

Lake Berryessa News - Happy New Year 2025

January 1, 2025



Glory Hole Watch 2025

(January 1, 2025)

It is statistically likely that Glory Hole will overflow in 2025, but when?

Although rainfall has been good to date, and we are only 3.6 feet below Glory Hole, we need another 5+ inches of rain to overflow, depending on how many dry spells we may get. At the present lake level, every inch of rain on saturated ground raises the lake about 7 inches. The charts below give some historical context

Lake Berryessa Statistics (1/1/25)

The rain total has grown to 12.07 inches at Monticello Dam as of 1/1/24.

We actually had that last .07 inches on Christmas Day.

Cobb Mountain just hit 39.9 inches!

Lake level is now at 436.4 feet, now only 3.6 feet below Glory Hole.

Water temperature continues to drop and has stabilized at 54 degrees.

Lake output has dropped slightly to 75 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 149 A-F (acre feet per day).

The Gamble Gauge shows the lake capacity is at 95.7%.

	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"	17.11"	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"	15.84"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/19/22 - .42"	19.13"	41.86"
27	23-24	9/22/23 - .21"	7.66"	28.14"
28	24-25	10/29/24 - .25"	12.07"	

as of 1/1/25

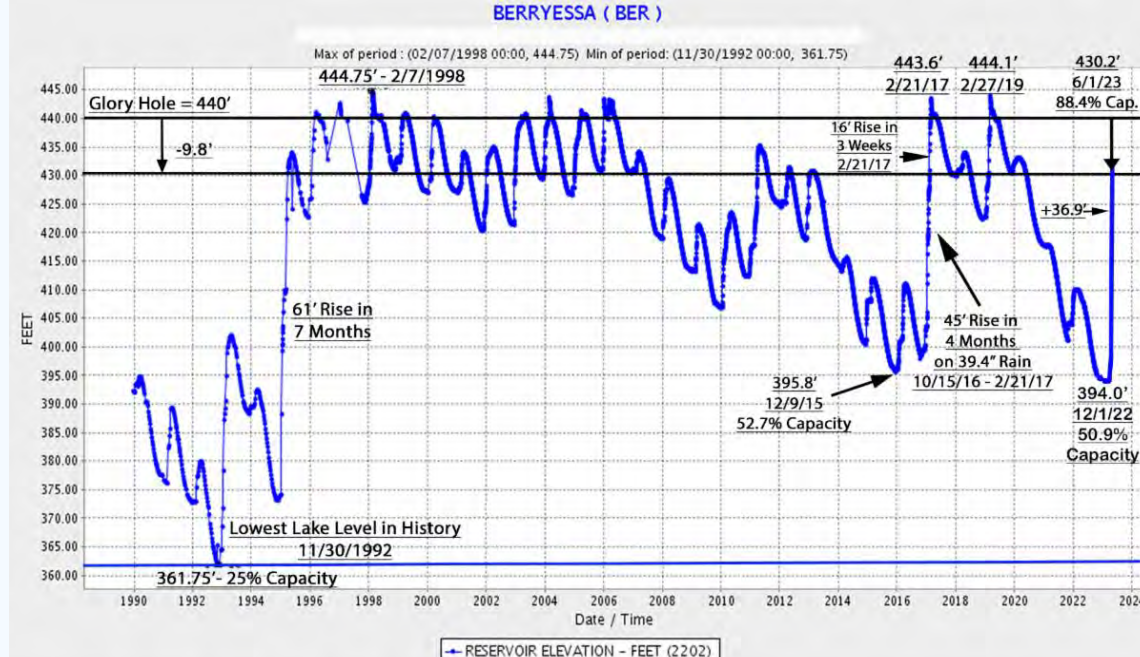
The wettest year was 1983 with 56.94 inches.

The lake was 6.7 feet over Glory Hole, the highest in history.

The driest year was 1976 with only 7.78 inches total rainfall.

The most precipitation in one month was 21.33 inches in January 1995.

The most precipitation in 24 hours was 5.29 inches on December 31, 2005. If you were around then, this is when the hill collapsed on Monticello Road just past the Wooden Valley Road turnoff, cutting the road to Napa for 2 weeks! We all had to do a lot more driving to reach "civilization".



Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update

Things are very quiet with no updates from Napa County except, "Not much to report until the beginning of February. Camp Margaritaville Resorts at Steele Canyon Campground is still on track"

Unwelcome Excitement at Lake Berryessa

With the golden mussel emergency affecting many boaters and the progress of Glory Hole Watch 2025 taking up a lot of attention, there has not been much other news to talk about until last Sunday. A couple of young men decided to take a toy boat (a kayak with outriggers and a small sail) out on the blustery north end near Putah Canyon Campground. It made the news all over northern California. Not much was made of the victims' poor judgment which could have resulted in their deaths. Most of the coverage focused on the fact that they wore life jackets (when wet suits would have been more appropriate). The incident does show the excellent rapid emergency response, as usual, of the various agencies (see the list in the story below.) operating professionally around the lake. Can you estimate the cost of that response?

North Bay deputies rescue 2 after kayak overturns on Lake Berryessa

The Napa County Sheriff's Office is stressing the importance of life jackets after deputies rescued two men from Lake Berryessa on Sunday. The sheriff's office Marine Patrol unit responded in the morning to a report of an overturned kayak at the lake east of Putah Campground. Arriving deputies located two men in the water yelling for help.

"Fortunately, both men were wearing life jackets," the sheriff's office said.

After deputies reached the kayakers and pulled them from the water, they were treated on scene for mild hypothermia, authorities said. Cal Fire, American Medical Response, California Highway Patrol Air Operations and the Bureau of Reclamation assisted in the rescue response.

"The life jackets and swift response by all agencies allowed both kayakers to make it home safely," the Napa County Sheriff's Office said.





YIPpies, YUPpies, MOPIes, and PUPpies

The guys in the boat could be referred to as Pathetically Unprepared People (PUPpies). Once there were hippies, yuppies, and yuppies, and maybe we've all been some of one or the other or all. But now I think we're cultivating too many MOPIes - Moderately Old and Philosophically Incapacitated. There are some people who aren't happy unless they mope around finding things to complain about and standing in the way of imaginative, integrative solutions to problems. Although the right to be heard does not include the right to be taken seriously, these folks certainly exercise their right to be heard, especially around Lake Berryessa and Napa County over the years.

But the other people we've encountered at Lake Berryessa are more like PUPpies. Most of these folks seem to learn about "nature" from TV shows. So, you get people, despite so many warnings, who go to Yellowstone Park and try to pet the buffalo!

We had a spate of lost hikers on Stebbins Cold Canyon trails a few years ago. See the chapter in my book: Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource.

[Why Does A Hiker Cross The Road? To Get To Stebbins Cold Canyon](https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Tech-Manual-Chapters/-Stebbins-Cold-Canyon.pdf)

(<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Tech-Manual-Chapters/-Stebbins-Cold-Canyon.pdf>)

Most of the lost hikers were unprepared for the length and difficulty of the trails. They did not bring warm clothes nor sufficient water or food. A family of five had to be rescued by helicopter. The helicopter crew was able to locate them by the light from their cellphones. Video from the helicopter showed the cell phone lead the helicopter to a lost family of five.

There has been an ongoing debate as to whether the people being rescued should be charged for the cost to of their rescue - especially if it seemed that their own negligence caused the need for their rescue.

While costs vary, most search-and-rescue efforts utilizing a helicopter for a few hours will be in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. It can be more if a rescue takes longer than a few hours. Search-and-rescue volunteers donate their time and risk their lives to help others.

Some agencies around the country attempted to do so but relented. Several people interviewed said that if they knew they would be charged the thousands of dollars required to rescue them, they would not have sought help and strike out on their own. This is the major reason that in almost all circumstances in the U.S. and Canada, search and rescue is free.

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Decontamination Start-To-Finish: Golden Mussel Cleaning at Berryessa

<https://youtu.be/umaOYCQJLBA?si=ANKMbTafk3jC1CXr>

Lake Berryessa Quarantine Update - Interview with Solano Water District and
Decontamination Process

<https://youtu.be/6Er9qnizuAc?si=llgSdz9DgmoDt7ZT>

What do you say when bidding farewell on Dec. 31? "See you next year!"

What do you say to someone you didn't see on New Year's Eve?
I haven't seen you since last year!

My New Year's resolution is to see my cup half-full, preferably with rum, gin, or vodka.

What is the digital camera's New Year's resolution? 1080p.

What's the worst part of jogging on New Year's Eve? The ice falling out of your drink!

My New Year's resolution was to drop my bad habits, but no one likes a quitter.

What was Dr. Frankenstein's New Year's resolution? To make new friends.

What's the easiest way to keep your New Year's resolution to read more?
Watch TV with subtitles.

Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program Highlights 2024

<https://youtu.be/N8tjCsqrG8?si=vnSJ48YMdliJFCeG>

Check out the 2024 Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program video. This video highlights the legacy and impact of the program as well as the importance of education and outreach. Hear from key partners and our team of interns who are working hard to protect our drinking water quality through education and the use of oil absorbents to keep boat engines clean.

The video includes Jeniffer Onufer, BOR Lake Berryessa Park Manager. Also, Amber Garcia who used to be the Steele Canyon Campground manager several years ago when Pleasure Cove Marina (Suntex) managed it.

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2025 is Here! And Our Last Appeal For Your Contribution To The 25 For 25 Program

My sincere thanks to those of you who have already contributed to the future of the Lake Berryessa News. But I must continue my one last appeal for your support for The Lake Berryessa News 25 for 25 program.

I challenge you to find any Lake Berryessa news anywhere. Hopefully, the many years 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".

If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program please send a donation check of \$25 (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.

Hopefully, I'll have some good news soon about the future of the Lake Berryessa community.

Thanks, Peter

Once again, here's a New Year's present from The Lake Berryessa News to my readers - Free downloadable chapters from my book:

[Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource:](#)

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[East Side Story](#)

[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Napa Opposes Building the Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

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

[As Lake Berryessa Turns!](#)

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

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

[Glory Hole Introduction](#)

[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

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

[Bird Goes Over the Glory Hole Waterfall Without A Barrel](#)

[Skateboarding the Glory Hole](#)

[Old Putah Creek Stone Bridge Epic](#)

[The Other Sunken Bridge: Capell Creek Bridge](#)

[Lake Berryessa 1960: How It Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda Been?](#)

[Naming the Lake Berryessa Resorts](#)

[A Trail Around the Lake?](#)

[Rock & Roll at the Berryessa Bowl](#)

[Moskowite Corners: A Cultural Time Machine](#)

[Why Are There No Gas Stations At Lake Berryessa?](#)

[The Great Berryessa Oil Rush\(es\): 1900 and 1920](#)

[Lake Berryessa Seaplane Base](#)

[Does It Snow at Lake Berryessa? Yes](#)

[Does Sierra Snowmelt Get To Lake Berryessa? No](#)

[University of Lake Berryessa: A Profile](#)

[Is Glory Hole a Black Hole or a Wormhole - Or Both?](#)

[Fun on the Pacific flyway - Waterfowl Communication About the Glory Hole Water Slide](#)

[University of Lake Berryessa Solutions to Climate Change: Meat Grapes & Steak Potatoes](#)

[Floating Native American Casino Coming to Lake Berryessa](#)

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[k=peter+kilkus&crd=CSK39GQWJMVl&prefix=%2Caps%2C149&ref=nb_sb_ss_recent_2_0_recent](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=peter+kilkus&crd=CSK39GQWJMVl&prefix=%2Caps%2C149&ref=nb_sb_ss_recent_2_0_recent)

January 2025 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): All of your hard work will soon pay off after your boss acknowledges that you were a very, very close runner-up for the promotion he just gave a colleague.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Today is going to be like most days, certainly in terms of its length and the frequency of sun-rises to sun-sets.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): The best of excuses are those that are plausible (so, not ones that involve you, super-powers and hordes of sexy friends).

Cancer (6/22-7/22): It all used to be so much easier, but with age you're finding certain things much more difficult.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Be playful at heart and you'll reap the reward of having more friends under the age of 10.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): What you hear and what was said may differ today, so be aware of either your failing hearing or your increasing hatred of those talking to you.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Life throws us all crazy things now and then. Like swords made of ham. And dogs on skateboards. Your lucky goat name for today is: Penelope.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): When trying to take the tight top of a bottle of anything, you may find yourself contemplating destroying the universe.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Are you loveable? Take time out today to contemplate that thought and try to make sure that you are very loveable.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): 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.

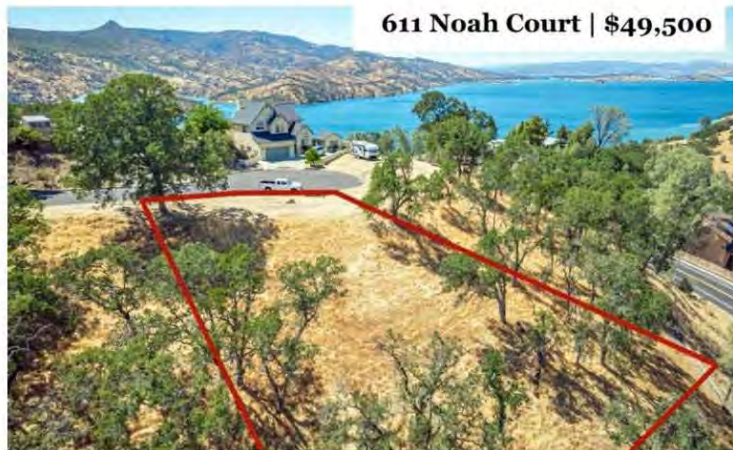
Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Much of your body weight tends to be distributed in a specific place - but that may start shifting today.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): In biscuits one can find sweet, sweet redemption. Especially when soaked in Rum.

A woman took an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?" He replied, "Aha, you'll know tonight!" At midnight, her husband handed her a small, gift-wrapped present. Excited, she opened it quickly, but was even more surprised: In it was a book titled The Meaning of Dreams.

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Flat Then Downslope Lot

1183 Steele Canyon Road

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An advertisement for ValleyInternet. The top left features the ValleyInternet logo and a list of services: Fiber speeds, Trusted service, Friendly & responsive support team, and meter.me water monitoring and automation. A 'NEW' badge is next to the last item. The top right text says 'Connecting the countryside with fast & reliable internet since 2004.' A speech bubble in the center says 'NOW OFFERING METER.ME REMOTE WATER TANK MONITORING FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES !!'. The bottom left has contact information: 'Contact us today!', '(707) 422-1200', 'service@valleyinternet.net', and 'www.valleyinternet.com'. The bottom right shows a QR code and a cow standing on a grassy hill under a blue sky.

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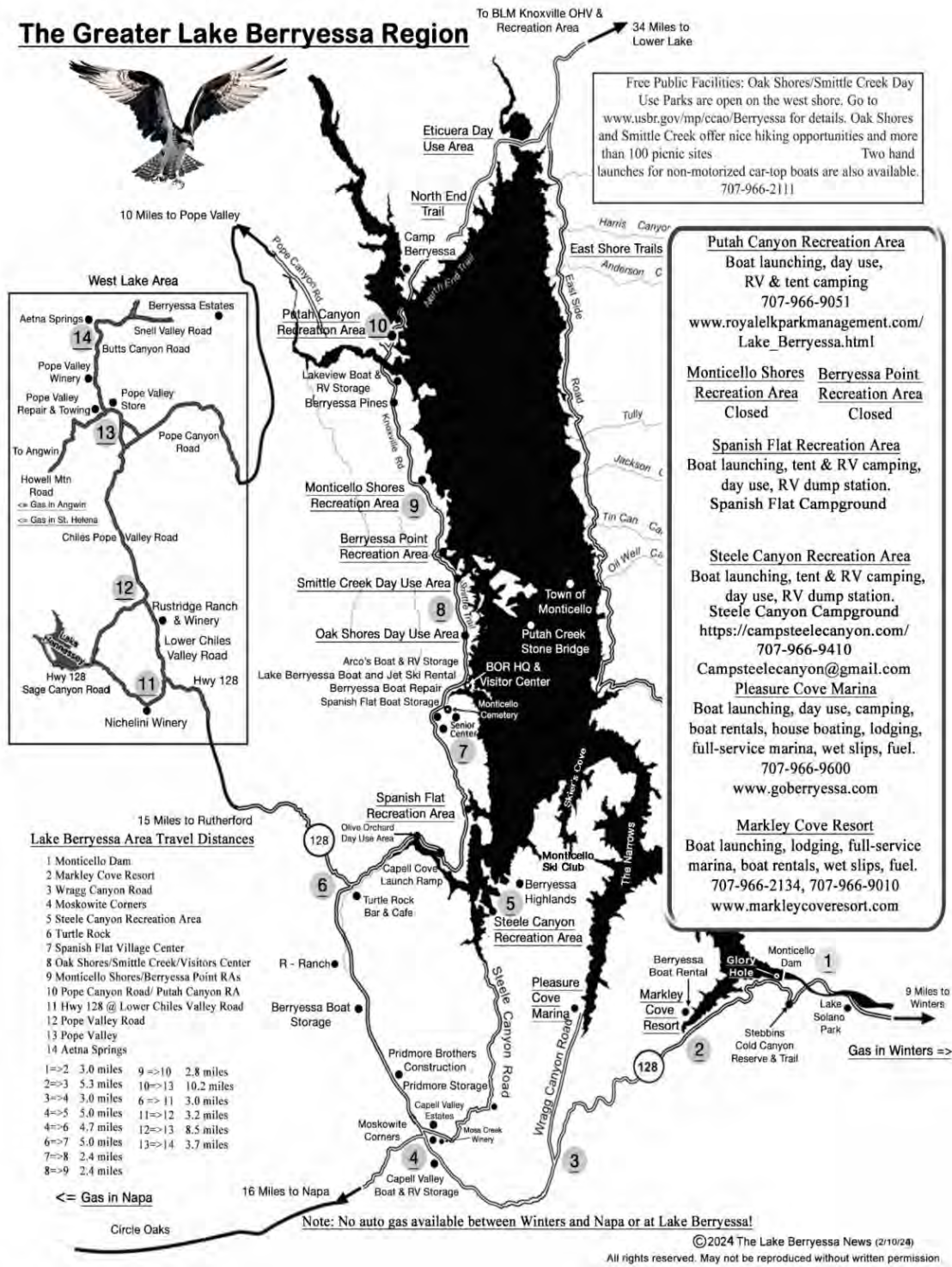


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News Special Edition

Lake Berryessa is Under Attack - Again! - A Call To Action!

January 12, 2025

Glory Hole Watch 2025

The rain total is at 12.34 inches at Monticello Dam. No rain likely for at least a week.

Lake level is now at 437.05 feet, now only 2.95 feet below Glory Hole.

Water temperature continues to drop and has stabilized at 53.2 degrees.

Lake output has been at 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 198 A-F (acre feet per day) for several days.

The Gamble Gauge shows the lake capacity is at 96.6%.

(Editor's Note: The Lake Berryessa News does not write about politics except when the politics affects the Lake Berryessa community. The following opinion column is aimed at correcting misinformation being spread publicly regarding the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program and the Steele Canyon Recreation Area planning process.)

Lake Berryessa is Under Attack - Again! - A Call To Action!

An Editorial Opinion by Peter Kilkus, Editor-Publisher

As I watched a video clip of Carol Kunze speaking at the last Napa County Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, I thought someone had accidentally posted a clip of Kunze from 25 years ago. I debated her on Napa Public Television way back then, and her style of aggressive misrepresentation has not changed much. The video of her comments is available to review for yourselves at:

<https://youtu.be/FJX25b0VHdc>

Her buzzwords describing 20-year old issues and requesting a "broader conversation" for which we "need more information" to make the choice between a "family-friendly vs party lake" have not been valid for more than 20 years. During that time, despite all the hard work to protect the lake, our community has been subject to the ravages of evil, entropy, and the economy. But we've had five functioning resorts still operating with no "party lake" problems. Her comments come a year after the first sneak attack on Camp Margaritaville RV Resorts at the Supervisors meeting on November 7, 2023.

Those of you who follow the news about Lake Berryessa may have noticed a few articles that week popping up in local media after that meeting. 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 earlier 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 by an unknown person and opened for discussion and public comment. This was followed by a concerted attack on the proposal from a small clique of psuedo-environmental exclusionists.

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 several 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 that November 2023 meeting was that it appeared 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've made the Supervisors' meeting video available on You Tube at:

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

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 Board of Supervisors will also be similarly supportive.

Pedroza statement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbbDDbWzMdE>

This meeting resulted, probably as planned, in a spate of articles in local news outlets focusing only on the opponents' misrepresentation of the facts - and the word "cringey". Interestingly, Tuesday's little coordinated group of naysayers had never raised its head before in opposition to any of the other proposals over the last few years. Perhaps Sun Outdoors or Suntex Marinas just sounds better to them than "Margaritaville". Why didn't they complain two years earlier when the bid was awarded to Sun Companies (Sun Outdoors) which had proposed a more expansive plan?

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."

After that attack, which included false statements that the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program might violate the Napa County General Plan or that it didn't include "nature-based recreation", I wrote several reports refuting those allegations. These reports are available on my website (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>) at:

[Lake Berryessa and the Napa General Plan](#)

[Environmental Management at Lake Berryessa](#)

[Nature Based Recreation at Lake Berryessa](#)

The primary refutation of every comment made last week and the comments made by the small, unrepresentative group on November 7, 2023, is the **Ragatz Report** funded by Napa County. It includes comprehensive analysis of Lake Berryessa's potential as an asset to Napa County and a detailed survey of several thousand lake users, including Napa County residents. The Lake Berryessa News and the Lake Berryessa Chamber of commerce worked diligently to get as many people as possible to respond to the survey.

[2017 Ragatz Report Full](#)

[Ragatz Report Introduction & Summary of Recommendations](#)

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 25 years to the success of the Lake Berryessa community. I have been an environmental advocate since I read Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" in the late 1960's. I've been amusingly accused of several personal flaws during my advocacy for the future of Lake Berryessa, but no one can question my environmental credentials. In the interests of transparency, I've posted my full resume at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/Peter-Kilkus-Resume-2025.pdf>

The Introduction states that I "have twenty-five years of corporate management experience in all aspects of telecommunication equipment design and manufacturing. Wrote ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems program for three local Lake Berryessa resorts. Successfully managed ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification for two companies. Public service as a member of the San Anselmo Town Council and Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee. In-depth knowledge of business and environmental issues."

For those who are actually interested in environmental quality at Lake Berryessa, here are links to the Environmental Management System I wrote for Rancho Monticello Resort. I also wrote EMS programs for Steele Park Resort and Markley Cove Resort.

[Rancho Monticello Environmental Management System](#)

[Rancho Monticello Achieves ISO 14000 Certification](#)

[International Standard: ISO 14000, Environmental Management Systems](#)

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.

To counteract the false information being spread about Steele Canyon Campground and the Camp Margaritaville process, I encourage everyone who supports the revitalization of our beloved lake to take action and contact our supervisors. Please tell them you appreciate the County's continued support of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program and why.

District 1: Joelle Gallagher.

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District 3: Anne Cottrell

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District 4: Amber Manfree
707-259-8278
Amber.Manfree@countyofnapa.org

District 5: Belia Ramos
707-259-8278
Belia.Ramos@countyofnapa.org

I'll end this long report with a letter from RoseAnn DeMoro to the Napa Register on Saturday, January 11, 2025. RoseAnn was a Steele Park mobile home owner, as was I. I think this letter expresses the present view of most people in our lake community, of Lake Berryessa News readers, of people I've spoken with across our region, of folks in Napa, and of visitors from around the Bay Area. RoseAnn has done significant research on the Camp Margaritaville RV Resort locations, with positive results.

To the Napa County Board of Supervisors,

I want to welcome the 2025 Board of Supervisors and wish them all the best. I also want to encourage them to please approach the Camp Margaritaville project with enthusiasm. Lake Berryessa is a Napa County treasure.

After discovering the lake when I lived in the Bay Area, we leased a small cabin on the lake. Prior to the federal government not renewing the leases, along with our kids, relatives and friends we spent many wonderful times throughout the years together there. The reflections on that time are priceless. The memories golden.

In the aftermath of losing that, I came to realize that families recreating together are some of the greatest ties that bind. They build community, the most wonderful shared memories, supportive family units, and are great opportunities for exercise. That is what happened at those resorts back then. People bonding with people.

Now we have a chance for incredible recreational activities again with the potential of Camp Margaritaville rebuilding the Steele Canyon Recreation Area. As a staunch environmentalist I have studied their resorts across the county. They are socially conscious and, as I understand it, the plans call for a soft footprint.

Families throughout Napa will have the opportunity to love and enjoy the lake as we did and find a safe, local place to gather free of distraction. There are thousands who will agree with me.

RoseAnn DeMoro, Napa

For the facts about what happened at Lake Berryessa, here are links to free downloadable chapters in my book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Index Of Primary Documents](#)

For context see my videos of a 1998 tour of Steele Park Resort and the final 2009 destruction of Steele Park Resort at:

Steele Park Resort Tour 1998:

<https://youtu.be/PkPV8dZS6pM?si=pul5grqzJj7Pgeop>

Destruction of Steele Park Resort 2009:

<https://youtu.be/i4pxcbA9pUY?si=AZIsS-DcuziUgwTu>

For information - do your own research.

<https://www.margaritavilleresorts.com/locations/ways-to-stay/rv-resorts>



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

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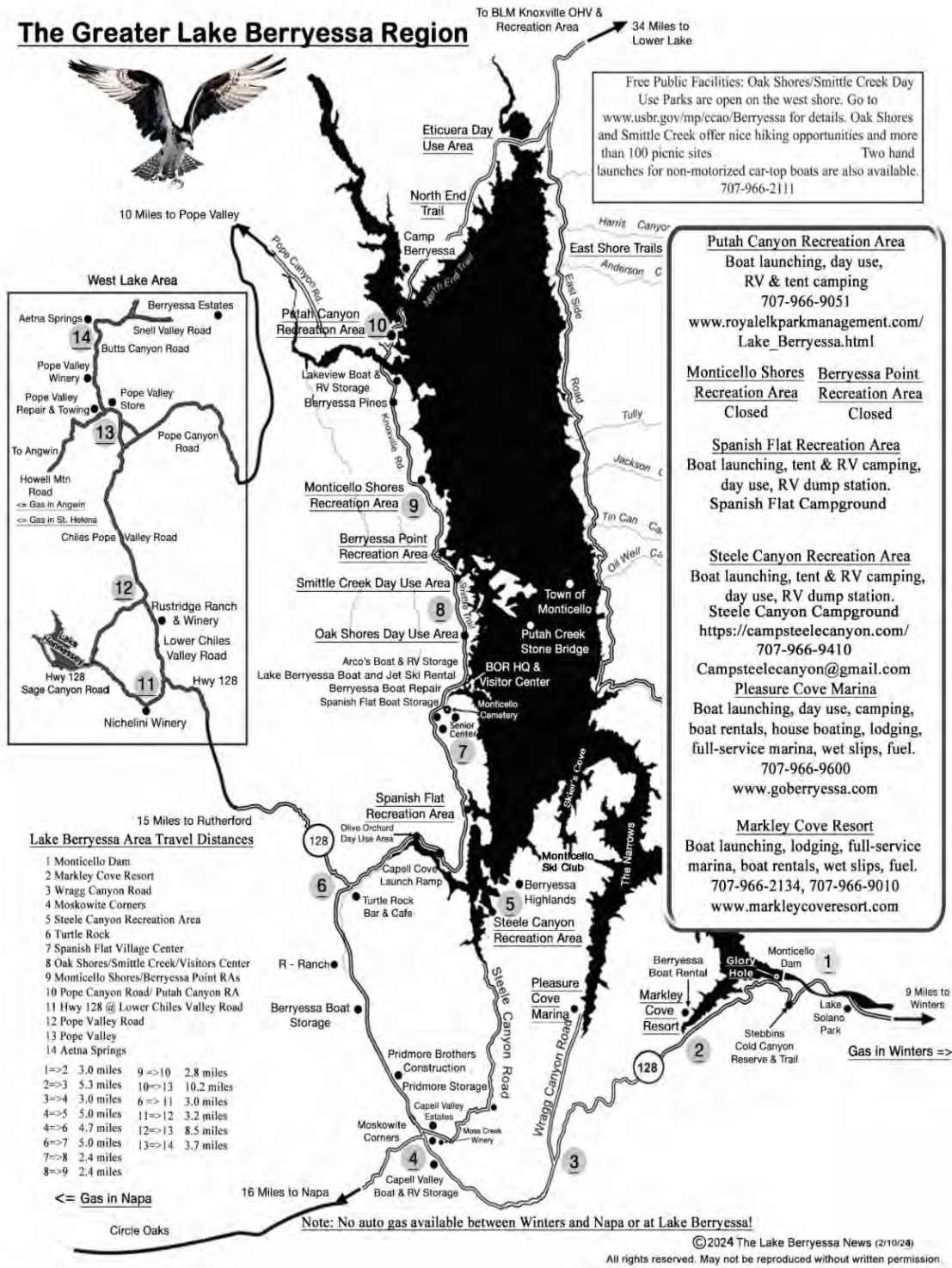
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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



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Lake Berryessa News -January 26, 2025

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Explained!

Glory Hole Watch 2025

The .02" of rain today brought the total up to 12.36 inches at Monticello Dam. No rain likely for at least a week.

Lake level has remained at an average of 437.15 feet for more than a week, now only 2.85 feet below Glory Hole.

Water temperature continues to drop slowly and has stabilized at 52 degrees.

Lake output has been at 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 198 A-F (acre feet per day) for 3 weeks.

The Gamble Gauge shows the lake capacity is at 96.5%.

Rhonda's Roadhouse Report 1/25/25

Rhonda's Roadhouse has a new Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571831984325>.

You can post comments, make suggestions, and share the page with your friends. I'm sure they would appreciate your comments and suggestions. Check it out.

Rhonda and her team are local to the area and have deep roots in the region. They decided to open Rhonda's Roadhouse to create a community-focused space at Lake Berryessa. While winter is slower, they see it as an opportunity to test their operations and build a foundation for when traffic picks up in the warmer months. Their goal is to create a place where locals and visitors alike feel welcome, and they're committed to continuing to improve. They are working on plans to make the great outdoor space set up for live music and potentially Bocce ball.

The Roadhouse family were victims of the 2020 fires, but have since made the decision to rebuild their home here in Spanish Flat. With deep roots in the restaurant industry - both owners operated their own restaurants for many years - they saw an opportunity to help revitalize their community by purchasing a local restaurant. Their goal is not only to serve their neighbors but also to become a central hub for the Lake Berryessa area.

Rhonda's **ROAD HOUSE**

In the Spanish Flat Village Center at Beautiful Lake Berryessa





The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Explained

by Peter Killus

I have referred to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program for several years. I have been criticized that, "The "Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is not any recognized County process. It is your own invention, and does not exist beyond yourself."

This statement is simply wrong, irrelevant, aimed at delaying the "Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program", and a bit mean-spirited.

The official name for the county's "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" process is:

[Managing Agreement Number 20-LC-20-2623 : Managing 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.](#)

For simplicity of understanding I refer to it as "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program". Read it and see.

The second element of "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is the county-funded 2017 Ragatz Report, the most detailed report about the value of Lake Berryessa to Napa County ever produced, including an extensive public survey. Read it and see.

[Ragatz Report Full](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

[Ragatz Report Introduction & Summary of Recommendations](#)

https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/Ragatz-Report-Introduction_Summary_Recomendations.pdf

The third element of "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is actually the Napa County General Plan.

[Napa County General Plan](#)

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3334/Napa-County-General-Plan---Complete-Documnet-PDF>

Hopefully the Board of Supervisors will live up to its public 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."

The primary refutation of every negative attack on the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program is the Ragatz Report referenced above funded by Napa County. It includes comprehensive analysis of Lake Berryessa's potential as an asset to Napa County and a detailed survey of several thousand lake users, including Napa County residents.

After false statements that the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program might violate the Napa County General Plan or that it didn't include "nature-based recreation", I wrote several reports refuting those allegations. I analyzed the General Plan and wrote a detailed report on the many ways the General Plan supports The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program. These reports are available on my website (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>) at:

[Lake Berryessa and the Napa General Plan](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Lake-Berryessa-and-the-Napa-General-Plan.pdf>

[Environmental Management at Lake Berryessa](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Environmental-Management-at-Lake-Berryessa.pdf>

[Nature Based Recreation at Lake Berryessa](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Nature-Based-Recreation-at-Lake-Berryessa.pdf>

[Rancho Monticello Environmental Management System](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/RM-001-Rancho-EMS-Manual.2.pdf>



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<https://www.valleyinternet.com/lp/freetank-jan2025>

As a follow - up to my last newsletter, here is the link to the full report I posted then:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Political-History/1-Lake-Berryessa-Under-Attack-Final-Story-011325.pdf>

To counteract the false information being spread about Steele Canyon Campground and the Camp Margaritaville process, I encourage everyone who supports the revitalization of our beloved lake to take action and contact our supervisors. Please tell them you

appreciate the County's continued support of the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program and why.

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Melissa.Moize@CountyofNapa.org

Anything you wish to share with the Board of Supervisors or comment on a Supervisors' meeting you are unable to attend in person, can be sent directly to publiccomment@countyofnapa.org or clerkoftheboard@countyofnapa.org. Once received, we forward your correspondence to the Board and the appropriate staff so you don't have to figure out who that is.

Most people in developed countries are on a continuous battle to lose weight the hard way, diet control and exercise. Some just want to do it the easy way, stick a needle in their stomach on a regular basis, <https://youtu.be/WLFvTg11kdQ?si=0cgSHJJ3-XIFPJMv>

But if you're counting calories, what does that actually mean?

How Are Calories in Foods Measured?

Food labels contain the number of calories per serving. But how is this number determined? The answer is surprisingly simple: The food is burned. A sample of the food is placed in an insulated, oxygen-filled chamber that is surrounded by water. This chamber is called a bomb calorimeter. The sample is burned completely. The heat from the burning increases the temperature of the water, which is measured, and which indicates the number of calories in the food. For example, if water temperature increases by 20 degrees, the food contains 20 calories. This method of measuring calories is called direct calorimetry. This method is not frequently used today.

The Calorie you see on a food package is actually a kilocalorie, or 1,000 calories. A Calorie (kcal) is the amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of water 1 degree Celsius. So, the Calorie on a food package is 1,000 times larger than the calorie used in chemistry and physics.

The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 (NLEA) currently dictates what information is presented on food labels. The NLEA requires that the Calorie level placed on a packaged food be calculated from food components. According to the National Data Lab (NDL), most of the calorie values in the USDA and industry food tables are based on an indirect calorie estimation made using the so-called Atwater system. In this system, calories are not determined directly by burning the foods. Instead, the total caloric value is calculated by adding up the calories provided by the energy-containing nutrients: protein, carbohydrate, fat and alcohol. Because carbohydrates contain some fiber that is not digested and utilized by the body, the fiber component is usually subtracted from the total carbohydrate before calculating the calories.

The Atwater system uses the average values of 4 Kcal/g for protein, 4 Kcal/g for carbohydrate, and 9 Kcal/g for fat. Alcohol is calculated at 7 Kcal/g. (These numbers were originally determined by burning and then averaging.) Thus, the label on an energy bar that contains 10 g of protein, 20 g of carbohydrate and 9 g of fat would read 201 kcals or Calories. A complete discussion of this subject and the calories contained in more than 6,000 foods may be found on the National Data Lab web site at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/>. At this site you can also download the food database to a handheld computer. Another online tool that allows the user to total the calorie content of several foods is the Nutrition Analysis Tool at <http://www.nat.uiuc.edu>.

When too few calories are consumed for the body's needs, the body begins to use carbohydrates stored in the liver and muscle. Because the body mobilizes stored carbohydrates quickly and because water is usually excreted as carbohydrates are mobilized, weight loss tends to be fast initially. However, the small amount of stored carbohydrates provides energy for only a short time. Next, the body uses stored fat. Because fat contains more energy per pound, weight loss is slower as the body uses fat

for energy. However, the amount of fat stored is much larger and can, in most people, provide energy for a long time.

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APN# 019-441-004 - .224+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$75,600
Mostly flat then upslope.

611 Noah Court

APN# 019-422-012 - .33+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$49,500
Flat then downslope

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

#17 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-590-017 - 60.69 +/- Acres
Offered at \$350,000

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APN# 019-331-008- .47+- Acre Lot
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Extra Large Lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Corner Lot

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$39,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

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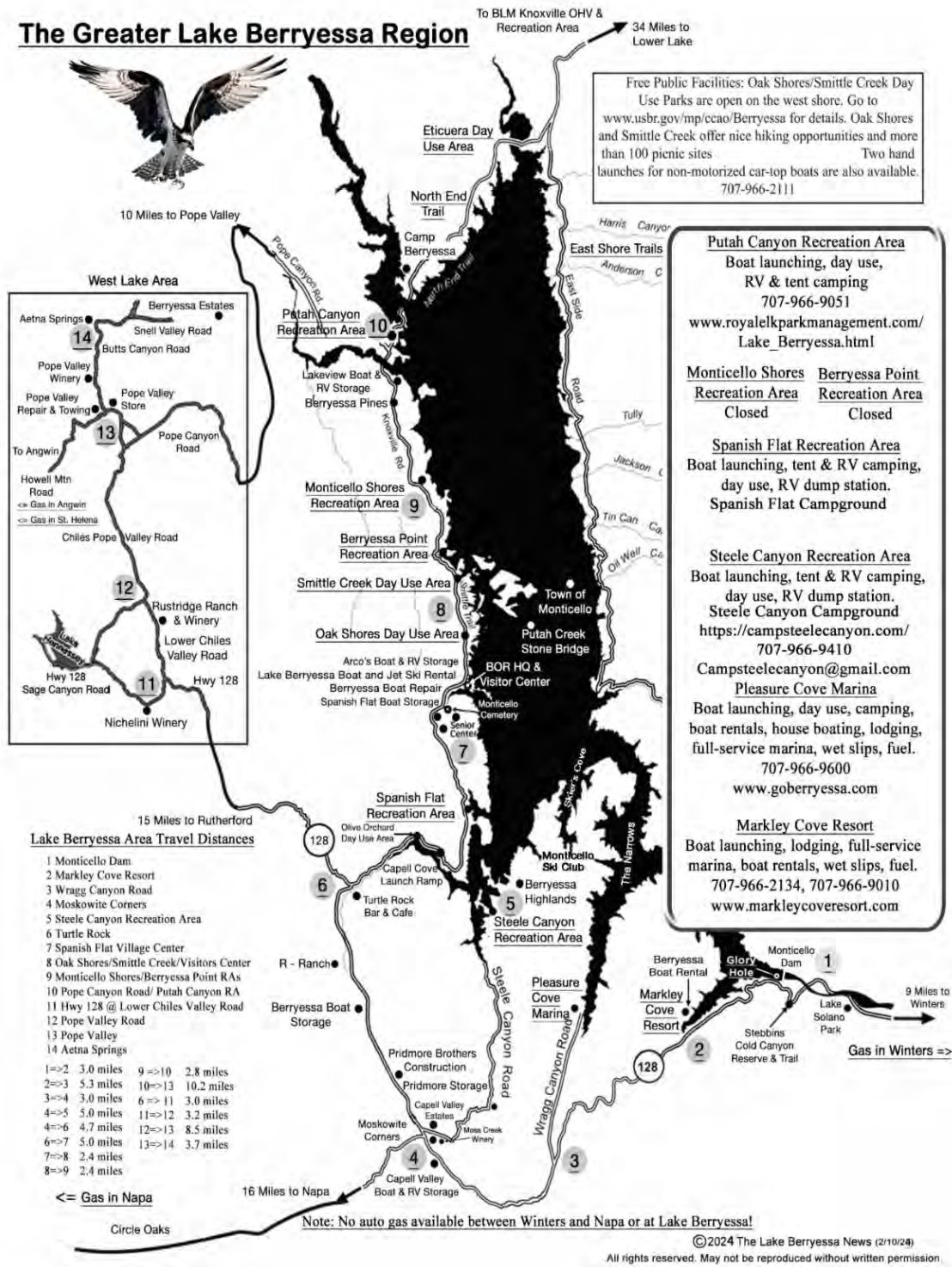
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News - February 2, 2025

Rain is Back, But Is It Enough To Flow Over Glory Hole?

A special request from The Lake Berryessa News.

We are trying to increase the number of people on the mailing list for this regular newsletter. Please help us add new readers by forwarding the newsletter to friends and family and anyone else who has an interest in the news about Lake Berryessa. They can send their email address to: pkilkus@gmail.com. It will be kept confidential. I hope to increase the frequency of the newsletter to weekly, with special editions as needed.

Readers of this newsletter should also follow our website

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

and our Facebook page

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

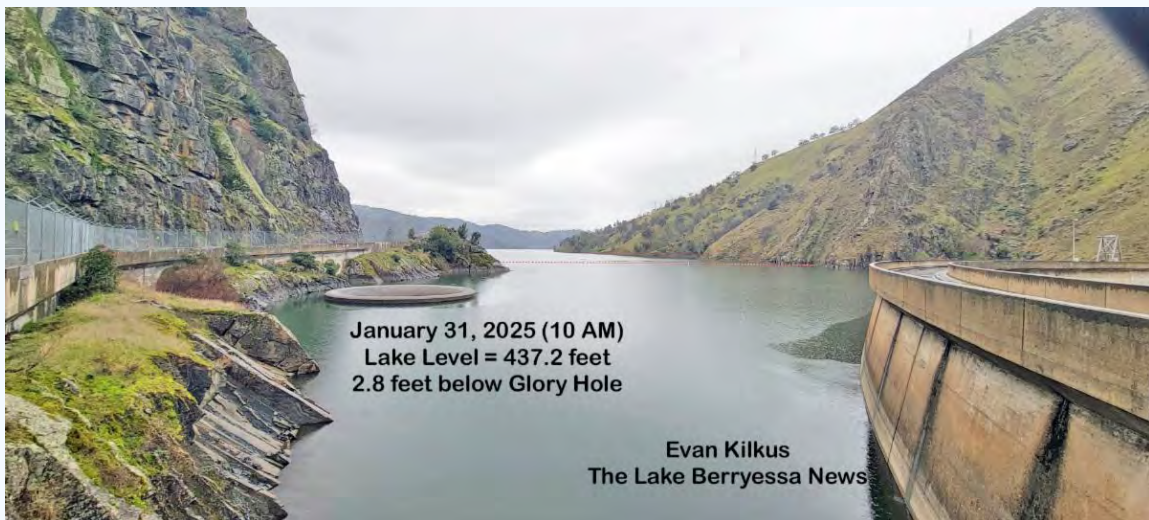
for the latest breaking news about Lake Berryessa.

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (2/2/25)

More than an inch of rain at Monticello Dam in the last day brought the total up to 13.69 inches. Lake level has risen about 3 inches to 437.4 feet, now only 2.6 feet below Glory Hole. It takes some time for the rain runoff to reach the lake.

It's certainly possible, even probable, that Glory Hole will overflow in February 2025. The latest light rains have saturated the soil enough so that the predicted rain this week will cause appreciable runoff to begin. At this lake level Lake Berryessa rises about 7 inches for every inch of rain - depending on the controlled output of the dam. Since the level is now officially at 437.4 feet, 2.6 feet below Glory Hole, about 5 inches of new rainfall should do the trick.

The Solano County Water Agency has been controlling the output at 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 198 A-F (acre feet per day) for two weeks. That means the inflow to the lake, even during this dry period, has been 100 cfs. The closer the lake gets to Glory Hole level (440 feet), the more they can control the level by changing the output - as they did last year.





Per the Solano County Water Agency "There is water being released from the dam year round to supply the cities and farmers of Solano County. Normally all the water is run through the power house and you would not see water being released from the jet valves. This time of year is when they are doing power house maintenance so the ordered flow is released through the jet valves while the power house is shut down."

All the water released from the dam or through the powerhouse is being used for agriculture, water for domestic uses by 400,000 residents of Solano County, and maintaining minimum flows in Putah Creek. 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. When the powerhouse is operating all the flow is diverted through the turbines and is output 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 other valves that are occasionally used are for diverting flow around the powerhouse during maintenance. The photos below of the dam output on January 31, 2025 show water being released above the pad, which indicates that the system is undergoing internal maintenance.

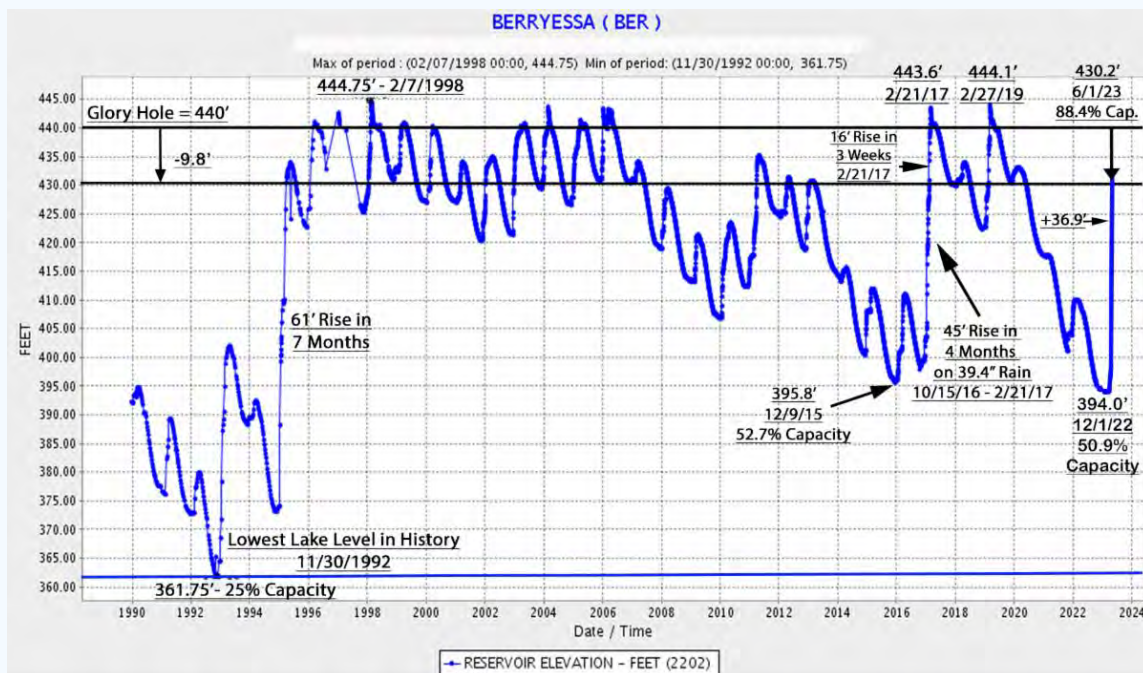
The powerhouse can operate at a maximum output of 700-750 CFS as long as this is never larger than the input to the lake. As inflow drops below this level, the powerhouse will also decrease the flow rate so that the lake either maintains its level or is slowly increasing.

A full Lake Berryessa contains 1,551,292 AF (acre-feet) of water. At 50% capacity it contains about 750,000 AF. The relationship is not linear since the lake is essentially a V-shaped bowl. The difference is approximately 800,000 AF. So, at the present output rate of 198 AF/day output it would take about 4,040 days (11 years) to get down to 50% capacity. At the minimum required flow of 45 cfs (89 AF/day), it would take 8,989 days (25.2 years). At the highest summer maximum output of about 700 AF/day, it would take 1,143 days (3.1 years) to drop to half-full.

Conclusion: Lake Berryessa is a VERY BIG LAKE!







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We've all seen the stories of elderly ladies being scammed out of thousands of dollars because they thought their grandson was in trouble. Or other women scammed because they thought the voice of Kevin Costner that called them to tell them he loved them was real. I'm sure many men have also been scammed. Seems stupid to most people, right? But what about product reviews on social media?

FAKE FEEDBACK

HALELUYA HADERO. Associated Press, Jan 11, 2025

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence tools that allow people to efficiently produce novel and detailed online reviews with almost no work has put merchants, service providers and consumers in uncharted territory, watchdog groups and researchers say.

Phony reviews have long plagued many popular consumer websites, such as Amazon and Yelp. They are typically traded on private social media groups between fake review brokers and businesses willing to pay. Sometimes, such reviews are initiated by businesses that offer customers incentives such as gift cards for positive feedback. But AI-infused text generation tools, popularized by OpenAI's ChatGPT, enable fraudsters to produce reviews faster and in greater volume, according to tech industry experts. The deceptive practice is illegal in the U.S.

Where are AI-generated reviews showing up?

Fake reviews are found across a wide range of industries, from e-commerce, lodging and restaurants, to services such as home repairs, medical care and piano lessons. The Transparency Company, a tech company and watchdog group that uses software to detect fake reviews, said it started to see AI-generated reviews show up in large numbers in mid-2023, and they since multiplied.

For a report released in December, The Transparency Company analyzed 73 million reviews in three sectors: home, legal and medical services. Nearly 14% of the reviews were likely fake, and the company expressed a "high degree of confidence" that 2.3 million reviews were partly or entirely AI-generated. In September, the Federal Trade Commission sued the company behind an AI writing tool and content generator called Rytr, accusing it of offering a service that could pollute the marketplace with fraudulent reviews.

The FTC, which banned the sale or purchase of fake reviews, said some of Rytr's subscribers used the tool to produce hundreds — perhaps thousands — of reviews for garage door repair companies, sellers of "replica" designer handbags and other businesses.

It's likely on prominent online sites, too

Max Spero, CEO of AI detection company Pangram Labs, said the software his company uses detected with certainty that some AI-generated appraisals posted on Amazon bubbled up to the top of review search results. Pangram Labs conducted detection for some prominent online sites, which Spero declined to name due to nondisclosure agreements. He said he evaluated Amazon and Yelp independently.

Many of the AI-generated comments on Yelp appeared to be posted by individuals who were trying to publish enough reviews to earn an "Elite" badge, which is intended to let users know they should trust the content, Spero said.

To be sure, just because a review is AI-generated doesn't necessarily mean it's fake. Some consumers might experiment with AI tools to generate content that reflects their genuine sentiments. Some non-native English speakers say they turn to AI to make sure they use accurate language in the reviews they write. "It can help with reviews (and) make it more informative if it comes out of good intentions," said Michigan State University

marketing professor Sherry He, who has researched fake reviews. She says tech platforms should focus on the behavioral patterns of bad actors, which prominent platforms already do, instead of discouraging legitimate users from turning to AI tools.

What companies are doing

Prominent companies are developing policies for how AI-generated content fits into their systems for removing phony or abusive reviews. Some already employ algorithms and investigative teams to detect and take down fake reviews but are giving users some flexibility to use AI.

Spokespeople for Amazon and Trustpilot, for example, said they would allow customers to post AI-assisted reviews as long as they reflect their genuine experience. Yelp took a more cautious approach, saying its guidelines require reviewers to write their own copy.

The FTC's rule banning fake reviews, which took effect in October, allows the agency to fine businesses and individuals who engage in the practice. Tech companies hosting such reviews are shielded from the penalty because they are not legally liable under U.S. law for the content that outsiders post on their platforms. Tech companies, including Amazon, Yelp and Google, sued fake review brokers they accuse of peddling counterfeit reviews on their sites.

Spotting fake AI-generated reviews

Consumers can try to spot fake reviews by watching out for a few possible warning signs, according to researchers. Overly enthusiastic or negative reviews are red flags. Jargon that repeats a product's full name or model number is another potential giveaway. When it comes to AI, research conducted by Balázs Kovács, a Yale professor of organization behavior, revealed that people can't tell the difference between AI-generated and human-written reviews.

However, there are some "AI tells" that online shoppers and service seekers should keep in mind. Pangram Labs says reviews written with AI are typically longer, highly structured and include "empty descriptors," such as generic phrases and attributes. The writing also tends to include clichés like "the first thing that struck me" and "game-changer."

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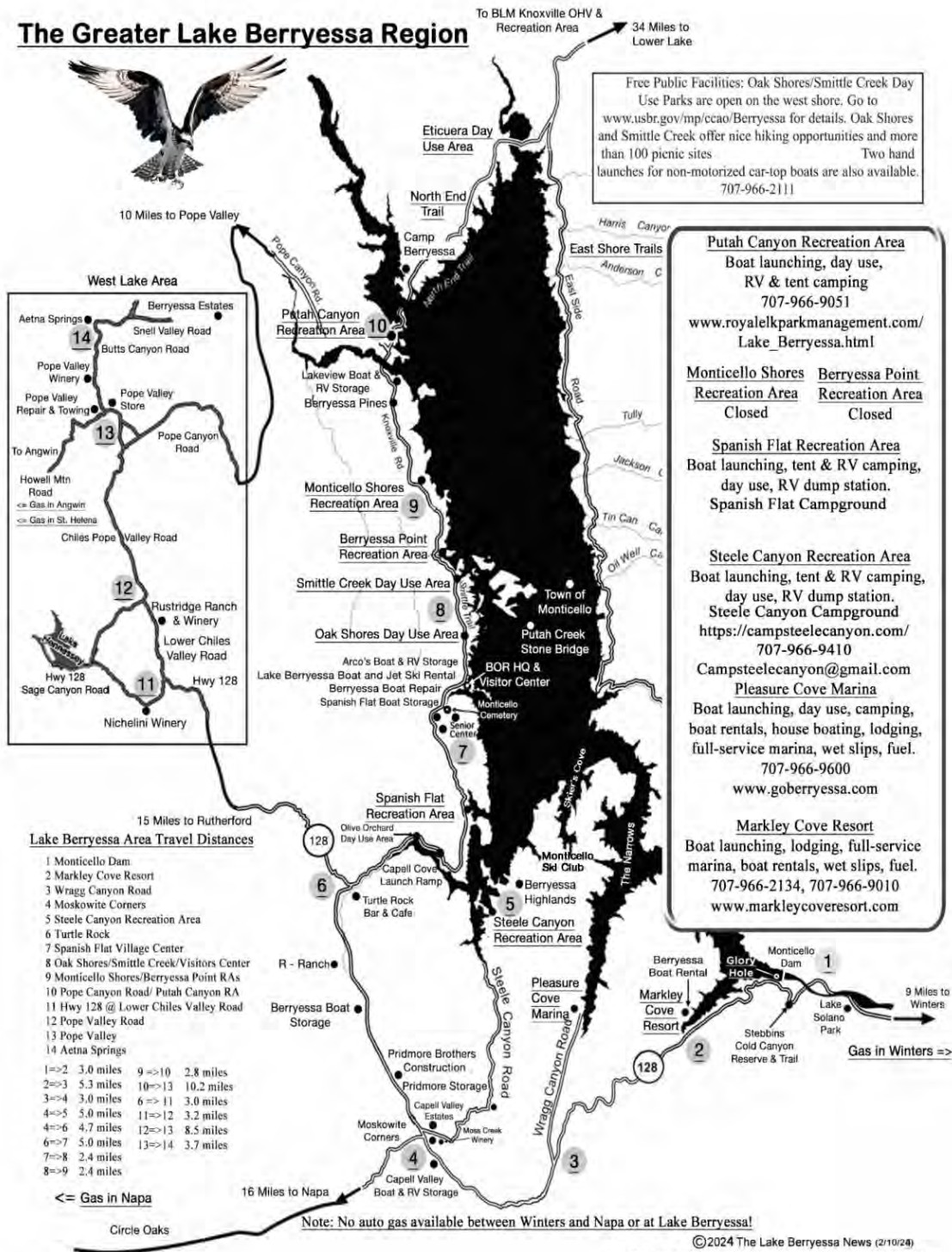
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

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Lake Berryessa News - February 5, 2025

Lake Berryessa Has Officially Spilled Over Glory Hole!

Solano County Water Agency

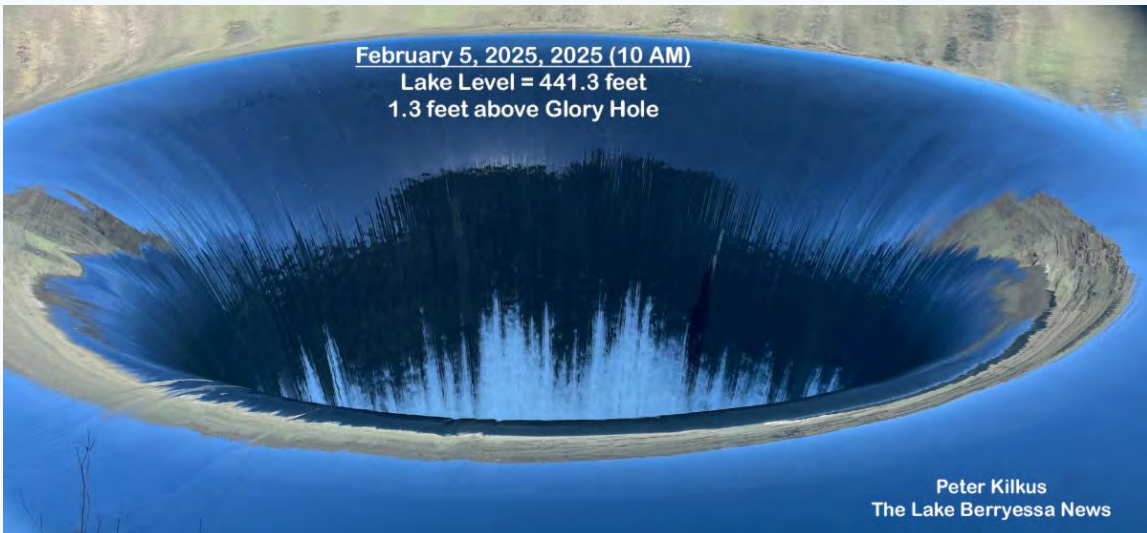
Glory Hole Spill Advisory

2/4/2025 6:15 PM - 440.05 feet

The Lake Berryessa Water Surface Elevation is now above 440 feet,
and the Glory Hole is spilling.

As of 10 AM on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 The lake level has reached 441.3 feet.
The question is no longer when it will spill, but how high will the lake get.









