatic Masters Lake Berryessa swim and a photo of the Napa County Sheriff's Department launching their Lake Berryessa Patrol boat.

WALROS was also instrumental in preventing the spurious attempt to incorporate Lake Berryessa into the controversial Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

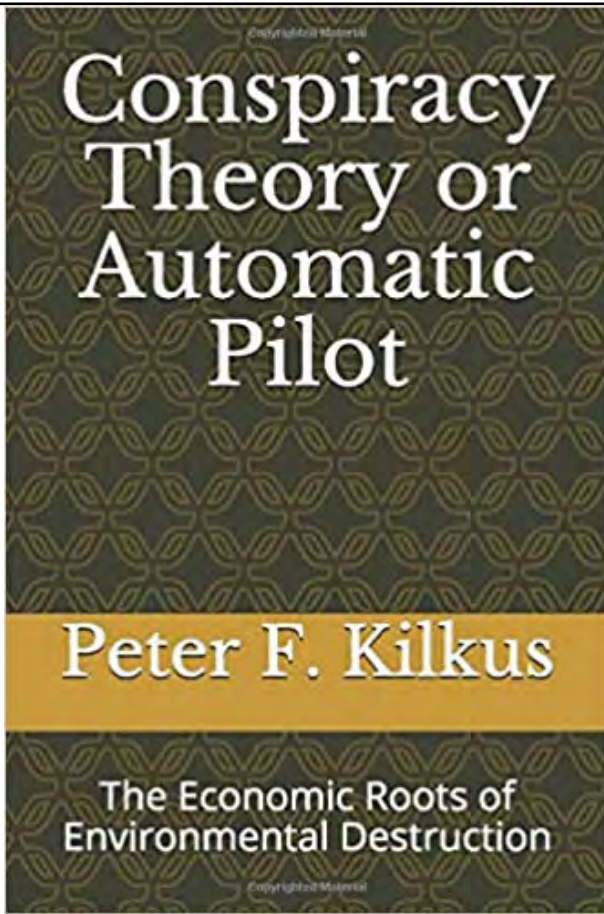


Without THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS there would be no Lake Berryessa News...and finally there would be no definitive history of what happened at Lake Berryessa. I participated directly for more than twenty years as an advocate for the lake in the fiasco that was the Bureau of Reclamation’s Visitor Services Plan, its farcical but tragic outcome.

I have very strong views of the causes and results - supported by facts and data. This book is a historical anthology, a raw, as-it-happened, unfiltered picture of what many of us lived through. The goal is to provide the history and the context within which such an incredibly destructive course of action took place. It is dedicated to documenting this tragedy, this final betrayal of Lake Berryessa by the federal government - and, hopefully, the revitalization.

This book is available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1



Classical economics is a mythology. Predatory capitalism is a fundamentalist religion based on this mythology. Environmental destruction and income inequality are results of the practice of this mythical religion. But is the present economic and environmental situation a conscious conspiracy or an unintended consequence of simplistic beliefs supported by basic human greed?

This book provides the basics of classical economic theory and the description of the intended or unintended consequences of predatory capitalism. It contrasts these to sustainability principles underpinning modern environmental economic theory. This book is not meant to be an academic or scientific exercise for economists or policy makers. The concepts are easily accessible to thoughtful readers.

This book is available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Conspiracy-Theory-Automatic-Pilot-Environmental-ebook/dp/B082T5D5K9/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Peter+kilkus&qid=1676852903&sr=8-1

Quantum Theory of Aging

Why Do Your Children Catch Up To You As You Get Older?

Einstein's Theory of Relativity is an important illustration of an Asymptote. (See previous page.) The faster you go towards the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) the slower time progresses (lazy people), the more massive a body becomes (fat people), and the more length contracts (short people). Besides Einstein's Theory of Relativity creating short, fat, lazy people, Einstein’s Quantum Theory of Light also explains why, as you get older, it feels as if your children rapidly catch up in age.

Mathematically, the equation for this phenomenon is your age (X) minus your child's age (Y) divided by your age (X) equals how fast your child is catching up to you (Z). As an equation this is: $Z = (X - Y) / X$, which turns out to be an asymptotic relationship.

For example, if you are 20 years old (X) when your child is born, your child will be 5 years old (Y) when you turn 25. $Z = 0.8$. When you turn 40 (X) your child turns 20 (Y) and Z becomes .5. Carrying that on for many years into the future shows that Z rapidly closes toward your age. The older you get the more rapidly that ratio becomes smaller. Psychologically, that feels like our child is catching up to you. I know it does for me. But don't worry. They never actually catch up - especially in intelligence!

X	Y	Z
21	1	0.952
25	5	0.800
30	10	0.667
35	15	0.571
40	20	0.500
45	25	0.444
50	30	0.400
55	35	0.364
60	40	0.333
65	45	0.308
70	50	0.286
75	55	0.267
80	60	0.250
100	80	0.200
125	105	0.160
150	130	0.133
200	180	0.100
250	230	0.080
300	280	0.067
400	380	0.050
500	480	0.040
1000	980	0.020

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

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This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I’ve been at Lake Berryessa, I’ve had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.

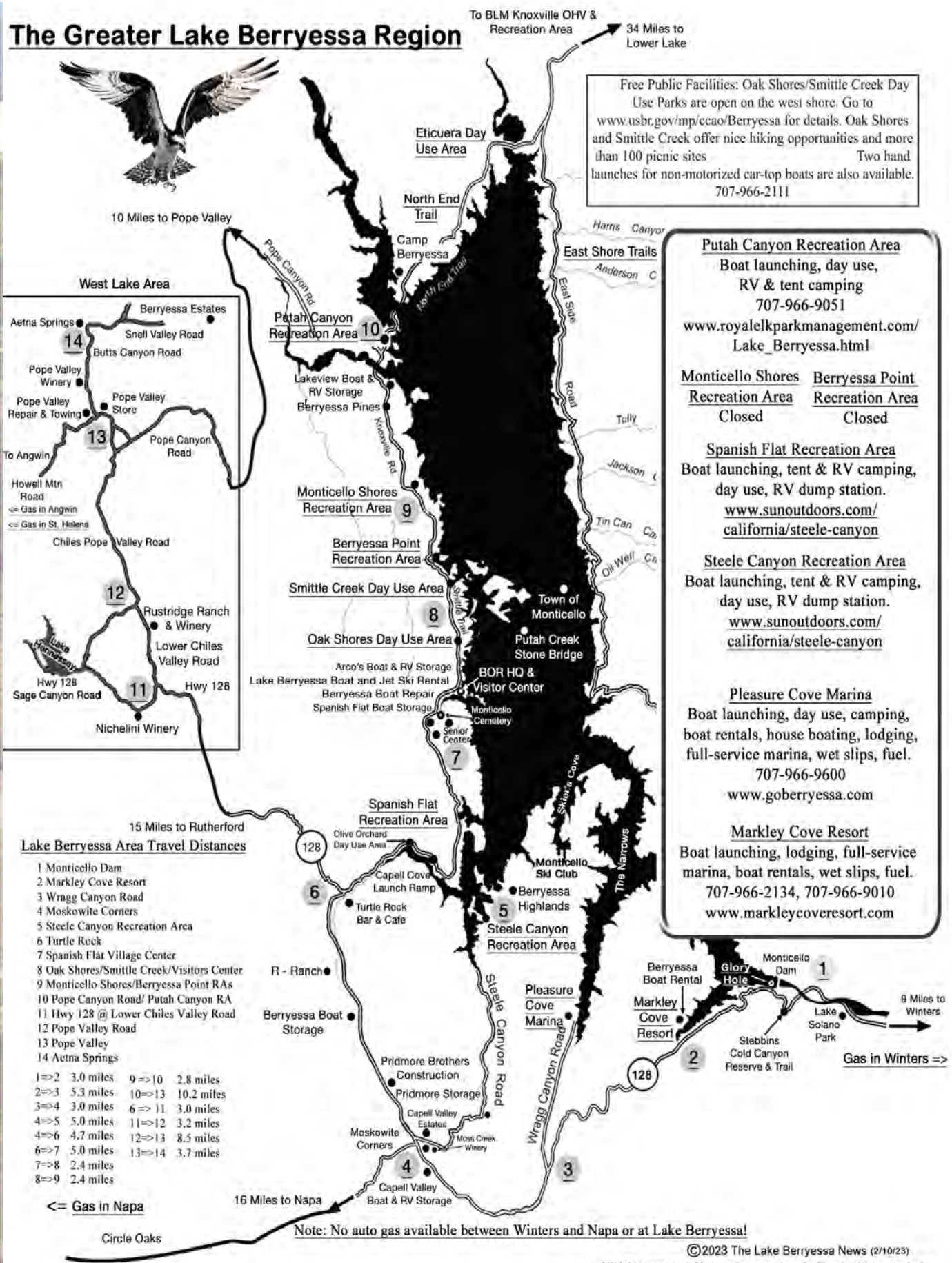
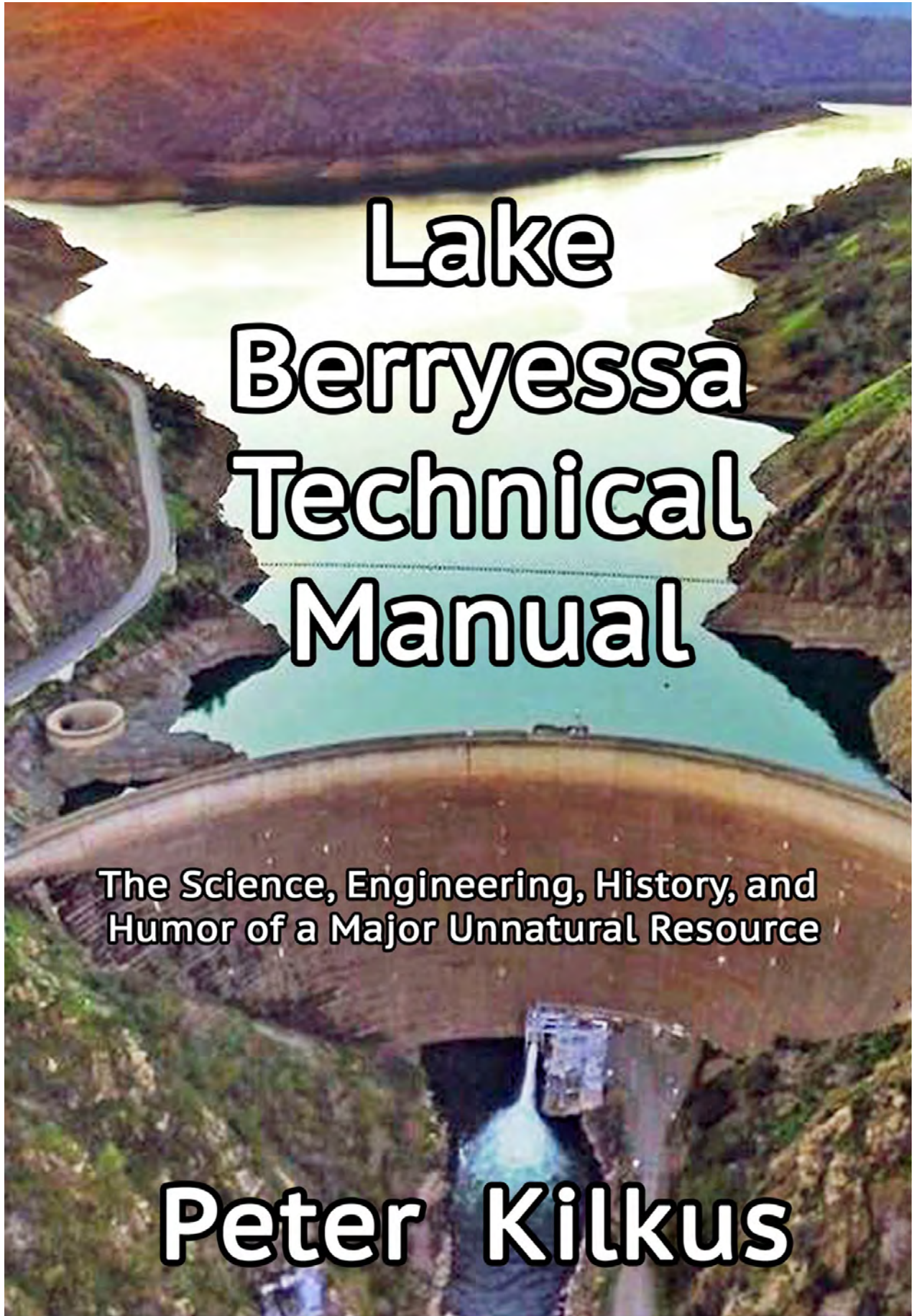
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Bonus Section: How to Create a National Monument

History of the Creation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument: the “Dumbest National Monument in the United States”.



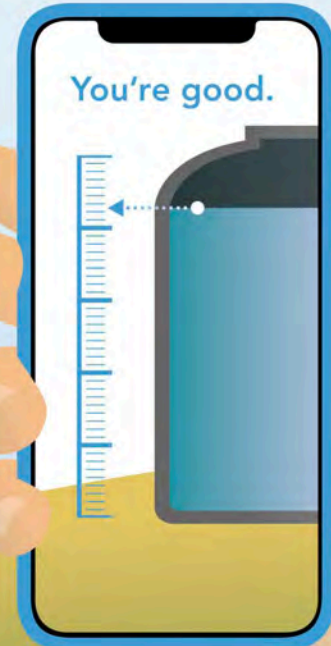
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The Lake Berryessa News

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June 2023

The Lake Berryessa Renaissance Process - An Update (Downdate, Sidedate, Nodate?)

In 2011 I wrote an article titled "They're Off Like a Herd of Turtles" about the slow progress of the Pensus Group in redeveloping the resorts for which they had won the concession contracts, especially Steele Park Resort (which they unfortunately renamed "Lupine Shores").

The slow progress of Pensus was basically due to the bureaucratic restrictions imposed on Pensus by the Bureau of Reclamation. Those who remember those dark days will recall the BOR's "seamless transition" promise. "

Fast forward to 2023.

They're Off Like a Herd of Turtles! (Part 2 - 2023)

The present situation brings to mind a quote sometimes attributed to Mark Twain (but unconfirmed). "History may not repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme."

As many of you know, I'm disappointed with the speed of the Lake Berryessa "renaissance" process, especially since the Bureau of Reclamation had done much planning after the abortive 2015 bid process which resulted in no bids acceptable to the BOR. The BOR invested in several studies and planning efforts to shorten the time needed for environmental studies by any new concessioner.

But Sun Outdoors had the option to simply shut down Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat during the planning and rebuilding process if they wished. Some lobbying by the Lake Berryessa News and Napa County

convinced them to remain open. Subsequently Sun made a considerable profit last year at Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat because of camping and boat launching fees. Sun raised those rates when they took over - a relatively unpopular move since they did no upgrades of any kind to the facilities.

So, what has actually been happening since the agreement between Napa County and Sun Outdoors was signed on October 19, 2021? We are getting close to the deadlines in the original agreement.

1.3 Period of Negotiations. The Parties agree to negotiate one or more DDAs (Disposition and Development Agreements) for the Properties for a twenty-four (24) month period ending on October 18, 2023 ("Negotiation Period"), commencing on the Effective Date (October 19, 2021).

1.3.2 The "Approval Period" shall be twenty (20) months starting on February 19, 2022 and ending on October 18, 2023 to complete the environmental analysis documents in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and secure all necessary permits, licenses, governmental approvals, including rezoning, if necessary, approval to extend utilities to the boundary of the Property, and all other governmental approvals, permits and licenses required for Concessionaire to commence and complete the development of the Property (the "Governmental

Approval").

2.5 Community Outreach meetings. Concessionaire will conduct a series of public outreach meetings (minimum of 2) within the general Lake Berryessa community prior to finalizing the site plans and executing the DDAs. The purpose of the meetings is to present Concessionaire's proposals and receive public input.

Apparently, Sun Outdoors is dealing with multiple construction design details and typical project planning and environmental program delays. Also, the water/wastewater system expansion and upgrade is taking longer and costing more than Sun originally thought.

The majority of the Lake Berryessa community is hoping for Sun's ultimate success in their endeavor. In response to the Lake Berryessa News queries, Napa County has released the following formal statement:

"Moving forward, Napa County's plan is to award the ground lease and operating agreement in 2024, followed by groundbreaking that same year.

Napa County will continue to organize community outreach meetings with the developer, and will inform the public of the confirmed dates and details. The groundbreaking is tentatively expected to commence late 2024/early 2025.

In addition, it is confirmed that the upgrade to the NBRID will be followed by work on Steele Canyon before proceeding to Spanish Flat."

Steele Canyon - Spanish Flat Buoys Are Gone!

Hundreds of Lake Berryessa boaters will be happy to know that the buoy line at the mouth of the cove leading to the Steele Canyon, Caplell Cove, and Spanish Flat launch ramps has been removed.

The 5MPH buoys have been returned to their original locations near the launch ramps themselves, thereby shortening the time from launching to laking significantly.

But please drive your boat slowly and safely to the main body of the lake before you increase to cruising speed.

Safety first!

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2 Editor's Note: My chief adviser chided me for bringing up the Big Island Lagoon issue again, but my philosophy in dealing the the disaster the Bureau of Reclamation caused at Lake Berryessa is "Never Forget".

Why is Big Island Lagoon Closed to the Boating Public, But Not Willi's Cove?

In a highly unpopular move with no real public support the Bureau of Reclamation arbitrarily closed Big Island Lagoon, a traditional family boating rest area, to motorized recreation more than ten years ago. The final 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) simply stated that "certain areas of the lake are reserved for non-motorized water craft and trolling engines." The areas so designated were not actually described in the ROD, but were simply drawn on a map of the lake - Big Island Lagoon and the area near Steele Park known as Willi's Cove. No other public notification nor request for public input was made prior to the release of the 2006 ROD.

2006 Record of Decision: Future Recreation Use and Operations of Lake Berryessa

6. Land and Water Use Classification. The WROS is not adopted as part of the VSP ROD. Existing requirements developed in conjunction with Action 17, "Water Surface Zoning and Restrictions," of the 1993 RAMP ROD are carried forward on an interim basis pending future adoption by Reclamation of the WROS or other land and water use classification system in consultation with the forum established in paragraph 1c. In the interim, certain areas will be reserved for use by non-motorized water craft and electric trolling motors only. These areas are identified in Appendix B, map number 413-202-8.

The creation of these "exclusive use" nonmotorized zones was basically a stealth move by Reclamation to buy off various environmental exclusionist groups and to get them to support the plan to eliminate the existing resorts. The BOR, with no supporting data or public meetings, closed the Big Island Lagoon to family boaters who wished to spend some quiet time in this popular protected area off the main body of the lake.

The Big Island Lagoon has been open only to non-motorized craft since 2006. The BOR "s own policy states that when making serious changes to recreation amenities they would accept public comment to assist in decision-making, monitor the effectiveness of the changes, and modify the policy as appropriate. What is odd about this situation is that Reclamation never implemented this "non-motorized zone" designation at Willi's Cove.

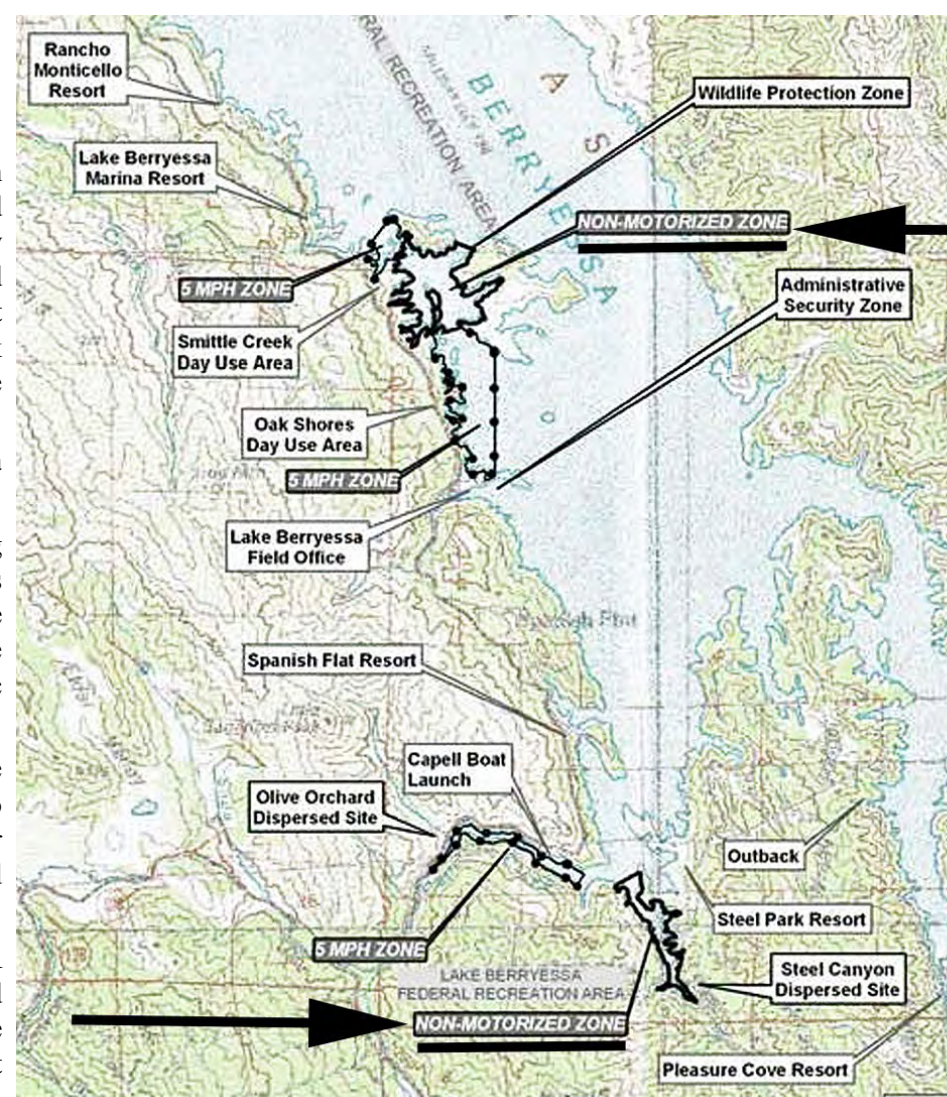
The justification for this action was silly then and has been proven by observation over the following years to be completely false. This restriction should be eliminated because years of data show that almost no one now uses that "exclusive use" space except a few random kayakers per year, most of them rentals from the nearby rental business at Spanish Flat. The Big Island Lagoon should be open to all of the boating public as a 5 MPH or "No Wake" zone as it was previously designated.

A Lake Berryessa Midsummer Night's Dream (With Apologies to William Shakespeare)

I had a memory the other day of tubing and jet skiing on Lake Berryessa with friends and family. For a break we'd drift in to the Big Island Lagoon at 5 mph to float quietly with the other folks on patio boats, houseboats, or even some in kayaks. It was a quiet, safe place to float or even to put your deck chair on a sand bar and kick back in six inches of water while kids splashed around you. Later it was time for prime rib or pizza at the Steele Park Boathouse Restaurant savoring one of the most beautiful views on the lake.

But then I had a nightmare that a Dark Force swept down on Lake Berryessa and destroyed our homes and resorts, tearing up launch ramps, demolishing restaurants, eliminating access to the lake for years – even denying entry to the Big Island Lagoon to everyone except some phantom kayakers who never showed up.

But then, this being mid-summer, I had a comforting Midsummer Night's Dream. I saw myself sitting at a beautiful floating marina restaurant and bar, sipping a margarita, with my trusty low-emissions, quiet, environmentally friendly jet ski at my side. Happy families were once again drifting slowly into the Big Island Lagoon for a rest stop. New resorts were providing launching and pleasant new facilities to visitors from all over the Bay Area. Just before I woke up, I was once again looking out at that fantastic Steele Canyon Recreation Area view, but now it was from a brand new restaurant.



Solano Irrigation District 2023 Irrigation Season

By Matt Hobbs, Water & Power Operations Mgr.

Every year Solano Irrigation District delivers irrigation water to over 36,700 acres of agriculture within Solano County. Between the months of March and October, SID distributes, on average, 116,000 acre-feet of water to our customer's orchards, farms, and vineyards.

The volume delivered hinges on multiple factors, such as weather, precipitation, crops planted, and length of the season. Depending on customer demand in a given season, the District may not deliver the entirety of its allocated water and that unused amount becomes "carryover" for use in the next year's water season, thus increasing the total supply for the next year.

The District's main agricultural water supply, 121,000 acre-feet, comes from surface water stored behind the Monticello Dam at Lake Berryessa. A smaller portion, up to 10,000 acre-feet, comes from groundwater sources spread throughout the District. Not including carryover, 131,000 acre-feet spread across the 36,700 acres of irrigated land, equates to roughly 3.5 acre-feet/acre of allocation to our customers.

As it happens, not all crops use the same amount of water. Some growers may use less than their full allocation and there are others who would like to use more than their allocation if made available. For this reason, Staff starts with an initial allocation recommendation to the Board at the beginning of a water season, usually between 3 to 4 acre-feet/acre.

The 2023 season has already distinguished itself from last year. Not only are we starting off with a more typical 3.5 acre-feet per acre, but there has also been significant rainfall to-date. The abundance of precipitation has led to a later start to the growing season.

The Lake Berryessa News
www.LakeBerryessaNews.com
1515 Headlands Drive
Napa, CA 94558
PKilkus@gmail.com

Martha "Marty" Blocker, July 29, 1937 - May 5, 2023

Born as premature infants in Los Angeles, weighing only two pounds each, Martha and her twin sister, Marie, were dubbed The Miracle Babies. The LA Times followed their remarkable story of survival and published their birthday pictures annually for the first 13 years of their lives.

As a young adult, she returned to the Bay Area where she worked at Raychem as a Secretary. She and her husband, Jim, spent weekends at Pleasure Cove in their mobile home, where friends and family were always welcomed. Upon retirement, they moved to Lake Berryessa full time.

Martha resided in Cappell Valley Estates for the past 22 years and drove to Napa every week for over 10 years to volunteer at "The Queen" (Queen of Angels Hospital).

She had no children, but always had dogs. Jack, Christmas, Willie and most recently, Toby (who she called Dennis the Menace) brought so much joy to her life. Her family was always very important to her and since she had few relatives in close proximity, she built a "family" in Berryessa, where her home was always open for gatherings and holiday celebrations.



Those who knew her understood that beneath her tough exterior and fiery personality was a heart of gold and a tender spirit. Raised in the Catholic church, her deep faith in God, her love of family, and her trust in guardian angels was enough to sustain her.

Please join us on June 17, 2023 at 1:00 pm for a final send off. The celebration will be at [152 Andrew Rd, American Canyon](#). Please bring stories and special memories to share. Lunch will be served.

Join us Sunday mornings

Valley Christian Church
1193 Capell Valley Rd.
Services every Sunday at 10 AM
Biblical teaching - Weekly bible fellowship
For information please Contact: Pastor Steve White, 707-628-7542
pastorsteve@vccblb.net

Jesus asked his followers "who do you say I'm?" Two thousand years later people are still asking that question. Come and find out why. Enjoy uplifting music in a causal atmosphere! We believe in developing authentic relationships, raising strong families, and staying connected to the community. All are welcome!
Hope to see you Sunday morning!

Onion Headlines

Precocious Goldman Sachs Hire
Destroys 1,000 People's Livelihoods
On First Day

Conspiracy Theorist Convinced
Entire Universe Connected With
God's Abundant Love

Senators Defend Having Dementia In
Office

Biden Meets With Turkeys Who've
Lost Loved Ones To Thanksgiving

LeBron James Credits Quick Injury
Recovery To Crazy German Doctor
Harnessing Power Of Lightning Atop
Mountain Peak

6-Year-Old Didn't Cause Parents'
Divorce But Didn't Exactly Step Up
To Prevent It Either

Supreme Court wishes a happy
Mother's Day to the thousands of
forced new moms

Companies give migrant children
workers extra 5 minute break to call
mom today

After Zelensky visits Pope, Vatican
pledges \$10 billion in prayers to
defend against Russian missiles

George Santos: "You've got the
wrong George Santos"

Smith & Wesson Unveils AI-Powered
Security Turret System, Will Donate
To Select Faith Based Schools.

Writers' strike. Everything bad.

92-year old William Shatner credits
long life to functioning vital organs

Local Boss Surprised Newly Fired
Employee Refuses Handshake

Fox News Hires Black Jewish Drag
Queen to Replace Tucker Carlson

June Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Remember, it's unfair to expect your friends and family to provide you with alibis.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): The partner of your dreams will realize you are unworthy of attention, today. Stock up on junk food and alcohol.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): This month provides you with the greatest chance of making it. So pray to the planets that they stay in alignment or this horoscopes will not be fulfilled.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): If you think you've got problems today, just wait until tomorrow!

Leo (7/23-8/22): Try to absorb plants into your skin in order to make yourself into some kind of Marvel Super Hero.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Three is the magic number because some people have a magic superfluous nipple which can change the color of the sky.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Feel welcome to share your inner most secrets with your entire family and network of friends. They will adore you for your spectacular honesty and may only exclude you from everything they say or do for the next decade.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): All of that which you experience today will be catalogued under "things not to do in public again".

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Potato salesmen may call today and leave you a spud on your doorstep.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Minor changes to your driving style allows you to feel like you're a better driver, but actually are making your behavior quite erratic.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): The differences between you and your peers sets you apart. And by apart, I mean they're thinking of relocating you so that you're as far apart as physically possible.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): It is said that you are curious about everything and highly adaptable. Actually, it is a lack of profundity and consistency that characterizes you.



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Golden Gate Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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One of a kind custom craftsman impresses right away with quality architectural features that are yours to enjoy every day. This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home is a notable gem! Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of beautiful Lake Berryessa, surrounding mountains and spectacular sunsets!

<https://lbviewhome.com/>

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Lake Berryessa Lots

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Build Your Dream Country Home

Circle Oaks Lots

<https://circleoakslots.com/>



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POP-UP ROCK SHOP

Please find Kathy on Facebook at Rockn' Your World Pop-Up Rock Shop



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jewelkenny02@gmail.com
707-580-2345



Amber Payne
1302244 (CA)
707-235-1124 (M)
amber.payne@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net

1001 Eastridge Drive - Just Listed!

Offered at \$375,000
<https://eastridgedr.com/>

Notable opportunity near Lake Berryessa!
Lovely 2-bedroom, 1-bath bungalow turns on the charm!
Wood-burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings, expansive deck with filtered mountain and lake views..




Amber Payne
1302244 (CA)
707-235-1124 (M)
amber.payne@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net

Lake Berryessa Views Close to Lake Access
1051 Blueridge Drive

Offered at: \$549,900
<https://blueridgedrive.com/>

This lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath home in the Berryessa Pines at Lake Berryessa is ready for a new owner to make memories! Come in off of a full day on the lake and BBQ on the deck enjoying the sunset in the background. The open floor plan gives the interior an expansive feel. Abundant room for boat/RV parking. Located only a stone's throw from Lake Berryessa. Make this home your Lake home!



Amber Payne
1302244 (CA)
707-235-1124 (M)
amber.payne@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net

This is a MUST SEE! So much to offer at \$575,000!

1000 Headlands Drive
<https://headlandsdrive.com/>

Step into the warm welcome of this delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bath home located on a corner lot in the Lake Berryessa/Berryessa Highlands area. Wood flooring with an open floor plan, and a fireplace that adds to the coziness. There is an ample kitchen with a breakfast nook that takes in the lake view! Just a short drive to Lake Berryessa. Enjoy the mountain and water lifestyle! Someone's going to be very happy here . . . let it be you!



Amber Payne
Senior Sales Associate
CalDRE#01302244
amberpayne@corcoranl.com
www.AmberPayne.net

Lakeview Living!
572 Putah Creek Road

2,200 Sq. Ft.
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dining room
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bar seating
Attached 2 car
garage
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furnished
\$665,000

The ideal home to enjoy lake living life! Stunning lake and mountain views. Large deck for viewing and family BBQ's. **Bonus!** 25ft Pontoon boat and 16ft 1997 Klamath fishing boat & generator included!

Agricultural Commissioner releases 2022 Napa County Agricultural Crop Report

Napa County saw an increase in the gross value of all agricultural production in the county totaling \$894,295,500 in 2022 – a 19.9 percent increase from the previous year.

The total value of the 2022 winegrape crop was \$890,911,400, up 20.1 percent or \$149,179,400 from the previous year. Total winegrape production increased by approximately 10,613 tons or 8.8 percent from 2021. The total winegrape tonnage for the 2022 crop (131,144 tons from 46,128 bearing acres) was 13.5 percent lower than the previous 10-year average of 151,574 tons, however the total winegrape value was 22.5 percent higher than the previous 10-year average. The average price paid per ton for all winegrapes was \$6,794, a 10.4 percent increase from 2021.

In 2022, the top three varieties in total value were Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot. Approximately 72,423 tons of Cabernet Sauvignon (24,217 acres) were harvested and sold at an average price of \$8,819 per ton. Chardonnay (5,897 acres) exceeded Merlot (3,983 acres) by 1,914 bearing acres, but sold at \$972 less per ton on average. Merlot production was 8,552 tons, valued at an average of \$4,527 per ton. Chardonnay production of 16,094 tons was valued on average at \$3,555 per ton. These three varieties together accounted for approximately 74 percent of all production and more than 82 percent of the total winegrape value.

Olive production increased by 59 tons in 2022. Despite continuing pressure from olive fruit flies and some adverse weather conditions, many growers reported substantially higher harvested acres and total tonnage than the previous year. Total livestock and poultry values decreased \$947,000 from those reported in 2022, while field crops increased \$81,600. Vegetable crop values were higher in 2022 despite a slight decrease in harvest acreage. Floral and nursery production area and value were lower this year, primarily due to the closure of some industry establishments.

County staff completed 65,559 pest detection traps servicings in 2022, looking for pests that could harm the county's agriculture and natural ecosystems. The team continued to survey for all life stages of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) this year. More than 2,600 plant shipments were inspected for GWSS and released in 2022.

Napa Valley Register reducing print days

It is now confirmed that the Napa Valley Register will be dropping its print editions from seven days a week to three in July. There are also rumors that it may drop further to two editions. It's not yet clear if they will publish a digital newsletter on the "off" days or will only have three issues per week even online.



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The Bureau of Reclamation Announces New Summer Hours at Lake Berryessa

Dufer Point Visitor Center

Park Rangers will continue to staff the Dufer Point Visitor Center from noon to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Oak Shores Day Use

Starting May 26, the north end of Oak Shores will reopen for day use from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only. South Oak Shore will be open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Smittle Creek and Eticuera Day Use

Smittle Creek and Eticuera are available for wildlife watching, picnicking, and hand launching watercraft throughout the year. The Smittle Creek Trail remains closed due to damage sustained during the LNU Lightning Complex Fire. Park Rangers will close the parking lot gates by 8 p.m. throughout the summer.

Capell Cove Boat Launch

The Capell Cove Boat Launch is open from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the year.

Oak Shores, Smittle Creek, Eticuera, and Capell are propane only day use areas. No charcoal barbecues are permitted lake-wide per Napa County ordinances.

Annual passes are available at the Dufer Point Visitor Center by appointment during the week or on weekends between 12-3 p.m.

Concession Areas

Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Marina, Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Putah Canyon, and Spanish Flat offer a variety of recreation services, including boat launching, and are alternatives to Oak Shores and Capell Cove. For information regarding services offered at concession-operated facilities, launch fees, or to make reservations, please call the concession operators or visit their websites:

Markley Cove, 707-966-2134, www.markleycoversort.com

Pleasure Cove Marina, 707-966-9600, www.goberryessa.com

Steele Canyon Recreation Area, 888-671-0580,
www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon

Spanish Flat Recreation Area, 888-901-2804,
www.sunoutdoors.com/california/spanish-flat

Putah Canyon Recreation Area,
707-966-9051, www.royalelcparkmanagement.com

For information on activities, fees, directions, pet restrictions, or other questions, call the visitor center at 707-966-2111, ext. 113, the Lake Berryessa Administration Office at 707-966-2111 or visit the Lake Berryessa website at www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/index.html.

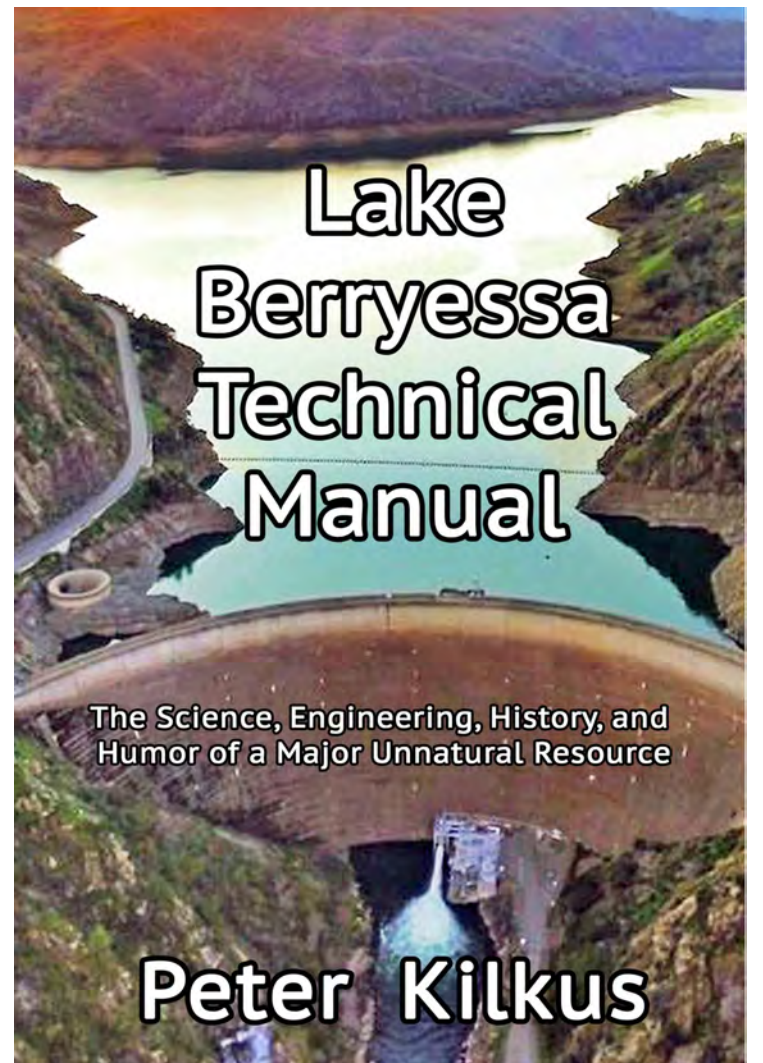
Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

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

Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

The Kindle version:
https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?
Paperback version:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref=pe_3052080_397514860

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.