Steele Canyon Campground View
February 5, 2025, 2025 (10 AM)
Lake Level = 441.3 feet
1.3 feet above Glory Hole

Peter Kilkus
The Lake Berryessa News

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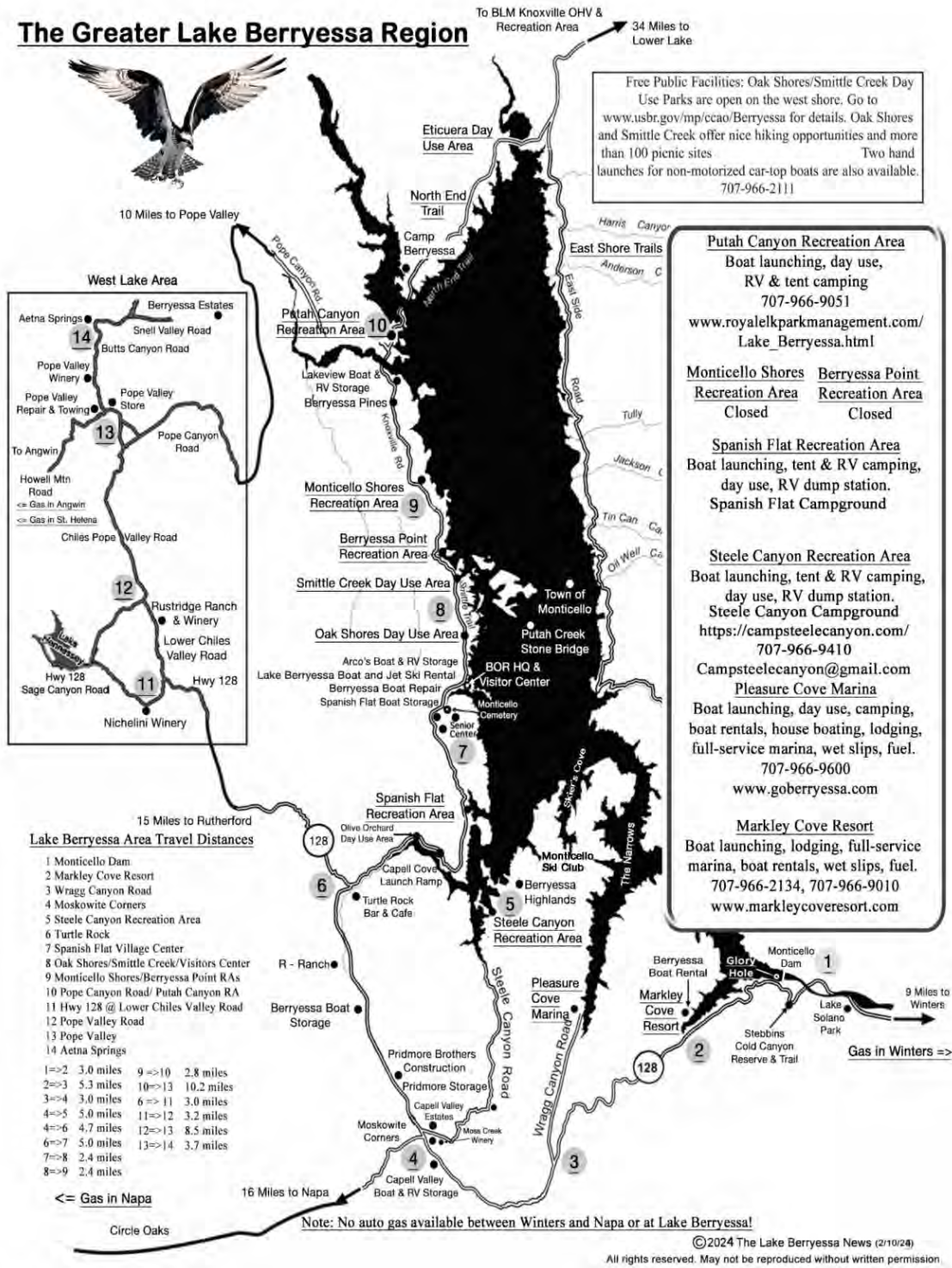
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Lake Berryessa News - February 9, 2025

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (2/9/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has started to stabilize at 442.5 feet, 2.5 feet above Glory Hole. Glory Hole is flowing at an estimate 3,068 cfs and the output from the dam is very high at 1,310 cfs. Without significant new rainfall, the lake level will begin to fall - depending on how closely the dam engineers control the outputs. The latest report from the Solano Irrigation District began to include the spill through Glory Hole described below. They have also increased the release of water from the dam through all of the normal outlets.



Glory Hole Output Flow (2/6/25)
Lake Level = 442.1 feet,
2.1 feet above Glory Hole

Photo by Jerry Skaggs



Do Other Glory Holes Exist?

There are many morning glory spillways around the world. The closest to Lake Berryessa is the one at Whiskeytown Lake near Redding. The photo below shows Whiskeytown Lake's Glory Hole overflowing last year. The latest Bureau of Reclamation press release reports that it has already spilled this year.



Whiskeytown Lake
February 27, 2024

Below are photos of several other Glory hole-type spillways in other countries, including an odd, star-shaped version.



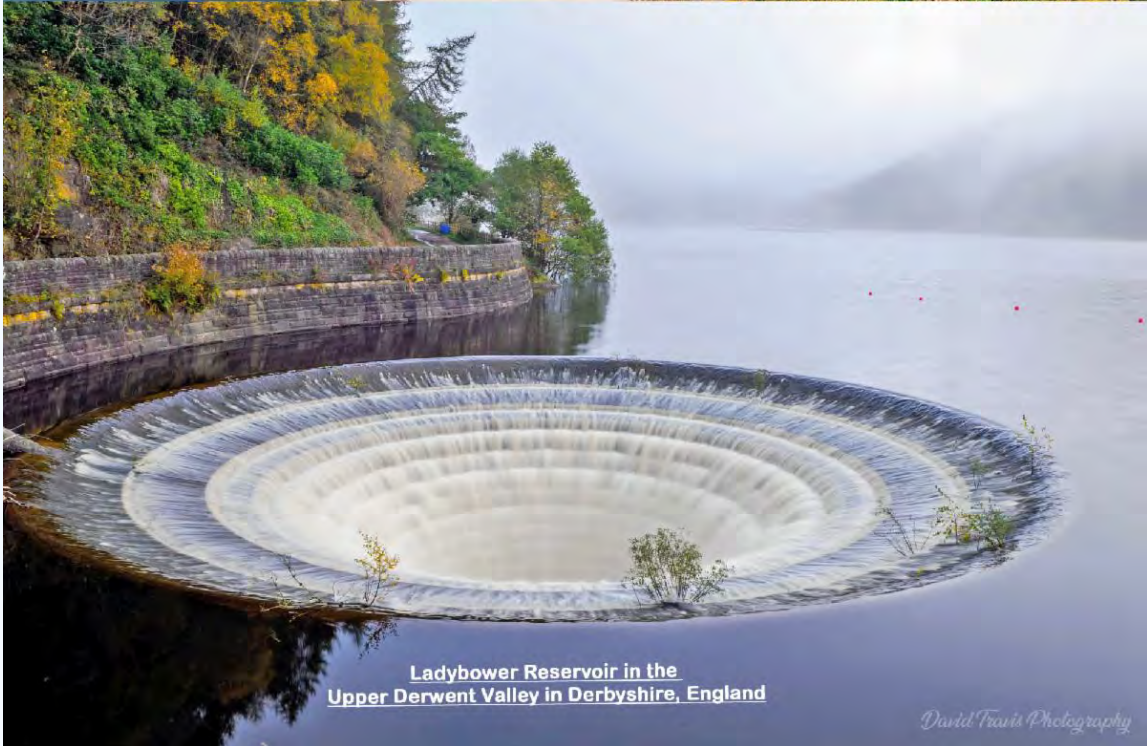
Pontsticill Reservoir
South Wales, United Kingdom



Aerial View of Jatiluhur,
the Largest Dam in Indonesia.

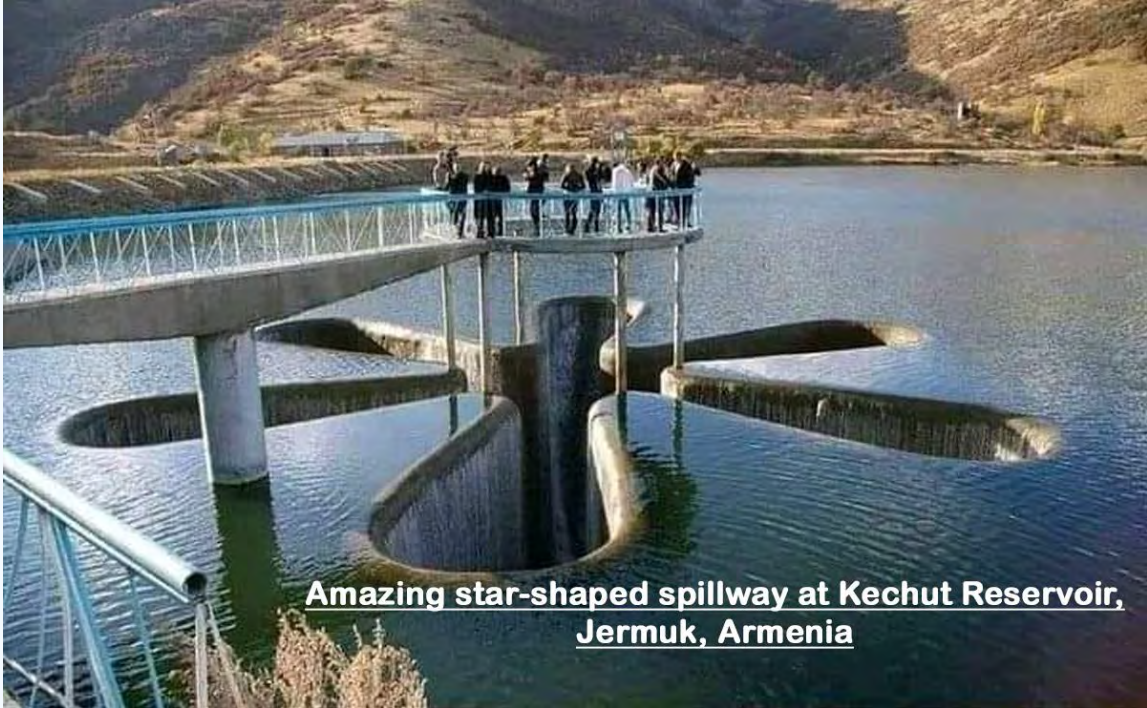


Ladybower Reservoir in the
Upper Derwent Valley in Derbyshire, England



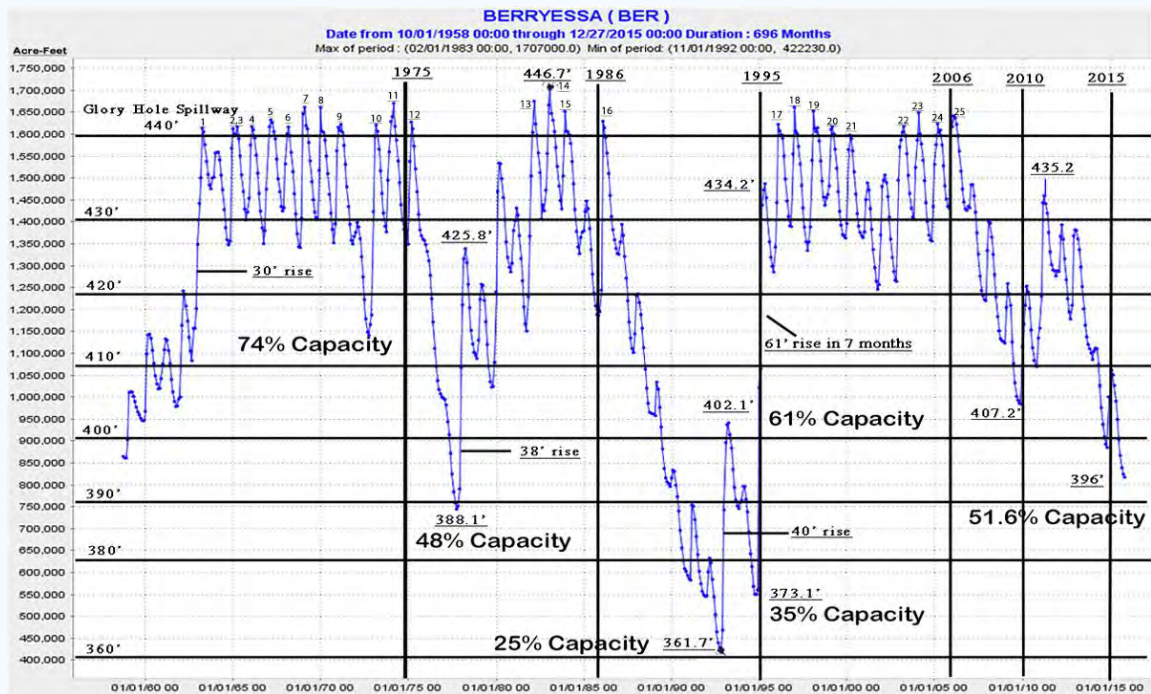
Ladybower Reservoir in the
Upper Derwent Valley in Derbyshire, England

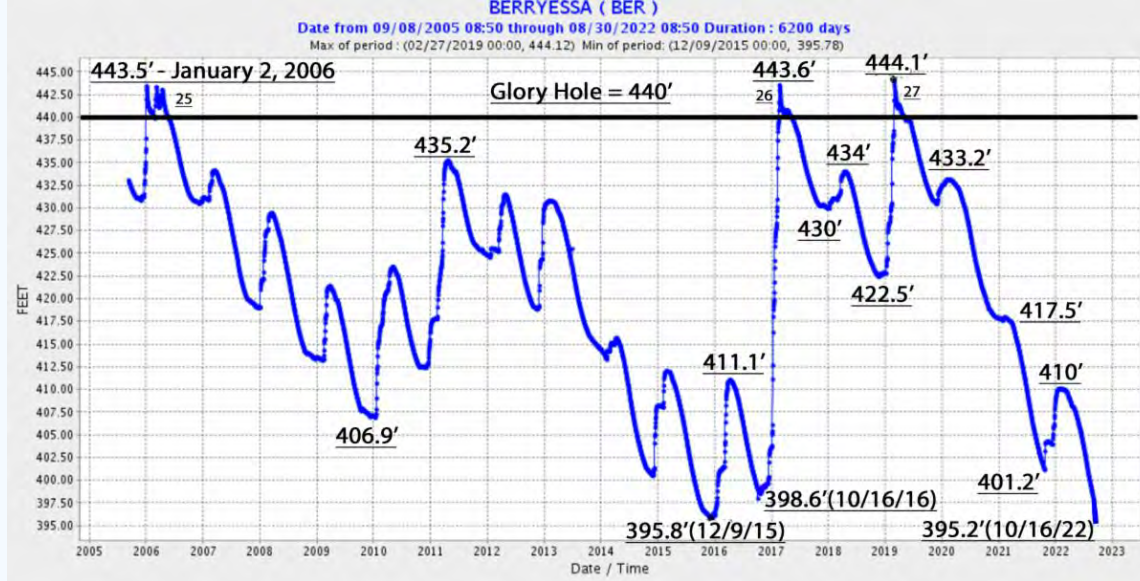
David Travis Photography



**Amazing star-shaped spillway at Kechut Reservoir,
Jermuk, Armenia**

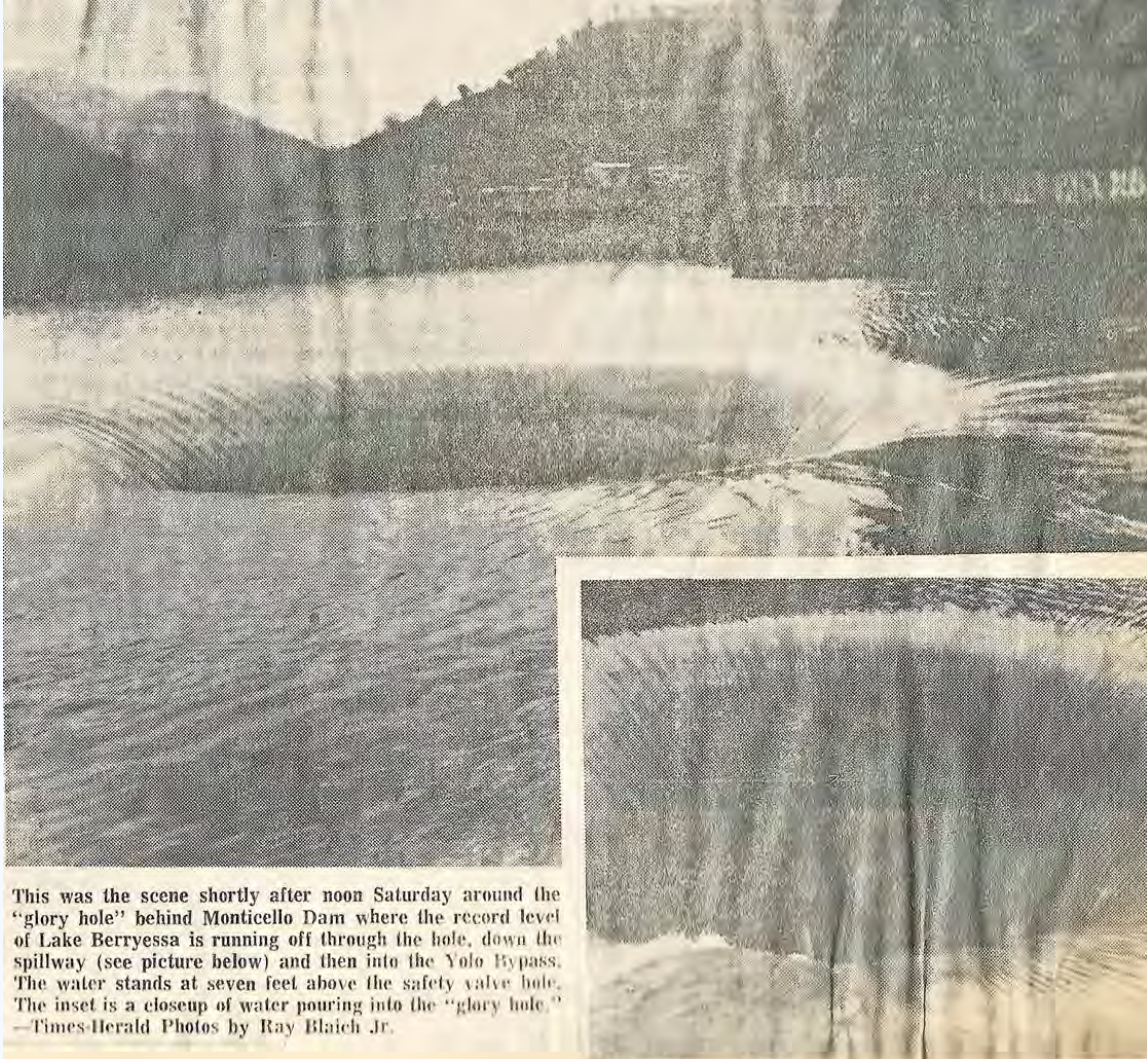
Since Monticello Dam was completed in 1958 Lake Berryessa has only spilled over the lip of Glory Hole 28 times. Count them yourself in the charts below. The first was in 1963. 2006 was the 25th, 2017 was the 26th, and 2019 was the 27th. This year is the 28th spill.





For decades most people at Lake Berryessa were more concerned about droughts. They were used to the regular rise and fall of the lake. When the lake level got at or above Glory Hole, they noticed it mostly at the launch ramps, and the high water levels usually only lasted a few days or weeks. If you boated over to the dam, Glory Hole did not stand out against the background and the safety buoys prevented you from getting close. So, Glory Hole was not anything special.

A search of old newspaper records also did not turn up much. What we now know was the highest level on record reached by Lake Berryessa occurred in 1983. The lake hit 446.7 feet - 6.7 feet above Glory Hole. The article below was quite restrained. Remember that this was before the days of digital cameras, smart phones, and drones.



This was the scene shortly after noon Saturday around the "glory hole" behind Monticello Dam where the record level of Lake Berryessa is running off through the hole, down the spillway (see picture below) and then into the Yolo Bypass. The water stands at seven feet above the safety valve hole. The inset is a closeup of water pouring into the "glory hole."
—Times-Herald Photos by Ray Blatch Jr.

Our Glory Hole had a moment of notoriety in 1997 when a woman committed suicide by jumping into it. The water was only inches above the lip. Although some news stories attempted to sensationalize the tragedy by claiming she was "sucked into" the spillway, she actually had to climb over the lip and jump in.

When I was interviewed by a New York Times reporter last week she asked when I had first seen Glory Hole. I actually could not remember. My first experience with lake levels was a flood in 1998 when the lake rose many feet very quickly below my house, 5 feet in 4 days. As a newcomer to Lake Berryessa, I was quite surprised. You can see my experience with my first flood at the end of my short video, Steele Park Resort Tour 1998, at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkPV8dZS6pM>.

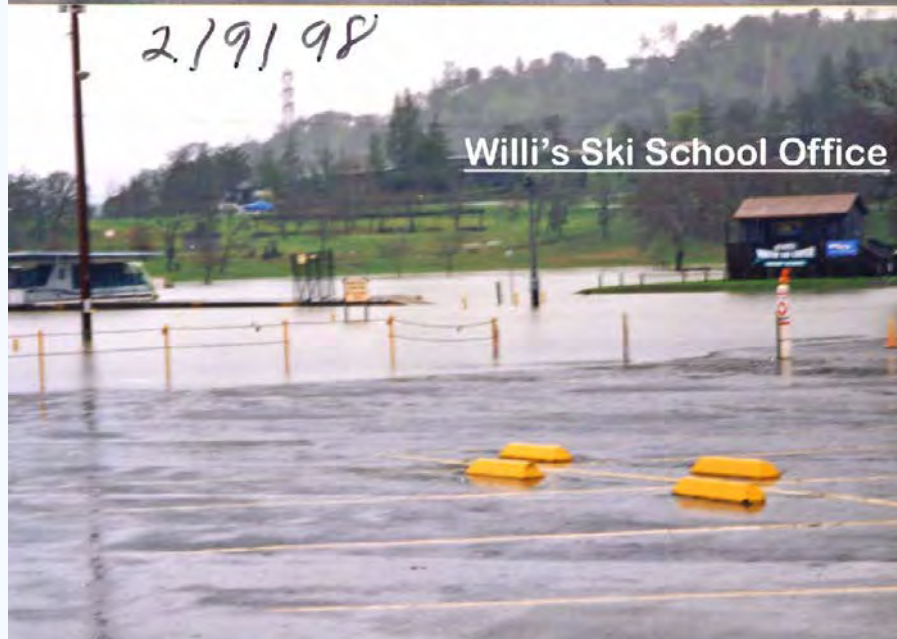
2/3/1998 440.36' msl
Glory Hole spills



Steele Park Mobile Home

2/7/1998 444.75' msl
4.75' over Glory Hole





All that historical disinterest in Glory Hole changed dramatically into international fame in 2017.

Why Is Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole So Famous?

The Glory Hole spill in 2006 kicked off an eleven year drought, and it did so in style. Besides the flooding and typical wind damage, it also caused a major landslide on Monticello Road just past the Wooden Valley Road turnoff. The road to Napa was closed for about two weeks. I had just bought my place above the Berryessa Highlands, and it was an unwelcome introduction to country living. At least I did not have to commute daily to Napa as so many of my neighbors did.

It was also the time that I and some friends resurrected the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce. I had also joined Shirl Katleba in writing and publishing The Lake Berryessa News. It was also the most active period in our battle with the Bureau of Reclamation to stop their destructive Visitor Services Plan which ultimately destroyed the Lake Berryessa recreational community, leaving it the shadow you see now.

The Lake Berryessa community coalesced around the idea of promoting the amazing

recreational resource of Lake Berryessa to the world. Our first big hurdle was to get Napa County to realize that Lake Berryessa even existed. That took a couple of years. The second roadblock was to get Napa County and the "Napa Valley Only" folks to admit the Lake Berryessa even mattered. That took another few years. Some of you may remember our "Allie, the Lake Berryessa Alligator" campaign, our own Loch Ness monster to entice folks to come to the lake.



The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce became very active, and The Lake Berryessa News regularly provided the only news and information you could find about Lake Berryessa, including daily monitoring of lake levels and Monticello Dam statistics focusing on lake levels relative to Glory Hole.

Meanwhile digital photography and video production advanced rapidly culminating in the introduction of the first of the modern drones. The Lake Berryessa News was lucky to have the first of the drone video pioneers as our Associate Editor, Evan Kilkus. You probably saw some of his great videos documenting the 2014 Napa earthquake and

supporting the community's recovery efforts. Evan soon started making amazing drone videos of Lake Berryessa, Monticello Dam, and Glory Hole. And then, in 2017, came an unanticipated big bang of a heavy rainfall year, and Evan was there to document the rapid rise of the lake to overflow Glory Hole for the first time in 11 years.

You can watch the series of videos that made Glory hole internationally famous (they never get old) at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-4/>.

Some of those videos were seen by more than a million people around the world with highest viewing audience at 62 million for "Lake Berryessa is 3.5' OVER the Glory Hole Spillway" at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iHAjOrrU4k>

The Lake Berryessa News Facebook page grew to more than 30,000 followers in only a few weeks (now at 38,511). The Lake Berryessa News website received more than 3,000 hits per day.

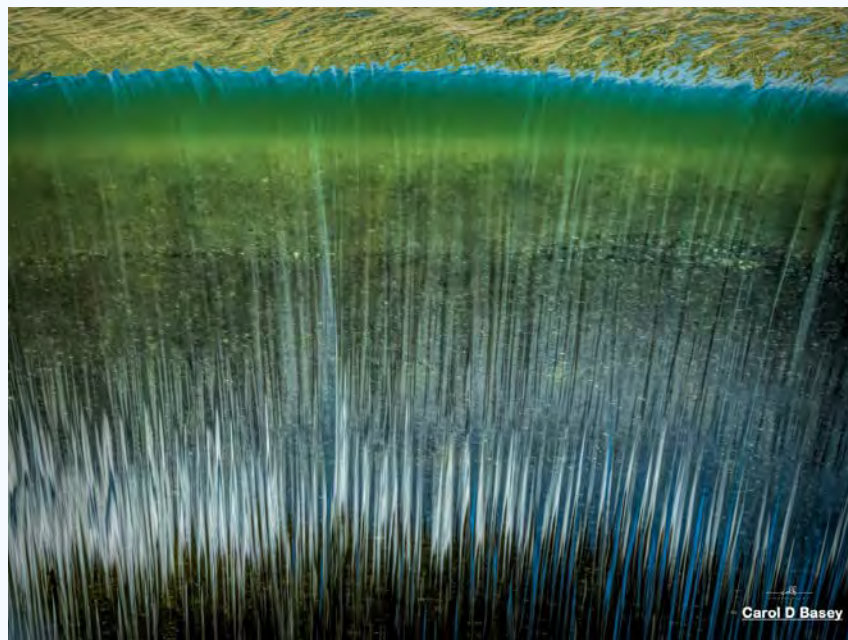
But I must admit that I still don't remember the first time I saw Glory Hole from the road.

What Do People See When They Gaze Into Glory Hole?

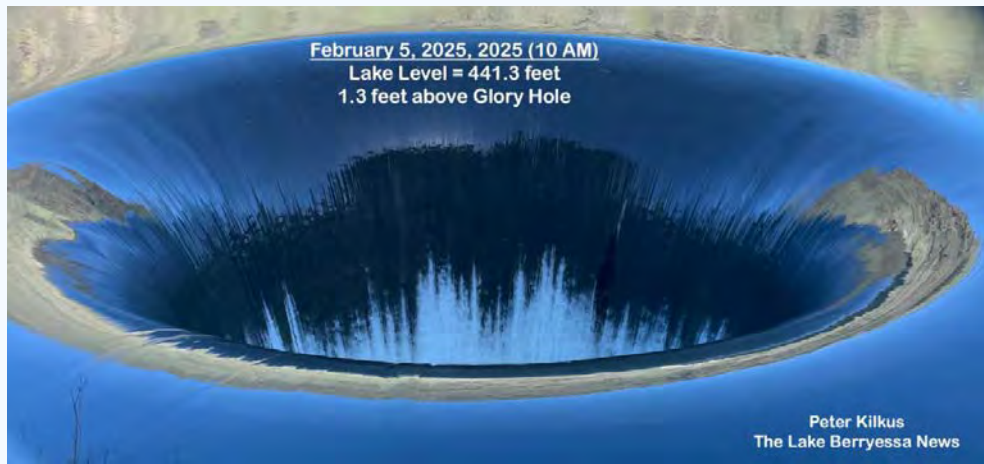
As a physicist I see the beauty of science in action. The smooth elegance of moving water expressing the basic equations of laminar fluid flow.



Love of science and the emotional effect of art are compatible human emotions. Carol D Basey gave us some beautiful work this week.

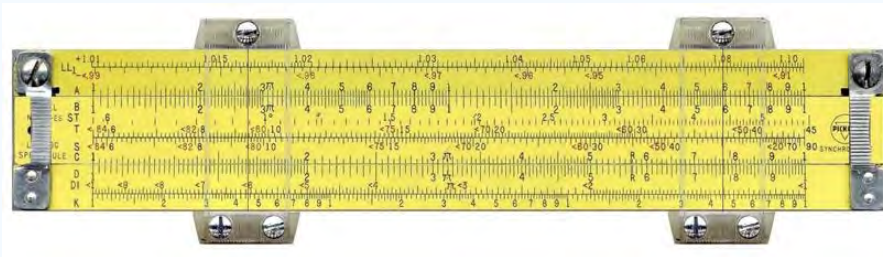


Some people express fear or unease. They look into Glory Hole and see their soul.



How Much Water Escapes Through Glory Hole?

Most people are used to hearing that the lake spills at 440 feet, but it actually starts to spill 1 cubic foot per second (CFS) at a level of 439.95 feet; 2 CFS at a level of 439.96 feet; and 10 CFS at a level of 440 feet. There are no direct measuring devices inside Glory Hole. These values are listed in a Spillway Discharge Table for Monticello Dam computed in 1963 before the introduction of digital computers and electronic calculators. Below is a photo of the desk top personal computer I used in college.



Engineers needed to solve simple equations like this one to calculate the Spillway Discharge Table. The water flow over a spillway when neglecting viscosity is given by the equation:

$$Q = \frac{2}{3} w \sqrt{2gy^3}$$

where w is the width of the spillway, g is the acceleration due to gravity, and y is the height of the water above the spillway. This is derived by using Bernoulli's equation and Torricelli's equation, and taking into account the flow over an area rather than just a point. Glory Hole is actually a circular waterfall.

Below is the Glory Hole spill volume for the last few days which shows the increase in flow over the top.

Date	Water Level (Feet)	Storage (AF)	Glory Hole Spill (CFS)	Dam Release (CFS)
02/01/25	437.35	1,501,609	0	90
02/02/25	437.87	1,511,303	0	90
02/03/25	438.39	1,521,024	0	50
02/04/25	440.83	1,566,993	251	45
02/05/25	441.50	1,579,714	1118	935
02/06/25	442.09	1,590,952	1598	1120
02/07/25	442.57	1,600,118	3011	1220

Here is a scan of the first page of the Spillway Discharge Table still in use. It calculates the flow through Glory Hole in cubic feet per second at every hundredth of foot lake level after the lake level reaches 439.95 feet.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
REGION 2
CENTRAL VALLEY OPERATIONS OFFICE
SPILLWAY DISCHARGE TABLE
MONTICELLO DAM**

ELEV	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
439.90					0	1	2	3	5	7
440.00	10	12	15	18	21	24	27	31	34	38
440.10	42	46	50	55	59	64	68	73	78	83
440.20	88	93	98	104	109	115	120	126	132	138
440.30	144	150	156	162	169	175	182	188	195	202
440.40	209	215	223	230	237	244	251	259	266	274
440.50	281	289	297	305	313	321	329	337	345	353
440.60	362	370	379	387	396	405	413	422	431	440
440.70	449	458	467	477	486	495	505	514	524	534
440.80	543	553	563	573	583	593	603	613	623	633
440.90	644	654	665	675	686	696	707	718	728	739
441.00	750	761	772	783	795	806	817	828	840	851
441.10	863	874	886	898	910	921	933	945	957	969
441.20	981	993	1006	1018	1030	1043	1055	1068	1080	1093
441.30	1105	1118	1131	1144	1157	1170	1183	1196	1209	1222
441.40	1235	1248	1262	1275	1289	1302	1316	1329	1343	1357
441.50	1370	1384	1398	1412	1426	1440	1454	1468	1483	1497
441.60	1511	1525	1540	1554	1569	1583	1598	1613	1627	1642
441.70	1657	1672	1687	1702	1717	1732	1747	1762	1778	1793
441.80	1808	1824	1839	1855	1870	1886	1902	1917	1933	1949
441.90	1965	1981	1997	2013	2029	2045	2061	2077	2094	2110
442.00	2127									

SOURCE DATA IS LETTER DATED AUGUST 6, 1963 TO ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF OPERATIONS FROM CHIEF, IRRIGATION DAM BRANCH OF IRRIGATION DIVISION. TABLE COMPUTED AUGUST 1963.

Source data is letter dated August 6, 1963 to Assistant Regional Director and Chief of Operations from Chief, Irrigation Dam Branch of Irrigation Division. Table computed August 1963.

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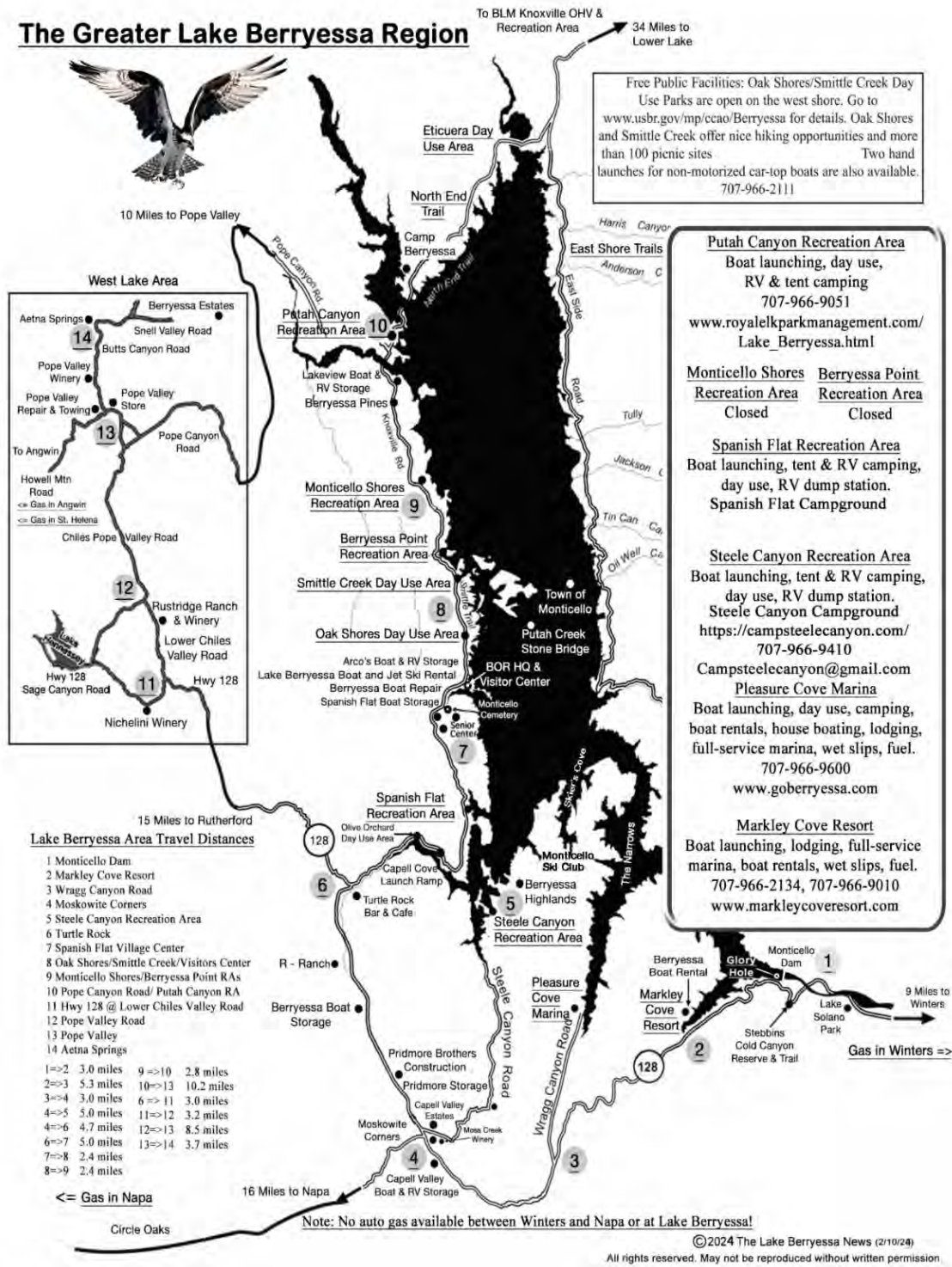
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News - February 16, 2025

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (2/16/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level had risen to a high of 442.97 feet, 2.97 feet above Glory Hole on Valentine's Day. But it has started dropping again. Rainfall has reached 20.14 inches (about average) at Monticello Dam. No rainfall is predicted for a week. Future rainfall predictions are not very high. Creeks have slowed their flow. Lake capacity is at 103.3%. Statistically, the lake may be at its high point for this season.

Here's a short video from yesterday. Perspective - it doesn't look like 3 feet over.

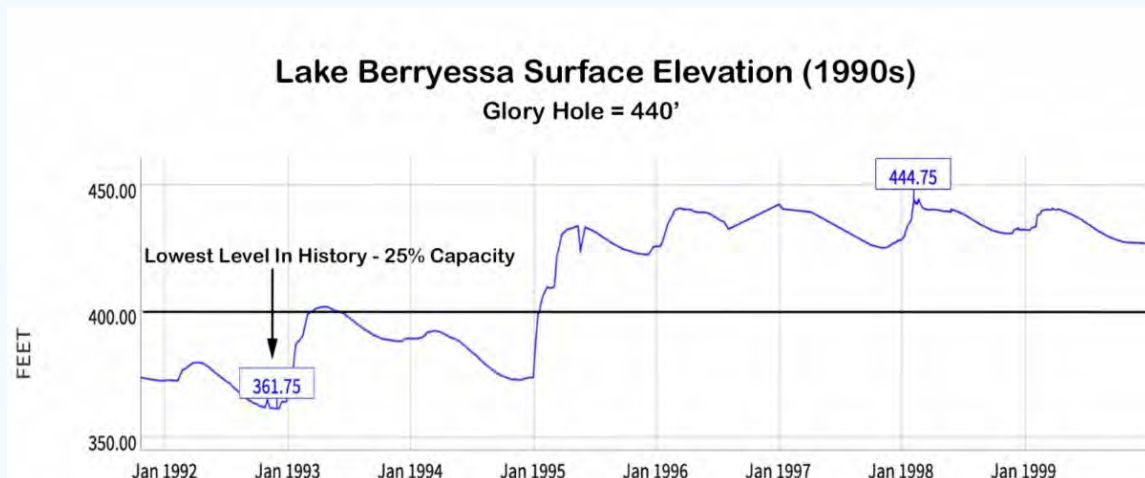
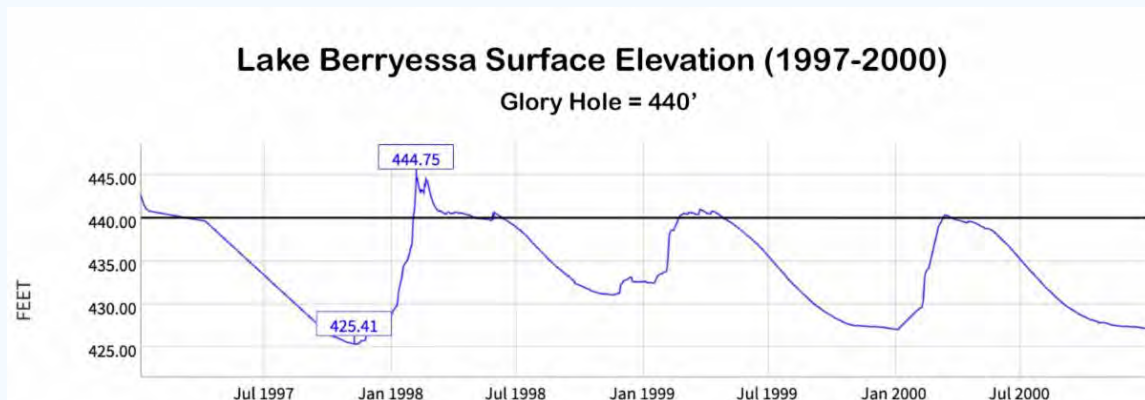
[Glory Hole Video \(2/15/25\)](#)

Thanks to Tim Carl of Napa Valley Features for printing my article:

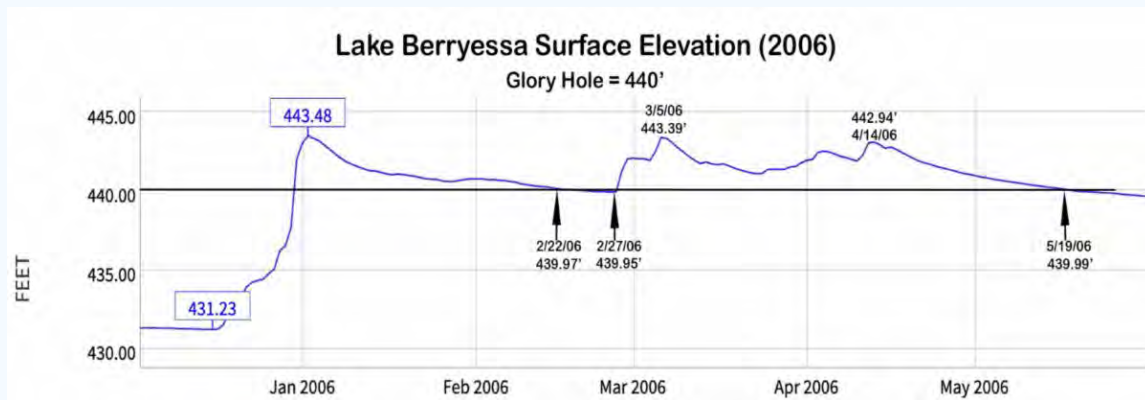
[Sunday E-dition: Lake Berryessa — Glory Hole Watch 2025](#)

The Glory Hole Watch Series (1990 - 2025)

Glory Hole Watch 1900 - 2000



Glory Hole Watch 2006



Glory Hole Goes Over! On Sat. Dec. 31, 2005, at 8am. It went back below Glory Hole on 5/22/06. Rainfall had already hit 35 inches. The lake stayed above Glory Hole for almost 6 months with an additional 25 inches of rain during the same period,

1/6/2006: The elevation of the spillway (Glory Hole) at Monticello Dam is 440 feet. The water is now at 440.29 feet, .29 feet below the top of the spillway. Lake Berryessa has had 33.94 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 2005. As reported by Carlos Jeffreys of The Corners.

Glory Hole Goes Over for a 2nd time in one season on 2-27-06, 1.28 over the spillway

4/2/06: The water is now 440.99 feet, .01 feet above the top of the spillway. Lake Berryessa has had 52.26 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 05

4/16/06: The water is now 442.77 feet, 2.77 feet above the top of the spillway. Lake Berryessa has had 58.16 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 2004. April 4th thru April 16th had a total of 4 inches rain!!

4/30/06: The water is now at 441.04 feet, 1.04 feet above the top of the spillway. Lake Berryessa has had 58.51 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 2005

5/14/06: The water is now 440.23, .23 feet above the top of the spillway. Lake Berryessa has had 58.51 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 2005.

5/22/06: The water is now at 439.93 feet, .07 feet below Glory Hole. Lake Berryessa has had 58.51 inches of rainfall since July 1st, 2005

Glory Hole Watch 2017

Lake Berryessa Surface Elevation (2017)

Glory Hole = 440'



February, 2017: Lake Berryessa Takes A Full Breath of Fresh Water and Glory Hole Goes Viral!

Lake Berryessa is almost a living creature. It breathes in and out, grows and shrinks. But it breathes water not air and breathes in during the winter and out during the summer. Actually, it is always breathing out a bit through Monticello Dam all year long. The last time the lake took a full

breath was January, 2006 when the level reached 443.5 feet above mean sea level (msl). For the last ten years the lake has breathed out more than in, it's shallowest breath occurring in October 2016 when the lake level dropped to 398.6 feet. On February 21, 2017 Lake Berryessa finally took another big deep breath and reached its second highest lake level in history - 443.6 feet msl - a 45 foot rise - the second fastest rise in its 58 year history.

Watch 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 11-year drought at:

<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>

2/16/17: Lake Berryessa Is Full & Splashing Over the Spillway

<https://youtu.be/uQp0QConILY>

2/18/17: Lake Berryessa Is Spilling 1 Foot Over Glory Hole

[Original ACDC version of:](#)

[2/18/17: Lake Berryessa Is Spilling 1 Foot Over Glory Hole](#)

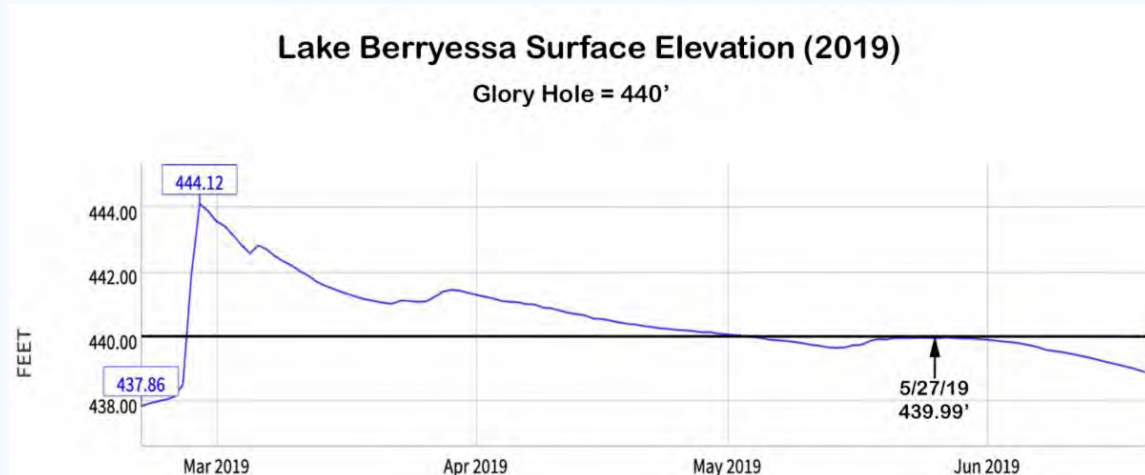
<https://youtu.be/-iHAjOrrU4k>

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

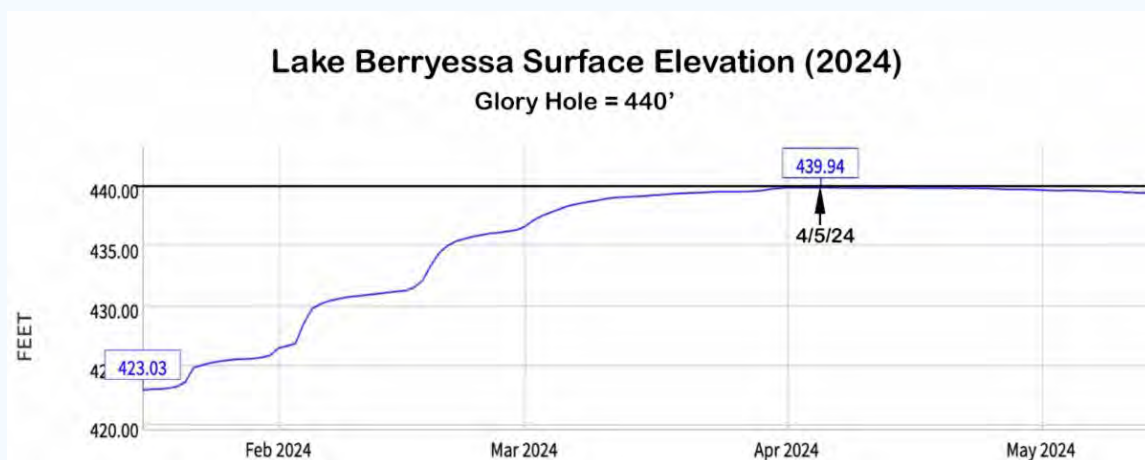
Glory Hole Watch 2019



March 2019: Glory Hole Overflows (2/26/19): Lake Berryessa is Full Again And 4' Above The Spillway!

Glory Hole Spill Watch is Over. The “How High Will It Go” Watch Is On! Lake Berryessa overflowed Glory Hole at 10:30AM on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. The lake level hit 444.1' - 4.1' above Glory Hole at 8 AM, 2/28/19. That's an increase of more than 5' in 24 hours! In 2017 the highest point was 443.6'. Before that it was 443.5' in 2006. Highest lake level was 446.7' in 1983.

Glory Hole Watch 2024



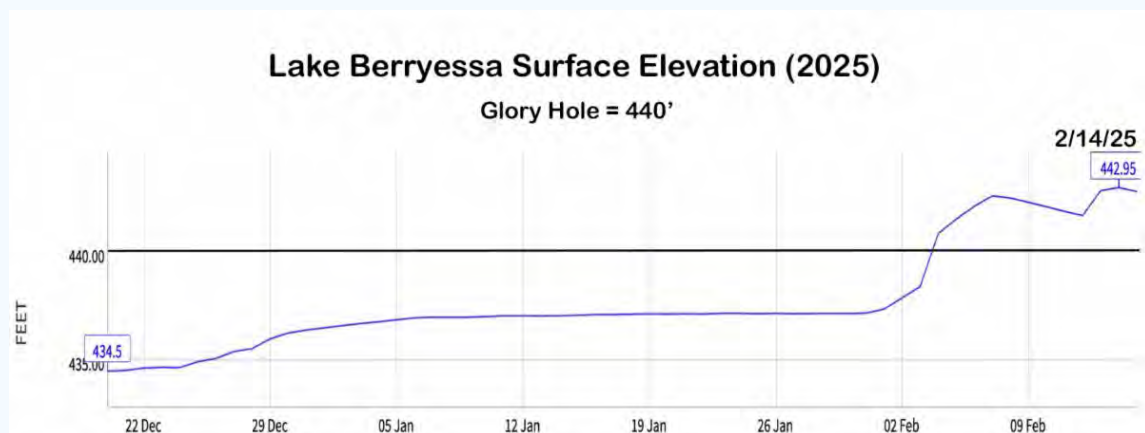
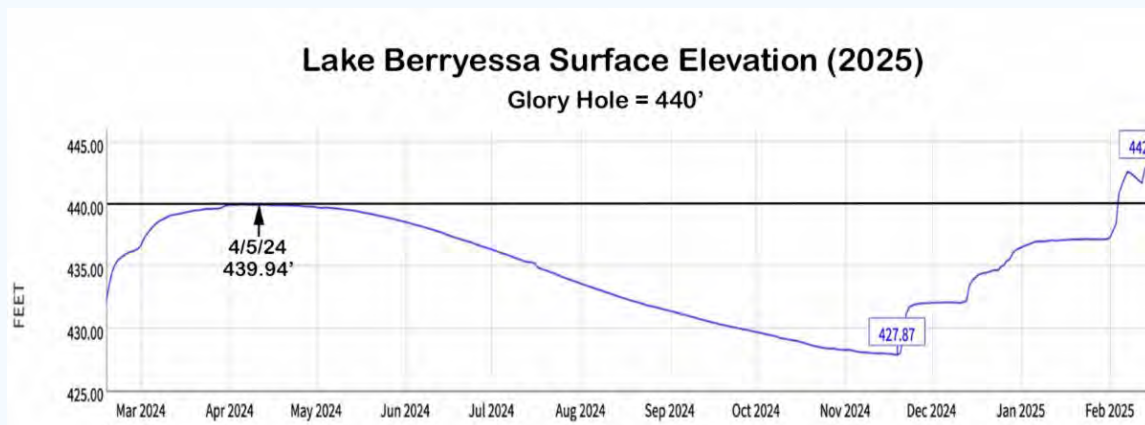
Glory Hole Watch 2024: No Spill, No Flow, But A New Record

2024 was the highest the lake level has ever reached without officially going over the Glory Hole spillway! The lake level has started to go down. Lake Berryessa's Morning Glory Spillway, famously known as the Glory Hole, has been on the brink of spilling for more than two weeks, hanging a few inches away from a full spill for what's been the longest time on record.

Practically, Lake Berryessa is considered "full" when the level hits 440' MSL (Above Mean Sea Level). That is the level of the top of the lip of the Glory Hole spillway. Before 2017 Glory Hole had overflowed only 25 times in the 59 years since the dam was finished in 1958. By 2024 Glory Hole has overflowed only 27 times in the 67 years since the dam was finished in 1958.

This year marks the longest period of time the lake has ever been so close to the edge without officially spilling. Some of the other years that had low level spills was 2000 with a spill level of 440.33 ft, 1966 with a spill level of 440.47, and 1963 with a spill level of 440.57 ft. This appears to be a once-in-a-lifetime year.

Glory Hole Watch 2025



The official announcement came in the middle of the day on Tuesday, Feb. 4, after heavy rainfall: "Solano County Water Agency Glory Hole Spill Advisory, 2/4/2025, 6:15 PM. The Lake Berryessa Water Surface Elevation is now above 440 feet, and the Glory Hole is spilling." Lake level rose quickly to 441.3 feet, 1.3 feet above Glory Hole by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The Lake Berryessa water level continued to rise rapidly on 3.97 inches of rain at Monticello Dam and reached 442.6 feet, 2.6 feet above Glory Hole, on Friday, Feb. 7. The question now seemed to be how high the lake would get. And then the rain stopped. Then it started again and by 2/15/25 the lake had risen to 443 feet. Will this be the high level for 2025?



2025: A Year of Anniversaries

The Lake Berryessa News has been around in one form or another since the 1970's.
Check out the full history of downloadable, searchable PDF files at:

[Lake Berryessa News Past Issues 2005-2025:https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/](https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/2025:https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-2/)

The Lake Berryessa News 20th Anniversary (2005) **My First Editorial**

20 years seems like almost yesterday. Rereading my first editorial shows that some things have not changed much - except that the Lake Berryessa recreational and residential communities have been destroyed despite all attempts at positive improvement. Unfortunately, I could write much the same editorial today! But our old slogan still rings true: "Preserve the Best, Improve the Rest".

From the Editor: General Plans, People, and Earth Day (April 21, 2005)

April 22 is Earth Day, in case you forgot. The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970 and

we've learned a lot since then. But the County General Plan meeting at the Berryessa Senior Center on April 6 was much more than it seemed on the surface and made me wonder how much some people actually have learned. *There were clear distinctions between what those who live here want and what those who don't live here think we should want.*

Consider County attitude – it seems to be paternalistic and negative towards our community. County officials have publicly stated that Lake Berryessa is a “black hole” expense and that Napa County citizens don't use the lake. An unnamed Planning Department person worried that the meeting would be full of people from *the “six packs and gun racks”* crowd. Those of us who were there know this wasn't the case. But I've sometimes made a point about how much something costs by translating the dollar figure into the number of six-packs you could buy with the money. That pile of sixpacks is quite an exciting visual when you think about a multi-million dollar government waste of money like the plan the Bureau of Reclamation is proposing for Lake Berryessa.

But the six-pack comment also indicates a fundamental lack of understanding of what it is like to be part of a concerned and educated rural America in the 21st century. There are too many people who have not gotten beyond their 1970's Easy Rider stereotypes. Some, like the local Sierra Club, are so far behind the times they must be able to see wagon trains catching up to them in their rearview mirrors!

Many of us at Lake Berryessa now were part of the efforts that resulted in unprecedented environmental and social progress during the last 35 years since the first Earth Day. But some don't want to let go of the thrill of the battles, with the rush that comes from knowing you (the good guys) are right, and they (the bad guys) are wrong. You can see it now in some of the rhetoric from local exclusionist groups who seem to want to fight bigger and bigger battles over smaller and smaller things.

Consider the local folks' attitude – most seem to want to combine the positive values of the Lake Berryessa community with a desire for a modest increase in the number of homes and businesses – more lodging outside the resorts for visitors, for example. Sure would be nice to be able to have a self-supporting gas station out here! Maybe even a change to the highly-restrictive 160 acre agricultural zoning. Even Marin County - no slouch when it comes to protection - has only 60 acre ag zoning. Local people, especially those who have lived out here their whole lives, know the value of what they've got, but they also want to share it, expand it, benefit reasonably from it.

So how about some philosophy in the mix. General planning principles point out that to have a sustainable community you need at least 1,000 homes - to support a school, local businesses, local services. In other words, you have to have a critical mass of social and economic activity to create a sustainable community. Lake Berryessa has not gotten there yet and based on how it's being treated by the County it may never be allowed to. When people who control your destiny (the rest of Napa County) don't even know much about you (remember the County says Napa County residents, i.e., voters, don't even use the lake) you are at a disadvantage.

Philosophically, we've learned a lot in the 35 years since that first Earth Day. We've learned that most of us Americans consider ourselves environmentalists. We've learned

how to turn the tide on environmental destruction and have done so in remarkable ways. We've learned that using sustainability as a guiding principle gives the best result for the environment, the economy, and social equity. And I know we've learned how to make Lake Berryessa a vibrant community while preserving the values that make this community unique.

Celebrating Napa County's 175th Anniversary

This year marks the 175th anniversary of Napa County. Life back in 1850 was very different - the population then estimated at just over 1,000 people according to the 1852 California Census, agriculture was primarily and livestock, and milk was only 10 cents a quart.