Lake Berryessa Statistics: June 1, 2023
The lake level started falling on May 11 and is down now to 430.2', 9.8' below Glory Hole. A record 2022-2023 rainfall season of 41.86 inches is the second highest since 1998 (46.3"). The dam output has risen from the minimum 45 cfs required by law and contract to an average of 400 cfs driven by Solano County agricultural requirements as the weather warms and the growing season begins.

Evaporation has reached .25 inches per day. The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 88.4% capacity. On historical average the lake only drops about 10 - 15 feet per summer. We should have plenty of water to enjoy for years - even if another drought begins.

Water temperature hovers around 70 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down. The water temperature rose to around 53 degrees from 40 feet to the bottom.

Some fun facts about water use:
1 human family (up to 5 people) uses 1 A-F/yr
1 dairy cow or horse uses .038 A-F/yr
Therefore, 1 human family = 26 cows or 26 horses
300 chickens or 3 pigs use .017 A-F/yr
Therefore, 1 human family = 17,648 chickens or 176 pigs

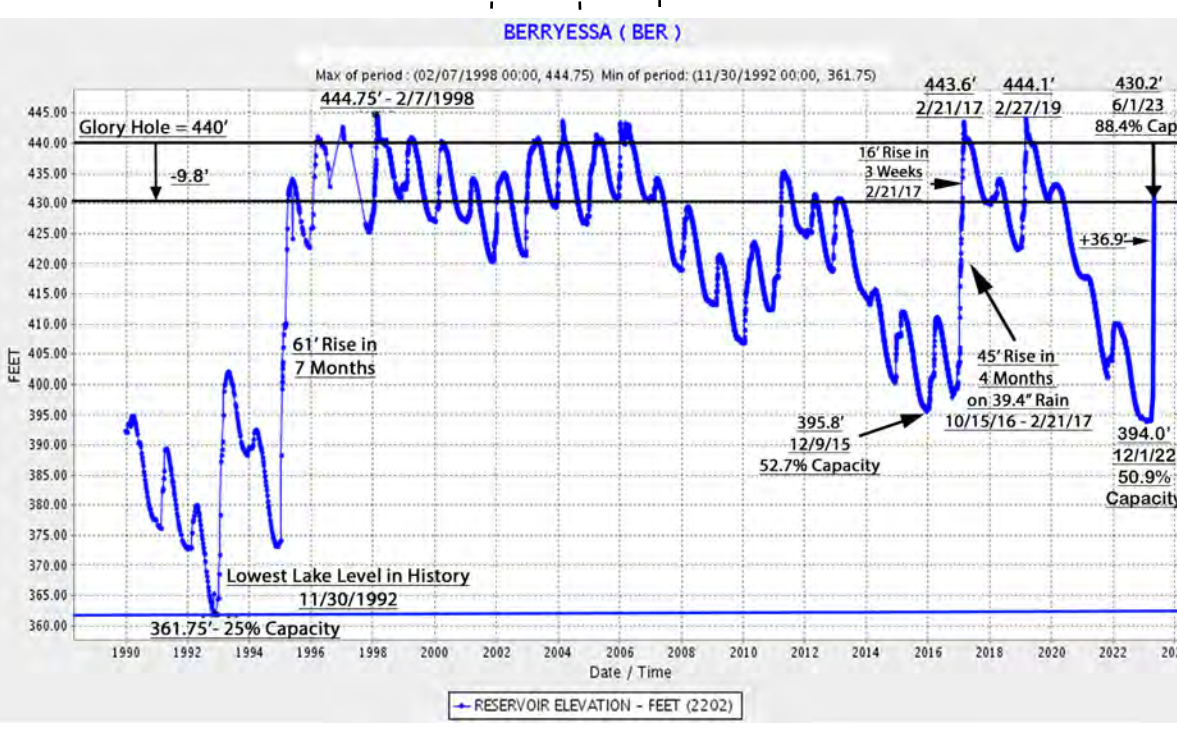
1 CFS equals 1.98 AF per day
1 A-F of water = 1 foot of water on 1 acre
1 A-F of water = 325,851 Gallons
1 A-F of water = 43,560 Cubic Feet
1 CFS = 448.8 GPM

Lake Berryessa surface level is about 20,700 acres when full but decreases as it empties. The new capacity of the lake was changed from 1,600,00 A-F to 1,555,300 A-F in 2013 after a detailed bathymetric study of the actual lake contours.

The required minimum output of 45 CFS equates to 89.1 A-F per day. At the minimum output it would take about 230 days for the lake to drop 1 ft. when full - excluding evaporation.

The maximum output reaches about 700 cfs during the growing season or 1,388 A-F/day. At the maximum output it would take 15 days for the lake to drop 1 ft. when full - excluding evaporation.

Solano Irrigation District's (SID) 75th Anniversary
SID was formed in February, 1948 to provide irrigation water toproperties in Solano County. In the 1970s it began serving non-potable and potable water to customers. Today SID has about 750 agricultural customer connections, about 9,404 potable water customer connections, and severakl hundred non-potable water connections.



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The Greater Lake Berryessa Region

Putah Canyon Recreation Area
Boat launching, day use, RV & tent camping
707-966-9051
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

Steele Canyon Recreation Area
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.
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

Markley Cove Resort
Boat launching, lodging, full-service marina, boat rentals, wet slips, fuel.
707-966-2134, 707-966-9010
www.markleycoveresort.com

Lake Berryessa Area Travel Distances

1 Monticello Dam	2 Markley Cove Resort	3 Wragg Canyon Road	4 Moskowite Corners	5 Steele Canyon Recreation Area	6 Turtle Rock	7 Spanish Flat Village Center	8 Oak Shores/Smittle Creek/Visitors Center	9 Monticello Shores/Berryessa Point RAs	10 Pope Canyon Road/ Putah Canyon RA	11 Hwy 128 @ Lower Chiles Valley Road	12 Pope Valley Road	13 Pope Valley	14 Aetna Springs
1=>2 3.0 miles	2=>3 5.3 miles	3=>4 3.0 miles	4=>5 5.0 miles	5=>6 4.7 miles	6=>7 5.0 miles	7=>8 2.4 miles	8=>9 2.4 miles	9=>10 2.8 miles	10=>11 10.2 miles	11=>12 3.0 miles	12=>13 3.2 miles	13=>14 8.5 miles	14=>15 3.7 miles

Note: No auto gas available between Winters and Napa or at Lake Berryessa!

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do you have
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The Lake Berryessa News

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

July 2023

Happy 4th of July from Lake Berryessa

Special "Bad News" Edition - Sun Outdoors Quits Lake Berryessa!

Another One Bites The Dust!

After two years of wasting the Lake Berryessa community's precious time with no visible progress, Sun Outdoors has bailed out of its commitment to the revitalization of three Lake Berryessa resorts: Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area.

Below is its "I'm so sorry, but..." letter to Napa County.

June 12, 2023: After careful analysis and consideration, Sun has determined that it is no longer feasible to continue with development of the Lake Berryessa Concession sites which we have pursued under our ERN Agreement with the County.

As we previously indicated, we have encountered significant obstacles relating to the failing utility infrastructure serving the project sites. Extensive investment would be required to upgrade and repair the existing infrastructure which far exceeds the initial estimates we had based our proposal upon. Additionally, after conducting thorough evaluations, it has become evident the site conditions pose unique and substantial challenges that we estimate will result in extraordinary development costs again far exceeding our initial estimates.

These conditions include environmental factors, site specific characteristics and restrictions, and factors that increase the complexity and cost of construction beyond what was initially anticipated. These issues are further compounded by current economic conditions in the construction

industry, such as escalating costs of labor, materials, and other inputs. Despite our best efforts, these factors coupled with the uncertainty prevailing in the market have significantly diminished the financial feasibility of our projects making them unviable for us to proceed further.

It is with great disappointment that we have arrived at this decision as we had initially embarked on these projects with great enthusiasm and a sincere commitment to delivering exceptional outcomes. We committed to operating the concession areas in the interim incurring financial losses to further demonstrate our commitment to this community. We deeply value our partnership with the County and appreciate the opportunity we were afforded to pursue these projects in such a beautiful location.

We understand the implications of this decision; However, we believe that it is in our collective best interest to relinquish these projects given the challenges and feasibility concerns we have encountered. We remain positive that a project can be executed that will

activate these sites, however unfortunately it is not the project Sun envisioned. We remain committed to maintaining open lines of communication and assisting in any way possible moving forward.

We extend our sincerest gratitude for the opportunities provided, and our apologies for the inconveniences this may cause for the County and all interested parties.

Sincerely, Sun Outdoors

The almost one hour long video of Tuesday's supervisors meeting is available online. You can see it yourself at:

[https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5365?](https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5365?view_id=3&redirect=true&h=e5e9c9a-cb90e77bfa1e80679e5a0e178)

[view_id=3&redirect=true&h=e5e9c9a-cb90e77bfa1e80679e5a0e178](https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5365?view_id=3&redirect=true&h=e5e9c9a-cb90e77bfa1e80679e5a0e178)

The Lake Berryessa section is at time stamp 3:20 to 4:10 so you have to scroll to there. The good news is that the supervisors are firm in their support for the Lake Berryessa revitalization process.

(Continued on page 3)



We Quit!



BOAT & JET SKI RENTALS



LAKE BERRYESSA BOAT & JET SKI RENTALS



**NOW RENTING TO CUSTOMERS 18 YEARS & OLDER!
Newest & Most Dependable Equipment!**

We Also Rent Tubes, Wakeboards, Skis, Wake Surfboards & Kneeboards

4420 Knoxville Road
Next to the Spanish Flat Village Center

Reservations Recommended
707-966-4204
lakeberryessaboats.com

Postcard Views!

This lovely 5-bdm, 3 -1/2 bath home with mountain and valley vistas is a Circle Oaks treasure.

14 Blackwood Court

<https://14blackwoodct.com/>

\$850,000!



Lake Shasta 2022

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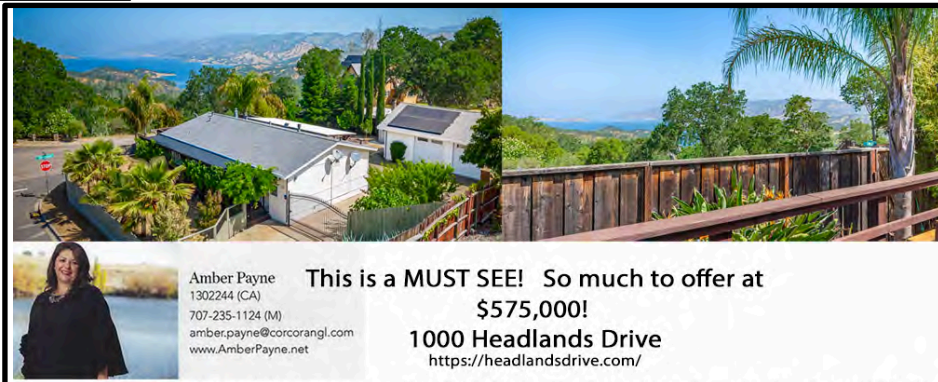


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Step into the warm welcome of this delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bath home located on a corner lot in the Lake Berryessa/Berryessa Highlands area. Wood flooring with an open floor plan, and a fireplace that adds to the coziness. There is an ample kitchen with a breakfast nook that takes in the lake view! Just a short drive to Lake Berryessa. Enjoy the mountain and water lifestyle! Someone's going to be very happy here... let it be you!

The The Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Bill of Rights (First 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution)

Amendment 1: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the

press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 2: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3: No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 4: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 5: No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment 6: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment 7: In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Economic Bill of Rights

Franklin D. Roosevelt (Jan. 11, 1944)

It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American standard of living higher than ever before known. We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people — whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth — is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights — among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty.

We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. "Necessitous men are not free men." People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all - regardless of station, race, or creed.

Among these are:

- > The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;
- > The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;
- > The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;
- > The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;
- > The right of every family to a decent home;
- > The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- > The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;
- > The right to a good education.

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom."

Bob Dylan

Being Safer from Wildfires Can Help With Your Insurance



Safer from Wildfires is a ground-up approach to wildfire resilience with three layers of protection — for the structure, the immediate surroundings, and the community. Following these achievable steps can help you save money on your insurance.

Safer from Wildfires was created by an interagency partnership between Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and the emergency response and readiness agencies in Governor Gavin Newsom's administration. Learn more at insurance.ca.gov

3 Ways to Get Started with Safer from Wildfires

Don't know where to start? Here are 3 low-cost steps you can take today.

Keep embers out

Installing 1/16 to 1/8 inch noncombustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screens over attic vents can keep wind-blown embers out of your house.

Clear the first 5 feet

Removing greenery and replacing wood chips with stone or decomposed granite 5 feet around your home prevents fire from getting a foot in the door.

Be safer together

With Firewise USA, communities as small as 8 dwelling units or as big as 2,500 can create an action plan and start being safer together. Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program with proven results, sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association.

Do more, save more
Every action under **Safer from Wildfires** will qualify you for an insurance discount. By doing more, you can save more.

- Class A fire-rated roof
- 5-foot ember-resistant zone around the structure
- Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of walls
- Ember- and fire-resistant vents
- Double pane windows or added shutters
- Enclosed eaves
- Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks
- Move sheds and outbuildings at least 30 feet away
- Trim trees and remove brush in compliance with state and local defensible space laws
- Neighborhoods can form a Firewise USA community
- Cities, counties, and local districts can become certified as a Fire Risk Reduction Community

Scan to find more resources



- Wildfire Risk Assessments -

- Defensible Space/Forest Management -

- Home Hardening Upgrades -

- Water System Design & Install-

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California Wildfire Insurance Program

New Homeowners Insurance Discounts Coming Later This Year

by Evan Kilkus

Since 1950, the severity and frequency of California wildfires have increased. While the reasons for the increases can be debated, the threat to California's property and public safety have risen as a result of the fires. The outbreaks in both 2018 and 2017 resulted in record breaking losses. In recent years, fire claims have grown to tens of billion dollars annually, with more than 70% coming from the last five years alone. To protect the community from these devastating wildfires, there is a new program, the "Safer from Wildfires" program.

Homeowners struggling to find and afford homeowners insurance may have some relief to look forward to the next time they renew their insurance policy. The announcement on the left lays out the steps homeowners need to take to get all the discounts available. While the CA Department of Insurance has mandated that all insurance companies offer their clients these discounts, it is still not clear how much the discounts will be for, or when/how quickly the rates will be rolled out.

The Safer from Wildfires program is a multi-dimensional plan intended to protect the structure, immediate surroundings, and wider community. The framework of the model includes expert-recommended actions that home and business owners can implement to protect themselves from fires.

To incentivize communities and individuals to participate in the Safer from Wildfires program, California will be the first state to require property insurers to offer premium discounts for home and business owners that are executing the guidelines stated in the program.

The Lake Berryessa News will follow up this fall with any updates. If you have questions about how to make your home safer from wildfire, and how to save yourself the most money on your homeowner's insurance, contact

Evan Kilkus

[Complete Wildfire Defense](https://www.CompleteWildfireDefense.com) today for a site visit and quick Pre-Insurance Inspection.



Onion Headlines

Russian State Media: Prigozhin dies from long covid complications after accidentally choking on plutonium laced hot dog while falling thru window

After Zelensky visits Pope, Vatican pledges \$10 billion in prayers to defend against Russian missiles

Republicans Surround Hunter Biden Chanting "One of us! One of us!" After Realizing He Plead Guilty To Tax Evasion And Illegal Gun Possession.

'It's Like I Can't Do Anything Right,' Says Woman Pretty Much Hitting Nail On Head

Sam Bankman-Fried Sobs After Accidentally Dropping Last Crypto Down Sewer Grate

CEO's Skill Set Transferable To Any Job That Requires Dumbass To Receive Big Salary

'I'm Working Through My Anger Issues, But Even On My Best Days It's A Struggle,' Screams Marjorie Taylor Greene

New Florida Bill Allows Guns To Start Businesses

Pence Says Decision To Run For President Came After God Told Him He Could Get 6-Figure Speaking Deal From It

Cooking Podcast Host Under Fire For Controversial Claim That Vaccines Give You Potatoes

Outdoors Magazine: Well, The Big Takeaways From Our Annual Seals Issue Are 1) Those Suckers Bite, And 2) Your Other Fingers Aren't Worth Jack Without A Thumb

Orlando Launches Bid For MLB Team In Attempt To Make City More Unappealing

Dad's Entire Parenting Strategy Just Ensuring Son Doesn't Become Yankees Fan

Apple Vision Pro marries the latest in virtual reality technology with looking more stupid than on TikTok.

Russia announces plans to conquer the world in self-defense.

July Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Don't use pointers and elaborate charts to describe philosophical concepts. Use those powers for good on Thursday, and you'll be headed for reality TV in no time.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): You are always on the move, headed to your next delusion of grandeur.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): You have the athleticism of a mollusk. Your workouts would be more effective if you stopped eating between sets.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Nothing tastes as sweet as winning. Except for winning at the expense of others.

Leo (7/23-8/22): The best of excuses are those that are plausible (so, not ones that involve you, super-powers and hordes of sexy friends).

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Half of what you think you're good at is actually a complete fluke. This week may see the end of your futile efforts to get good at something.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Life will throw many things at you over the coming months, including a bookshelf which you probably should have ensured was fixed more firmly to the wall.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Put your mental abilities to the test today and try to figure out how best to spend the money you have in a non-frivolous way

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): One man cannot make himself into an army of super-strength midgets. No matter what his budget.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You may be feeling sporty today but don't spend all that money on new sports gear and equipment. You are likely to lose interest in this new found "passion" within 20 days.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): It's never too late to do that thing you always wanted to do. You know - the THING. The thing? You know.

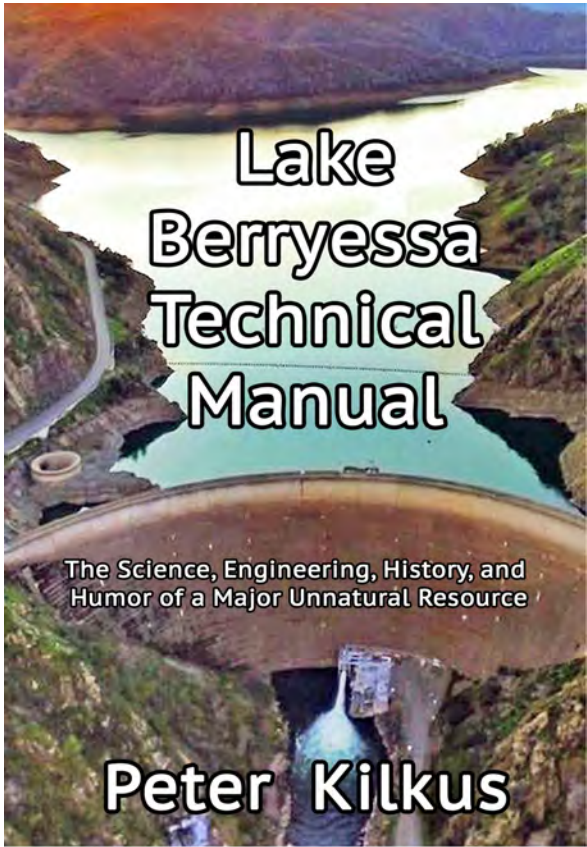
Pisces (2/19-3/20): Many things that people say over the coming days will appear nonsensical, but may start to make sense towards the end of the week.

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual
The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource
Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

The Kindle version:
[https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?](https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?ref=pe_3052080_397514860)
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref=pe_3052080_397514860

Paperback version:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref=pe_3052080_397514860

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.



Build Your Dream Lake House

Lake Berryessa Lots
<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Build Your Dream Country Home

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<https://circleoakslots.com/>

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Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of beautiful Lake Berryessa, surrounding mountains and spectacular sunsets!
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www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

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PKilkus@gmail.com

(Continue fro Page 1)

At the Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, several questions were answered. Sun Outdoors will continue to operate Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat until October 30, 2023. After that point Napa County has committed to operate both resorts until another permanent concessioner is chosen.

Sun Outdoors has agreed to give Napa County the results of all the enviromenal studies they have completed to date along with the assistance of Sun engineers to assist the county in understanding the work completed..

Suntex which operates Pleasure Cove Marina and won the contract to redevelop Berryessa Point would like to change their management from the Bureau of Reclamation to that of Napa County. Suntex is making good progress on their pland and environmental studies for Berryessa Point. It makes good business sense for them to consolidate their operations under Napa County's management.

The following letter from Grant Sedgwick outline a minimalist "rosy scenario". Grant is the co-author, with Richard Ragatz, of the excellent, still valid, 2017 Ragatz Report, Lake Berryessa : An Untapped Resort Development Opportunity

Subject: Lake Berryessa Resort Sites - Update

The decision by Sun Communities, Inc. to relinquish its Exclusive Right to Negotiate regarding the redevelopment of three recreation sites at Lake Berryessa is clearly an unexpected setback. The decision to select this company over other bidders, in response to the County's Request for Proposals, was substantially based on Sun's unique vision for the opportunity, proven financial capability and development expertise.

Apparently unanticipated site conditions, dramatic construction cost increases and uncertain financial markets have all contributed to the company's decision to abandon the effort. Nonetheless, representatives of the company continue to believe that some redevelopment concept(s) are still feasible - but not theirs.

Sun's gross revenue increased by almost 30% between 2021 and 2022; EBITDA increased by some 21%. In spite of this healthy financial performance, the company's share price has lost some ground along with other REITs. Since submitting the RFP response, Sun's stock has traded down about 11% but financial distress does not seem to be a factor in the decision to back away from Berryessa.

The County has a couple of options for 'next steps' including (i) pursue negotiations with other proponents who responded to the November 2020 Request for Proposals, or (ii) issue new and revised RFPs for one, two or all three of the concession areas that had been previously awarded to Sun.

In the short time we've had to consider these alternatives, since becoming aware of Sun's likely decision, we've contacted one of the previous proponents, as well as an experienced marina operator that was not part of the earlier competition and a luxury hospitality operator that, similarly, did not submit a previous proposal. It is evident, based on these conversations, that there are resort developers and operators that would be enthusiastic about putting forward a proposal.

That said, current market conditions are considerably more uncertain than was the case in late 2020 and early 2021. County staff, with our assistance, will reach out to the other respondents to the November 2020 RFP to determine if there is continued strong interest. If not, a new Request for Proposals will be circulated. That request will encourage collaborative responses, where appropriate, between qualified firms and individuals that have differentiated skill sets. There are very few firms that, like Sun and Suntex, have both marina and land-based hospitality expertise.

Sincerely,
Grant Sedgwick

Several alternatives exist for finding altertrantive concessioners. One is to contact previous bidders who may still be interested in the Lake Berryessa opportunities and continue negotiations with them. Another is to rewrite and re-issue a new bid prospectus with a shortened time scale for evaluating the bids.

However, the time frame for accomplishing any results from even an accelerated process will be minimally 60 - 150 days.

Several suggestions were made to modify the bid process to allow a bidder to only bid on one resort.

Another suggestion was to simplify the potential amenities required to be constructed. The problem with that idea is that there is a balancee between

amenities provide and the revenue needed to support a profitable business model.

Reclamation and Napa County temporarily ban ash-producing fires at Lake Berryessa

At the request of Napa County, the Bureau of Reclamation is banning the use of charcoal and other ash-producing fuels at Lake Berryessa's recreation areas, including recreation concession areas and campgrounds, starting June 26.

In a collective effort to improve public safety, this lake-wide fire ban will remain in effect until further notice. Reclamation will be informed by the Napa County Fire Marshall when the fire ban may be safely lifted and continues coordination efforts with Napa County and local fire agencies in the interim.

Cooking fires using charcoal briquettes and wood campfires create embers that can easily be blown into dry vegetation, igniting wildfires. During this temporary ban, only propane-fueled fire pits, stoves, and barbeque grills will be permitted at Lake Berryessa.

Park rangers or campground hosts, and posted signs, will inform visitors of the temporary ban upon entrance to recreation areas.

Lake Berryessa - Temperature
— 1Temp01 — 1Temp05 — 1Temp10 — 1Temp40 — 1Temp70

Lake Berryessa Views Close to Lake Access
1051 Blueridge Drive
Offered at: \$519,000
<https://blueridgedrive.com/>

This lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath home in the Berryessa Pines at Lake Berryessa is ready for a new owner to make memories! Come in off of a full day on the lake and BBQ on the deck enjoying the sunset in the background. The open floor plan gives the interior an expansive feel. Abundant room for boat/RV parking. Located only a stone's throw from Lake Berryessa.
Make this home your Lake home!

4 Water and Sewer Rates Overwhelm Berryessa Highlands Residents

(Excerpted from a Napa Register story by Barry Eberling June 10, 2023)

Berryessa Highlands faces hard math when it comes to running the water and wastewater systems needed for this small, remote community near Lake Berryessa to survive. Residents pay an average of \$4,220 annually for these vital services, more than twice as much as what a city of Napa resident might pay. Yet the systems face red ink and require upgrades

The obvious solution is raising rates. But a proposed \$2,500 annual boost is proving to be a non-starter with both residents and Napa County, leaving the situation up in the air. The county Board of Supervisors discussed options on June 27. All Napa County taxpayers have a stake in this. The county is poised to loan the Highlands system \$1 million, on top of \$2.8 million the county has already loaned over a decade.

There are reasons for hope — an adjacent resort could open in a few years to shoulder some of the system costs. More Highlands homes could be built. Federal and state grants might pay for needed wastewater and water system improvements.

Meanwhile, some Berryessa Highlands residents worry about the present. Berryessa Highlands began in the 1960s as a kind of paradise on hills overlooking Lake Berryessa. The idea was people could enjoy the good life out here in a what amounted to a resort setting along a reservoir 26 miles long and 3 miles wide. Today, it has about 250 homes. But there's trouble in paradise.

One resident has seen his fire insurance rise to \$6,000 annually with a \$45,000 deductible. Now he faces rising water and wastewater costs on a fixed income. It's a common story for small water and wastewater systems in California. Aging equipment must be replaced, state and federal standards must be met and there are only a few hundred customers over which to spread the costs.

The state Water Resources Control Board has identified more than 300 water systems in California that fail to meet drinking water standards, usually because of costs. Despite its economic woes, the Berryessa Highlands system is not on the list, though it is listed as "potentially at risk."

Christopher Silke, engineer for the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District, described some things that exacerbated the problems for the Berryessa Highlands wastewater and water systems. A blow came in 2008,

when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation closed and later razed the old Steele Park resort near the Highlands so it could be renovated, something that has yet to happen. Only a camping/RV version of the resort is open today. The old resort used and paid for water and wastewater services equivalent to 228 homes.

Another blow came in 2020, when the LNU Lightning Complex Fire burned about 100 Highlands homes, leaving about 250. All of this meant fewer customers to spread the water and wastewater system costs among. The district for 2022-23 is expecting revenues of less than \$800,000 and expenses of more than \$1.2 million, in part because of the need to make repairs in the wake of last winter's large storms.

Napa County has tried to help. The county Board of Supervisors sits as the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Board of Trustees that runs the systems. The county since 2009 has loaned the district \$2.8 million. County Public Works Director Steven Lederer said more is needed to balance this fiscal year's budget and keep the district from going bankrupt.

In fact, district staff wants another \$1 million loan from the county to also cover some of the operations and maintenance expenses for the coming fiscal year as well, buying time to find that elusive solution to the financial woes. Whether the county will keep loaning money indefinitely to the Berryessa Highlands water and wastewater systems is another question. At this point, it's unclear when and if the loans will be repaid.

"So, the question becomes, why are we subsidizing the water and wastewater of these residents and not other residents who likewise are feeling economic pressures?" County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Belia Ramos said at the April 18 board meeting.

Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza has the Berryessa Highlands area in his supervisor district. "I do believe the county has been a good partner with the residents of Berryessa in trying to minimize any cost impacts," Pedroza said. "But we're at a point where we can't keep doing what we're doing."

There are possible silver linings. One is the hoped-for rebirth of the old Steele Park resort as a new Steele Canyon resort, possibly with a marina, glamping, dining and retail. The county stepped in to jumpstart the Bureau of Reclamation's unsuccessful renovation attempts and in 2021 identified Sun Communities as a possible, new resort operator. However, Sun Outdoors just backed out of its plans to redevelop Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores. One obstacle was the high cost for

Sun to connect to and use the Berryessa Highlands system. The Country is scrambling to find a new operator.

Another piece is the rebuilding over time the homes burned in the LNU Lightning Complex fire, providing more customers to pay for the water and wastewater systems. Still another possibility is doing a household income survey that would establish Berryessa Highlands as a disadvantaged community. Silke said such status would open the doors to grants for the water and wastewater systems. Berryessa Highlands failed to qualify when the county did a survey about five years ago, given its average income was too high. Napa County will see if anything has changed.

Meanwhile, the county is considering options for Berryessa Highlands water and sewer customers. Customers on average pay \$2,880 annually in water and sewer rates, plus a \$1,100 annual assessment related to a federal loan, plus a \$240 annual fee. The county estimates an 89% rate increase is needed. But that comes to an average annual increase of more than \$2,500 and appears to be off the table.

One option still being looked at combines a 53% rate increase with an \$800 annual fee on developed parcels and \$400 fee on undeveloped parcels. Another simply calls for a \$1,180 annual fee on any parcels. Neither idea was met by enthusiasm when county officials explained the situation to about 14 Berryessa Highlands residents attending a May 9 community meeting at Lake Berryessa.

Ironically, the sewer and water systems that are such a sore point for Berryessa Highlands today were selling points at the subdivision's birth in the mid-1960s. What amounts to advertising copy in the May 5, 1966, St. Helena Star described the lots available for as low as \$3,090 at the Highlands. It described a 1,500-acre wooded peninsula as a destination for Bay Area and Sacramento-area weekenders. "Lot owners at Berryessa Highlands will enjoy such conveniences as full underground utilities, engineered sewer and water systems and wide paved roads," the story said.

But the article also mentioned up to 2,000 lots, which would have meant a lot more homeowners supporting those sewer and water systems. Other reports have Berryessa Highlands ultimately having as many as 4,000 homes. Like the mention of a lakeside golf course, that vision of a much larger Highlands never came to be.

Lake Berryessa Statistics: June 30, 2023

The lake level started falling on May 11 and is down now to 428.5' - 11.5' below Glory Hole and dropping slowly at about 4 inches per week.

The dam output has risen from the minimum 45 cfs required by law and contract to an average of 490 cfs driven by Solano County agricultural requirements as the weather warms and the growing season begins.

Evaporation is a about .25 inches per day. The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 87.0% capacity.

Lake water temperatures are running about 75 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down and around 55 degrees from 40 feet to the bottom.

Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program

The program is managed by the Solano Resource Conservation District, and uses person to person interaction to promote individual water quality stewardship to safeguard drinking water, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. The Solano County Water Agency manages an invasive mussel prevention program where interns implement a screening and inspection protocol to prevent the introduction of invasive zebra or quagga mussels.

The Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program began May 21st and will conclude Labor Day Weekend. Interns conduct outreach on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The Mussel Prevention Program occurs 7 days a week May through September with occasional inspections continuing throughout the rest of the year.

Bilgee the Bilge Pad went to Oak Shores to greet recreators for the first time this summer. 43 people completed a survey. Responses to "How do you keep Lake Berryessa clean" included not littering in or near the lake, recycling cans and bottles, and using bilge pads to prevent oil leakage.



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/ccao/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.royaleltparkmanagement.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

Steele Canyon Recreation Area
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.
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According to new research, summer is the best time to enjoy life's simple pleasures

And Lake Berryessa is one of the best places to do so!

Floating in Lake Berryessa with your family and friends, walking on the beach, sitting in a pool with a swim-up bar – it’s no surprise nearly three in five Americans say summer is the best season to enjoy.

A study asked 2,000 Americans about life’s simple pleasures and found that 27% appreciate the little things better during the summertime such as barbecues (42%), relaxing (39%) and enjoying fresh air (38%). More than half(58%) of respondents agree this time of year is the best season to enjoy life’s simple pleasures. Favorite seasonal experiences include going to the beach (38%) and having more sunlight throughout the day (37%).

The survey revealed just how important the role of food and drinks are for people to enjoy summer moments. Respondents answered that some food and drinks in the summertime bring them joy

because it reminds them of their childhood, it brings them comfort or because they simply love food.

While respondents’ love for food is timeless, their preferences don’t always stay the same – at least not for six in 10 (62%) of respondents who have noticed drastic differences in what they like to eat. However, some food favorites just can’t be beat; the top foods people can’t live without are pizza (43%), French fries (38%) and ice cream (37%). Twenty-two percent agreed the sound of the ice cream truck still sends them running.

Simple Peasures That Bring People Joy

- Listening to music (59%)
- Watching a good TV show/movie (50%)
- Eating my favorite food (52%)
- Laughing at jokes (48%)
- Getting a good night’s sleep (49%)
- Making someone smile (48%)
- Getting good news (48%)
- Holding hands with someone I love (42%)
- A breath of fresh air (41%)
- The smell/sound of rain (41%)




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August 2023



Summer at Lake Berryessa: Good Clean Fun In Good Clean Water

Last week I celebrated my 79th birthday with a patio boat ride on beautiful Lake Berryessa with a couple of my "kids" - youngest is 39!

I enjoyed one of my all-time favorite recreational activities - floating in a life jacket in 83 degree water attached by a long rope to the patio boat drinking a margarita in a cold cup and talking to family and friends with our dog swimming with us in his own life vest. Our dog, Koda, has been gone to doggie heaven for several years, but he's still out there with me in spirit.

The water was flat, the air was at 95 degrees, and there was a light breeze. Another day in paradise as Evan (who actually turns 40! in August) always says. I looked down at my feet and wiggled my toes in the light green water - "toe-depth viz".

As a long-time scuba diver, I'm more used to clear 80 foot visibility ocean water at 50 to 100 feet down. That's a short way to point out that you really don't want to scuba dive in Lake Berryessa. But "toe depth viz" is fine here since it indicates water-borne life is plentiful. A basic ecological principle states, "A clear lake is a dead lake."

Biological productivity is often defined as the percentage of sunlight (the primary source of life) that falls on the earth that is turned into biomass. For example, the biological productivity of a forest is only about 8%. The rest of that immense energy is "wasted" as heat.

My "toe-depth vis" observation reminded me of my 25 year crusade to keep Napa County and the Bureau of Reclamation from destroying family recreation at the lake for a generation. Part of "The Big Lie" documented in my

book "Policy and Politics Betray the People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020" was an attack on Lake Berryessa's water quality.

The Big Lie: "The Lake Berryessa resorts, especially the mobile homes in the resorts, discouraged the general public from accessing the lake, prevented the public from using the best parts of the shoreline, and also polluted the lake." No matter how hard we fought back with facts and data, the proponents of demolishing the resorts simply kept lying.

Many of you may still remember the mean-spirited people who always found the truth too confining and embodied the cliché, "You know they are lying because their lips are moving." You can read these environmental exclusionists' letters to the Napa Register in my book. There are simply some folks who don't like to see other people have fun. I was outraged then and am still deeply saddened every time I look at the barren shoreline of Lake Berryessa.

Unfortunately, during the controversial Bureau of Reclamation Visitor Services Plan process, which led to the present multi-year shutdown of Lake Berryessa, it appears that some folks consciously tried to promote the concept that the resorts had polluted the lake.

They were so successful, with the help of local exclusionist environmental groups, local media, and others that people would call the Bureau of Reclamation headquarters at Lake Berryessa and ask if it were safe for their children to swim in the lake!

So, what was, and still is, the true story of water quality at Lake Berryessa?

Lake Berryessa supplies water to

Benicia, Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo, Rio Vista, Suisun City, and Travis Air Force Base. The United States Bureau of Reclamation is the owner of the Solano Project which includes Lake Berryessa, Monticello Dam, Lake Solano, Putah Diversion Dam, Putah South Canal, and Terminal Reservoir.

The Solano Project was built and funded by Reclamation (federal government), but the original loan has been fully paid off by the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA, www.scwa2.com/).

The Solano Project is a locally managed project, but Reclamation has the ultimate oversight responsibility, and conducts periodic inspections of all the facilities. SCWA holds the master contract with Reclamation for the operation of the Project. SCWA then contracts the Solano Irrigation District (SID, www.sidwater.org/) to assist with the daily operations.

Lake Berryessa has always been, and is still now, one of the cleanest lakes in California. There has never been any significant measurable "pollution" of lake water. Water Quality at Lake Berryessa has always been good.