Through the Vine Ep. 7 - 175th Anniversary Special Edition Video

In this special 175th anniversary special edition of Through the Vine, we take a look back at the county's early roots and how we're continuing to make history today.

https://youtu.be/EH_mebXf4QU?si=rpl1jL0g0_uQsOuN


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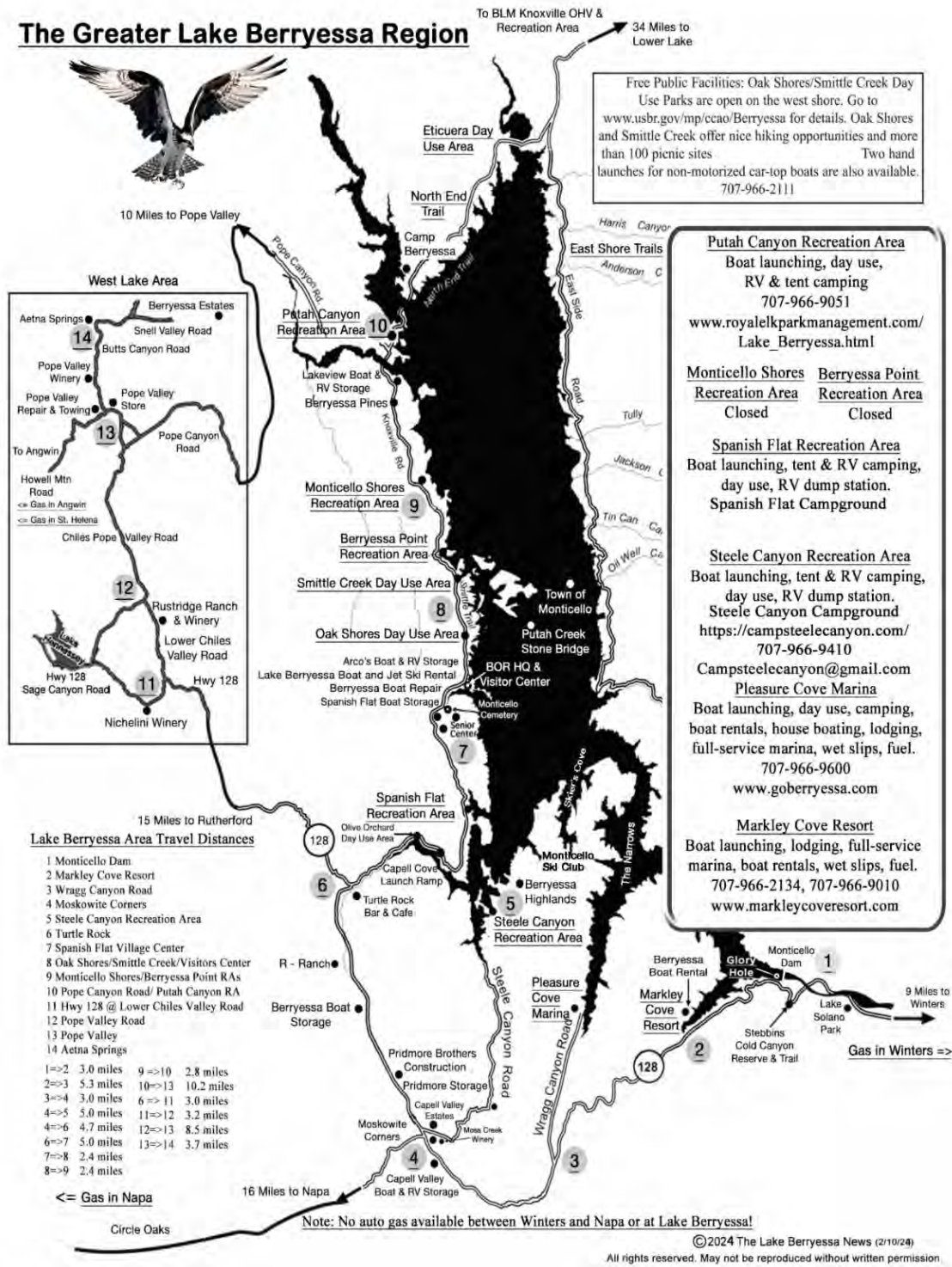
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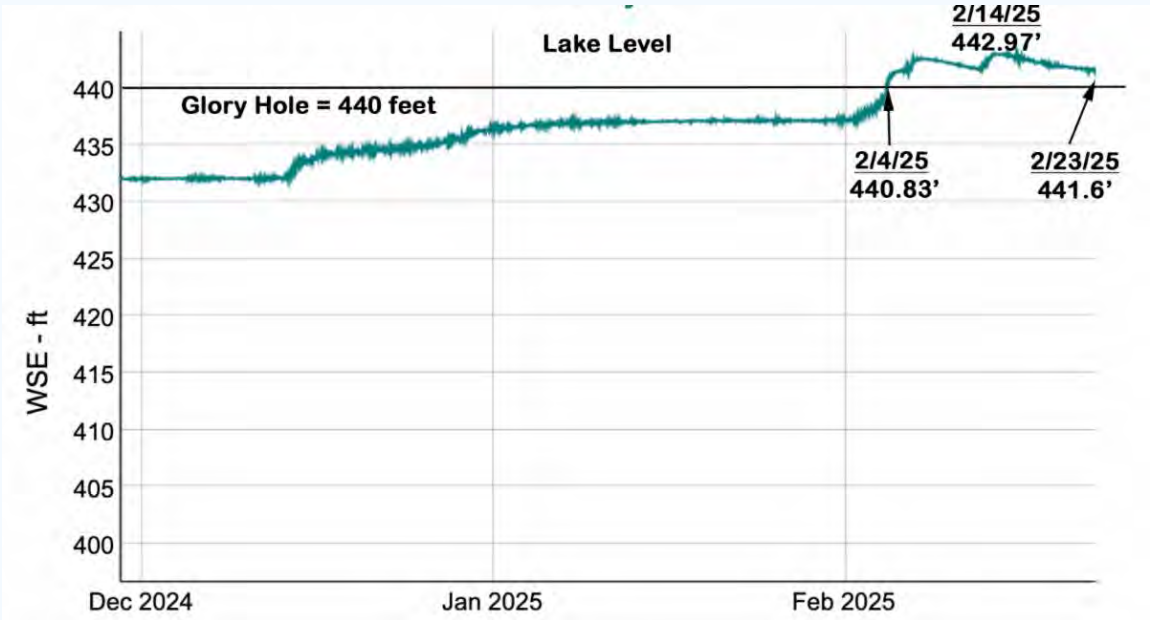


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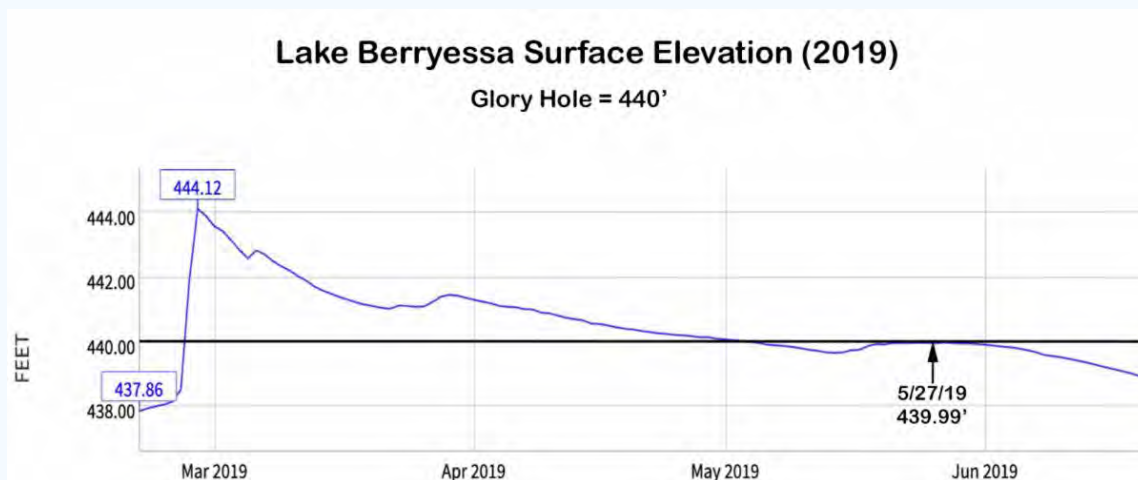
Lake Berryessa News - February 23, 2025

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (2/23/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is continuing to drop slowly. It is now at 441.6 feet, 1.6 feet above Glory Hole with no substantial rain in sight. Its high point was 442.97 feet on Valentine's Day. Rainfall remains at 20.14 inches (about average) at Monticello Dam. Capacity is 101.9%.



Glory Hole 2025 watchers are now wondering how long the lake will stay above Glory Hole. Below are two of the longest periods.



OPEN HOUSE

Join Bureau of Reclamation employees and partners at an open house to learn about Lake Berryessa's invasive Mussel Prevention Program



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The Paper Passport Is Dying

Smartphones and face recognition are being combined to create new digital travel documents. The paper passport's days are numbered—despite new privacy risks. In a matter of years, no matter where you live or travel, your face will likely be your new passport.

For centuries, people have used some form of passport while moving from place to place. But the widespread standardization of passports as we know them today didn't really begin until after World War 1, when passports were commonly used as a security measure and to deter spies entering a country. Even then, some considered passports to be an "anachronism in the modern world."

But the use of paper passports—which were first digitized as "e-Passports" with NFC chips in 2006—is slowly undergoing one of its biggest transformations to date. The travel industry, airports, and governments are working to remove the need to show your passport while flying internationally. Eventually, you may not need to carry your passport at all.

Instead, face recognition technology and smartphones are increasingly being used to check and confirm your identity against travel details before you can fly. These systems, advocates claim, can reduce the amount of waiting time and "friction" you experience at airports. But privacy experts caution that there is little transparency about the technologies being deployed, and their proliferation could lead to data breaches and greater levels of

surveillance.

The push to remove paper passports is happening worldwide. So far, airports in Finland, Canada, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Italy, the United States, India, and elsewhere have been trialing various levels of passport-free travel or the technology needed to make it happen. In October, officials in Singapore announced that its residents can fly to and from the country without using their documentation, and foreign visitors can “enjoy the convenience of passport-less clearance when they depart Singapore.” More than 1.5 million people have used the systems, officials claim.

Sunday Funnies: Really Bad Similes Written by High School Students

Every year, English teachers from across the country can submit their collections of actual analogies and metaphors found in high school essays for the amusement of teachers across the country. Here are some winners:

- Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.
- His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling-Free.
- He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.
- She grew on him like she was a colony of E. Coli, and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.
- She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
- McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.
- From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30.
- Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
- The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.

- He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant, and she was the East River.
- Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
- The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.

He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.

- It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.
- He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
- Her eyes were like two brown circles with big black dots in the center.
- He was as tall as a 6'3" tree.
- John and Mary never met. They were like two hummingbirds that had also never met.
- She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh like that sound a dog makes before it throws up.
- The ballerina rose gracefully en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.
- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM.
- The lamp just sat there, like an inanimate object.

Fake Feedback

The internet is rife with bogus product reviews. Will AI make this worse?

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence tools that allow people to efficiently produce novel and detailed online reviews with almost no work has put merchants, service providers and consumers in uncharted territory, watchdog groups and researchers say. Phony reviews have long plagued many popular consumer websites, such as Amazon and Yelp. They are typically traded on private social media groups between fake review brokers and businesses willing to pay. Sometimes, such reviews are initiated by businesses that offer customers incentives such as gift cards for positive feedback. But AI-infused text generation tools, popularized by OpenAI's ChatGPT, enable fraudsters

to produce reviews faster and in greater volume, according to tech industry experts. The deceptive practice is illegal in the U.S.

Where are AI-generated reviews showing up?

Fake reviews are found across a wide range of industries, from e-commerce, lodging and restaurants, to services such as home repairs, medical care and piano lessons. The Transparency Company, a tech company and watchdog group that uses software to detect fake reviews, said it started to see AI-generated reviews show up in large numbers in mid-2023, and they since multiplied.

For a report released in December, The Transparency Company analyzed 73 million reviews in three sectors: home, legal and medical services. Nearly 14% of the reviews were likely fake, and the company expressed a "high degree of confidence" that 2.3 million reviews were partly or entirely AI-generated.

In September, the Federal Trade Commission sued the company behind an AI writing tool and content generator called Rytr, accusing it of offering a service that could pollute the marketplace with fraudulent reviews. The FTC, which banned the sale or purchase of fake reviews, said some of Rytr's subscribers used the tool to produce hundreds — perhaps thousands — of reviews for garage door repair companies, sellers of "replica" designer handbags and other businesses.

Max Spero, CEO of AI detection company Pangram Labs, said the software his company uses detected with certainty that some AI-generated appraisals posted on Amazon bubbled up to the top of review search results. Many of the AI-generated comments on Yelp appeared to be posted by individuals who were trying to publish enough reviews to earn an "Elite" badge, which is intended to let users know they should trust the content. To be sure, just because a review is AI-generated doesn't necessarily mean it's fake. Some consumers might experiment with AI tools to generate content that reflects their genuine sentiments. Some non-native English speakers say they turn to AI to make sure they use accurate language in the reviews they write.

What companies are doing

Prominent companies are developing policies for how AI-generated content fits into their systems for removing phony or abusive reviews. Some already employ algorithms and investigative teams to detect and take down fake reviews but are giving users some flexibility to use AI. Spokespeople for Amazon and Trustpilot, for example, said they would allow customers to post AI-assisted reviews as long as they reflect their genuine experience. Yelp took a more cautious approach, saying its guidelines require reviewers to write their own copy.

The FTC's rule banning fake reviews, which took effect in October, allows the agency to fine businesses and individuals who engage in the practice. Tech companies hosting such reviews are shielded from the penalty because they are not legally liable under U.S. law for the content that outsiders post on their platforms. Tech companies, including Amazon, Yelp and Google, sued fake review brokers they accuse of peddling counterfeit reviews on their sites.

Spotting fake AI-generated reviews

Consumers can try to spot fake reviews by watching out for a few possible warning signs.

Overly enthusiastic or negative reviews are red flags. Jargon that repeats a product's full name or model number is another potential giveaway. When it comes to AI, research revealed that people can't tell the difference between AI-generated and human-written reviews. However, there are some "AI tells" that online shoppers and service seekers should keep in mind. Reviews written with AI are typically longer, highly structured and include "empty descriptors," such as generic phrases and attributes. The writing also tends to include cliches like "the first thing that struck me" and "game-changer."

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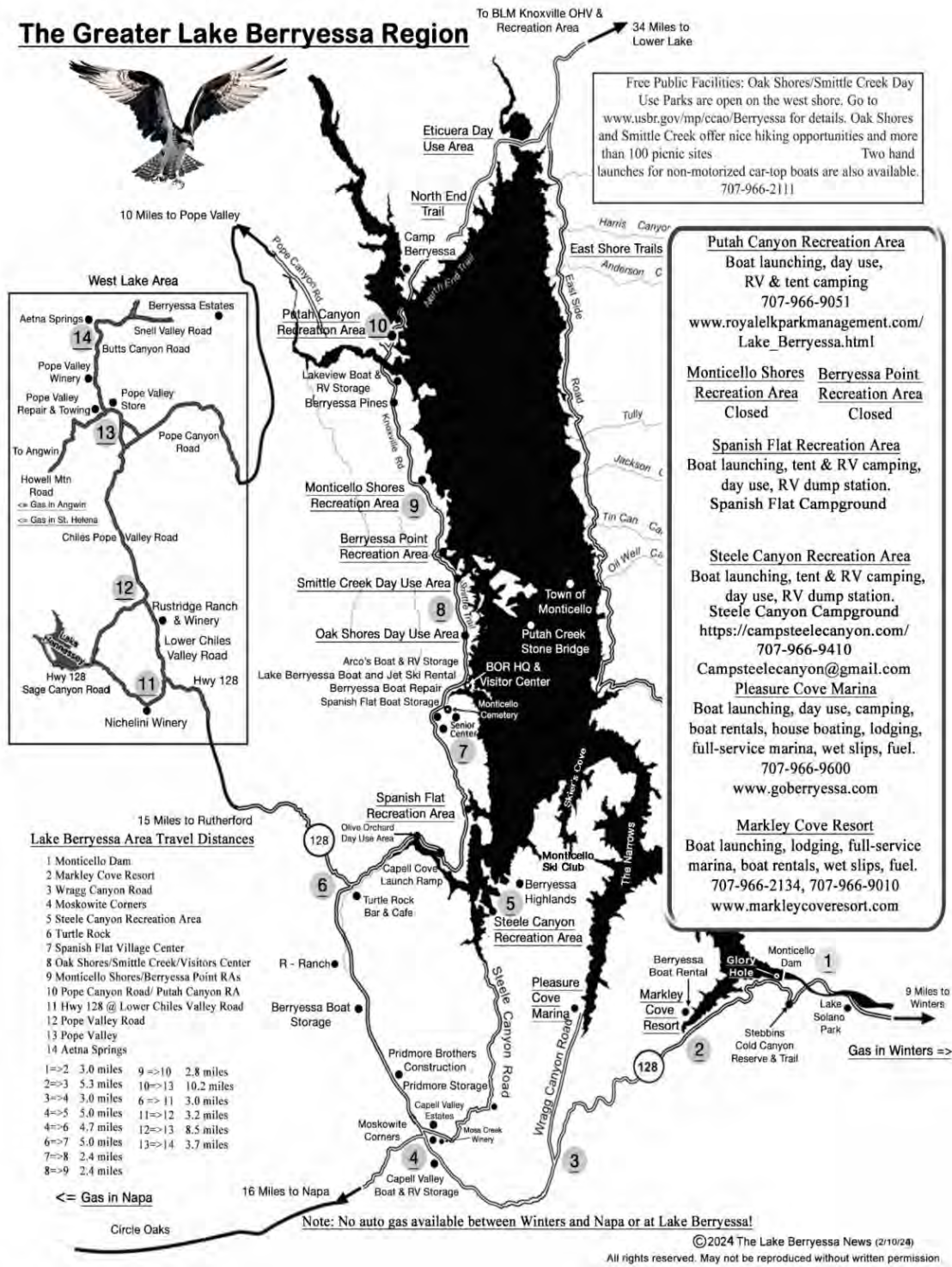
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

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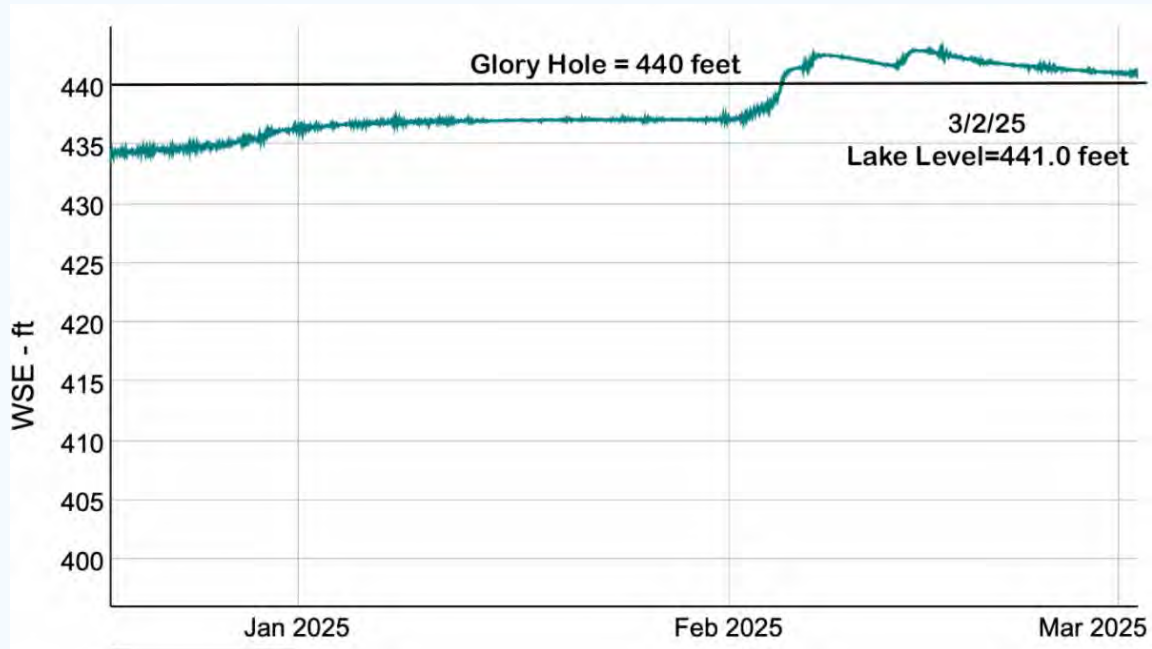


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Lake Berryessa News - March 2 2025

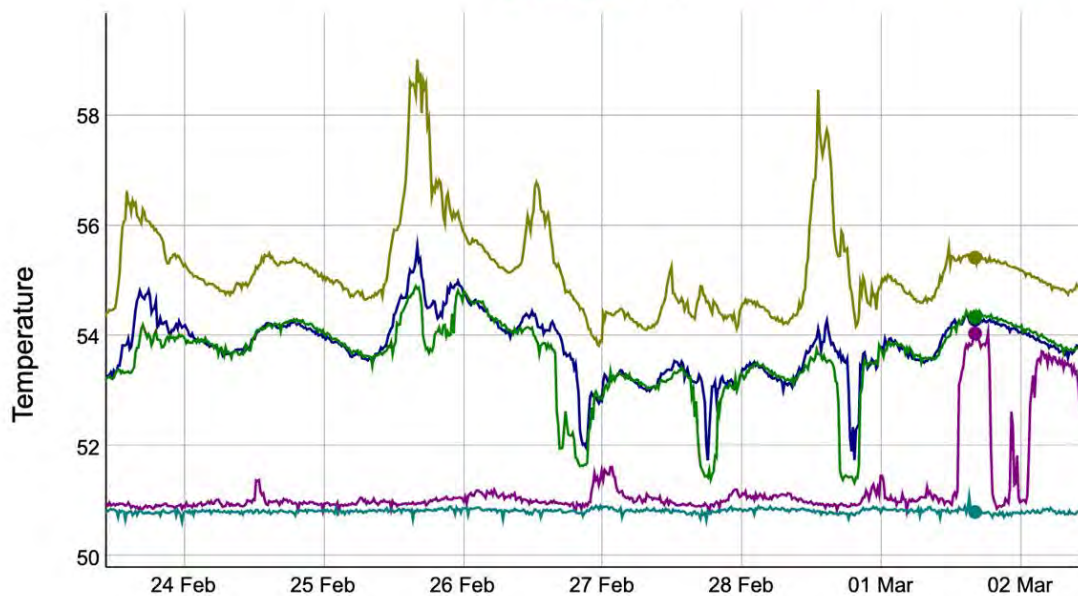
Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/2/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is continuing to drop slowly. It is now at 441.01 feet, 1.0 feet above Glory Hole. Rainfall remains at 20.14 inches at Monticello Dam. Capacity is 101.2%.



Lake Berryessa - Temperature

2025/03/01 16:15: 1Temp01: 55.4 1Temp05: 54.3 1Temp10: 54.3 1Temp40: 54
1Temp70: 50.8



On February 19 the main dam output dropped from 1,310 cfs to 370 cfs. The water is now draining from the main output pipe below the surface of Putah Creek as it usually does.



The Reel Life: Salmon, trout and bass biting at Lake Berryessa

BRENT RANDOL brentrandol@comcast.net

https://napavalleyregister.com/sports/lake-berryessa-san-joaquin-delta-ducks-unlimited-klamath-river-basin/article_17399a38-ed1c-11ef-aa6f-3f77d239b194.html

Boats have been able to access Lake Berryessa in greater numbers, either through the red tag quarantine process or decontamination. King salmon, Eagle Lake-strain trout, and bass are all possibilities, and anglers are beginning to mooch for salmon with Gitzits. The bait has been scattered, but shad-patterned spoons from the surface to 30 feet have been the best option. Covering plenty of water is a must. Bass can also be found by jigging spoons. Limits to 18 pounds are possible.

All boats need to be decontaminated prior to launching. Currently the cost is free. Another option is to receive a red quarantine seal, requiring a wait for 30 days prior to launching at

either Sweeney's Sports in Napa or Gone Fishin' Marine in Dixon. Upon launching, all boats are issued a green seal attached by authorized staff.

Green decontamination tags are available at both the Markley Cove and Steele Canyon launch ramps. Hand-launched watercraft with electric motors, such as fishing kayaks, also require an inspection prior to launch. Non-motorized watercraft like kayaks and paddleboards are not subject to inspection, but owners are encouraged to take advantage of a free inspection at any watercraft inspection station.

There are several bass tournaments scheduled throughout the year. However, due to the additional requirements for boaters, many of the tournament dates may be relocated to other bodies of water.

Trout rearing at Lake Berryessa

Big Nate's Guide Service teamed up with a group of volunteers and the California Inland Fisheries Foundation to transfer Eagle Lake-strain trout to their brand new pens at Lake Berryessa.

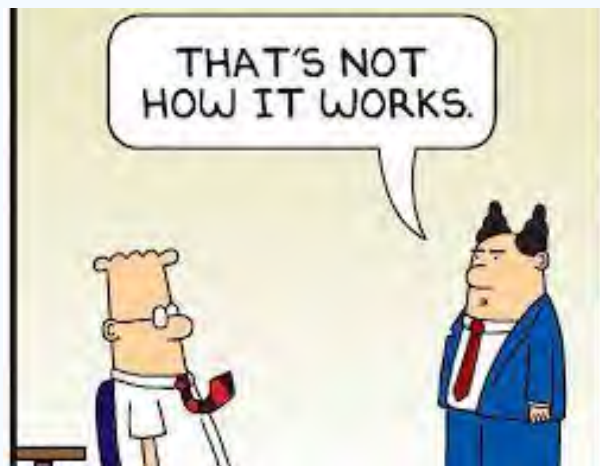
These fish will now acclimate in their new environment, be fed daily by Markley Cove staff, and well forage naturally before the pens are pulled out to the main lake sometime in May for release. The trout are already good-sized fish, and they will grow exponentially over the next three months. This will bolster the already excellent fishery and provide great fights, and table fare for anglers.



Some of you will recognize this flag on the way into the Narrows from the lake.



Sunday Funnies: A Philosophical Dilbertian View.



Optimistic Nihilism

In philosophy, nihilism is any viewpoint that rejects generally accepted or fundamental aspects of human existence, namely knowledge, morality, or meaning. Optimistic nihilism is a philosophy that life is meaningless, but that people can still find joy and purpose. It's also known as Existential Nihilism. Optimistic nihilism is based on the idea of "The Absurd", which was described by Camus in his essay The Myth of Sisyphus.

Key ideas

- There is no objective truth, morality, or inherent value.
- People create their own meaning and purpose in life.
- People can find happiness in the present moment and simple pleasures.
- People can embrace the feeling of surrender.
- People can be grateful for things they can't control.

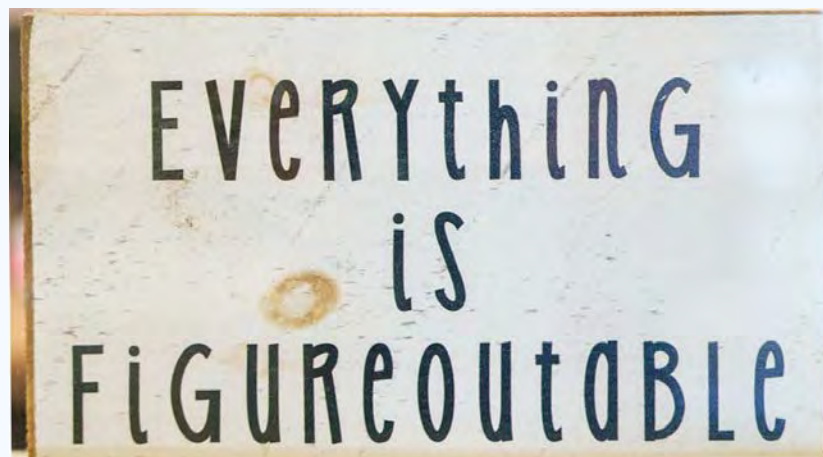
Benefits

- It can help people change their experience from negative to positive.
- It can be comforting for people who feel like failures or underachievers.
- It can help people find solace in the present moment.

Drawbacks

It can lead to a life without purpose or goals.

Some say that the word "nihilism" carries a bleak outlook on life, and that optimistic nihilists are really absurdists.



March 2025 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Everything you read online today may turn out to be a complete sham, or alternatively contain very inciteful tidbits detailing the most intimate details of your unconscious self.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): It is none of your business what aliens think or what their religion is.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): 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.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Correlating facts is an awesome responsibility. Are you sure you're up to it?

Leo (7/23-8/22): Everything you are thinking about will end up getting lost in some sort of fuzzy logic.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Many things that people say over the coming days will appear nonsensical, but may start to make sense towards the end of the week.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Scroll further down any web pages you access today, just in case there

are hidden clauses you aren't aware of.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You're as transparent as a blast of canned air - try to be more complex by wearing hats that are clearly too small for your head.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): 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.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Telephone salesmen may come through for you this week and finally offer you something useful and at a decent price.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): When you steal copyrighted material, make sure you do it in a comical fashion. That way you can claim "fair use" and hold up court proceedings...at least until they find you guilty of stealing copyrighted material.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): All your problems cannot be solved by putting them in one basket full of eggs.

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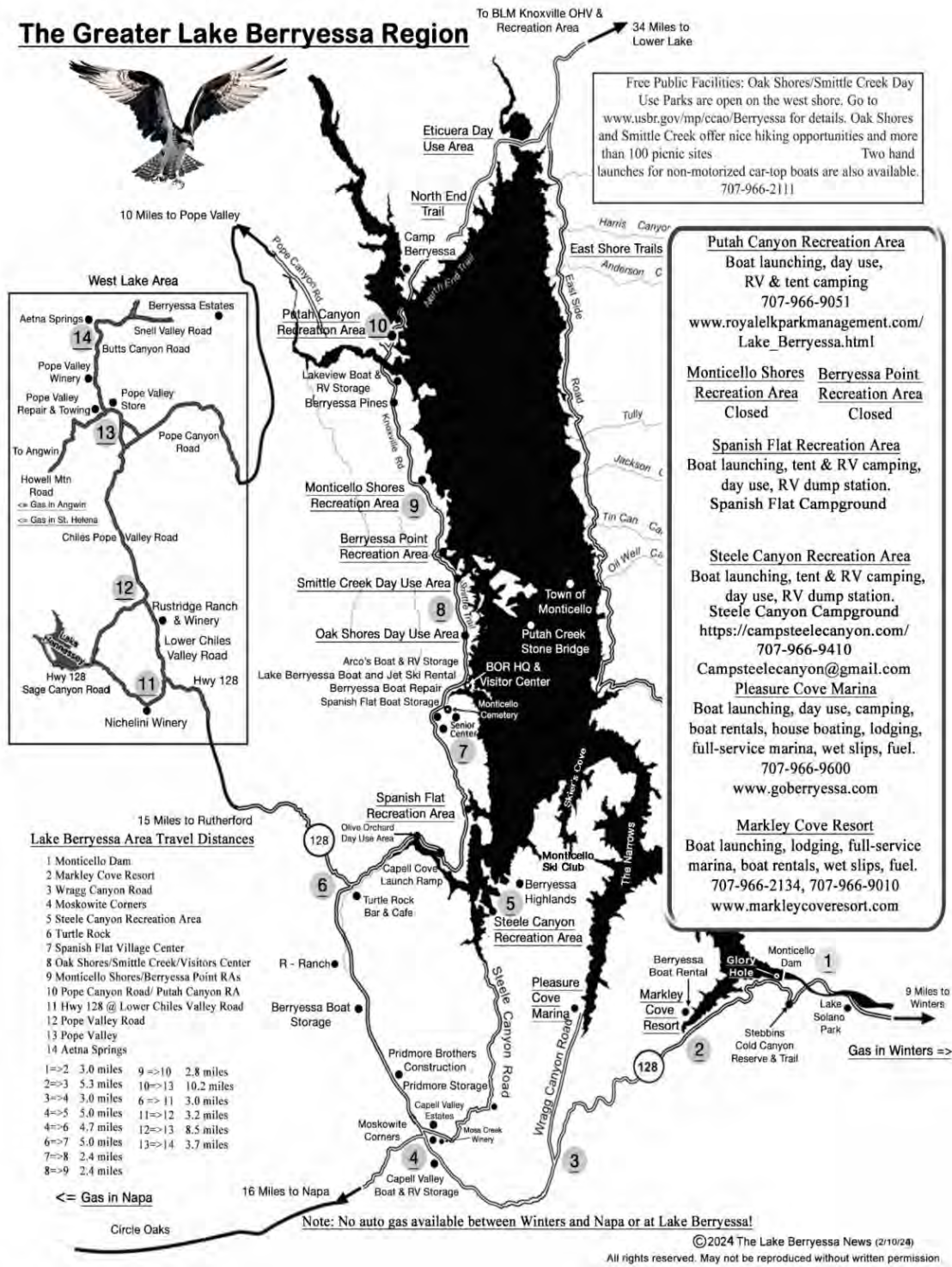
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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



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Happy Daylight Saving Time Day!

The latest surveys show that 54% of Americans want to abolish Daylight Saving Time. The Lake Berryessa News agrees!



Conversation starter at a party: Daylight Savings Time is a misspelling but more common than the correct term. Setting our clocks one hour forward in the spring is often referred to as "Daylight Savings Time," even though "Daylight Saving Time" is the correct spelling. The poor little moon below is wrong!



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/9/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is continuing to drop slowly. It is now at 440.6 feet, 7 inches above Glory Hole. The level is being controlled by the output of the dam which has dropped to 370 cfs for the last two weeks from its high of 1,310 cfs on 2/18/25. The dam operators appear to be conserving water in the lake for future use.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

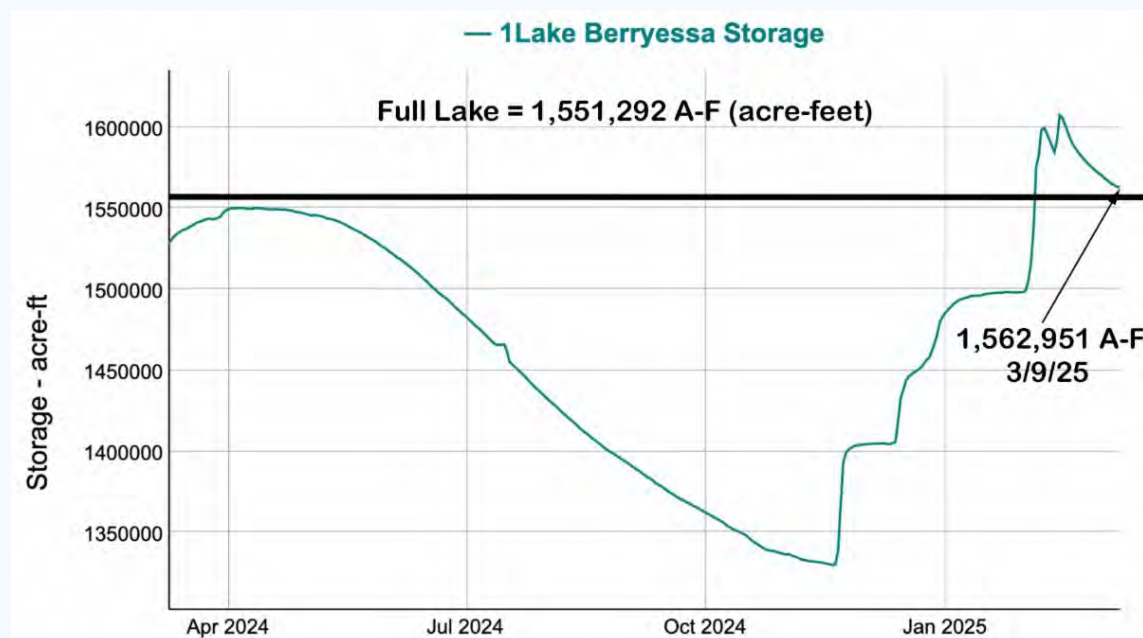
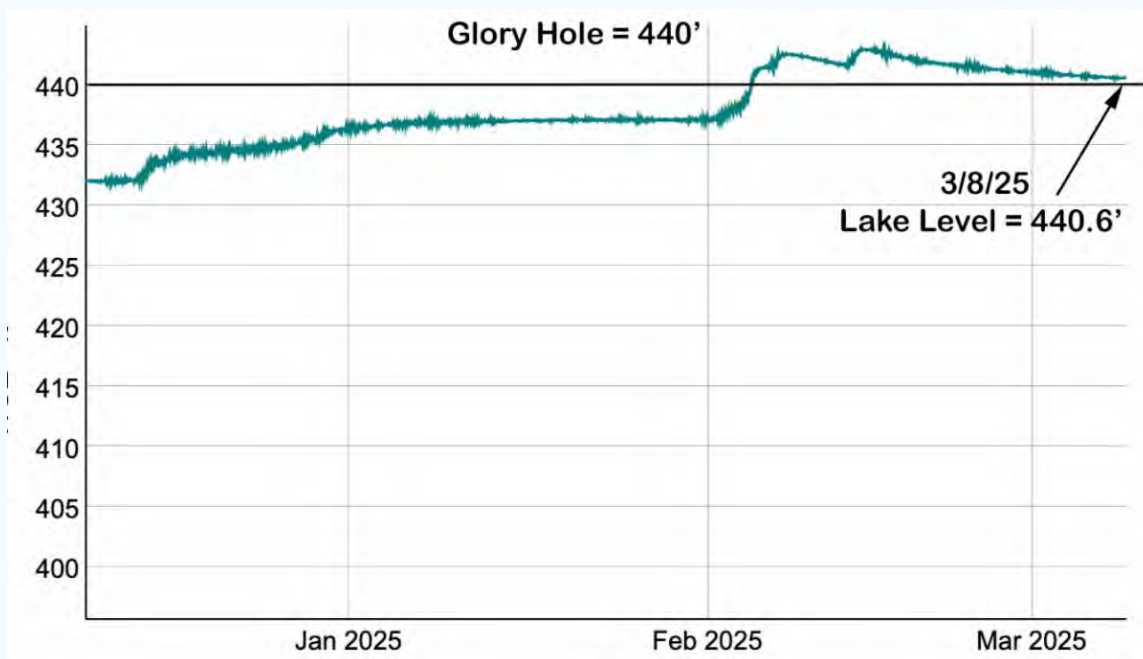
Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 33.

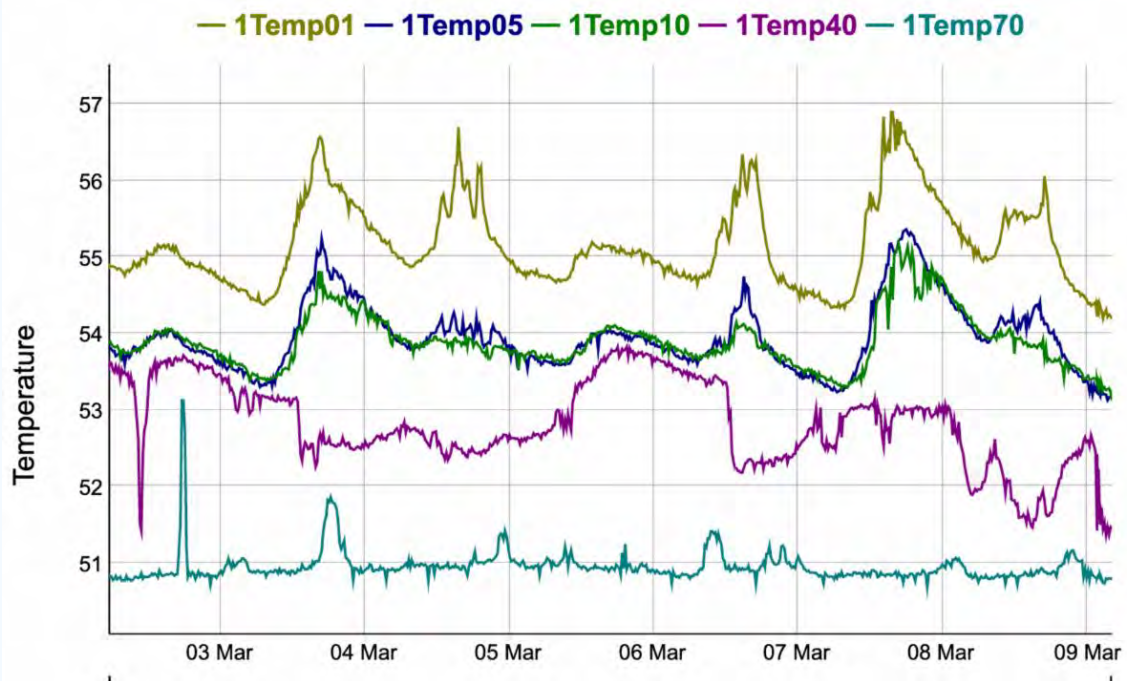
Rainfall remains at 20.14 inches at Monticello Dam. Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 442 cfs and dropping about 50 cfs per day. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future lake level.

Lake capacity is at 1,562,951 A-F or 101.7%.

Lake temperatures show the lake is still very cold but starting to mix.



Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Acres of Usable Land with Two Homes at Lake Berryessa

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Main House: 4BR | 2.5BA *** Guest House: 2BR | 2BA**

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Bad signatures, Notaries, and Presidents

A "bad signature" in the context of a notary means a signature that is illegible, inconsistent with the signer's usual signature, or appears to be forged, which can lead to a notary potentially invalidating the document if they suspect the signature is not authentic and fail to properly verify the signer's identity, potentially causing legal issues for both the signer and the notary. A notary's primary role is to verify the identity of the person signing a document and ensure the signature is genuine.

I have a notary friend who had a young couple in to sign some important papers. The young lady simply scrawled a line at the bottom of the form. My notary friend had to explain to the signer why her signature had to be legible to be official. What a concept!

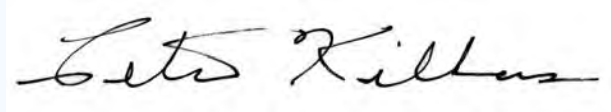
Common issues with signatures

Illegible handwriting: Signatures that are too messy or unclear to identify.

Significant variations: A signature that looks significantly different from the signer's usual signature on other documents.

Potential forgery: A signature that appears to be copied or fabricated.

Since cursive handwriting has been falling out of favor for many years, it's not surprising that some people simply don't know how to write and may not even have a legible signature or are simply lazy. To me a sloppy signature is a sign of disrespect. Signing your name to most people is a minor ritual. But I've noticed one person to whom the process of signing his name appears to be an odd obsession. Can you guess whose signature this is?

A cursive signature that reads "Let's Killas". The handwriting is somewhat messy and informal, with a mix of capital and lowercase letters.

Ooops, I meant this one.

A highly stylized, jagged signature. It consists of many sharp, vertical strokes and loops, making it difficult to read. It appears to be a very fast and aggressive way of writing a name.

This is Donald Trump's official signature. A recent article in Quartz, a business magazine, described Trump's signing process in "Trump takes a tediously long time to sign his name".

<https://qz.com/891546/donald-trump-official-signature-trump-takes-a-tediously-long-time-to-sign-his-name>

"Per tradition, President Donald Trump signed his first executive orders shortly after being sworn in to office yesterday. Surrounded by his family and members of Congress, the world witnessed how long it takes Trump to write down the 11 letters in his first and last name.

His official signature—a jagged, loop-less scrawl reminiscent of a seismometer reading from a catastrophic earthquake—took about six to seven seconds and over 30 strokes to complete. In comparison, his predecessors including left-handed Barack Obama took a second or two to scribble their executive marks."

I It is interesting to see and compare the signatures of all the former U.S. presidents. Can you read them all?



Handwriting analysis, also known as graphology, is the study of how a person's handwriting relates to their personality. Graphologists believe that handwriting can reveal a person's psychological profile, including their personality style, intelligence, and cognitive thinking style. However, recent studies have found that handwriting analysis is not a valid way to predict personality traits or job performance. Handwriting analysis lacks empirical evidence, consistency, and reliability, and it is not considered a scientifically valid method for assessing personality traits or making accurate predictions about an individual. But it's amusing to speculate.

March 2025 Headlines

Forgetful Man Playing Fast And Loose With Free Trials

Town With Heavyside Mule Stuck In Barn Door Plumb Out Of Ideas

DoorDash Order Arrives In Humiliatingly Large Bag

Passengers Rush To Arriving Train's Doors Like Rat Babies Nursing At Mother's Teats

'Maybe Hot Dog Will Make Wife Feel Better,' Thinks Husband No Closer To Fixing Things

Shh, Boyfriend Doesn't Want To Talk During Part Where They Are blowing Up Pentagon

Horried Woman Swears Off Ambien After Seeing Number Of Library Books She Reserved Last Night

Numerous Teams Express Interest In Aaron Rodgers Playing Elsewhere

Canada To Rename The Great Lakes As Lake Canada, 2 Lake 2 Canada, Lake Canada:
Snow Drift, Lake And Canada, Lake 5

DOGE To Replace NOAA Weather Prediction Supercomputer With Old Man With Arthritic
Knee

DOGE: Cancelling Elections Could Save \$16 Billion Annually

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<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TluE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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This stunning 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offers 1832 sq. ft. of beautifully designed living space on a sprawling .58-acre lot in the desirable Berryessa Highlands. Enjoy breathtaking lake views from the living room and the deck off the primary suite. With a three-car garage, covered RV storage, and plenty of space for all your needs, this property is perfect for entertaining, relaxing, or exploring the beauty of Lake Berryessa. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes downhill.



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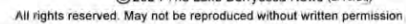
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

To BLM Knoxville OHV & Recreation Area 34 Miles to Lower Lake



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Lake Berryessa News - March 16, 2025

Happy St.Patrick's Day (tomorrow). The hills around Lake Berryessa are so GREEN! The Lake Berryessa News publisher, Peter O'Kilkus, and Associate Editor, Evan O'Kilkus, wish you a great day.

"Go n-éirí an bóthar leat" is a Gaelic expression meaning "may your journey be successful." or "May the Road rise up to meet you."



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/16/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has stopped dropping due to the latest light rains. It is now at 440.6 feet, 7 inches above Glory Hole. The level is being controlled by the output of the dam which has dropped to 370 cfs for the last two weeks from its high of 1,310 cfs on 2/18/25.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 40.

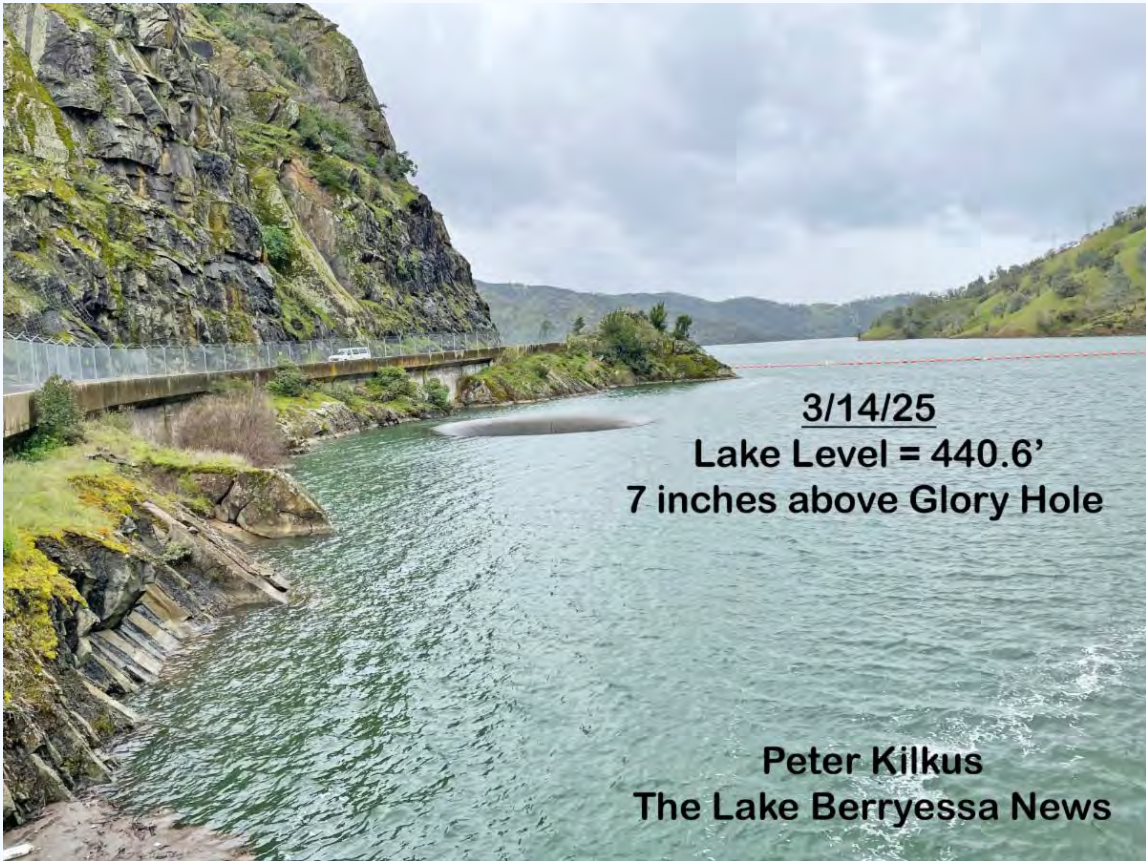
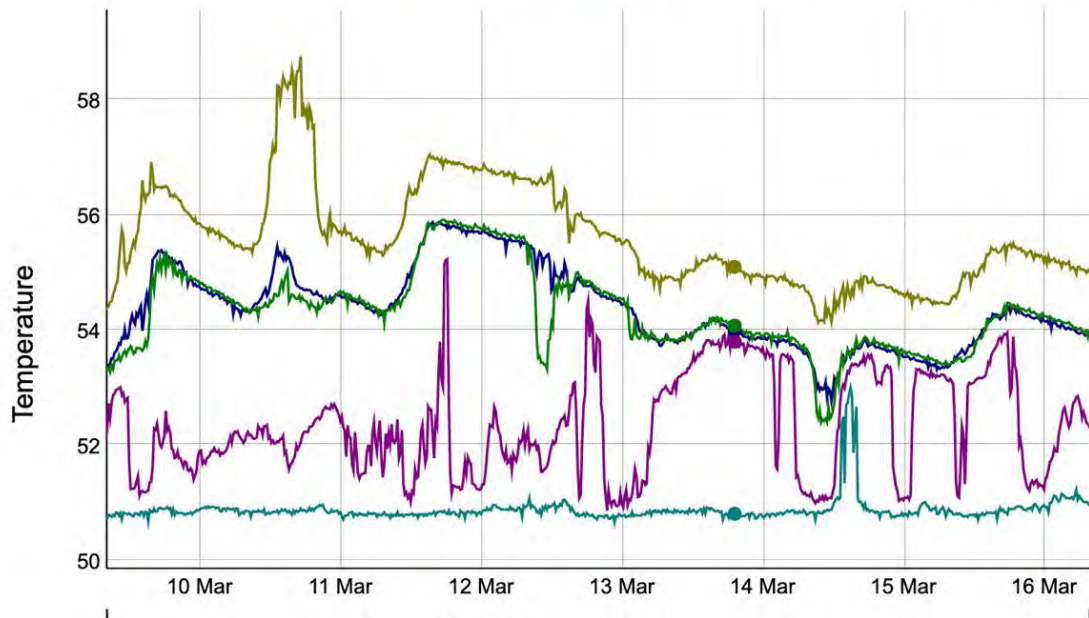
Rainfall is at 21.6 inches at Monticello Dam - about average for the year. Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future lake level.

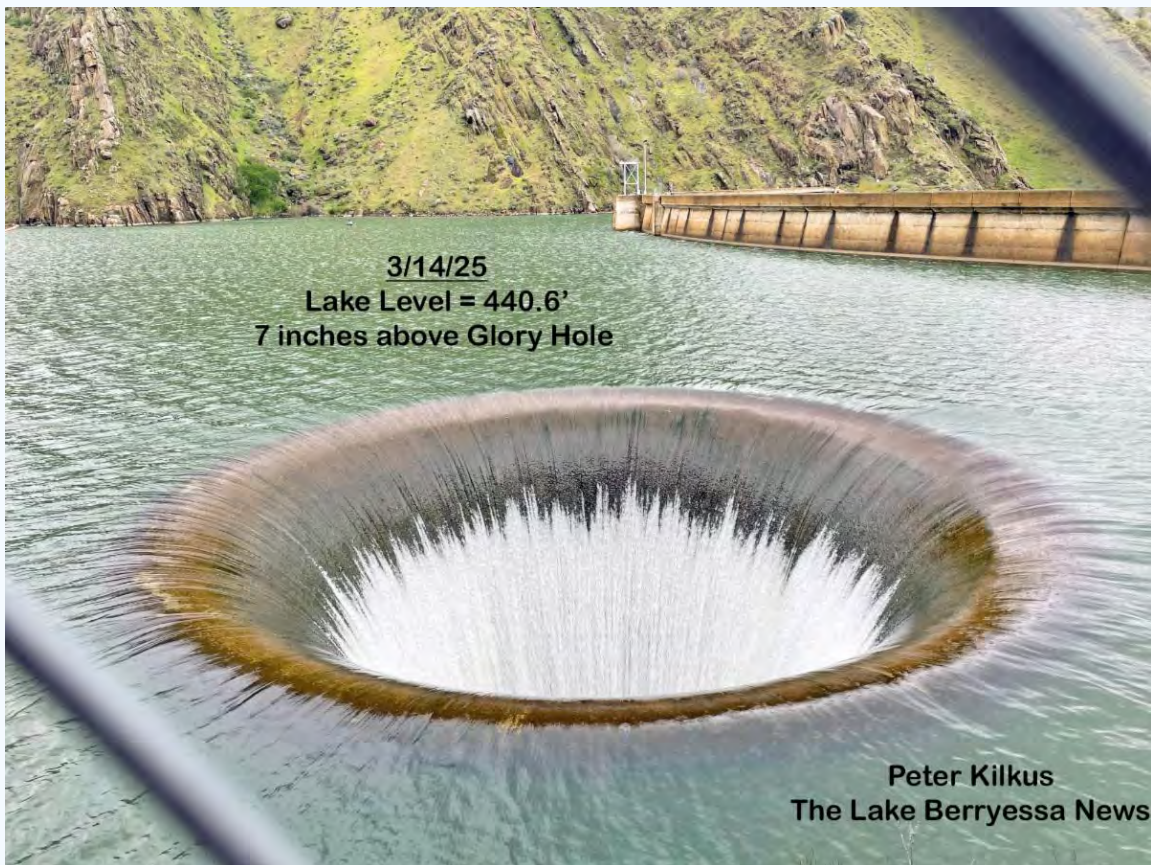
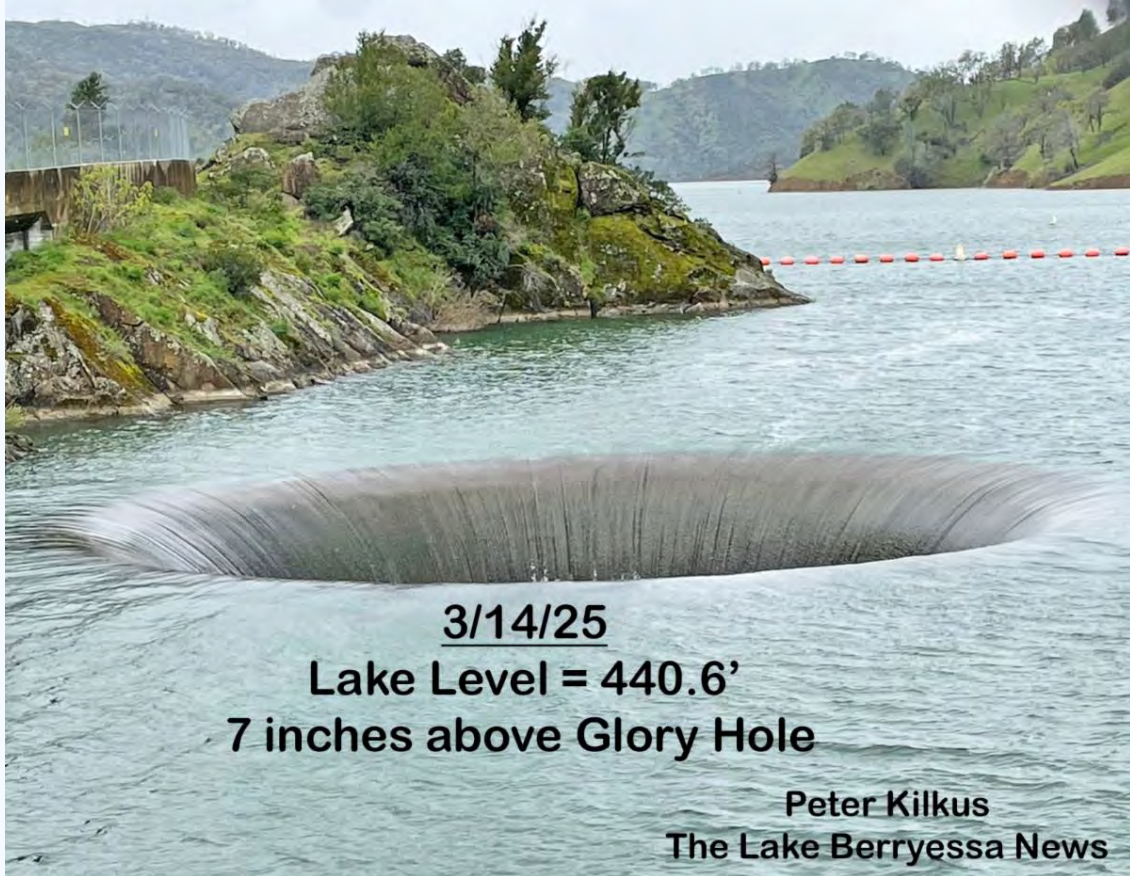
Lake capacity is at 1,562,951 A-F or 100.8%. Full Storage = 1,551,292 Acre Feet.