From a 2001 Sanitary Survey, "Generally speaking, untreated (raw) Lake Berryessa water meets primary and secondary public health drinking water standards (F. Morris, Lake Berryessa/ Solano Project Watershed Sanitary Survey 2001 Update)." Translation: If you swallow Lake Berryessa water while your swimming or boating, you won't get sick.

The City of Fairfield released its 2022 Consumer Confidence Report, detailing the quality of tap water. Fairfield’s drinking water is sourced from Lake

Berryessa and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Based on a series of tests, the quality of Fairfield’s drinking water exceeds almost all industry standards.

(Continued on Page 2)

Napa County Opens Monticello Shores Recreation Area For Bid!

Napa County Executive Office is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) in order to identify a potential concessionaire for Monticello Shores, a developable resort site at Lake Berryessa.

The full RFP is available at:
<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Monticello-Shores-RFP-080123.pdf>

Proposed 2023 Schedule (Pacific Time)

- August 1: RFP Released
- August 16: Site Visit
- August 21: Questions due by 5:00 PM
- August 24: Responses to Questions
- September 8: RFP Submittals Due by 12:00 PM (Pacific)
- September 22: Concessionaire Selection
- October 10: County and USBR Approval of Concession Award

Monticello Shores Recreation Area (previously Rancho Monticello Resort) is a self-contained and prime waterfront property on the west side of the Lake. The concession site contains 2.8 miles of shoreline and nearly 150 total acres.

The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a detailed, but preliminary, development plan for the concession area. Environmental assessment has been completed to a “60 percent design”. The required environmental impact plans may be accelerated.

2 (Continued from Page 1)
The water quality has always been closely monitored by Solano County water users and found to meet the highest standards. That's one reason Budweiser chose their brewing plant in Fairfield. Anheuser Busch – Fairfield Brewery wrote a letter during that period supporting their long-standing scientific analysis that Lake Berryessa water was pure - contradicting the pollution story. For those reader interested in the raw data, I've posted the 2022 Fairfield Water Quality report on the Lkaè Berryessa website at:
<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/Fairield-Water-Quality-Report.pdf>

Scientific data from other sources, including local water agencies and the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership also corroborated this assessment. There has never been any documented evidence – ever – that Lake Berryessa water purity has been compromised, not by the resorts, human visitors, east side cattle ranches, or the thousands of animals roving the Lake Berryessa watershed.

I recently attended a meeting of all the Solano County water quality managers who again confirmed the fact that Lake Berryessa water meets all drinking water quality standards. There had been an alert after the Markley Cove fire last year when 23 boats and jet skis burned and sank, releasing gasoline and oil into Markley Cove. Measuring stations downstream of Monticello Dam sampled the water from the lake for several months during which no contamination from the fire were found in the water.

One reason is the old saying, "The solution to pollution is dilution." Another is the fact that most components of gasoline and motor oil are "volatile organic compounds" which means those components evaporate into the air and do not dissolve into the water. That' why the rainbow oil slick you see if you spill a little gas in the water soon evaporates into the air.

Much good work has been done to protect the lake water quality over the decades by various organizations such as the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership (LBWP) of which the Lake Berryessa News has been a member and supporter. They originally focused on preventing oil and gasoline spills from the thousands of boats using the lake. Recently they have transitioned to the Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach (LBBO) Program responsible for preventing the introduction of invasive mussels into the lake as well as continuing their educational efforts to prevent oil and gasoline contamination. Visitors may have seen the interns inspecting boats at the various launch ramps, including their Bilgee the Bilge Pad mascot.

Here's an excerpt from a recent LBBO report:
"The 4th of July weekend was just as hot as it was busy. Both the weather and our inspectors were on fire with temperatures exceeding 105°F and a total of 1,631 inspections! So far it has been a busy boating season with the lake being nearly full and our inspection team had already surpassed the total number of boats inspected in all of 2022.

One boat decontamination was scheduled and performed on 6/27/2023 by a boat owner who had recently purchased their boat in Arizona and used it in a Southern California lake that is infested with quagga mussels. We sincerely want to thank all boat owners in the area who are proactive about keeping Lake Berryessa mussel free and reach out to us ahead of time to schedule decontaminations!"

<u>2023 Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program</u>			
Summary: 7/29-7/30 (Weekly & Season Totals)			
# of Boater Surveys:	54	449	
# of Recreator Surveys:	0	44	
# of People Educated	119	1179	
# of Bilge Pads Installed	15	111	

Property Tax Rolls Increase: Good News For Napa County, Not So Much For People Paying Those High Property Taxes

Napa County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk John Tuteur presented an assessment roll of \$52.8 Billion for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to Auditor Controller Tracy Schulze based on the value of all local property as of January 1, 2023. The roll grew by \$3.98 Billion (8.16 percent).

“The \$3.98 Billion record assessment roll increase for the second year in a row is greater than the assessed value of all local property in Napa County just 38 years ago in 1985,” Tuteur commented. “Our local assessment roll is the fourth highest per capita assessed value of California’s counties with more than 10,000 population just behind San

Mateo, Marin, San Francisco and just ahead of Santa Clara.“

All of the municipalities showed an increase in their assessed value: American Canyon 11.02 percent, Calistoga 3.94 percent, the City of Napa 7.66 percent, Saint Helena 6.60 percent and Yountville 6.23 percent. Approximately \$1 Billion of the \$3.98 Billion increase (25 percent) comes from the Proposition 13 required 2 percent inflationary adjustment which applies to those properties that did not change ownership, had no new construction and were not in a decline in value status. Non-residential new construction added \$126.1 million (3 percent). The balance of the 8.16 percent increase comes from changes of ownership of properties with older Proposition 13 base year values and residential new construction. “In spite of rising interest rates Napa County’s real estate market remained strong with a number of major winery and industrial transactions and healthy new construction,” Tuteur added. 1,120 properties have values lower than their Proposition 13 factored base year values - the lowest number of decline in value properties since the Great Recession of 2007.

For those of you who don't like it too hot, here's a reminder of Lake Berryessa on February 24, 2023 - a short five months ago!



Artificial Intelligence, Lake Berryessa, Ukraine, Fashion, and Adventure: Everything is Connected
by Peter Kilkus

My sons, Chris and Evan, and I have been fortunate to travel extensively internationally, mostly scuba diving adventures. Chris, an internationally recognized fashion photographer and videographer, has outdone me and Evan in the last few years working in Mexico, the Middle East, Russia, Dubai, Portugal, Eastern Europe, Chernobyl and other exotic locations. When Covid hit, he was almost trapped in Cyprus, but was able to make it back to Ukraine before the world's borders were closed.

He and his Russian girlfriend continued to work out of an AirBNB in Kyiv (the world is more connected technologically than most Americans realize). His work allowed him to make connections with many influential Russian and Ukrainian businesspeople. He was warned by his friends to leave Ukraine the day before the Russian invasion. He and Maria made their way by train to beautiful Budapest Hungary which has been their main base, allowing them to work and travel throughout Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East for that last two years.

Maria can't go back to Russia because she is an outspoken anti-Putin opponent. There are many expatriate Russians in Eastern Europe. One sad thing about the Russian war against Ukraine is the power of Russian propaganda. When Maria and her other Russian friends call their relatives and friends inside Russia, the people they talk to simply do not believe anything they say about the war in Ukraine and the devastation the Russians are causing.

But Chris just started experimenting with AI (in Budapest) - Chat GPT to be precise. In his video production and fashion photography work he does a lot of writing too.

He recently wrote to me: "You should play around with the new ChatAI... I use it a lot now as an editor. If I can't figure out the best way to word something for a presentation, I will run the ideas through the AI to get some ideas. You can't always use exactly what it spits out, but it always will lead to better writing than what normal people can do on their own.

But the funny thing is that as you use it you realize how limited AI really is... it's not actually coming up with its own ideas, it's just regurgitating what it's vacuumed up from the web. You recognize how it constantly repeats the same ideas and phrasing in the style of writing on the web... like marketing speak, click bait, or programming and technical documents.

But the people that are freaked out because they think it's giving responses as if it's self-aware...that's hilarious because it's not original thought at all. The AI answers are just copy and pasted from what was already written and available on the internet about AI - and even science fiction. Although I guess if you think about it just in the terms of writing, it's

more an issue that humans are rather limited in their ideas....So I asked Chat AI what it thinks about what I wrote above and here is it's response:

"It seems like you have a good understanding of the benefits and limitations of AI as a writing tool. It is true that AI can be helpful in generating ideas and improving writing, but it has its limitations as it is not capable of coming up with completely original ideas. Instead, it relies on pre-existing information on the internet to generate responses.

It is important to recognize that while AI can be a useful tool, it should not be relied on completely. It is still necessary to use critical thinking and human judgment to evaluate and edit the output generated by AI. Overall, your message provides a balanced perspective on the use of AI in writing and highlights both its potential benefits and limitations."

So, I (Peter) downloaded the latest Chat GPT app and played around with it. Since I dislike the deadlines I have to meet in publishing the Lake Berryessa News, I fantasized about letting the AI write stories for me. The first thing I learned was that the AI is very limited in its knowledge, including about one of the premier news outlets in the world. I asked it to write a review of The Lake Berryessa News and it responded:

"As an AI language model, I don't have access to real-time data or specific publications past my knowledge cutoff date of September 2021. Therefore, I cannot provide a review of the Lake Berryessa News as it might exist after that date.

To find the most recent reviews and information about the Lake Berryessa News, I recommend checking online sources, local news websites, or community forums where residents might share their experiences and opinions about the publication. Additionally, you can explore social media platforms for insights from people who have interacted with the Lake Berryessa News recently. Always remember to consider multiple sources to get a well-rounded view of the publication's credibility and content quality."

Very disappointing result after eighteen years of publishing this premier news source - and no help in meeting my deadlines!

If you've been reading science fiction since childhood, as I have, you are familiar with the dozens of plots regarding artificial intelligence entities - robots and super computers - taking over the world and destroying humanity, the present hysteria in the international news about the threat of artificial intelligence will seem quite naive and amusing. The best review I've seen of the present state of AI and its possible future, was from John Oliver in a funny, but highly educational, episode of his television show, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver - Artificial Intelligence. (<https://www.ganjing.com/s/QEQol0nByW>) You should watch it if you want to know the real story of AI as it now exists.

<u>Onion Headlines</u>		7
Poll Finds Majority Of Americans Would Prefer Tiny Little President Who Tap-Dances On Podium	Red Sox Trade Aging Fenway Park To Yankees For Several Highly Touted Blueprints	Congress Warns Shrimp Imported From China Could Be Spying On Americans
Financial Problems Force Ron DeSantis Campaign To Fire Wife	Parents Group Demands School Acknowledge That They're Angry And Not Very Smart	Family Attaches Few Pieces Of Ribbon To Grandma's Nose To Make Sure Air Coming Out
Guy With Huge Head Not Even Smart	Depressed Man Wishes Friends Would Check On Him So He Could Insist He's Fine	Amazed Woman Sees Face Of Jesus On Crucifix
Woman Figures It Easier To Just Get New One After Forgetting Boyfriend In Uber	Bride Requiring All Bridesmaids To Get Matching Plastic Surgery For Wedding Day	Man With No Friends Tells It Like It Is
Loving Mother Only Wants Daughter To Be Different In Every Possible Way	Senators Defend Having Dementia In Office	Netflix Limits Users To One Eye Per Screen
Congressman surprised that retired people's only source of income is pension	Gay Baker Relieved He Can Finally Deny Service to Heterosexual Customers	

August Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Everything you are thinking about will end up getting lost in some sort of fuzzy logic.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): See how clever you can be today by attempting to count your lose change inside your pocket WITHOUT taking your hand or the money out.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): Shallow puddles may deceive you today.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Day time television can motivate you to rethink the monotony of your life. You may decide to pep up your life by going on a short cookery course.

Leo (7/23-8/22): You may be feeling sporty today but don't spend all that money on new sports gear and equipment. You are likely to lose interest in this new found "passion" within 20 days.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): All the things you're unsure of will almost certainly remain enigmatic by the end of the day.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Thinking and driving at the same time can be hazardous for you today.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Today is going to be like most days, certainly in terms of its length and the frequency of sun-rises to sun-sets.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Login to every site you can and you'll soon understand what the meaning of the internet is.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Your appetites may increase today as the doctors finally remove the scissors they left inside you during your last operation.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): his week is going to be a series of ups and downs. Mostly downs, but also mostly ups. You are not registered to view this horoscope, and yet you still are. Perhaps this is your calling.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Much of your body weight tends to be distributed in a specific place - but that may start shifting today

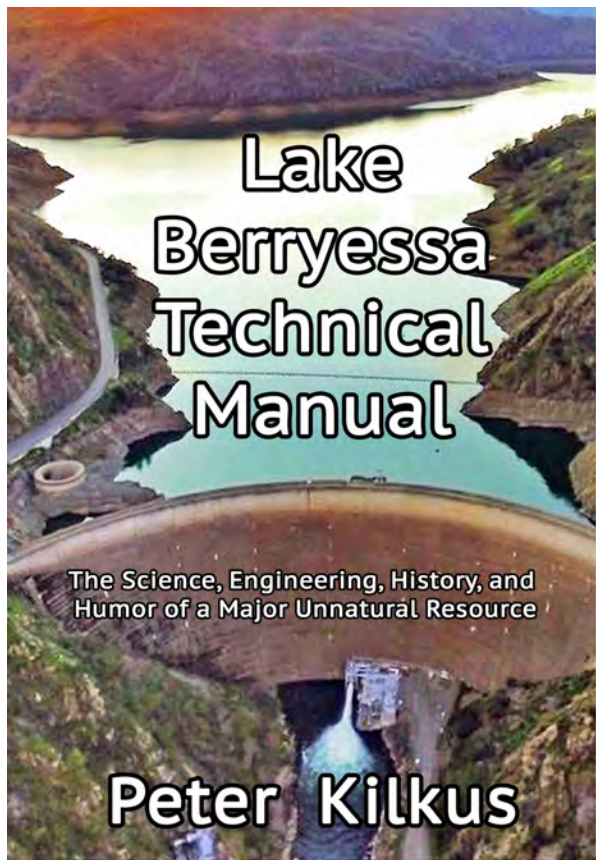
Lake Berryessa Technical Manual
The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource

Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

Available on Amazon

Lake Berryessa is almost a living creature. It breathes in and out, grows and shrinks. But it breathes water not air. It is always breathing in through rainfall and runoff - mostly during the winter season. And it is always breathing out all year through evaporation and outflows through Monticello Dam. Unnatural is when humans change the environment in ways that benefit them.

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.



Policy and Politics Betray the People:
The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020

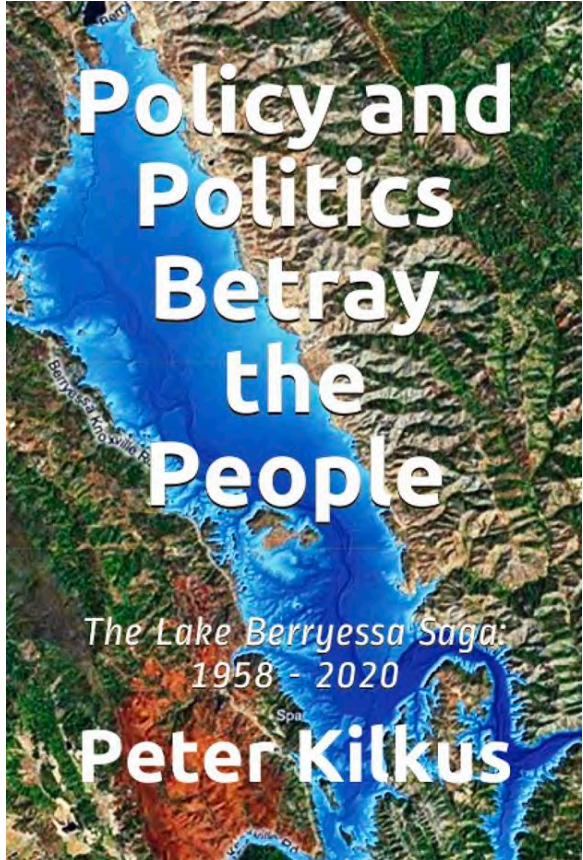
The Big Lie: "The Lake Berryessa resorts, especially the mobile homes in the resorts, discouraged the general public from accessing the lake, prevented the public from using the best parts of the shoreline, and also polluted the lake."

Available on Amazon

Having participated directly for more than twenty years as an advocate for the lake in the fiasco that was the Bureau of Reclamation's Visitor Services Plan, its farcical but tragic outcome, and the process of rebuilding, I have very strong views of the causes and results - supported by facts and data.

This book is a historical anthology, a raw, as-it-happened, unfiltered picture of what many of us lived through. The goal is to provide the history and the context within which such an incredibly destructive course of action took place.

It is dedicated to documenting this tragedy, this final betrayal of Lake Berryessa by the federal government - and, hopefully, the promised revitalization.



Local Journalism Disappearing
Like Paper in a Bonfire

"Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa News" is more true today than it was in 2005 when I first took over publishing it from Shirl Katleba. The Lake Berryessa News has been around in one form or another since the 1970s. You can download searchable PDF files of it from 2005 to the present at <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/>. That web page also includes some very old fun-to-read editions from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Most folks agree that local newspapers are the lifeblood of communities, capturing the stories and moments that define their identity. Their continued existence is vital, and their historic preservation allows people to navigate through time, uncovering the stories that shaped our communities and gaining new insights into its past.

Paul Franson, publisher of the comprehensive NapaLife newsletter and long-time friend of Lake Berryessa, has been following the recent trend of disappearing local new in Napa County.

"Recently, the Napa Valley Register switched over to printing a newspaper only three days a week and delivering it by mail, not carrier. The online e-edition looked pretty much like a modern newspaper with a new design with more space. And no local news. None. The closest was in the weather map, which probably is generated automatically somewhere.

The printed edition had an updated look and did have a reasonable amount of local news. They threw in two sections to "enhance" it, one "360," a national and international report and the other "Lively," with generic features. Nothing local in either section, of course.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat announced a new Napa focus and had a number of Napa stories early in the week, but not too much since. It will take time to build it up, I'm sure.

Meanwhile, Napa Valley Features hit 1,200 subscribers, not all paid, but a surprising amount, and the North Bay Business Journal announced that NapaLife is joining Highway 29 Media, as did the Calistoga Tribune and Yountville Sun.

Readers can be assured of NapaLife continuing. I haven't missed a Monday issue in 18 years and want that to continue."

New to the Napa County journalism scene is Highway 29 Media Company (<https://highway29.com/>) which describes itself as a "new public benefit corporation committed to producing independent, public interest journalism for Napa Valley. Highway 29 is supported by the Media and Democracy Fund, which allows

community support for our work through the Napa Valley Community Foundation.

Highway 29's mission is to ensure that important sources of local news are not lost in Napa Valley. We believe that when local community newspapers disappear, the community suffers. Over the past two years, more than 360 newspapers have closed across the United States. When newspapers fold, the "news deserts" left behind have dire consequences. Your support is vital. Highway 29 is raising startup funds from local Napa Valley sources. We will depend on area businesses and residents for financing, advertising, contributions, memberships, and other support."

Another new local journalism entry is Napa Valley Features.

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

"Napa Valley Features is a reader-supported publication. As a mission-based organization, our goal is not to maximize profit for some distant and often disinterested collection of non-local owners or investors. Instead, the entire structure of *Napa Valley Features* is focused on providing our subscribers the highest-quality local content that we can produce, while our "shareholders" are actually our contributors and, in a very real sense, also the entire community we serve.

We will have "customers," too, which include other publishers who are interested in purchasing our content. In fact, we are in discussions with a few such organizations to figure out how we might share our content with them in the future.

The entire plan surrounding Napa Valley Features is to become a reliable source for local Napa Valley news and information. We are not attempting to replace newspapers or directly compete with other local content providers. In fact, we see exciting operations like the newly launched [Highway 29 Publishing Co.](#), [Wine Down Media](#) and other efforts that seek to advance local content as valuable synergistic partners. And who knows, perhaps we will create a model to share with other communities that seek to save, reinvigorate or in some cases resurrect their local news source."

Although Napa Valley Features and Highway 29 Media's focus appears firmly on Napa Valley, perhaps they might do a few stories on one of the major recreational areas of Napa County, Lake Berryessa.

"I feel their pain", although a cliché, is true of The Lake Berryessa News too. But we do not have access to support from the Media and Democracy Fund and Napa Valley Community Foundation.

Due to the destruction of the Lake Berryessa recreational

community by the Bureau of Reclamation, the loss of most small businesses at the lake, and the major fires that brought disastrous losses of homes and businesses, the Lake Berryessa News has been able to continue publishing for the last several years only due to the generosity of our readers.

Their financial contributions to our "20 for 21", "20 for 22", and "20 for 23" donation programs have allowed us to continue publishing, including our print edition which many long-time readers prefer. We will once again promote a "20 for 24" campaign starting in December 2023 to help us survive another year. Here's a preview: "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 \$20 (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 stick a crinkly old \$20 bill in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My account is under the name Peter Kilkus. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com."

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www.LakeBerryessaNews.com
1515 Headlands Drive
Napa, CA 94558
PKilkus@gmail.com

Barry Eberling, Napa Register

All of this landed before the Napa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, with memories of the 2017 Atlas, Tubbs and Nuns fires and the 2020 Hennessey and Glass fires still seared into the local psyche. “What we don’t have here — and that is not in the scope of the document — is how we should prioritize and allocate our scarce fiscal resources,” Supervisor Anne Cottrell said. That is to come next. Board chair Belia Ramos broached the idea of forming a countywide fire district that could be funded by a dedicated parcel tax, something that would have to go to voters.

This coverage area includes world-famous Napa County wine country, as the study makes clear. It mentions the billions of dollars annually in revenue and employment that vineyards and the wine industry provide, making some of the stakes clear. The beginning of the study states its purpose — to keep the county fire department from lagging behind community growth and risks.

Consider having Napa County Fire's medical response expand from basic to advanced life support, the study said. Respiratory, stroke and cardiac patients account for 20% of the medical service demand. Fire engines can sometimes reach patients more quickly than ambulances.

Over two years, Napa County Fire under the Cal Fire contract will add a battalion chief, six full-time firefighters and five seasonal firefighters. The county had more than 200 firefighting volunteers in 2001. That had shrunk to fewer than 100 active volunteers in 2022. According to the volunteer fire chiefs, Napa's rural communities no longer retain the younger generation.

California Fire Insurance Resources

Getting fire insurance in California is nuts right now. A recent seminar was organized by the California Association of Realtors. The State Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara, brought realtors up to date on the home insurance situation and reminded them that while some major insurance companies are pulling back in our state, there are more than 100 others to draw on. The state has published a resource page on their website to assist property owners acquire fire insurance.

California Department of Insurance

We are aware there has been an increase in nonrenewals and understand that residential insurance is getting harder to find in any area that insurers identify as having a higher than average risk of wildfire. While the Department of Insurance doesn't have the legal authority to tell insurers what level of risk they must write or where they must write insurance, we can monitor that they are consistent in their decisions and that their decisions are based on considerations of risk, not other biases. We are here to help you and have a number of tips to help you through this process:



- Wildfire Risk Assessments -
- Defensible Space/Forest Management -
- Home Hardening Upgrades -
- Water System Design & Install-

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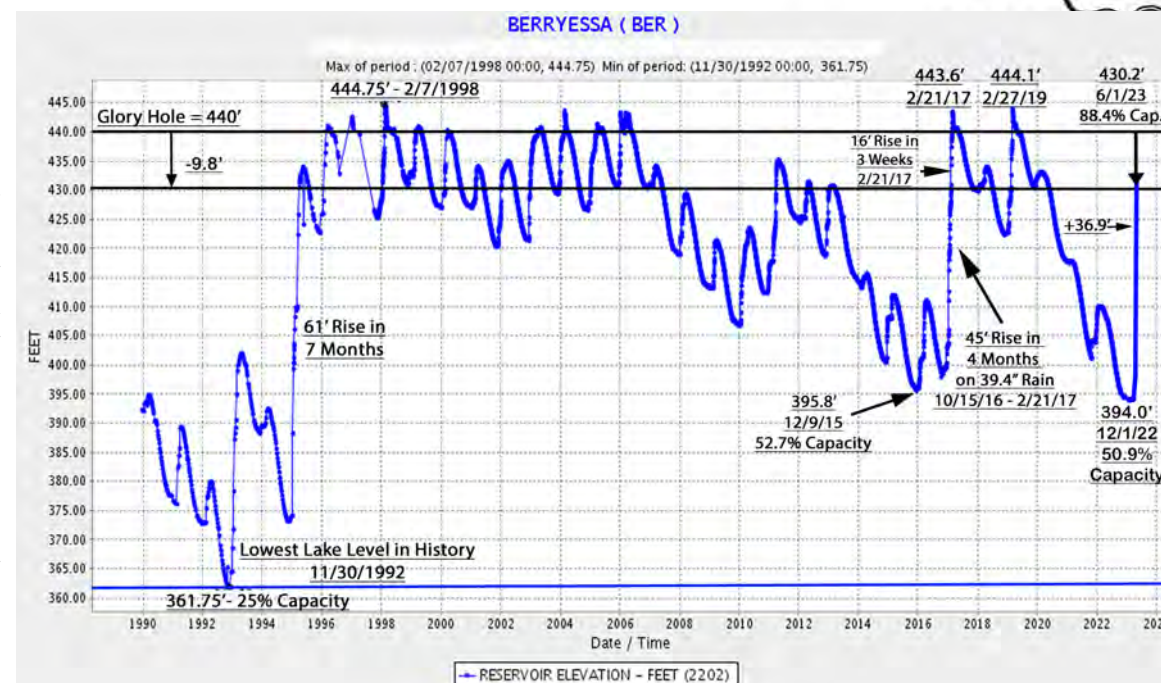
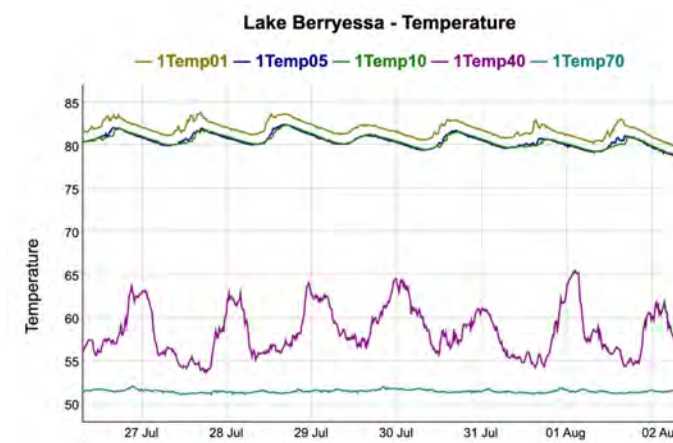
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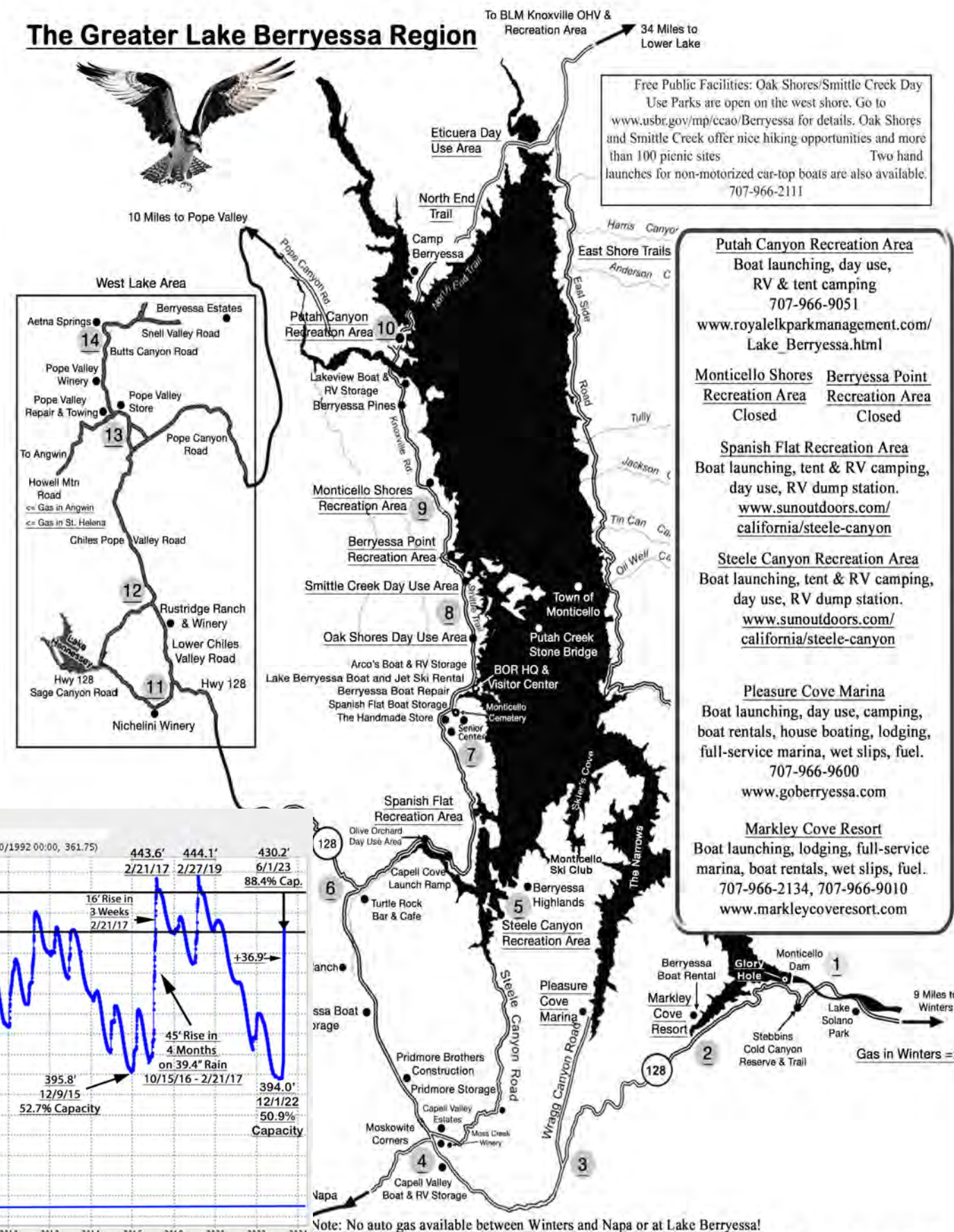
-If you prefer to speak live with our staff, you are always welcome to call the Department of Insurance toll free at 1-800-927-4357.

The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,305,895 Acre-Feet
or 84.2% capacity.

Lake water temperature remain at about 83 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down and around 60 to 52 degrees from 40 feet to the bottom.



The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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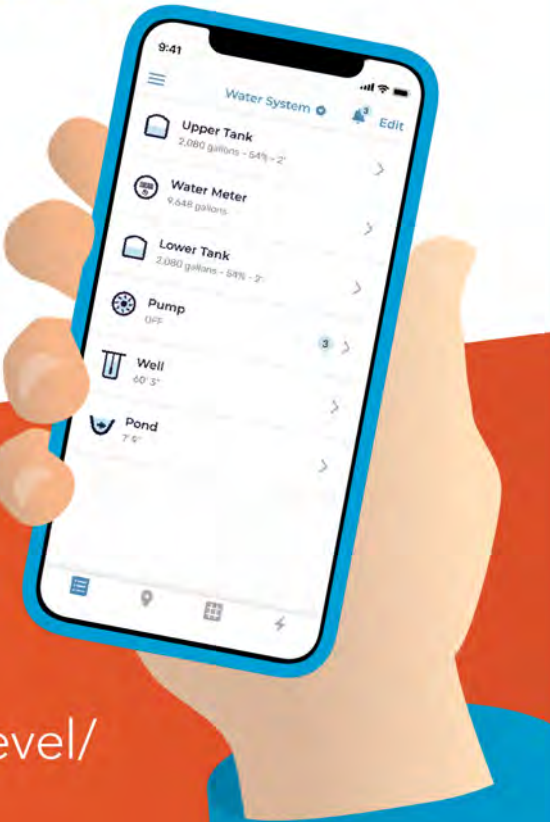
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Lake Berryessa Statistics: September 1, 2023

The lake level is down now to about 423', 17' below Glory Hole.

Last year at this time the lake was at 398', 42" below Glory Hole, 25' lower, and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

The dam output has dropped to an average of about 400 cfs (793 AF/day) as irrigation requirements in Solano County decrease.

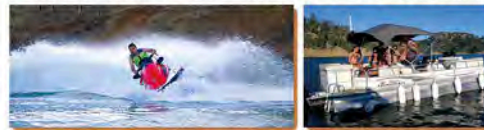
The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,273,962 Acre-Feet or 82.1% capacity.

Lake water temperature remains at about 80 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down and 52 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

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The Lake Berryessa News

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September 2023



Summer Ends at Lake Berryessa

Lake Revitalization Process by Napa County Shows Little Progress

The latest news regarding the Lake Berryessa revitalization project is a bit disheartening. It brings to mind an article I wrote twelve years ago. "They're Off Like a Herd of Turtles! Bureaucracy at Berryessa, February 2011".

Although the image of a turtle stampede was and still is amusing, no one at Lake Berryessa was laughing then nor is amused now by how long it is taking to redevelop the demolished Lake Berryessa resorts. Dark clouds continue to obscure the near horizon.

Sun Outdoors has pulled out of its agreement to develop Steele Park Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area. They have agreed to provide to Napa County the results of their planning and permitting efforts to date, as well as engineering resources to assist the County in absorbing and interpreting this volume of documentation. The extent and usefulness of this documentation is unclear.

Sun's present interim agreement to manage Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat expires October 31. They have agreed to manage the open resorts (Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat) until then. The County has stated that the County will continue to keep both sites open for business after November 1, 2023.

The county representative stated, "Following the conclusion of Sun Outdoors' management contract on October 31, 2023, both Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon sites will continue to operate in an interim capacity. The decision regarding interim concessionaires is currently under negotiation, and the county will provide further information once these details have been finalized. The county's priority is to ensure a smooth transition and maintain the operations of these sites."

The Monticello Shores bid process continues. According to the County, one company visited the site and two more may request site visits. There apparently are a total of four companies which have shown direct interest in bidding. The date for submittal of bids has been delayed to September 22, 2023.

In a response to questions from bidders, the County revealed that it was already in negotiations to manage Steele Canyon Recreation Area. There had not been any previous public mention of that development. When asked about the negotiation, the county representative refused to release the name of the potential new concession manager.

"The county cannot disclose the identity of the potential developer for the Steele Canyon area at this time, as discussions are ongoing. This information will be

shared once an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) has been placed on the agenda for board consideration. The county is committed to ensuring a transparent and thorough process throughout these negotiations."

The county should be cautious in using such cliches as "to ensure a smooth transition" and "ensuring a transparent and thorough process" in the quotes above when it is clearly avoiding those in its present actions. It is reminiscent of the notorious statement by the Bureau of Reclamation when describing its disastrous plans for the lake and resulted in their manager being dubbed Mike "Seamless Transition" Finnegan.

The Lake Berryessa News sent a letter to the Napa County supervisors and relevant staff requesting answers to some important questions about the present plans and previous results since the Managing Partner Agreement, which transferred management of the lake resorts to Napa County, was signed.

The full letter which begins, "Dear Supervisors, Again, thank you for your continued support of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization process." is available for your review on the Lake Berryessa News website.

On a bit more positive note, I received an inquiry from a Suntex (Pleasure Cove

Marina) representative requesting some information. "I am with Suntex Marinas and am preparing some background information on Lake Berryessa for Berryessa Point." At least something is happening there.

Some of you may remember that Pleasure Cove took over interim management of Steele Canyon and Pleasure Cove for several years during the "doldrum" days. Both sites have been and can be relatively profitable despite their minimal facilities. Perhaps Pleasure Cove will shift from the Bureau of Reclamation management to County control.

The Managing Partner Agreement has a clause that assumes, "the County will take management of three sites (Steele, Monticello and Spanish Flat) and make a good faith effort in regard to exercising the option to bring the existing concessionaires at Markley Cove and Pleasure Cove under the MPA."

Although the Lake Berryessa News sympathizes with the County in its complex process for the revitalization of the Lake Berryessa community, we will continue to request its adherence to its promises: "committed to ensuring a transparent and thorough process throughout these negotiations." and "priority is to ensure a smooth transition and maintain the operations of these

This Is The Last Print Edition Of The Year! See You Again In April 2024.

Keep following the news on our website (www.LakeBerryessaNews.com), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928340101>), and our regular email newsletter.

To sign up for the newsletter please send your email address to pkilkus@gmail.com.

2

PG&E works to curtail power outages

By Anne Ward Ernst, Napa Valley Features

Napa Valley Features is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support our work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber. (www.napavalleyfeatures.com/)

In an Aug. 3 briefing with the [California Public Utilities Commission](#), PG&E representatives told commissioners that several mitigating measures it has taken since the inception of the PSPS program should keep the number of forced outages lower than when the program began.

In 2022 the utility had zero PSPS outages, primarily due to favorable weather conditions, said Dave Canny, senior director of electric program management for PG&E, but weather is unpredictable.

Since the 2018 start of the PSPS program the number of customers impacted by PSPS outages has dropped each year due to several factors, Canny said.

State-mandated vegetation management around the utility’s power lines has helped prevent tree limbs or fallen trees from colliding with power lines. But the utility reported that it has cut its “enhanced” vegetation management and is shifting to two different approaches.

One is the focused tree inspections program, which will center on high-fire-risk areas where there has been a high volume of vegetation damage during previous PSPS events. The other program will use data from outages on enhanced power-line safety setting-enabled circuits.

The enhanced power-line safety setting program is becoming a centerpiece not just for PG&E but other state utilities in mitigating wildfires cause by utility equipment. The EPSS program, which piloted in 2021 and took full effect in 2022, uses sensitivity measures on power lines that will shut off in one-tenth of a second if an object comes into contact.