Lake Temperatures are slowly climbing like a monster crawling up out of the depths!

Lake Berryessa - Temperature

2025/03/13 19:15: **1Temp01**: 55.1 **1Temp05**: 54 **1Temp10**: 54.1 **1Temp40**: 53.8
1Temp70: 50.8





See Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole in photo above flowing at:

https://youtu.be/PnMDeZdoH_I

See Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole from inside with water flowing down (unknown date) at:

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BuP_NGqjqtI

Has the Fine Wine Investment Boom Gone Bust?

By Tim Carl

NAPA VALLEY FEATURES, MAR 15, 2025

See the full article at:

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/under-the-hood-wine-investment-volatility>

Wine has long been considered a relatively stable alternative investment, but recent events have shaken confidence in the sector. The fine-wine market is experiencing turbulence driven by corporate consolidations, economic instability and shifting consumer preferences.

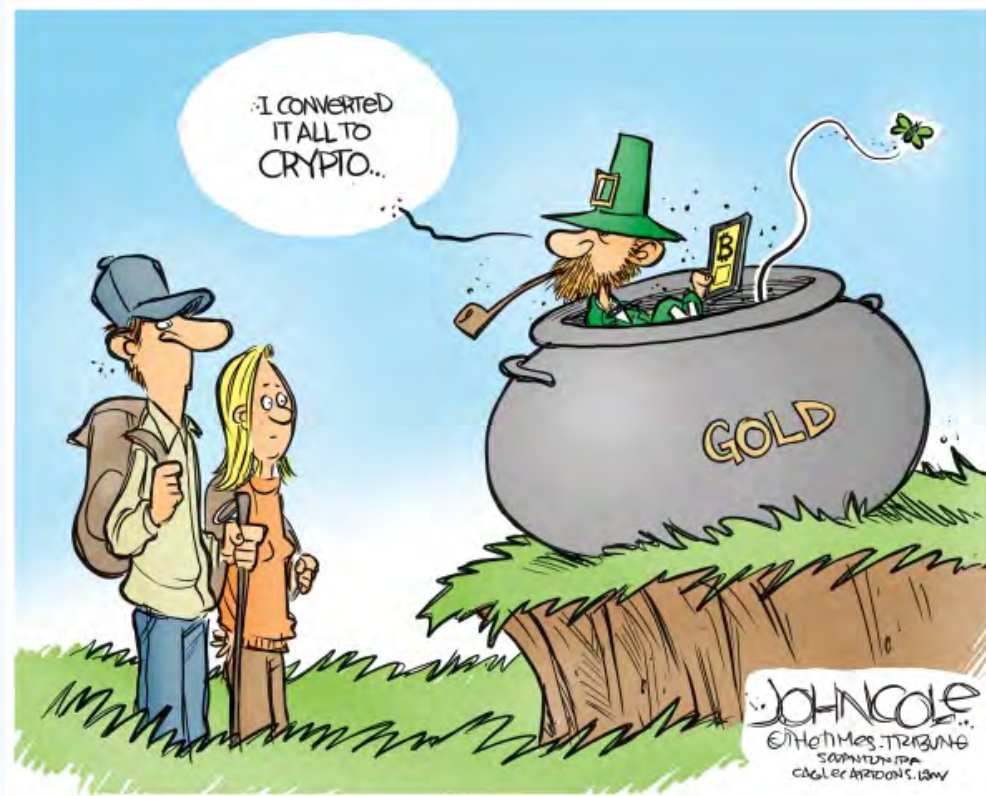
Beyond the Vine: Changing Consumer Trends

The struggles of the wine industry are not just about investment losses — they reflect deeper cultural shifts in alcohol consumption. Once a dominant force in premium wine sales, those over 55 are drinking less as they retire, while those under 55 are choosing different beverages entirely. The younger demographic is increasingly opting for low-alcohol and non-alcoholic alternatives, driven by concerns over high prices, health and wellness.

For Napa Valley, this shift is particularly concerning. Synonymous with luxury wine tourism, the region has seen multiple tasting room closures in the past year. High prices, economic pressures and shifting consumer habits are prompting questions about the long-term sustainability of Napa Valley's model, which relies heavily on high-end cabernet sauvignon to drive annual price increases.

The question remains whether premium wines will regain their allure as desirable alternative investments or if this marks a more profound shift away from fine-wine speculation. Given the current volatility, the coming months will likely continue to challenge the resilience of both wine producers and investors. As Tom Burchfield noted, "fine wine is not fungible"—unlike stocks or commodities, each bottle is unique, and its value is influenced by provenance, vintage variation and market sentiment. Moreover, wine has a finite shelf life, adding an inherent time sensitivity to investment decisions. However, unlike stocks, bonds, or even gold, wine can ultimately be enjoyed, offering a tangible return even when market conditions turn unfavorable.

(Lake Berryessa News Editor's Note: Individual ownership of each bottle of fine wine is similar to an NFT, a Non-Fungible Token, which is a unique digital asset stored on a blockchain that serves as a verifiable certificate of ownership for a digital or physical item, like artwork, music, or real estate. The blockchain record linked to an NFT provides a verifiable history and proof of authenticity, ensuring that the asset is not a duplicate or fake. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fungible_token)



The above story reminded me of an NFT April Fools Day story I wrote several years ago (see excerpt below) based on the Bitcoin craze. Believe it or not there was (and still is) a cryptocurrency named DOGEcoin created by software engineers Billy Markus and Jackson Palmer, who decided to create a payment system as a joke, making fun of the wild speculation in cryptocurrencies at the time. They launched the satirical cryptocurrency as a way to make fun of Bitcoin and the many other cryptocurrencies boasting grand plans to take over the world. Dogecoin features the face of Kabosu from the "doge" meme as its logo and namesake. The meme consists of a picture of a Shiba Inu dog, accompanied by text in the foreground. The text, representing a kind of internal monologue, is deliberately written in a form of broken English.



Fast forward to 2025. It sometimes feels as if we are living inside a Saturday Night Live sketch, where the inmates have taken over the asylum. The actors are real government officials, from the president on down, who clearly depict the sad state of the leadership of our country. And we now even have an agency named DOGE! And if it weren't so dangerous and destructive, this DOGE would actually make a good joke.

Speaking of jokes, there is also a new Trump NFT named "Official Trump":

<https://crypto.com/price/official-trump>

All it needs is a picture of Musk - oh! I missed it the first time I looked.

You'd probably be better off investing in a good bottle of wine.



BitCoin, DitzCoin, NFTs, BFDs: Crypto-Craze for Lake Berryessa Investors

The Lake Berryessa News (LBN) has entered into a partnership with the University of Lake Berryessa (ULB) to introduce series of Incredible Investment Instruments (III-pronounced aye-aye-ayes!) founded on a radical new cryptocurrency, DitzCoin, developed at ULB's Lake Berryessa campus located deep beneath Big Island.

DitzCoin (a Little Bit o' Bitcoin) refers to a new type a cryptocurrency designed by Professor Eduardo Ponzi of the Advanced Economics Department of the University of Lake Berryessa. While a bit more dodgy than "traditional" cryptos, i.e., with a lifetime of more than one year, which have exploded as investment options, DitzCoin is designed to appeal to the uber-risk takers seeking a new get rich quick (GRQ) scheme. GRQers practice an eclectic thought process once referred to as ditzy but now known to have created a class of millionaires trading financial instruments of no actual value.



HAPPY SPRING FROM THE LAKE BERRYESSA SENIOR CENTER!
WE HAVE MISSED YOU!

We just want to check in and say *Happy Spring*
and share a couple of events that are coming soon!

SATURDAY, 3/22, 9 AM

Yard clean up party! Come join us to do chores around the yard!
Blueberry pancakes, Mimosa's, and Bloody Mary's!

SATURDAY, 4/12, 5 PM

5PM-6PM SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 EASTER DINNER!

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!
Can't wait to see you all! More details to follow.

We also want to thank our valuable members.

With you and your support, LBSC can bring the community together.

You still can become a member! \$30 per person or \$50 for a twosome.

Let's make it a great 2025 at the Lake Berryessa Senior Center! ALL AGES are welcome!

Questions, suggestions or want to help out? Call or text Lisa 707 815 0330

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5 minutes from Steele Canyon Recreation Area



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Cal Fire maps show increased Napa County fire hazards

Cal Fire creates its hazard maps using a computer model. The two key elements are the probability of an area burning and the expected fire behavior under extreme fuel and weather conditions. The factors considered in determining fire hazard within wildland areas is fire history, flame length, terrain, local weather and potential fuel over a 50-year period. These evaluations look at the long-term outlook. Insurance companies use fire risk models that, unlike the Cal Fire hazard maps, include fuel reduction steps. The Cal Fire maps don't reflect fuel reduction steps taken, given that vegetation grows back without maintenance. Cal Fire officials said these maps for counties across the state reflect underlying hazards, not current risks.

Local fire officials use the hazard maps to identify priority areas for fuel reduction and other steps to reduce wildfire risks. Cal Fire is placing parts of the Napa Valley floor between St. Helena and Calistoga in a very high wildfire hazard severity zone. The agency's statewide wildfire hazard maps have long shown much of the rural county as primed to burn. But the valley floor, with its vineyards, wineries and cities, has been outside the hazard zones.

Not so with an update of Cal Fire's 2008 map for the Napa County Local Responsibility Area, which the state fire protection agency released recently. The map shows areas where local governments are responsible for wildfire protection instead of the state.

The proposed update to the map depicts the Napa Valley floor and the south county, with Calistoga, St. Helena, Yountville, Napa and American Canyon in a line. It uses colors to depict degrees of wildfire hazard. Red indicates "very high" risk, orange "high" and yellow "moderate." Most of the Napa Valley floor and south county lack the hazard colors and are depicted in gray. But there are exceptions, especially Upvalley.

The 2020 Glass Fire burned across the Napa Valley floor at Dunaweal Lane, damaging such places as the now-renovated Sterling Vineyards winery. Given that and other wildfires, Napa County Fire Administrator David Shew said he isn't surprised by this Upvalley update.

"We've experienced these fires, so we knew these are the potentials for fire behavior in some of those areas," Shew said. "That isn't surprising. We've seen it." Also proposed for the red "very high hazard" zone is part of eastern Calistoga. The Upvalley "Welcome to Napa Valley" sign along Highway 29/128 between Calistoga and St. Helena is in an orange "high hazard" zone.

In the City of Napa, Alta Heights in yellow "moderate hazard" zones. Much of the city is in the gray, outside any areas with elevated hazards. The only red "very high hazard" zone in this vicinity of the Local Responsibility Area is a section of Silverado to the east of the city of Napa.

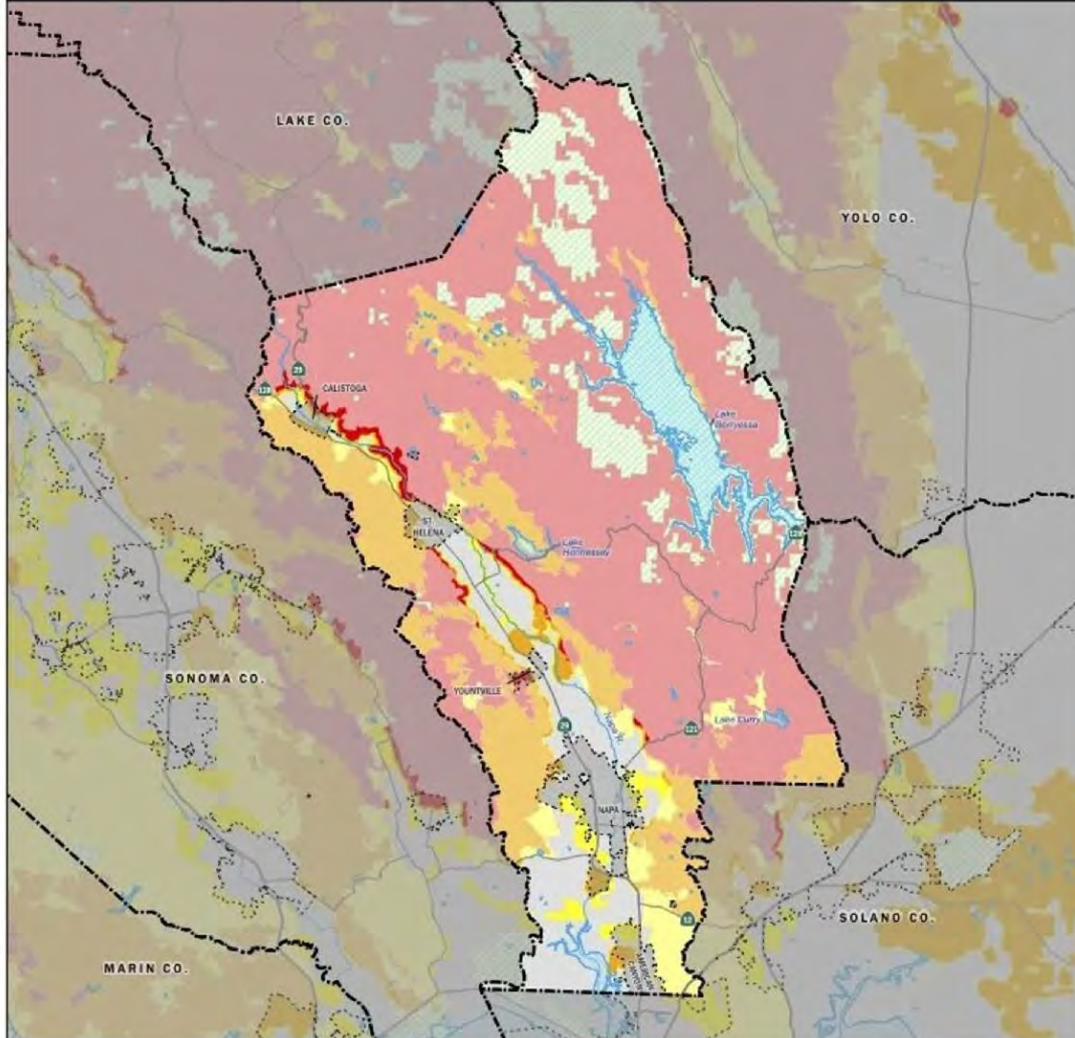
In Urban areas the model considers factors that might lead to buildings being threatened, including terrain, weather, urban vegetation cover, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, fire history, and fire hazard in nearby wildlands.



Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the
State Fire Marshal

February 24, 2025



Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) In Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Very High High Moderate

Fire Hazard Severity Zones In State Responsibility Area (SRA), Effective April 1, 2024

Very High High Moderate

Mi 0 10 20
Km 0 10 20

Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:344,000 at 11" x 17"

Incorporated City Waterbody
Unzoned LRA Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

Government Code section 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent

statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather,

and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Garin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, CA Natural Resources Agency
Joe Tyler, Director/Fire Chief, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA23_3, FHSZLRA_25_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25_1)
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

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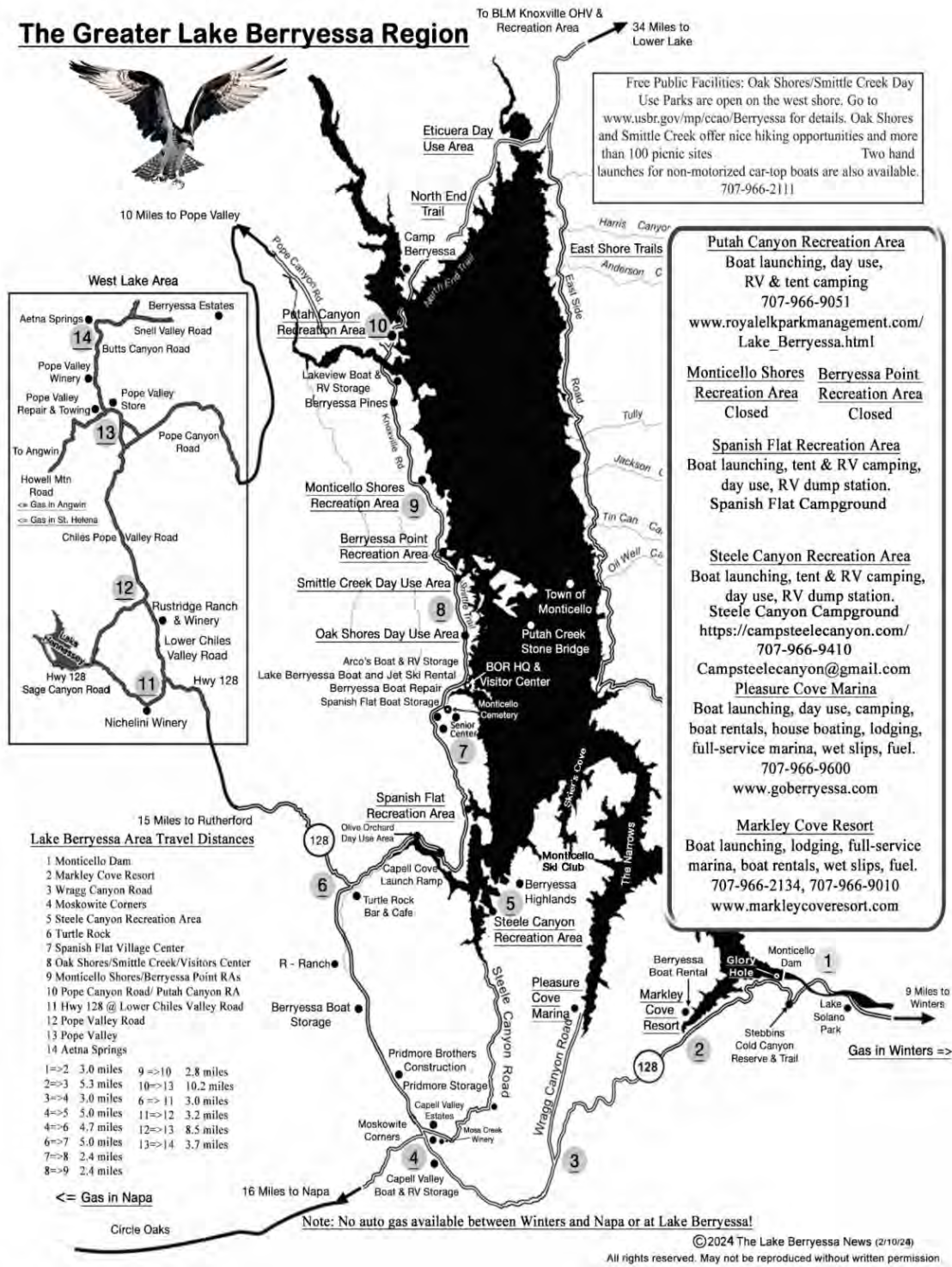
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Lake Berryessa News - March 23, 2025

Spring in Bloom!

Glory Hole, Wildflowers, and Rattlesnakes

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/23/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has remained stable at 441.0 feet, 1 foot above Glory Hole, for the last six days..

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 47.

Rainfall is at 22.07 inches at Monticello Dam (about average). Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future level of the lake.

Lake capacity is at 1,570,976 A-F or 101.27%.



Glory Hole Sprouts a Dock (or a Viewing Platform?)

When I got to Monticello Dam Wednesday for an interview with Brian Hackney of KPIX, I was surprised at how much Glory Hole had changed since my visit last week. There was an old, old dock trying to escape the recent violent storm winds at the lake by floating down Glory Hole to a safer place in Winters. The lake level was only one foot above the lip, so the dock was stuck. If the lake were at its highest point of 3 feet above the lip, the ancient structure would have simply floated over and down, enjoying its freedom rushing down lower Putah Creek.

The high winds from the last storm had obviously pushed it down from somewhere on the lake. But to the many folks who were there to see our famous Glory Hole, some first-timers, it looked as if it had been put there purposely - as an observation platform? It is stuck and will probably be removed by the Bureau of Reclamation or Solano County Water Agency when the lake level safely drops below the lip.

Our intrepid The Lake Berryessa News photographer, Evan Kilkus, believes the floats are concrete covered foam. Open cell blue styrofoam was banned from use at Lake Berryessa decades ago.

Interestingly, several visitors I talked to thought it might have been a viewing platform installed by the Solano County Water Agency!





Lake Berryessa implements fees for vessel decontamination

The Solano County Water Agency's Free Vessel Decontamination Program ends April 7

Beginning April 7, the Bureau of Reclamation announces that direct-managed concessions and the Solano County Water Agency will charge for vessel decontaminations for boaters seeking to launch at Lake Berryessa. Previously, the Solano County Water Agency had provided this service free of charge knowing that the expenses required for equipment and staffing could not be covered by the agency indefinitely.

Moving forward, boaters who seek to avoid a 30-day, mandatory quarantine to protect the reservoir from invasive mussels, will need to reach out to either the Solano County Water Agency, Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Marina, or Putah Canyon Recreation Area to arrange for a vessel decontamination for any motorized vessel or vessel launched from a trailer. Decontaminations are expected to range from \$35 for a fishing boat or jet ski to \$150 for a wake surf boat or ski boat with added ballast. Additional fees for live wells, multiple engines, generators, ballast tanks, and vessels over 30 feet may also apply.

Boaters may obtain decontamination services by first reserving an appointment with these providers:

- Markley Cove Resort: Services Coming Soon, 707-966-2134
- Pleasure Cove Marina: www.goberryessa.com
- Putah Canyon Recreation Area: 707-966-9051 or 707-756-2395 (voicemail)
- Solano County Water Agency: www.scwa2.com

All boaters are urged to plan ahead this summer. Reclamation reminds all boaters that decontaminations are not required for hand-launch and non-motorized vessels. Also, all motorized boaters may elect instead to visit a seal-installation site to have a free, 30-day quarantine seal installed. All boaters are urged to join approximately 5,000 boaters in obtaining seals prior to the busy summer season. To receive a seal, you may visit:

- Markley Cove Resort: 7521 State Route 128, Napa

- Pleasure Cove Marina: 6100 State Route 128, Napa
- Putah Canyon Recreation Area: 7600 Knoxville Road, Pope Valley
- Spanish Flat Recreation Area: 4290 Knoxville Road, Napa
- Steele Canyon Recreation Area: 1605 Steele Canyon Road, Napa
- Gone Fishin' Marine: 1880 N. Lincoln Street, Dixon; Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sweeney's Sports: 835 Lincoln Avenue, Napa; Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-5p.m
- A Small Fishing Boat: 11383 Pyrites Way, Rancho Cordova; Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Please call ahead at 916-737-2628)
- Jensen Marine: 1237 Fortna Ave, Woodland; Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Please call ahead at 530-662-7755)
- Solano County Water Agency Office Parking Lot: 810 Vaca Valley Pkwy #202, Vacaville; Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- A-Team Marine: Mobile, please call ahead at 530-304-5379
- Dufer Point Visitor Center, 5520 Knoxville Road, Napa; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays: 12-3 p.m. (Please call ahead at 707-905-9468)

If you would like more information, contact the Lake Berryessa Field Office at 707-905-7896.

An excerpt from another excellent article in Napa Valley Features.

The Lake Berryessa News is a paid subscriber.

Napa County in Bloom

By Kathleen Scavone

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/sunday-e-dition-napa-valley-in-bloom>

(Editor's Note: On hikes in the hills around San Anselmo my neighbor taught me about miner's lettuce. We always picked some to take home, or ate it on the trail. It was good. But it always felt a bit strange to grab something growing on the side of the hill and throw it in your mouth.)



Verdant springtime in Napa County decorates mountains and valleys with glorious green,

but the aesthetics don't stop there. Nooks and crannies found in parks and along roadsides are pulsating with wildflowers tinted in delicate pinks, vivid yellows, vibrant reds and more. With spring's late rainfall there are sure to be wildflower viewing opportunities in abundance.

Napa County is blooming with a fireworks display of color found along lakes, roadsides, vineyards and myriad other landscape features. As the spring season progresses, a variety of eye candy will increasingly appear, including the California poppy, along with lupine, blue dicks, clover, tiger lilies and more.



Many blooms love the morning light, unfurling like little miracles to procure pollinators. Our state flower since March 2, 1903, the California poppy has carotey-colored petals that do just that as they open for business on sunny morns and close up shop each night or when it's windy or cold.

In his book “The Reason for Flowers, Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives,” Stephen Buchmann explains that flowers are designed by nature to entice pollinators such as bees and birds and that flowers need to “reward” their visitors. They do so by providing perches for spiders to catch prey, offering nesting material for some critters or, depending on the flower and region, by providing energy via pollen, nectar, oils and sometimes even the fleshy food of their own petals.

The promotion that some flowers extend to pollinators would make any New York City Fifth Avenue advertising executive proud, as the flower's ability to entice insects and avian species to “come hither” with specialized scents and colors abounds. Through scent chemistry, a flower's fragrance has evolved to broadcast that it is ready for sex. Not all flowers need to utilize scent to attract pollinators though. Many plants pollinated by hummingbirds do not possess a scent and invite guests with color, shape or nectar guides.

Miner's lettuce, resembling a tiny water lily pad with its circular leaves displayed upon its slim stalk, can be found at elevations lower than 6,000 feet in shady areas from southern Alaska to Central America. Its leaves have been consumed both raw and cooked by Indigenous people as well as by gold and silver miners of the past. Enjoyed as a

nutritional powerhouse, miner's lettuce is high in vitamins C and A. Its miniscule black seeds, located at the bottom of the flower stalk, were once considered a delicacy when toasted.

Wildflowers, living treasures that garner such a positive response, are sure to draw you into their fascinating worlds, whether it's a walk you're seeking, pollinator views or simply to fulfill the floral rewards of their captivating colors.

Emerson said it best, "The earth laughs in flowers."



Napa County's spring wildflowers create a vivid natural masterpiece, from the delicate Henderson's shooting stars and wake robin to the nutrient-rich miner's lettuce.

Checker lilies, Indian paintbrush, and Dutchman's pipe add striking contrast, while milkmaids, hazelnut catkins, and bowl-tubed iris complete the seasonal spectacle.

Kathleen Scavone Photos

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Spring is here , and so are the rattlesnakes. Here is part of the rattlesnake story I publish every year as a public service from The Lake Berryessa News. See the full story with more photos at: <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Interesting-Stories/Rattlesnake-story-2025.pdf>

Rattlesnakes: Friend or Enemy – or just a primal fear?

By Peter Kilkus (2025)

Above the Berryessa Highlands, we've had several close encounters with rattlesnakes over the years during spring and summer - as have many of my neighbors. I had to kill one to protect my dog. There's nothing quite like walking down a trail and coming upon a coiled rattlesnake looking you in the eye – the cold flash of adrenaline you feel.

I chased away a 3-footer off my road once and it did something I'd never seen. When I threw a rock at it, it gave a loud (kind of scary) rattle, then jumped into the lower branches of some tightly packed bushes and zipped away without touching the ground as far as my eyes could follow it.

Rattlers have good vision to at least 15 feet away under moderate illumination. The eyes are set so far to the sides of the head that they have only a limited field of binocular (stereo) vision. This may result in their moving their head from side to side as they try to get a good picture of something. Rattlers are too slow to outrun or dodge even the slowest of their enemies, thus the need for good long-range vision.

Though rattlesnakes are dangerous if provoked, they are generally not aggressive, and they also provide humans with a tremendous service - they eat rodents, other reptiles, and insects, and are in turn eaten by other predators.

A friend sent me a photo of a king snake eating a rattlesnake on the deck of neighbor's house in Wragg Canyon. The king snake was tightly coiled around the rattler and half the rattlesnake was already inside the king snake.

The California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites each year with only one to two deaths. About 25 percent of the bites are "dry," meaning no venom was injected, but the bites still require medical treatment.

Do's and don'ts in snake country:

Be aware that startled rattlesnakes may not rattle before striking defensively. There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of startling a rattlesnake.

Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Wear hiking boots.

When hiking, stick to well-used trails and wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.

Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.

Don't move planks, rocks or logs by hand - use a stick or crowbar until you can see under it. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark. Don't reach into holes in the ground, rocks or trees, woodpiles, even abandoned buckets and tires.

Step ON logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.

Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.

Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.

When you hear a rattle, freeze until you identify where the sound is coming from; you don't want to accidentally step on it when trying to flee. Once you have spotted it, give it time to move away. If it doesn't, move slowly straight away from it; don't walk to one side or the other as that could be perceived as threatening. Look behind you before you start to walk backwards - you don't want to trip over a rock, or another snake.

Don't handle a dead or injured snake. Dead snakes may not really be dead. Muscle contractions can still cause wounds, even when handling the decapitated head of a rattler.



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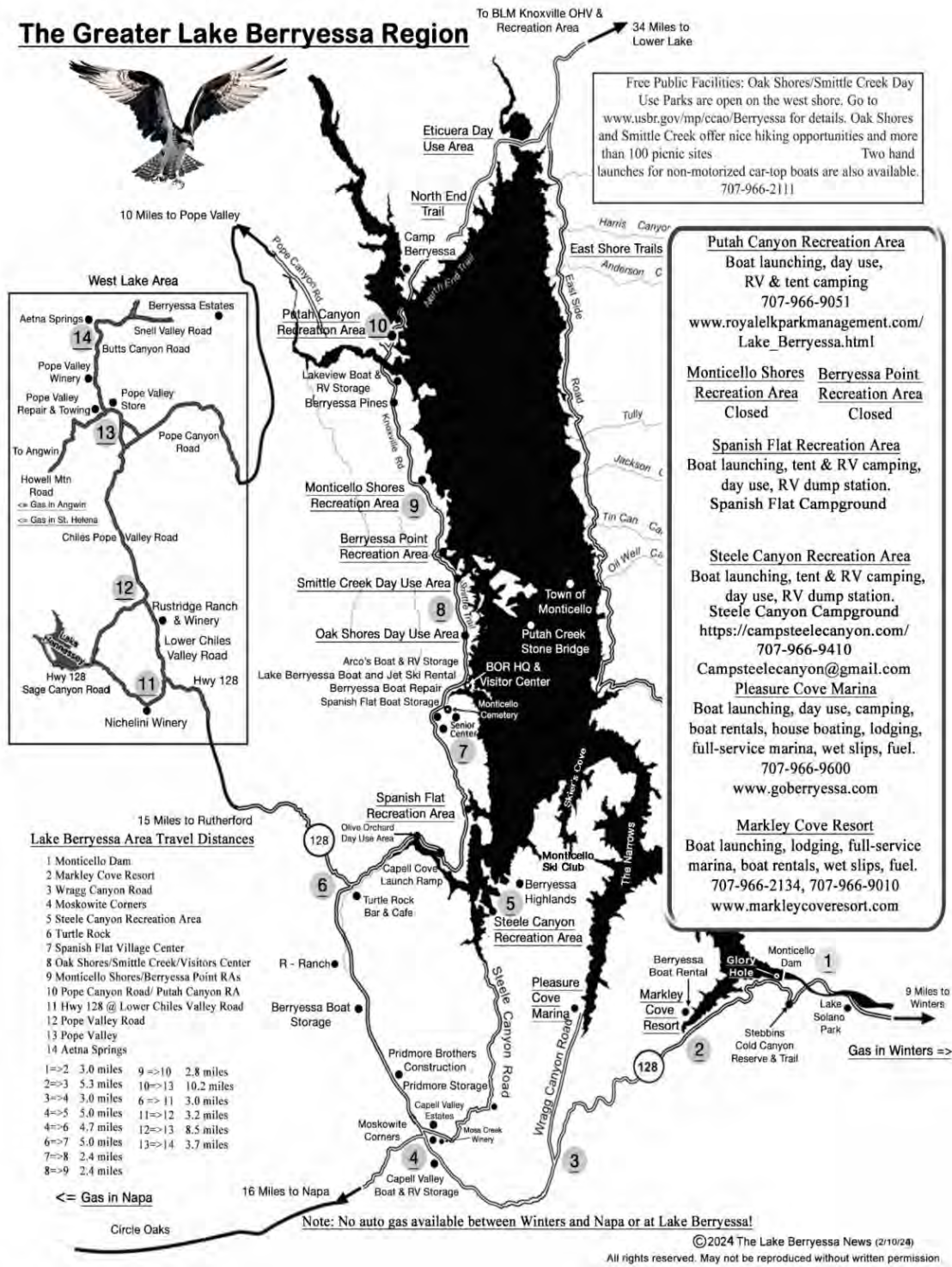


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Lake Berryessa News
Special Glory Hole Edition, March 27, 2025

Glory Hole in the News

Just a short note to spread some additional publicity about Lake Berryessa.

I was interviewed last week about Glory Hole by KPIX's Brian Hackney.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffGI5ARnQ18>

Brian and I had last worked together in 2010!

He looks the same, but I have aged gracefully.

<https://youtu.be/nP9K8Ai0Lkc>



High water levels lead to activation of Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole spillway

By Brian Hackney

March 26, 2025 / 1:41 PM PDT / CBS San Francisco

The activation of the Lake Berryessa spillway is good news as far as Northern California's water supply. It means the winter in the North Bay has been wet enough for the lake to be filled to the brim.

A rare and mesmerizing scene is taking place in the North Bay as the round "glory hole"

spillway at Lake Berryessa is active for the first time in six years. An historian who helped make the spillway a global sensation told CBS News Bay Area it has become something of a local tourist attraction..

Peter Kilkus is a local historian, scientist, journalist and author who also runs the Lake Berryessa News website, which monitors the spillway.

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

"It's called a Morning Glory Spillway. That's really what the engineers called it, and we shortened it to Glory Hole," explained Kilkus. "Some people say, 'Oh, that's really beautiful.' Some people say, 'That's frightening.'"

Regardless of the reaction, the spillway really sucks people in.

"Yeah, it's a big tourist draw. In fact, on a heavy day on the weekend, you can't even park here," Kilkus said.

While most dams use traditional spillways, there wasn't room for them at the Monticello Reservoir. So, the water goes down the specialized 70-foot diameter drain before it makes a 90-degree turn and is dumped into the Putah Creek below. It is an unusual design.

"Yes, this is fairly rare. There are only two in California, and there are a couple others in Europe, but they're very rare," said Kilkus.

The activation of the spillway is also fairly rare, because the water doesn't overflow into it very often. The last time it was activated was 2019. Before that was in 2017.

"2017 was the first time it went over in 11 years," said Kilkus.

That was when a drone video by Evan Kilkus, associate editor and drone pilot for The Lake Berryessa News, posted on YouTube went viral.

"We had 62 million views around the world," remembered Kilkus. "After that, it really became an attraction around the world."

This year's wet winter has led to an extended activation of the spillway. The Glory Hole first spilled on February 4. The highest water level occurred on ten days later on Valentine's Day, when it rose to nearly 443 feet. The level has been above the glory hole for 46 days.

The dam was completed in 1957, creating Lake Berryessa while eliminating a small community in the process.

"Of course, it buried a town. There was a town here that was one of the great agricultural producers before 1958," said Kilkus.

The name of the town was Monticello, which became the namesake of the dam. Now the water goes to half a million people in Solano County. When the lake's level is low, the outflow pipe into Putah Creek becomes a mecca for skateboarders.

And when its high?

"It's really a circular waterfall. As a scientist, I love to watch the water flow, because I know the physics behind it," said Kilkus. "And as a normal human being, it's just beautiful."

Lake Berryessa Glory Hole stories have appeared this year in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and several other papers. There was also another short Glory Hole news video done a few weeks ago by KGO television. I had a very short comment in that one.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1348266036299527>

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/27/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has remained stable at 441.0 feet, 1 foot above Glory Hole. Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025. Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet. Days above Glory Hole = 50.

Rainfall is at 22.16 inches at Monticello Dam (about average). Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference to the future level of the lake.

Lake capacity is at 1,567,372 A-F or 101%.

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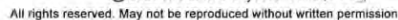
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Lake Berryessa News - April 1, 2025

Happy April Fools' Day! (or month? or year?)

Should April Fools' Day be declared a national holiday?

The Best of The Lake Berryessa News April Fool's Day stories for the last 20 years are available at:

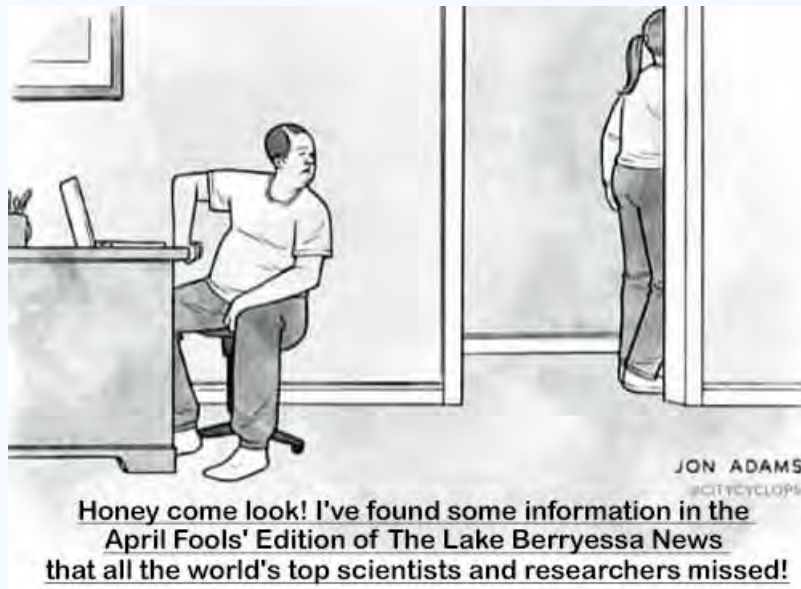
<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Best-April-1-Stories.pdf>

Another Global Pandemic Reported on April 1, 2025

According to the University of Lake Berryessa's infectious diseases laboratory isolated below Big Island, the "Truthiness 2025" virus pandemic has invaded the human mind! The infection has reached almost 50% of Americans.

There's a difference between the truth of a credible persuasive argument and the "truthiness" of an implausible but appealing conclusion. Truthiness" refers to the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true.

Remember, if you read it in The Lake Berryessa News, it must be true!



A Little Bit O' Philosophy Helps the Satire Go Down...

by Peter Kilkus

This is my favorite issue of the year because it allows me to express some of my opinions without being too offensive. Sometimes satire is so close to reality that the joke simply escapes the uneducated and ignorant. And satire usually escapes the profoundly stupid.

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

Although April 1st is usually referred to as April Fools' Day, the date has also become a holy day for some churches such as the First Church of the Last Laugh in San Francisco.

Each year on April 1 they sponsor a St. Stupid's Day Parade.

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.

The problem with today's world is that everyone believes they have the right to express their opinion AND have others listen to it. The correct statement of individual rights is that everyone has the right to an opinion, but crucially, that the opinion can be roundly ignored and even made fun of, particularly if it is demonstrably nonsense.

Watching the most famous circular waterfall in the world!

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (4/1/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is relatively stable at 440.7 feet, 8.4 inches above Glory Hole. The output of the dam has remained steady at 370 cfs since 2/19/25.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025. Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 56.

Rainfall totals 22.64 inches at Monticello Dam - .57 inches during the last 5 days.

Glory Hole is still spilling at a rate of 486 cfs, down from its maximum of 3,913 cfs on 2/14/25.

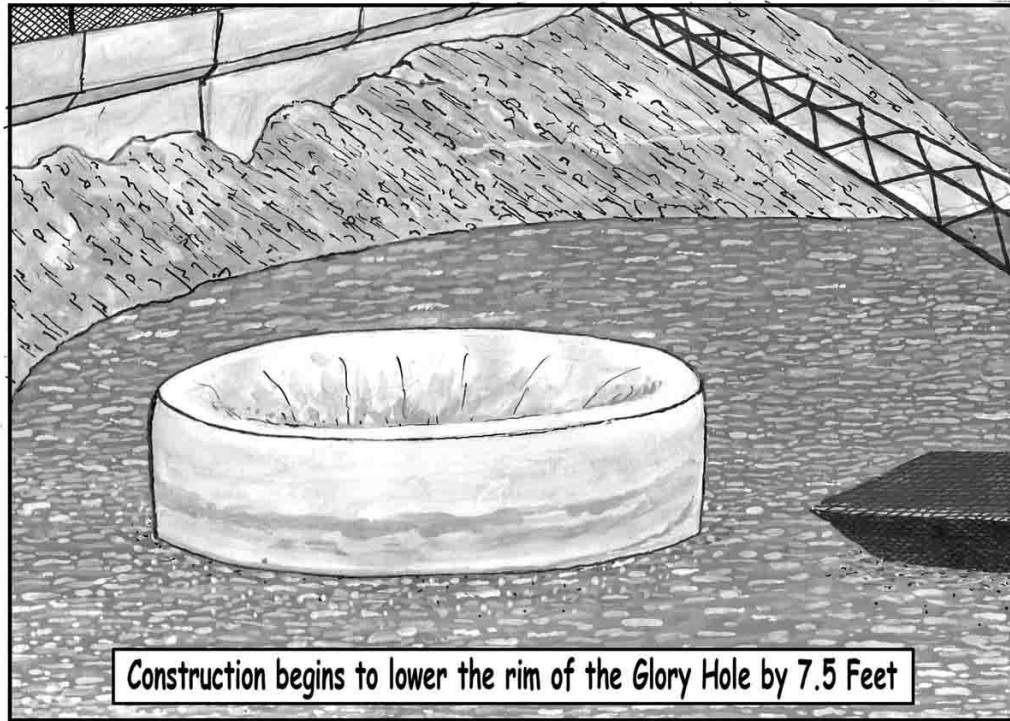
Lake capacity is at 1,565,098 A-F or 100.89%.

Two competing proposals have been put forward over the last few years for the future of Glory Hole. Coincidentally, both versions were released on April 1st a few years ago. The first would allow Glory Hole to overflow more often, attracting many more tourists to see it, providing an economic benefit to Solano and Napa counties. The second is a temporary method to increase the total capacity of Lake Berryessa in good rain years. This method acknowledges the fact that any lake water that flows into Glory Hole is lost to productive human use.

Perhaps a seasonal combination of the two?

NAPALACHIA

by Bill Scholer



"Everyone has a right to be stupid; some people just abuse the privilege."

"Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity." -
Anonymous

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."- Albert Einstein

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The biggest cause of trouble in the world today is that the stupid people are so sure about things, and the intelligent folks are so full of doubts. - Bertrand Russell

Trump Head on Mt. Rushmore and Berryessa Peak?

Donald Trump keeps a sculpture in his office showing an altered Mount Rushmore. It is said to be one that Kristi Noem gave Trump in 2020 at an Independence Day event at the real Mount Rushmore.



A Republican Congressional representative, Anna Paulina Luna, has introduced a bill to put Trump's face on Mt. Rushmore.

Sponsor: Rep. Luna, Anna Paulina [R-FL-13] (Introduced 01/28/2025)

Official Title as Introduced: To direct the Secretary of the Interior to arrange for the carving of the figure of President Donald J. Trump on Mount Rushmore National Memorial.



Apparently, Napa County Trump supporters may have petitioned the Board of Supervisors to request that the federal government also honor President Trump by carving his face on Berryessa Peak, smiling down at Lake Berryessa. Berryessa Peak is part of the federal Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (BSMNM). Artist concept below.



"The Napa Valley": A Landlocked Cruise Ship With Nowhere to Go!

Napa County includes more valleys than just "The Napa Valley". It includes Berryessa, Brown, Capell, Chiles, Conn, Gordon, Pope, and Wooden valleys. "The Napa Valley" is a bit like a cruise ship surrounded by many beautiful islands. But "The Napa Valley" is a one-trick wine pony. It has few of the attractions of a modern cruise ship.

The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce, with wide-spread community support and the assistance of Napa County, now proposes to remedy that limitation by creating a scale replica of the Icon of the Seas and launching it on Lake Berryessa. The actual Icon of the Seas has a crew of 2,350, and a capacity of 5,610 passengers at double occupancy, or 7,600 passengers at maximum capacity. Icon of the Seas has 20 decks with seven swimming pools and six water slides.

For some context, there are nine "official" cities in Napa County. Seven of them have populations less than the ship's capacity!

			2024
City	Rank	State	Population
Napa	1	California	77,235
American Canyon	2	California	21,092
St. Helena	3	California	4,806
Calistoga	4	California	4,719
Yountville	5	California	3,228
Angwin	6	California	2,731
Silverado Resort	7	California	1,012
Deer Park	8	California	835
Rutherford	9	California	115

The new Lake Berryessa ship would be christened the "Iconic Lake" with a capacity yet to be determined. It would incorporate the previously proposed "Floating Native American Casino". See that story at:

Floating Native American Casino Coming to Lake Berryessa?

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/floating-native-american.pdf>

Native American casino (artist's rendering) pictured below on Lake Berryessa.



Actual Icon of the Sea pictured below.



Icon Lake scale model (artist's rendering) pictured below on Lake Berryessa.



Making Qubits from Champagne Bubbles

"Qubits" refers to the fundamental unit of information in quantum computing, analogous to the "bit" in classical computing. Magnetic bubbles and magnetic molecules are also being studied for use in quantum computing. Magnetic bubbles are tiny, movable, cylindrical regions of reversed magnetization, called bubbles, in a thin layer of a magnetic material to represent data bits.

In a series of articles analyzing the economic state of Napa County's wine industry, Tim Carl asks the question, "Is the wine boom over?"

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/the-wine-boom-is-over>

The University of Lake Berryessa, laboring diligently in its research laboratories located below Big Island, once again hopes to use new technology to support Napa County's

economic future. See the results of ULB's research breakthrough in a previous April 1st article in The Lake Berryessa News, "[Meat Grapes & Steak Potatoes](https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Meat-Grape-Final.pdf)" [University of Lake Berryessa Promotes Solutions to Climate Change, Global Food Security, and Animal Cruelty Prevention](https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Meat-Grape-Final.pdf) at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Meat-Grape-Final.pdf>



In a move to leverage Napa County's wine industry expertise in the complex scientific process of making premium champagne with the rapid growth of the quantum computing industry, ULB's new research using champagne bubbles may be one answer.

"Qubits" refers to the fundamental unit of information in quantum computing, analogous to the "bit" in classical computing. Magnetic bubbles and magnetic molecules are also being studied for use in quantum computing. Magnetic bubbles are tiny, movable, cylindrical regions of reversed magnetization, called bubbles, in a thin layer of a magnetic material to represent data bits.

ULB's bottom-up synthesis of champagne bubbles as data bits provides physicists with a rich playground to study newly discovered quantum effects and provide a means to store information at the scale of individual bubbles.



Acres of Usable Land with Two Homes at Lake Berryessa

1061 Steele Canyon Road

<http://www.steele.canyonroad.com/>

\$1,395,000



Main House: 4BR | 2.5BA *** Guest House: 2BR | 2BA**

Beautifully updated with an oversized 2-car garage

Detached 1,200 sq. ft. Shop with 3 roll-top doors – perfect for hobbies or projects

**Additional Features: Separate Office space, fully fenced, water storage tank,
goat barn/chicken coop, greenhouse, olive trees, and filtered lake views.**

5 minutes from Steele Canyon Recreation Area



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The LAKE BERRYESSA SENIOR CENTER

invites you to

come socialize with friends and neighbors and enjoy a lovely

EASTER DINNER



and a fun filled night at the LAKE BERRYESSA SENIOR CENTER!

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th

SOCIAL HOUR: 5-6 PM

EASTER DINNER: 6 PM

PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE



The Lake Berryessa Senior Center relies solely on the community's generosity and its' invaluable members and volunteers.

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LAKE BERRYESSA SENIOR CENTER!

PLEASE RSVP to Lisa: (707) 815-0330

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Napa/ Lake Berryessa

Discover your Private Lakeview Retreat on 10+ Acres

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<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$995,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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ALERT Napa County Emergency Notification System Launching April 15.

For assistance, visit their website: <https://readynapacounty.org/>

What is ALERT Napa County?

ALERT Napa County is a system that enables the agencies within Napa County to provide

you with critical and non-critical information in a variety of situations. This includes situations such as severe weather, planned and unexpected road closures, missing persons, evacuations, natural disasters, and public health concerns. Many agencies across Napa County, including Emergency Services, the local jurisdictions, and Office of Education use ALERT Napa County to communicate with the public. Alert Napa County sends notifications via text message, application push notifications, TTY and/or email communication. How you receive information, depends on how you customize your account preferences.

Need help creating or customizing your profile?

If you are having trouble signing up, changing your alert preferences, or want to unsubscribe please contact Napa County OES at 707-299-1592 or email emergencyservices@countyofnapa.org. Napa County OES will be happy to assist with your profile but **will never contact you directly** for this information.

If you do not want to create a profile with Alert Napa County, **you can text your zip code to 888777 to be included for notifications (English).**

SPANISH: To sign up for the Spanish text-only alerts, send one of the following KEYWORDS (in bold below) to 888777.

- For Sheriff, OES, Fire, and Public Works, text **AlertaNapaCo**
- For American Canyon, text **AlertaAmCan**
- For City of Napa, text **CiudadNapa**
- For City of Napa PD, text **PoliciaNapa**
- For City of Napa Fire, text **BomberoNapa**
- For Yountville, text **AlertaYVille**
- For St. Helena, text **AlertaSHPD**
- For Calistoga, text **ESPCalistoga**

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<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TluE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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Lake Berryessa News - Easter Sunday: April 20, 2025

Spring is in full swing at Lake Berryessa! Come on out and enjoy it.



Watching the most famous circular waterfall in the world!

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (4/20/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is relatively stable at 440.2 feet, 2.4 inches above Glory Hole - dropping less than an inch per day.

Glory Hole is spilling at a rate of 126 cfs, down from its maximum of 3,913 cfs on 2/14/25.

Dam output has been lowered from the constant 370 cfs since 2/19/25 to 250 cfs today. This will slow the lake level dropping a bit and keep Glory Hole flowing a few more days.

Days above Glory Hole (4/20/25) = 75.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Rainfall totals 22.78 inches at Monticello Dam.

Lake capacity is at 1,556,014 A-F or 100.3%.



Easter Jesus or Easter Bunnies and Easter Eggs?

Easter and Christmas have morphed over the decades from religious holidays to more fun celebrations - especially aimed at children (and selling stuff). This may annoy some folks who consider themselves religionists rather than atheists, agnostics, or humanists. The shift has led to some satirical humor.

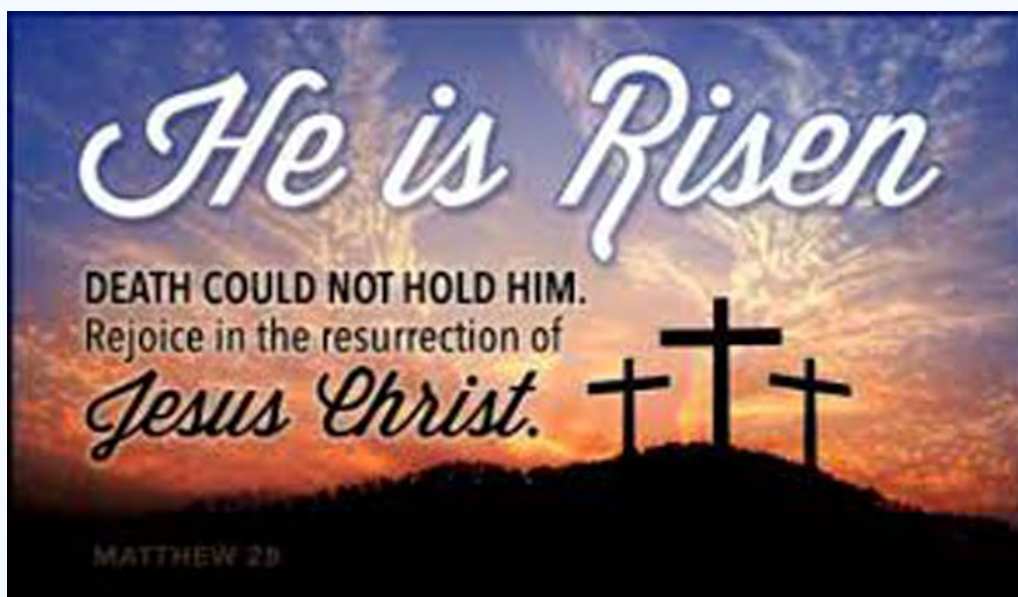
The iconic slogan "Silly rabbit, Trix are for kids!" is a hallmark of Trix cereal advertising, particularly in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, has been culturally appropriated by t-shirt manufacturers.





How Many Resurrections Have There Been?

Catholicism and its many Christian offshoots is only one of many world religions that have a "resurrection" story. According to the New Testament, Jesus Christ was cruelly martyred by the Romans around A.D. 33. But after three days in the tomb, it says, Jesus miraculously rose again, appeared to his disciples and ascended to heaven. Jesus' resurrection and triumph over death is what Christians celebrate every Easter.



But Christianity isn't the only ancient faith to worship a deity who dies and then rises

again, as the Scottish anthropologist James Frazer explained in *The Golden Bough*, his landmark 1922 study of world religion and mythology. In the ancient Near East, where the Bible was written, stories of divine death and resurrection were closely tied with the agricultural cycle, and Frazer believed that early Christians likely chose a spring date for Easter to coincide with existing pagan festivals for their resurrected gods.

Interestingly, the ancient Saxons had long celebrated a feast day for Eostre (a goddess stolen from Germanic peoples, originally Ostara) on the first full moon after the spring equinox. Eostre allegedly saved a wounded bird by turning it into a hare, a hare that continued to lay eggs, which it decorated and presented to Eostre. Both “Eostre” and “easter” are derived from an ancient word for “spring”: eastre.

Below are six examples of resurrection stories from ancient cultures around the world, including India, China, Mesoamerica and Norse mythology. See the details at:

<https://www.history.com/articles/resurrection-stories-ancient-cultures>

Tammuz, the Spring God of Mesopotamia

Osiris, the Egyptian God of Death, Agriculture, and Resurrection

Outwitting Death in Ancient India (Very Romantic)

Bodhidharma and His Single Shoe

Odin's Sacrifice

Quetzalcóatl: Resurrection in Mesoamerica

The Good Old Old Days!

Easter Sunday 1966
at
Steele Park
Only Minutes From Napa
TAKE A RIDE - ENJOY THE DRIVE
OUR FIRST
BRUNCHEON
AND EGG HUNT
FROM 10 A.M. to ?
EASTER SUNDAY DINNER
SERVED FROM 5 P.M.
AN EASTER SURPRISE FOR
MOTHER & DAD AND SOME
GOODIES FOR THE CHILDREN
Children Under 12.....1/2 Price
Tots.....Free Of Course
STEELE PARK
AT LAKE BERRYESSA
Turn Right at **Moskowite Corners**
No Gate Entrance Charge - Phone Lake Berryessa 2682

Peeps: The Origins of a Beloved Easter Candy

Peeps are a marshmallow confection marketed since 1953 in the United States and Canada in the shape of chicks, bunnies, and other animals, as well as holiday shapes, with themes revolving around Halloween, Christmas, and Easter.



Peeps are produced by Just Born, a candy manufacturer founded in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, by an immigrant from Vinnitsa in the Russian Empire (now in Ukraine), Sam Born (1891–1959). Some histories suggest that Sam actually got his peeps brainstorm while spending some time in Greenland on his journey to the United States. Reputedly, Sam was influenced by the sight of a rare but cute Greenlandian native bird.



Religions, Cults, and Jokes

In its simplest form, religion is a set of beliefs and practices related to the supernatural, often involving a higher power or spirit, and often including rituals, ceremonies, and a moral code. Religions typically have a core set of beliefs about the nature of reality, the origin of the universe, and the meaning of life.

Easter, a Christian holiday celebrated around the world, and April Fools' Day, an event observed by pranksters everywhere, rarely fall on the same day. 2018 was one of the exceptions. And it tested the philosophical boundaries. Is Scientology a "religion"? Are "evangelical christians" cults? Should April Fool's Day be declared a religious holiday?

The two coincide because calculations made in the sixth century dictated Easter would fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. That meant the holiday could not fall before March 22 or later than April 25. The rules allowed astronomers to calculate on what date Easter would fall far into the future, and on rare occasions, it fell on April 1. Easter and April Fools' Day coincided in 1923, 1934, 1945, 1956 and this year. After 2018, the next one is 2029, and then again in 2040—but after that, not again in this century.

The Marijuana Holiday, 4/20, coincides with Easter and Passover this year. The origins of the date, and the term "420" generally, were long murky, but can be traced to a group of enthusiasts at a California high school in the 1970s.

Some claimed the "420" derived from Bob Dylan's "Rainy Day Women No. 12 & 35," with its refrain of "Everybody must get stoned," 420 being the product of 12 times 35! Numerology at its weediest.

But the prevailing explanation is that it started in the 1970s with a group of bell-bottomed buddies from San Rafael High School, in California's Marin County north of San

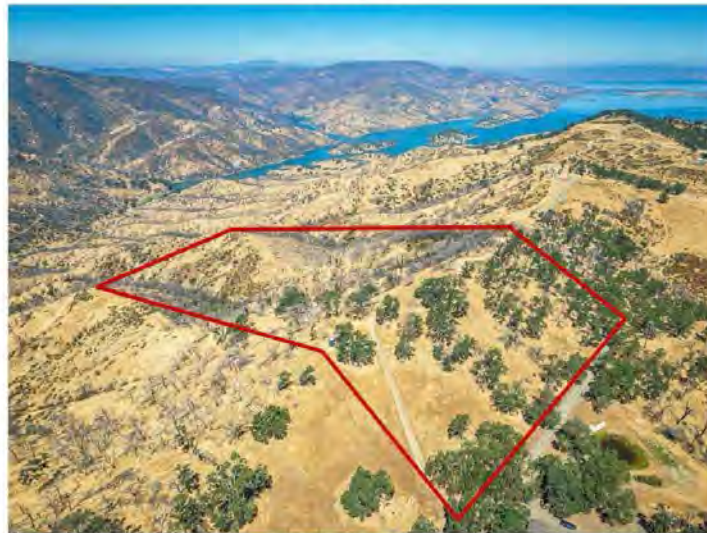
Francisco, who called themselves “the Waldos.” (Where are they now?) During fall 1971, at 4:20 p.m., just after classes and football practice, the group would meet up at the school’s statue of chemist Louis Pasteur, smoke a joint and head out to search for a weed patch in the Marin hills.