Napa Valley experienced several shutoffs that came with no warning when the EPSS sensitivity levels were heightened. Now PG&E has installed more than 1,200 “sectionalizers” throughout its service territory — though it is unclear how many are installed in Napa Valley — that separate sections of the grid so that power outages affect smaller numbers of customers.

A drone shot of a massive area cleared of trees and vegetation along Silverado Trail near Clover Flat Landfill and Upper Valley Disposal in 2019 – Tim Carl photo

PG&E also said it has completed some grid-hardening on upper lines as well as undergrounding of power lines. Some exposed lines have been hardened with covered conductors, which reduce the risk of fire if an object hits the power line. Such grid-hardening doesn’t exempt an area from a PSPS though, utility executives said.

PG&E reported that it has completed 39 of 350 miles of planned undergrounding in 2023 and 180 miles in 2022. Overhead hardening completion in 2023 amounts to 79 of 110 planned miles, with 335 miles completed in 2022.

Cal Fire chiefs at the CPUC meetings said that conditions in 2023 are similar to what 2017 incurred — a very wet winter that turned into a very dry summer and fall.



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This lovely 5-bdm, 3 -1/2 bath home with mountain and valley vistas is a Circle Oaks treasure.

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<https://14blackwoodct.com/>

\$835,000!

Automation and machine learning are assisting the utilities in forecasting weather, especially wind. More weather stations have been installed to capture data that is being integrated with historical data across the region to help identify trends and patterns that can inform decision-making for PSPS calls.

Utilities are also using automation and other technology to keep customers informed of potential PSPS events and other related activities.

PG&E representatives said the utility continues to learn how to better manage PSPS through feedback from customers and public-safety partners.






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Berryessa Knoxville Road Paving Project Completion - 2027

The purpose of this project is to improve access to Lake Berryessa, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, Cedar Roughs Wilderness on Berryessa Knoxville Road from CA State Highway 128 to approximately 200 feet south of Spanish Flat Loop Road and trail improvements from Smittle Creek Parking area.

This project includes:

- 4.9 miles of rehabilitation of Berryessa Knoxville Road including widening to a typical 26 feet (where feasible), rock-fall protection, culvert replacements, retaining walls, and safety improvements
- Approximately 0.84 miles of new natural surface trail from the Smittle Creek Parking Lot to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness access road
- Rehabilitation of Smittle Creek and Acorn Beach day parking areas (Included as an Option and paid for with USBR Federal Lands Transportation Program/FLTP funds)

Preliminary Schedule: Construction funding is preliminarily programmed for fiscal year 2027. The actual year funds are obligated for construction may change due to changes to the program and/or program funding.

Preliminary Schedule: Construction funding is preliminarily programmed for fiscal year 2027. The actual year funds are obligated for construction may change due to changes to the program and/or program funding.

Funding: The As-Scoped preliminary estimated cost for the scope detailed above, including 4.9 miles of roadway improvements, 0.84 miles of new trail, and parking lot rehabilitation, is approximately \$17,500,000 for FY27.

This Labor Day, take comfort in the knowledge that the pressure to have fun this summer is finally off.

If today is Labor Day,

how many babies were born?

Happy Labor Day!

Oh wait... we live on a farm. Never mind!

How can you tell the difference between a chemist and a plumber? Ask them to pronounce “unionized”

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY AT LAKE BERRYESSA

Saturday Sept. 23, 2023 9am - 12pm


Protect our drinking water by cleaning up at Markley Cove and Steele Canyon


Volunteers must pre-register at cleanupsolano.org


In appreciation of volunteer participation, lunch is provided by Solano Volunteers

For more information, contact Macienne Butler at 567-678-1600 ext. 104 or Macienne.Butter@solanocounty.org

Save these dates to Keep Solano Clean & Green: EARTH DAY - April 20, 2024 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - June 5, 2024







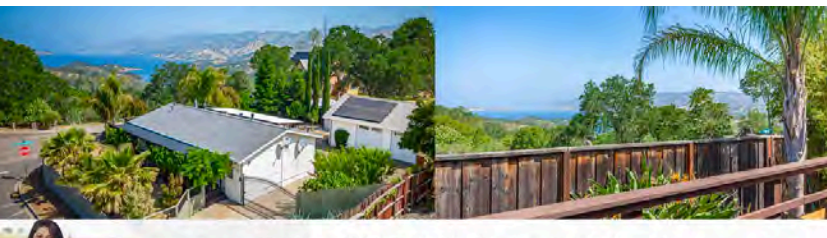
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Lake Berryessa Views Close to Lake Access

1051 Blueridge Drive

Offered at: \$465,000
<https://blueridge-drive.com/>

This lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath home in the Berryessa Pines at Lake Berryessa is ready for a new owner to make memories! Come in off of a full day on the lake and BBQ on the deck enjoying the sunset in the background. The open floor plan gives the interior an expansive feel. Abundant room for boat/RV parking. Located only a stone's throw from Lake Berryessa. Make this home your Lake home!



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www.AmberPayne.net

This is a MUST SEE! So much to offer at \$525,000!

1000 Headlands Drive
<https://headlands-drive.com/>

Step into the warm welcome of this delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bath home located on a corner lot in the Lake Berryessa/Berryessa Highlands area. Wood flooring with an open floor plan, and a fireplace that adds to the coziness. There is an ample kitchen with a breakfast nook that takes in the lake view! Just a short drive to Lake Berryessa. Enjoy the mountain and water lifestyle! Someone's going to be very happy here... let it be you!

Onion Headlines

Stuff happened; some people happy some people upset

There’s Never Been A Better Time To Be Rich In America, So Why Aren’t Poor People Happy For Them?

Study: Living Happy Life Strongly Correlated To Thinking About Property Values All The Time

Texas Launches Outreach Program To Provide Troubled Teens With Assault Rifles

Expensive Children’s Toy Just 2 Different Sized Wood Blocks

Report: Your Friends Do Impressions Of You Behind Your Back

Every Season Finale Of Drama Ends With Close-Up Of Supposedly Dead Character’s Eyes Springing Open

The government refuses to say how sexy these aliens are or what religion they belong to.

Studio Salvages Terrible Film’s Box Office Numbers By Marketing It As Movie Liberals Don’t Want You To See

Putin Vows Retaliation Should Ukraine Become Member Of Big Ten

England’s World Cup Success Inspires New Generation Of Young Girls To Become Hooligans

Little League Banquet Video Contains 9 Seconds Of On-Field Accomplishments

Prigozhin dead after accidentally falling out of window of exploding airplane

Woman takes “Highway to Hell” and ends up in Texas.

New Florida Music Curriculum Honors Inventor of Rap Music, Vanilla Ice

Tech: Jr. Programmer found a way to outsmart latest AI by asking, “Do these pants make me look fat?”

September Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Life can be as romantic as you wish to make it. Like the old saying goes, a man with three fish has enough in his heart to help him build a picnic chair.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Romance is in the air today, just over the north of France. If you don't happen to be near the north of France, then chances are you're going to strike out again throughout this week.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): This is a test horoscope. You should never receive this unless for some reason you are at odds with the Stars. Are you at odds?

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Heaven knows what kinds of things are going to happen you today. All I'm able to tell you is that it's going to be hectic and possibly traumatic. It's hard though because that could just be what's on television, and not what's going to happen to you. It's a hard life being an astrologer and trying to see exactly what's going to happen to YOU. Specifically, You. Sorry.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Love is a wonderful thing that can truly change your life for the better. However, the chances of this happening to you any time before lunch tomorrow are so remote that you might as well quit pretending that you're well liked, go home and eat ice-cream until your brain freezes.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Only love can break your heart...but trans-fatty acids will also have a damn good try.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Hat buying could serve you well today as a potential relationship sparks up in a hat shop. Specifically, you'll be looking at hats. Your potential partner may be looking at gloves. You may discuss why a hat shop sells gloves.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You may find love in unexpected places, however, it is equally likely that you'll find love on ebay, for sale at low, low prices.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Robots tend to have more luck than you at finding love. This week will see no alteration of that sad fact, however, it is possible that a robot may fall in love with you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): This week may cause some problems for you as your secrets are shared across the internet.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Any satisfaction you had about not having a police record, may be undone today.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): In time you will come to realize the futility of trying to scratch your name on your refrigerator using a rubber band.

Porta-Potty Imagination: Repurposing the S.S. Reliefs at Lake Berryessa

Many Lake Berryessa boaters have probably docked at an "S.S. Relief" floating porta-potty over the years. They may have noticed that new upgraded replacements have appeared during the last two years.

I never thought about what may have happened to the old ones until the Lake Berryessa News staff and friends were out enjoying another beautiful day on the lake last week.

We were exploring the coves on the west shore and had just floated into a small cove behind the Putah Canyon Recreation Area. We came upon a boat dock with about twenty boats in residence. But what grabbed our attention was two of the old S.S. Reliefs being used as the end point of the extended dock.

They had obviously been decommissioned and were bolted together with steel beams forming a solid control platform end for the dock. A funny and brilliant idea from someone. As the old cliché goes, "Who woulda thunk it?"



Solano's ag diversity keeps county's crop value up

The diversity of the Solano County agriculture cornucopia and the stability of Lake Berryessa water supply kept the 4.12 percent dip in the 2022 gross ag value from being any worse than it was.

There are 90 commodities represented in the report. So, despite significant losses in the almond crop, the top value crop in each of the last three years, the walnut crop, also a top 10 crop that has taken losses, and sunflower seeds, which fell out of the top 10 crop list, the county still had the second-highest gross ag value in its history.

Tomatoes – with 439,000 tons harvested from 9,500 acres, at \$107.88 per ton – moved up from the second highest valued crop in 2021 to the top spot in 2022. Almonds, the county's perennial top crop, fell to sixth with a value of \$21.29 million – a 70 percent decline of nearly \$49.83 million from the 2021 value of \$71.12 million, the report states.

Extreme weather events throughout the year impacted crop and livestock production: freezing temperatures in late February severely damaged the developing almond and olive crops; early September brought a relentless heatwave with temperatures peaking at well over 100 degrees across the county for nine consecutive days, including localized highs of over 115 degrees desiccating grapes on the vine.

Conspiracy Theory or Automatic Pilot: The Economic Roots of Environmental Destruction

This book provides the basics of classical economic theory and the description of the intended or unintended consequences of predatory capitalism based on this theory.

Available on Amazon

Classical economics is a mythology. Predatory capitalism is a fundamentalist religion based on this mythology. Environmental destruction and income inequality are results of the practice of this mythical religion. But is the present economic and environmental situation a conscious conspiracy or an unintended consequence of simplistic beliefs supported by basic human greed?

This book is not meant to be an academic or scientific exercise for economists or policy makers. The concepts discussed are easily accessible to thoughtful readers. My objective was to explain to myself the structure of influence that is at the heart of environmental degradation (including the welfare of individual human beings). Understanding is the foundation of action.

Policy and Politics Betray the People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020

The Big Lie: "The Lake Berryessa resorts, especially the mobile homes in the resorts, discouraged the general public from accessing the lake, prevented the public from using the best parts of the shoreline, and also polluted the lake."

Available on Amazon

Having participated directly for more than twenty years as an advocate for the lake in the fiasco that was the Bureau of Reclamation's Visitor Services Plan, its farcical but tragic outcome, and the process of rebuilding, I have very strong views of the causes and results - supported by facts and data.

This book is a historical anthology, a raw, as-it-happened, unfiltered picture of what many of us lived through. The goal is to provide the history and the context within which such an incredibly destructive course of action took place.

It is dedicated to documenting this tragedy, this final betrayal of Lake Berryessa by the federal government - and, hopefully, the promised revitalization.

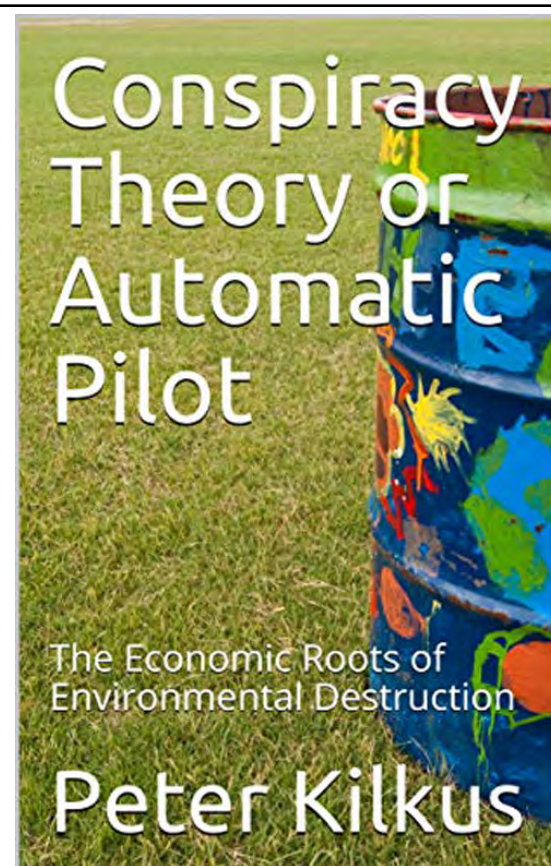
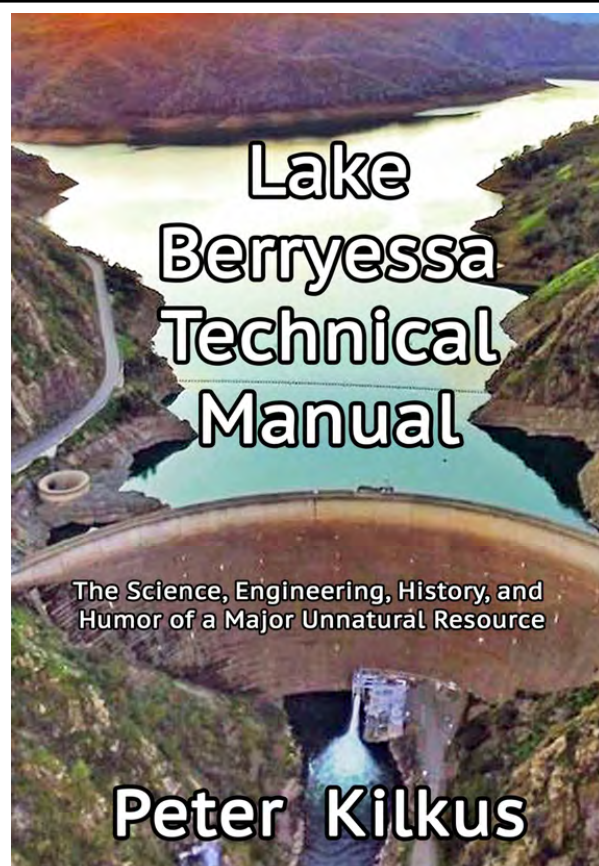
Lake Berryessa Technical Manual The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource

Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

Available on Amazon

Lake Berryessa is almost a living creature. It breathes in and out, grows and shrinks. But it breathes water not air. It is always breathing in through rainfall and runoff - mostly during the winter season. And it is always breathing out all year through evaporation and outflows through Monticello Dam. Unnatural is when humans change the environment in ways that benefit them.

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.



4 Berryessa Highlands Baby Owl Rescue

By Peter Kilkus

Living at Lake Berryessa is always an adventure! When I first moved to my place above the Berryessa Highlands, I had been in real country a few times, but my choice of outdoor activity was scuba diving in the oceans of the world with my two boys. So, it was a new experience to see a large mountain lion walk across my front yard and find a big rattlesnake inside my kitchen. Hearing packs of coyotes crying in the night followed by a skunk doing its skunky-step waddle outside my garage in the morning with flocks of turkeys in the driveway rounded out some of the interesting creatures wandering about. Rabbits sitting serenely challenging me to chase them away; myriad of hawks, osprey, bald eagles, vultures, hummingbirds, bats, rabbits, and insects flying around was amazing.

My neighbors have the same love of animals as I, but one of their favorites are owls. When they remodeled their house, they put up several simple owl boxes around their property to attract them. But after several years no owls had made them home. Now in 2023, 12 years after installing the owl boxes, several owls have appeared! And the owls are feasting on the gophers that have been eating up their garden.

But somehow a baby owl fell out of its nest. A baby owl is called an owlet in the same way that snipe hunters (snipers) call baby snipe snippets.



The owlet rescue was truly a family affair. My neighbor was the instigator of the owl crusade. Her husband was part of the whole episode because he was really into getting the old owl boxes originally. He's the one who almost got clawed by the baby. They gathered up the baby and called their daughter,

Kelli, who raced up to Lake Berryessa from Napa and carefully drove the cute owlet to Napa Wildlife Rescue. Napa Wildlife Rescue took the owlet into their facility, nursed it, taught it how to fly and hunt, and sent it back to us in the Berryessa Highlands where it now lives happily feasting on gophers and other small prey.

Although my neighbor is not a stand-up comedienne, she did ask me to say that if you have any owl stories, please submit them to the Berryessa News. We give a hoot. (Groan).



Napa Wildlife Rescue (www.napawildliferescue.org/)
Napa Wildlife Rescue is a volunteer organization that can use your support. It's mission is to advocate for wildlife through rehabilitation, education, community outreach, and partnerships in order to promote sustainable and healthy eco-systems in Napa County for the present and future generations.

Hungry Owl Project (www.hungryowls.org)
Our mission is to reduce the need for pesticides and rodenticides by encouraging natural predators through conservation of habitat, nesting boxes and education. Our Barn Owl boxes are fully assembled and painted for local installation.

Open Burning, Smokeless Burning, Biochar (and Climate Change?)

by Peter Kilkus

Many individuals, as well as large agencies and even national governments, are in a bit of a quandary when it comes to having an effect on slowing climate change. Government agencies focus on climate change programs which measure the various sources of greenhouse gases like CO2 and attempt to create mitigation measures to minimize these sources. All programs for the future rely most heavily on reforestation and the elimination of the use of fossil fuels. One source not considered in these programs and deemed an "extraneous impact" for the purpose of the basic calculations, is wildfire, the burning forests all around the world. It is simply not written into the calculations.

We in Napa County know these sources too well. So when a local climate change committee works out plans to lower emissions in Napa County and looks out their window at a forest fire whose tons and tons of carbon dioxide emissions just eliminated their potential gains for the next 50 years, it might be difficult to reconcile all that hard work.

In Napa County, and California as a whole, elimination of future wildfires is an important goal for human health and safety, and can have its own effect on climate change. Biochar, for example, is considered an important method of carbon sequestration. All those burned forests out there are still emitting CO2 as the vegetation continues to decay. There are several "reforestation" programs active in Napa right now.

But much of the effort to make people safe now requires cutting and eliminating massive amounts of vegetation (trees and brush) and cleaning up the thousands of acres of burned forests so they don't burn again in the future. Can this be done with more than one environmental goal in mind? In my opinion, no, not when the goals are incompatible, at least in the near term.

So the burning issue of this article is just that, burning issues.

Open Burning: Open burns can be an efficient and effective way to eliminate wood waste debris and, sometimes, are the only viable option. Open burning can create copious amounts of smoke, but a skilled burn crew can leverage best practices to reduce the emissions as much as possible during the burning operation. Sometimes metal fire rings are used to concentrate the open burn so the fire is hot enough to burn without smoke. The fire rings can also be used to create biochar by changing the burn process slightly.

Air Curtain Burning: The primary purpose of the air curtain is to create a "secondary burn chamber." The air curtain acts like a lid covering the opening in a FireBox. As smoke particles rise off the fire the hot gases are trapped under the air curtain. These smoke particles are then reburned, significantly reducing the particle size, appearing more like wave of heat than smoke. The

result is a very clean burn, up to 90% cleaner than open burning. These machines can also produce biochar, but the process change doubles the time required.

A local company working hard to help solve the various burn issues discussed above is the Clean Burn Company (www.thecleanburncompany.com/).

Their website states: The Clean Burn Company was born from necessity. After having the majority of our forest property devastated by the Tubbs fire in 2017, we were faced with what to do next. Do we chip the dead and dying trees and debris? Do we cut it up and move it out? Do we leave we leave them to fall and create new fire risk and other environmental hazards?

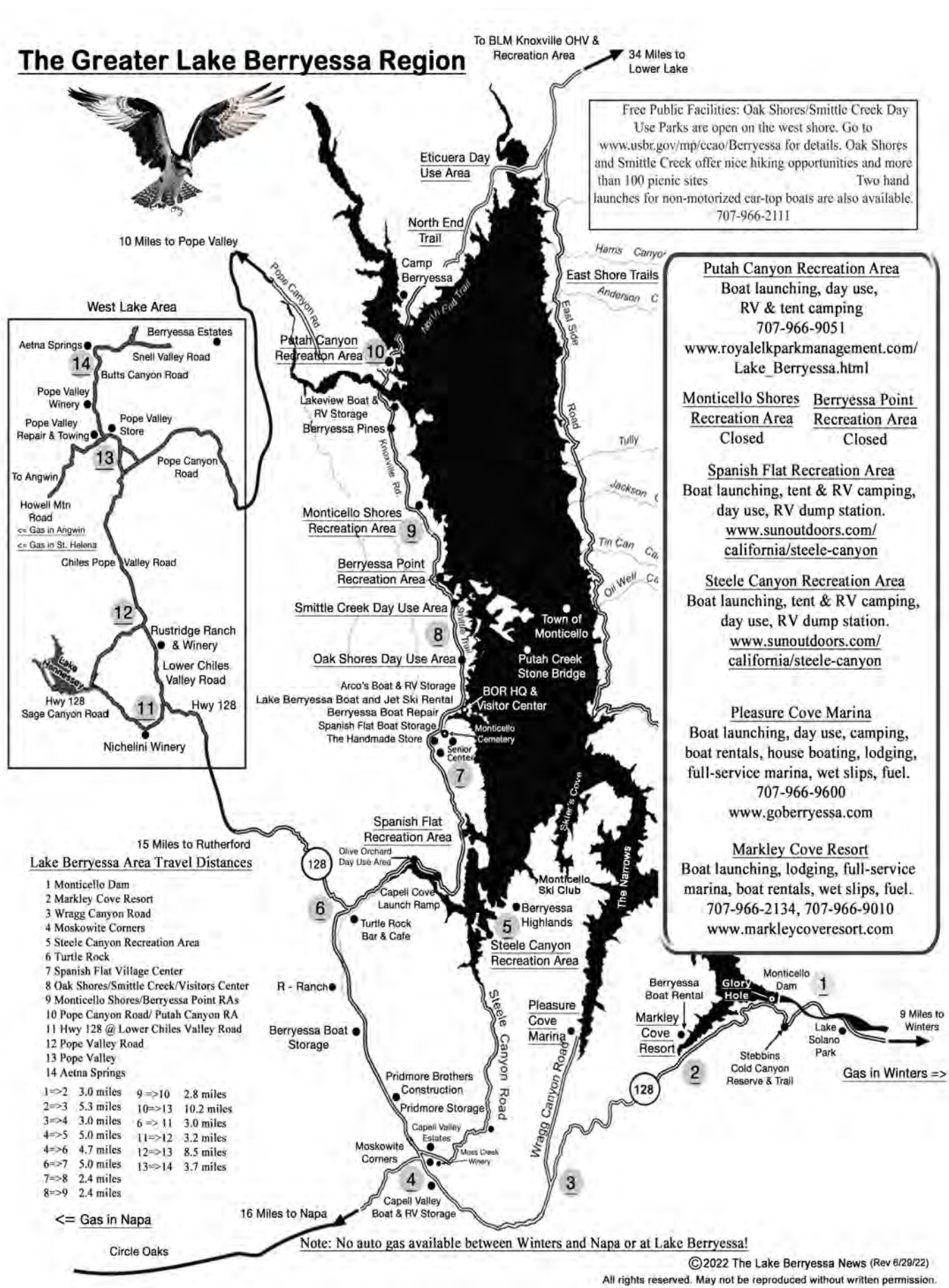
We did it all! We tried chipping what we could but that only dealt with the small stuff and just left new piles of combustible material on the ground; not to mention many days of chipper activity - and chipper breakdowns. We tried cutting and hauling. Have you ever seen or had to pay for 70 giant dump truck loads of logs being hauled to away? It's expensive, messy and just kicks the can down the road to be someone else's problem, and we only made a dent in the effort. We knew there had to be a better way and air curtain burner technology was it!

Another local startup biochar company is Napachar (<https://napachar.com/>).

Their website states: Founded in eastern Napa county, Napachar converts woody waste from vineyard management and local forest fuel-reduction efforts into Biochar, one of the richest soil amendments and most stable forms of carbon capture available today.

Recent wildfires have severely affected our local communities and fire mitigation/defensible space efforts are no longer just helpful, they are becoming mandated. Traditionally, the timber removed for this purpose is sold for lumber, when possible, but inevitably a large portion is useless as lumber and is left in the forest to either be burned in piles or chipped and scattered on the ground.

Napachar provides a better alternative across the board: a cleaner burn than burn piles (almost no smoke!), increased carbon capture (up to 50% captured, as opposed to otherwise releasing 100% of the carbon into the atmosphere), better long-term storage of the carbon (wood chips decompose and release the carbon in 5-10 years), and does not damage the existing forest floor or soil (burn piles and mechanical equipment leave completely dead soil in their wake).



Lake Berryessa News, October, 2023

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process

Sun Outdoors will end its interim contracts for Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area at Lake Berryessa on October 31, 2023. Napa County has said that it will continue to operate Spanish Flat Recreation Area and Steele Canyon Recreation area after that date. Napa just completed a new bid process for Monticello Shores Recreation Area (See story below.). Napa has also said they are in present negotiations with a company to run Steele Canyon.

Most people are not aware that Napa County has been formally in charge of Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area since November 2020 per the Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Since that time Napa County managed Steele Canyon Recreation Area through an interim agreement with Pleasure Cove (Suntex). Napa County also managed Spanish Flat Recreation Area through an interim agreement with Spanish Flat Partners, a group of local investors.

In 2021 Napa County released bid package for Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores.

Per Napa County, the 2021 bidders were:

Spanish Flat: Sun Outdoors was the only bidder.

Steele Canyon: Sun Outdoors, Margaritaville, and Suntex

Monticello Shores: Sun Outdoors, El campo del Sol

Sun Outdoors was chosen for all three resorts.

The Lake Berryessa News asked the County several questions.

LBN: Who will operate Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat after Sun leaves?

Napa County: The county is considering different options to operate the existing sites while it pursues long-term agreements. No final decisions have been made. Agreements with site operators will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

LBN: When will the new bids for Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat be released?

Napa County: That has not yet been decided, but it will be before they are presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Lake Berryessa News comment: The county is actually authorized to negotiate with the original losing bidders in the previous bid process won by Sun Outdoors. So it is

conceivable that they may be negotiating with Margaritaville for Steele Canyon. If Margaritaville declines, they could then move down to Suntex without going out for a new bid on Steele Canyon.

LBN: What is the present status of progress on Berryessa Point by Suntex?

Napa County: Suntex is currently investigating the site and conducting environmental studies.

Monticello Shores Bid Winner

Monticello Shores (formerly Rancho Monticello) bids were due by September 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM (Pacific Time). Napa County has confirmed to the Lake Berryessa News that [Collective Retreats](https://www.collectiveretreats.com/) was the only bidder for Monticello Shores which is the largest concession area at Lake Berryessa.

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

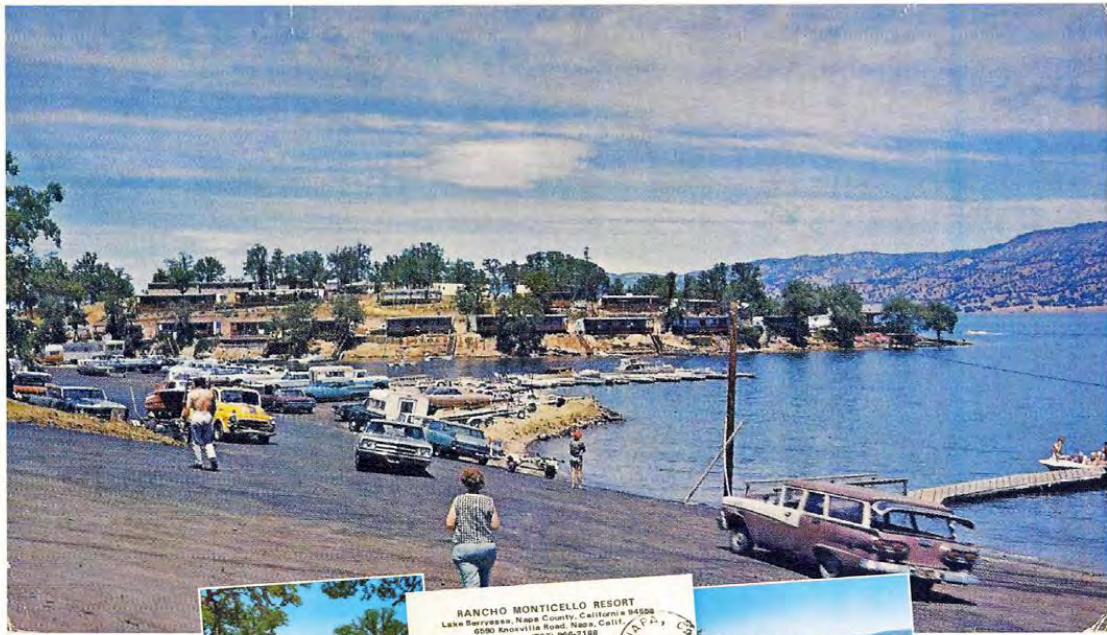
Some nice words from their website:

"The Collective name comes from our core belief that we're inextricably tied to each other and to our world, and that travel is the way we experience, understand, and deepen that connection. Retreat is rooted in the idea that travel leads us to a more grounded and true version of ourselves. When you bring these two ideas together—exploration to foster deeper connection—you have the spirit of Collective Retreats.

Collective Retreats is an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) focused experiential travel company redefining traditional hotels through a collection of unique luxury retreats in unexpected places. Each bold, eco-centric concept embraces the local landscape and culture of a destination, allowing guests to connect with the land, community, and with themselves through unique on-site activities, immersive culinary activations, personal hospitality, and culture-forward programming.

Life, above all, is meant to be a powerful experience lived to the utmost, enjoyed and shared with others. We believe that we have the opportunity to create something unique and better that connects us to each other and our surroundings."

RANCHO MONTICELLO



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Glory Hole - Will It Overflow in 2024?

Lake Berryessa Statistics: October 2, 2023

Will Glory Hole overflow next year? Light rainfall Sunday totaled .21" bringing season total at Monticello Dam to .24".

The lake level is down now to 422.9' - 17.1 below Glory Hole.

At this level and with dry land, it takes about 3 inches of rain to start any runoff. Then the lake will rise at about .7 inches per inch of rain. So, at 17 feet down it will take about 15 inches $[3+(17 \times .7)]$ of rain to overflow Glory Hole. Since average annual rainfall is variable but often more than 20 inches (see table below), it is probable/possible that Glory hole will overflow in 2024.

Last year at this time the lake was at 396.0', 44.0' below Glory Hole and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

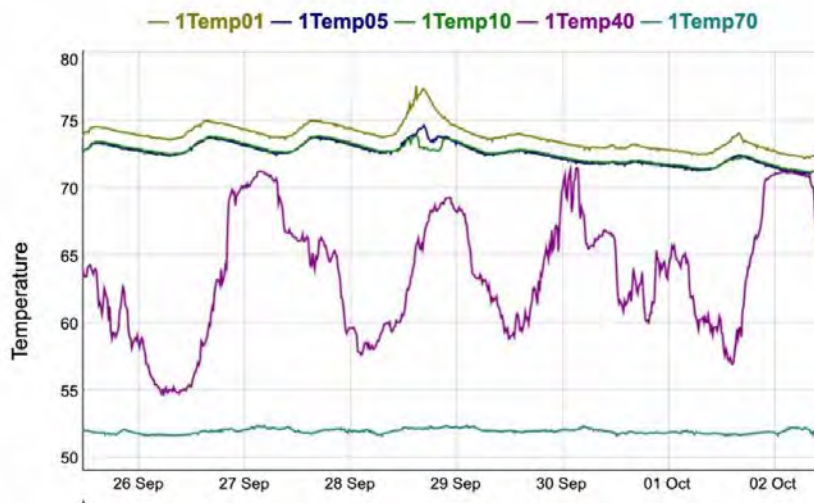
The dam output has dropped to an average of about 250 cfs (496 AF/day).

The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,242,327 Acre-Feet or 80.0% capacity.

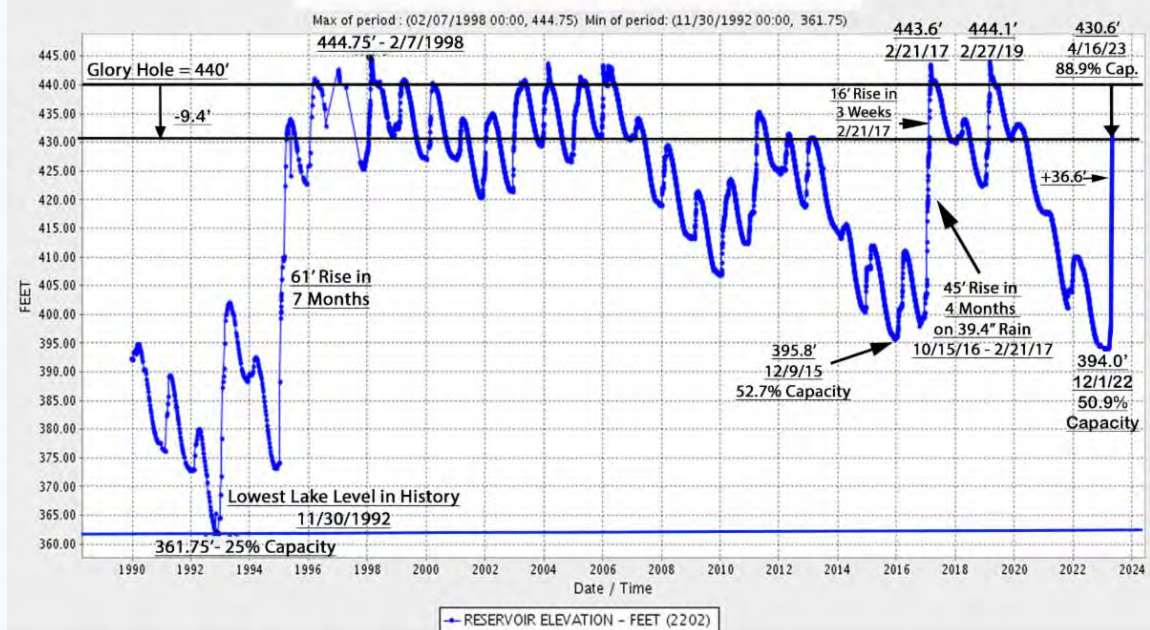
Lake water temperature dropped to about 73 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down, rising and mixing to almost 70 degrees at 40 feet but staying at 52 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

Date	Elevation	Evap	High	Low	Precip
9/25/23	423.13	0.18	81	44	0.00
9/26/23	423.11	0.09	78	50	0.00
9/27/23	423.05	0.16	83	44	0.00
9/28/23	423.01	0.15	87	44	0.00
9/29/23	422.95	0.17	85	48	0.00
9/30/23	422.91	0.12	81	52	0.00
10/1/23	422.87	0.04	71	43	0.21

Lake Berryessa - Temperature



	Rain Year (7/1 - 6/31)	First Rain	Total By 1/1 (At Dam)	Season Total (At Dam)
1	97-98		10.77"	46.26"
2	98-99	11/10/98	7.18"	23.46"
3	99-00	10/30/99	6.5"	26"
4	00-01	10/20/00	4.54"	24.7"
5	01-02	10/29/01	15.73"	23.38"
6	02-03	11/7/02	19.34"	31.6"
7	03-04	10/31/03	12.01"	25.64"
8	04-05	10/19/04	15.55"	36.36"
9	05-06	9/26/05	17.4"	40.56"
10	06-07	10/3/06 .22"	5.36"	12.7"
11	07-08	9/19/07 - .1"	4.48"	25.32"
12	08-09	10/3/08 - .2"	6.6"	23.96"
13	09-10	9/14/09 - .24"	6.5"	26.41"
14	10-11	10/18/10 - .21"	12.62"	37.92"
15	11-12	10/4/11 - .2"	3.04"	19.56"
16	12-13	10/22/12 -.73"	17.97"	20.65"
17	13-14	9/22/13 - .43"	1.88"	13.69"
18	14-15	9/19/14 - .11"	13.34"	19.56"
19	15-16	10/2/15 - .68"	6.23"	24.57"
20	16-17	10/4/16 - .04"	8.8"	47.55"
21	17-18	10/20/17 - .21"	3.41"	14.89"
22	18-19	10/2/18 - .51"	7.28"	40.53"
23	19-20	11/27/19 - .73"	7.14"	10.93"
24	20-21	11/15/20-.09"	1.92"	9.21"
25	21-22	9/10/21 - .05"	15.36"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/19/22 - .51"	11.92"	41.9"



The Coastal Clean-up was a success again this year.

Twelve volunteers from the Monticello Ski Club, the Manager and employees of Steele Canyon Recreation Area cleaned the shorelines at Steele and Willi's Cove on September 23, 2023. Additional volunteers, with the use of a pontoon boat, cleaned the shorelines along Spanish Flat Recreation Area. We were told that all of the garbage collected totaled 1,363 pounds. **Thank you to everyone who participated.**

Lucie Hock, Secretary/Treasurer, Monticello Ski Club





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Napa County Fire Update

To date, there have been 883 chipping requests completed, which is more than last year at this point. A new innovative tool, Defensible Space Fuel Mapper, is now available to assist residents in prioritizing defensible space maintenance projects on their property. The tool generates a free report which includes maps and informational summaries of landscape elements such as vegetation and fuels to help you assess fire hazards. To learn more, visit wildfirefuelmapper.org.