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A Dream Location Near Lake Berryessa! Discover the perfect blend of privacy and breathtaking beauty on this expansive 60+ acre lot in Lakeview Estates, nestled in the serene Eastern Hills of Napa. Situated at the end of the development, this prime property offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa and the surrounding mountains. Bring your contractor, house plans, and dreams to create your ideal home in this picturesque setting. With power available at the nearby electric pole, you have a head start on making your vision a reality. Please note, a well and septic system are not yet in place. Don't miss this opportunity to own a piece of Napa's natural splendor and build the home you've always imagined!

www.RimrockDr.com

\$350,000



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

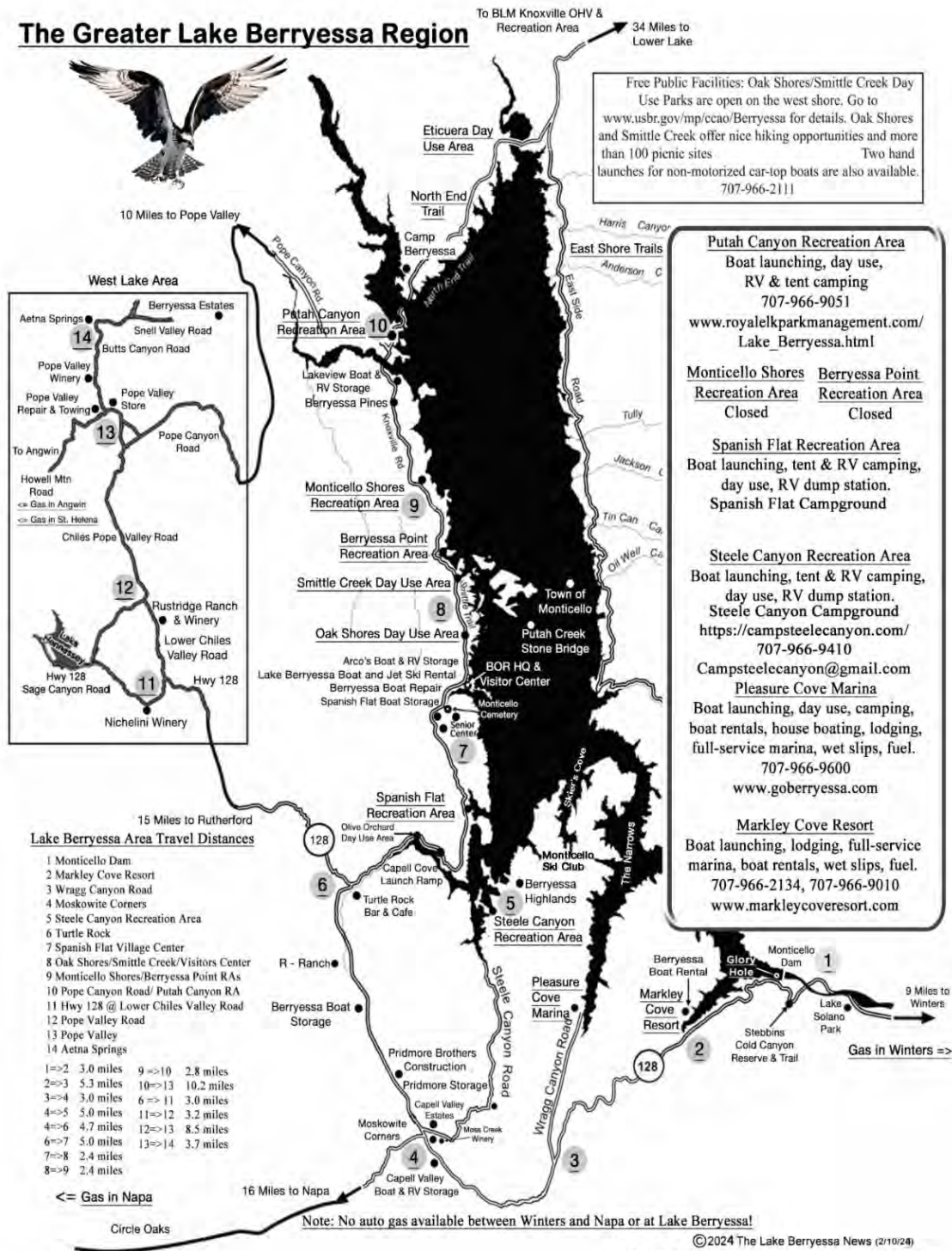
<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



Lake Berryessa News

May 4, 2025

Spring is in full swing. And here comes Mother's Day!...or did you forget?

A sure sign of spring and Mother's Day at Lake Berryessa.
Mother and baby dinosaurs grazing on trees in my neighbor's yard.



Watching the most famous circular waterfall in the world!

Glory Hole Watch 2025 Is Over! (5/4/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.86 feet, 1.7 inches below Glory Hole. The spill level reached **0 cfs** on **5/2/25**.

Dam output has risen to 470 cfs in response to the springtime agricultural requirements of Solano County. The output will continue to rise all summer to a usual maximum of more than 700 cfs.

Days above Glory Hole (5/2/25) = 87.

Here are the 8 longest spills for Lake Berryessa...

1967-148 days

2006-142 days

1965-134 days

1983-133 days

1974-125 days

1969-111 days

1971-105 days

1998-105 days

The average spill length is 84 days so this year will be just over the average spill length.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Rainfall total is 22.89 inches at Monticello Dam.

Lake capacity is at 1,548,650 A-F or 99.3%.





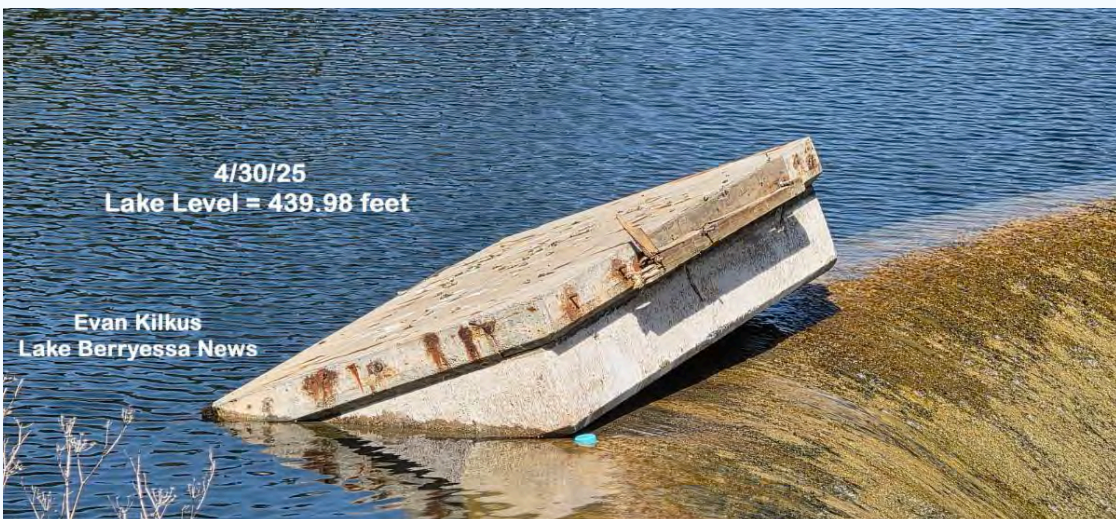
4/30/25
Lake Level = 439.98 feet

Lake Berryessa New
Peter Kilkus



4/30/25
Lake Level = 439.98 feet

Lake Berryessa New
Peter Kilkus



4/30/25
Lake Level = 439.98 feet

Evan Kilkus
Lake Berryessa News



Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update (5/4/25)

Not too much news to share. The Camp Margaritaville Resorts planning process for the Steele Canyon Recreation Area appears to be in its final planning phase. A comprehensive plan may be ready for presentation at the Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting in early June, perhaps at the June 3 Supervisors meeting.

It will be very important for Lake Berryessa revitalization supporters to attend the plan presentation meeting. The Lake Berryessa News will assist in organizing a strong, positive response. The LBNews is aware of behind-the-scenes lobbying by the Napa Sierra Club and other elitist, psuedo-envormental exclusionists to derail any proposed plan.

These "nimby-adjacent" types are still falsely claiming that the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program doesn't even exist, and if there is such a thing, it violates the Napa County General Plan - which is patently false. I wrote a report last year that presents the facts:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/The-Lake-Berryssa-Revitalization-Program-Explained.pdf>

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Documentation/Lake-Berryessa-and-the-Napa-General-Plan.pdf>

As for the status of the other resorts up for potential revitalization, the only news is that there are some recreation management companies nibbling at the edges of interest.

Monticello Dam: the Trash & the Fish

Last year at this time there was an unusual amount of trash below the observation area at the Hwy 128 roadside corner of the dam. But it was thoroughly cleaned up by the Solano County Water Agency and the Bureau of Relamation.

July, 2024, Hello Peter,

I wanted to spread the word that we did a SCWA/USBR cleanup at the Monticello Dam today. Our crews went behind the buoy line and gathered the trash with our boat then shuttled it to a USBR boat that was stationed on the other side of the buoy line. Once all the trash, pieces of dock, and lost buoys were collected, we shuttled it over to the Markley Cove launch ramp and loaded it into a dump trailer and truck. Thanks to our team at SCWA, USBR, and Markley Cove for allowing us to use their launch ramp we now have a clean Dam!

Jay Cuetara

Supervising Water Resources Engineer

Solano County Water Agency

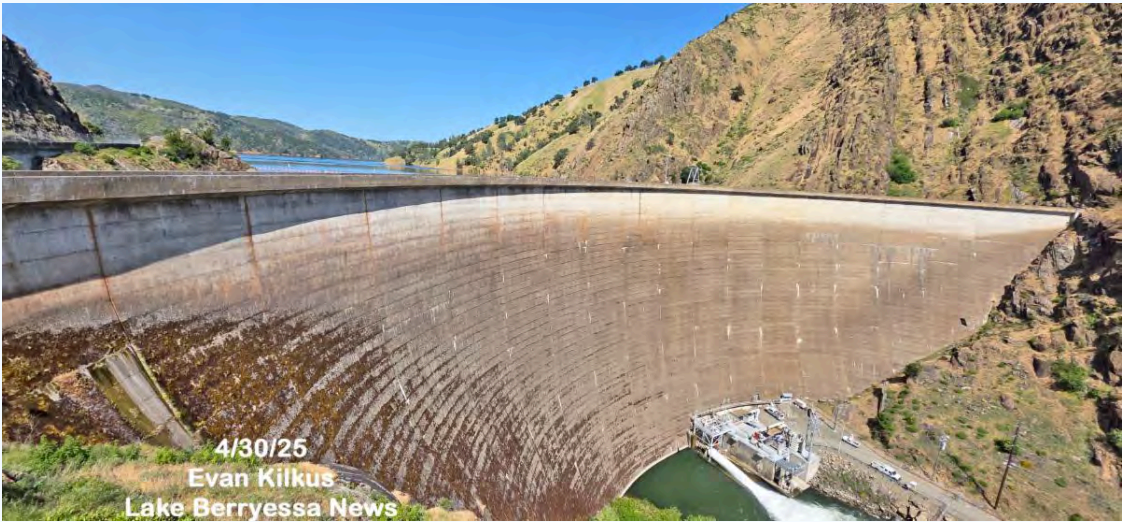




This year there is no trash except the old piece of dock blown down from the lake this winter. That will be removed as soon as it safe to do so. When Evan and I photographed the dam last week, we did notice a school of fish swimming around the dam face, sometimes jumping up out of the water to grab a bite of something. It is difficult to see them in the photos. Can anyone tell what type of fish they are? Carp?







**SOMETIMES A MOM
JUST NEEDS A
5 MINUTE BREAK.**



Barbecue Season Is Here!

Most folks familiar with the Lake Berryessa region will recognize reference to the Buckhorn Steakhouse in Winters (<https://www.buckhornsteakhouse.com/>) with great prime rib and other entrees available. But just a few minutes north of Winters in Esparto is a sister company, the Buckhorn Meat Company (<https://www.buckhornmeatco.com/>) with a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/buckhornmeatco>).

Now that warm weather is back at Lake Berryessa and the lake is full, the Lake Berryessa News staff has turned on our Traeger grill and is ready to BBQ! So, we visited the Buckhorn Meat Company last week for supplies. And we weren't disappointed. Pre-marinated tri-tips and steaks at reasonable prices - a classic carnivore's delight.

Buckhorn Meat Co.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/buckhornmeatco>

Rochelle Pollard, Sales & Marketing

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Rochelle@buckhornmeatco.com



Along with BBQ Season Comes Gardens and Orchards

The Lake Berryessa News is a paid subscriber to Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>). NVF always has interesting articles about the local area.

Last week they had two special gardening articles relevant to the Lake Berryessa News headquarters above the Berryessa Highlands. We love tomatoes, basil, garlic, peppers, and avocados (tomato salad, bruschetta, salsa, guacamole) and sharing our abundance with friends and neighbors.

One article was a deep dive into growing tomatoes:

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-rare-piebald-deer>

which included a link to a great detailed report from UC Davis about tomatoes:

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8159.pdf>

Photo below shows only a small part of our weekly tomato harvests last year.



Associate editor Evan Kilkus, with the help of his sister, Hannah, and brother, Darby (pictured below in contemplation of his rattlesnake-avoidance skills), has expanded the LBNews garden and added a small orchard.





The other NVF article was about the impact of climate change on a new ability to grow avocado trees in Napa County. We had always heard, sadly, that avocado trees might not do well at Lake Berryessa. Evan did his research and found a local nursery which told him that growing avocados was possible. So he bought three avocado trees which are now in our small orchard and blooming robustly. (See photo above)

Coincidentally, the NVF article regarding avocado trees appeared:

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-rise-promotes-local?utm_source=publication-search

Changes in Climate Make Avocados in Napa Possible

By Rainer Hoenicke, UC Master Gardener of Napa County

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated its Plant Hardiness Zone Map, a crucial tool for gardeners selecting plants. Each zone on the map is defined by average annual minimum temperatures. A zone represents 10 F and is further subdivided by 5 F sub-zones. If a plant is hardy in a particular zone, it is likely to survive the winter there.

The nationwide average minimum temperature has increased by 2.5 F since the last map update in 2012, and about half the country shifted to a warmer sub-zone. The floor of the Napa Valley is among those areas that moved from USDA Zone 9a to Zone 9b.

The higher the zone number, the warmer the average minimum winter temperatures. To nobody's surprise, Hawaii and Puerto Rico are in Zones 12 and 13. In these tropical regions temperature differences between day and night tend to be greater than those between seasons.

Can Napa Valley residents now grow plants that we presumed could only be grown south of Point Conception? The answer is yes. Depending on location, some folks in Napa County can now grow avocados without keeping them in pots and moving them indoors in winter, and they won't have to pay through the nose for Mexican avocados.

According to a study published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, humans have been growing and improving avocados for the last 7,500 years. The Indigenous people in what we know today as Honduras were selectively breeding wild avocados to get larger fruits and thicker skins, reported The New York Times.

Avocados emerged about 400,000 years ago in central Mexico and were dispersed by ancient megafauna. By the end of the Pleistocene (about 13,000 years ago), they could be found throughout Central America and northern South America and had diversified into three different species.

Technically, hundreds of different avocado varieties exist, and almost all thrive in climates without frost. My research indicates that some varieties are now suitable for Napa Valley areas that still experience a few frosty nights each winter.

There are three broad groups of avocados: Guatemalan, Mexican and West Indian. Within each of those groups, there are many cultivars with different flavors, sizes and frost tolerance. Avocados of Mexican descent tend to be the most frost-tolerant, and the variety called Mexicola Grande can withstand short periods below 20 F. Lila, another Mexican avocado, is reputed to be even more frost-tolerant. Since I live in the heat island of Napa city, I gave avocado growing another try, after two previous failures that were probably due to insufficient drainage rather than hard freezes.

Mexicola Grande was bred to have larger fruit than Mexicola, as the name suggests. The fruits have a thin, shiny, black skin that you can eat. Their meat is sweeter, creamier and nuttier than Hass avocados. Like some other Mexican varieties, their leaves have a distinct, anise-like scent.


The Hass avocado, although first found in California, is also a Mexican avocado, and both Hass and Mexicola Grande are packed with vitamins and minerals. Mexicola Grande is slightly lower in fat than Hass. Its creamy texture makes it perfect for guacamole.

Mexicola Grande is considered an early season avocado, but when grown in California, its season ranges from October to January. Most of the crop matures all at once, the skin turning a deep purple to almost black. The fruit will drop from the tree when fully mature.

Avocados are unique among fruit trees in having two types of flowers. Type A flowers open in the morning and are ready to receive pollen. Type B flowers open in the afternoon. Most avocado trees have one type or the other, not both. The Mexicola Grande will self-fertilize, but you will get greater yield if you have a Type B variety nearby that blooms in the same season, such as Winter Mexican, Joey or Bacon.

Perhaps in the future we'll see commercial avocado orchards in Napa Valley in areas that can be dry-farmed and have good drainage.

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4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

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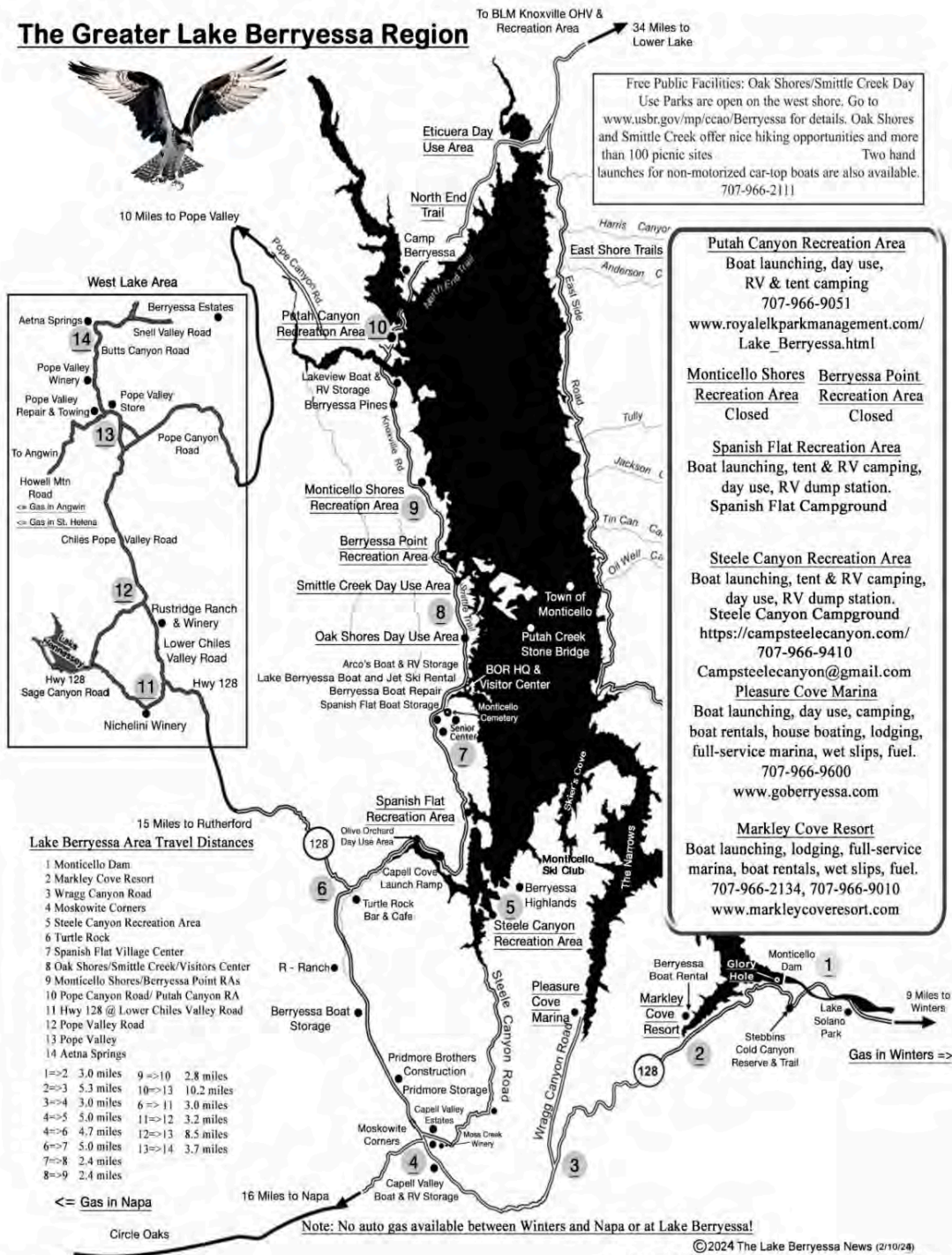
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News

May 11, 2025

Today is Mother's Day!...

- Being a mom to a teenager will make you understand why some animals eat their young.
- It's sad when you sit around waiting for mom to make dinner and then you realize you are the mom.
- There's nothing quite like being told I'm wrong by someone who depends on me for food, clothing, and shelter.
- Kids make a lot of plans for people who can't drive anywhere.
- I asked to switch seats on a plane because I was next to a crying baby. Evidently that doesn't work if the baby is yours.
- "Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?" "I don't know, ask your grandma!"
- "I love it when I find myself screaming 'STOP SCREAMING' at my kids. That's how I teach them irony."
- "A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He said, 'Call for backup.' "



Lake Berryessa Fish Planting, May 8, 2025

Besides people planting vegetable gardens in Spring, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife also plants fish in our lakes. This cool video is of juvenile rainbow trout being "planted" at the Steele Canyon Campground last week. 1,100 pounds of rainbow trout out of a spout. California Fish & Wildlife drops the kids off at Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzKx5G7yMrQ>

Thanks to Evan Kilkus, Lake Berryessa News Associate Editor, drone pilot, videographer, the publisher's politeness monitor, and "being in the right place at the right time" lottery winner for this video and narration.





Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/11/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.5 feet, 6 inches below Glory Hole.

Dam output has risen to an average of 470 cfs in response to the springtime agricultural requirements of Solano County. The output will continue to rise all summer to a usual maximum of more than 700 cfs.

Days above Glory Hole (5/2/25) = 87.

Here are the 8 longest spills for Lake Berryessa...

- 1967-148 days
- 2006-142 days
- 1965-134 days
- 1983-133 days
- 1974-125 days
- 1969-111 days
- 1971-105 days
- 1998-105 days

The average spill length is 84 days so this year will be just over the average spill length.

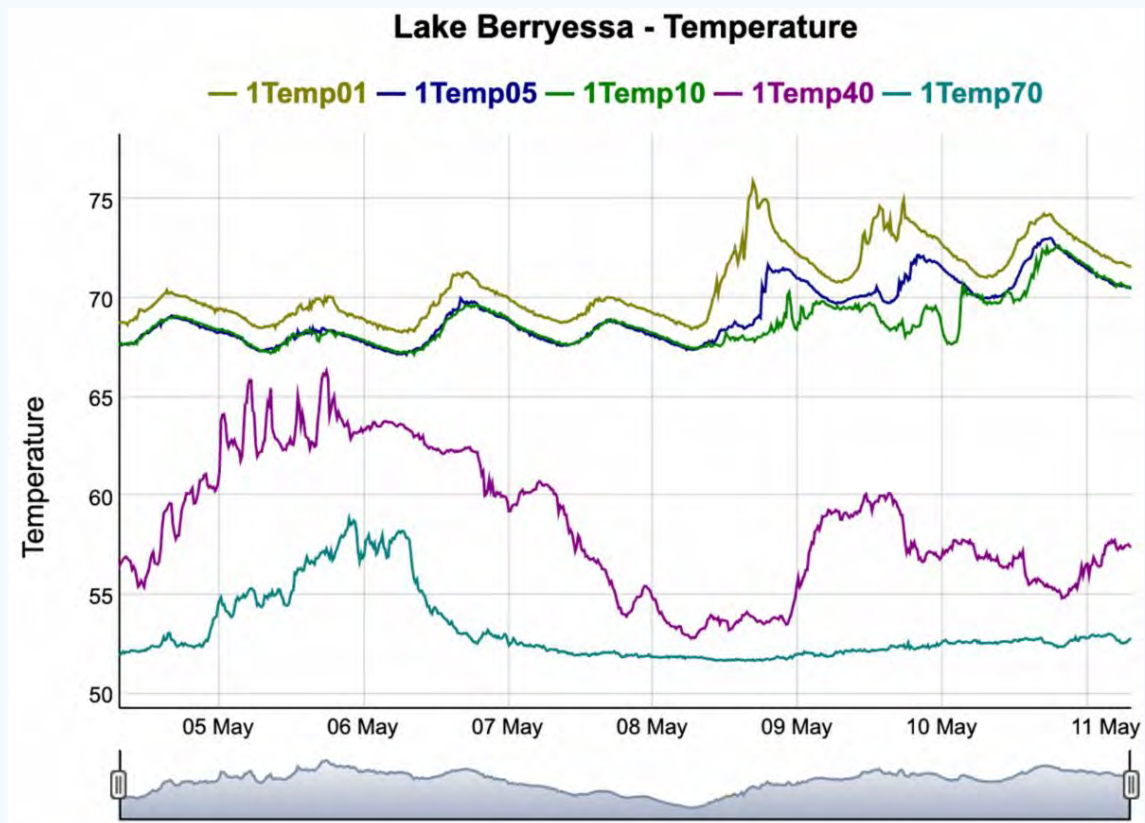
Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Rainfall total is 22.89 inches at Monticello Dam.

Lake capacity is at 1,542,367 A-F or 99.4%.

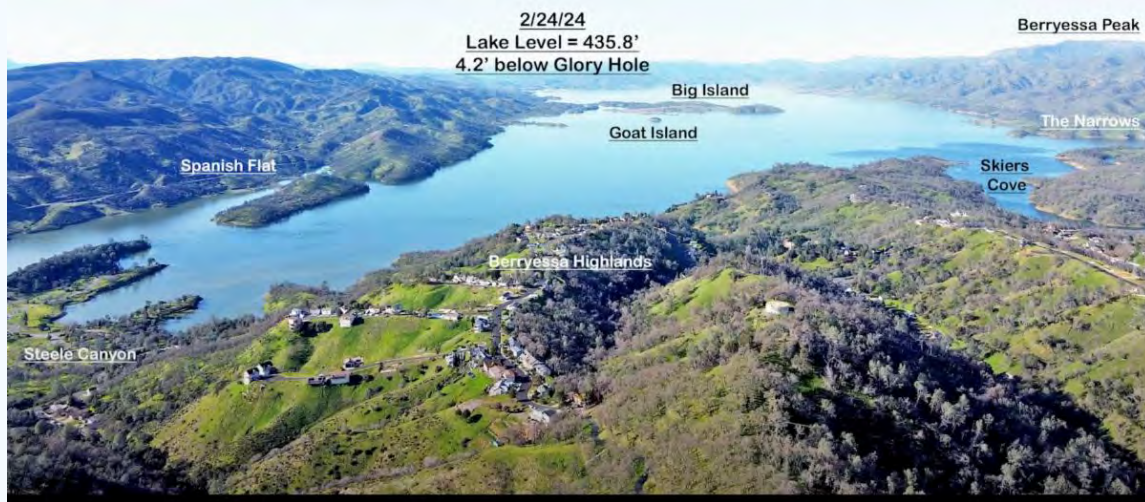
Lake temperature is almost swimmable. Those of us raised on the shore of Lake Michigan know this. When the water hit 72 degrees we were out there. Of course we had to scream (culturally required) and wait a couple of minutes until our bodies stopped shivering (onset of numbness!)



Lake Berryessa Drone Panorama

See a drone video with location names of the whole south end of Lake Berryessa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O4avyXxgRM&t=9s>



Grebes at Lake Berryessa

I love the look of grebes. We have slowly drifted through large flocks (50 - 100) in the middle of Lake Berryessa all summer, every summer, for 20 years. No matter how slow we coast on our patio boat or jet ski through them, their deep dive flushing distance is about 15 feet. Then they surface 20+ feet away. The kids always tried to guess where they would pop up. It's nice to just sit on our stationary boat, surrounded by them, and enjoy their beauty. Here's a great story about grebes from Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>). The Lake Berryessa News is a subscriber.

A Reason to Bird Watch: Western and Clark's Grebes

By Kathleen Scavone

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/green-wednesday-fragrant-roses-and?utm_source=publication-search



A western grebe displays its expert fishing skills on Lake Hennessey, grasping a silvery catch in its blade-like bill while ripples trace its graceful movement through the water. They propel themselves straight up, slender necks outstretched, wings back and literally run across the lake!

A morning walk upon the serene shores of Lake Hennessey, Lake Berryessa or the American Canyon wetlands is a delight to the senses. Busy birds of many species abound, but it's the western and Clark's grebes that I'm listening to and watching for on Lake Hennessey. As though reading my mind, a pair of graceful swan-like grebes ethereally float nearby. Their 'creeee' calls echo across the lake, then the birds take turns dipping their bills in the water. Next, they propel themselves straight up, slender necks outstretched, wings back and literally run across the lake! I have just witnessed some of the western and Clark's grebes mating rituals.



Photo: Kathleen Scavone

Grebes—elegant, swan-like black-and-white water birds—put on an amazing springtime or summer courting dance as they perform what is called 'rushing,' or running across the water! If you are lucky, you may observe other courtship behaviors as they dive for vegetation, then offer the green plants to their prospective mate. Later, the chicks can be seen riding on the parent's backs! Grebe chicks are precocial, meaning that they have eyesight immediately after they hatch and can swim then, too.

I contacted Floyd Hayes, Ph.D., professor of biology at Pacific Union College in Angwin, since I had some questions regarding grebes, and he specializes in the ecology, behavior and biogeography of birds. Additionally, I was familiar with his decade-long grebe studies on Clear Lake in Lake County. He has published seven research papers on the grebes of Clear Lake.

Funding for the grebe project ended in 2019, but he and his colleague Scott Butterfield have written a proposal and have some grant money to resume monitoring grebes on Clear Lake. He was kind enough to respond while in Peru with students.

Hayes explained that grebes in Napa County are present year-round at Lake Hennessey and Lake Berryessa, and he has seen grebe nests on Lake Berryessa in late June and July. Both grebe species breed in mixed colonies of western and Clark's grebes in North America and are known to interbreed. Grebes can be seen in ponds, marshes and lakes, along with estuaries and coastal areas. There are 22 species of grebes found in the world.

Western grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) at 22-30 inches appear very similar to Clark's grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) at 22-29 inches, since they are both black and white. To differentiate the species, western grebes have a black cap that descends below the eye, and their bill is yellow-green. Clark's grebes wear a black cap that rises above their eye, and a yellow-orange bill. Grebes of both species dine on amphibians, crustaceans, insects and fish, most of which they stab with pointy beaks while diving.

Clark's grebes are named for John Henry Clark, who was a naturalist and surveyor in the 19th century. Western grebes are sometimes called swan-necked grebes. It's remarkable

to know that when fossils of the western grebe from North America's southwest were studied, they were determined to be from the late Pleistocene epoch. Both grebes' genus name *Aechmophorus* hails from the Greek language and translates to 'point of a spear,' referencing the birds' bladelike beak.



A quick check of the iNaturalist Napa County pages will show an amazing variety of bird species that are found in the local bird counts, and ornithologists explain that grebes are found in Napa County year round. Other bird species you may enjoy viewing include American avocet, Allen's hummingbird, green heron, American wigeon, western bluebird, bald eagle, burrowing owl, American white pelican, western meadowlark and another grebe species—the pied-billed grebe—and more.

Lake County's Clear Lake has been the focus of Hayes' fascinating grebe studies, which I discovered during a memorable boat ride courtesy of Lake County's Redbud Audubon Society on Clear Lake years ago. Audubon leaders cautioned us to steer clear, since both Clark's and western grebes were nesting. Keeping a safe distance ensures that the boat's wake does not disturb their floating nests constructed of reeds and other aquatic vegetation. We observed dozens and dozens of nests, grebes and their eggs. Grebes lay between one and seven eggs annually, with parents of both sexes alternating sitting on the nests until the eggs hatch in a little over three weeks. Hayes' grebes of Clearlake can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://www.redbudaudubon.org/the-grebes-of-clear-lake/>

"A Youtube video created by Floyd Hayes in 2017. This video documents the natural history of Western and Clark's Grebes, including courtship, mating, nesting and egg hatching. It also documents anthropogenic and natural threats to their survival, including boating, chemical pollutants, windstorms and predation."

Here's to blissful bird watching at its best! Flamboyant grebes are both beautiful and fun to watch. Watch for long-necked water birds along a meandering aquatic ecosystem as they cry out a distinctive call and perform a courtship dance to beat the band!

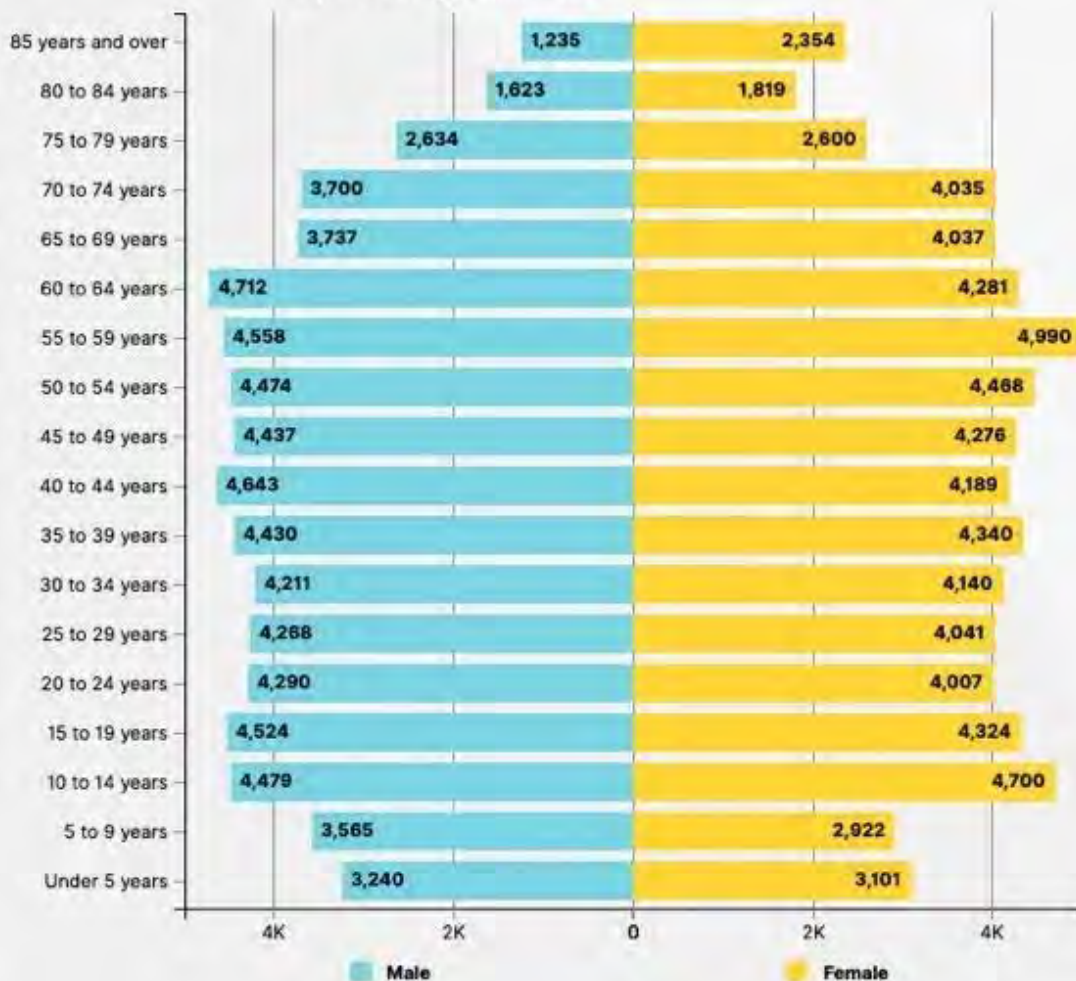
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Kathleen Scavone, M.A., retired educator, is a potter, freelance writer and author of "Anderson Marsh State Historic Park: A Walking History, Prehistory, Flora and Fauna Tour of a California State Park," "People of the Water" and "Native Americans of Lake County." She loves hiking, travel, photography and creating her single panel cartoon called "Rupert."

Where Are You on the Napa Age Chart?

If you are a "Super Senior" as am I (in more ways than one), you are not alone.

Napa County, California



S0101 | 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

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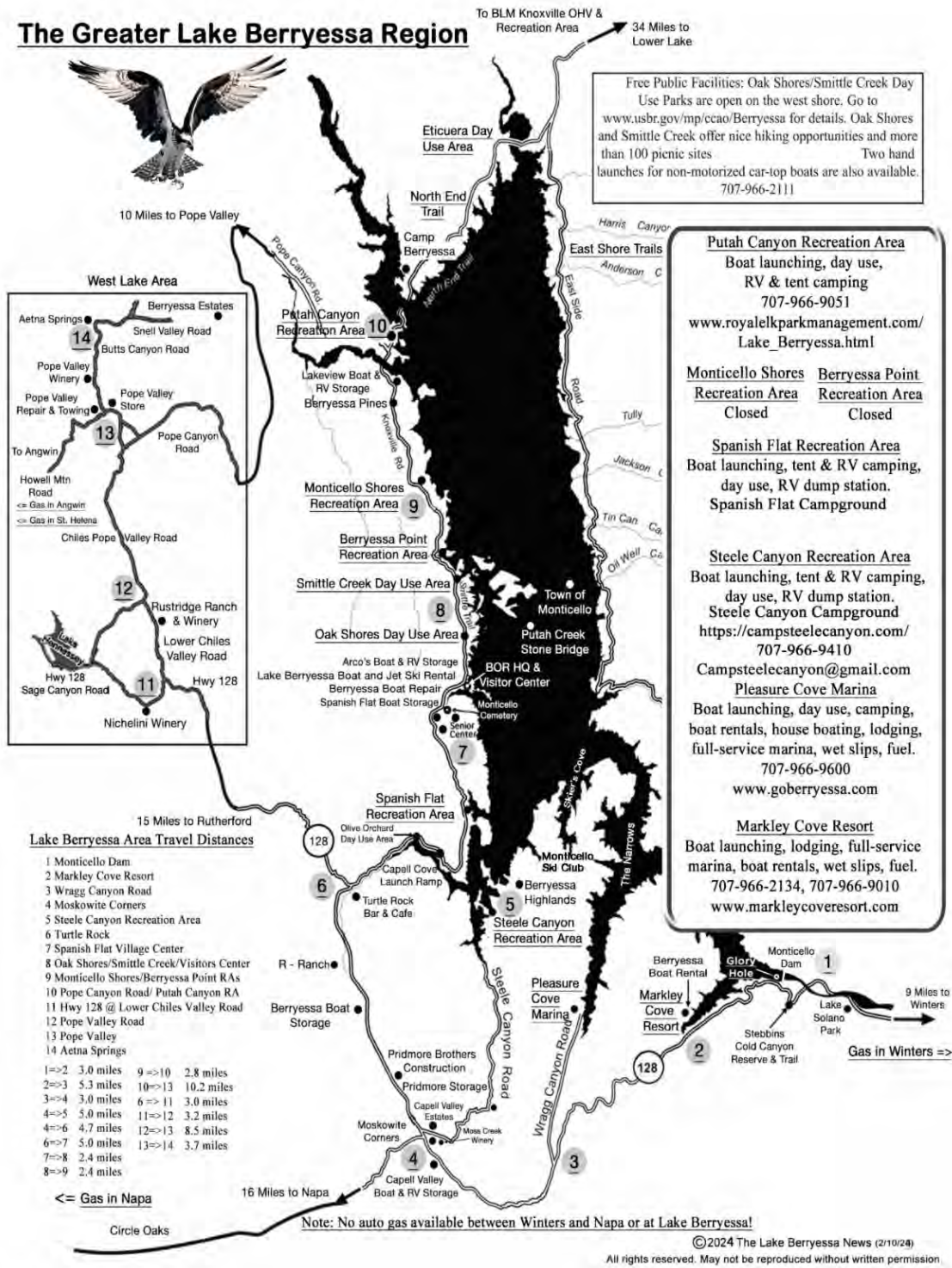


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News

Sunday, May 18, 2025

One week until Memorial Day weekend.

The Bookends of Summer: Memorial Day & Labor Day

Weather should be fantastic at a full Lake Berryessa!!!



Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/18/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 439.22 feet, 9 inches below Glory Hole.

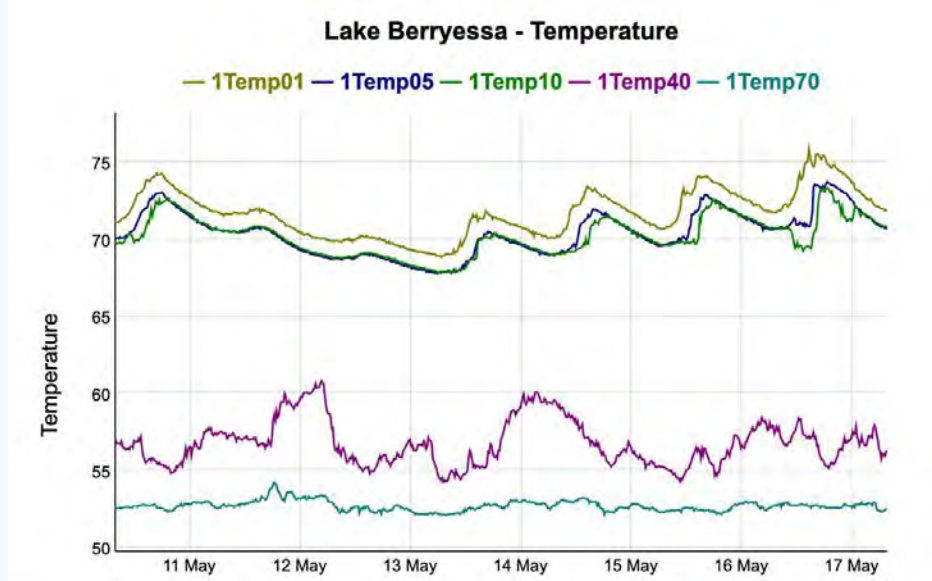
Dam output has risen to an average of 450 cfs in response to the springtime agricultural requirements of Solano County. The output will continue to rise all summer to a usual maximum of more than 700 cfs.

Days above Glory Hole (2/4/25 to 5/2/25) = 87.

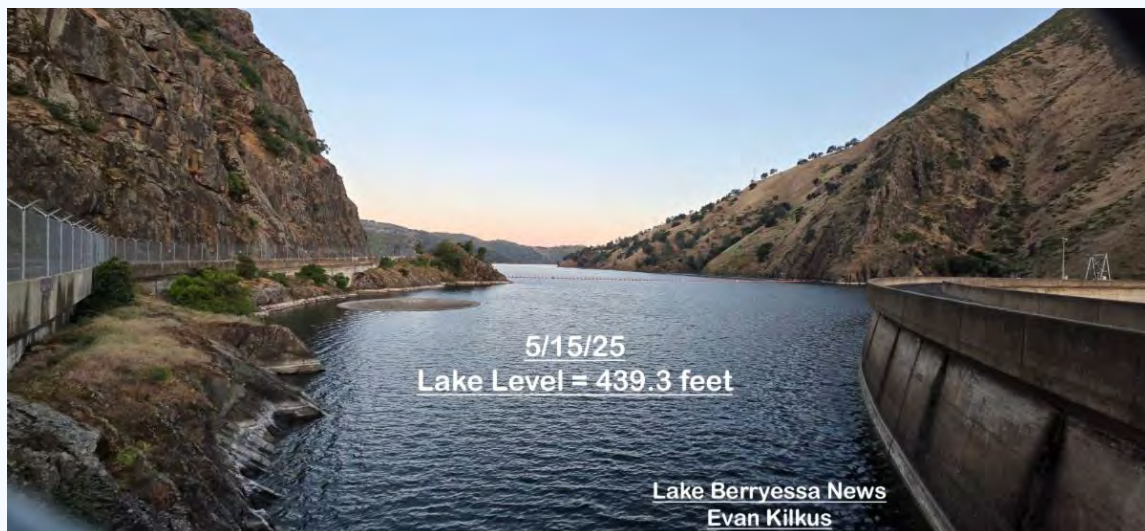
Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam. This should be the final total this year. The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

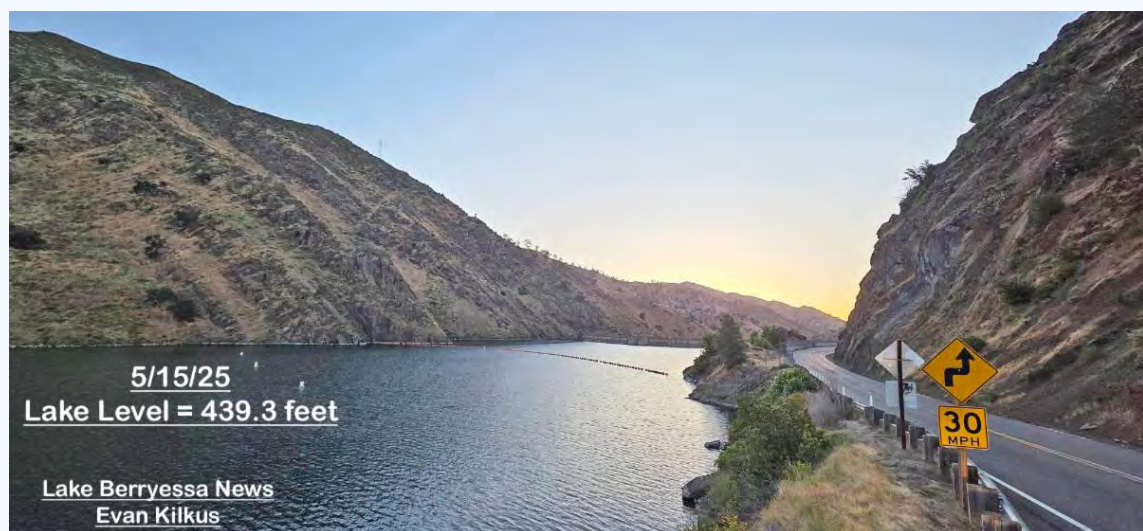
Lake capacity is at 1,536,596 A-F or 99.1%.

Lake surface temperature is about 73 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.



Morning Sunrise at Monticello Dam, 5/15/25





Lake Berryessa Conditions for Motorized Vessels **Golden Mussel Edition (May 18, 2025)**

The Bureau of Reclamation is urging guests to prepare well in advance for a day on the water this year. Conditions for motorized vessel launching have changed. Plan ahead before trailering your vessel.

Beginning in November 2024, all vessels entering Lake Berryessa must complete a free, 30-day quarantine before launching. Those already in possession of a Lake Berryessa green seal, proof of decontamination, or who plan to use vessels that are neither petroleum powered nor trailered, are exempt from the quarantine. More information on the quarantine, seal installation locations, and decontaminations may be found on the Solano County Water Agency Website: <https://scwa2.com/lake-berryessa-mussel-prevention-program/>.

*Note that if you do not have a seal for your vessel at the time of this news release, you must arrange for a decontamination before launching your vessel on Memorial Day Weekend.

Desired Date of Launch	Last Day to Install a Quarantine Seal
Memorial Day Weekend, May 24	April 23*
Father's Day Weekend, June 14	May 14
Juneteenth	May 19
July 4th	June 3
Labor Day Weekend, August 30	July 30

For Release: May 16, 2025

***Note that if you do not have a seal for your vessel at the time of this news release, you must arrange for a decontamination before launching your vessel on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24, 2025).**

Retrieve your vessel before launch ramps close: All boaters who wish to avoid a second 30-day quarantine will need to exit during launch ramp operating hours (15-30 minutes before closing). But for a few exceptions, launch ramps will close by 7 pm on weekdays and 8 pm on weekends this Summer. All boaters are advised to check with ramp operators to confirm closing times prior to departing for a day on the water.

Shore-Based Activities: For those who elect to remain on land, Lake Berryessa provides 165 miles of shoreline for day use and shore fishing. Park Rangers staffing the Dufer Point Visitor Center from 12-3 p.m. on weekends can assist with selecting a site. No charcoal barbeques are permitted lake-wide per Napa County ordinances. Use caution and wear a life jacket when in or near the water. Kayaks, canoes, and non-motorized, un-trailerred vessels do not require a quarantine or decontamination to visit Lake Berryessa.

Oak Shores Day Use Area: Starting on Memorial Day Weekend, North and South Oak Shores Day Use Areas will open for day use from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only. On weekdays, South Oak Shores will close at 5 p.m. on and North Oak Shores will remain closed for the day.

Capell Cove Boat Launch: The Capell Cove Boat Launch is closed indefinitely while Reclamation devises a plan to staff the site.

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 Resort, 707-966-2134, <https://markleycove.com/>

Pleasure Cove Marina, 707-966-9600, <https://goberryessa.com/>

Steele Canyon Recreation Area, 707-966-9410, <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>

Spanish Flat Recreation Area, 707-966-0200, <https://www.campspot.com/park/spanish-flat-campground>

For information on activities, fees, directions, pet restrictions, or other questions, call the Lake Berryessa Administration Office at 707-905-7896, email the office at Berryessa@USBR.GOV or visit the Lake Berryessa website at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/index.html>.

A Definition of a Gentleman (Gentlewoman)

A Bit of Sunday Philosophy

Is this even possible in modern day politics and human society?

A leader in the Oxford Movement and a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church, John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was a prolific writer and one of the most talented rhetoricians in 19th-century Britain. He served as the first rector of the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College Dublin) and was beatified by the Catholic Church in September 2010.

In "The Idea of a University," originally delivered as a series of lectures in 1852, Newman provides a compelling definition and defense of a liberal arts education, arguing that the primary purpose of a university is to develop the mind, not dispense information.

"It is almost a definition of a gentleman (woman) to say they are persons who never inflict pain. This description is both refined and, as far as it goes, accurate. They are mainly occupied in merely removing the obstacles which hinder the free and unembarrassed action of those about them...

The true gentleperson carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom they are cast; all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; their great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home...

They are never mean or little in disputes, never take unfair advantage, never mistake personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuate evil...They have too much good sense to be affronted at insults, they are too well minded to remember injuries...or to bear malice. They are patient, forbearing, and resigned, on philosophical principles...

If they engage in controversy of any kind, their disciplined intellect preserves them from the blundering discourtesy of better, perhaps, but less educated minds; who, like blunt weapons, tear and hack instead of cutting clean, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than they find it.

They may be right or wrong in their opinion, but too clear-headed to be unjust; they are as

simple as they are forcible, and as brief as they are decisive. Nowhere shall we find greater candour, consideration, indulgence: they throw themselves into the minds of their opponents...They know the weakness of human reason as well as its strength, its province and its limits..."

Lake Berryessa Drone Panorama

See a drone video with location names of the whole south end of Lake Berryessa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O4avyXxgRM&t=9s>



Bureau of Reclamation Installs Air Quality Monitoring Service at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation has installed a Purple Air Monitor at its Lake Berryessa field office. It provides up to date air quality right in the middle of the lake.

<https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?opt=%2F1%2F1p%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2Fc0#8.75/38.4642/-122.2988>

With two minute updates, the US EPA PM2.5 Air Quality Index (AQI) is a number used by US government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become.



No Charcoal BBQs Allowed at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation wishes to again remind the public that there are no Charcoal BBQ's allowed at Oak Shores, Smittle Creek or ANY Reclamation managed day use areas. Personal BBQ's have never been allowed lake wide for fire safety reasons....

Discover your Private Lakeview Retreat on 10+ Acres
1081 Steele Canyon Road
<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>
\$895,000

Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
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Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty

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\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TJuE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>



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Steele Canyon Campground Inc.
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558
Office: (707) 966-9410
Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...
Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.
<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



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4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
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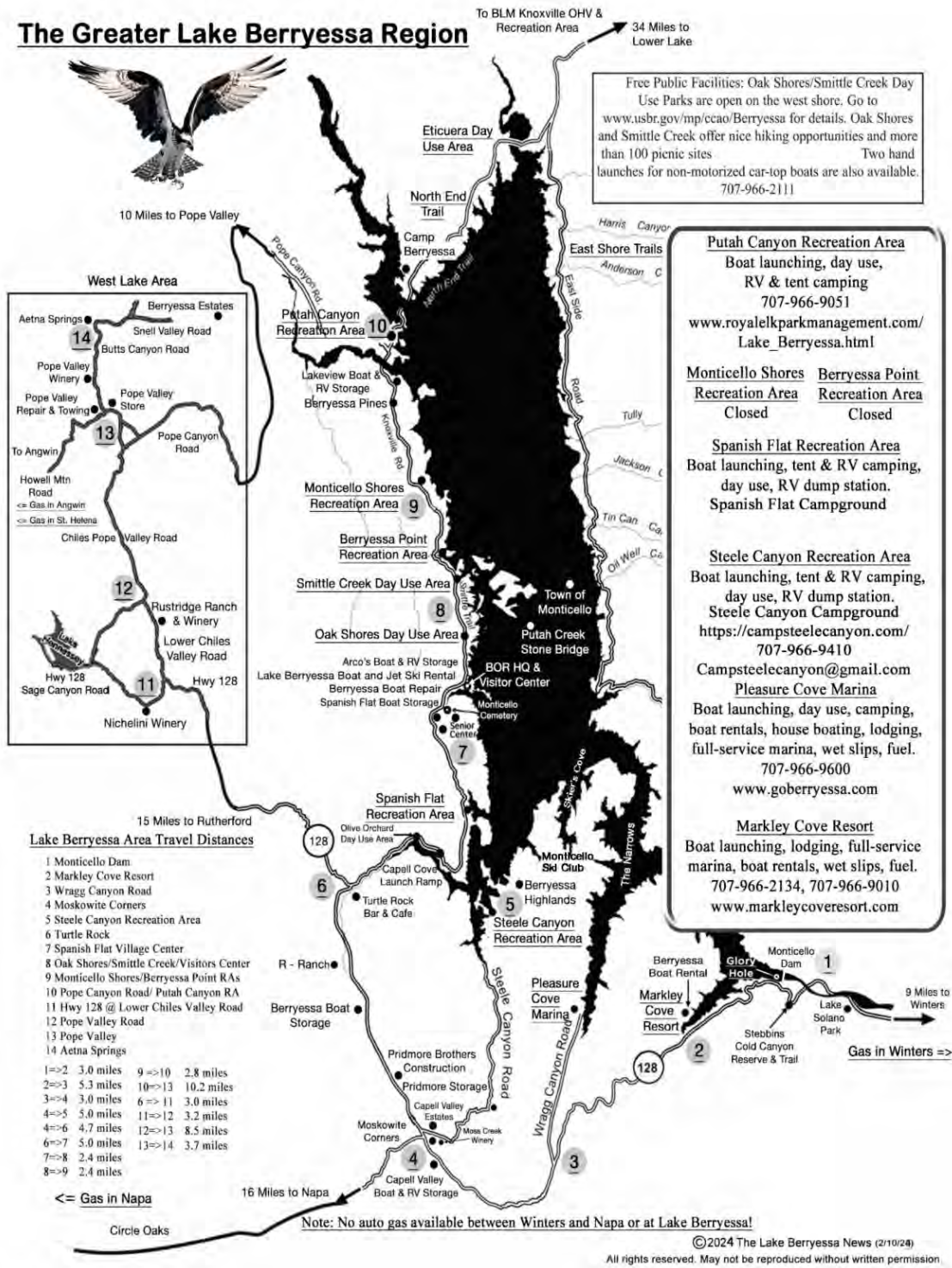
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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Lake Berryessa News Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday, May 25, 2025



Lake Berryessa Statistics (5/25/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 438.8 feet, 1.2 feet below Glory Hole.

Days above Glory Hole (5/2/25) = 87.

Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam.
The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

Lake capacity is at 1,529,270 A-F or 98.6%.

Lake surface temperature is 73-75 degrees.



Steele Canyon Campground - Memorial Day Weekend

The first big weekend of the summer was perfect at Lake Berryessa. The lake is full at 438.8 feet - 1.2 feet below Glory Hole. It's long and wide with room for everyone. The weather is great. Water temperature is 73-75 degrees.

Steele Canyon operations went smoothly. They check your boat tag on the way in and re-tag your boat when you pull out. Tagging is available until around 8 PM. Word is that the other resorts are doing fine too.

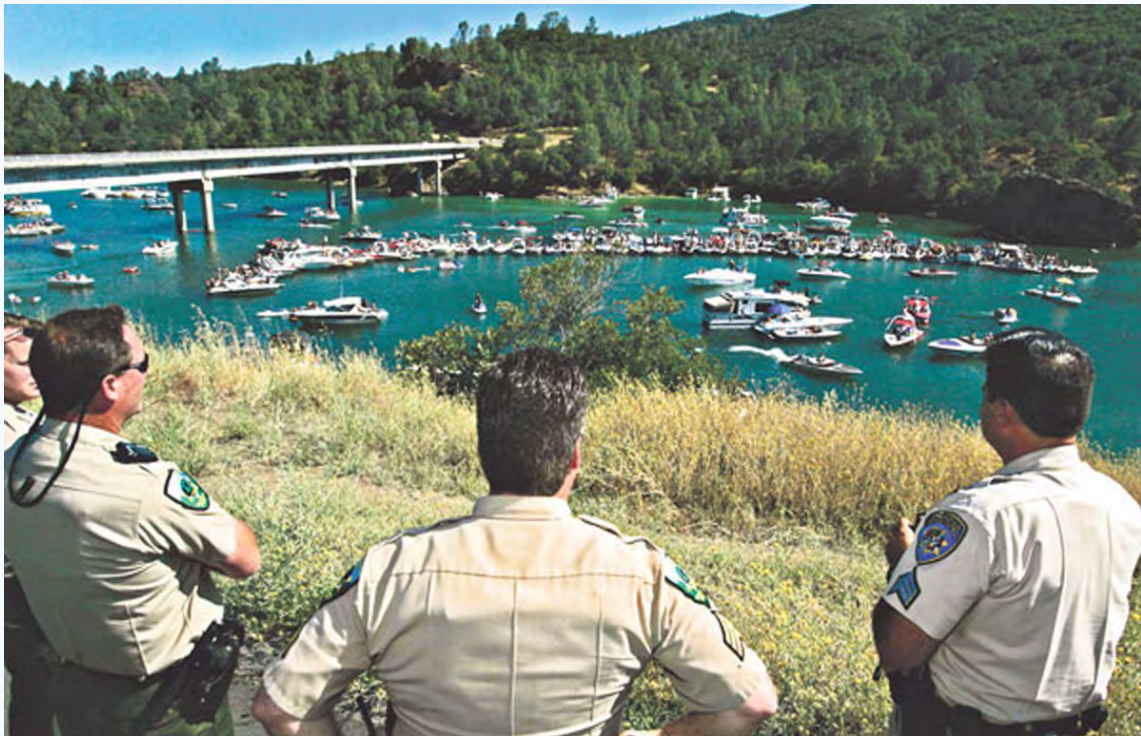
A strange situation was that Steele Canyon turned away four boats Saturday that didn't have quarantine tags or proof of decontamination. After all the news and social media warnings for months how could this happen!

The folks who really love Lake Berryessa are easily coping with the golden mussel boat control requirements. Dave Mosholder and his happy crew below have been coming to Lake Berryessa regularly for decades. I told him about my YouTube video of the Pope Creek party bridge from 2001. He claimed he might have been there. Watch it yourself and see if any of you were there too. (We're all grown up now!)

[Lake Berryessa: A Day at the Party Bridge, 2001](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AB61YS3lyk>

The Sheriffs in the photo below were also enjoying the view!

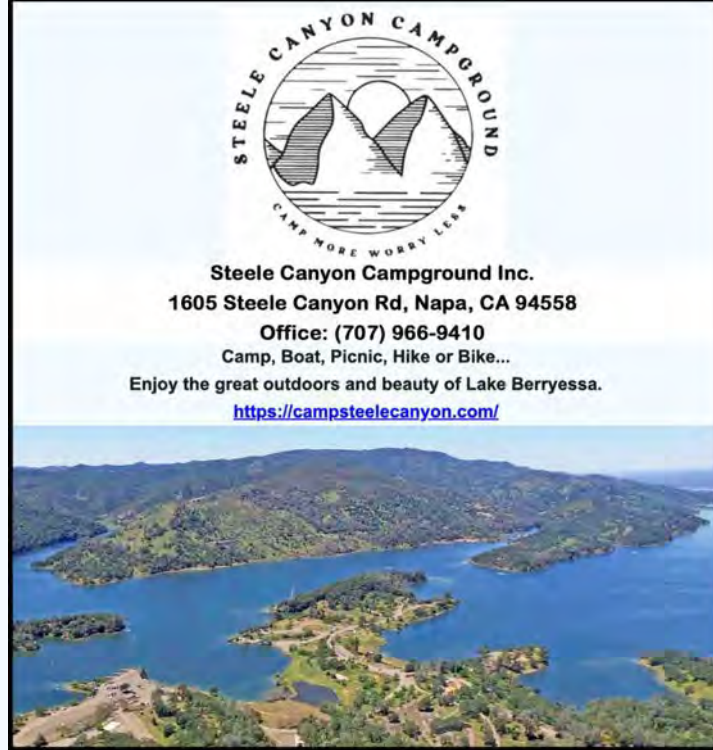


The photos below are from Saturday, 5/24/25, around 2 pm.

**Steele Canyon Campground
Memorial Day Weekend
5/24/25**







Memorial Day Memories (May 26, 2025)

Fewer than 1% of Americans serve in the military. Most of us will never know the cost of war firsthand — not the weight of gear, the sting of absence or the burdens that linger long after a tour ends.

My uncle, Al Kilkus, was a marine who landed on Iwo Jima in WWII and fought for 11 days before he was wounded. The stories he told were almost unbelievable to me as a kid. Several neighbors fought across France and Germany in WWII. Again, their stories were also incredible when they got together at my house - even though they didn't talk about it too much in public.

I watch the amazing "Saving Private Ryan" movie and the "Band of Brothers" TV series every few years to help understand what they went through. As a young child in Chicago, I remember the signs on the neighborhood corner light poles with the names of local men from that block who had died in the war. I also remember all of us wearing poppies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

My uncle, John Kilkus, served (but did not see combat) in the Korean War, - which most people hardly remember, except for the TV show "MASH". I helped my mother bake cookies to send to him.

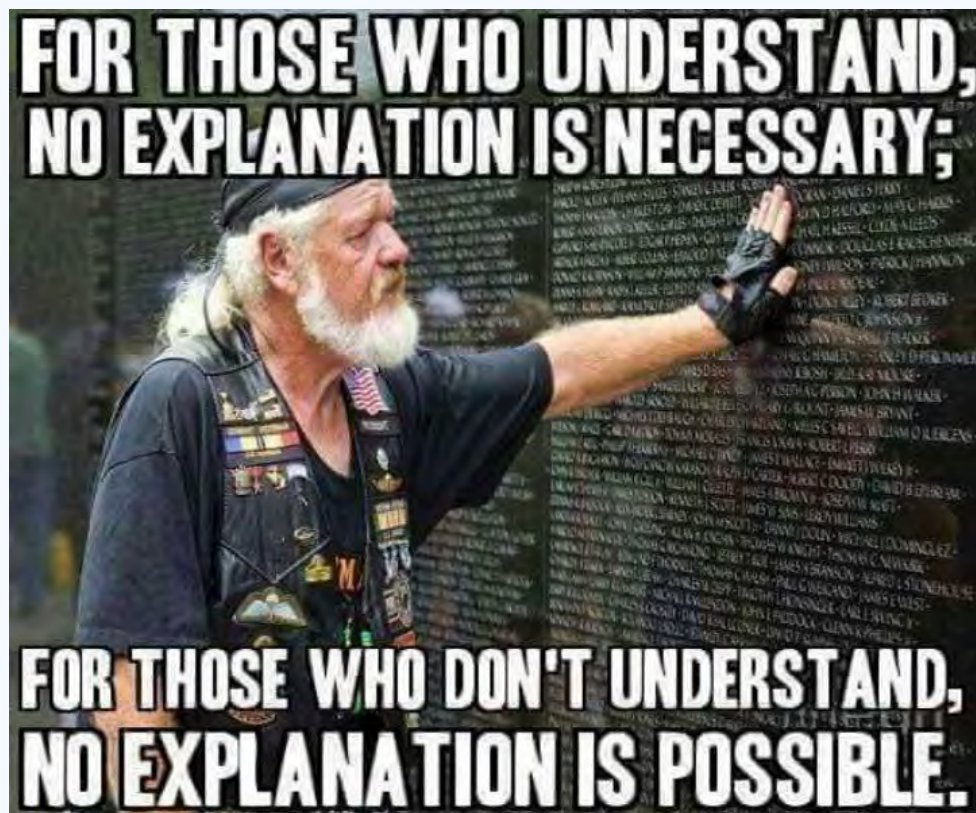
My father, Frank Kilkus, was in the Army Air Force as a mechanic and almost shipped out to the war in the Pacific. By a matter of sheer luck, he was reassigned to a California base just before boarding the troop transport in 1943. I assume he came to visit my mother in Chicago on leave since I was born on July 25, 1944. Many of us have a few childhood memories from way back. One of my first was holding my mother's hand in Chicago's Union Station watching my father, who had finally been discharged after the war ended, get off the train in his uniform carrying a large green duffel bag.

Many of my college classmates went to Vietnam. My draft status was II-A because I was a physicist working at the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, now the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. My best friend and college roommate was an Army lieutenant, Mike Mecaskey, who fought in the jungles of Vietnam and received the silver star for rescuing a wounded platoon member from the middle of small stream with bullets flying around him. He said the jungle looked like it was filled with fireflies from the Viet Cong rifles. His other stories about setting up night ambushes and being bombarded by Viet Cong mortars were terrifying. He remembered that the mortar round explosions were multi-colored.

My age cohort was too old to fight in Iraq or Afghanistan, but those men and women who did have stories that are equally heroic.

I've been to Washington, DC, several times. Evan was a student at American University in DC when the 911 plane hit the Pentagon. My son Chris lived only a few blocks from the World Trade Center when the twin towers went down. He went there often to use the post office inside one of the towers. I watched the towers go down live on TV, considering what would have happened had they fallen sideways instead of straight down.

I've visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. three times. The first was the most emotional, walking downhill and back uphill next to that simple black wall covered in the names of the fallen, seeing relatives touching the carved names of their loved ones who had died - tears were inevitable...as they were the next two times I was there. Realizing again that the only reason any of us are still alive is a matter of sheer luck - and the sacrifice of others. We should be deeply thankful for that.



Understanding the Difference Between Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day

<https://www.uso.org/stories/2522-understanding-the-difference-of-memorial-day-vs-veterans-day>

Flag Day. Armed Forces Day. Independence Day. As Americans, we celebrate many patriotic holidays throughout the year. However, two of these days — Memorial Day and Veterans Day — are often confused for the other and can be easily misunderstood. Understanding the nuances of Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day might seem confusing at first — they do both honor the military community — but these two federal holidays couldn't be more different.

Memorial Day: Honoring Those Who Died in Military Service

Memorial Day, which is celebrated on the last Monday in May, honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. The holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Memorial Day is often associated with the start of summer, discount sales and cookouts with friends. It is important to remember the true reason behind the holiday weekend — Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the lives of the men and women of this country who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedoms.

Veterans Day: Honoring All Those Who Served in the Military

Veterans Day, a federal holiday that falls on November 11, is designated as a day to honor the more than 19 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military. It was first observed on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day in honor of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which officially ended on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918.

In 1926, Congress called for an annual observance of the anniversary and by 1938 it was an official federal holiday. A few decades later, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, as it is currently known today.

While it is important to thank all those who have served or are serving on a regular basis, on Veterans Day it's especially important to take an extra moment to honor all military members for their sacrifice.



As of 2017, an estimated 624,000 American veterans were dying every year, most from natural causes. A study from the National Institutes of Health estimates that half of the men who die every day are veterans.

War of 1812

Some 15,000 Americans died as a result of the War of 1812. But only around 2,260 deaths were due to the fighting. The rest were from disease.

Mexican-American War

The 1846 war, which expanded the United States to include Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and parts of Colorado, pitted just over 78,700 U.S. troops against 82,000 Mexicans. Historians and the VA agree that 1,733 U.S. troops were killed in the war, a whopping 2.2% death rate. This number would be staggering if you had no idea that diseases and other non-combat mishaps killed 11,550 more, a stunning 14.67%. Before the Civil War, diseases were more effective at killing American troops than the enemy was. The total death rate in Mexico was 16.9%, which would have been memorable if not for what came in the next war.

Civil War

A rough estimate from the American Battlefield Trust puts the number of Americans killed in the Civil War at around 650,000. The VA estimates around 2.2 million Union combatants. When combined with the Confederate combatants, the number of Americans who fought the war reaches 3.26 million. With these numbers, the overall likelihood of fighting and dying in combat was 6.6%, around the same likelihood of fighting and dying in the Union Army. The chances of dying in combat in the Confederate Army was around 7%. In all, including non-combat deaths like disease, the chances of dying as a soldier or sailor in the Civil War was 18.9% -- still the largest death rate in U.S. military history.

Spanish-American War

The total number of American service members who fought in the Spanish-American War hovered around 306,700, with only 385 dying in combat. Only 0.12% of those who fought in the war were killed by the Spanish. Disease did a number on American troops in this war as well. More than 2,000 fell to disease and other non-combat issues.

World War 1

If the Spanish-American War showcased the U.S. military operating at high efficiency, then World War I was the beginning of the end of that. With 4.73 million men in uniform, World War I saw Americans mobilize like never before. Around 2.5% of those Doughboys would not make it home, as 53,402 fell to the enemy and another 63,114 to other causes. So, a Great War-era soldier was almost as likely to perish due to trench foot or Spanish Flu as to a German bullet.

World War II

This war, which saw more than 16 million Americans don a uniform and completely reshaped American society, actually had a lower proportional combat death toll than the Civil War. Only 1.8% of the 16,112,556 Americans who served in combat died at the hands of the enemy, a combat death likelihood roughly on par with World War I. According to the National World War II Museum, for every 1,000 Americans who served in the war, 8.6 were killed in action, three died from other causes, and 17.7 received non-fatal combat wounds. The VA estimates there are still 389,000 living World War II veterans.

Korean War

Around 2% of the 1.79 million who served in Korea would never come home. The Defense Department states that 36,574 Americans died fighting in the Korean War theater and a total of 54,246 died as a result of the war (the total has been reduced slightly over time). As of November 2019, there were 33,739 reported combat deaths in theater, 2,835 non-

combat deaths in theater and another 17,672 non-combat deaths outside the Korean War. If the Korean War had lasted as long as the Vietnam War, the death toll would have climbed to 168,630 -- more than World War I.

The VA estimates there are 1,165,000 living Korean War veterans.

Vietnam

The number of Americans fighting in Vietnam nearly doubled, up to 3.4 million, from the number in Korea. But the number of troops killed in the war grew by only 62% -- and that was over the span of 14 years, starting from when President John F. Kennedy ramped up U.S. involvement in 1961, compared to the three years of fighting in Korea. More than 58,220 American troops died during the course of the Vietnam War, for a death rate of about 1.7%. Despite the prolonged fighting, improvements in battlefield medicine and the mobility of helicopters helped save many lives.

Gulf War

The Gulf War of 1990-1991 saw a force of 694,550 American troops in service or deployed in support of the war. Of those, only 383 were killed, for a death rate of 0.1%, according to the VA in November 2019. There are many reasons for the swift, lopsided victory and the relatively low human cost (for the winners, that is). Vast improvements in battlefield medicine, search-and-rescue operations, interoperability between branches of service and allied nations, and the Caspar Weinberger-Colin Powell doctrines of overwhelming, decisive force with the intent to win all contributed to the coalition's success in the Gulf War.

Iraq and Afghanistan

The success of American battlefield medicine and operational risk management continues through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the most- current analysis of casualties from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, updated May 2020, 2.5 million American troops deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Of those, 5,364 died in action, and another 1,476 died in non-hostile incidents. This gives the latest, ongoing wars a death rate of 0.27%, according to the VA's numbers. A more liberal estimate from iCasualties.org, sets the number slightly higher, at 8,498 combined deaths, for a rate of 0.33%. While 0.33% is still relatively small, it doesn't make the number any easier.

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\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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The Napa County Sheriff's Office received a report of a drowning just before 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2025. A 17-year-old Fairfield male drowned Sunday at the Smittle Creek day-use area on Lake Berryessa, according to the Napa County Sheriff's Office. The death of the teen, whose name authorities declined to release because he was a minor, marks the year's first drowning at the lake.

Emergency personnel responded to the lake around 4:25 p.m. after witnesses saw a teen boy slip beneath the water and fail to resurface, said Henry Wofford, spokesperson for the sheriff's office. The teen was visiting the lake with two friends. Witnesses saw him standing in waist-deep water before he accidentally stepped off a steep underwater ledge, Wofford said.

First responders searched with an underwater camera and recovered his body at 4:54 p.m. near the shoreline in nine feet of water. He was pronounced dead at the scene. **Wofford said the boy did not know how to swim and was not wearing a life jacket.**

"This lake can be a lot of fun, but it's also a dangerous lake if you're not wearing a life jacket," Wofford said. "The drop-offs can be all at once, and they can be very steep." Wofford urged all visitors, even those who are confident swimmers, to wear life jackets while enjoying Lake Berryessa. The flotation devices are available free to use at the various lake locations.





Celebrate **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** at Lake Solano

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Trash Cleanup at Lake Berryessa & Lake Solano
- Naturalist Kayak Tour of Lake Solano
- Grass & Wildflower Plantings
- Wildflower Seed 'Bar'
- Bilgee "Meet & Greet"



Join us for more,
visit cleanupsolano.org for dates!

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY: Annual September Event
EARTH DAY CLEANUP: Annual April Event

Date: Saturday, June 7th

Registration: 9:00am at Lake Solano

FREE deli sandwiches following the cleanup!

Please register at Cleanupsolano.org

*Pre-register by June 1st and get a FREE World Environment Day T-shirt!

Please wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots and bring work gloves, a hat, and sunscreen.
Contact Robyn.Slater@solanorc.org or 707.678.1655 ext. 104



A 1972 United Nations initiative to create positive action for the planet, World Environment Day builds global awareness of the environment, encourages political attention and supports individual and community projects.



Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty

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\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TiuE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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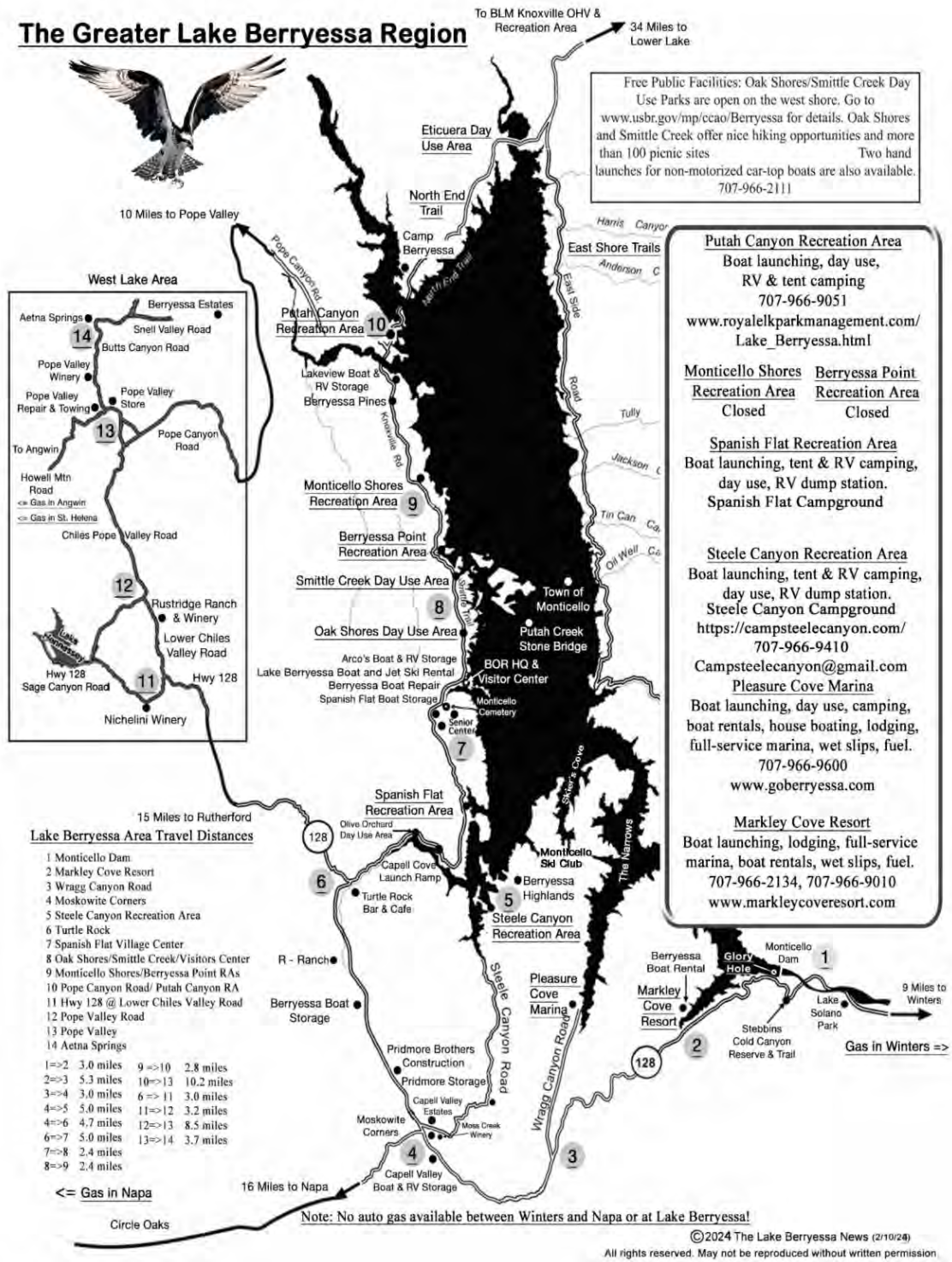
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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Lake Berryessa News

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Great weather at beautiful Lake Berryessa!

Lake Berryessa Statistics (6/1/25)

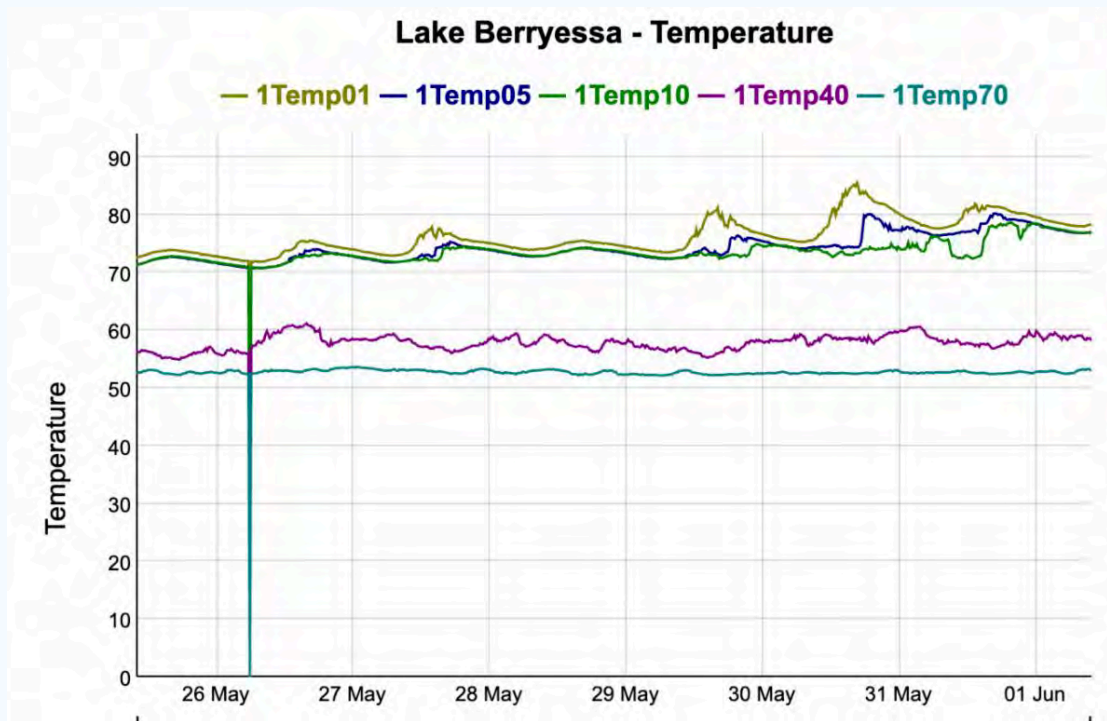
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Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam.

The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

Lake capacity is at 98.1%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

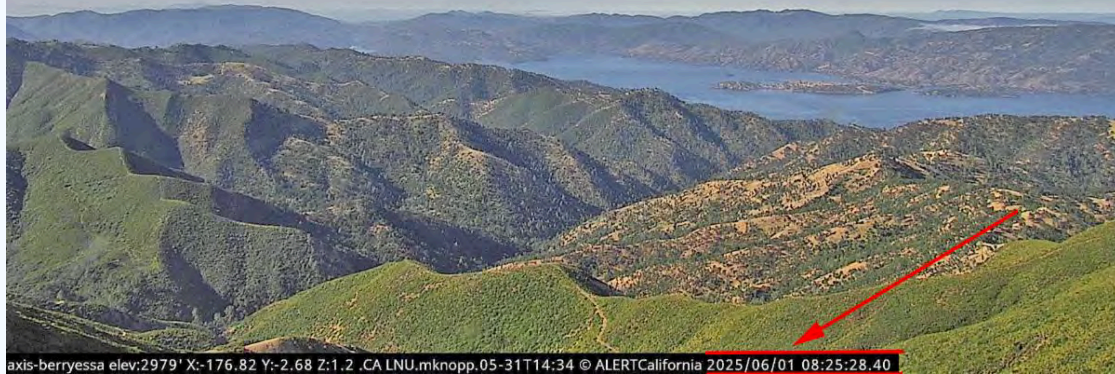


Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update (6/1/25)

Camp Margaritaville Resorts at Steele Canyon Recreation Area

Camp Margaritaville Resorts was awarded the management agreement for Steele Canyon Recreation Area by the Napa County Supervisors at a meeting on November 7, 2023. There was a bit of unexpected opposition to the Camp Margaritaville Resort proposal by a few people. Since that time Camp Margaritaville Resorts has been working diligently on their plan for the resort. It is a very large task.

During the due diligence part of Camp Margaritaville Resorts initial planning process, they had surveyors physically check the actual legal boundaries of the concession area as defined by the Bureau of Reclamation. I had seen the description below several times in various bid documents but had no way to relate it to the actual resort I knew. The official survey discovered that the maps used in various bids did not conform to the legal boundaries. The actual legal concession area was twice as large as shown in the approximation maps. This fact allowed Camp Margaritaville to revise their plans to create a larger resort than originally planned. But that doubled the size of their planning task.

Napa County agreed that this situation required a modification to the original agreement and proposed a five month extension:

"WHEREAS, Concessionaire needed an additional 5 months to confirm with BOR which description of the Property was correct, and to investigate and adjust its approach to potentially develop concessions on the larger site; and the parties agree that the delay caused by the unexpected change in the boundary of the Property warrants an equivalent extension in time for Concessionaire to conduct its studies;..."

Camp Margaritaville Resorts remains very positive about the Steele Canyon opportunity for Napa County and the Lake Berryessa community. There are several positive aspects to this change despite the negative result of a delaying the opening of the new resort.

It will allow a larger number of employee housing units on site. It provides a larger family-themed resort footprint for a water park, zip lines, lazy river, teen center, kids center. The new resort will also provide a positive financial boost to the Berryessa Highlands residents' water and sewer financial problems.

This item is scheduled for approval at 9 AM at the Supervisors' June 3, 2025 meeting. This should not be controversial, but some opposition from the usual suspects is anticipated.

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program supporters are encouraged to show their support by speaking at the meeting. If you are not able to do so, please send an email of support to the Napa County supervisors. Lake Berryessa is physically in Districts 3 & 4.

District 1: Joelle Gallagher.
Office: 707-253-4828
Joelle.Gallagher@countyofnapa.org

District 2: Liz Alessio
Office: 707-259-8276
liz.alessio@countyofnapa.org

District 3: Anne Cottrell
Office: 707-253-4827
Anne.Cottrell@countyofnapa.org

District 4: Amber Manfree
707-259-8278
Amber.Manfree@countyofnapa.org

District 5: Belia Ramos
707-259-8278
Belia.Ramos@countyofnapa.org

You can watch or listen to the Board of Supervisors meeting in one of the following ways:

1. Attend in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Napa Suite 305.
2. Watch via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@NapaCounty/streams>.
3. Watch online at <https://napa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> (click the "In Progress" link in the "Video" column).
4. Watch on Napa Valley TV Channel 28.
5. Watch on Zoom via www.zoom.us/join (Meeting ID: 842-343-169) or listen on Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 842-343-169).

Concession Boundary Description: Steele Canyon Recreation Area
(formerly known as Steele Park Resort and Lupine Shores):

Beginning at a point in the center of former State Highway No 37, now a county road; said point North 07 degrees 21 minutes East 883.9 feet from the south quarter corner of Section 33, Township Eight (8), North, Range Three (3) West of the Mount Diablo Meridian; running thence from said point of beginning South 07 degrees 21 minutes West to the southwesterly boundary of said State Highway No . 37; thence northerly along said last mentioned boundary to the center of the channel of Steele Creek; thence down the center of the channel of Steele Creek to the first crossing elevation 350 near the junction of Capell Creek; thence northerly and easterly along the 350 foot contour 12,300 feet, more or less, to the center of a large draw entering Monticello Reservoir from the East and South; thence easterly along the center of said draw to a point on the boundary of a parcel of land acquired by the United States of America for Monticello Reservoir; thence along the boundary of said United States of America parcel as follows: North 64 degrees 22 minutes West 1363.8 feet, South 30 degrees 49 feet West 388.2 feet to the South quarter corner of Section 21, Township Eight (8) North, Range Three (3) West, Mount Diablo Meridian; thence

South 01 degrees 19 minutes East 2789.1 feet, South 30 degrees 11 minutes East 726.8 feet, South 07 degrees 14 minutes West 3452.5 feet, South 37 degrees 32 minutes East 704.2 feet, South 07 degrees 21 minutes East 1116.6 feet South 36 degrees 26 minutes east 1639.6 feet, South 26 degrees 46 minutes East 1259.3 feet and south 66 degrees 30 minutes West 465 .7 feet to the centerline of former State Highway No. 37; thence northwesterly along said centerline to the point of beginning.

Spanish Flat Village Center is for sale!

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Great drone video of the whole area.

This does not include Rhonda's Roadhouse (previously Cucina Italiana).





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Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

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Enjoy peace, tranquility, and STUNNING views from your expansive covered deck in this beautifully remodeled home. The open-concept living space features vaulted ceilings, a wall of windows, recessed lighting, and a chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and quartz counters. Upstairs offers two bedrooms, updated bathrooms, and breathtaking lake views. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a piece of lakeview paradise. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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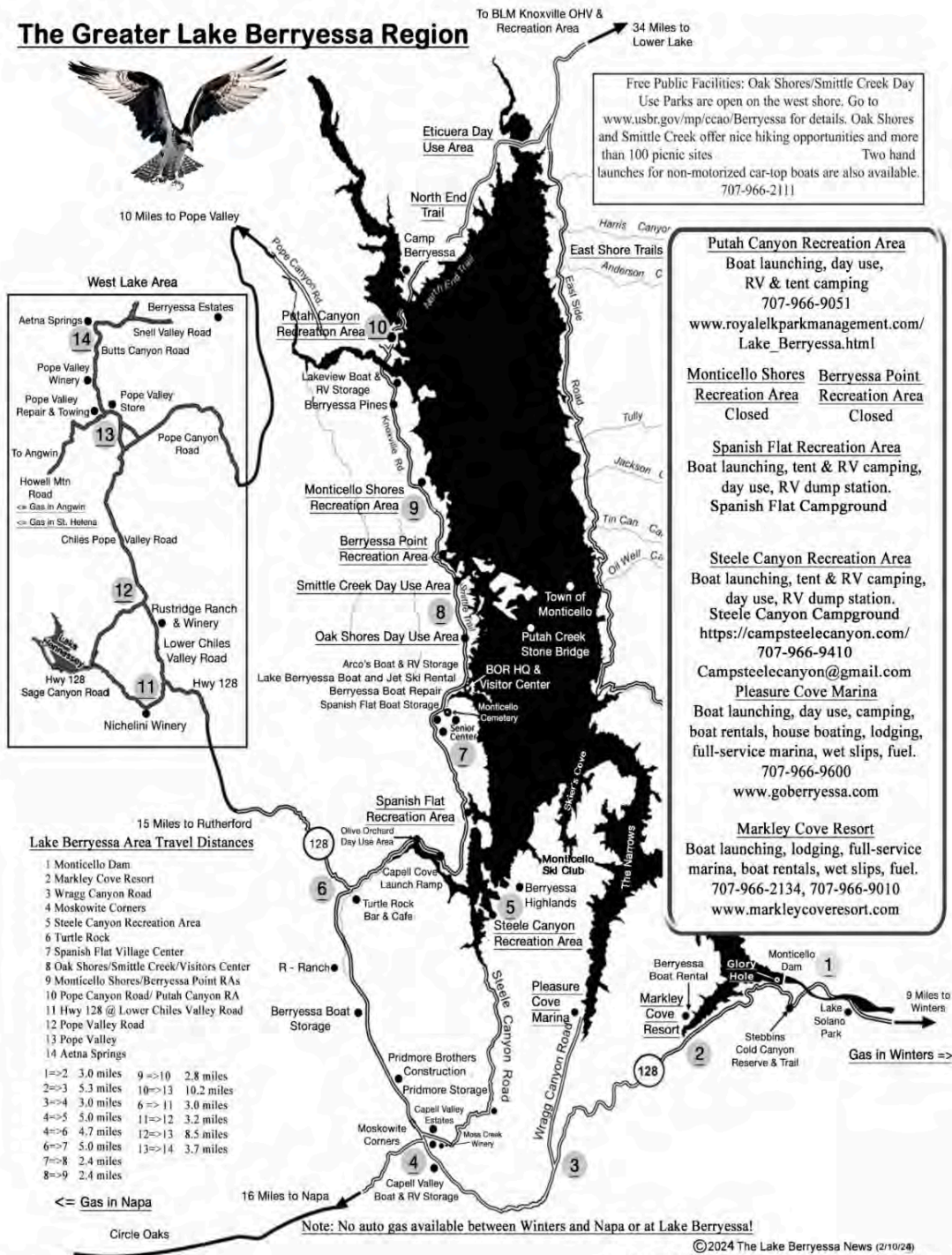


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News Special Edition

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update

June 4, 2025

Napa County Supervisors Meeting, June 3, 2025

Camp Margaritaville Resorts Planning Status

Lake Berryessa Statistics (6/4/25)

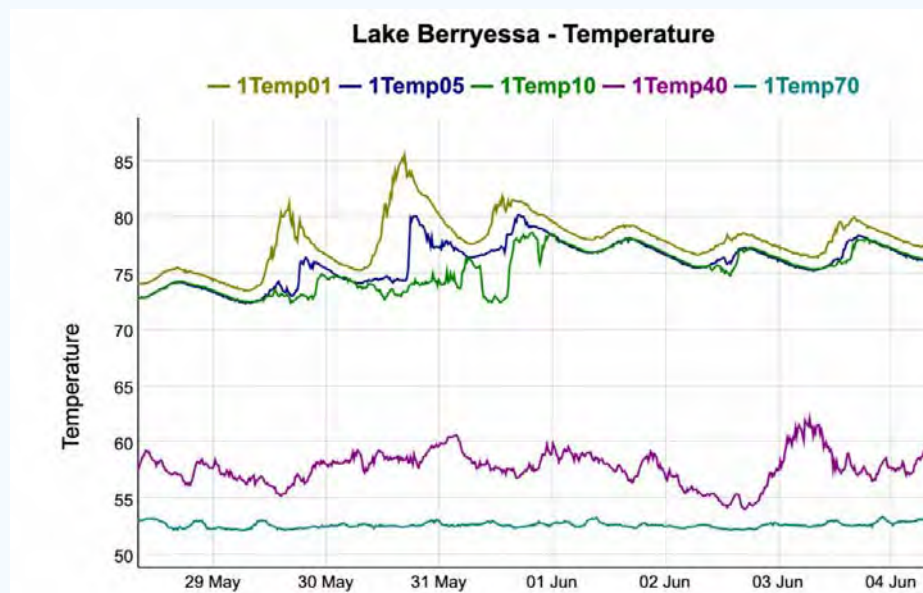
The Lake Berryessa water level is at 438.2 feet, 1.8 feet below Glory Hole.

Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam.

The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

Lake capacity is at 97.8%

Lake surface temperature is 77 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.





It was gratifying to see so many friends and neighbors attend the supervisors' meeting describe below with several speaking positively about the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program's prospects at Steele Canyon Recreation Area. The 4 hour supervisors' video at the end of this section is very educational - even if you just skim it. It illustrates what a large range of issues they must deal with regularly.

Also thank you to those who wrote emails of support to the supervisors. Those contacts are important. The supervisors were unanimously supportive of, even enthusiastic about, the Lake Berryessa project.

But the Lake Berryessa status section of the meeting video is only 30 minutes long, and it is very interesting to watch the whole video on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/U8sgX7rmzeM?si=W4hgHOv5WCfn3Nie>

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Update

Lake Berryssa Revitalization Program Update, June 4, 2025

Napa County Supervisors Meeting, June 3, 2025

Camp Margaritaville Resorts Planning Status

In 1957, the Federal Bureau of Recreation (BOR) completed the Monticello Dam. The BOR shortly thereafter signed 50 year contracts with several operators to develop resorts around the Lake. Those contracts expired, and the BOR required that all infrastructure related to the then existing resorts be completely removed. The BOR then made several attempts to contract with new operators, but ultimately were not successful. Without the resorts operating, this area's economy suffered dramatically.

To help revitalize the local economy, Napa County volunteered to take over the process of finding concessionaires to redevelop and operate some of the resort areas. Napa County

signed a 55-year Managing Partnership Agreement (MPA) with the BOR in 2020, allowing the County to proceed to find concessionaires to develop and operate the sites. The MPA covered a total of 7 sites, 4 of which came under Napa County's control immediately. The remaining sites could come under the County's control later. The status of each site is provided below.

Steele Canyon and Proposed Amendment

Napa County is under an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with a local developer (Tim Wilkens) who submitted a comprehensive response to the County's original RFP in collaboration with Camp Margaritaville. The development team is in the design/environmental phase. Projected groundbreaking is scheduled for 2027. During its investigation of the site, the developer discovered that the site boundaries identified by the BOR in the MPA were incorrect (the site is larger than previously indicated based on the boundaries established when the original resort was developed in the late 1950's). This caused a 5-month delay while the developer confirmed the correct boundaries with the BOR and adjusted their plans to consider the correct boundaries.

The proposed Amendment No. 1 to the ENA will extend the schedule in the ENA by 5 months. In the meantime, the site remains open. It is operated by a local business owner under an interim contract with Napa County. The site focuses on camping, RV camping and boat launching.

Berryessa Point

Suntex failed to move forward in a timely manner and withdrew from its ENA as of January 26, 2025. This site is currently being considered by a private company for a new marina facility that would include over 300 slips, a fuel station, restaurant and marina office. Projected groundbreaking once an ENA is reached would be projected as 2027. An ENA for Berryessa Point would be presented to the Board for consideration.

Monticello Shores

This site is currently being considered by a joint venture (one international and one national company) that would develop a full-service resort. Projected groundbreaking once an ENA is reached would be projected as 2028-2029. An ENA for Monticello Shores would be presented to the Board for consideration.

Spanish Flat

This site remains open and operating. It is operated by a local business owner under an interim contract with Napa County. The site focuses on dirt camping, RV camping and boat launching. There has been no significant interest in developing the site beyond the current use.

The following are Federal BOR sites that Napa County will have the option to take over management in the future:

Markley Cove: This site is solely a marina with permanent slips for boat docking and facilities for boat launching. Napa County has an option to take over and operate the site in 2031.

Pleasure Cove: This site contains a marina as well as cabins to rent. Napa County has an option to take over and operate the site in 2040.

Putah Canyon: This site focuses on dirt camping and day launching. Napa County has an option to take over and operate the site in 2031.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The activities contemplated by the Agreement are either not a project subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378, or consist of information gathering and investigations categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15306.

The full 4 hour meeting is on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/IQ2zzVduAT4?si=faeuKgGoezMIW6kc>

Barry Eberling's Napa Register article copied below is a good summary of the meeting.

Napa County's Lake Berryessa resort renovation push continues

Barry Eberling, Napa Register, 6/4/24

Napa County's quest to redevelop several Lake Berryessa resorts remains in the negotiations phase, with a possible Camp Margaritaville at Steele Canyon intended to cover twice the footprint originally envisioned.

The county agreed in November 2023 to negotiate exclusively with a local developer working with Camp Margaritaville Resorts. Steele Canyon could be reborn with a resort named after the late Jimmy Buffett's 1977 hit song "Margaritaville."

Since then, the developer discovered Steele Canyon on the federally owned shoreline is 352 acres, rather than the 137 acres previously stated. That caused a five-month delay while the developer worked on the issue with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, according to county officials.

Leigh Sears, the county's Lake Berryessa concessions manager, said the mapping mishap was due to an error by the Bureau of Reclamation. She pointed to a historic map of the resort that shows a bigger footprint.

Napa County is negotiating with WhiTim Napa LLC on the Steele Canyon renovation. WhiTim is managed by Tim Wilkens, who is working with Camp Margaritaville Resorts. Wilkens gave an update to the Napa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. He said Camp Margaritaville was redesigned in light of the bigger footprint and would have such features as a water park, zip line, market, lakeside trails, a Napa County Sheriff's Office substation, restaurants and 100 employee housing units.

"This resort is not going to be an Auberge or a high-end resort," Wilkens said. "It's a family-orientated resort."

Groundbreaking could take place in 2027. Meanwhile, the resort remains open under another operator for camping, RV camping and boat launching, a county report said.

Some speakers at a previous Board of Supervisors meeting said Camp Margaritaville would be too big, too much a theme park and out of place with a nature-based Lake Berryessa. But all four speakers at Tuesday's meeting praised the project.

Peter Kilkus lives near Steele Canyon and publishes the Lake Berryessa News. He has taken a keen interest in the Lake Berryessa resort renovation push that has endured several false starts over the past 15 years. In a telephone interview Monday, Kilkus speculated whether Camp Margaritaville will add Lake Berryessa to a resort location list that includes Lake Tahoe and the Caribbean.

"This is such a big project," Kilkus said. "Who knows what will end up happening? Put me down as cautiously optimistic."

Among the other Lake Berryessa resort redevelopment possibilities, as updated in a county report:

Berryessa Point – Suntex in January withdrew from negotiations to redevelop Berryessa Point. Another company is looking at building a marina with 300 slips and a fuel station, with groundbreaking possible in 2027.

Monticello Shores – An international and national company are looking at a redevelopment project for a full-service resort, with groundbreaking possible in 2028 or 2029.

Spanish Flat – No one has shown significant interest in redeveloping the resort. It remains open for camping, RV camping and boat launching under a local operator.

Putah Canyon - Open with camping and day launching.

Markley Cove and Pleasure Cove - Open with marinas - not being redeveloped.

Lake Berryessa in eastern Napa County is 26 miles long and 3 miles wide, with a snaking, 165-mile-long shoreline. The federal reservoir has seven resorts, of which five were razed by the Bureau of Reclamation more than 15 years ago for redevelopment.

In 2020, Napa County reached an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage the stalled redevelopment effort. The county is working on Steele Canyon, Berryessa Point, Monticello Shores and Spanish Flat, with an option to manage Putah Canyon.

"We're on the right track," Supervisor Belia Ramos said during Tuesday's presentation.

Bureau of Reclamation Summer Advisory

Jennifer Onufer, Park Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lake Berryessa

As the warm season returns and visitors gather at Lake Berryessa to boat, swim and camp, the Bureau of Reclamation urges everyone to take water safety seriously. With its stunning views and popular recreational areas, Lake Berryessa is a treasured destination,

but it is also a body of water that demands respect.

Preventable drownings claim lives at Lake Berryessa each year. Since the construction of the reservoir in 1957, there have been 350 fatalities, of which 315 are attributed to drownings. Many of these tragedies involve strong swimmers who overestimate their abilities, underestimate the lake's depth and temperature, or simply fail to wear life jackets. We cannot emphasize this enough: wearing a life jacket can save your life. In over 90% of drowning cases at Lake Berryessa, the victim was not wearing a life jacket.

As part of our commitment to prevent these tragedies, the Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with local law enforcement and safety organizations, has increased outreach efforts to educate the public about safe water practices. We offer free life jacket loaner stations and continue to enforce safety regulations on the water. But safety starts with you. Whether you are kayaking near the shore or swimming off a boat, wearing a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket is your best defense against an unexpected fall, cramp or current. Alcohol, fatigue and heat can all impair judgment and physical ability, making even familiar waters dangerous.

Nation-wide, drowning is a leading cause of death among children 1 to 4 years of age and the second leading cause of death among 5 to 14-year-olds, according to the CDC. Parents and guardians should keep children within arm's reach, even in shallow water. Never rely on water toys or inflatables as substitutes for life jackets, and never swim alone. At Berryessa, most of our fatalities occur among those between the ages of 15 and 30 — and there is a noticeable spike in fatalities among young men.

Even the best prepared visitors can encounter trouble, so it is important to know what to see and hear from someone who is drowning. One of the early signs is the swimmer who is failing to make forward progress. They are staring intently toward the shore but don't seem to be moving towards it. After more time passes, the victim may eventually assume a vertical position where they arch their head back so just their lips remain above water. Both these indicators are silent.

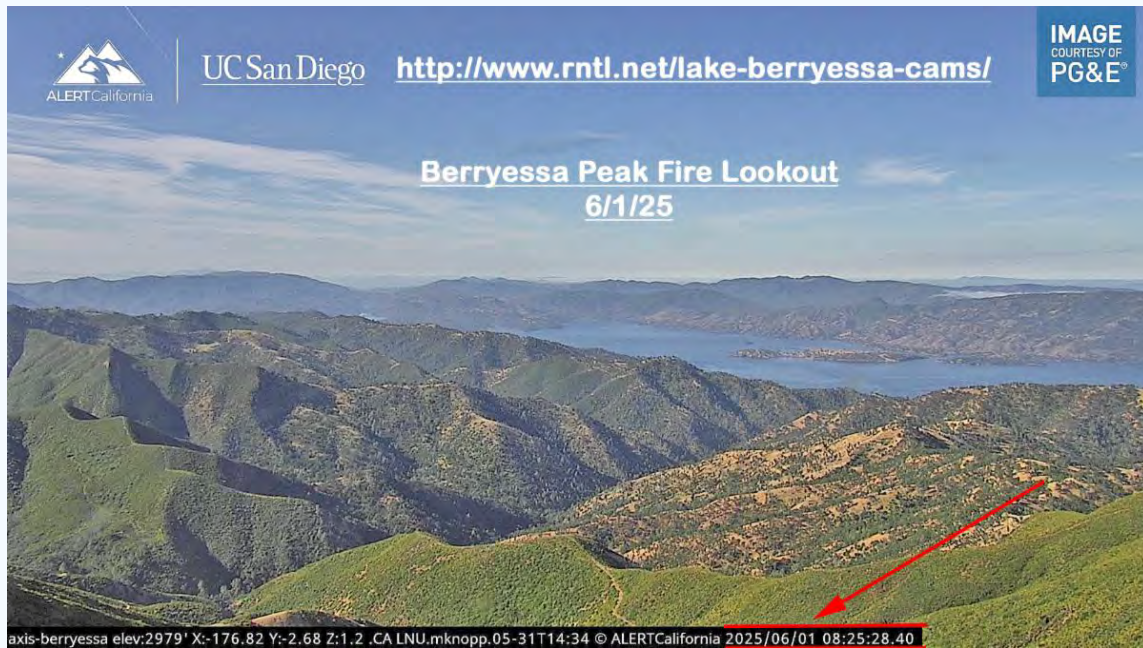
You cannot recognize a drowning person by listening, you have to look at them to see the signs. Once you've identified that a member of your group is in trouble, reach, throw, row, don't go.

It's hard for family members to resist diving-in after a loved one. The key is to not offer up your own body as a flotation device to a panicking victim. Twelve of Lake Berryessa's drownings started as attempted rescues. If you are a by-stander to such an event, throw a life jacket, a life ring or even an empty cooler, call for help, and be prepared to give a description of the victim and their location to first responders.

Lake Berryessa is currently 98% full, and we are expecting a busy recreation season at the Lake. Now is the perfect time to speak to your family about their preparedness for a safe summer. Remember to wear a life jacket; watch out for each other; and choose safety. We look forward to seeing you alive and well at Lake Berryessa this summer.

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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



Spanish Flat Village Center is for sale!

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Great drone video of the whole area.

This does not include Rhonda's Roadhouse (previously Cucina Italiana).



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Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,295,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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238 Manzanita Ln, Napa, CA

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/238-manzanita-lane-napa-ca-94558/93990505/regionId/100>

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 1,836 Sq Ft

\$665,000

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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

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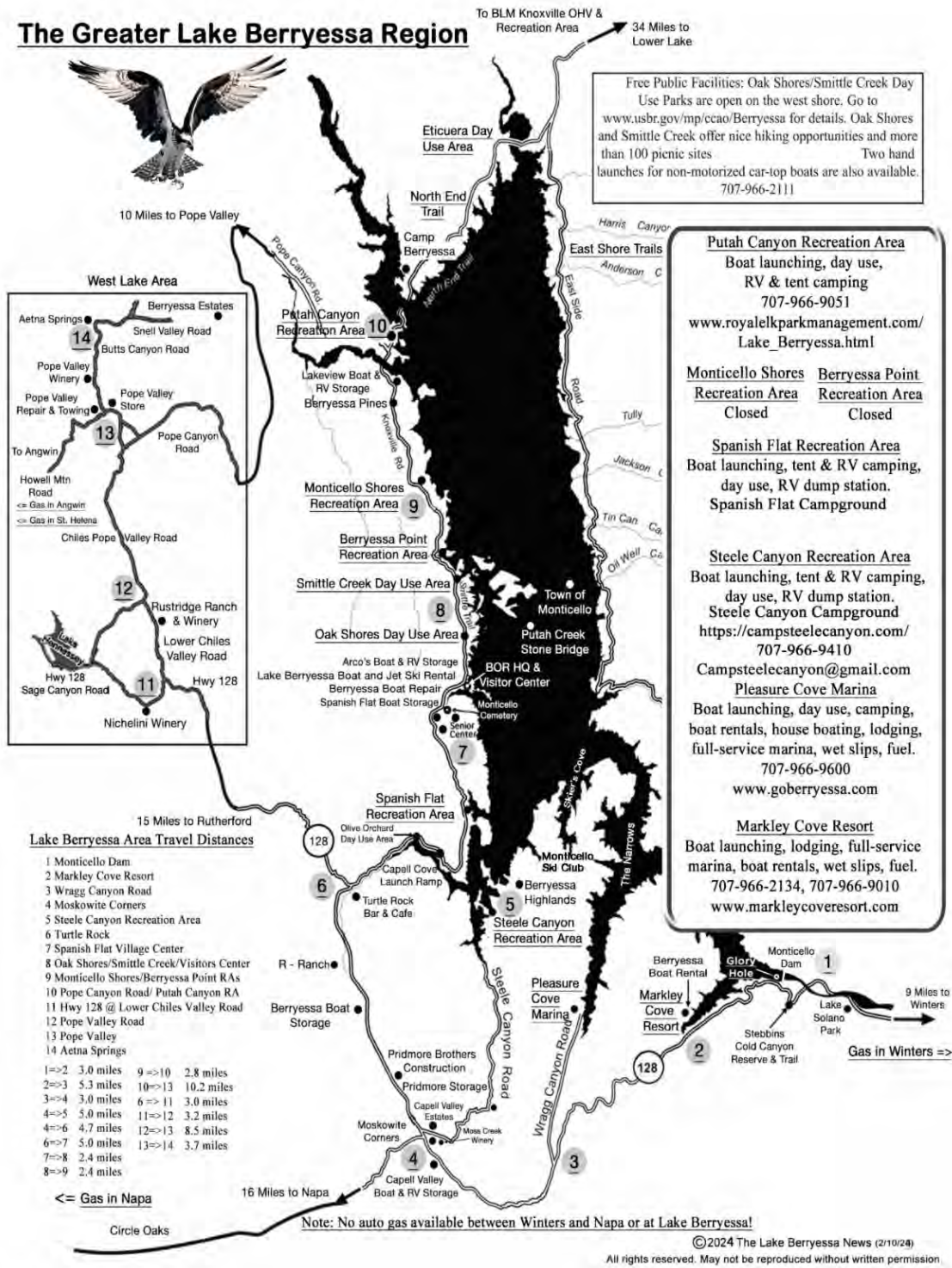


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News Special Edition

Father's Day

June 15, 2025

Original Father's Day Monument on the way to Lake Berryessa



Lake Berryessa Statistics (6/15/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 437.4 feet, 2.6 feet below Glory Hole.

Rainfall total is 22.97 inches at Monticello Dam.

The new rain season begins on July 1, 2025.

Lake capacity is at 96.9%

Lake surface temperature is 77 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

Mother's Day vs. Father's Day



In my research for an upcoming article on "Morning Glory Spillways Around the World" I found this interesting story.

A sure sign of winter: Closing up the Morning Glory spillway

<https://www.denverwater.org/tap/sure-sign-winter-closing-morning-glory-spillway>

Dillon Reservoir - Denver's largest reservoir was Completed in 1963, Dillon Reservoir has an earth-fill dam, 5,888 feet long by 231 feet above the Blue River streambed. **The entire town of Dillon and a hydroelectric plant were relocated to build the dam**, which diverts water from the Blue River Basin through the Harold D. Roberts Tunnel under the Continental Divide into the South Platte River Basin.

Capping the summer maintenance season at Dillon Reservoir takes expert work crews, planning — and a really big plug. How do you keep debris and cold temperatures from damaging a giant spillway that measures 15 feet in diameter and features a more than 200-foot drop?

Get a really big plug!





Every fall, Denver Water crews place a 6-ton steel plug into the Morning Glory spillway at Dillon Reservoir. The annual activity marks the end of summer and signals the start of winter maintenance season, when Dillon Dam's caretakers focus on maintenance of the structure's interior facilities.

The plug serves a primary and secondary function — first, it prevents cold air from entering the spillway, which could damage the outlet works and take hours of manual labor to melt the ice that builds up. It also helps prevent chunks of ice and snow from falling into the spillway and crashing more than 200 feet below.

Exact timing of the operation varies from year to year, though the rule of thumb is to do it when the reservoir's water level is at least 4 feet below the crest of the spillway.



“That way, we have time to get back in here and remove the plug should we get sudden, unexpected inflows,” said Rick Geise, caretaker at Dillon Reservoir.

Come early spring, the crane and crew will be back again to pull the plug, signaling the start of the summer maintenance season, where the dam's crews will focus on larger capital improvement projects to keep the facility in tip-top condition.

The Morning Glory spillway is one of four ways water leaves Dillon Reservoir. Those ways include evaporation, absorption, the Roberts Tunnel, and the outlet works to the Blue River, which includes the Morning Glory spillway.

Photo: Dillon Reservoir near Denver, Colorado.



Lake Berryessa is six times bigger than Dillon Reservoir and needs a special Glory Hole plug!

Lake Berryessa

Capacity: 1,551,292 acre feet

Surface Area: 20,000 acres

Shoreline: 165 miles

Dillon Reservoir

Capacity: 257,304 acre-feet

Surface Area: 3,233 acres

Shoreline: 26.8 miles of shoreline



2-16-17 Lake Berryessa News

20th Anniversary of the Last Jet Ski Races at Lake Berryessa! (June 14, 2025)

by Peter Killus

Twenty years is a long time to some, but to others, like me, it seems like yesterday. Super seniors say that a lot. In my case yesterday, it was a fact. Putah Canyon Campground hosted the first jet ski race at Lake Berryessa since April 21, 2005 (original story below.). That race was put on by Pacific Coast Entertainment's owner/promoter Evan Killus. I was the Vice-President of "going places and picking stuff up".

The 2005 race at Steele Park resort was exciting and well attended. The owners of the mobile homes around the main cove, which you can see in the 2005 photos below, loved it so much they offered to pay us to come back. But four years later their homes were demolished leaving only the dirt pads you can see now.

[Destruction of Steele Park Resort 2009 You Tube](#)

Putah Canyon Campground, managed by Royal Elk Park Management, has been doing an excellent job in providing a well run recreation facility with great views of the lake and access to some of the nicest boating waters on Lake Berryessa. It is the only resort at the north end of the lake.

<https://royalelcparkmanagement.com/putah-canyon>

They also have a boat decontamination facility which cleaned almost 100 jet skis on Saturday morning. Putah Creek staff worked hard to get that done. Putah Canyon Campground's management contract extends until 2030 at which time Napa County has the option to take over the concession.





PWC Races Bring Excitement to the Waters of Lake Berryessa (April 21, 2005)

by Peter Kilkus

Summer came early to Lake Berryessa thanks to some intense Personal Watercraft (PWC) racing hosted at Steele Park Resort early this month with Pacific Coast Entertainment's Round 1 of the Pacific Watercross NorCal Racing & Riding Tour.

The Tour's goal is to combine the thrill of PWC racing with the family fun of PWC riding at some of the most interesting lakes in Northern California. The race event was the first in a five stop tour presented by locally-owned Pacific Coast Entertainment, L.L.C. Participants ranging from Pro to Beginner came from as far away as Lake Havasu City and Oregon to participate in the first sanctioned PWC (also known as "jet ski") Race on Lake Berryessa in more than 10 years.

Racers competed in Closed Course and Endurance Races plus the crowd pleasing Freestyle Competition. More than 50 racers entered the various "Sit-Down" and "Stand-Up" classes riding Sea-Doos, Kawasakis, Hondas, and other models. Participants were competing for individual event trophies and for points that will earn them a place at the World finals at Lake Havasu in October plus prizes including Fly Racing riding gear, Hydro-Turf watercraft accessories, and Slippery wetsuits.

The series brings PWC racers and recreational riders on a tour of Northern Californian lakes and waterways, including Lake Berryessa, Rollins Lake, Camp Far West, Clear Lake and finishing in Benicia on the Carquinez Strait.

The NorCal R2R American Watercraft Association Charter Club, whose members are PWC racers and their families and friends, also held a PWC Poker Run. With good weather and the lake looking breathtakingly beautiful as usual the event promoter, Evan Kilkus, considered the race a huge success. The racers also enjoyed Lake Berryessa and Steele Park. Honda rider Robert Stellhorn, #811, enthusiastically stated "It was an absolutely awesome race... the layout was great, and the lake was beautiful."

Spectators came out to enjoy the sun, watch the races, and mingle with the riders. A group of local kids competed to get the most autographs from the racers after each moto. "I didn't realize how big and professional this event was going to be," stated one mother of three enjoying the action from the shade with her baby. The Bureau of Reclamation, which facilitated the permit process, was present to distribute recreation and safety information.