To date, 2,522 defensible space inspections have been completed. County Fire continues to follow up on complaints and either working with property owners or issuing Notice to Abate Fire hazard orders for unresponsive property owners that put communities at risk.

County Fire is currently working on constructing 13 miles of dozer line in and around Circle Oaks that can be utilized to provide protection to the community during a fire incident.

CAL Fire in conjunction with Firewise are working on a fuel reduction project at the Veterans Home to provide a shaded fuel break that will not only provide protection to the Veterans Home, but to the Town of Yountville itself.

In the Berryessa Highlands community, over 300 sheep were delivered to graze 144 acres and we also re-established 5 miles of dozer line.

October 2023 Headlines

Generation Derek: Born Between 5:04 And 5:05 P.M. On April 9, 1980, Meet The Generation That's Just One Guy

Ron DeSantis Announces He Will Live As Slave For One Year To Prove It Not Bad

Department Of Transportation Announces \$1 Billion Investment In Horses

SNAP Recipients Now Required To Show Starvation-Induced Organ Failure

Nobel Prize In Physics Awarded To God

Generation Derek: Born Between 5:04 And 5:05 P.M. On April 9, 1980, Meet The Generation That's Just One Guy

OpEd: We Need To Stop Sending All Our Money To Ukraine, And Instead Keep It In America Where It Continues To Not Help Poor Americans

Trump Dramatically Out-Pacing Biden in National Poll of Trucks With Political Flags and Giant Bumper Stickers Affixed to Them

New ChatGPT Image Generator Declares: "ALL OF YOUR FACE ARE BELONG TO US"

Republicans Reverse on Senate Dress Code Debate After Learning Rules Infringed Upon Right to Bare Arms

Elon Musk announces new Twitter just for men, called X-Men

AI's inability to identify street lights from a group of pictures the only thing keeping it from annihilating humanity

Mongolia launches full scale invasion of Russia

Like a true patriot, Joe The Plumber refused Obamacare medicine until the end

ON THE HORIZON: MORE WILDFIRE PREVENTION WORK AHEAD

FEMA recently selected Napa County as a recipient of a \$37.5 million Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant. As a condition of the grant, Napa County has committed to an additional 25 percent or \$12.5 million match. These funds will help us do the key wildfire prevention work mapped out in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). There will also be some funding available - again, as a match - for homeowners to do "home hardening" projects - that is, projects that make their homes more fire-resistant.

The County is still getting more details on the BRIC funding. The permitting process for the grant projects will begin in late 2024. The funds will be spent over a multi-year timeline. Importantly, BRIC grant dollars will support new projects (e.g. new fuel breaks, or vegetation management) but not maintenance. So the County will need to find ways to fund ongoing maintenance work (e.g. roadside clearing, or mowing and grading of existing dozer lines) which is so critical in keeping our communities safer. But the BRIC grant is very good news for the county because it will allow for new, large-scale, wildfire risk reduction work in the years ahead. (You can read the County's press release about it [here](https://www.countyofnapa.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=458).)

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=458>

AT&T Finally Repairs Rimrock Road Cell Tower

Service has been provided since the fire by a temporary tower across the road.
How about those working conditions! Photos by Evan Kilkus.





Georgia Craddock Obituary

A Lake Berryessa pioneer and mainstay of the Lake Berryessa Senior Center has left us. Whoever wrote this obituary described Georgia's personality perfectly. It was always a treat to sit and talk with her and Curly.

Georgia M. Craddock passed away on September 25, 2023.

Born October 1, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan, Georgia started her career in Springfield, Ohio

with Ohio Bell at the age of 16 and was instrumental in paving the way for women's equality in the company. She accepted an early retirement from Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company at the age of 55.

She came to San Francisco in 1950 and met her future husband "Curly" Craddock, a decorated Korean War Veteran and merchant seaman. Together they discovered Lake Berryessa, which was created in 1957. Georgia and Curly were amongst the earliest pioneers that enjoyed fishing, swimming, and water skiing on the lake. They spent all their weekends and holidays at Lake Berryessa, leaving directly from their work on Friday afternoon and returning to their offices early Monday morning. At first, they camped on the lake, then moved into the Spanish Flat Mobile Home Park and eventually purchased their dream home on a secluded knoll overlooking a spectacular lake view.

Georgia loved hosting people and would invite family, friends, friends of friends, coworkers and anyone that was interested in visiting the lake. A weekend at the lake with Georgia and Curly included a big breakfast, all day water-skiing, burgers and hot dogs on a secluded beach cove and a BBQ dinner on their porch overlooking the lake. Eventually Georgia and Curly retired and made the lake house their permanent home.

She narrowly escaped the fire with her life and a small bag carrying a pair of her underwear and some medications. Georgia's final years were spent at the Rockville Terrace Senior Home in Fairfield where again she hosted family, friends, friends of friends and anyone that was interested in paying her a visit. She was a diligent storyteller with an incredible memory and a contagious laugh. Above all, Georgia was a very generous woman who shared everything she owned with everyone.

Published by San Francisco Chronicle on Sep. 28, 2023.

Solano Irrigation District Celebrates 75 years

The Solano Irrigation District celebrated 75 year of service to the community on Sept. 13, 2023. It was founded in 1948 as an independent special district, and a local government agency. The five-member board of directors is elected by registered voters within the boundaries of the district.

SID has entitlements for 141,000 acre feet of agricultural and domestic water for service to many areas in Solano County each year.

The District is also the operator of the Solano Project, which delivers Lake Berryessa water to four cities, the Main Prairie Water District and SID customers. They also own and operate the hydroelectric power plant at the base of Monticello Dam. Suisun City also partners with them for its water delivery. SID has 81 employees and operates on a \$7 million annual budget. (<https://www.sidwater.org/>)



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October 2023 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Gun crime is said to be rising around the country. Watch out for bullet-shaped objects.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Be wary of all new friends today as they may turn out to be Russian spies, or possibly wannabe astronomers.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): Today will seem like a good day for disregarding advice concerning things that are generally considered to be bad for you, but we can promise that you won't die within the next two days.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Only with your amazing skills were you able to find this horoscope, and for that you will be rewarded with only good news.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Ensure your blood stays within your system today by not venturing further than your refrigerator.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Why not pick up the phone and yell into it wildly before dialing your required number

Libra (9/23-10/22): Many of the people you admire are going to have incredible fortune this week.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Everything you think about yourself will not be called into question this week.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Tensions could rise over coming days when someone close to you opens your mail and then puts it in a drawer without telling you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): The night may feel like a safe time to parade naked through the local city streets, however, you may find there are some that oppose your freedom.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Your stupidity today will be rivalled only by your embarrassment.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Tomorrow, when you consider how it could have been, today is going to seem pretty darned swell.

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Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

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

Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

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https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

Paperback version:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref_=pe_3052080_397514860

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.

Breaking News, 11/3/23

**Napa County Board of Supervisors to Approve Exclusive Negotiation Agreement for
Steele Canyon Resort Area
With Camp Margaritaville Resorts**

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steven Lederer, Director of Public Works

REPORT BY: Leigh Sears, Concessions Manager

SUBJECT: Lake Berryessa Concessions - Exclusive Negotiation Agreement for Steele Canyon Resort Area

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign Exclusive Negotiation Agreement No. 8671 with WhiTim Napa LLC (in conjunction with Camp Margaritaville Resorts) to conduct environmental studies, site investigation and due diligence, prepare environmental documents, and enter into negotiations for a long-term agreement for development and operation of resort concessions at the Steele Canyon resort area.

body

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County has assumed management of certain concession areas at Lake Berryessa from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) pursuant to a Managing Agreement executed in March 2020. Pursuant to the Managing Agreement, the County issued Request for Proposals No. CEO112001 for resort concession areas at Lake Berryessa (RFP) for Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores. Based on the proposals received, the County entered into an exclusive negotiation agreement with Sun Communities for all three resort areas on October 19, 2021. Unfortunately, on June 27, 2023, Sun Communities announced it was no longer pursuing a long-term agreement for the resort areas.

After Sun Communities' announcement, the County contacted Camp Margaritaville Resorts, the firm that submitted the second-place proposal for Steele Canyon in response to the RFP. This proposed Agreement will commit the County to negotiating exclusively with WhiTim Napa LLC (a local developer working in conjunction with Camp Margaritaville Resorts) on a long-term concessions agreement for Steele Canyon, while WhiTim Napa conducts due diligence, site investigations, environmental studies, and prepares CEQA and NEPA documents. Normally, the County hires and controls the consultants necessary to prepare environmental documents, and charges project applicants for the services pursuant to Section 104 of Napa County's Local Procedures for Implementing CEQA. Approving the proposed Agreement will allow WhiTim Napa to deviate from this process

so they can better control costs, react quicker to discoveries that may impact their proposed development, and to immediately cease work if their studies and analysis determine their proposed project is not feasible.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In March 2020, the BOR and the County entered into Managing Agreement Number 20-LC-20-2623 (Napa County Agreement No. 200285B), for the administration, operation, maintenance and development of public recreation facilities at Lake Berryessa. In November 2020, the County issued Request for Proposals No. CEO112001 for resort concession areas at Lake Berryessa (RFP) for Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores.

County staff and a real estate consultant retained by the County reviewed the proposals and selected Sun Communities as the firm to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for approval to develop resort concessions at all three locations. The County entered into an exclusive negotiation agreement with Sun Communities for all three resort areas on October 19, 2021 (Napa County Agreement No. 8635). Soon after, Sun Communities started its due diligence, examination, and study of the resort areas to determine whether its proposals for the sites were feasible, and to gauge any associated environmental impacts. Unfortunately, on June 27, 2023, Sun Communities announced it was no longer pursuing a long-term agreement for the resort areas.

After Sun Communities' announcement, the County contacted Camp Margaritaville Resorts, the firm that submitted the second-place proposal for Steele Canyon in response to the RFP. Camp Margaritaville Resorts confirmed it is still interested in the Steele Canyon resort area. This proposed Agreement will commit the County to negotiating exclusively with WhiTim Napa LLC (a local developer working in conjunction with Camp Margaritaville Resorts) on a long-term concessions agreement for Steele Canyon, while WhiTim Napa conducts due diligence, site investigations, environmental studies, and prepares CEQA and NEPA documents. WhiTim Napa LLC is managed by Tim Wilkens, a local developer. Mr. Wilkens is the original developer of the Meritage/Vino Bello Resort, California Vacation Club - RiverPointe, and the initial developer who worked on the approvals for Calistoga Ranch.

Normally, the County hires and controls the consultants necessary to prepare environmental documents, and charges project applicants for the services pursuant to Section 104 of Napa County's Local Procedures for Implementing CEQA. Approving the proposed Agreement will allow WhiTim Napa to deviate from this process so they can better control costs, react quicker to discoveries that may impact their proposed development, and to immediately cease work if their studies and analysis determine their proposed project is not feasible. This helps reduce the financial risk to potential developers who will be spending their own funds to investigate federal property in response to a County RFP, without any certainty that their proposals will be feasible. The proposed Agreement requires WhiTim Napa to coordinate their environmental review with County staff, to ensure the final documents are accurate and defensible.

Negotiations on a long-term concessions agreement will focus on when and how to implement the proposal for Camp Margaritaville Resorts at Steele Canyon. The proposal is included as backup information for this agenda item. The Exclusive Negotiation

Agreement does not commit WhiTim Napa or Camp Margaritaville Resorts to implementing the proposal, and they are free to cease pursuing development and operation of Steele Canyon at any time. The County hopes that the private investment associated with a long-term concession agreement will improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, provide new employment opportunities, and possibly become an anchor for revitalization of the Lake Berryessa community.

Camp Margaritaville Proposal

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Camp-Margaritaville-Proposal.pdf>

Camp Margaritaville Resort Amenities

- Hotel Style Entrance and Registration Desk
- Large Pads with Quality Outdoor Furniture and Fire Pits
- RV "Suites" with Additional Private Amenities
- Electric and Water Hookups for all RV Types
- Complimentary Wireless Internet and Cable TV
- Clubhouse Meeting Space with Games
- Resort Style Pools & Bathhouses
- Branded F&B Outlets
- Bark-aritaville Dog Park
- Margaritaville Retail Store
- Laundry Facilities
- Fins-Up Fitness Center
- Coconut Telegraph Business Center
- Golf Cart Rentals
- Pickleball Courts / Other Recreation
- Water Activities (where applicable)
- Cabins for Rent (Tiny Homes)
- Glamping / Tent Camping Space
- Parakeets Kids Club

- Family Entertainment Center
- Programmed Entertainment
- Winter Activities (where applicable) - LandShark Tube Ride, Ice Skating

The development will be branded and designed as "Margaritaville Lake Berryessa Napa". The resort will contain the following:

1. 175 one bedroom Park Model cottages that are 399 sq ft with decks
2. 150 one bedroom bungalow cottages with decks and private courtyards
3. 100 two bedroom bungalow cottages with decks and private courtyards
4. Clubhouse
5. Resort style swimming pool with water slide
6. Recessed hot tub
7. Retail store
8. A fishing pier with 50 boat slips, canoes and paddle boards
9. Spa treatment rooms
10. Wedding pavilion
11. Enclosed dog park
12. 80 RV sites
13. 20 deluxe RV suites
14. Kids park
15. Laundry facility
16. Recreational amenities to include
 - a. Pickle ball courts
 - b. Corn hole
 - c. Giant Jenga

- d. Horseshoe pits
 - e. Bocce ball courts
 - f. Volleyball Courts
 - g. 10 fire pits
-
- 17. Wine cave with wine tasting
 - 18. Employee housing for 40 employees
 - 19. A security substation for the resort and use by the Napa County Sheriff's office
 - 20. A well-designed fire break and fire prevention station.
-

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process

Lake Interim Contracts Update 11/2/23

Napa County is continuing efforts on several fronts to revitalize Lake Berryessa resorts, four months after its push to find concessionaires for the job suffered a big setback.

Sun Communities in June announced after two years of negotiations that it won't redevelop the Steele Canyon, Monticello Shores and Spanish Flat resorts. It won't build new marinas, restaurants, shops, luxury campgrounds and other attractions.

Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat Campgrounds, Launch Ramps, and Day Use Areas WILL REMAIN OPEN under interim contracts, despite the departure of Sun Companies scheduled for the end of October. Two separate local operators have been approved by Napa County for 12 month terms, likely with options to extend if needed.

Though Sun Communities is gone, Collective Retreats and Margaritaville Hotels & Resorts have recently emerged as potential concessionaires.

"We've pivoted since Sun has walked, and we've got some people interested," Napa County's concessions manager Leigh Sears said recently. "So that's really positive."

Lake Berryessa has seven resort sites. Only Markley Cove and Pleasure Cove operate at full strength with marinas. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation around 2009 razed Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, Monticello Shores, Putah Canyon and Berryessa Point so they could be rebuilt from scratch.

The county on Aug. 1 issued a request for proposals to redevelop 149-acre Monticello Shores. It is talking with the one company that responded: Collective Retreats.

Collective Retreats has resorts on Governors Island, New York and in Wolcott, Colorado and Wimberley, Texas, and lists Sonoma among its "coming soon" resort locations. It advertises such features as king-sized beds and chandeliers in tents, and gourmet dining

under the stars.

Also, Sears said, the county is talking with Margaritaville about redeveloping Steele Canyon resort. Margaritaville bid for the resort in 2021, coming in behind Sun Communities.

Margaritaville has resorts in such places as South Padre Island, Texas; the Bahamas; New York City and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. It advertises the “island escapism” lifestyle of Jimmy Buffett, the singer known for the 1977 song “Margaritaville” who died Sept. 1.

The next step, should things advance that far, would be for Collective Retreats and Margaritaville to enter into exclusive negotiating agreements with Napa County, as Sun Communities previously did. Sears said such agreements would be brought before the county Board of Supervisors.

An exclusive negotiating agreement has the two parties working on a long-term contract to redevelop and run a resort. The potential concessionaire does such things as due diligence, environmental studies and site investigations.

Sears said Sun Communities gave Napa County some of its studies on Monticello Shores and Steele Canyon. That puts next potential concessionaire a little further ahead.

Meanwhile, the county continues to work with Suntex Marinas, which already manages Pleasure Cove Marina, on possibly redeveloping the Berryessa Point resort. The parties entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement in July 2022. A county report earlier this year said construction could begin in fall 2024.

Napa County has not announced any prospective concessionaires to redevelop Spanish Flat. There will need to be a new bid prospectus released to the recreation development community and an evaluation of any bids received.

Those resorts have operated under interim concession contracts with Sun Communities for two years. Supervisors approved new contracts with the same operators that Sun used, with the county to receive 3% of the gross revenues.

The Spanish Flat contract is with Spanish Flat Campground LLC managed by local resident Tiffany Jones. The Steele Canyon contract is with Steele Canyon Campground Inc. managed by Berryessa Highlands resident Joseph Costanzo, a county report said.

The contracts are from Nov. 1 through Oct. 31, 2024, with the option to extend for another year.

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steven Lederer, Director of Public Works

REPORT BY: Leigh Sears, Concessions Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Lake Berryessa Interim Concession Contracts

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the following Agreements for the term November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024 with an option to extend for one additional year, in return for 3% of gross revenue from operating the resort areas at Lake Berryessa:

1. Agreement No. 240192B for the Steele Canyon resort area with Steele Canyon Campground, Inc.; and
2. Agreement No. 240193B for the Spanish Flat resort area with Spanish Flat Campground, LLC.

Body

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon resort areas at Lake Berryessa are currently operated under interim concession contracts with Sun Lake Berryessa LLC (Sun Communities). Sun Communities assumed operation of these resort areas while it investigated the feasibility of developing and operating both sites long-term. On June 27, 2023, Sun Communities announced it was no longer pursuing a long-term agreement for the resort areas, and that it would cease operating the sites on October 31, 2023.

The new interim concession contracts are with the same operators Sun Communities hired to run the Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat resort areas. They formed new corporate entities to assume operations because they will no longer be working for Sun Communities. They will operate the resort areas under substantially the same terms and conditions as the existing interim contracts, in return for paying the County 3% of the gross revenue realized from operating the sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15301, as the operation of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The United States Bureau of Reclamation and the County entered into Managing Agreement Number 20-LC-20-2623 (Napa County Agreement No. 200285B) dated March 9, 2020, for the administration, operation, maintenance and development of public recreation facilities at Lake Berryessa. Since January 1, 2021, the Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon recreation areas have been operating under interim concession contracts approved by the Board. The Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon resort areas at Lake Berryessa are currently operated under interim concession contracts (Napa County Agreement Nos. 220197B and 220198B) with Sun Lake Berryessa LLC (Sun Communities). Sun Communities assumed operation of these resort areas while it investigated the feasibility of developing and operating both sites long-term. On June 27, 2023, Sun Communities announced it was no longer pursuing a long-term agreement for the resort areas, and that it would cease operating the sites on October 31, 2023.

The new interim concession contracts are with the same operators Sun Communities hired to run the Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat resort areas. They formed new corporate entities to assume operations because they will no longer be working for Sun

Communities. Spanish Flat Campground LLC is managed by Tiffany Jones, a local resident who has been operating the Spanish Flat resort area under Sun Communities for the last 2 years.

Steele Canyon Campground Inc. is managed by Joseph (Rocky) Costanzo, a resident of Berryessa Highlands who has been operating the Steele Canyon resort area under Sun Communities for the last 2 years. Rocky is a long-time resident of the Lake Berryessa area and is very familiar with the lake.

Both concessionaires will operate the resort areas under substantially the same terms and conditions as the existing interim contracts, in return for paying the County 3% of the gross revenue realized from operating the sites. During the terms of the interim concession contracts, the County will continue pursuing opportunities for long-term development and operating agreements for the resort areas.

1. Rates for Services

Rates charged by concessionaires for all facilities, services, and merchandise will be based on charges for comparable facilities, services, and merchandise provided by the private sector in similar situations. Rate approvals shall be requested in advance by the Concession Contractor in writing to County.

a. The initial rates as shown in Exhibit D shall remain in effect for all goods and services for the 2024 recreation season. Thereafter, if this Interim Concession Contract is extended, rate modification requests shall be submitted by the Concession Contractor annually by October 1 for the following calendar year.

b. Requests for rate modification shall reflect the comparable rates for like goods and services provided by the private sector operating in a competitive environment under similar operating conditions.

c. County will make reasonable efforts to respond within 15 days of receipt of annual rate modification requests.

d. County shall approve or deny such rate modification requests based upon the findings of a comparability review of like goods and services from similar concession operations or businesses, as described in Reclamation's Concession Management Guidelines, Chapter 7.

e. Should County not approve a rate request for any of the Concession Contractor's goods or services, the Concession Contractor is required to continue using the rates approved by County.

f. The Concession Contractor shall prominently post all County approved rates and charges for goods and services provided to the visiting public.

RATES

Rates for all goods and services shall be reasonable and appropriate for the type and

quality of the goods and services provided and must be approved by County. The rates listed below are the rates for Required and Authorized Services identified in this contract. Rate change requests should reflect changes in rates for comparable goods and services provided by the private sector operating in a competitive environment under similar operating conditions. County may choose to accept the Concession Contractor's proposed rates; however, if County does not accept the Concession Contractor's proposed rates, County's decision is final and non-challengeable.

RV Campsite (Maximum 2 vehicles) - \$55 (2 people). Additional person \$5, with maximum 8 people per site.

Tent Only Campsite (Maximum 1 vehicle) - \$45 (2 people). Additional person \$5, with maximum 4 people per site.

Extra Vehicle/Parking - \$10 per vehicle, per night of camping. Pet Fee - \$5 per pet, per day or night of camping.

Day Use - \$20 per vehicle up to 4 persons with additional person \$5 each and/or \$14 per vehicle up to 2 persons with additional persons \$5 each.

Extra Person (day use) - \$5 per person, walk in.

Boat Launch - Not a registered camper \$30 (Steele Canyon only). Boat Launch - Registered camper \$10

Annual Boat Launch Pass - \$350 Annual Day Use Pass - \$250

Country living at Lake Berryessa!

The Lake Berryessa News tomato garden seems to never stop producing due to Evan Kilkus' biochar and love. Evan's estimate of production this summer so far is 200 pounds! George Moskowitz replied: Just now picking my last few tomatoes. If it doesn't freeze, I may have another 40 pounds!





It Is Cheaper To Go Family Camping At Lake Berryessa's Steele Canyon Recreation Area (With The Family Dog) Than It Is To Take The Family To A Movie In Napa or Fairfield (Without The Family Dog!)

Note from the Lake Berryessa News to social media trolls on the Lake Berryessa News Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928340101>).

The purpose of the Lake Berryessa News Facebook page (and this newsletter) is to provide timely, accurate information about the Lake Revitalization Program which is clearly not going well at this time. It is not really meant to be an opinion-gasm for people who wish to post pointless negative comments. Although your opinion may be your own that doesn't make it automatically true or factual.

Real people, your neighbors and friends, live here at the lake and many of their lives are being seriously negatively affected. Your selfish desire for a "quiet lake" is irrelevant to them.

And if you haven't read my book,

https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa/dp/B08MSFDMRG/ref=sr_1_1?crid=KZLQBPV6S8PO&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1698948089&srefix=peter+kilkus%2Caps%2C154&sr=8-1

you probably don't understand the real issues that brought us to the present state.

For those of you who simply want to complain about the past or your negative view of the present, remember the dirty little secret of social media - just because you want to see your name up on a Facebook screen, no one actually cares what you think or say. If you want to pointlessly complain, start your own Facebook page. I'm sure the title "I Hate Lake Berryessa 2024" is still available.

For those of you who say you'll never come back to Lake Berryessa - yada, yada, yada - that just makes more room for the rest of us. And prices will never come down.

As a reality check on recreation costs, the Lake Berryessa News did a price comparison in July 2022 between taking a family of four to a movie in Napa or Fairfield and camping at Lake Berryessa. Even the most expensive camping or day use trip to the lake is cheaper than taking a family to the movies (and you can't take your dog to the movies).

It Is Cheaper To Go Family Camping At Lake Berryessa's Steele Canyon Recreation Area (With The Family Dog) Than It Is To Take The Family To A Movie In Napa or Fairfield (Without The Family Dog!)

Movie Theater Cost

Adult \$12, Child \$8.50, Senior \$8.50

Small popcorn \$6, Medium Popcorn \$7, Large popcorn \$8, Candy \$4

Small drink \$5, Medium drink \$5.50, Large drink \$6

2 adults & 2 children - tickets: $\$12 + \$12 + \$8.50 + \$8.50 = \$41$

2 sm popcorn (\$12) + 2 med popcorn (\$14) + 4 med drinks (\$22) + 2 candy (\$8) = \$56

2- 3 hour family movie trip (4 people) = \$96!

No pets

Lake Berryessa (Steele Canyon) Camping Cost: Fee per Day

RV Campsite (Max 2 vehicles) (2 guests) \$55

(each add'l guest – max 8 guests) \$5

Total – 4 people \$65

Total – 6 people \$75

Total - with boat launch \$85

Standard Campsite (Max 2 vehicles) (2 guests) \$50

(each add'l guest – max 8 guests) \$5

Total – 4 people \$60

Total – 6 people \$70

Total - with boat launch \$80

Tent Only Campsite (Max 1 vehicle) (2 guests) \$45

(each add'l guest – max 4 guests) \$5

Total - 1 vehicle – 4 people total \$55

Total - 1 vehicle – 6 people total \$65

Total - with boat launch \$75

Day Use

Per vehicle up to 4 guests \$20

(each add'l guest) \$5

Pet \$5

Total - 1 vehicle – 6 people, one pet \$35

Total - with boat launch \$60

Boat launch - registered camper \$10

Boat launch - general public \$30

Pet Fee per pet, per day or night of camping \$5

Final Comparison

Family Movie Trip

Tickets: Adult - \$12, Child - \$8.50

Small popcorn - \$6, Medium popcorn - \$7, Large popcorn - \$8, Candy - \$4

Small drink - \$5, Medium drink - \$5.50, Large drink - \$6

Cost: 2 adults & 2 children - tickets: $\$12 + \$12 + \$8.50 + \$8.50 = \$41$.

2 small popcorns (\$12) + 2 medium popcorns (\$14) + 4 medium drinks (\$22) + 2 candy (\$8) = \$56

Two to three hour family movie trip (4 people) = \$97! (and no pets allowed)

Family Camping Trip (Steele Canyon)

RV Campsite (2 vehicles, 2 guests): \$55

(each add'l guest – max 8 guests): \$5

Total – 4 people: \$65

Total - with boat launch: \$75

Tent Campsite (1 vehicle, 2 guests): \$45

(each add'l guest – max 4 guests): \$5

Total - 1 vehicle – 4 people total: \$55

Total - with boat launch: \$65

Day Use

Per vehicle up to 4 guests: \$20

(each add'l guest): \$5

Pet: \$5

Total - 1 vehicle – 4 people, one pet: \$25

Total - with boat launch: \$55

Boat launch - registered camper: \$10

Boat launch - general public \$30

Glory Hole - Will It Overflow in 2024?

Lake Berryessa Statistics: November 3, 2023

Rainfall of 0.7 inches last Sunday brought season total at Monticello Dam to .94", although a nice first rain, not enough to have any impact on lake levels. Remember that it takes at least 2" - 3" of rain on our dry watershed before any substantial runoff would begin.

The lake level is down now to 421.8' - 18.2' below Glory Hole.

Last year at this time the lake was at 394.6', 45.4' below Glory Hole and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

The dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract to 45 cfs (89 AF/day).

The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,226,236 Acre-Feet or 78.9% capacity.

Lake water temperature dropped to about 65 degrees at the surface to 40 feet down with some slight mixing to 70 feet but no sign of "turnover" until much windier conditions begin to mix the lake water.

	Rain Year (7/1 - 6/31)	First Rain	Total By 1/1 (At Dam)	Season Total (At Dam)
1	97-98		10.77"	46.26"
2	98-99	11/10/98	7.18"	23.46"
3	99-00	10/30/99	6.5"	26"
4	00-01	10/20/00	4.54"	24.7"
5	01-02	10/29/01	15.73"	23.38"
6	02-03	11/7/02	19.34"	31.6"
7	03-04	10/31/03	12.01"	25.64"
8	04-05	10/19/04	15.55"	36.36"
9	05-06	9/26/05	17.4"	40.56"
10	06-07	10/3/06 .22"	5.36"	12.7"
11	07-08	9/19/07 - .1"	4.48"	25.32"
12	08-09	10/3/08 - .2"	6.6"	23.96"
13	09-10	9/14/09 - .24"	6.5"	26.41"
14	10-11	10/18/10 - .21"	12.62"	37.92"
15	11-12	10/4/11 - .2"	3.04"	19.56"
16	12-13	10/22/12 -.73"	17.97"	20.65"
17	13-14	9/22/13 - .43"	1.88"	13.69"
18	14-15	9/19/14 - .11"	13.34"	19.56"
19	15-16	10/2/15 - .68"	6.23"	24.57
20	16-17	10/4/16 - .04"	8.8"	47.55"
21	17-18	10/20/17 - .21"	3.41"	14.89"
22	18-19	10/2/18 - .51"	7.28"	40.53"
23	19-20	11/27/19 - .73"	7.14"	10.93"
24	20-21	11/15/20-.09"	1.92"	9.21"
25	21-22	9/10/21 - .05"	15.36"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/19/22 - .51"	11.92"	41.9"

The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource
Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

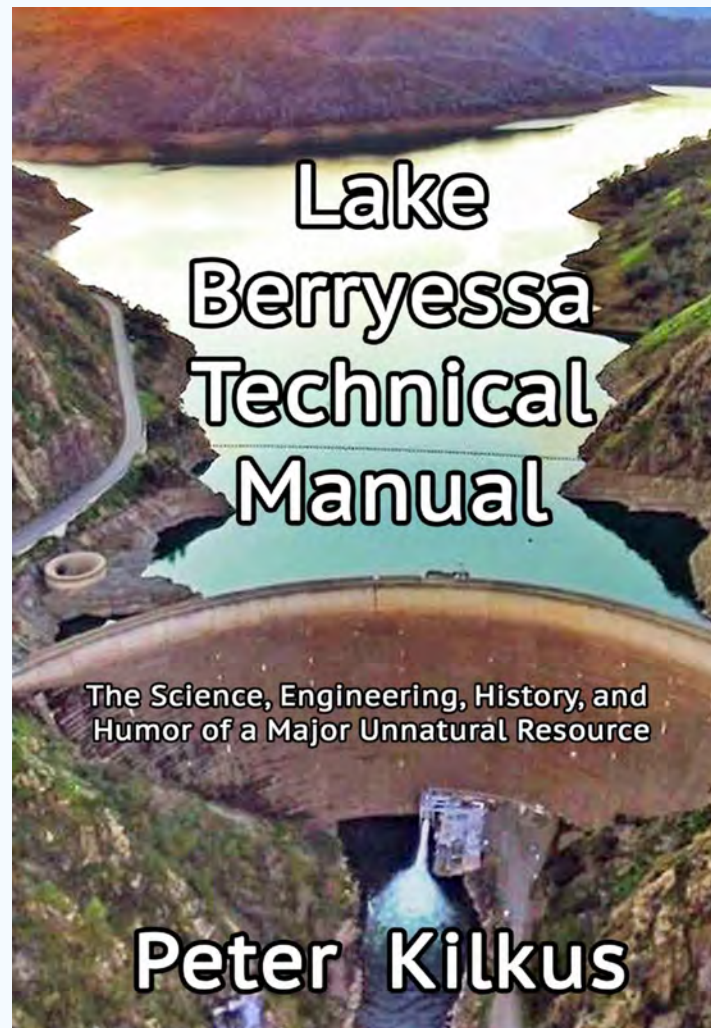
The Kindle version:

https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

Paperback version:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref=pe_3052080_397514860

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.



Lake Berryessa News, November 12, 2023

Do you feel cringey, cranky, or cheerful today?

It will be another great day at Lake Berryessa with significant rain predicted next week.

But it has been an odd week in Napa County news and politics.

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process

Camp Margaritaville Resorts Negotiating Agreement
Approved by the Napa Supervisors!

Those of you who follow the news about Lake Berryessa may have noticed a few articles this last week popping up in local media. The subject was the Napa County supervisors' approval of a negotiating agreement with Camp Margaritaville Resorts in its bid for the revitalization of the Steele Canyon Recreation area. The item was originally on the "consent agenda" which means it was deemed generally unobjectionable and not in need of a public hearing. This was the same process that was used two weeks ago to approve the interim contracts for Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat, and was one reason neither I, nor any other supporters of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process, attended the meeting.

But at the last minute the item was unexpectedly removed from the consent agenda and opened for discussion and public comment. This was followed by a concerted attack on the proposal from a small clique of environmental exclusionists led by the main perpetrator of the destruction of our Lake Berryessa community.

Their comments were little more than empty ad hominem arguments against the word "Margaritaville". They appeared to be crafting a new "The Little Lie" to replace "The Big Lie" I documented in my book: Policy and Politics Betray the People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020, "The Lake Berryessa resorts, especially the mobile homes in the resorts, discouraged the general public from accessing the lake, prevented the public from using the best parts of the shoreline, and also polluted the lake."

Their "Little Lie" is that "Margaritaville" means an exceptionally large resort with wild and crazy Cabo Wabo type activities that will be inappropriate for our community. None of their comments were valid. They simply wanted to frighten people with the image, despite the substance of the actual proposal. The real name of the bidder is Camp Margaritaville Resorts which focuses on family camping and lodging, especially RV camping. I stayed at a Margaritaville Resort in the Cayman Islands three years ago. It was one of the less expensive resorts on the beach, with simple but elegant facilities, great beach, nice restaurants, bars, shops, and pools.

What concerned me most about Tuesday was that this appears to have been a

coordinated, pre-planned stealth attack on the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Project which blindsided the County itself and the majority of the Lake Berryessa region residents, especially those in the Berryessa Highlands, who were not able to make comments of support at the meeting.

Having watched the meeting video more than once, I can affirm that Mr. Lederer, Ms. Sears, and the Camp Margaritaville representative Mr. Wilkens, did excellent jobs in answering all questions in detail, refuting every negative comment before they were made by the speakers later.

The totality of the meeting was positive in its presentation of the facts. It would have been even better with some Lake Berryessa community supporters there to add their positives comments. As I told the supervisors, "If you actually wish to hear what the real people think about the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Project, please provide a date and time at which I can have dozens of Lake Berryessa supporters lined up to speak in support of the Camp Margaritaville Resorts proposal or any other reasonable plan for our lake community." I have since spoken with both Supervisor Pedroza and Supervisor Cottrell who agreed that there should be a community meeting with Camp Margarita when the planning is a bit farther along.

See a sample of recent comments by real people at the end of this article.

I've made the Supervisors' meeting video available on You Tube at:

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

The video is an hour long but answers every relevant question in detail.

I also excerpted a statement by Supervisor Pedroza completely contradicting the negative misinformation being spread by the naysayers at the meeting. Supervisor Pedroza has consistently supported the Lake Berryessa community since he was first elected. I am hopeful that new Supervisor Cottrell will also be similarly supportive.

Pedroza statement:

<https://youtu.be/TbbDDbWzMdE?si=xJ-zec0wBOB2dOVb>

This meeting resulted, probably as planned, in a spate of articles in local news outlets focusing only on the opponents' misrepresentation of the facts. Interestingly, Tuesday's little coordinated group of cranky naysayers has never raised its head before in opposition to any of the other proposals over the last few years. Perhaps Sun Outdoors, Suntex Marinas, or even Collective Retreats just sounds better to them than "Margaritaville".

Hopefully the Board of Supervisors will live up to its agenda statement that:

"The County hopes that the private investment associated with a long-term concession agreement will improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, provide new employment opportunities, and possibly become an anchor for revitalization of the Lake Berryessa community."

On a personal note, although I publish, write, and edit The Lake Berryessa News and am the president of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce, I am essentially a community advocate dedicated for the last 24 years to the success of the Lake Berryessa community. I care about my neighbors and the fact that we've lost more than a decade of family recreation at the lake. My focus now is on the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process, for which I ask the Lake Berryessa community's continued support.

Recent comments:

RoseAnn DeMoro, Berryessa Highlands

Margaritaville looks so right for here! Very accessible for everyone, no high rises, lots of activities. It's sad that we did not know that this was going to be a public comment event at the Board of Supervisors meeting or the people throughout the county could have spoken on behalf of the proposal. Thank you, Peter, ever vigilant. And thank Supervisor Pedroza for eloquently defending the overwhelming opinion of the people from the neighborhood. We are going to have a resort here, and this looks like they best of all for Steel Park.

Pamela Daniel, Berryessa Highlands

Let me know when the next meeting is and I will attend along with others. We want the resort back!

Jim Casten, Berryessa Highlands

Thanks, Peter, for posting this and the link of the BOS meeting. People should please watch it in its entirety. I would also like to attend the next community meeting as I used to work at Sugar Loaf corral and used to visit all the docks hoping somebody needed the services of a young scuba diver who worked "cheap" lol. There was some good information exchanged at the meeting, so watch the video...

Dana Baumgardner, Berryessa Highlands

Thank you for posting. How did the public comments end up so one sided?... I don't know that they understand living here.

Dana, They were one-sided because none of us supporters knew about it. No one told us the item would be taken off the consent agenda. It was a sneaky setup by someone. Won't happen again. And, yes, these people, as environmental exclusionists, don't understand the real world.