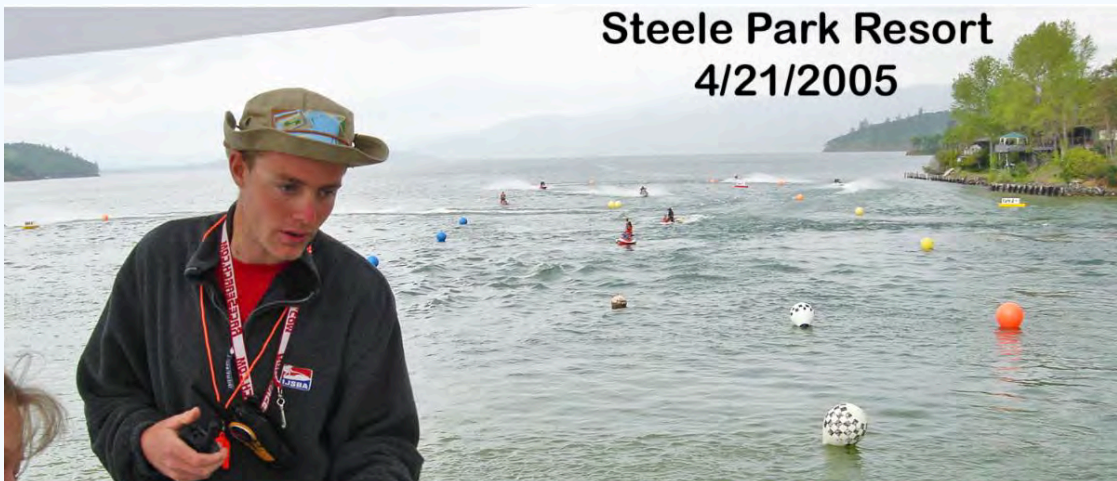
Evan Kilkus Races



Evan Kilkus Announcing



Steele Park Resort
4/21/2005







Why was Dad staring at the orange juice at Father's Day brunch? Because it said "concentrate."

Why did the dad bring a pencil to his Father's Day dinner? Because he wanted to draw some attention.

Why did Dad put his money in the blender?
He wanted to make some liquid assets.

Why don't they have Father's Day sales?
Because fathers are priceless.

What do you call a person who is not a dad who makes dad jokes?
A Faux Pa.

When does a joke become a dad joke?
When the punchline is apparent

Why did the dad sit on the clock on Father's Day?
He wanted to be on time.

What's a groundbreaking Father's Day gift to give to your dad?
A shovel.

Why did the dad bring a ladder to the bar on Father's Day?
Because he heard the drinks were on the house!

What did the grape say to his dad on Father's Day?
Thanks for raisin me right!

Why did Dad high-five himself on Father's Day?
Because no one appreciates his jokes quite like he does!

Why did the rude cow eat all the food on Father's Day?
Because he was being a beef jerky.

Why didn't the dad want to swim with the sharks on Father's Day?
It would cost him an arm and a leg.

How much did the son charge his dad for fixing his roof on Father's Day?
Nothing, it was on the house!

Quote to Ponder

Kleptopia, a Symptom of Predatory Capitalism

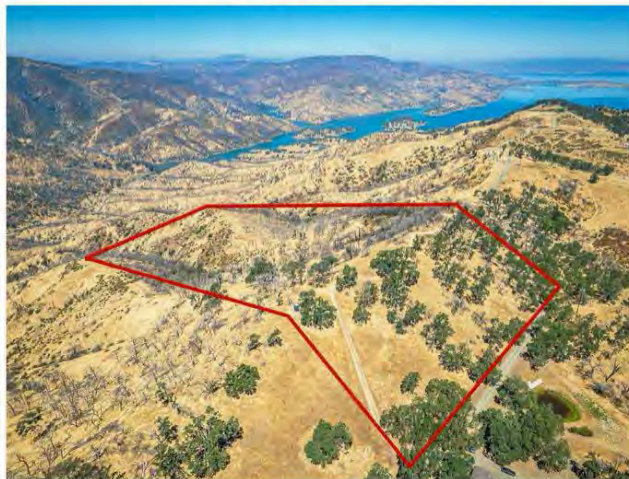
You would be wise to listen to what I have to say, Allon. The old order is crumbling. A new order is rising in its place. We at corporate headquarters refer to it as Kleptopia. There are no laws in Kleptopia, at least not for those with unlimited resources, and no one cares about the needs of that great mass of humanity who are less fortunate. Power and money are all that matters. Those without it want to acquire it. And those who have it want to hang on to it at all costs. From "A Death in Cornwall" by Daniel Silva

Stunning 60+ Acre Lot in Lakeview Estates at Lake Berryessa!

A Dream Location Near Lake Berryessa! Discover the perfect blend of privacy and breathtaking beauty on this expansive 60+ acre lot in Lakeview Estates, nestled in the serene Eastern Hills of Napa. Situated at the end of the development, this prime property offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa and the surrounding mountains. Bring your contractor, house plans, and dreams to create your ideal home in this picturesque setting. With power available at the nearby electric pole, you have a head start on making your vision a reality. Please note, a well and septic system are not yet in place. Don't miss this opportunity to own a piece of Napa's natural splendor and build the home you've always imagined!

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Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdrms, 2 bath

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The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.

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Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrshkFprhvdTluE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance. family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



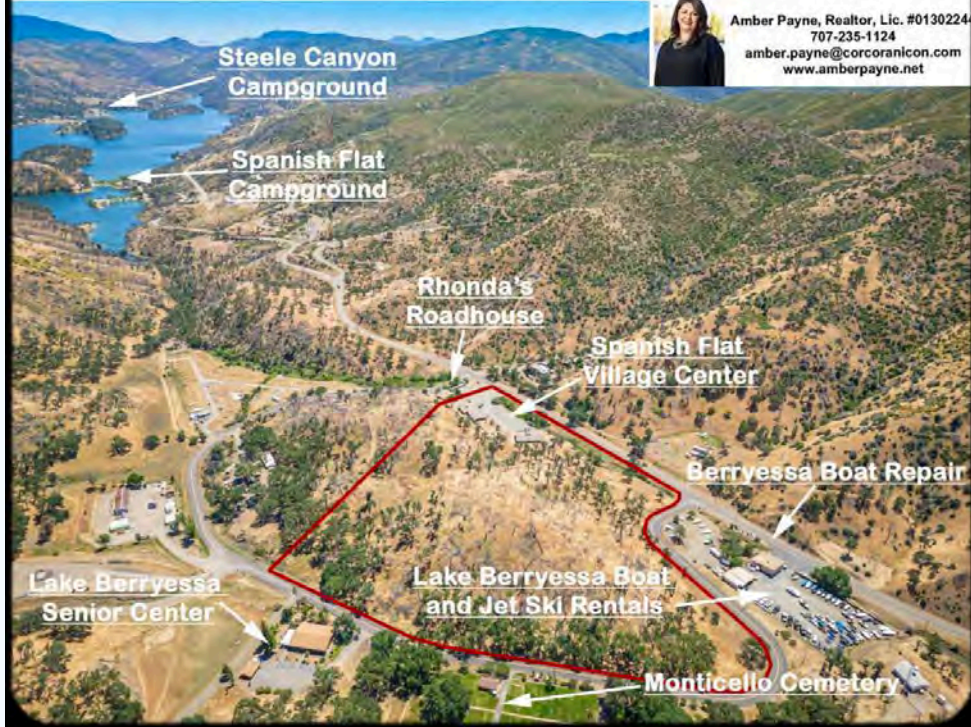
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Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

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\$995,000



1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,195,000

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Mostly Flat Then Downslope

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Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot

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Flat then downslope

611 Noah Court

APN# 019-422-012 - .33+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$49,500

Flat then downslope

#17 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-590-017 - 60.69 +/- Acres

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APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot

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Corner Lot

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Upslope Lot

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Flat Then Upslope Lot

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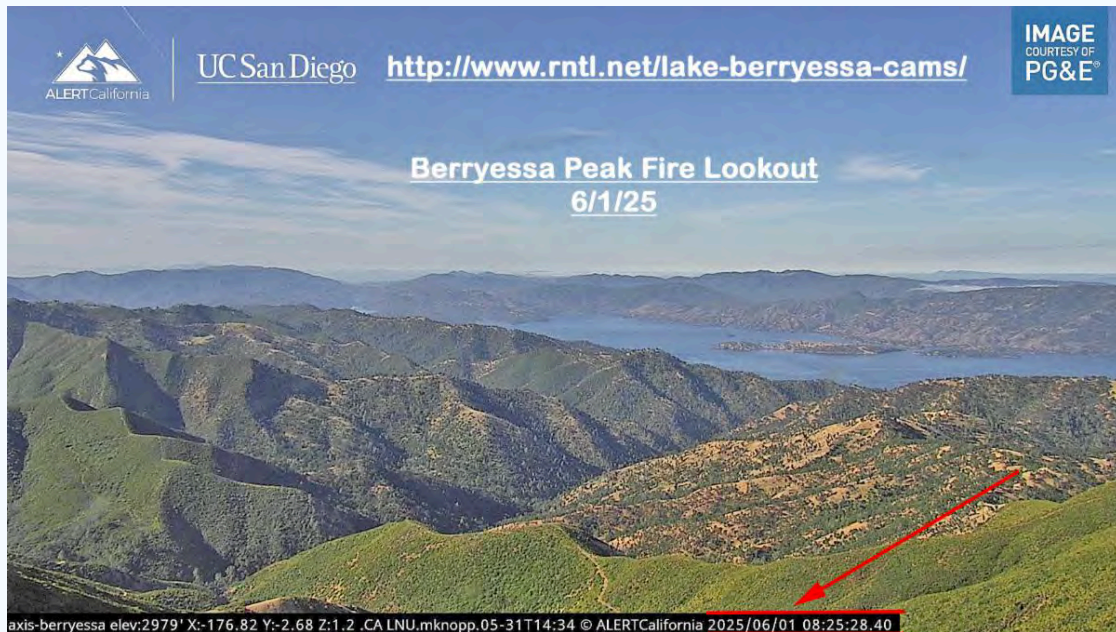
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This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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



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Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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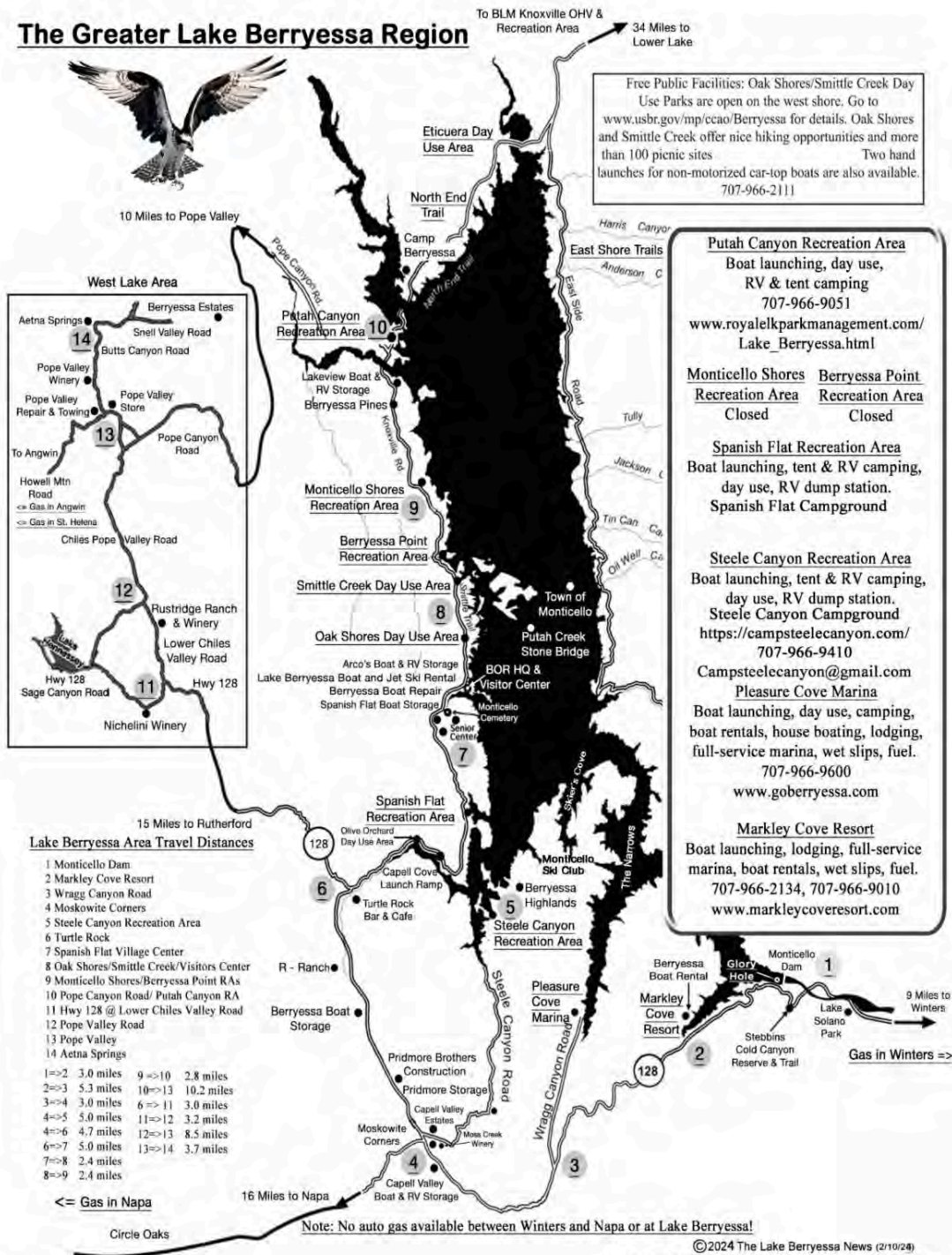
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The Lake Berryessa News Special Edition

Odd Glory Hole Photo

Monticello Dam Safety

Bigfoot AI Videos

June 29, 2025

Lake Berryessa Statistics (6/29/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 436.3 feet, 3.7 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 95.6%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

Odd Glory Hole Photo Causes Local Confusion

by Peter Kilkus

Last week there was a bit of a kerfuffle (a commotion or fuss, especially one caused by conflicting views) on the Lake Berryessa Facebook group page over an odd post about Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole.

"A 72-foot-wide hole swallowing a lake isn't a disaster—it's a massive engineering feat. The "glory hole" at Lake Berryessa, California, reappeared for the first time since 2019, showcasing its functionality as water levels surge above 440 feet. This giant drain, resembling a flower, plunges overflow 200 feet into Putah Creek, creating a stunning visual as it appears to drain the lake directly into the Earth. This extraordinary design is a striking blend of practicality and spectacle, flaunting nature's power while effectively managing water control. Functionality has never looked so mesmerizing."

Although the story was simple and accurate, it was accompanied by a supposed photo of Glory Hole from the air. Having seen hundreds of Glory Hole photos over the years, I immediately recognized it as our Glory Hole, but something was wrong. The top photo was of Glory Hole in 2016 after the 11-year drought that began in 2006 and ended in 2017. The bottom was a photo of Glory Hole overflowing.



The photo even confused long-time residents who commented:

I live here and I am absolutely 100% sure that is not Lake Berryessa's glory hole. I don't know where else there is a glory hole, but that ain't it.

These photos are not photos of Glory Hole @ Lake Berryessa

I live here, but this is not Lake Berryessa nor is that the Gloryhole at Lake Berryessa.

Those 2 pictures are not of the same Glory Hole!! The bottom picture is the one at Lake Berryessa; I have no idea where the first photo is from.

You should be able to see the face of the dam, the glory hole is not that far from the face of the dam

Wrong lake!

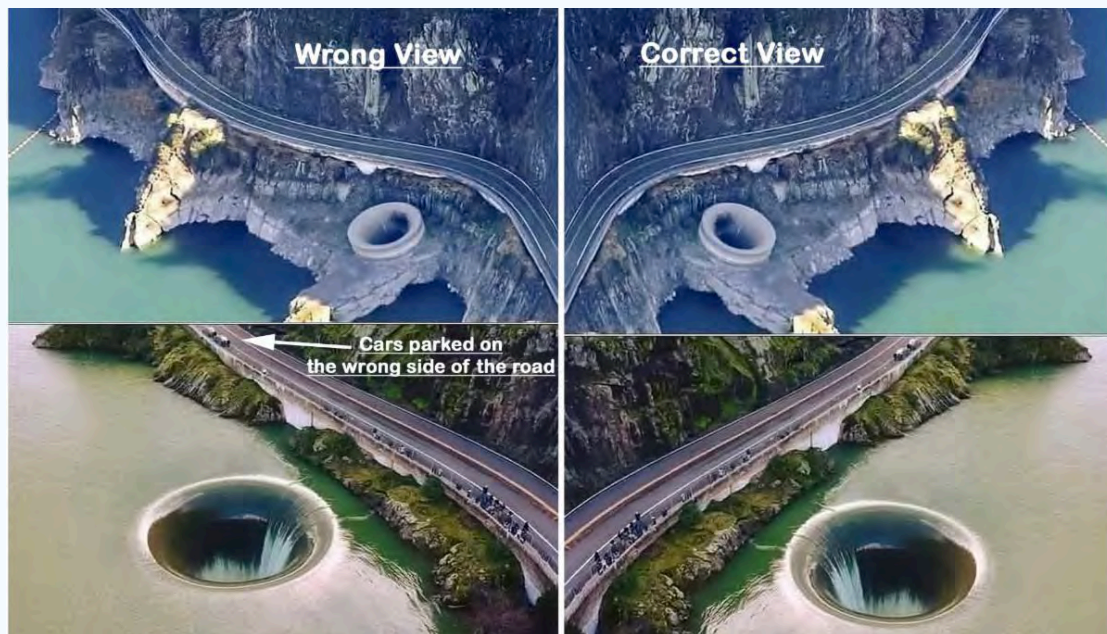
Not even the same hole, look at road. I have lived here all of my life. I am 70 years old, so I have visited that Gloryhole many many, many, many times. This picture is not correct. Someone has Photoshopped something.

The last commenter was right about one thing, the picture was Photoshopped. For some reason the author of the original article used a mirror image of the original photo. When you look in the mirror and raise your right hand, what hand does your image raise? This isn't even AI. In these days of real AI, no one can trust their eyes. I corrected the original photo using Photoshop's "Image>Free Transform" function.

Two Lake Berryessa News readers posted some relevant information.

Stephen Simoneau: "Content Creators (bot farms) will reverse photos to try to avoid copyright violations. If you look closer in photos and videos on social media, you'll see a lot of mirror-image words."

Michael Doyle: "I sometimes do the same thing, reverse the image of something to make it look totally different. My best was of a fighter jet landing on an aircraft carrier, really confused many sailors and officers."



Monticello Dam - Could It Fail?

The summer boating season is in full swing at Lake Berryessa. One thing I like to do when out on a boat with friends, especially those who may be unfamiliar with Lake Berryessa, is to stop our boat at the buoy line by the dam and ask them a simple question. "If the dam collapsed now, would we be able to drive our boat fast enough back up through the Narrows to avoid being pulled down into Putah Creek?" Most people say "No!". As a physicist, I'd say "Yes, maybe".

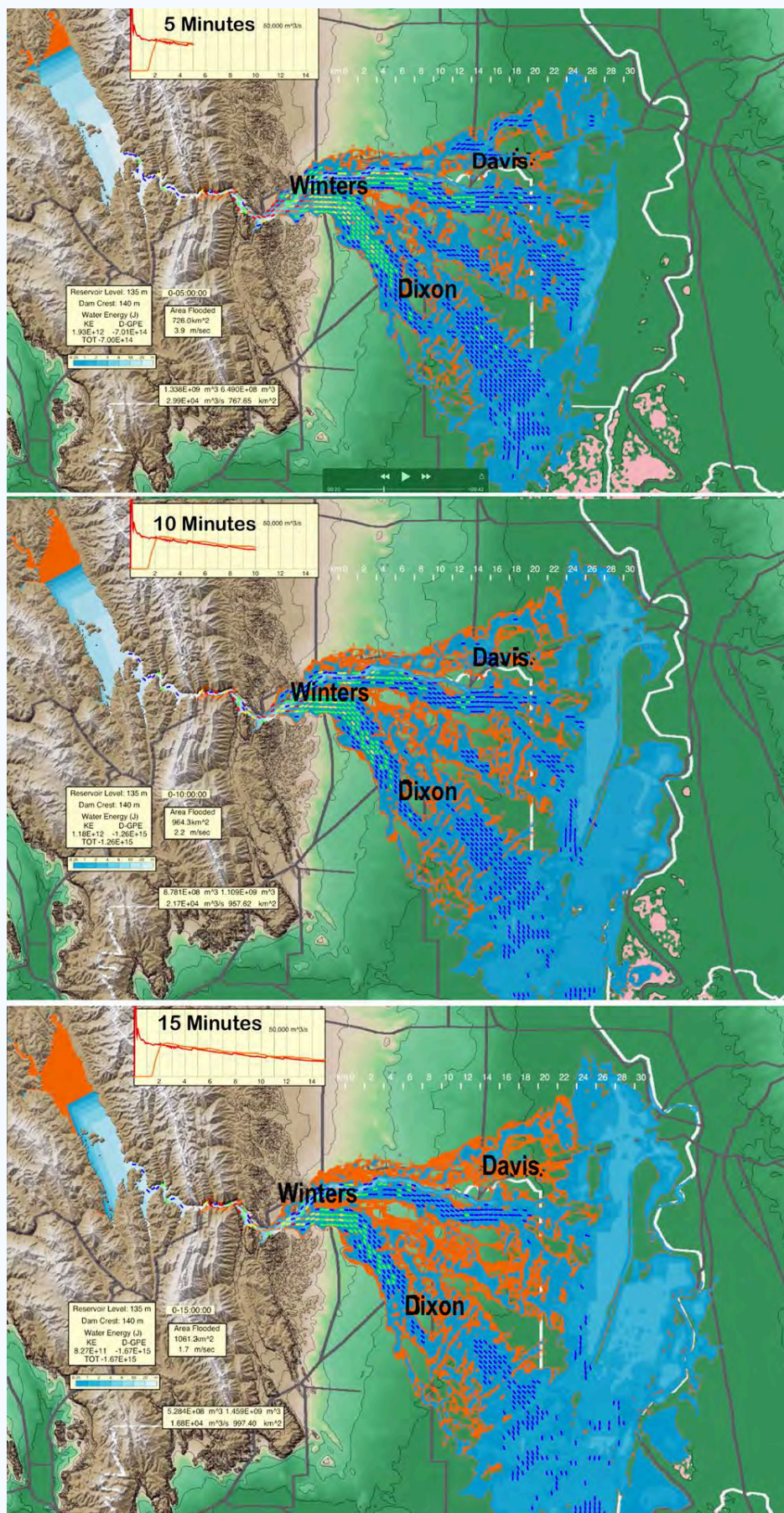
Water weighs 8 pounds per gallon, so a 5-gallon water bottle weighs in at 40 pounds. That's a lot of mass and momentum. But if you remember your science classes, gravity wins. Everything falls at the same rate in a vacuum, whether it's light or heavy - 32 feet per second per second. So, if a hole were blown in the top of the dam, it would take some time for the lake water to start flowing towards the dam, although once it got through the hole it would fall very fast down into Putah Creek.

There is a very interesting simulation of a hypothetical failure of Monticello dam created by Steven Ward, a research geophysicist at the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at UC Santa Cruz. He has created a computer simulation of the first 16 hours of

flooding that might be expected from the failure of Monticello Dam from a possible earthquake. This worst-case scenario envisions a nearly instantaneous breakdown of the structure, and a reservoir filled to capacity. This is unlikely but informative. It will cause concern for the folks who live in Winters. View it on YouTube at:

["Lake Berryessa's Monticello Dam Failure Simulation"](https://youtu.be/HEJEHnKrueo?si=oLFC2VtBgdCjfcPh)

<https://youtu.be/HEJEHnKrueo?si=oLFC2VtBgdCjfcPh>



Every now and then the subject of earthquakes and Monticello Dam comes up, again of most concern for the folks who live in Winters. I was unaware of any real tests done on the dam to study the effect of an earthquake until a local Lake Berryessa News reader, Steve O'Neill, sent me this note:

"That dam is studied in engineering schools. It's one of the 7 best in the world. Inside the dam is a plumb line that runs inside a tube from the top to the access at the bottom. Its monitored position shows the dam expanding and contracting daily as the sun hits it.

I was also there one day in the mid-1980s, when a team of engineers had built two big eccentric shaker machines and cemented them to the top of the dam about 1/3 and 2/3 of the way across. Their intent was to shake it about 7 Hz, roughly earthquake speed, and see how the dam responded. They had placed sensors all over the dam.

They started the motors, and four weights started rotating, gradually speeding up. The dam slowly started shaking, all per the design of the test. Standing on top as the dam started to shake was pretty scary. It was moving about **3 inches** front to back - the whole dam! Eventually the motors started to shake loose from the dam top, so they called off the test. They shakers never got to full speed, but they got some data from that."

His note spurred me to do some research, and I found the actual engineering study from 1987.

Report No. UCB/EERC-87/21 Earthquake Engineering Research Center
College of Engineering University of California Berkeley, California
December 1987

This study of arch dam-reservoir interaction is an outgrowth of a 4-year U. S. - China cooperative research project on "Interaction Effects in the Seismic Response of Arch Dams." Inconsistent comparisons were obtained in that project between measured and calculated dynamic reservoir pressures induced by shaking tests of arch dams, hence this study was planned to obtain improved understanding of the dynamic interaction mechanism. Monticello Dam, an arch dam in California designed by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, was chosen as the test system, and the research involved comparison of hydrodynamic pressures measured during vibration tests with results predicted analytically.

This study did not draw any conclusions about the ultimate safety of Monticello Dam during an earthquake. It was a test, a verification/validation of software programs and modelling of a dam structure.

Dam safety and earthquakes

In order to prevent the uncontrolled rapid release of water from the reservoir of a storage dam during a strong earthquake, the dam must be able to withstand the strong ground shaking from even an extreme earthquake, which is referred to as the Safety Evaluation Earthquake (SEE) or the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE). Large storage dams are generally considered safe if they can survive an event with a return period of 10,000 years, i.e. having a one percent chance of being exceeded in 100 years. It is very difficult to predict what can happen during such a rare event as very few earthquakes of this size have actually affected dams.

There is a basic difference between the load bearing behavior of buildings and bridges on the one side, and dams. Under normal conditions buildings and bridges have to carry mainly vertical loads due to the dead load of the structures and some secondary live

loads. In the case of dams, the main load is the water load, which in the case of concrete dams with a vertical upstream face acts in the horizontal direction.

Earthquake Engineering for Concrete Dams

The hazard posed by large dams has long been known. Although no concrete dam has failed as a result of earthquake activity, there have been instances of significant damage. Knowledge of dam performance during large earthquakes is informed by historical events in other parts of the world and by computer simulations of even more significant ground shaking. In general, dams historically have performed exceptionally well during seismic events. Only one concrete dam in modern history has ever failed as the result of a seismic event—Shih-Kang Dam in Taiwan. In this instance, dam failure was largely due to the fault that ran directly beneath the dam. Generally, concrete dams have sustained only minor damage in large earthquakes.

How Safe is Monticello Dam?

The Bureau of Reclamation has long been the best damn dam builders in the world. There are two things the don't do.

1. They don't build dams that break.

Monticello Dam is a constant-center arch concrete dam with a structural height of 304 feet, and a crest length of 1,023 feet. Exactly 325,890 cubic yards of concrete were placed in its construction.





2. They don't build dams that overflow.

Before building a dam, the Bureau of Reclamation does extensive historical studies of the rainfall and flow of waters in the watershed. The frequency floods derived for Lake Berryessa were developed using USGS stream gage records at Putah Creek near Winters for water years 1931 through 1956, and Bureau of Reclamation computed inflows to Lake Berryessa for water years 1957 through 1986. The Putah Creek flows near Winters were assumed to be representative of the flows at Monticello dam site for water years 1931 through 1956.

Monticello Dam was overtopped only once. During the construction phase, Lake Berryessa did rise high enough in 1955 to spill over the top of the dam when it was at about half its finished height, causing damage and delays.



The Bureau of Reclamation has a systematic four-step program that continuously monitors the status of its dams. There is a review and inspection every four years, which involves looking at seismic, hydrologic and static parameters. BOR headquarters in Denver and the local area office take turns overseeing these inspections, which are exhaustive. It is visual, looking for anomalies like seepage in the internal galleries that house some of the sensing equipment relied on for data. But they also evaluate how much loading the horizontal joints are bearing, review other structural parameters, and evaluate seismic data.

For a lot more detail on these issues see:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Tech-Manual-Chapters/-Monticello-Dam-Failure-Analysis.pdf>

Free downloadable, searchable chapters of my book are available at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/styled-3/styled-5/>

The book is available on Amazon at:

AI Videos Update

The story about the odd Glory Hole photo above, which was not even done with AI, reminded me of the latest AI video fads on YouTube and Facebook. Have you seen the explosion of Bigfoot videos yet? Some are very funny, and very realistic. There are also some humorous political satire videos too. Apparently the software is available for only about \$250 per month. Below are screen shots from the videos.

Bigfoot AI Videos

<https://youtu.be/NCW-esQZmZk?si=uQL7UtiV5pvsO8y0>

<https://youtu.be/t43ISdwZNt4?si=03GkQ086VBollqp7>





PROJECT 2025, The Series :AI Trump, Boebert, Musk, & Bernie Sanders

<https://youtu.be/pY-K8CwSSio?si=bxaWDNJDgFXKYI6J>



If I could afford \$250 a month just for fun, I'd probably make some Allie, the Lake Berryessa Alligator, aka the family-friendly megagator, videos. Lake Berryessa's attractions could then be our Glory Hole and Allie. Here's a rare photo captured of them both at the same time.



Last issue we did a story about jet ski racing at Putah Canyon Campground which is on the site of the old Putah Creek Resort. Someone posted a photo of a postcard from the "good ole days" before the Bureau of Reclamation demolished the resort facilities.



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Campground Reservations
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 gazebo, perfect for . . .

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<https://181berryessadr.com/>

\$469,000

Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.

This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,

Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdms, 2 bath

property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.

The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.

New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck offering stunning views of Lake Berryessa.

Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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\$579,000

<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>

<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrshkFprhvtTluE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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Just Listed!

<https://1300steelecanyonrd.com/>



1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$649,000

4 3 2,443

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<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance. family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,195,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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Acres of Usable Land with Two Homes at Lake Berryessa

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http://www.steele_canyonroad.com/

\$1,395,000



Main House: 4BR | 2.5BA *** Guest House: 2BR | 2BA**

Beautifully updated with an oversized 2-car garage

Detached 1,200 sq. ft. Shop with 3 roll-top doors – perfect for hobbies or projects

**Additional Features: Separate Office space, fully fenced, water storage tank,
goat barn/chicken coop, greenhouse, olive trees, and filtered lake views.**

5 minutes from Steele Canyon Recreation Area



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Stunning 60+ Acre Lot in Lakeview Estates at Lake Berryessa!

A Dream Location Near Lake Berryessa! Discover the perfect blend of privacy and breathtaking beauty on this expansive 60+ acre lot in Lakeview Estates, nestled in the serene Eastern Hills of Napa. Situated at the end of the development, this prime property offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa and the surrounding mountains. Bring your contractor, house plans, and dreams to create your ideal home in this picturesque setting. With power available at the nearby electric pole, you have a head start on making your vision a reality. Please note, a well and septic system are not yet in place. Don't miss this opportunity to own a piece of Napa's natural splendor and build the home you've always imagined!

www.RimrockDr.com

\$350,000



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APN# 019-331-008- .47+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$48,600
Extra Large Lot

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

611 Noah Court

APN# 019-422-012 - .33+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$49,500
Flat then downslope

#17 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-590-017 - 60.69 +/- Acres
Offered at \$350,000

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$35,000
Corner Lot

1187 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-024-000 .34+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$16,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1183 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-023-000 .35+- Acre Lot
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1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

1084 Eastridge Drive

APN# 019-504-005-000 .25+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$60,000
Flat Corner Lot

1016 Overland Drive

APN# 019-402-019-000 .23+- Acre Lot
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Flat Then Upslope Lot

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot
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Flat Then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-332-003-000 .59 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$25,000
Upslope Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot
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Flat Then Downslope

1075 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-4362-025-000 .42+- Acre Lot
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Flat Then Upslope Lot

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

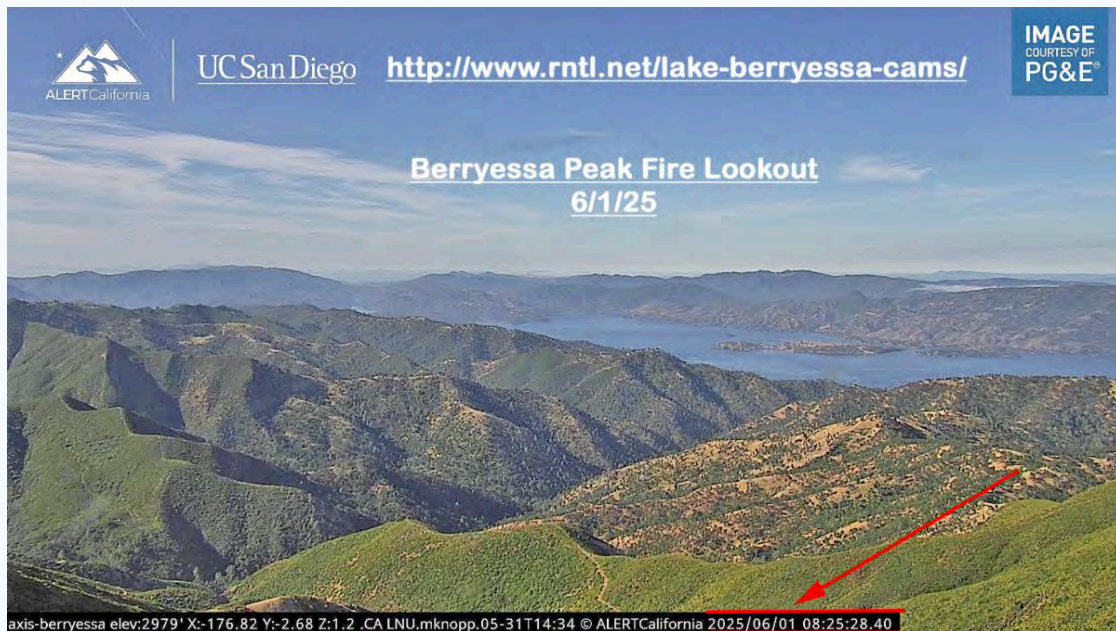


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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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



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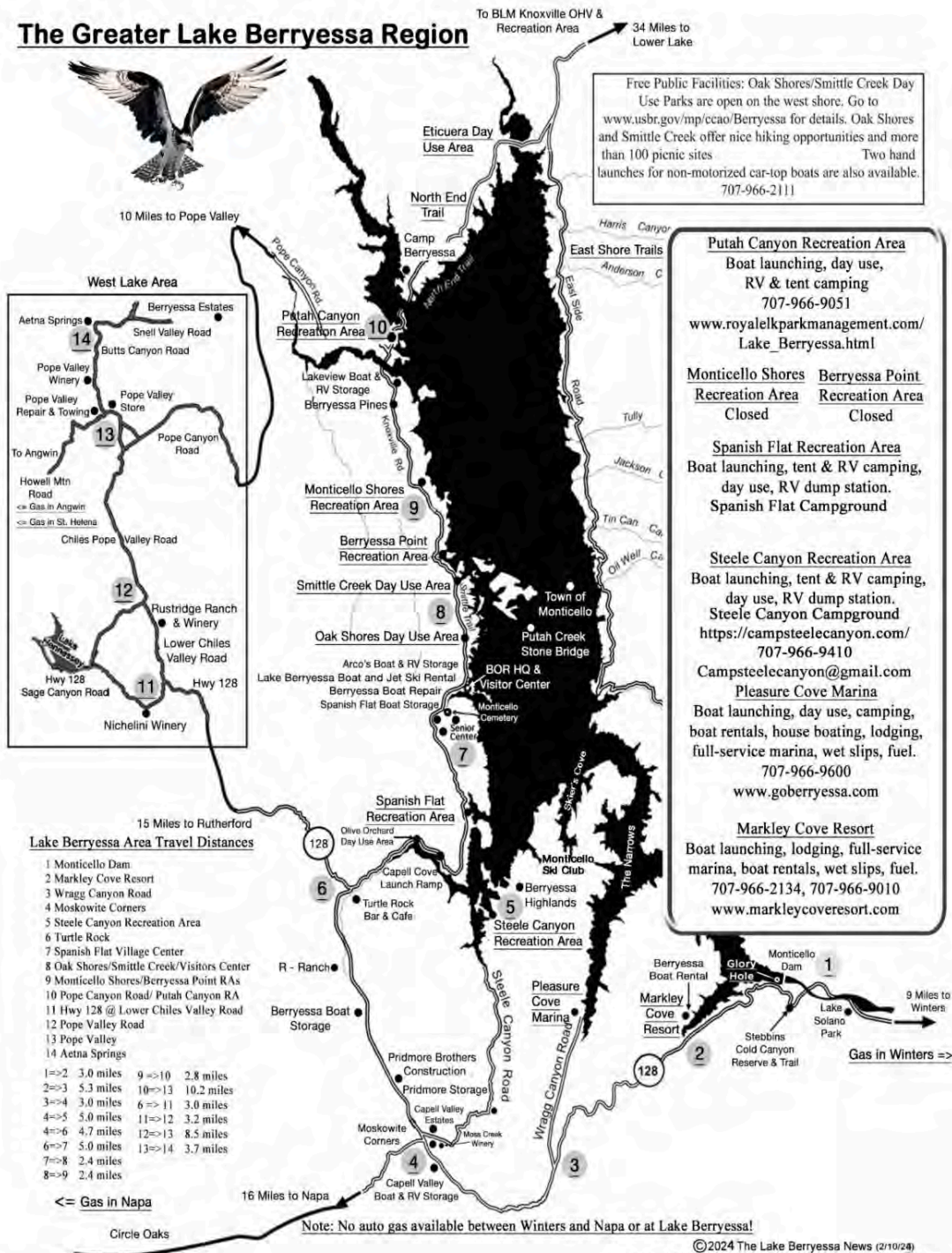


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The Lake Berryessa News

4th of July, 2025

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES

“The Star Spangled Banner”

Francis Scott Key (1814)

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly
we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and

bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming.

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



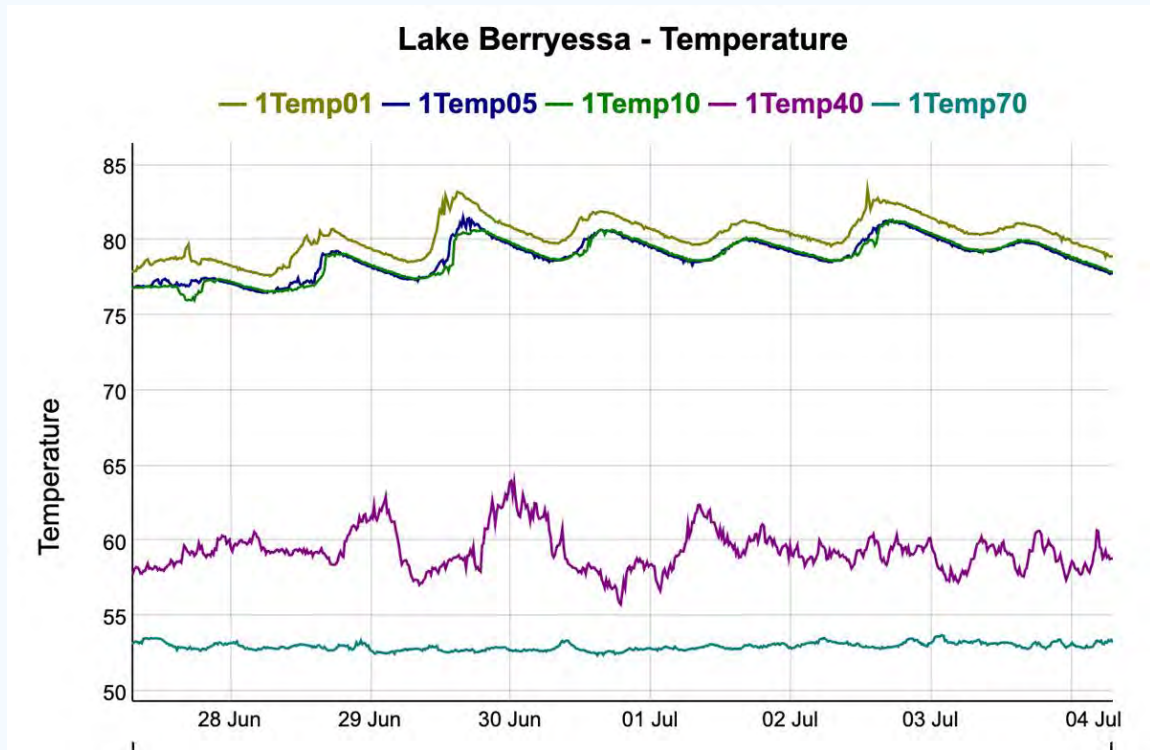
Lake Berryessa Statistics (7/4/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 435.9 feet, 4.1 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 95.1%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

The new rainfall year started on July 1 at 0 inches.



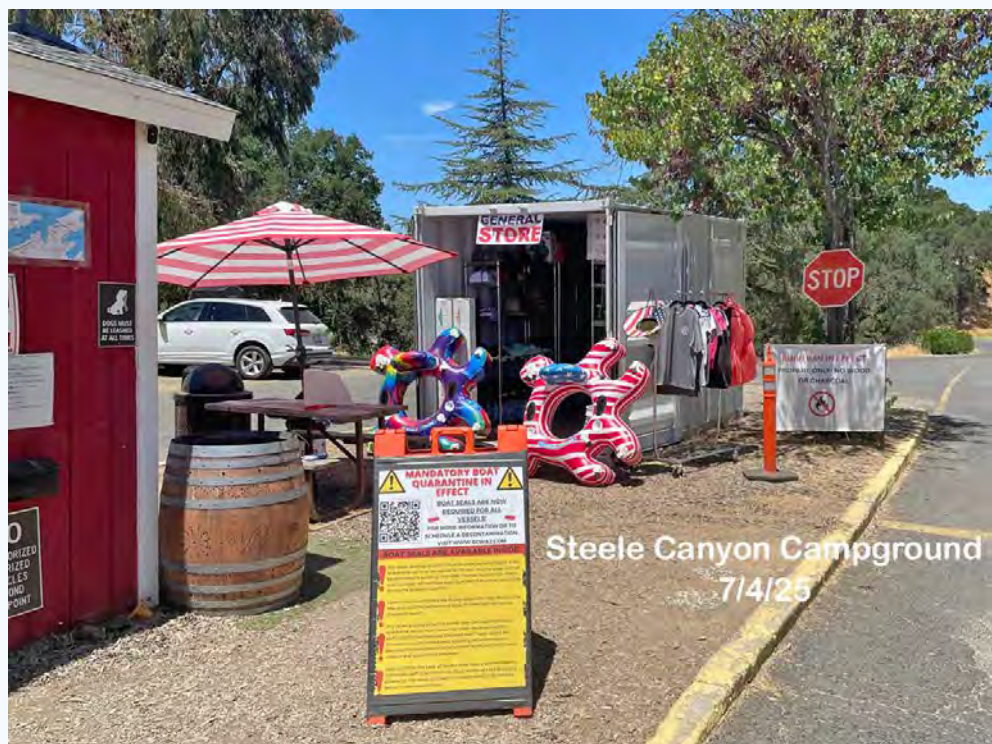
4th of July at Steele Canyon Campground!

90 degrees with a breeze. The weather could not be much better.

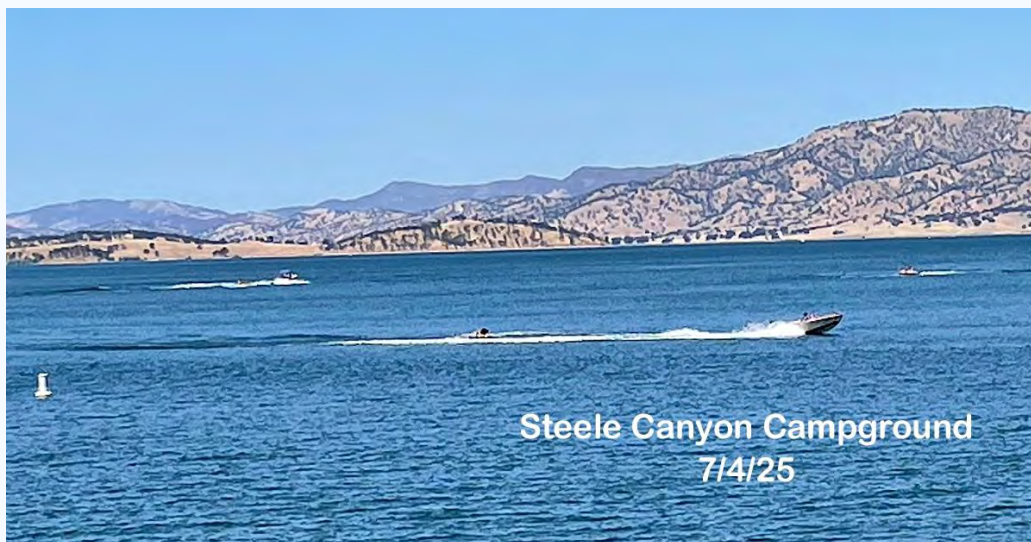




Steele Canyon Campground
7/4/25



Steele Canyon Campground
7/4/25



United State Founding Documents (plus one)

For your reference. Most of us have read them at least once.
But modern politics shows that not many folks understand them.

[Declaration of Independence](#)

[US Constitution](#)

[Bill of Rights](#)

(First 10 Amenedments to the Constitution)

[Amendments to the US Constitution](#)

(There are 27!)

[Economic Bill of Rights, 1944](#)



National Survey Finds Just 1 in 3 Americans Would Pass U.S. Citizenship Test

We may have a lot of "Immigrants", but we have many more native-born "Ignorants".

Only one in three Americans (36 percent) can actually pass a multiple choice test consisting of items taken from the U.S. Citizenship Test, which has a passing score of 60, according to a national survey. Only 13 percent of those surveyed knew when the U.S. Constitution was ratified, even on a multiple-choice exam similar to the citizenship exam, with most incorrectly thinking it occurred in 1776. The United States Constitution was ratified in 1788. It was written in 1787, but it took until 1788 for the required number of states to approve it, with New Hampshire being the ninth state to ratify it on June 21, 1788. The Constitution officially went into effect once nine states ratified it.

More than half of respondents (60 percent) didn't know which countries the United States fought in World War II. And despite the recent media spotlight on the U.S. Supreme Court, 57 percent of those surveyed did not know how many Justices actually serve on the nation's highest court. Seventy-two percent of respondents either incorrectly identified or were unsure of which states were part of the 13 original states;

Only 24 percent could correctly identify one thing Benjamin Franklin was famous for, with 37 percent believing he invented the lightbulb. Only 24 percent knew the correct answer as to why the colonists fought the British. Twelve percent incorrectly thought WWII General Dwight Eisenhower led troops in the Civil War. 6 percent thought he was a Vietnam War general. While most knew the cause of the Cold War, 2 percent said climate change.

Surprisingly, the poll found stark gaps in knowledge depending on age. Those 65 years and older scored the best, with 74 percent answering at least six in 10 questions correctly. For those under the age of 45, only 19 percent passed with the exam, with 81 percent scoring a 59 percent or lower. And the Department of Education is being shut down!

Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test

There are 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test in this link: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources/study-for-the-test/100-civics-questions-and-answers-with-mp3-audio-english-version>.

The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test. Here are the first 20 questions with acceptable answers. How many could you have gotten right?

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
the Constitution

2. What does the Constitution do?
sets up the government
defines the government
protects basic rights of Americans

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
We the People

4. What is an amendment?
a change (to the Constitution)
an addition (to the Constitution)

5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
the Bill of Rights

6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
speech
religion
assembly
press
petition the government

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
twenty-seven (27)

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
announced our independence (from Great Britain)
declared our independence (from Great Britain)
said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

life
liberty
pursuit of happiness

10. What is freedom of religion?

You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

11. What is the economic system in the United States?

capitalist economy

market economy

12. What is the “rule of law”?

Everyone must follow the law.

Leaders must obey the law.

Government must obey the law.

No one is above the law.

13. Name one branch or part of the government.

Congress

legislative

President

executive

the courts

judicial

14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

checks and balances

separation of powers

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

the President

16. Who makes federal laws?

Congress

Senate and House (of Representatives)

(U.S. or national) legislature

17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

the Senate and House (of Representatives)

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

one hundred (100)

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

six (6)

20. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?

Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]



United States Flag Code: Public Law 94-344

The Federal Flag Code, contains rules for handling and displaying the U.S. flag. The US Flag Code outlines rules for respecting the American flag, and violations generally involve improper display or use of the flag. Common violations include using the flag as clothing, bedding, or drapery, displaying it in a way that could cause damage, or using it for advertising purposes. While there are no federal penalties for most violations, the code emphasizes proper respect and etiquette for the flag. However, recent political controversies have led to the desecration of our flag with versions of political statements imprinted on it. They violate this section of the code: (g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

United States Flag Code
Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1
§ 8. Respect for flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- (a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- (b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- (c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- (d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.
- (e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- (f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- (g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

- (h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- (i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkin or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- (j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- (k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony)

I used the following image because it was colorful and happy. It does include two errors (?). One is an obvious violation of the flag code above. The other is the inclusion of a familiar building that does not reside in the United States. (Hint: The illustration is from a website titled Celebrate 4th of July: Exploring American English & Culture)



July 2025 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): You will be shocked to learn that, due to a legal fluke, your long-term houseguest is now your common-law wife.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): True self-reflection can be painful, but it's important not to look away from that photo of your hair from behind.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): You really shouldn't have done that...That's unfortunately as specific as the stars can be.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Your marriage will soon erode to the point where you'll be sorely tempted to turn her in for the reward money.

Leo (7/23-8/22): If there is more to life than fishing, you don't want to know what it is. This will help explain your death from malnutrition and dehydration next week.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Remember: Always be thankful for all you have. And vengeful for all you've lost.

Libra (9/23-10/22): This month might bring more funerals than weddings, but keep in mind that they can both be fantastic Herbalife networking opportunities.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Your uniqueness as a human being is threatened when you find a person who enjoys ham just as much as you do.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): A true friend will thank you for speaking your mind, but everyone else in the movie theater actively hates you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Sorry, but this horoscope isn't from the stars. It's from the law firm of Duchler, Hann & Associates. Capricorn—you've been served.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): After 14 long years, you will be admitted to the Baseball Hall Of Fame when you finally come up with the \$11.50 admission price.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Treat every day like it's your last—especially this one. Not for any particular reason...Seriously, everything's fine. You're being paranoid.

The English Language Is Hard To Learn: Can We Hit The Nail With Our Head?

English is considered a difficult language to learn to read and speak. At least it uses the same letters as many languages. Can you imagine learning Japanese where Hello = Kon'nichiwa = □□□□; or Thai - Hello = Sŋāsdī = สวัสดี; or Russian - Hello = privet = привет!

One of the most difficult part of learning any language is becoming familiar with its idioms. An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning that's different from the literal meanings of the words in the phrase. They are second nature for us since we grew up absorbing English idioms from our environment.

They're an important part of English and often come from history or culture. These special phrases can be hard for non-native speakers, but they're very useful for natural communication. Learning these expressions will help non-English speaking folks communicate more naturally and understand English-speaking cultures more.

Here are 30 useful English idiomatic expressions, their meanings and examples of how to use them. See how easy it is for us to use them without "blinking an eye". Now slow down and consider what they mean to a someone learning English for the first time.

"Break the ice" Meaning: To start a conversation or make people feel more comfortable.
Example: "To break the ice at the party, I said hello to the person next to me."

"Cut corners" Meaning: To do something in the easiest or cheapest way, often badly.
Example: "The company cut corners on safety to save money, which caused problems."

"Hit the nail on the head" Meaning: To describe something exactly right. Example: "You've hit the nail on the head with your idea about the problem."

"Piece of cake" Meaning: Something very easy to do. Example: "The test was a piece of cake; I finished it very quickly."

"Cost an arm and a leg" Meaning: To be very expensive Example: "That new phone costs an arm and a leg; I can't buy it now."

"Bite off more than you can chew" Meaning: To try to do more than you can manage.
Example: "By agreeing to do two big projects at once, I bit off more than I could chew."

"Beat around the bush" Meaning: To avoid talking about what's important. Example: "Please stop beating around the bush and tell me what happened."

"Cry over spilled milk" Meaning: To be upset about something that has already happened and can't be changed. Example: "Don't cry over spilled milk; let's focus on fixing the problem."

"Get your act together" Meaning: To organize yourself and improve your behavior.
Example: "You need to get your act together if you want to pass this class."

"Kill two birds with one stone" Meaning: To solve two problems with one action. Example: "By walking to work, I kill two birds with one stone: I save money and get exercise."

"Let the cat out of the bag" Meaning: To reveal a secret by mistake. Example: "I let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party when I asked her what cake she likes."

"Pull someone's leg" Meaning: To joke with someone by telling them something that isn't true. Example: "Don't worry, I'm just pulling your leg; I didn't really sell your bike."

"Burn the midnight oil" Meaning: To work late into the night. Example: "I've been burning the midnight oil to finish this project before the deadline."

"Bite the bullet" Meaning: To do something difficult or unpleasant that you have been avoiding. Example: "I finally bit the bullet and went to the dentist after waiting for months."

"Break a leg" Meaning: A way of wishing someone good luck, especially before a performance. Example: "You're going to do great in the play tonight. Break a leg!"

"Call it a day" Meaning: To stop working on something. Example: "We've done a lot of work on the report. Let's call it a day and continue tomorrow."

"Steal someone's thunder" Meaning: To take attention away from someone else's achievement. Example: "I was about to share my good news, but my sister stole my thunder by announcing her engagement."

“The ball is in your court” Meaning: It’s your turn to take action or make a decision.
Example: “I’ve made my offer; now the ball is in your court to decide.”

“Throw in the towel” Meaning: To give up. Example: “After trying for hours to fix the computer, I threw in the towel and called an expert.”

“Under the weather” Meaning: Feeling slightly ill. Example: “I’m feeling a bit under the weather today; I might stay home and rest.”

“Speak of the devil” Meaning: Said when someone appears just as you’re talking about them. Example: “Speak of the devil! We were just talking about you when you walked in.”

“Once in a blue moon” Meaning: Very rarely. Example: “I only eat fast food once in a blue moon; I usually cook at home.”

“Catch someone red-handed” Meaning: To catch someone while they are doing something wrong. Example: “The teacher caught the student red-handed trying to cheat on the test.”

“Barking up the wrong tree” Meaning: To look for something in the wrong place or to blame the wrong person. Example: “If you think I took your book, you’re barking up the wrong tree. I haven’t seen it.”

“Jump on the bandwagon” Meaning: To join an activity that has become popular. Example: “When healthy eating became popular, many people jumped on the bandwagon.”

“Like two peas in a pod” Meaning: Very similar or close. Example: “Those best friends are like two peas in a pod; they do everything together.”

“Ten a penny” Meaning: Very common and not special or valuable. Example: “Empty promises are ten a penny; I need to see real actions.”

“Go the extra mile” Meaning: To make an extra effort. Example: “Our teachers always go the extra mile to help students understand difficult topics.”

“Straight from the horse’s mouth” Meaning: Information from the person who knows best. Example: “I heard about the university’s new policy straight from the horse’s mouth – the vice-chancellor told us herself.”

“Take with a pinch of salt” Meaning: To not completely believe something. Example: “You should take his stories with a pinch of salt; he often exaggerates.”

How to Avoid Mixing Your Metaphors

It's not rocket surgery.
First, get all your ducks on the same page.
After all, you can't make an omelette
without breaking stride.

Be sure to watch what you write
with a fine-tuned comb.
Check and re-check until the cows turn blue.
It's as easy as falling off a piece of cake.

Don't worry about opening up
a whole hill of beans:
you can burn that bridge when you come to it,
if you follow where I'm coming from.

Concentrate! Keep your door closed
and your enemies closer.
Finally, don't take the moral high horse:
if the metaphor fits, walk a mile in it.

July 2025 Headlines

BREAKING: The White House was evacuated today after a suspicious package arrived. It turned out to be a copy of the U.S. Constitution, which none of them had seen before.