Russ and Kae Cunningham, Berryessa Highlands

Count us in at any other meetings. We are both really excited about having the resorts back. Russ' family camped here every year at Spanish Flats and when we met 25 years ago, he brought me here and I too fell in love with the Lake .

Dee Eva,

Thank you , Peter for posting the message. Our family has had a home in Berryessa Pines since 1960 and we look forward to having resorts with boat docks, gas docks and restaurants. We feel like we're the only boat on the lake and while it's nice to have the lake to ourselves, we feel it's a crime that more people cannot use the lake. We're all for revitalization and will try to attend any meetings with Napa County and the Margaritaville

group. Please keep us posted.

Jason Pellegrini, Let's go Margaritaville that would be very cool.

I Feel Cringey!

Where do news headlines come from?

As I mentioned in my article above about the recent Supervisors meeting, "This meeting resulted, probably as planned, in a spate of articles in local news outlets focusing only on the opponents' misrepresentation of the facts." But the oddest thing was that the news people ended up focusing on the little used word "cringey". This was annoying lazy journalism - picking one irrelevant word out of a detailed one hour analysis of serious issues.

So where did it come from?

A Chronicle article included the comment, "'The very idea of something called Margaritaville in Napa County is kind of cringey,'" said Angwin resident Kellie Anderson.

An SFGate article said, "Bay Area county considers new resort that some residents find 'cringey'. During the supervisor's meeting on Nov. 7, some community members were concerned about the project, even calling the brand "cringey".

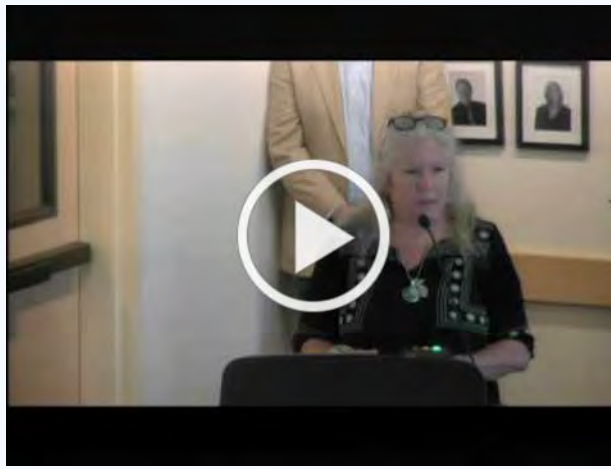
This was super-sloppy reporting since only one opponent used the word. Clearly the news folks thought this was a cute idea - a word no one ever uses as a "hook" to an otherwise boring article.

The following video shows the aforementioned Kellie Anderson in action. There are two elements to this short video. First, as a so-called environmental advocate, she doesn't even know that there is no such entity as the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area, though she emphasizes it twice. We have the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument established back in 2015. The other item to note is that Lake Berryessa itself IS NOT PART of the BSMNM.

The second thing to note is her comment, "The very idea of something called Margaritaville in Napa County(...hesitation, shrugged shoulder...) is kind of cringey."

I would call her few seconds of fame a cringeworthy performance. In trying to decide what music to use as the soundtrack to her acting debut I thought of the West Side Story song, "I Feel Pretty (I Feel Cringey)" or Jimi Hendrix's "Foxy Lady (Cringey Lady)".

But in reality, these folks are really simply cranky - a Cranky Club that simply doesn't like to see other people to having fun.



Quantum Politics: Lake Berryessa and the Napa County General Plan

An odd question at the latest supervisors' meeting described above had to do with the Napa County General Plan and its relevance to the development of the Steele Canyon Recreation Area by Camp Margarita Resorts. The question reminded me of the quantum mechanics paradox of Schroedinger's cat.

For those of you who don't remember this item from your high school physics class, Schrödinger's Cat is a thought experiment proposed by Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger in 1935 to illustrate a problem with the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics. In demonstrating its paradox, Schrödinger devised a scenario in which a **cat** is both alive and dead while inside a closed box containing radioactive material and a volatile substance. Since gaining prominence through the academic community, Schrödinger's thought experiment has also become part of the popular culture lexicon.

This applies to the question asked - "Does the Napa County General Plan give the County any oversight responsibility over the Camp Margaritaville development of Steele Canyon?. Simply put, can something be relevant and irrelevant at the same time?

The answer in Quantum Politics terms is a straightforward Yes and No!

No, because Lake Berryessa is on federal land and the County General Plan has no legal standing. But Yes, because Napa County is the development partner under the Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and obviously will be closely involved in overseeing any development at the site and implementing all environmental standards and building requirements.

The annoying thing about the Cranky Club's phony objections to the project was their misuse of the term "nature-based recreation" which they define as "fewer people (my kind of people only) and no internal combustion engines allowed". I've written several papers on nature-based recreation especially as applied to Lake Berryessa. Lake Berryessa is a perfect destination to implement many types of nature-based recreation options. The best report ever written about Lake Berryessa's future potential, the Ragatz Report, emphasized the value of nature-based recreation as a primary goal of any lake redevelopment.

Here's a link to that report, which is quite long and thorough, but can be scanned relatively quickly if you are really interested in the facts.

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

"The challenge and opportunity are to redevelop the five concession areas into resorts that more appropriately reflect the lifestyle of today's participants in outdoor recreation – higher quality, more variety, greater convenience, more nature-based (but not forgetting the ever-popularity of motor boats and RVs), more family-oriented, etc. If more care is given to these important trends, Lake Berryessa has the opportunity to: (1) become a significant year-round destination for the almost 10 million people in the region; (2) significantly impact the economy of Napa County; (3) be profitable to appropriately selected concessionaires; and (4) do so while maintaining and enhancing the natural environment."



Glory Hole - Will It Overflow in 2024?

Lake Berryessa Statistics: November 12, 2023

Recent rainfall has brought season total at Monticello Dam to 1.07" but still not enough to have any impact on lake levels. Remember that it takes at least 2" - 3" of rain on our dry watershed before any substantial runoff would begin.

The lake level is down now to 421.7' - 18.3' below Glory Hole.

Last year at this time the lake was at 394.4', 45.6' below Glory Hole and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

The dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract to 45 cfs (89 AF/day).

The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,221,907 Acre-Feet or 78.8% capacity.

Lake water temperature dropped to about 62 degrees at the surface to 40 feet down with more significant mixing to 70 feet and getting closer to full "turnover".



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Lake Berryessa News, November 26, 2023

Lake Berryessa Statistics: November 26, 2023

Recent rainfall has brought season total at Monticello Dam to 2.27". Remember that it takes at least 2" - 3" of rain on our dry watershed before any substantial runoff would begin.

The lake level had stabilized at 421.6' - 18.4' below Glory Hole but just blipped up to 421.7' today due to the rain and the fact that the dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract - 45 cfs (89 AF/day).

Last year at this time the lake was at 394.4', 45.6' below Glory Hole and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

The Gamble Gauge took a slight uptick in the last two days from 1,222,670 Acre-feet to 1,220,735 Acre-Feet or 78.8% capacity.

Lake water temperature has also stopped dropping and is about 62 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down with more significant mixing to 52 degrees at 70 feet and below. The lake appears to have almost hit "turnover".

If you wish to see hourly numbers on lake level, water temperature, and how much water is in the lake, you can go directly to:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

Opinions Based on Beliefs and Misinformation vs Conclusions Based on Facts and Data

by Peter Kilkus

A common response (actual quote) to criticism is, "Meantime, could you manage to discuss this proposal without engaging in personal attacks? There is no need to demonize people whose opinions differ from your own."

Although this may seem true on its surface, it is also a deflection from the importance of the issues being discussed. The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program debate is not about "opinions" - it is about facts, data, research, and truth. "Opinions" themselves really bear no weight in this discussion

Back to basics - the Oxford dictionary definition: o·pin·ion (/əˈpɪn(ə)n/): noun: a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge. Some common synonyms of opinion are belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment, and view. While all these words mean "a judgment one holds as true," opinion implies a conclusion

open to dispute.

There's a difference between the truth of a credible persuasive argument and the "truthiness" of an implausible but appealing "opinion". Popularized several years ago on the Colbert Report, "truthiness" refers to the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true. Many people actually seem to prefer truthiness to veracity, prevaricating while pontificating.

A simple thought experiment: Is the color red lighter than the color blue?

Say you are in a closed room, and someone brings in two balloons - one red and one blue. You have not studied any science nor had any experience with balloons - unlikely unless you are an indigenous person from the Amazon basin. Remember this is a hypothetical thought experiment! You hold the balloons in front of you and drop them both at the same time. The red balloon rise to the ceiling, but the blue balloon floats to the floor. Your first uninformed thought might be that the color red makes the balloon lighter than the color blue. Say they make you, an intelligent aborigine, do the test several times with the same result. Would it be reasonable, absent any other information or experiment, for you to develop an opinion that red things are lighter than blue things?

I know it's a silly example, but somehow it seem as if there are many folks who develop their "opinions" this way.



If people wish to participate in a discussion of the future of Lake Berryessa and its political

and natural history, they need to read. Many people ask me about the history of the process that led to the present situation at Lake Berryessa. When I explain what happened most become incredulous and can't believe the government could have done something so stupid. "How could they have gotten away with that?" they exclaim. A good question! When I start to explain they stop me and say, "Can you give me the 5-minute version?" The answer is no! If you care, you must read. If you wish to participate in discussions on Facebook or Nextdoor, you must read. If you wish to make informed public statements at a Napa supervisors meeting, you must read! Sorry.

You should read these books. This is not an advertisement; it is a recommendation. (I make very little royalty on book sales.) If you read these books, you will become an expert on most Lake Berryessa issues.

https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

Lake Berryessa Revitalization and the Napa County General Plan

by Peter Kilkus

Some people have raised the issue of the Napa County General Plan and its applicability to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa). Legally the General Plan has no jurisdiction over Lake Berryessa development since federal government owns the land on which the target resort redevelopment is occurring. But since the county signed a Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to take over management of the resorts at the lake and is now in charge of the future redevelopment of those resorts, the Napa General Plan should, and will, inform the planning for the new resorts. So, what does it actually say?

My conclusion is the general plan does not conflict with nor contradict the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program. It actually supports the resort planning goals.

The plan is available online at: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/1760/General-Plan>

I scanned the whole plane for references to Lake Berryessa, the region around it, and the term nature-based recreation. The following report summarizes my findings.

Napa County General Plan

The County's General Plan serves as a broad framework for planning the future of Napa County. This General Plan is the official policy statement of the County Board of Supervisors to guide the private and public development of the County.

- Directs housing and commercial enterprises to the incorporated jurisdictions and designated urbanized areas through the use of maps and policies.

- Protects agriculture and agricultural, watershed and open space lands by maintaining 40- and 160-acre minimum parcel sizes, limiting uses allowed in agricultural areas, and designating agriculture as our primary land use.
- Provides for the additional workforce and affordable housing by identifying necessary sites and programs and by continued collaborations with municipalities.
- Contains policies aimed at preserving the County's irreplaceable biodiversity, protecting significant natural resources and water resources, and improving the ecological health of the Napa River.
- Includes provisions focused on identifying and preserving the County's cultural and historical resources.
- Provides transportation policies aimed at addressing congestion, safety, and accessibility, emphasizing alternatives to the private automobile and limited road improvements.
- Describes a network of bike routes and recreational trails connecting residents to parks and an increasing amount of permanently protected public open space.
- Includes policies aimed at reducing local contributions to global climate change and encouraging sustainable building practices, sustainable vineyard practices, and ecological stewardship.
- Recognizes that protecting the economic viability of agriculture is critical to the County's future and that tourism and supporting industries that are compatible with agriculture also contribute to its viability.

Table of Contents:

- Napa County General Plan - Complete Document (PDF)
- Amending Resolutions (PDF)
- Signature Page (PDF)
- Introduction (PDF)
- Summary and Vision (PDF)
- Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Element (PDF)
- Circulation Element (PDF)
- Community Character Element (PDF)
- Conservation Element (PDF)
- Economic Development Element (PDF)
- Housing Element (2014) (PDF)
- Recreation and Open Space Element (PDF)
- Safety Element (PDF)
- Implementation Plan (PDF)
- Glossary (PDF)

The remainder of this report is simply the actual General Plan contents copied below.

Nearly 90 percent of Napa County is "open space" of some type (see the definitions of various open space types on page 216 of this Element). About 450,000 acres of a total of approximately 507,000 acres in the county fall into this category. About three-fourths of these open space lands are privately owned. Private open space lands are used for farming (approximately 50,000 acres) and grazing (approximately 54,000 acres), with the remainder relatively natural watershed lands that accommodate a variety of low intensity

uses including rural residences, hunting, fishing, and other privately sponsored recreational activities. Approximately 14,400 acres of these private lands have their open space values permanently protected through conservation easements.

In terms of user numbers, the biggest recreation provider by far is the Bureau of Reclamation; more than a million people a year visit **Lake Berryessa**. The Bureau provides two public day use areas for picnicking, fishing, and hiking, as well as one public boat launch. Tent and RV camping, houseboat and other boat rentals, trailer parks and related rentals, and retail activities have been for many years provided through seven long-term concession contracts. The nature and scope of these concession-provided facilities and services is currently undergoing major changes, with an increased emphasis on short-term overnight accommodations, in part in response to strong demand for overnight accommodations in natural settings. Unlike most recreational uses, campgrounds and houseboat, park model, and cabin rentals have the potential to generate sufficient user fee revenues to cover both capital and operating expenses and modest profits, when they are provided by the private sector through concession contracts.

As with facilities at **Lake Berryessa**, overnight visitors generate the bulk of the operating revenues of these parks. Boating, both motorized and non-motorized, is another popular activity. However, boating access in Napa County is limited; the primary locations are Lake Berryessa which provides all types of boating. However, boating access in Napa County is limited; the primary locations are Lake Berryessa which provides all types of boating.

In general, therefore, while there is a strong demand for outdoor recreational opportunities, the ability to maintain and expand facilities and services in Napa County will require a flexible blend of techniques, including (a) partnerships between public agencies which own open space lands and private and non-profit entities able to manage public access using fee revenues and volunteer community resources, (b) providing multi-use facilities where management and operating costs can be spread across a diverse mix of recreational activities, and (c) public financing for popular activities for which user fees are impractical or undesirable

Policy AG/LU-27: For the purposes of this General Plan, the terms “urbanized” or “urbanizing” shall include the subdivision, use, or development of any parcel of land for non-agricultural purposes. Engaging in nature-based recreation or agriculturally compatible uses that are permitted in the applicable zoning district without the issuance of a use permit, such as development of one single-family house and/or second unit on an existing legal lot, shall not be considered urbanizing.

Collectively, the maps, goals, policies, and action items contained within the Recreation and Open Space Element ensure that Napa County’s wealth of natural open spaces are increasingly protected and made accessible to residents and visitors, with scenic trails and bikeways connecting population centers to nature based parks, environmental education facilities, and regional trails.

Napa County defines Nature-Based Recreation as recreation which takes place in and around, and is significantly focused on, the natural environment, including but not limited to

walking, hiking, equestrian and mountain bicycle riding, camping in tents, recreational vehicles, and rustic cabins, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming in lakes and rivers, and paddling.

The federal plan for the lake focuses on improved public access, new visitor-serving accommodations, and diversification of the recreational activities from boating and fishing to hiking, biking, and paddling, with more emphasis on nature interpretation. Critical to the economic future of the **Lake Berryessa** are the quality of the new federal concessions to be opened within the next two years, developing facilities to support a new focus on nature-based recreation, improving public access to the thousands of acres of public land in the area, and protecting the natural resources that attract visitors, including the scenic views of the hills and ridges.

Goal E-4: Promote the Lake District (**Lake Berryessa** and Lake Hennessey) to residents and visitors as a destination for both water- and nature based recreation while protecting the lake and the natural resources, including the scenic views, as valuable economic assets along with local agriculture.

Policy E-20: Tourism at **Lake Berryessa** provides an opportunity to serve visitors to the lake and provide commercial opportunities that will benefit local residents and the county as a whole. The County encourages the expansion of visitor-serving uses at the lake in the locations shown on the Land Use Map and as described in the area-specific policies for Lake Berryessa in the Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Element.

Policy E-22: The County endorses the importance of visitor-serving, nature-based, public recreational facilities in appropriate locations, particularly those that improve access to public land and are consistent with protection of local natural resources and agriculture.

Policy ROS-15: Support the improvement and operation of **Lake Berryessa** as a year-round recreation area providing a balanced and hospitable environment for nature-based recreation and motorized boating.

Policy ROS-30: Other than at **Lake Berryessa**, recreational facilities should be designed and scaled to serve the needs of county residents, recognizing that facilities that serve local residents will also serve visitors, that visitors can help pay for the construction and operation of recreational facilities beneficial to residents, and that the provision of additional nature-based recreational opportunities is an important tool for achieving economic development goals while also reducing potential adverse impacts of tourism. In the case of Lake Berryessa, recreational facilities are understood to serve a broad regional market, but should nonetheless be designed to also serve the desire of Napa County residents for water- and nature-based recreation.

Policy AG/LU-35: The following standards shall apply to lands designated as Rural

Residential on the Land Use Map of this General Plan.

General Uses: Single-family dwellings, day care centers, large residential care homes, existing major medical care facilities (facilities licensed with a minimum of 100 beds), private schools, agriculture, stables (and others under specified conditions). In Capell Valley and **Lake Berryessa** Areas, tourist-serving commercial uses and mixed uses will also be allowed.

Policy AG/LU-43: Lands along the west bank of the Napa River south of the City of Napa and specific urban areas within four miles of the high water mark of **Lake Berryessa** are appropriate areas for marine commercial zoning and development.

Action Item AG/LU 43.1: Consider amendments to the Zoning Code to allow additional commercial, residential, and mixed uses in the areas currently zoned for commercial use in the Spanish Flat, Moskowitz Corners, and southern Pope Creek areas in order to complement recreation activities at **Lake Berryessa**.

LAKE BERRYESSA: MOSKOWITE CORNERS, POPE CREEK, AND SPANISH FLAT

Lake Berryessa is a 19,000-acre man-made lake dating from the 1950s. Together with the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east, the lake defines the character of much of eastern Napa County and provides its emphasis on recreation, rather than wine. The lake and a narrow shoreline band (28,000 acres total) are under the jurisdiction of the federal Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), while private properties in upland areas are within Napa County jurisdiction. Water from the lake primarily serves Solano County, but the lake's scenic and recreational values accrue to Napa County.

Mixed-Use Communities. Mixed-use communities west of the lake include Pope Creek, Spanish Flat, and Moskowitz Corners. All are rural in character and even the closest to the City of Napa, Moskowitz Corners, is remote by urban standards—at least a 30-minute drive from most services.

Pope Creek consists of a residential subdivision known as Berryessa Pines south of the Pope Creek bridge. Marine storage is the only commercial use in the area. The

Rancho Monticello Resort—along the shoreline nearby—is a concession area under BOR jurisdiction.

Spanish Flat consists of a residential subdivision, a mobile home park, and a small commercial enclave. Commercial services include two restaurants, self-storage, laundry, small gift shop, and boat storage facility. The Spanish Flat Resort—along the shoreline nearby—is a concession area under BOR jurisdiction. The Monticello Cemetery is also nearby. Moskowitz Corners is located at the intersection of Highway 128 and Highway 121 (Monticello Road) some distance from the lake, but anyone accessing the southern end of the lake

Berryessa Highlands is a large residential subdivision dating from the 1970s and has been only partially developed. A variety of housing styles pepper the hillside above the lake in an area that goes from rolling hills to steep slopes. The zoning is a combination of

Planned Development (PD) and Residential Country (RC). Water and sewer services are provided by the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District.

Policy AG/LU-69: Recognize the character of this community and the quality of the environment in the review of future development projects in the Berryessa Highlands area. All new subdivisions, use permits, and other discretionary actions shall conform to the General Plan Land Use Map and be reviewed to determine impacts and mitigations related to water quality, water availability, slope stability, habitat protection, and other environmental issues.

Policy AG/LU-70: The importance of views to residents shall be considered in the review and approval of new development. Hillside homes typical of Berryessa Highlands have views of Lake Berryessa. Where possible, existing views— particularly of Lake Berryessa —should be preserved.

Lake Berryessa Policies:

Policy AG/LU-78: Moskowite Corners lies at a critical crossroads and should be viewed as a staging area for the Lake Berryessa recreational area, with affordable housing for those who work in the area and services for residents and travelers. Moskowite Corners, with its winery and vineyards, should also be viewed as a link between Lake Berryessa communities and the viticultural economy of Napa Valley.

Policy AG/LU-79: Pope Creek should remain a mostly natural area, with lake view residences and limited commercial uses.

Policy AG/LU-80: Spanish Flat lies at the heart of the **Lake Berryessa** recreational area and should be viewed as its primary resort community, with affordable housing for those who work in the area and an attractive “village center” providing commercial services to locals and visitors.

Policy AG/LU-82: Targeted Re-Investments. If the County is successful at recouping the cost of services provided to concessionaires at **Lake Berryessa**, either through collection of transient occupancy taxes or in-lieu fees, a percentage of those funds should be invested in infrastructure and services benefiting communities within County jurisdiction at the lake.

Policy AG/LU-83: Removing Barriers. The County will seek to identify current barriers to economic development in the mixed-use communities near **Lake Berryessa** and identify ways to remove those barriers and encourage revitalization.

Policy AG/LU-84: Signs and Streetscape Improvements. Signs directing visitors to **Lake Berryessa** communities, signs announcing arrival in those communities, and streetscape improvements within the village centers of Spanish Flat and Moskowite Corners are all important to the identity and success of these communities.

Policy AG/LU-85: Infrastructure Needs. The County acknowledges that well maintained roads, modern energy transmission, and telecommunications infrastructure are critical ways to connect **lake communities** to the rest of Napa County.

Policy AG/LU-86: Trails. Hiking trails linking the communities of **Lake Berryessa** to the lake and to other visitor services shall be considered integral area amenities and be located appropriately to avoid impacts to residential areas.

Policy AG/LU-87: Small Business Assistance and Workforce Housing Development Assistance. County programs related to small business assistance, workforce development, and affordable housing development should be reviewed periodically to ensure they are effectively targeted to **lake** communities.

Policy AG/LU-88: Marketing. The County shall work with the **Lake Berryessa** Chamber of Commerce and others to ensure that the lake, its recreational amenities, and visitor services are included in marketing materials developed for the County as a whole.

In addition to agriculture, the other potential economic opportunity lies in the local federally owned lake and the scenic natural resources and the visitors they attract. This region, sometimes referred to as Napa's Lake District roughly includes some 155,000 acres of land. The focal point of the Lake District is the **Lake Berryessa** Recreation Area, a 19,000-acre lake formed by the development of Monticello Dam in 1957, including 9,000 acres of land around the lakeshore. Lake Berryessa draws some 1.4 million visitors per year⁷ who come to enjoy the lake, the scenery, and the recreational opportunities.

Policy E-9: The County recognizes the needs of residents in remote and outlying areas such as Angwin, Pope Valley, and **Lake Berryessa**, and encourages efforts to retain and attract local commercial services in these areas, in appropriate locations.

Policy E-20: Tourism at **Lake Berryessa** provides an opportunity to serve visitors to the lake and provide commercial opportunities that will benefit local residents and the county as a whole. The County encourages the expansion of visitor-serving uses at the lake in the locations shown on the Land Use Map and as described in the area-specific policies for **Lake Berryessa** in the Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Element.

goal in any resort redevelopment. All the bids received over the years, including recent ones from Sun Outdoors, Suntex Marinas (Pleasure Cove Marina), Camp Margaritaville Resorts, and Collective Retreats include strong commitments to environmental management and nature-based recreation.

Lake Berryessa has always been a perfect destination for nature-based recreation and has been known as such for many years. When I restarted the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce in 2005, we promoted nature-based recreation as a main reason to visit the lake. Bekow is our 2007 brochure which was distributed widely in the Sacramento-Bay Area region.

The Bureau of Reclamation has promoted nature-based recreation at Lake Berryessa for many years. It has an excellent series of informative brochures available for download at: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/media-library.html> which includes:

Photo Albums: Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Wild Flowers

Brochures: Bird Checklist, Fishing, Guide Snakes, Watchable Wildlife, Junior Ranger Activity Book

The best report ever written about Lake Berryessa's recreation potential, including nature-based recreation, is the Ragatz Report written in 2017 and available for download at the link below.

Lake Berryessa: An Untapped Resort Development Opportunity

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

Lake Berryessa itself, the five concession areas and the surrounding environs offer many unique and outstanding attributes, as discussed in the previous section – accessibility, size, extensive shoreline and surface area, beautiful scenery in a very natural setting, some of the best fishing in the state, large enough to offer both nature-based and motor-based activities without interference, and a wide array of family-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

The challenge and opportunity are to redevelop the five concession areas into resorts that more appropriately reflect the lifestyle of today's participants in outdoor recreation – higher quality, more variety, greater convenience, more nature-based (but not forgetting the ever-popularity of motor boats and RVs), more family-oriented, etc. If more care is given to these important trends, Lake Berryessa has the opportunity to: (1) become a significant year-round destination for the almost 10 million people in the PMA (Primary Market Area); (2) significantly impact the economy of Napa County; (3) be profitable to appropriately selected concessionaires; and (4) do so while maintaining and enhancing the natural environment.

WATER, WILDLIFE AND WINE

NESTLED BETWEEN BLUE RIDGE AND CEDAR Roughs, just 16 miles northeast of the city of Napa, Lake Berryessa and the surrounding area—the *Backroads of Napa*—offer year-round fun and recreation for all ages.

- Spectacular vistas
- Great fishing
- Award-winning wineries
- Miles of nature trails
- Quiet coves for kayaks and picnics
- Food and fun
- Warm summer water for swimming, boating, jet and water skiing

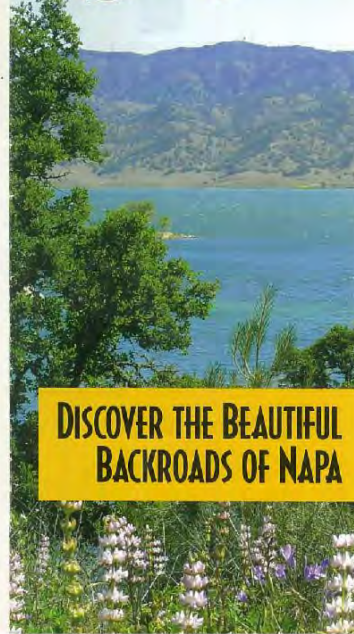
Lake Berryessa is one of the largest bodies of fresh water in California. It's approximately 26 miles long, 3 miles wide, with 165 miles of shoreline (that's more shoreline than Lake Tahoe!) Come and enjoy the waters of Lake Berryessa for boating, fishing, and swimming. Spend the day exploring the beauty of the area. Stay for a while at a lake front resort. Rent a houseboat. Taste award-winning wines. Enjoy dining at one of the local haunts.



Produced by the
Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce
www.lakeberryessachamber.com

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Lake Berryessa



**DISCOVER THE BEAUTIFUL
BACKROADS OF NAPA**

ADVENTURES AWAIT YOU AT LAKE BERRYESSA AND THE SURROUNDING VALLEYS

COME FOR THE DAY AND ENJOY A SCENIC DRIVE with a stop for food and wine. Or spend a day on the water swimming and boating. Better yet, plan to stay for a while at one of the lakeside resorts or at the bed and breakfast within a vineyard and ranch. There is something to entertain everyone.

WATER SPORTS, BOATING & FISHING

The best way to appreciate the lake is from the water. Launch your own boat, or rent from one of the lakeside resorts. The water is 75° warm in the summer, and the scenery is spectacular all year. You'll find many quiet coves to enjoy swimming and relaxation. Or take to the open water for tubing and skiing.



Bring your kayak or canoe and cruise along the shore or around one of several islands. There are a dozen different points around the lake with public access from the road for paddle launch.

The fishing at Lake Berryessa is rated as some of the best in the state. Anglers enjoy fishing for both cold and warm water species including bass, catfish, bluegill, rainbow trout, kokanee and crappie. Knowledgeable fishing guides are available year round. Contact the resorts for more information, or launch your boat at Capell Cove.

WILDLIFE & HIKING

Hike one of the trails around the lake and go bird watching to see osprey and bald eagles as they catch "the one that got away" from the angler in the boat. Look for nesting eagles in the fall and



winter months, along with geese, ducks, pelicans, loons, hawks and numerous other species throughout the year. You might also see fox, bobcat, mountain lion, or snakes. Information and maps are available at trailheads or the Bureau of Reclamation Visitors Center.

WINERIES

Leave the congested Napa Valley and visit our award-winning and historic local wineries. You'll discover why they have achieved cult status among discerning wine lovers. Stop by and you'll often get to speak directly with the wine makers and learn more about the local vintage and viticulture. Plus, be sure to take in the beauty of the surrounding oak-studded hills and acres of Napa's most spectacular agricultural land and open space.



LODGING & CAMPING

Overnight accommodations are available at most of the privately-managed resorts around Lake Berryessa. Each is unique in what is offered, but you'll find cabins, camping for RV's and tents, boat and jet ski rentals, bait and fishing licenses, marina services and gasoline, plus scenic views all around. If you prefer, there's a bed and breakfast tucked in the hills.

FOOD & DINING

Many of the resorts offer food service and convenience stores, but be sure to stop by one of the local restaurants for good food and fine wines of the area. Or pick up snacks and picnic supplies at one of the local stores. Then continue to enjoy the beauty and fun of the area.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

No matter how you access Lake Berryessa, you'll come through beautiful valleys. At the north is Pope Valley where you'll find the historic buildings of Aetna Springs, and Lito's Hubcap Ranch, California State Landmark No. 939. From the west you'll pass through Chiles Valley or Capell Valley. And from the southeast a must see destination is the Monticello Dam.

PUBLIC DAY USE FACILITIES

Lake Berryessa and the nearly 10,000 acres surrounding it are administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior. The BOR maintains three, free public day use facilities: Smittle Creek Park, Oak Shores Park, and Capell Cove Boat Ramp. The parks include picnic sites with BBQ grills, water fountains, restrooms, and miles of shoreline for swimming, fishing and observing nature.



To learn more about the area and for contact information visit the
Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce website:
www.lakeberryessachamber.com

Environmental Management at Lake Berryessa

by Peter Kilkus

Environmental Management has been a core requirement of every plan and bid prospectus for Lake Berryessa since the 1990s and before that in every plan proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation. I've been a strong (but rational) environmental quality proponent since I first read Rachel Carlson's 1962 classic book, *Silent Spring*. I was VP of Manufacturing and Quality Assurance at two cutting-edge digital communications companies in Novato and Petaluma. I led the successful registration of two of these

companies to the ISO 9000 international standards on quality management and quality assurance. As Mayor of San Anselmo I created our Quality of life Commission dedicated to improving the sustainability of all town activities.

Since I retired in 1998 I've focused my efforts on protecting and improving Lake Berryessa as a family recreation destination. When I restarted the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce in 2005, we promoted nature-based recreation as a main reason to visit the lake. I wrote the Environmental Management Program responses for three of the resorts during the several Bureau of Reclamation bid processes. I also led the successful registration of Rancho Monticello Resort to the international ISO 14000 standard, which specify requirements for establishing an environmental management policy, determining environmental impacts of products or services, planning environmental objectives, implementing programs to meet objectives, and conducting corrective action and management review. This standard can be applied to outdoor recreation companies as well.

There are a lot of "I"s in the above paragraphs. I apologize.

The reason I wrote it is to guarantee that people understand my commitment to environmental requirements, quality assurance, and customer service. I am seriously annoyed by the local environmental exclusionists who seem to think they are the only ones who are experts in this field and use scare tactics and misinformation to try to undermine the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program so important to the future of the Lake Berryessa community.

Below is a small part of the Environmental Management programs I wrote for Steele Park and Rancho Monticello.

If people wish to participate in a discussion of the future of Lake Berryessa and its political and natural history, they need to read. Many people ask me about the history of the process that led to the present situation at Lake Berryessa. When I explain what happened most become incredulous and can't believe the government could have done something so stupid. "How could they have gotten away with that?" they exclaim. A good question! When I start to explain they stop me and say, "Can you give me the 5-minute version?" The answer is no! If you care, you must read. If you wish to participate in discussions on Facebook or Nextdoor, you must read. If you wish to make informed public statements at a Napa supervisors meeting, you must read! Sorry.

You should read these books. This is not an advertisement; it is a recommendation. I make very little royalty on book sales. I wrote them to educate the public and guarantee no one forgets the facts of what happened out here. If you read these books, you will become an expert on most Lake Berryessa issues.

https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

The best must-read report about Lake Berryessa's recreation potential (including "nature-based") is still the Ragatz Report:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

The basic core documents are available for download at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-3/>

Environmental Policy, SP-002

Steele Park Resort's Environmental Policy is to be a responsible corporate citizen in protecting the environment in which we operate. Our core purpose is to create innovative and enriching recreational experiences for the general public in a sustainable environment.

We are committed to reducing the environmental impact of our activities upon the land and water resources of Lake Berryessa under our stewardship. To that end, Steele Park Resort is in the process of implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that meets the requirements of ISO 14001, the recognized international standard for environmental management systems.

Our business decisions balance economic viability with ecological responsibility by making a corporate commitment to continual improvement of our Environmental Management System and to the prevention of pollution. We reduce and recycle waste, conserve energy and water, educate our guests and employees on environmental stewardship, and promote the environmental education programs of local government agencies and environmental groups.

We also commit to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements appropriate to the environmental aspects of our operations. Our corporate goal is to meet or exceed those requirements where practicable using a formal process of continual improvement.

Our Environmental Policy provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets which are developed through a documented analysis of our environmental aspects and impacts. Environmental objectives, targets, and supporting programs will be managed as the primary method for implementing the continual improvement of our EMS and will incorporate the input of our various stakeholders.

Our EMS is documented, implemented and maintained through policies and procedures defined in our corporate EMS Manual. This EMS Manual and its contents will be communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of Steele Park Resort, and will be available to the public. Senior management is committed to promoting and reviewing the

Steele Park Resort Environmental Management System on a regular basis through program and process audit results reporting, with a formal Senior Management Review on an annual basis.

Rancho Monticello Resort Announces Compliance with the ISO 14000 International Environmental Standard

Rancho Monticello, the largest family-owned and operated resort at Lake Berryessa, has implemented an Environmental Management System meeting the requirements of ISO 14001, the internationally recognized environmental management standard being used by leading companies around the world.

Although Rancho Monticello has long been dedicated to protecting the Lake Berryessa environment and has received several letters of appreciation from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Napa County Sheriff for its lake clean-up efforts, meeting a stringent international environmental standard has additional benefits.

Butch White, President of Rancho Monticello Resort, stated, "Lake Berryessa is one of the cleanest lakes in Northern California. Implementing ISO 14001 is not only consistent with our internal business plan, it provides assurance to our customers and to the local community that we will continue to be leaders in the future development of environmentally-sustainable recreational opportunities at the lake.

Rancho Monticello's ISO 14001 compliance is the result of an intensive six month process in which every environmental impact of resort operations was analyzed in detail and a full operational audit performed. The resort was assisted in this process by Berryessa Environmental Management Systems, a local Lake Berryessa consulting firm owned by Peter Kilkus.

Procedures were updated, environmental objectives determined, and management programs developed or extended, including an Energy Efficiency Program, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, Resort Recycling Program, California Clean Marinas Program, and Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Design and Construction and Road Maintenance.

Bob White, Chief Financial Officer, is proud of both Rancho Monticello's commitment to the environment and its commitment to family recreation. "It is appropriate that we announce our compliance to ISO 14001 as part of Earth Day 2007 on April 22. We are not only an environmentally-friendly resort, we are the premiere family-friendly resort at the lake. From our decision to not use styrofoam cups to our implementation of wireless internet access on our Café deck, we are dedicated to meeting the evolving recreation desires of contemporary families."

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process Letters of Support

Every message you send should be copied to all the other supervisors too. Lake Berryessa is too important to the whole of Napa County. See the informational web pages for each supervisor at the links published below.

Lake Berryessa News, December 2023

Lake Berryessa Statistics: December 3, 2023

- Recent rainfall has brought season total at Monticello Dam to 2.46".
- The lake level has stabilized for the last week at 421.5' - 18.5' below Glory Hole.
- The dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract - 45 cfs (89 AF/day).
- Last year at this time the lake was at 394', 46' below Glory Hole.
- The Gamble Gauge is at 1,218,754 Acre-feet or 78.6% capacity.
- Lake water temperature is at about 57 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down with more significant mixing to 55 degrees at 70 feet and below. The lake appears to have almost hit "turnover".

If you wish to see hourly numbers on lake level, water temperature, and how much water is in the lake, you can go directly to:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

2024 is Almost Here And The New 24 For 24 Program Begins

The Lake Berryessa News Still Needs Your Support in 2024!

Thanks to those of you who donated in 2022 and 2023. We still need your support to continue our social media presence and publish the print version of the Lake Berryessa News in 2024. You'll notice a bit of inflation in my new request, as you've seen in all prices around you. I hope you'll stick with me despite the increase.

I challenge you to find any Lake Berryessa news anywhere. Hopefully the last few weeks of our intensive reporting about the latest Lake Berryessa issues will convince you of the truth of our motto, "Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa News".

The Lake Berryessa News has been around in one form or another since the 1970s. You can download searchable PDF files of it from 2005 to the present at <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/>. That web page also includes some very old fun-to-read editions from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

The Lake Berryessa News regular email newsletter is read by about 500 people per issue. Our Facebook page has 32,700 Followers. My Nextdoor Berryessa posts regularly reach another 500 or so local residents. I distribute 1,000 copies of the print version on my 150 mile paper route every month from April to September. (Yes, many people do still read, and like, stories written on paper!)

If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa), please send a donation check of \$24 (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 stick crinkly old cash in an envelope with your information and send it

to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My Venmo account is under @Peter-Kilkus, Paypal is Member #2051. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (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. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks, Peter



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-

Will the Real Margaritaville Please Stand Up!

by Peter Kilkus

if you follow the Lake Berryessa News you will have seen several stories you will not find on any other news outlet anywhere - not even in Napa County. As I continue to point out, without **The Lake Berryessa News**, there would be no Lake Berryessa news.

With the withdrawal of Sun Outdoors from its plan to revitalize Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area, Napa County reverted to the second Steele Canyon bidder in the last bid process, Camp Margaritaville Resorts. The real name of the bidder is not "Margaritaville". It is Camp Margaritaville Resorts which focuses on family camping and lodging, especially RV camping. Camp Margaritaville Resorts is a separate company from Margaritaville Resorts itself.

Unexpected opposition to the Camp Margaritaville Resort proposal arose at the Napa County Supervisors' meeting on November 7. There were no supporters of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program at this meeting because the item was on the consent agenda, and no one expected it to be removed for public comment. Even the county staff involved were not aware until just before the meeting that someone (still unknown) had removed the item from the consent agenda. But, a bit surprisingly, several individuals were already organized to oppose the original bid proposal. Their opposition was based on

misinformation and false assumptions bordering on scare tactics - focusing on the name Margaritaville, using it as a pejorative. But neither Camp Margarita Resorts, nor Margarita Resorts itself, is anything like what the project opponents tried to smear it as. It is not a wild party, heavy drinking, wet t-shirt kind of place like Cabo Wabo in Cabo San Lucas.

Another curiosity with the timing of the opponents' critiques is that attacks like this have not occurred against the recent proposals for the Sun Outdoors bid for Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat, the Pleasure Cove/Suntex bid for Berryessa Point, nor the Collective Retreats bid for Monticello Shores. Those bids were similar to the Camp Margaritaville bid. The opponents seem to have been reacting to the simple word "Margaritaville".

Having watched the meeting video more than once, I can affirm that Mr. Lederer, Ms. Sears, and the Camp Margaritaville representative Mr. Wilkens, did excellent jobs in answering all questions in detail, refuting every negative comment before they were made.

I recorded a closing statement at the meeting by Supervisor Pedroza completely contradicting the negative misinformation being spread by the naysayers. Supervisor Pedroza has consistently supported the Lake Berryessa community since he was first elected. I am hopeful that new Supervisor Cottrell will also be similarly supportive. Please watch it if you care about Lake Berryessa.

Supervisor Pedroza's statement is on YouTube:

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

The full Supervisors' Meeting (50 minutes) is on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/hWRUTrofZs?si=RUuNfZlZojZoeZiw>

The opponents are criticizing the two year old plan, even though that original plan is essentially moot. They are beating a dead horse with a stick. The actual plan is being redone now based on new financial and construction realities. At this time Camp Margaritaville is assembling its consultants to do the initial feasibility work to develop an improved plan for the resort. As before it will be consistent with the Managing Partner Agreement

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2020-Managing-Partner-Agreement.pdf>

and the 2006 ROD (renamed the VSP-ROD)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2006-Record-of-Decision.pdf>

The proposed master developer and concessionaire will be lake Berryessa Partners LLC whose Manager is Tim Wilkens. Mr. Wilkens is a long time Napa County resident who has been to Lake Berryessa many time during the last 30 years. He has local resort development experience in Napa County as well as experience in other areas of California and overseas. I spoke with Mr. Wilkens personally, and I believe the Camp Margarita Resort planning process will lead to a family recreation-oriented, environmentally friendly resort that Napa County can add to its list of major recreation attractions. As Mr. Wilkens points out, "All elements of our resort will be ADA compliant as well as meeting the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard for construction which is the world's most widely used green building rating system."

Some people raised the issue of the Napa County General Plan and its applicability to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa). Legally the General Plan has no jurisdiction over Lake Berryessa development since federal government owns the land on which the target resort redevelopment is occurring. But since the county signed a Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to take over management of the resorts at the lake and is now in charge of the future

redevelopment of those resorts, the Napa General Plan should, and will, inform the planning for the new resorts. My conclusion is that the general plan does not conflict with nor contradict the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program. It actually supports the resort planning goals.

My report on "Lake Berryessa and the Napa General Plan" is available at the following link:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Special-Reports/Lake-Berryessa-and-the-Napa-General-Plan.pdf>

Opponents of Lake Berryessa revitalization misuse the term "nature-based recreation". The Napa County General Plan defines Nature-Based Recreation as recreation which takes place in and around, and is significantly focused on, the natural environment, including but not limited to walking, hiking, equestrian and mountain bicycle riding, camping in tents, recreational vehicles, and rustic cabins, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming in lakes and rivers, and paddling.

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program includes nature-based recreation as a key goal in any resort redevelopment. All the bids received over the years, including recent ones from Sun Outdoors, Suntex Marinas (Pleasure Cove Marina), Camp Margaritaville Resorts, and Collective Retreats include strong commitments to environmental management and nature-based recreation. Lake Berryessa has always been a perfect destination for nature-based recreation and has been known as such for many years.

My report, "Nature-Based Recreation at Lake Berryessa" is available at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Special-Reports/Nature-Based-Recreation-at-Lake-Berryessa.pdf>

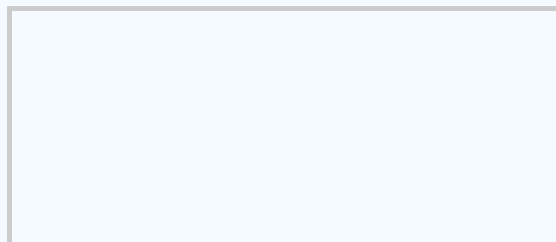
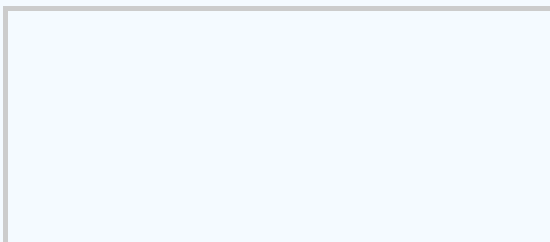
Here's modest proposal (with apologies to Jonathan Swift). If people wish to participate in a discussion of the future of Lake Berryessa and its political and natural history, they need to read. One of my favorite sayings is, "I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you." Many people ask me about the history of the process that led to the present situation at Lake Berryessa. When I explain what happened most become incredulous and can't believe the government could have done something so stupid. "How could they have gotten away with that?" they exclaim. A good question!

When I start to explain they stop me and say, "Can you give me the 5-minute version?" The answer is no!

If you care, you must read! If you wish to participate in discussions on Facebook or Nextdoor, you must read! If you wish to write letters to the supervisors or letters to the editor of local news organizations, you must read! If you wish to make informed public statements at a Napa supervisors meeting, you must read!

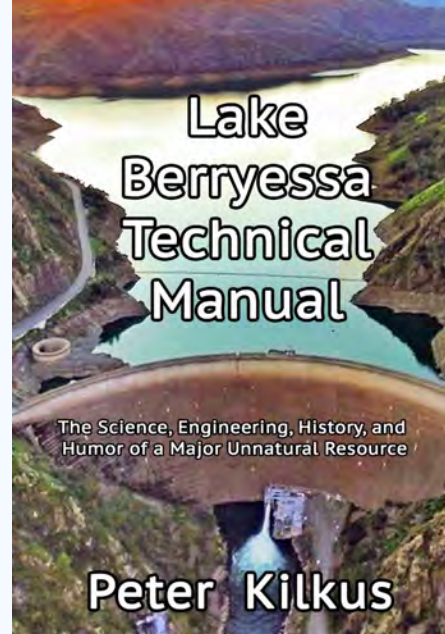
Sorry.

You should read these books. This is not an advertisement; it is a recommendation. I make very little royalty on book sales. I wrote them to educate the public and to guarantee no one forgets the facts of what happened out here at the lake. If you read these books, you will become an expert on most Lake Berryessa issues.





[https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1)
[dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&qid=1604774826&sr=8-1)



https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

Woodpeckers Are Instinctually Clever!

Lake Berryessa residents, and many others across the region, know how annoying and damaging the pretty local red-headed woodpeckers can be. They peck at our houses and cause holes in our walls through which they can drop acorns for their future food supply. It's always amusing to see one holding on to a plastic vent pipe coming out of our roof and pecking at it furiously. But recently Associate Editor Evan Kilkus discovered how "clever" they can be when he noticed a woodpecker standing on our barbecue with an acorn in its beak. Here is a series of photos showing a "genius" woodpecker at work. This is funny enough for a caption contest.





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December Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Don't trust anyone today. Stay inside until today is all

Libra (9/23-10/22): Clutching your heart and complaining that your arm

over and done with. Don't trust this horoscope either. Just don't - okay?

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): God may try to speak to you today through a kitchen appliance.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): One of the things you've always liked about life is how seemingly lucky you are. Expect big changes this week

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Telephone salesmen may come through for you this week and finally offer you something useful and at a decent price.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Try to absorb plants into your skin in order to make yourself into some kind of Marvel Super Hero.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): If you never liked sprouts before, try them again. Your tastes may have changed.

hurts is quite a mean thing to do when trapped in a lift for 2 hours.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): The newspaper will become a source of great amusement this week as an article tickles your fancy in almost every way.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): You've got as much right as anyone to stamp your feet and demand retribution

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Always meet people you met on the internet in a dark place, preferably a graveyard or a disco.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Don't trust anyone today. Stay inside until today is all over and done with. Don't trust this horoscope either.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Many of your feelings can be expressed in the form of haikus. However, you'll be lucky if you can find anyone who gives a flying hoot, or who actually finds them impressive in any way.

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Build Your Lake Home Now!

**1140 & 1144 Steele Canyon Road - Lot 126 & 127 ~ APN#'s - 019-452-001 & 002 ~ Seller wants to sell both lots as one package. Both lots have the water/sewer assessment - see property tax bills for amounts. Lot 126 is 1144 Steele Canyon & is .3796 Lot 127 is 1140 Steele Canyon & is .3494 - \$94K

**1122 Rimrock Road - APN#019-382-007-000 ~ Lot 146 ~ Approx. .2605 of an Acre ~ Views ~ \$59,900

**253 & 259 Sugarloaf - APN# 019-322-004 lot #50 Approx. .53 of an Acre ~ APN# 019-

322-003 lot #51 Approx. .37 of an Acre for a TOTAL of .9 of an Acre ~ Parcels to be SOLD TOGETHER! for \$175K total (Spanish Flat Woodlands) - Water hook up paid for one parcel.

** 1013 Arroyo Lindo ~ \$89,000 ~ 019-441-004 ~ Approx. .224 of an Acre ~ Mostly Flat then upslope

** 208 Manzanita Lane ~ \$139,000 ~ APN#019-381-002 ~ Approx. .2466 of an Acre ~ Lake View ~ Downslope ~ Prior home was a 3Bedroom/2 Bath Approx. 1144 Sq. Ft. Single Story with a 1 Car Garage

** 1102 Arroyo Grande Drive - \$48,999 ~ APN# 019-461-025-000 ~ Approx. .32 of an Acre ~ Flat then upslope - end of a cul de sac - backs up to open space on 2 sides. Private

** 814 Bahia Vista Court ~ \$79,000 ~ APN# 019-451-004 ~ Approx. .32 of an Acre ~ Lake View, flat then downslope ~

** 1014 Arroyo Linda Court ~ \$49,000 ~ APN# 019-441-017 ~ Approx. .2123 of an Acre ~ Flat then downslope.

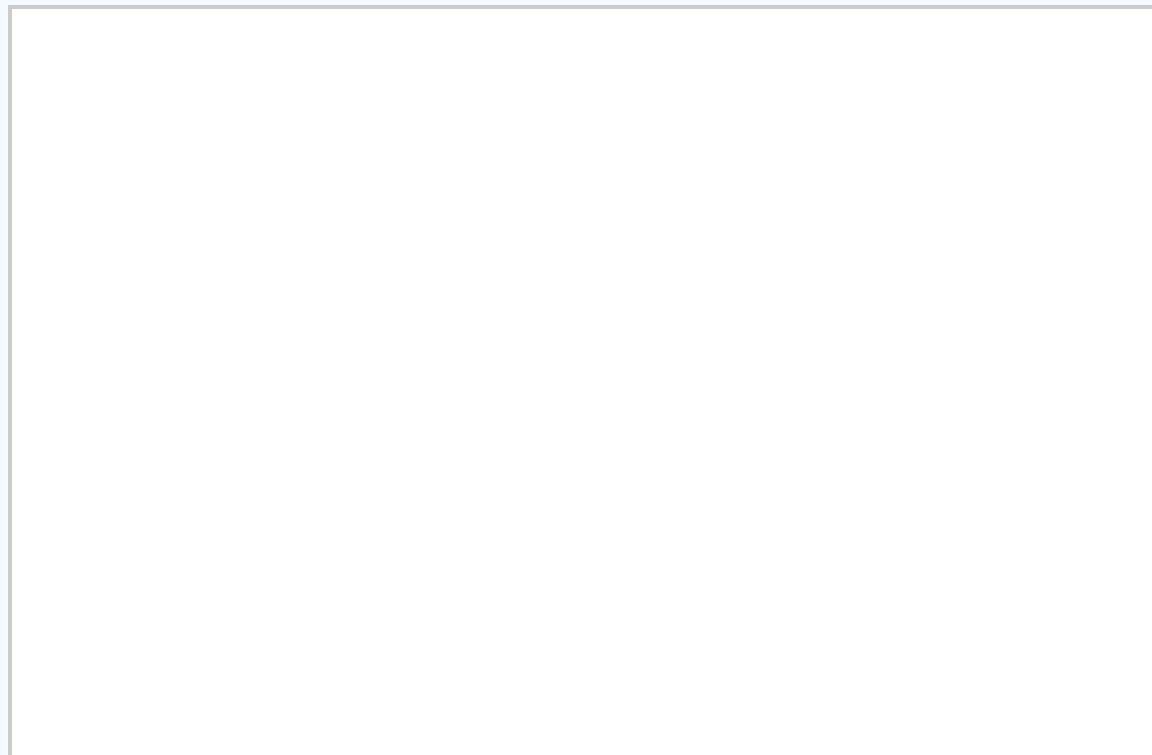
**1057 Arroyo Grande Dr. ~ \$185,000 ~ APN# 019-462-028 ~ Approx. .5397 of an Acre ! This parcel had 2 homes - 2 foundations/decorative retaining wall and services remain.

** 1121 Steele Canyon ` \$48K APN# 019-442-004 - flat then downslope Approx. .31 of an Acre

**1119 Headlands Drive - \$95K APN# 019-501-004 ` mostly flat - views. Approx. .27 of a Acre -

**1032 Eastridge - \$140,000 - APN# 019-494-003 - flat then downslope, lake views, Approx. .31 of an Acre - Temp power connected - landscaped patio and partial fencing

**1131 Headlands - \$90,000 APN#019-501-007 - mostly level - lake views, approx. .33 of an acre - driveway, fountains, patios, remain



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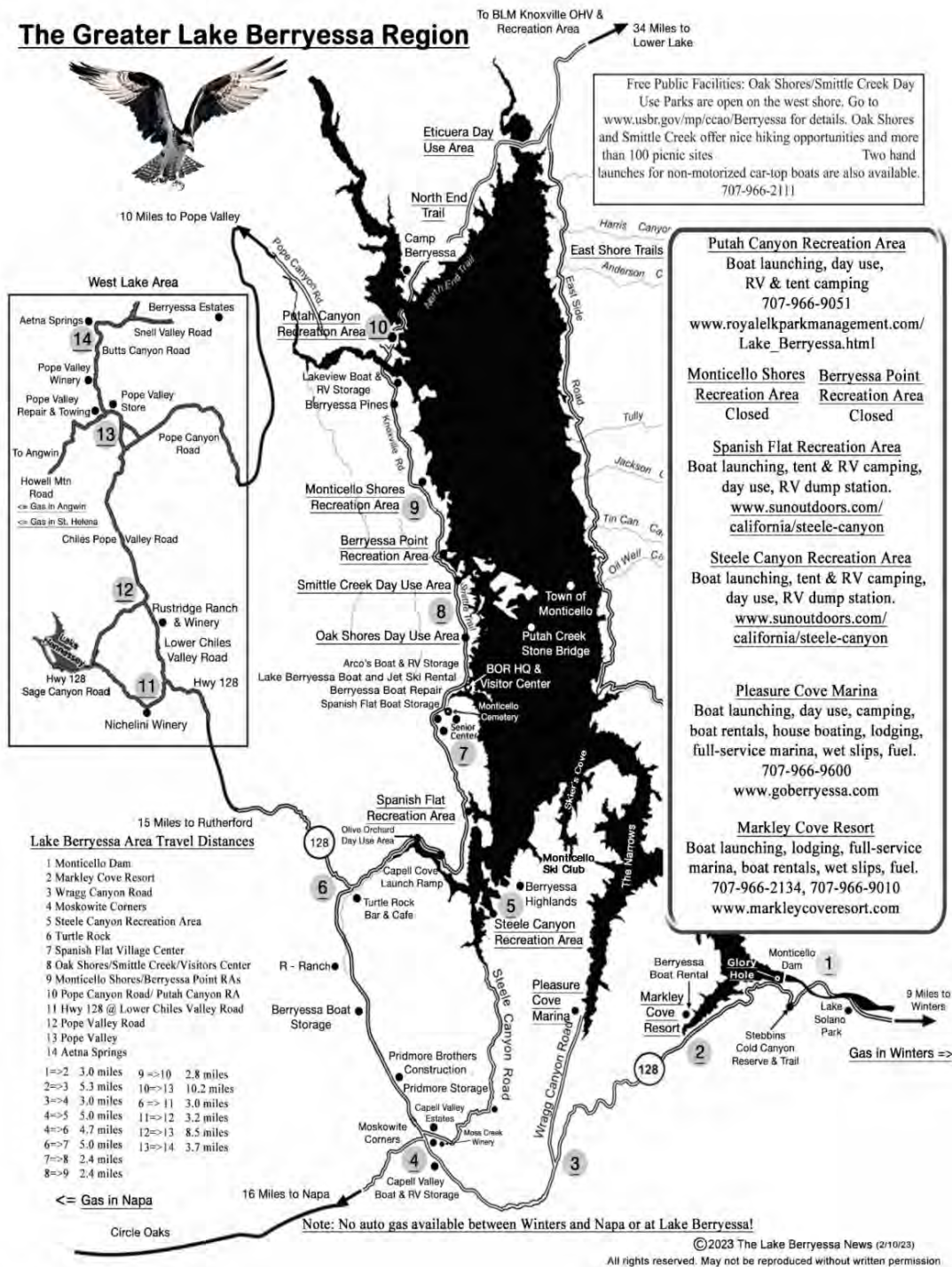
YAMAHA

VOLVO
PENTA



Updated Lake Berryessa Map (March 1, 2023)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



The Lake Berryessa News | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558

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Lake Berryessa News, December 10, 2023

Lake Berryessa Statistics: December 10, 2023

- Recent rainfall has brought season total at Monticello Dam to 2.72".
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Warning: Sorry, I'll have to keep posting this for a while until we hit our goal.

Sincere thanks to those who have already donated.

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Your decision to support the Lake Berryessa News will show your vote of confidence in the future of the Lake Berryessa community. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks, Peter

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program:
Consolidated Report of Public Support

by Peter Kilkus, (12/10/23)

It's difficult to judge the real support for or opposition to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program without some data. I can tell you that it has overwhelming support from local Lake Berryessa residents and actual lake users, but why should you believe me? If you see a few opponents speak before the Napa supervisors but no supporters show up, does it mean anything? Generally, opponents to proposals try to influence an outcome by speaking loud and often, even if they are relatively small in number.

But also, generally, a supervisor, city or town councilmember, or board commissioner who is diligently doing their job is not overly influenced by speakers at a public meeting. They will have already reviewed the issue in detail with their staff, consulted knowledgeable experts, spoken to constituents, and possibly visited the site of any controversial proposal. I know this because I did it myself, as did my colleagues on the San Anselmo Town Council, back at the "beginning of the 21st century."

Without a formal opinion survey, the number of letters, emails, and phone calls can give an elected official a sense of the community's feelings, which is why the Lake Berryessa News urges its readers and Lake Berryessa users to send letters and emails to the Napa County supervisors in support of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program.

But there is another unscientific way to judge community support - social media. There are several social media sources accessible to local folks and other Lake Berryessa lovers:

The Lake Berryessa News website: www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

The Lake Berryessa News Facebook page:

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

The Lake Berryessa Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231107393758315>

Nextdoor Berryessa: https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/

The Lake Berryessa News Email Newsletter: Provide your email address to
pkilkus@gmail.com to join.

The Lake Berryessa News publisher: pkilkus@gmail.com

Since the surprise minor opposition to the Camp Margaritaville Resort proposal for Steele Canyon Recreation Area (formerly Steele Park Resort) at the November 7th supervisors' meeting, I've been posting informational reports on all the Lake Berryessa News social media platforms. The comments and emails in response have been overwhelmingly positive.

As an example, using Nextdoor Berryessa, which is quite local and is predominantly focused on the Berryessa Highlands right above the Steele Canyon Recreation Area:

Dec. 5, 2023: The Great Boathouse Restaurant at Steele Park - The "Cheers" of the Berryessa Highlands, 1,500 views - 50 comments, 40 positive or supportive, 10 negative - all 10 negative comments by the same person. Other Nextdoor posts followed the same pattern.

Dec. 5, 2023: [Will the Real Margaritaville Please Stand Up!](#) - 907 views

Nov. 26, 2023: [Environmental Management at Lake Berryessa](#) - 1,100 views

Nov. 26, 2023: [Nature-Based Recreation at Lake Berryessa](#) - 589 views

Nov. 25, 2023: [Lake Berryessa Revitalization and the Napa General Plan](#) - 1,000 views

The Facebook posts also show that support for the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program and the Camp Margaritaville proposal for Steele Canyon Recreation Area is overwhelmingly positive.

Lake Berryessa News Facebook:

The Great Boathouse Restaurant at Steele Park - The "Cheers" of the Berryessa Highlands:

3,714 Engagements, 66 comments - 58 positive, 8 informational, 0 negative

Lake Berryessa Facebook group: The Great Boathouse Restaurant at Steele Park - The "Cheers" of the Berryessa Highlands:

72 comments, 55 positive, 17 informational, 0 negative

There have been a few negative comments on Nextdoor, most of them from a single individual in the Berryessa Highlands, and some misinformation spread about. But responses to my newsletter and direct email messages to me confirm the overwhelming

level of support for "Renaissance Lake Berryessa".

Below are a few of the many support comments:

I have great memories of all of the resorts at the lake. And great sadness that my children and grandchildren have not gotten to experience it.

I'm so glad I grew up on the lake in the 80's and 90's before it got ruined. Thankful my parents had a place up there. So much fun! It's just not the same... I feel for my kids

Thank you for sharing stories! I'm new to the Highlands and love learning about my new home. I have kids here and would love to see something go in that would be a place for them to enjoy growing up.

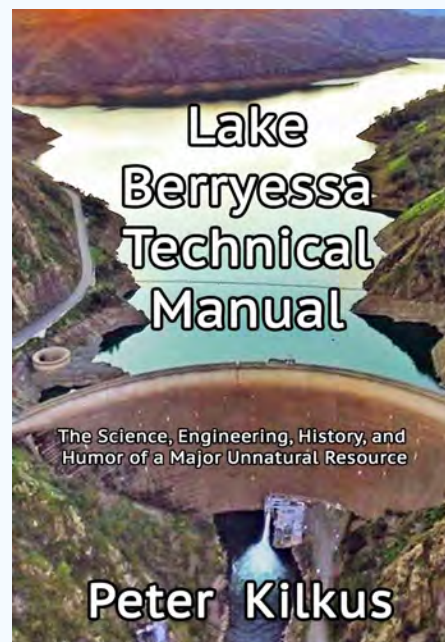
I can only imagine how nice it must have been. Hope things get turned around. Lake Berryessa is indeed a beautiful place.

Thank you for the photos telling the story of how vibrant the lake once was and how it could be again

I lived and worked at Lake Berryessa for 20 years from 1984 to 2003 when all the resorts were still open. I had the time of my life at the Lake and memories to last forever. Steele Park was one of my favorite places sitting in the Captain's Lounge at sunset and watching the Blue Ridge turn pink.



[https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=peter+kilkus&q)



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Lake Berryessa's Jumping Rock: A Darwinian Self-Test?

by Peter Kilkus

When I recently posted links to the updated photo section on my Lake Berryessa website, I attached a few photos as examples. One picture from 2010 showed a person in mid-flight who just had jumped from the infamous Jumping Rock. The photo received a number of responses describing the accidents that had occurred over the years. I had always wondered why the Bureau of Reclamation had not put up any warning signs or fencing at that location. One sign including the statements below might help.

The physics of the jump is enlightening. The acceleration of gravity is 32 feet per second per second. This means that when someone jumps, after one second, they have fallen 32 feet and are moving at 32 feet per second or 22 miles per hour. But the height of the rock is about 50 feet depending on lake level. So, it would have taken less than 2 seconds to hit. This still means that the person would hit the water going more than 30 miles per hour. That's a big hit, especially if they are in the wrong position.

Copied below are actual comments:

In July 2006 a rock jumper who died was Iraq war veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Marine. He jumped and landed sideways in the water and did not surface.

My uncle drowned jumping off a rock at Berryessa. About 20 years later I had a cousin who also drowned jumping off the same rock at Berryessa. I also had a friend paralyzed from jumping off the rock. Rock jumping at Berryessa is incredibly dangerous and should not be allowed.

Knew a mom of a teen who jumped off and was killed. What unimaginable grief.

That rock is why I have to have injections and surgery on my back. I definitely regret jumping off it.

My very good friend broke his neck jumping off that rock...I was his pallbearer 50yrs later...he was never the same...this shouldn't be promoted ever.

I can still remember the pain of landing incorrectly in the water.

I had a high school chum paralyzed for life.

I lost my older son at Havasu-he landed flat on the water-crushing his chest and breaking his neck. I hate seeing this picture of someone jumping!

I had a friend from Vacaville who jumped from the rock and drowned. It is not safe to do - stay alive by not doing it.

When I jumped, I didn't land right - I hurt for a few months.

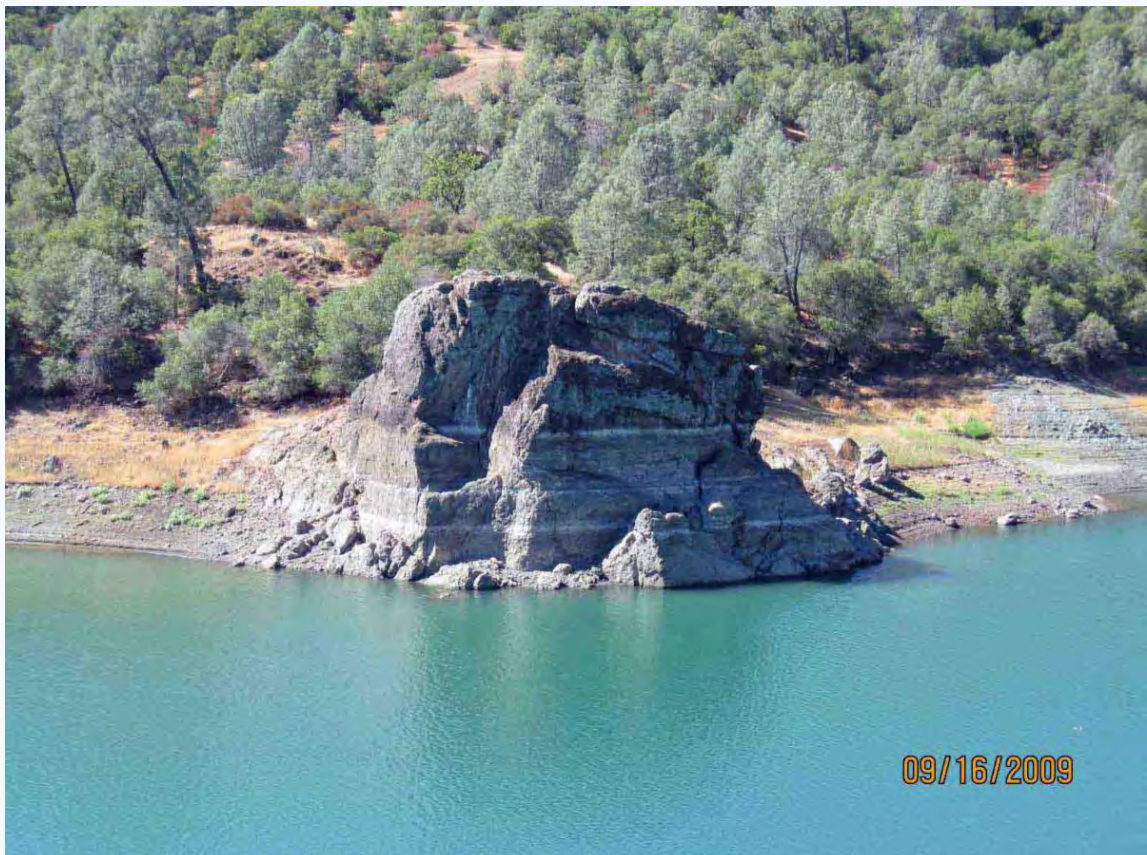
It was cool watching them jumping of the rock, wasn't so cool when they didn't come back up !!

I was at the lake years ago when a girl shattered her leg on a hidden rock.

I witnessed a guy die when he leaned over the edge to ask how deep the water was and fell over the edge onto his back on those rocks then plopped into the water. He was dead by the time he hit the water. He was life-flighted out but, unfortunately, he was deceased.



Jumping Rock Jumper: September 2010



09/16/2009



The recent discussions of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program have focused on the Camp Margarita Resorts proposal to rebuild a family-oriented, environmentally-friendly, nature-based recreation destination at the Steele Canyon Recreation Area (formerly Steele Park Resort). I thought it would be appropriate to reprint a 2013 Lake Berryessa News article for context.

Feds Final Folly: The Destruction of Steele Park Resort

(The Lake Berryessa News, February 2013)

by Peter Kilkus

Public Law 96-375's unintended destructive consequences become visible. As the Bureau of Reclamation's Katrina-like process at Lake Berryessa lurches on to an unknown resolution, local residents and previous lake recreation users are fed up with the Feds. This was made clear to Supervisor Diane Dillon at the latest Berryessa Highlands community meeting. Both Supervisor Dillon and Congressman Mike Thompson are clearly frustrated by their apparent helplessness to do anything about Reclamation's lack of progress in signing the new contract for the five major west shore resorts. The Steele Park Resort contract is especially important since it has a major impact on the water and sewer rates for Berryessa Highlands residents.

Four of the resorts have been closed since the middle of last summer. Steele Park is shutting down soon and will be demolished during the next nine months. The Pensus Group was chosen last May to manage these five resorts, but Reclamation has been unable to finalize a contract with them since that time. In several public statements, Reclamation claimed that there would be a smooth transition and recreation services would be only minimally affected as the resorts were all upgraded and improved. Tragically, this has not happened, although the Reclamation refrain has remained, "We are making good progress and expect the contract to be signed soon." The first such statement was made in May 2008 and last publicly stated deadline expired last week with no action.

Why did this happen? Follow the money. The table below gives the annual revenue of each of the five Pensus-designated resorts as well as its appraised value. These figures are from public documents that were part of the bid process. Under normal circumstances in the transition of a business ownership, the new owner would pay the previous owner fair-market value for its permanent facilities as well as for other property and equipment it might want to keep. This approach is actually codified in Public Law 96-375: "...if a new concessionaire assumes operation of the concession, require that new concessionaire to pay fair value for the permanent facilities to the existing concessionaire."

But this would mean that the entry cost for any new concessionaire would be \$32M. They would then have to make major capital improvements costing tens of millions more. And all this for resorts that had only produced a previous GROSS annual revenue stream of about \$12M. At least \$4M of that revenue had been rental payments from the long-term mobile home owners - essentially pure profit since the resorts provided almost no services to those tenants. See Table below.

Not only would any new owners be faced with a major capital investment program, but at the same time 37% of their pure profit was also eliminated. This is a tough financial nut to crack during a contract term set by Reclamation of only 30 years.

Reclamation's solution to this dilemma was to re-interpret Public Law 96-375 and, despite its own appraisal, declare the present facilities of no value to the incoming concessionaire, and require the present resort owners to remove or demolish everything, including restaurants, motels, launch ramps, roads - back to bare ground.

In a May 19, 2008, letter Reclamation stated: "Based upon evaluation of the successful proposal and subsequent confirmation with the successful offeror, The Pensus Group LLC, Reclamation has determined that all permanent facilities in your Resort concession area must be removed by the end of the concession contract." Of course, since this was impossible to accomplish by the end of contracts, which expired for some resorts in only two months, Reclamation asked for a demolition plan. At least one submitted plan gave a timeframe for completion of many years.

The fallout from this debacle has been very damaging to the local Lake Berryessa community. The resorts provided hundreds of jobs. Steele Park Resort had a payroll of 50 people during its summer operations. When Steele Park essentially ceased most operations at the end of last year, Capell Valley Elementary School lost about 10 students, bringing its enrollment to less than 50 students. The Napa Valley Unified School District is preparing to close the local school and bus the children to the City of Napa every day.

But the closures also impacted many local and other Napa County businesses. Favorite restaurants have lost 40% of their business. Local service businesses have also lost 30%-40%, some up to 50% of their revenue. Just one closed resort, Rancho Monticello, has eliminated approximately \$500,000 worth of purchases from local and regional suppliers annually. This doesn't include the loss to Reclamation of \$105,000 per year in franchise fees from the resort.

The real tragedy is that none of this ever had to happen. During the controversial

government process that led up to the present situation, several common-sense plans were proposed, LBVSPT A+ and the Resort Operators Plan, which would have accomplished the goals of improving all the resorts without destroying them first. At least one of the bidders for the new concessions, the Lago Group, a consortium of present concession owners and local business people, would have kept these five resorts open. But their bid was apparently disqualified on a technicality.

Steele Park Resort was arguably the best resort on the lake. It has one of the best views from its older but well-kept restaurant. The mobile homes blended with the environment with their subdued "Steele Park grey" mandatory color. They were well-maintained with expensive interior upgrades - some selling for up to \$100,000 only 5 years ago. Their owners would have given them to the new concessionaire for free to be used as upscale short-term rentals under the new contract. Instead, mobile home owners are paying \$3,000 to \$5,000 to demolish them and the demolition continues at a swift pace. Once again real people's lives and livelihood have been seriously damaged - with no end in sight.





Resort	Annual Gross Revenue	Reclamation Appraised Value	Mobile Home Revenue	Mobiles: % of Total Revenue
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%
Total	\$12.61M	\$32.32	\$4.68M	37%

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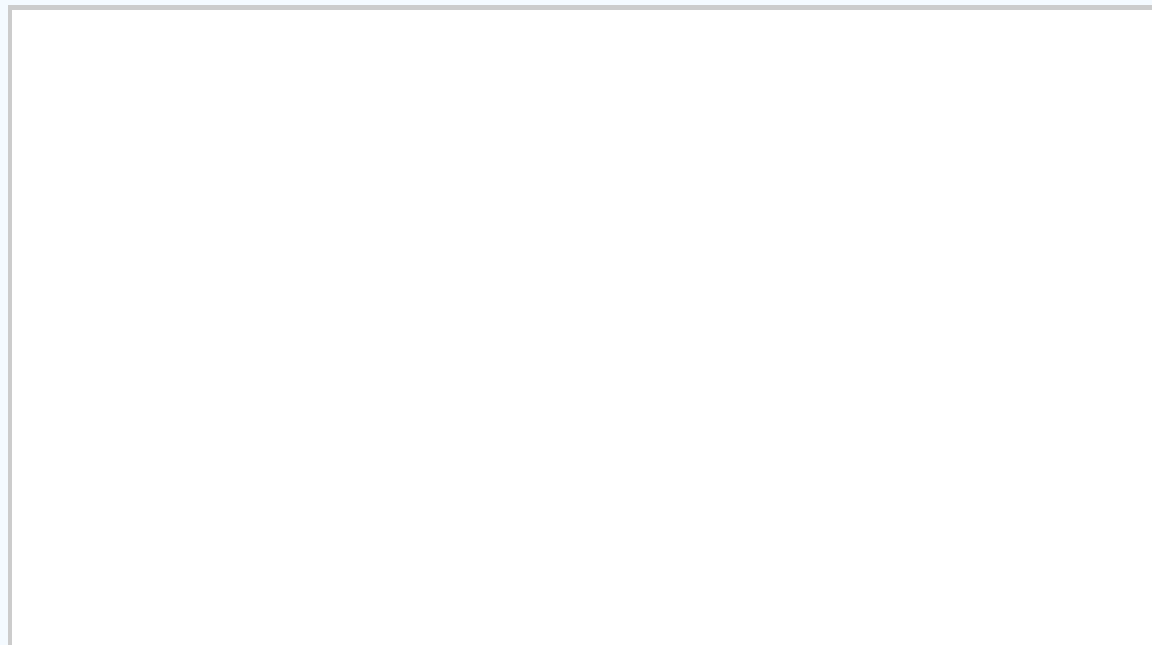
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** 1121 Steele Canyon ` \$48K APN# 019-442-004 - flat then downslope Approx. .31 of an Acre

**1119 Headlands Drive - \$95K APN# 019-501-004 ` mostly flat - views. Approx. .27 of a Acre -

**1032 Eastridge - \$140,000 - APN# 019-494-003 - flat then downslope, lake views, Approx. .31 of an Acre - Temp power connected - landscaped patio and partial fencing

**1131 Headlands - \$90,000 APN#019-501-007 - mostly level - lake views, approx. .33 of an acre - driveway, fountains, patios, remain



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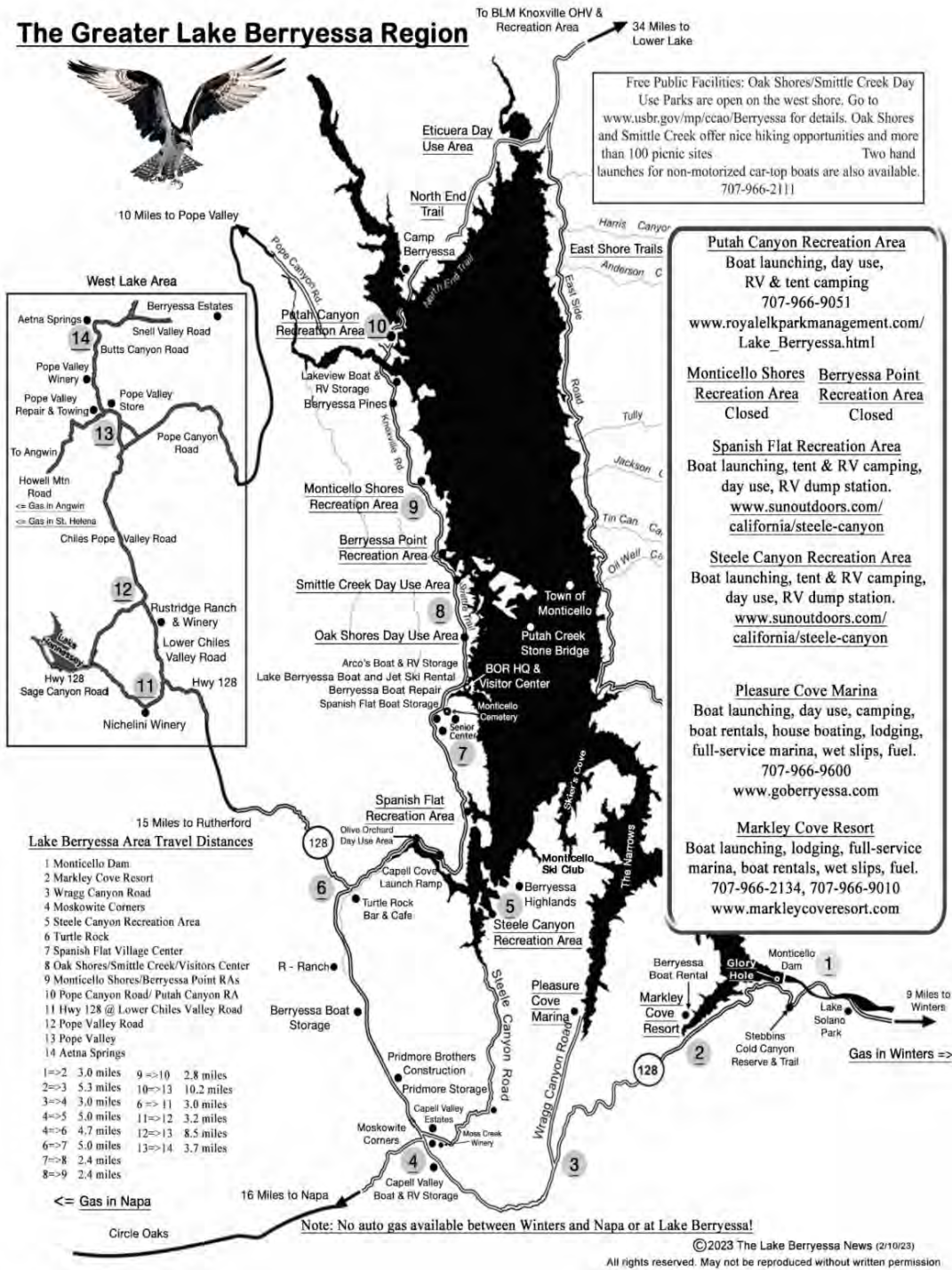
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (March 1, 2023)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



The Lake Berryessa News | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558

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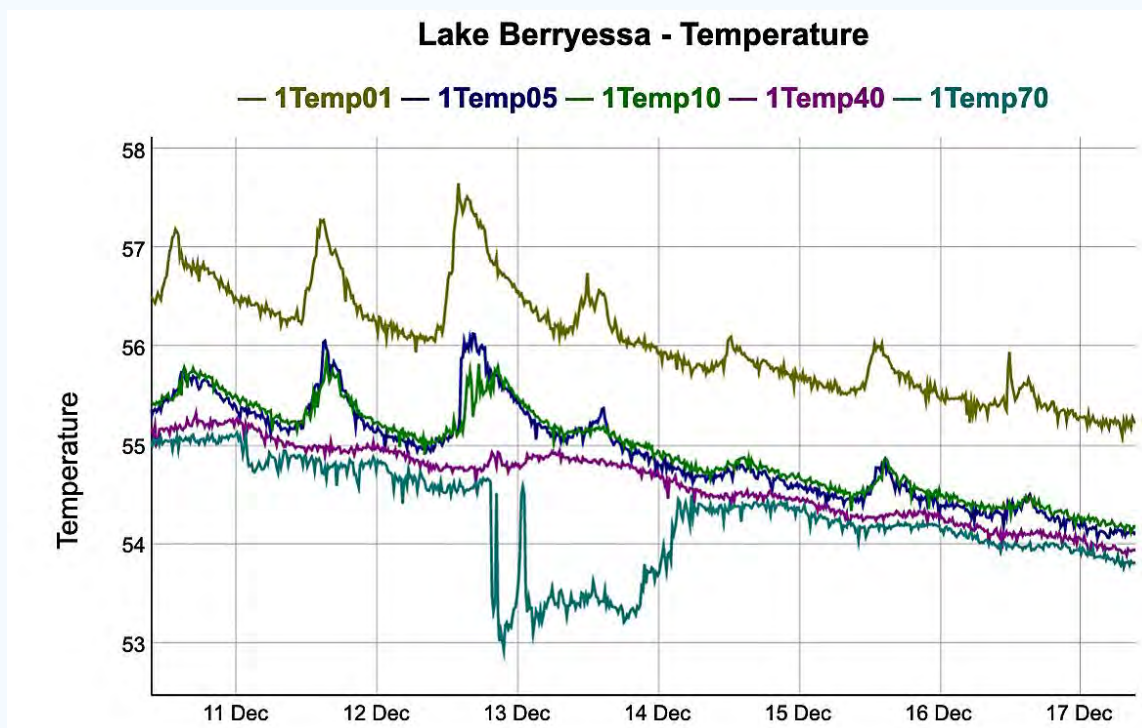
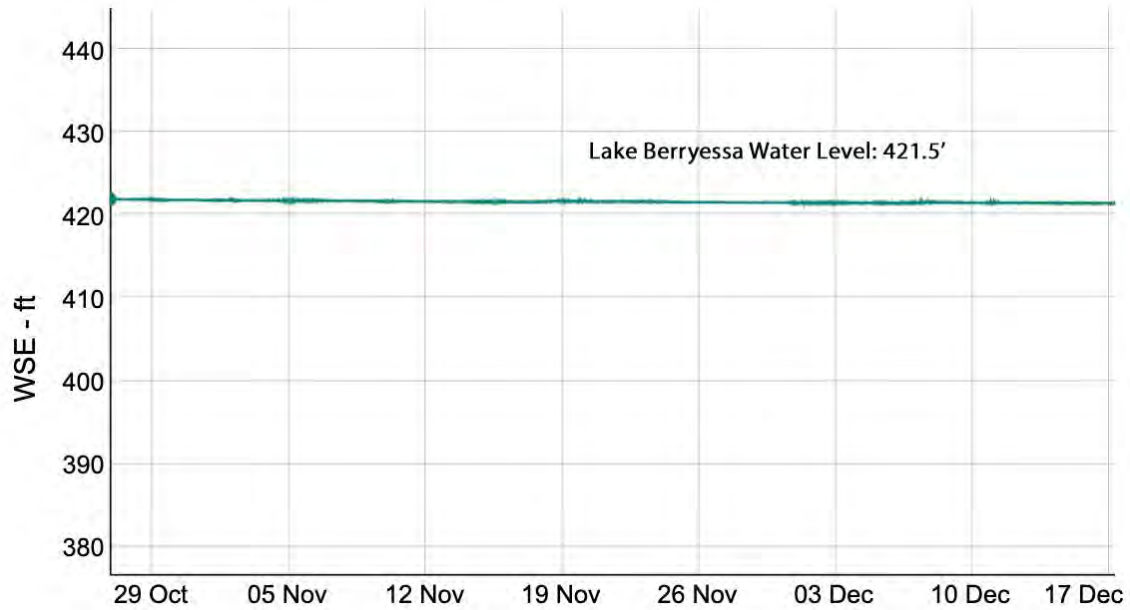


Lake Berryessa Statistics: December 17, 2023

- Recent rainfall has brought season total at Monticello Dam to 2.72".
- The level has stabilized for the last three weeks at 421.5' - 18.5' below Glory Hole.
- The dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract - 45 cfs (89 AF/day).
- Last year at this time the lake was at 395'.5', 44.6' below Glory Hole.
- The Gamble Gauge is at 1,218,103 Acre-feet or 78.5% capacity.
- Lake water temperature is at about 54.5 degrees from the surface to the bottom. The lake appears to have completer "turnover".

If you wish to see hourly numbers on lake level, water temperature, and how much water is in the lake, you can go directly to:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>





Warning: Sorry, I'll have to keep posting this for a while until we hit our goal.
Sincere thanks to those who have already donated.

2024 is Almost Here And The New 24 For 24 Program Begins
The Lake Berryessa News Still Needs Your Support in 2024!

Thanks to those of you who donated in 2022 and 2023. We still need your support to continue our social media presence and publish the print version of the Lake Berryessa News in 2024. You'll notice a bit of inflation in my new request, as you've seen in all prices around you. I hope you'll stick with me despite the increase.

I challenge you to find any Lake Berryessa news anywhere. Hopefully the last few weeks of our intensive reporting about the latest Lake Berryessa issues will convince you of the truth of our motto, "Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa News".

The Lake Berryessa News has been around in one form or another since the 1970s. You can download searchable PDF files of it from 2005 to the present at <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/>. That web page also includes some very old fun-to-read editions from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

The Lake Berryessa News regular email newsletter is read by about 500 people per issue. Our Facebook page has 32,700 Followers. My Nextdoor Berryessa posts regularly reach another 500 or so local residents. I distribute 1,000 copies of the print version on my 150 mile paper route every month from April to September. (Yes, many people do still read, and like, stories written on paper!)

If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa), please send a donation check of \$24 (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 stick crinkly old cash in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My Venmo account is under @Peter-Kilkus, Paypal is Member #2051. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (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. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks, Peter



The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Defined

[Click here for Great short drone video of South Lake Berryessa](#)

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program, also known colloquially as "Renaissance Lake Berryessa", describes a process for rebuilding the Lake Berryessa resorts, five of which were demolished by the Bureau of Reclamation in 2009. Although there is no formal government program with this name, this is a de facto (definition: a legal concept used to refer to what happens in reality or in practice) program (definition: a set of related measures or activities with a particular long-term aim) with only positive outcomes for the Lake Berryessa community. This program has a set of goals, a detailed plan with timelines, and a Program Manager (Napa County Concessions Manager). The actual revitalization process is based on four core documents:

1. Visitor Services Plan - Record of Decision for Future Recreation Use and Operations of Lake Berryessa (VSP-ROD,2006)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2006-Record-of-Decision.pdf>

2. The Ragatz Report: Lake Berryessa An Untapped Resort Development Opportunity (2017)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

3. Managing Partner Agreement Between the United States of America and Napa County for the Administration, Operation, Maintenance and Development of Recreation Uses and Facilities at Lake Berryessa Area Project Lands (2020)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2020-Managing-Partner-Agreement.pdf>

4. Napa County Request for Proposals (November 24, 2020)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/Napa-County-Request-for-Proposal-2020.pdf>

Visitor Services Plan - Record of Decision: The first key document provides the Bureau of Reclamation's guidelines for future recreation develop at Lake Berryessa. Any new resort development will be required to meet these basic guidelines.

"Recreation Program Management. The following principles and actions will be used to guide and manage recreation activities at Lake Berryessa: To the extent practicable, Government and commercial recreation operations at Lake Berryessa will be developed, implemented, and managed on an integrated, lake-wide basis to (1) provide the widest practical spectrum of recreation experience for the visiting public, (2) preserve and protect natural resources in and around the lake, (3) promote the safety and security of people and facilities, (4) support the economic goals of surrounding communities, especially gateway communities, and (5) maintain the opportunity for a fair and reasonable profit by concession contractors."

Ragatz Report: The second document is an excellent review of Lake Berryessa's potential to become the premiere recreation destination of Napa County and northern California, taking its rightful place alongside the world-renowned Napa Valley. The Lake Berryessa News and the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce contributed significantly to this report.

"Lake Berryessa itself, the five concession areas and the surrounding environs offer many unique and outstanding attributes, as discussed in the previous section – accessibility, size, extensive shoreline and surface area, beautiful scenery in a very natural setting, some of the best fishing in the state, large enough to offer both nature-based and motor-based activities without interference, and a wide array of family-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

The challenge and opportunity are to redevelop the five concession areas into resorts that more appropriately reflect the lifestyle of today's participants in outdoor recreation – higher quality, more variety, greater convenience, more nature-based (but not forgetting the ever-popularity of motor boats and RVs), more family oriented, etc. If more care is given to these important trends, Lake Berryessa has the opportunity to: (1) become a significant year-round destination for the almost 10 million people in the PMA (Primary Market Area); (2) significantly impact the economy of Napa County; (3) be profitable to appropriately selected concessionaires; and (4) do so while maintaining and enhancing the natural environment."

Managing Partner Agreement: The MPA codifies the responsibilities of Napa County as the new lake managing entity as well as Reclamation's role in supporting the goals of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program. The MPA also provides a proposed schedule to accomplish the MPA goals.

The MPA's first phase paves the way for the county to choose developers for three lakeside resort sites, Monticello Shores, Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon Recreation Areas. Under Phase 2, by or before Nov. 1, 2030, the county will determine whether to take over recreation management responsibility for two other sites, Pleasure Cove Marina and Markley Cove Resort, currently under multi-year contracts with Reclamation.

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In Phase 3, by 2030 the county may elect to assume recreation management responsibility for Berryessa Point Recreation Area and Putah Canyon Recreation Area.

Napa County Request for Proposals: This document described the initial plan for rebuilding three of the resorts - Steele Park Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area (previously Rancho Monticello). It provides the basic guidelines as well as the detailed requirements any bidder must meet to be considered as a qualified concessioner. It also provides a summary of a user survey of more than three thousand verified Lake Berryessa recreationists that was included in the Ragatz Report.

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program and Renaissance Berryessa have been referenced many times during the previous seven years. Some of these references are below:

In February 2016, the Lake Berryessa News and Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce began a Renaissance Lake Berryessa campaign aimed at returning management of Lake Berryessa to Napa County. They actively campaigned for this goal during the following months writing, "As this process unfolds the Lake Berryessa News and Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce sincerely ask Napa residents to encourage their supervisors to support a Renaissance Lake Berryessa."

In March 2016, the Lake Berryessa News began its Renaissance Lake Berryessa campaign to return management of Lake Berryessa to Napa County with the lead story "A Path Forward To Revitalize Lake Berryessa: Fire The Feds!"

The Napa Register wrote on August 24, 2018, "Talks continue on Berryessa resort redevelopment and what role Napa County might play in a long-awaited Lake Berryessa resort renaissance."

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Takes Another Step Forward, Lake Berryessa News, November 16, 2021

The Lake Berryessa Renaissance Project is moving slowly. Lake Berryessa News, April 1, 2023

Napa Register: Napa County continues Berryessa resort redevelopment. It is continuing its efforts on several fronts to revitalize Lake Berryessa resorts (Oct 18, 2023)

Napa Register: Progress Towards Lake Berryessa Renaissance, Napa County Moves Forward.

November 7, 2023, Supervisors' meeting agenda: "The County hopes that the private investment associated with a long-term concession agreement will improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, provide new employment opportunities, and possibly become an anchor for revitalization of the Lake Berryessa community."

Some people raised the issue of the Napa County General Plan and its applicability to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa). Lake Berryessa News: November 26, 2023.

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program: Support Grows For "Renaissance Lake Berryessa"

Lake Berryessa News: November 10, 2023: The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program, dubbed "Renaissance Lake Berryessa" ... Lake Berryessa News: December 10, 2023.

Reader's Letter to the Supervisors: November 20, 2023 "Renaissance Lake Berryessa - Revitalization Overdue - I write in support of Renaissance Lake Berryessa and its efforts to revitalize a long dormant valuable asset of Napa County.



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500 Gal Propane Tank
Tankless Water Heater
Outdoor Hot/Cold Shower
Pool with cover
Ozone generator for clean water
Two Covered Dining Areas
Covered Patio with electric shades
Man Cave with island, refrigerator,
beer fridge, coffee bar, wine fridge
THREE TV's with surround sound.
Hot Tub

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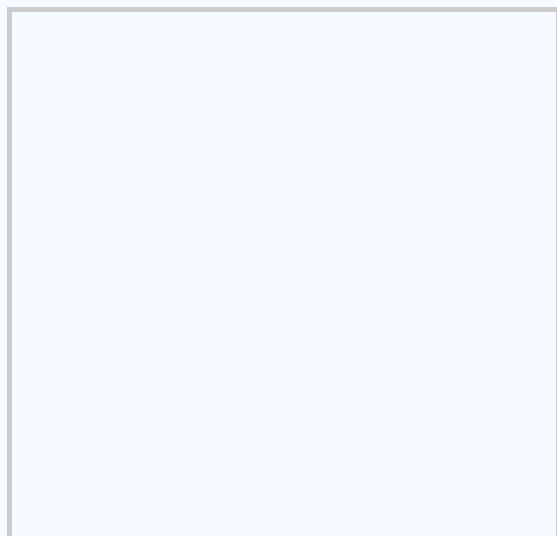
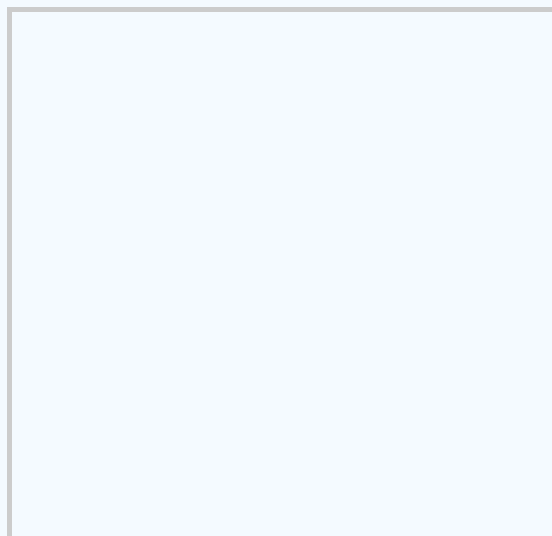
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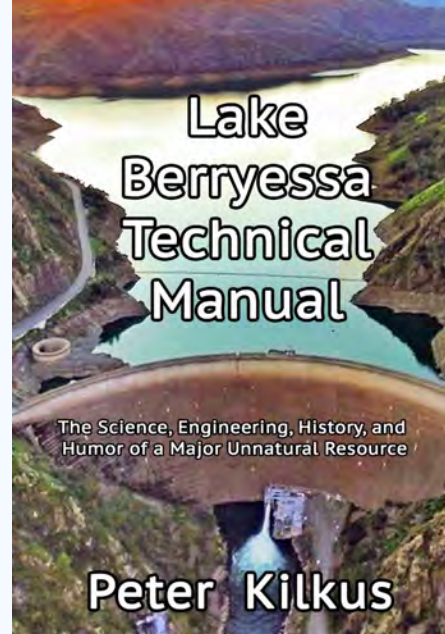
**1032 Eastridge - \$140,000 - APN# 019-494-003 - flat then downslope, lake views, Approx. .31 of an Acre - Temp power connected - landscaped patio and partial fencing

**1131 Headlands - \$90,000 APN#019-501-007 - mostly level - lake views, approx. .33 of an acre - driveway, fountains, patios, remain





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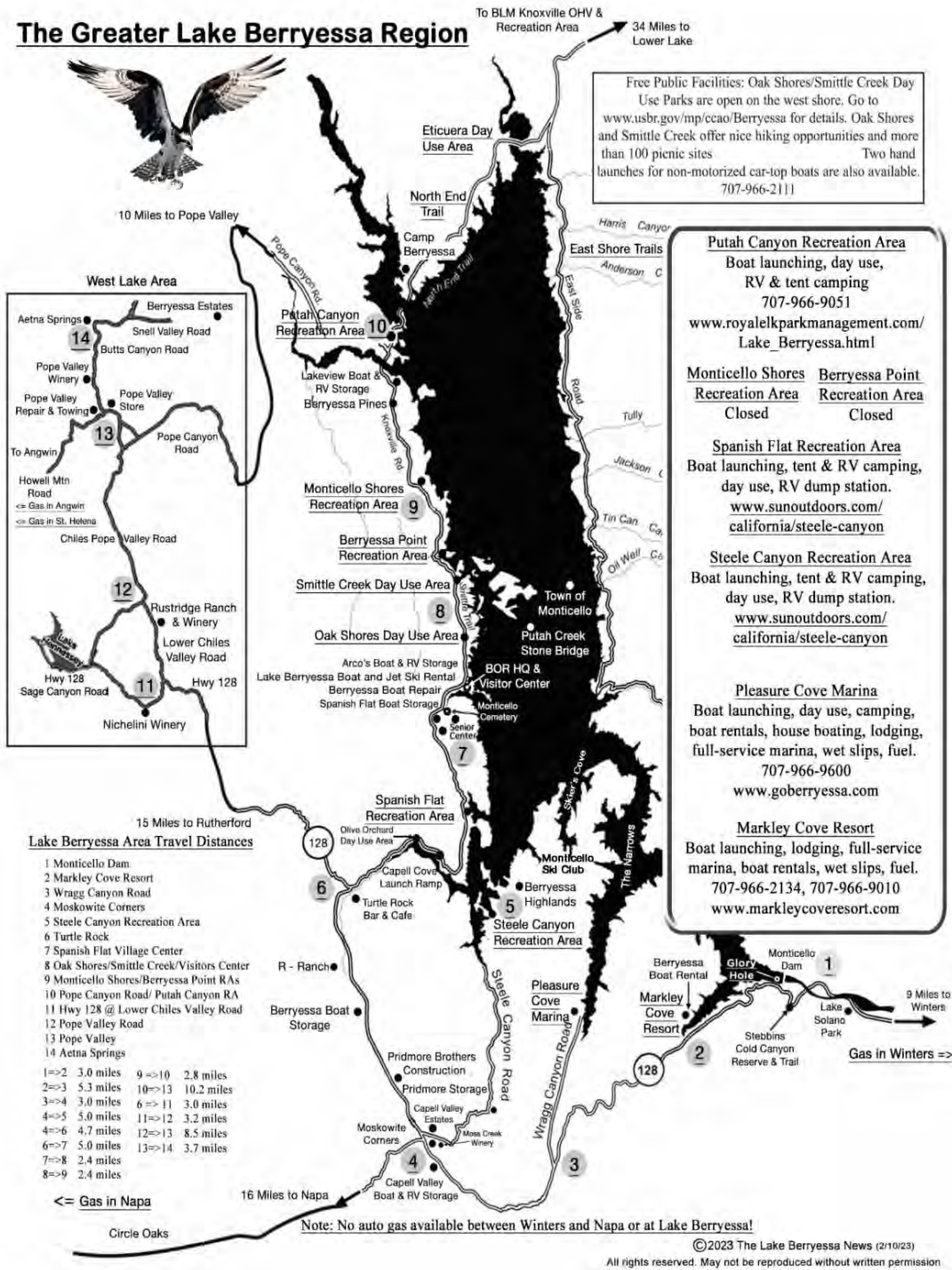
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (March 1, 2023)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News: December 23, 2023

Merry Christmas Eve Eve



Lake Berryessa Statistics: December 23, 2023

A Small Early Christmas Present From Lake Berryessa Itself. The Lake Has Started To Rise!

- Recent rainfall has brought the season total at Monticello Dam to 5.41".
- The level has risen 6" in the last 5 days to 422.0' - 18' below Glory Hole. There is no runoff adding to the lake yet - another couple of inches of rain should change that. The lake level is a simple in/out equation. Rainfall onto the 20,700 acre surface minus evaporation on non-rain days less the dam output. More on this in a future edition.
- The dam output has dropped to its minimum level required by law and contract - 45 cfs (89 AF/day).
- Last year at this time the lake was at 394.4', 45.6' below Glory Hole.
- The Gamble Gauge is up to 79.1% capacity.
- Lake water temperature is at about 54 degrees from the surface to the bottom. The lake appears to have completer "turnover".

If you wish to see hourly numbers on lake level, water temperature, and how much water is in the lake, you can go directly to:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>



Last Winter! Can It Happen Again?

**Christmas is considered the season of giving.
Please consider The Lake Berryessa News in your plans.
Sincere thanks to those who have already donated.**

**2024 is Almost Here And The New 24 For 24 Program Is Here
The Lake Berryessa News Still Needs Your Support in 2024!**

Thanks to those of you who donated in 2022 and 2023. We still need your support to continue our social media presence and publish the print version of the Lake Berryessa News in 2024. You'll notice a bit of inflation in my new request, as you've seen in all prices around you. I hope you'll stick with me despite the increase.

I challenge you to find any Lake Berryessa news anywhere. Hopefully the last few weeks of our intensive reporting about the latest Lake Berryessa issues will convince you of the truth of our motto, "Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa News".

The Lake Berryessa News has been around in one form or another since the 1970s. You can download searchable PDF files of it from 2005 to the present at <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/>. That web page also includes some very old fun-to-read editions from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

The Lake Berryessa News regular email newsletter is read by about 500 people per issue. Our Facebook page has 32,700 Followers. My Nextdoor Berryessa posts regularly reach another 500 or so local residents. I distribute 1,000 copies of the print version on my 150

mile paper route every month from April to September. (Yes, many people do still read, and like, stories written on paper!)

If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program (Renaissance Lake Berryessa), please send a donation check of \$24 (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 stick crinkly old cash in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My Venmo account is under @Peter-Kilkus, Paypal is Member #2051. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (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. I'll continue to do my best to keep you informed about every detail affecting Lake Berryessa.

Thanks, Peter

Here's a shot of Lake Berryessa that is seldom seen. From the top of Berryessa Peak - Big Island is in the middle of the photo. It takes a "special" person to hike the Berryessa Peak Trail to get there! Here's a 3 minute video of the hike.

https://youtu.be/dEZtTUR52xQ?si=6LRdmXMZIBa9u_Xo



Ho Ho - Oh No!

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Iceberg-ers.

What do you call a greedy elf? Elfish.

Why did Frosty's girlfriend break up with him? He was a total flake!

What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? The abdominal snowman.

What's the Grinch's least favorite band? The Who!

What's worse than a reindeer with a runny nose? A snowman with a fever!

What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas? 'Tis the season to be jelly!

Why wouldn't Ebenezer Scrooge eat at the pasta restaurant? It cost a pretty penne!

What did the icy road say to the truck? Want to go for a spin?

What do you call a Christmas rom-com about bread? Loaf Actually.

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet? 25—there's noel.

Why didn't Rudolph make honor roll in school? Because he went down in history.

Why did the cats hate their presents? Because the gifts weren't up to scratch.

How is a reindeer like a coin? It has a head on one side and a tail on the other.

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? A cookie sheet!

What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Do you smell carrots?

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

What's the hardest thing about learning to skate? The ice.

Why do you go to bed on Christmas Eve? Because the bed won't come to you.

What did the salt say to the pepper on Christmas? Seasonings Greetings!

What do you call a reindeer with three eyes? A reiiiindeer.

What's red and white and falls down chimneys? Santa Klutz!

What do you get when you cross a pig and Christmas tree lights? A piglet!

What do you get when you cross a pig and Christmas tree lights? A porcupine.

What's the most frustrating thing about being a Christmas tree? Having so many limbs and not being able to walk.

What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree and an iPad? A pineapple!



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1071 Steele Canyon Road

<https://www.1071steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$1,599,000

See the amazing 3D video of the property

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\$1,599,000

Approx. 3089 sq ft
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Office
Rec Room Above Garage
Remote Controlled Electric Gates
New Concrete
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Boat/RV Parking
with 20 AMP 110 Volt Power
34 Solar Panels
Auro Start Cummings Generator

500 Gal Propane Tank
Tankless Water Heater
Outdoor Hot/Cold Shower
Pool with cover
Ozone generator for clean water
Two Covered Dining Areas
Covered Patio with electric shades
Man Cave with island, refrigerator,
beer fridge, coffee bar, wine fridge
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Build Your Lake Home Now!

**1140 & 1144 Steele Canyon Road - Lot 126 & 127 ~ APN#'s - 019-452-001 & 002 ~
Seller wants to sell both lots as one package. Both lots have the water/sewer assessment
- see property tax bills for amounts. Lot 126 is 1144 Steele Canyon & is .3796 Lot 127 is

1140 Steele Canyon & is .3494 - \$94K

**1122 Rimrock Road - APN#019-382-007-000 ~ Lot 146 ~ Approx. .2605 of an Acre ~ Views ~ \$59,900

**253 & 259 Sugarloaf - APN# 019-322-004 lot #50 Approx. .53 of an Acre ~ APN# 019-322-003 lot #51 Approx. .37 of an Acre for a TOTAL of .9 of an Acre ~ Parcels to be SOLD TOGETHER! for \$175K total (Spanish Flat Woodlands) - Water hook up paid for one parcel.

** 1013 Arroyo Lindo ~ \$89,000 ~ 019-441-004 ~ Approx. .224 of an Acre ~ Mostly Flat then upslope

** 208 Manzanita Lane ~ \$139,000 ~ APN#019-381-002 ~ Approx. .2466 of an Acre ~ Lake View ~ Downslope ~ Prior home was a 3Bedroom/2 Bath Approx. 1144 Sq. Ft. Single Story with a 1 Car Garage

** 1102 Arroyo Grande Drive - \$48,999 ~ APN# 019-461-025-000 ~ Approx. .32 of an Acre ~ Flat then upslope - end of a cul de sac - backs up to open space on 2 sides. Private

** 814 Bahia Vista Court ~ \$79,000 ~ APN# 019-451-004 ~ Approx. .32 of an Acre ~ Lake View, flat then downslope ~

** 1014 Arroyo Linda Court ~ \$49,000 ~ APN# 019-441-017 ~ Approx. .2123 of an Acre ~ Flat then downslope.

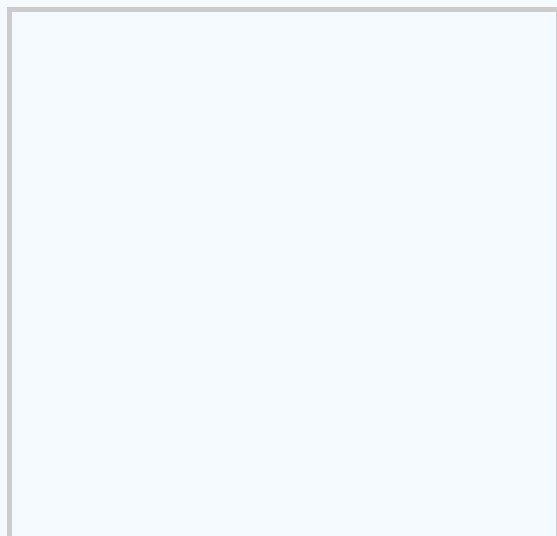
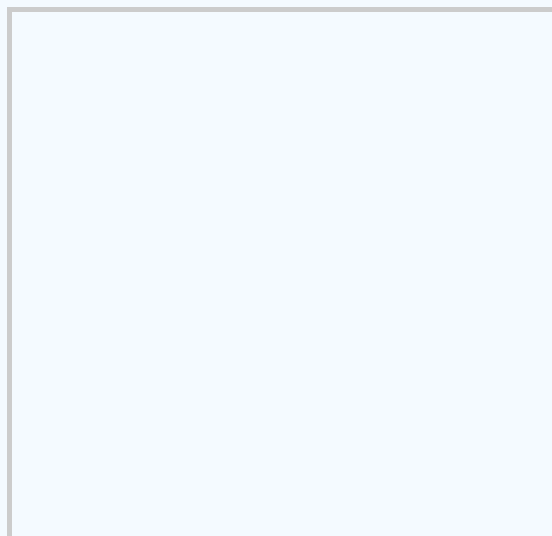
**1057 Arroyo Grande Dr. ~ \$185,000 ~ APN# 019-462-028 ~ Approx. .5397 of an Acre ! This parcel had 2 homes - 2 foundations/decorative retaining wall and services remain.

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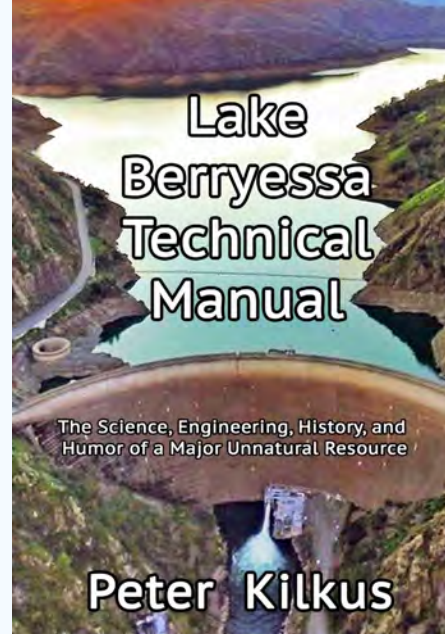
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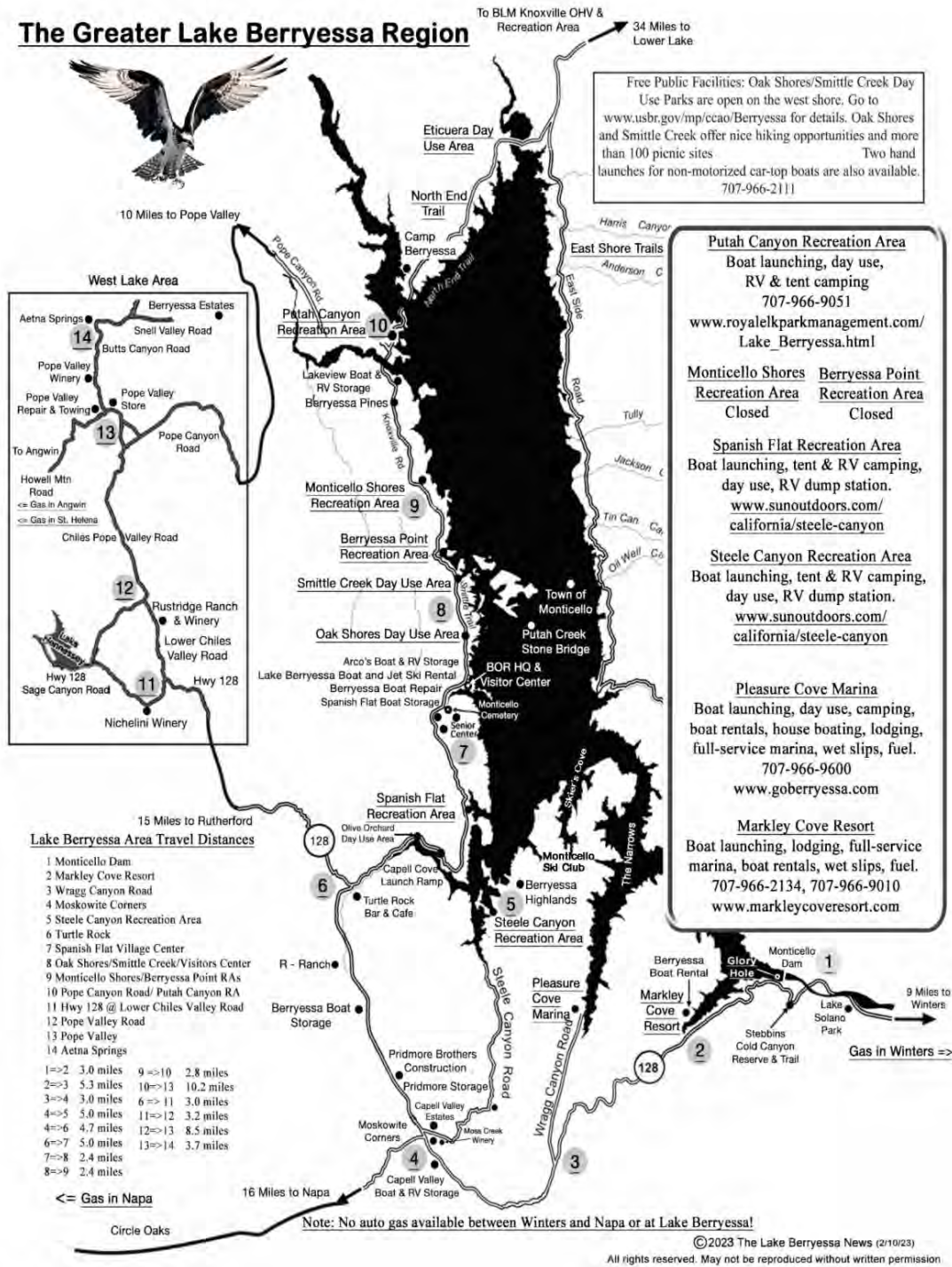
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