RFK Jr.: Vaccines No More Effective Than Drinking Horseshoe Crab Blood Straight

Driving Surges In Popularity Thanks To 'F1' Film

Area Man On Minimum Wage Supports Tax Cuts For Billionaires Because Fox News Told Him To

Supreme Court Postpones Further Rulings, Needs More Ink For Rubber Stamp

Canada Debates If Immigrants From The US Should Be Given Refugee Status

CEOs To Declare Their Bonuses As Tips To Avoid Taxes

Jeff Bezos Shares It Was Stressful Deciding Which Islands To Buy For Honeymoon

Grand Canyon Sick Of People Thinking God Built It

Corvette-Driving Bakery Owner Refuses To Make Ferrari Birthday Cake

Heartless Dad Actually Turns Car Right Around

Vending Machine Can't Believe People Buy This Junk Either

Aging Grandfather Clock Telling Same Time Again And Again

Politicians Totally Outraged By Bill They Did Not Read And Voted For

A.I. Names Chinese Restaurant 'Lucky Sky Moon Palace Opium Pipe' To See If Anyone Paying Attention


POTUS Signs An Executive Order To Replace The "Department Of Education" With The "Department Of Gullibility," Promises To Make America Gullible Again (MAGA)


Beautiful Library Behind Clara In Zoom Meeting Fooling No One

Congress Passes Historic "No Taxes On Insider Stock Tips"

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Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.
This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,
Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdms, 2 bath
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ICON PROPERTIES

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<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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APN# 019-452-004 - .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
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1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 - .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

611 Noah Court

APN# 019-422-012 - .33+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$49,500
Flat then downslope

#17 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-590-017 - 60.69 +/- Acres
Offered at \$350,000

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 - .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$35,000
Corner Lot

1187 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-024-000 - .34+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$16,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1183 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-023-000 - .35+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$16,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 - .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

1084 Eastridge Drive

APN# 019-504-005-000 - .25+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$60,000
Flat Corner Lot

1016 Overland Drive

APN# 019-402-019-000 - .23+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$39,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 - .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$43,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 - .33 +- Acre
Offered at \$85,000

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-332-003-000 - .59 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$25,000
Upslope Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 - .28+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Flat Then Downslope

1075 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-4362-025-000 - .42+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$99,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 - .23 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

231 Mulford Drive

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Stunning outdoor spaces
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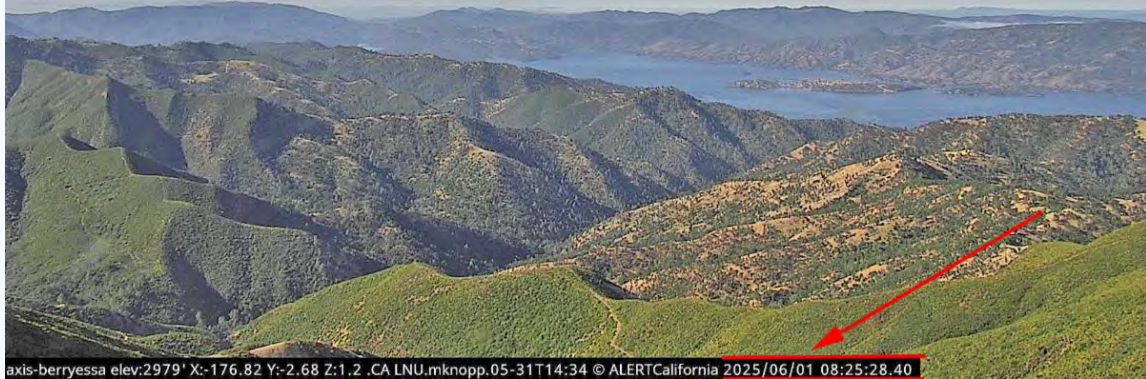
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[Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras](#)

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

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

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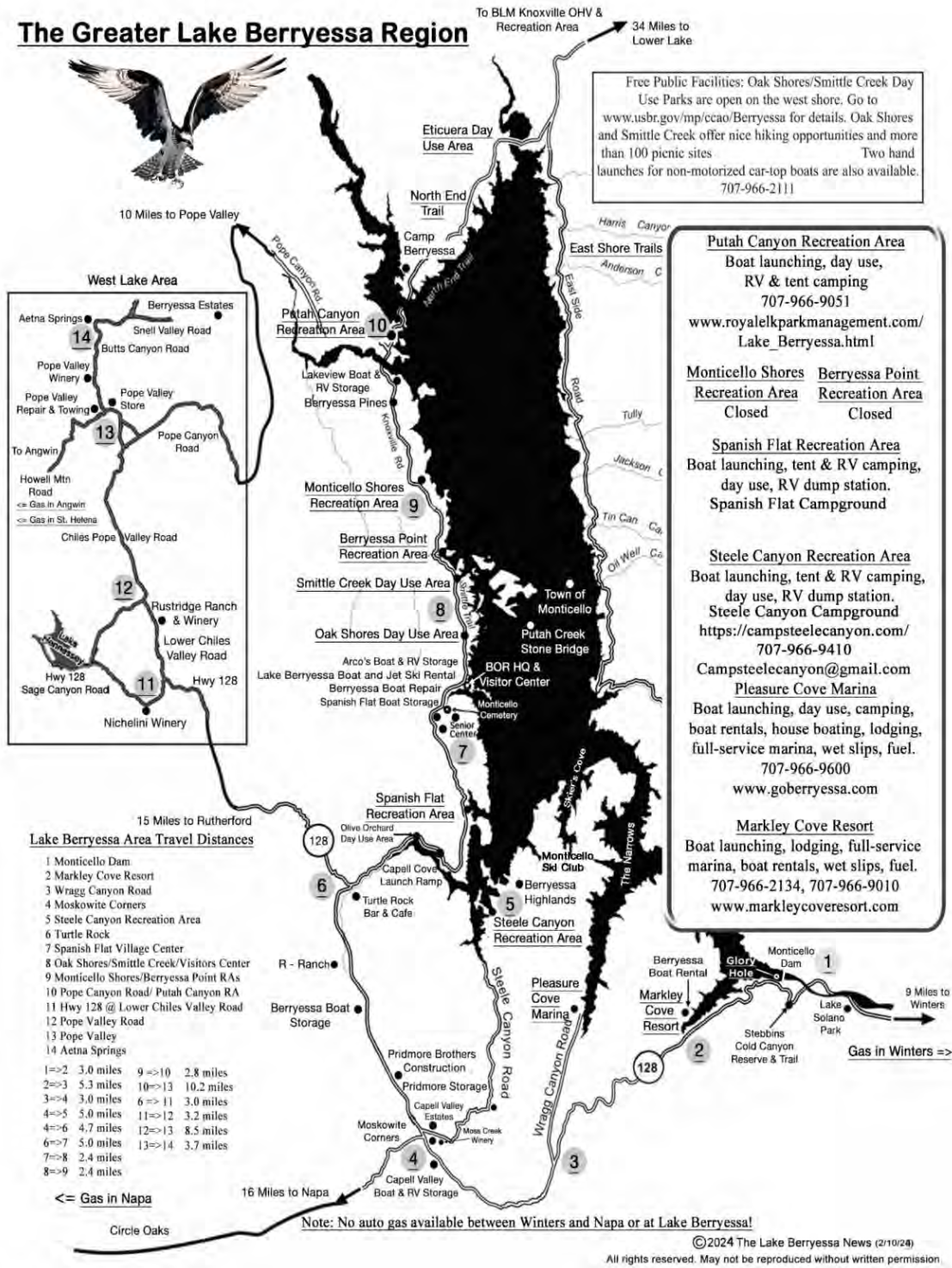


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News

July 13, 2025

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

By Peter Kilkus

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 Park view, but now it was from a brand new restaurant at the Camp Margaritaville Resort!

A Shakespearean tragedy is defined as a dramatic work in which the main character is brought to ruin or suffers extreme sorrow, often involving a heroic struggle, especially as a consequence of an admirable but flawed character or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances.

This describes decades of struggle between the Bureau of Reclamation on one side and previous resort owners in cooperation with Task Fore 7 at Lake Berryessa, mobile home owners, local businesses and residents on the other. Reclamation won that struggle and the tragic results are obvious.

A Shakespearean comedy is defined as a dramatic work that is light and often humorous or satirical in tone with a happy or cheerful ending in which the central motif is the triumph over adverse circumstances, resulting in a successful conclusion.

This hopefully describes the present Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program being managed by Napa County for rebuilding Lake Berryessa to a superior state of recreational elegance. But that won't happen without strong management and the support of all parties involved. Unfortunately, there will always be some obstacles to overcome, even in a comedy with a happy ending. The important thing is the happy ending!

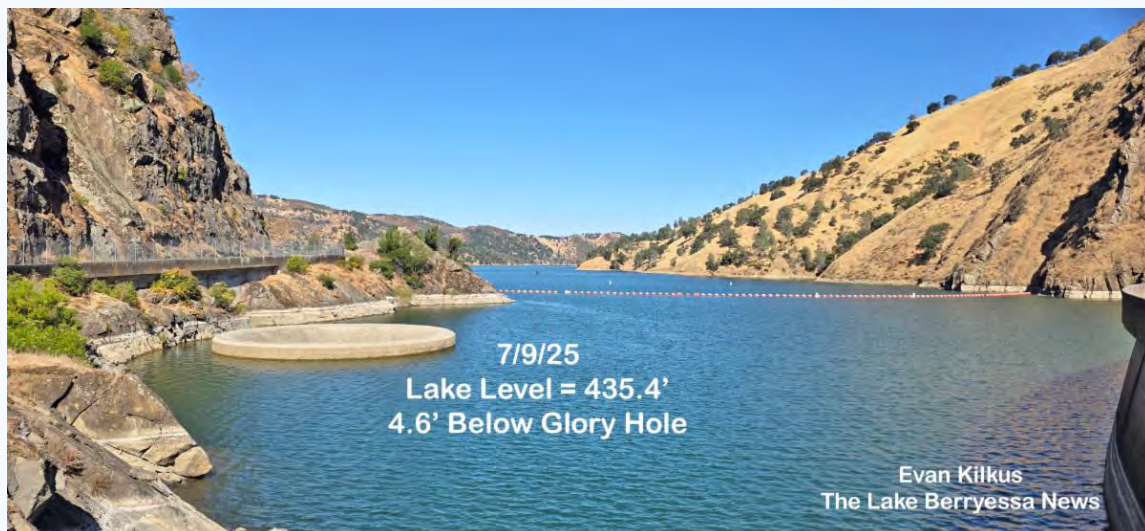
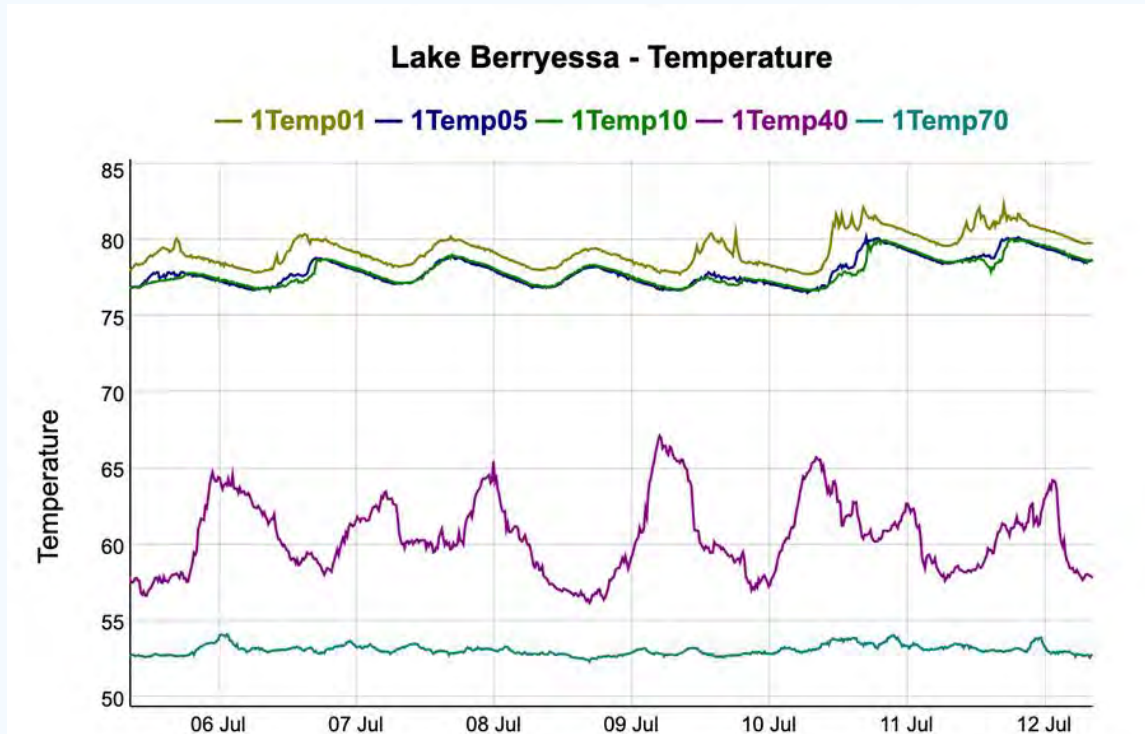
Lake Berryessa Statistics (7/13/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 435.2 feet, 4.8 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 94%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

The new rainfall year started on July 1 at 0 inches.



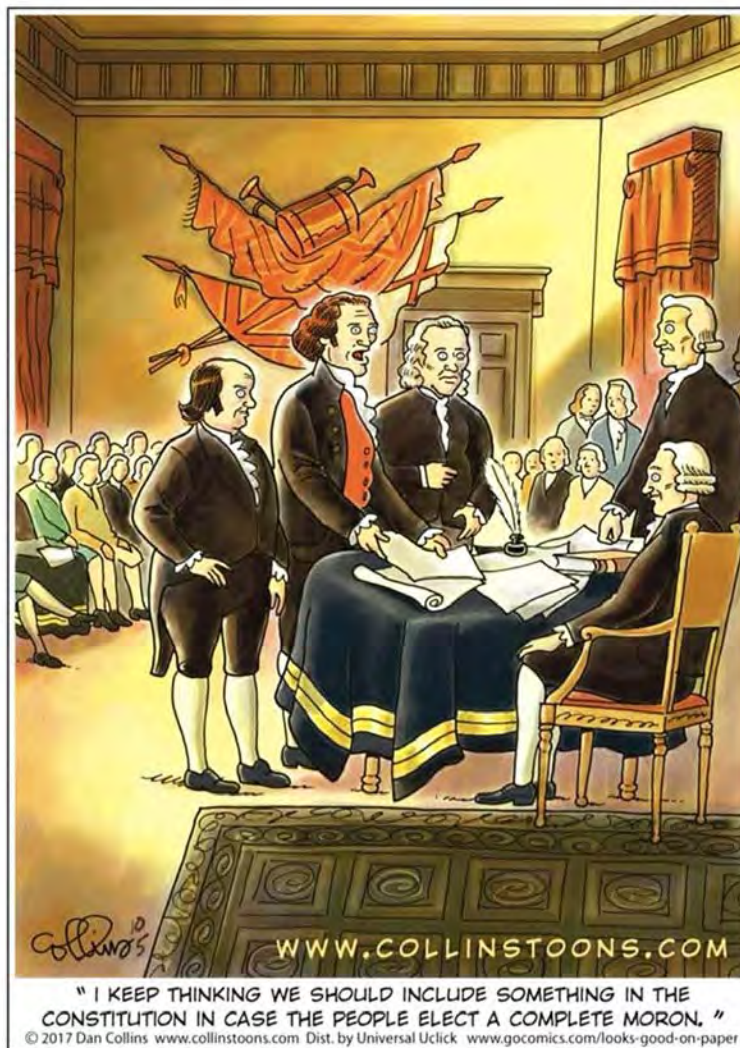


Hanlon's Razor

In philosophy, a razor is a principle or rule of thumb that allows one to eliminate (shave off) unlikely explanations for a phenomenon, or avoid unnecessary actions. Most people are familiar with Occam's Razor. Occam's razor, or the principle of parsimony, tells us that the simplest, most elegant explanation is usually the one closest to the truth.

Hanlon's razor is a philosophical razor stating, "Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity." It suggests that when considering the reasons behind someone's actions, one should prioritize incompetence, ignorance, or accident over deliberate malevolent intent.

While Occam's razor focuses on simplicity in general, Hanlon's razor specifically targets the assumption of malice.



This Bud's for you (and from you), Lake Berryessa!

By Peter Kilkus

Lake Berryessa Means Clean Water

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 (and still do try) to promote the concept that the resorts had polluted the lake.

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."

[Policy and Politics Betray the People: The Lake Berryessa Saga: 1958 - 2020](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?

They were so successful, with the help of local elitist, psuedo-environmental exclusionist 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!

Despite "The Big Lie" still parroted by opponents to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program, now managed by Napa County, Lake Berryessa has always been the cleanest lake in California. That's why the Budweiser plant in Fairfield only uses Lake Berryessa water in its brewing process. Anheuser Busch wrote a letter during that period supporting their long-standing scientific analysis that Lake Berryessa water was pure - contradicting the pollution story.

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.

Reliable water is rare in California and one of the most important elements in many manufacturing, food processing and biotechnology companies. When Anheuser-Busch was looking for a West Coast home for its Budweiser distilling vats, it tested the water in Solano County and stipulated that it would move to Fairfield if the city could guarantee to provide only Lake Berryessa water. Decades later, the Fairfield brewery uses more than 1,500 acre-feet of Lake Berryessa water per year to brew more than 4 million barrels of beer annually.

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.

I attended a meeting of all the Solano County water quality managers a few years ago who again confirmed the fact that Lake Berryessa water meets all drinking water quality standards. There had been an alert after the Markley Cove 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 was 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's 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.

Recently the City of Fairfield released its annual water quality report which once again

proves that Lake Berryessa is not now, nor ever has been, a source of water pollution.

[https://www.fairfield.ca.gov/government/city-departments/public-works/water-division/water-reports-plans#/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=water-reports-plans](https://www.fairfield.ca.gov/government/city-departments/public-works/water-division/water-reports-plans#/)

"The City of Fairfield proudly announces the release of its 2024 Consumer Confidence Report, providing transparency on the quality of your tap water. Our water meets or exceeds all State Water Resources Control Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Where Your Water Comes From: Lake Berryessa and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Our water is treated at the Waterman and North Bay Regional water treatment plants, ensuring it is safe and clean for you and your family."

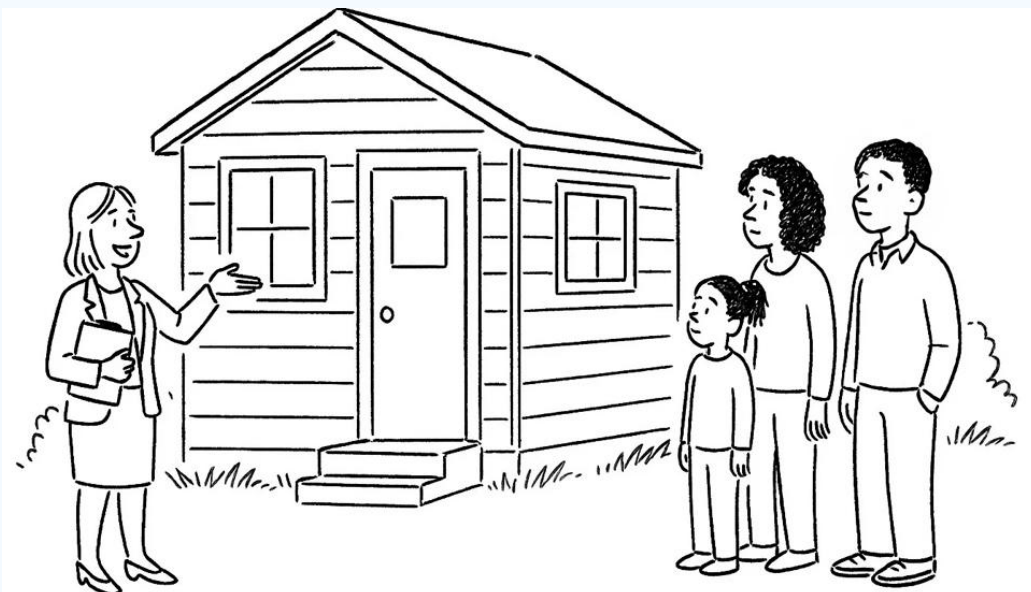
Affordable Housing in Napa County?

In another excellent analysis, Tim Carl in Napa Valley Features (The Lake Berryessa News is a subscriber.) examined the region's economic slowdown in "Under the Hood: More Signs Napa's Economy Is Stalling."

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/under-the-hood-more-signs-napas-economy?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

He outlined three key shifts - weakening real estate returns, flatlining job growth and declining consumer resilience - that suggest a structural, not cyclical, downturn. Carl reported that Napa's home prices now far exceed local earnings, job creation in hospitality has stalled below pre-pandemic projections and visitor spending in tasting rooms is falling. He argued that relying on tourism and speculative real estate is no longer sustainable, urging a pivot toward stable, well-paying jobs to secure the region's future.

Editors note: Napa County seems to have missed the opportunity to attract high tech industries that Marin County and Sonoma County both excelled at recruiting. That's one reason that American Canyon is considered the "bedroom community" (workforce housing) for Marin and Sonoma County businesses.



"And this unit qualifies as affordable if you make six figures and never eat out."

Napa Valley Features Illustration

Whose Rights Are Really Right?

I received many positive comments about my 4th of July newsletter in which I included Franklin D. Roosevelt's Economic Bill of Rights. Roosevelt had successfully led the country through the Great Depression and the Second World War. His administration created the critical Social Security safety net for the country in response to the events of those dark years.

In general, liberal and conservative approaches to economics differ significantly regarding the role of government, taxation, and social safety nets. Liberals generally favor government intervention to address social and economic inequality, while conservatives tend to prefer limited government intervention and free markets.

The only negative comment came from George Bachich of Napa whom I regard as a thoughtful, principled conservative. He specifically criticized the Economic Bill of rights.

Although The Lake Berryessa News does not usually write about politics, except as it relates to the future of the Lake Berryessa region, I thought our readers would be interested in George's comments, with which I disagree, as illustrative of a conservative world view in opposition to the seemingly benign propositions in the Economic Bill of Rights.

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.

As our nation has grown in size and stature, however as our industrial economy expanded — these political rights proved inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness.

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.

All of these rights spell security. And after this war is won we must be prepared to move forward, in the implementation of these rights, to new goals of human happiness and well-being.

America's own rightful place in the world depends in large part upon how fully these and similar rights have been carried into practice for our citizens.

An Alternate View from George Bachich

The only problem with the economic bill of rights is that they are rights to products, services, or subsidies that someone else has to provide. Those "positive rights" amount to a claim on the property and service of others, willing or not. Using the force of law to impose those duties and burdens on the unwilling is the opposite of freedom. It is tyranny and a form of slavery.

The economic bill of rights could be rewritten in a way that honors the goals implicit in each of the rights without imposing mandatory burdens on others, simply by not guaranteeing the result. Such rephrasing would guarantee the right to compete for each of those resources on a level playing field, free of discrimination.

For instance, instead of a right to a job, one should have a right to compete for jobs without facing any kind of racial, ethnic, sexual or religious discrimination. The alternative, guaranteeing a job, forces some employer to hire someone who does not possess the experience, talent, skills, or abilities the employer needs, which is an unreasonable and unfair burden to impose.

Each of the rights in the economic bill of rights suffers from the same kind of defect, and

guaranteeing any of those rights would result in the same kind of injustice. The road to socialist utopias guaranteeing these rights is paved with the blood of dissidents and the world is littered with the failed remnants of societies that tried these schemes and failed. To date, they have succeeded only in establishing totalitarian governments as required to impose the burdens of guaranteeing those rights, and in making nearly everyone equally miserable and poor rather than equally happy and prosperous.

The economic bill of rights as written is a trap. It promises everything for nothing, but can only end up sacrificing everything for nothing. I hate to see this garbage displayed alongside the truly great founding documents of our country.

Editor's Note: In the months prior to the July 1940 Democratic National Convention, there was much speculation as to whether Roosevelt would run for an unprecedented third term. The two-term tradition, although not yet enshrined in the Constitution, had been established by George Washington when he refused to run for a third term in 1796.

Below is an election flyer from the "good ole days". Today the rich in the U.S. (as in most other developed countries) have trained the middle & working classes to hate the poor because "they get too much free stuff".

Don't Be Fooled by Figures

I. SPENDING UNDER REPUBLICANS

Under Hoover the national debt rose 3½ billion (net). In the last 2¼ years the gross debt increased nearly 5 billions. **Yearly Deficits Were 59 Per Cent of Expenditures in 1932; 46 Per Cent in 1933.**

WHAT DID PRESIDENT HOOVER BUY?

A six-billion-dollar loss in farm income, bank failures, foreclosed homes, shut-down factories, government bonds at low levels, national panic. The depression was bought and the people sold.

**Our Yearly National Income Dropped 40 Billion
Our Federal Revenues Fell 2 Billion**

THIS WAS REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY

II. SPENDING UNDER DEMOCRATS

Under President Roosevelt the gross national debt has increased about thirteen billion (including the 2 billion bonus). Against this, however, the Government has 2 billion in gold profit, a 2 billion increase in the General Treasury Fund, and another 2 billion investment in bank stocks, loans and other repayable assets so that the *net* increase is cut down to 7 billion. It costs less to carry this heavier debt because easier credit and able treasury financing have saved approximately 1 per cent in interest rates.

Yearly Deficits Were 56 Per Cent of Expenditures in 1934; 48 Per Cent in 1935

WHAT HAS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT BOUGHT?

A 1935 gross farm income of over 8 billion—a 2.8 billion rise since 1932.

Reemployment of 5 million workers. A payroll gain of 59 per cent since 1933.

The highest volume of industrial production since 1930.

Less than 50 bank failures in 1935 compared with more than 1,400 in 1932.

1936 dividends at a 5-year peak.

Government bonds at their top prices, the best test of treasury soundness.

**Our National Income, as Estimated for 1936, Will Have Grown Some 21 Billion in 4 Years
Federal Revenues Are Running More Than Double the Receipts in 1933**

THIS IS DEMOCRATIC PROSPERITY

III. BALANCING THE BUDGET

When President Roosevelt took office he faced a grave national crisis. He could stand on his platform and cut expenditures. Or he could draw heavily on government funds to feed the starving and aid banks and business. He chose the latter course as *the only road to recovery*. If the Government could shoulder a war debt of 25 billion to save Europe, President Roosevelt felt that it must use its credit even more freely to save its suffering people in a national catastrophe. Had government help come sooner and on a more adequate scale, it would have taken less spending and lending to stop the depression.

ORDINARY EXPENSES MET

In no fiscal year have the ordinary expenses of government under President Roosevelt exceeded revenues. Increases have been caused by farm aid, new construction and additions to regular recurring items such as veterans' benefits, pensions, national defense and the like.

EMERGENCIES BROUGHT RISE

RELIEF is the great human cost which has run

up government expenses. As good times return, this item is being lowered.

DECREASING THE DEFICIT

President Roosevelt's program calls for a steadily decreasing deficit each year. In 1935 the deficit was 400 million less than in 1934; had it not been for the soldiers' bonus and the loss of AAA taxes, the deficit would have declined again in the fiscal year 1936. For 1937 there will be a drop below 1936, as estimated by the Treasury, of over 3 billion (to \$2,675,700,000).

The gross national debt per capita was \$250 after the war. Today it is \$255 (including a bonus charge of over \$15 apiece). We reduced the debt then. We can do it again.

The First Step to Reduce NATIONAL Debt is to Lighten PERSONAL Debt

Follow **PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** *Forward*

Nestled in the beautiful Berryessa Pines Community

181 Berryessa Drive

<https://181berryessadr.com/>

\$469,000

Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.

This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,

Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdms, 2 bath

. property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.

The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.

New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck

offering stunning views of Lake Berryessa.

Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
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www.amberpayne.net

1300 Steele Canyon Road

<https://1300steelecanyonrd.com/>



1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$649,000

corcoran

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ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Discover your Private Lakeview Retreat on 10+ Acres

1081 Steele Canyon Road

<https://1081steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$895,000



Escape to your very own private oasis where comfort & breathtaking lake views await. This custom 2 story home offers an unparalleled living experience within the exclusive, gated community of Oakridge Estates. The expansive 10-acre property features a natural spring and well-appointed outdoor entertainment area, creating the ideal backdrop for hosting gatherings or simply soaking in the stunning surroundings. Gourmet kitchen, complete with a Viking stove and a center island. Living room with a woodstove adds warmth and ambiance, family room offers versatility with its own woodstove, bar area, and direct access to a backyard perfect for entertaining or unwinding. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes away. Nature lovers will delight in the easy access to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



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Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,195,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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Offered at \$47,000
Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

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APN# 019-331-008 - .47+- Acre Lot
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APN# 019-452-004 - .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 - .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

611 Noah Court

APN# 019-422-012 - .33+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$49,500
Flat then downslope

#17 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-590-017 - 60.69 +/- Acres
Offered at \$350,000

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 - .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$35,000
Corner Lot

1187 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-024-000 - .34+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$16,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1183 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-023-000 - .35+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$16,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 - .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

1084 Eastridge Drive

APN# 019-504-005-000 - .25+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$60,000
Flat Corner Lot

1016 Overland Drive

APN# 019-402-019-000 - .23+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$39,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 - .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$43,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 - .33 +- Acre
Offered at \$85,000

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-332-003-000 - .59 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$25,000
Upslope Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 - .28+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Flat Then Downslope

1075 Rimrock Drive

APN# 019-4362-025-000 - .42+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$99,000
Flat Then Downslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 - .23 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

231 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-332-003-000 - .59 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$18,000

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>



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4 Bedroom 2.5 Bath, Lake View
Stunning outdoor spaces
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[Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras](#)

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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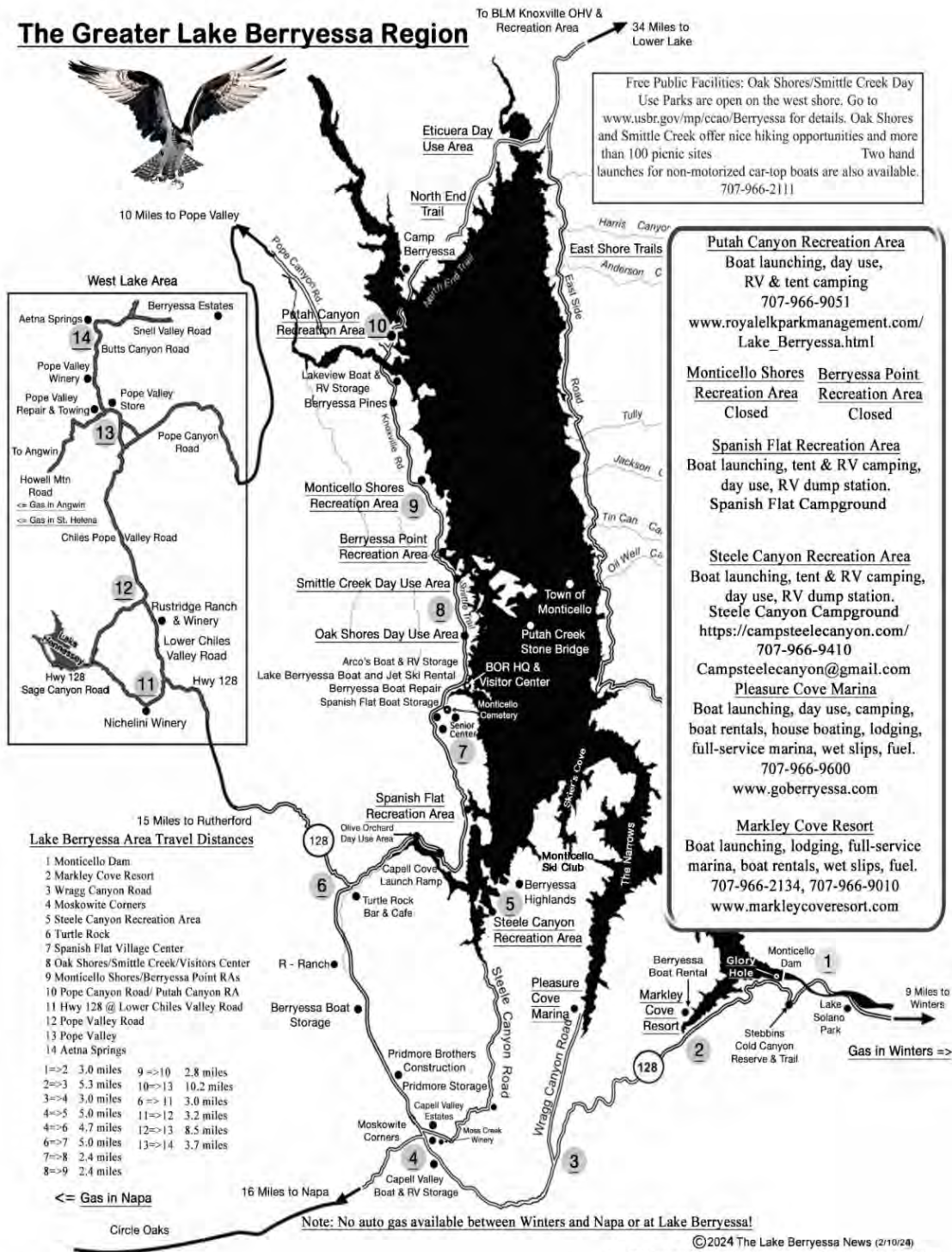


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News

July 26, 2025

Another "Happy Birthday" Rolls Around!

by Peter Kilkus

Friday, July 25th, was my 81st birthday! Not sure why turning 81 should elicit expressions of joy from family and friends, when I just think, "How did I get so old?" And I was reminded on a great boat ride Thursday with family and friends on a gorgeous day on Lake Berryessa that I was, sadly, not even one of that famous group called Baby Boomers.

"Senior Citizen" generally refers to individuals aged 60 and above. "Super Senior" is used to further categorize individuals, specifically those aged 80 and above. In the context of health and longevity studies, a "super senior" typically refers to individuals aged 85 years and older who have remained remarkably healthy, long-lived with no history of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, dementia, or major pulmonary disease. I would actually call these folks "Super Duper Seniors".

Personally, I consider those folks such as myself, "Miracle Seniors"! A "Miracle Baby" typically refers to a child born after overcoming significant pre-natal challenges or medical complications. The term emphasizes the unexpected and extraordinary nature of the baby's survival or birth, often evoking a sense of wonder and hope. "Miracle Seniors" are also imbued with that emphasis on the unexpected and extraordinary nature of our survival, often evoking a sense of wonder and hope!

A "Generation" is defined as all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively. It also is "the average period, generally considered to be about 20–30 years, during which children are born and grow up, become adults, and begin to have children".

"Generation" is also a synonym for birth/age cohort in demographics, marketing, and social science, where it means "people within a delineated population who experience the same significant events within a given period of time."

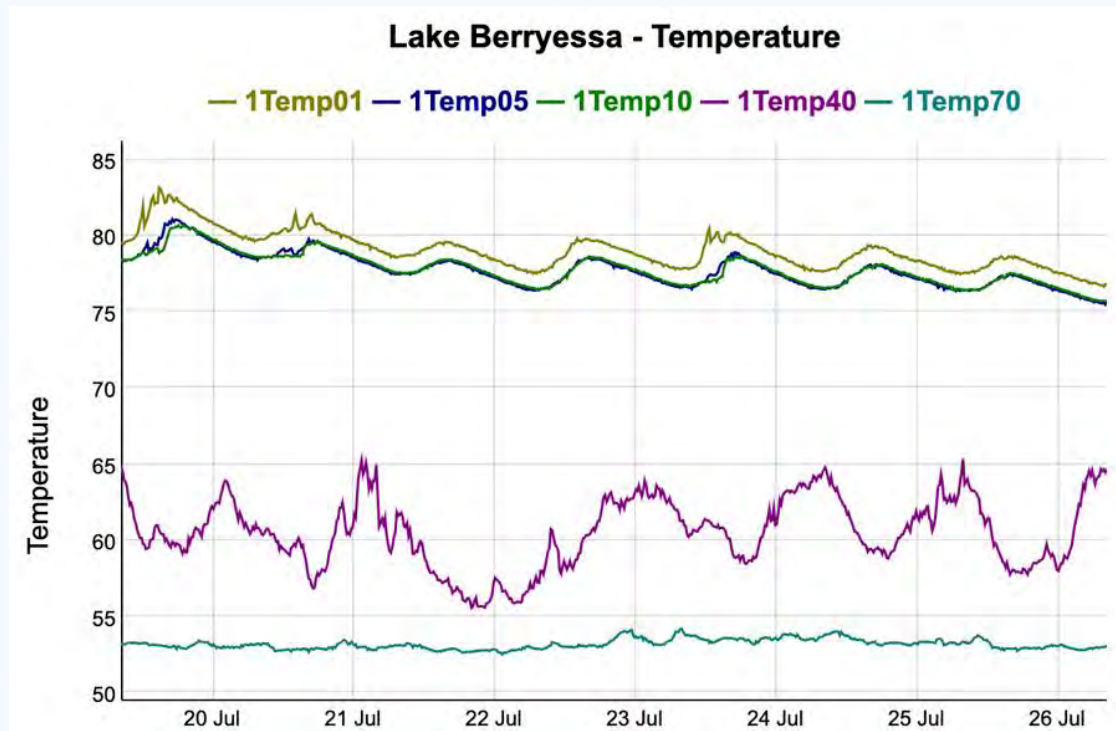
Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, are currently between 61 and 79 years old. In 2025, their ages range from 61 to 79. While they were once the largest generation, they are now outnumbered by Generation X (born 1965-1980) and Millennials (born 1981-1996), but remain a significant force in society due to their sheer numbers and economic influence (and inflated egos?).

Unfortunately, I happen to be a simple Post War (born 1928-1945) two years too early outlier - not famous at all (sigh).

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 434 feet, 6 feet below Glory Hole.

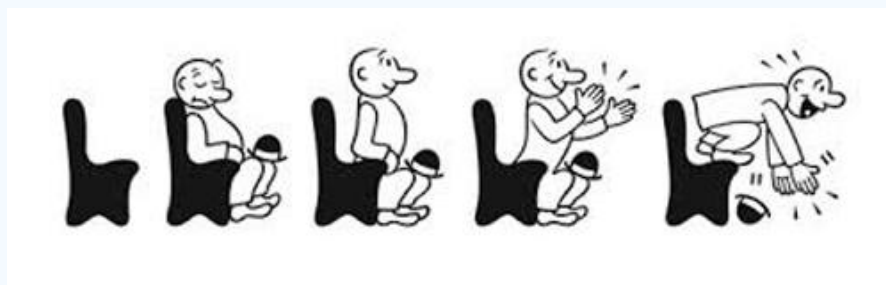
Lake capacity is at 93%


Lake surface temperature is 77 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.



Paul Franson: Napa's Big Little Man vs the SF Chronicle's Little Man

Decades ago, he was the most controversial, closely watched guy in show business. Or at least at The San Francisco Chronicle. He was feared, vilified and embraced. He had the power to make strong folks cry (mainly actors, directors and producers). He could wreck careers or launch them. He wields his life-or-death power without uttering a word. He is the Little Man. In official Chronicle-ese, the Little Man poses are called Wild Applause, Polite Applause, Alert Viewer, Snoozing Viewer and Empty Chair.




BILL GRAHAM PRESENTS

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE Fri. Sept. 8th HUMBLE PIE	AT WINTERLAND Fri. & Sat. Sept. 15th & 16th JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
Sun. Oct. 1st GEORGE CARLIN	Fri. & Sat. Sept. 22nd & 23rd QUICKSILVER
Mon., October 2nd CAT STEVENS TWO SHOWS — 6 & 9 P.M.	Sun. Sept. 24th PINK FLOYD
Sun. Oct. 22nd GORDON LIGHTFOOT	Fri. & Sat. Sept. 29th & 30th JOHN MAYALL ALBERT KING
Tues. Oct. 24th SAVOY BROWN	Fri. Oct. 12th T. REX POCO DOOBIE BROS.
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Sat. Sept. 9th HUMBLE PIE ELVIN BISHOP Tickets \$4.50 advance, \$5.50 at door	Sat. Oct. 14th BEAUTIFUL DAY POCO LIGHTHOUSE
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Sat. Sept. 23rd PINK FLOYD Tickets \$4.50 advance, \$5.50 at door	S.F. CIVIC AUD. Mon. Sept. 25th JOE COCKER

ALL SHOWS — 8:00 P.M.

Winterland Tickets \$4.00 in advance, \$4.50 at the door. Civic Aud. Tickets: \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.50, \$6.50. Berkeley Tickets: \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.50. Tickets are now on sale for all shows at Ticketron outlets including Downtown Center Box Office, Neil Thrall's Box Office at Breuners in Oakland, J&S Sears, Montgomery Ward, and Emporium stores. SSC service charge. For info call 693-2921.

Those of us of a certain age will remember when the Sunday Chronicle was one inch thick and took a whole morning over coffee to read. My favorite part was the Pink Section covering the whole range of entertainment news in the Bay Area. The Little Man was the primary arbiter of what was good and, maybe, not so good.

Napa County has its own weekly source of everything entertaining. Paul Franson is the Big Little Man of local journalism. He is not to be confused with Dustin Hoffman's character in Little Big Man, although he does have a passing resemblance to Hoffman. His publication reminds me of the "good ole days" of the Chronicle's Pink Section.



Paul is the publisher of: NapaLife: An Insider's Look at Napa Valley: "For those who live in Napa Valley – and those who wish they did." He is the source of everything in entertainment and more in Napa Valley. If you want to plan your entertainment week, you should consider subscribing. <https://www.napalife.org/>

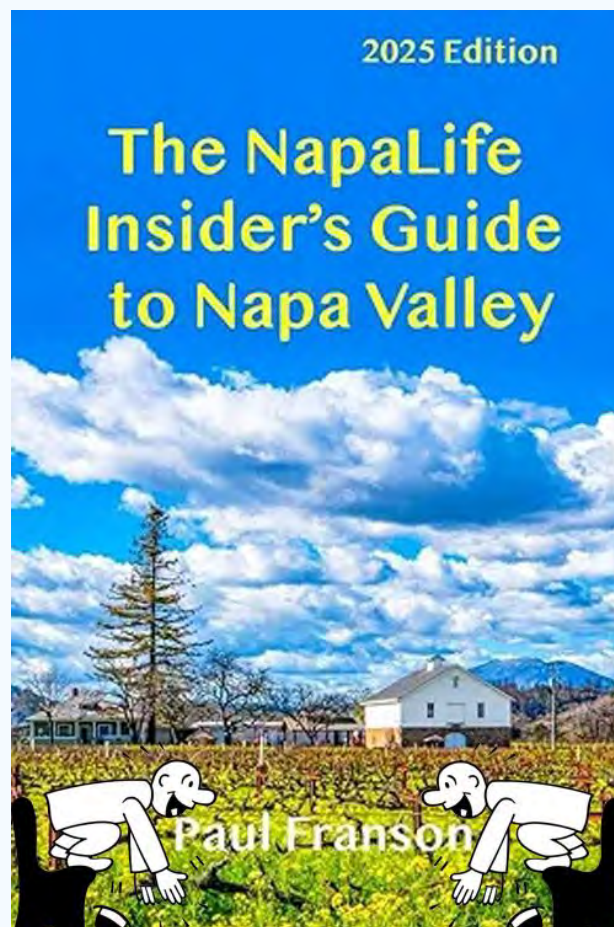
See a sample issue at: <https://www.napalife.org/7516.html>. The newsletter contents below are for just one week!

Monday, July 21, 2025: Dear NapaLife reader, here are some of the news and events in Napa Valley this week:

Palm Tree Music Festival Napa coming in October
Napa Free Folk Festival in August
Napa Valley News Group launches American Canyon Current
Napa Town & Country Fair announces local lineups
Tour de Vine Trail Passport Weekend
SoFi Battle of the Bands
Napa Valley Puppetry weekend
Arts Council announces Community Fund grant recipients
Shakespeare Stroll at di Rosa: A Midsummer Night's Dream
Valley Players present comedies and dramas
Pop-up art at Oxbow Public Market
Opening reception for Reid Yalom and Emil Yanos at Jessup
Napa Valley Writers' Conference public events
Sourdough & Co. is open
Good Pantry coming to Food City
Lil Sista's Goody's liquor license
Winston's Wok Chinese-American food
Calistoga Harvest Table tickets
Uncork local perks with Napa Neighbor program
NVC Estate Winery fall Friday Tastings
Festival Napa Valley Arts for All Gala raises record \$5 million

PGA Procore Championship returns to Silverado Resort
St. Helena community concert with Dustin Saylor
Locals night: Back pOrchEstra at Blue Note
Broadway and Vine with Alisan Porter
Sol Flamenco at Blue Note
The SteelDrivers at the Uptown Theatre
Napa County Farm Bureau Summer barbecue
Napa Friday Nights in the Park
Matt Schofield at the Blue Note
Marty Stuart at the Uptown Theatre
Yountville Summer Concert features Traveling Wilburys Revue
Chris Botti at Blue Note Summer Sessions
Ashley McBryde at the Uptown Theatre next Monday

Paul is another "Miracle Senior", a couple of years older than I. This year is the 20th anniversary of my role as publisher of The Lake Berryess News. Paul tops me in that his claim to fame is that he has been publishing NapaLife for more than 20 years and has never missed a Monday deadline for his newsletter! He has also written several books, available on Amazon.

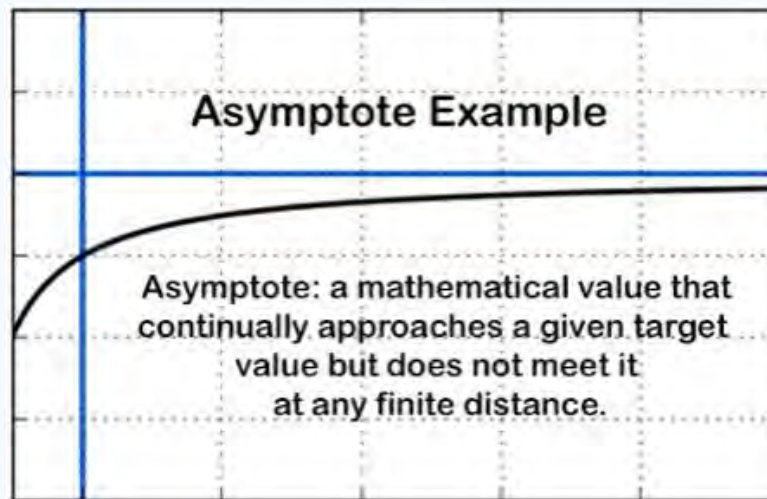


Quantum Theory of Aging

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

Einstein's Theory of Relativity is an important illustration of an Asymptote. 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 to you 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. $Z = 0.8$.

Your child will be 10 years old (Y) when you turn 30. Your child to parent ratio (Z) is now .67. 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 your child is catching up to you. I know it does for me.

But they never actually catch up - especially in intelligence!

<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>
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

Edible Perennials Provide Beauty and Bounty

By Aileen Carroll, UC Master Gardener of Napa County
Napa Valley Features

When most people picture a summer edible garden, they imagine raised beds overflowing with ripe tomatoes, bell peppers, juicy melons and, of course, an endless supply of zucchini. While there's nothing wrong with this classic image of abundance, you might consider a different approach — one that easily embraces beauty, longevity and low-maintenance deliciousness.

Instead of replanting annual vegetables every year, why not explore the world of edible perennials? These are plants that live on year after year, offering beauty and bounty without the need for constant reseeding or replanting. Even better, many of them double as ornamentals, making them as pleasing to the eye as they are to the palate.

If the idea of wandering out into your garden and enjoying a little snack any time of day sounds appealing, read on for some of the best edibles you can grow right here, thanks to Napa Valley's Mediterranean climate.

Fuchsia plants are beloved for their bright, pendulous flowers, but they also produce edible berries. Every flower has the potential to deliver a sweet, juicy fuchsia berry. If you enjoy the gentle flavor of violet, cucumber or pear, you're likely to appreciate the subtle taste of these berries, as well. The fruits range in color from light green to deep purple-black when fully ripe.

Another lesser-known edible is longevity spinach (*Gynura procumbens*). This tropical perennial is a vigorous, low-growing plant that can trail along the ground or climb a trellis with a bit of support. Its fleshy, mild-tasting leaves are traditionally used in herbal medicine to help manage blood-sugar levels and support overall wellness.

Scented geraniums (*Geranium* species) were all the rage during the Victorian era, and it's time to bring them back into fashion. Not to be confused with the common flowering "geraniums" that are actually from the genus *Pelargonium*, these scented varieties have leaves that smell like rose, lemon, orange, nutmeg and even apricot. Unusual varieties can be found at locally owned garden centers and even at our local farmers markets.

The leaves of scented geraniums make a delightful herbal tea. Just steep them in hot water or pop a few into a jar of cold water to make a fragrant "sun tea" that you can chill

and enjoy on a hot day. The leaves also lend their delicate flavors to baked goods, sugars and syrups. Plant them in an area where you can easily caress their leaves and release the scent, such as beside a garden gate or in a container on a patio.

Pineapple guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*) is a popular choice for evergreen hedges in the Napa Valley. Most people recognize its small green fruits, which taste like a mix of pineapple, mint and bubblegum. But few realize that the flower petals are also edible — and truly delicious. They have the sweet flavor and silky texture of marshmallows, making them a whimsical and tasty garden snack.

For those interested in herbal wellness, jiaogulan (*Gynostemma pentaphyllum*) is a must-grow. This beautiful, delicate vine resembles Boston ivy or Virginia creeper but is thankfully far less aggressive. Known as the “herb of immortality” in some cultures, jiaogulan is used to make a mild, slightly sweet tea that is said to promote longevity, energy and resilience.

If some of these plants sound a little too adventurous, you can still bring an edible element to your garden through flowers. Many common blooms have edible petals that can quickly elevate an appetizer plate, salad, cocktail or dessert.

Dianthus, calendula, bachelor buttons, agastache and English lavender are just a few examples. Not only are they gorgeous, but they also provide nectar for pollinators and a touch of whimsy to your meals.



"Satoyama Flower Tart" at FARO, Ginza:
a signature floral dessert by pastry chef Mineko Kato,
layered with up to 50 different edible flowers and herbs
as a tribute to Japan's satoyama countryside.
Tim Carl Photo



A visual guide to eight edible flowering plants commonly grown in Napa Valley gardens,
fuchsia, scented geranium, pineapple guava, dianthus,
calendula, bachelor buttons, agastache and English lavender
Napa Valley Features Graphic

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Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

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[Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras](#)

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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



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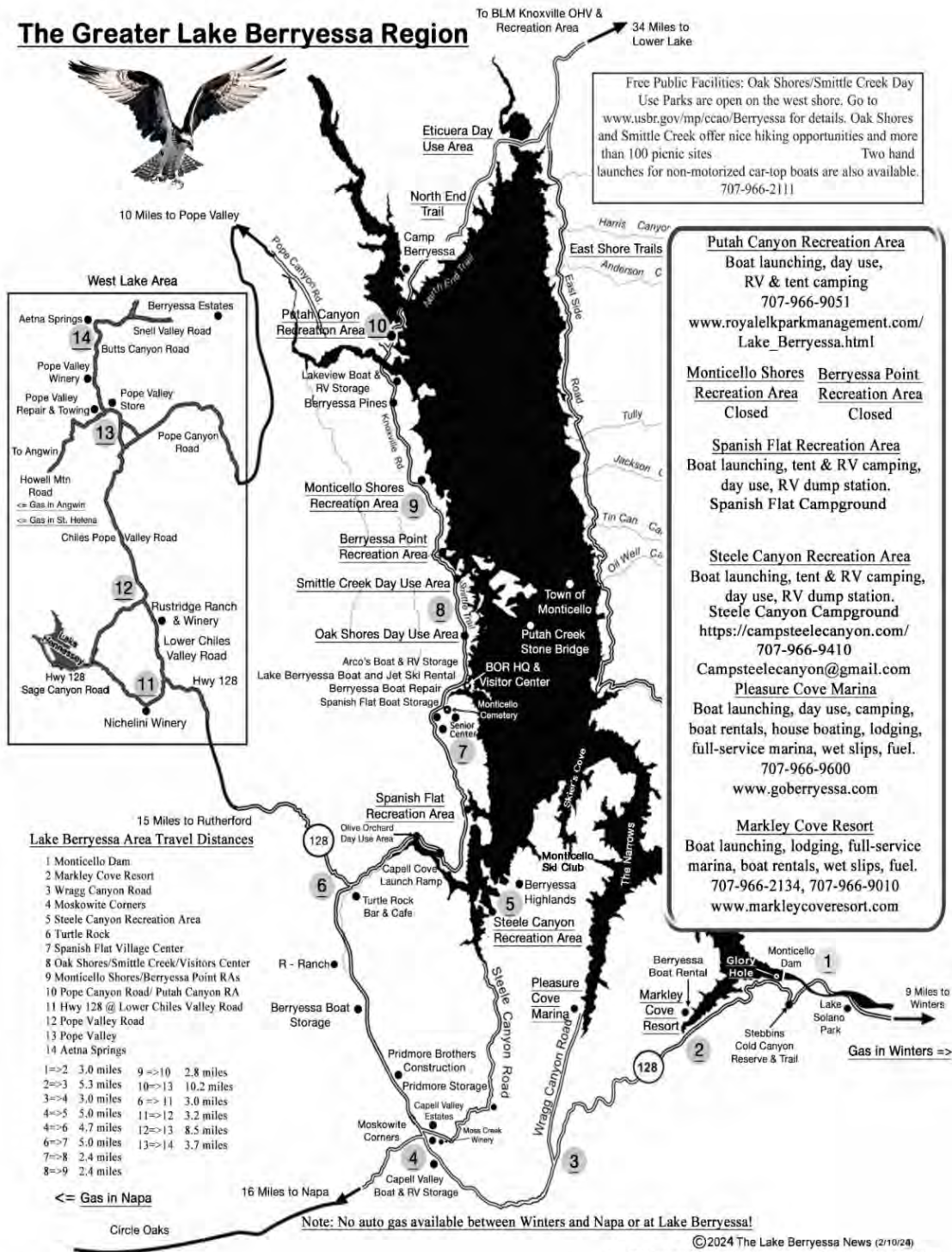


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News

August 17, 2025

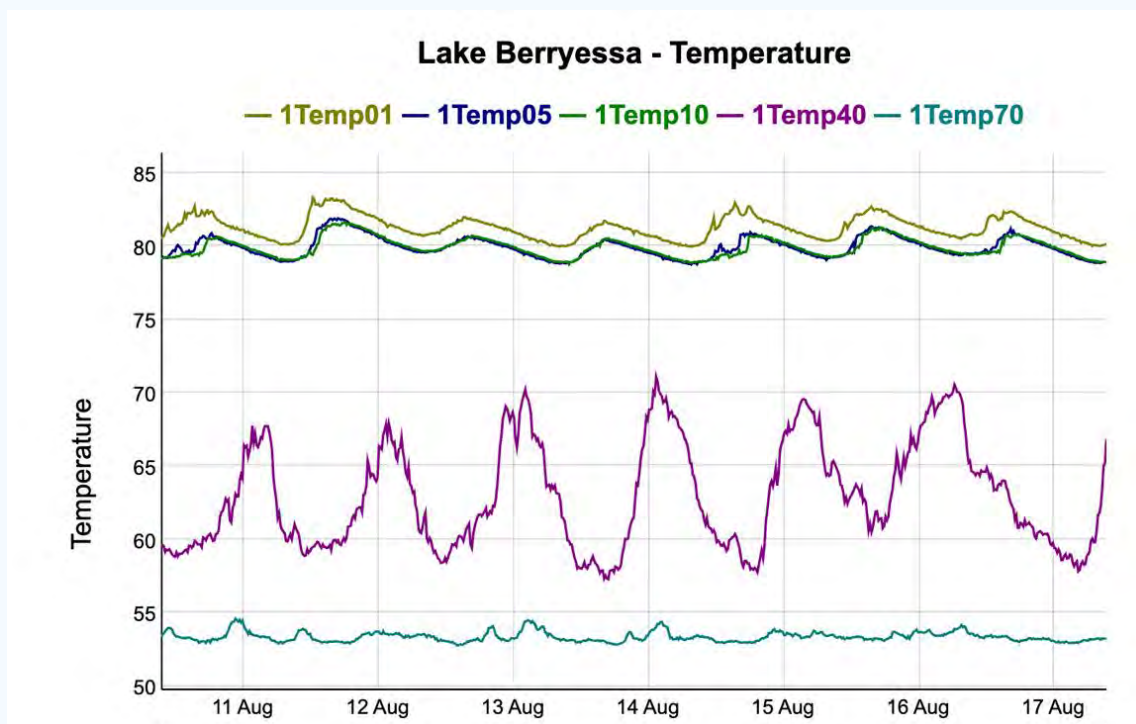
Summer is reaching an end, but Lake Berryessa is still in full swing. Come on out for a great time. The Lake Berryessa News spent a beautiful day on the lake Thursday in sunny 90 degree weather and 80 degree water!

Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/17/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 432.5 feet, 7.5 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 91.1%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.



The Joys of Country Living at Lake Berryessa

I've been hearing coyotes howling in the middle of the night for several weeks here at The Lake Berryessa News headquarters above the Berryessa Highlands. Sometimes they call to each other in the early morning in a valley just below my house. I often see them pacing arrogantly down my road. So why do we still have so many more squirrels and rabbits running around than usual? Local dogs become apprehensive when they here coyotes at night. At least we haven't been bothered by many yellowjackets since the last fire.

Coincidentally, Napa Valley Features (The Lake Berryessa News is a subscriber) just

published a very informative article about coyotes. (Slightly edited below.)

California's Cunning Coyotes

By Kathleen Scavone

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/i/170704329/californias-cunning-coyotes>

The sound of a pack of coyotes when the dark night sky hasn't yet given way to copper-colored sunrise is pure enchantment. Who hasn't heard the call of the wild and marveled at all that goes on in the twilight times? Don't you wonder what coyotes see in their nocturnal wanderings? What do all of those vocalizations, howls and yips mean?

According to the [Nature Conservancy's Cool Green Science](#) website, coyotes can vocalize in a variety of ways. A yip-howl is believed to allow coyotes to bond in their family's group. When coyotes howl and bark separately, they may be indicating agitation from finding the scent marks of other groups of coyotes, the scent of a dog or other intrusion onto their territory. It is believed that coyotes' howls contain sounds distinct to each individual and that they can recognize information conveyed in each other's howls, such as "all is well" or agitation that specifies intruders need to stay away.

Some indigenous groups are called coyote "song dogs" due to the barks and calls the animal makes. Various indigenous people have myths and stories in abundance about the cunning critters. Many Native American groups held Coyote as a prominent trickster character with its attributes of flaws and foibles held by many humans. The Wappo of Napa Valley, along with other California tribes such as Pomo, Yokut, Chumash, Karok, Maidu and many more told stories of their sacred character where Coyote was depicted with both creative and divine powers.

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), found across North America, can also be seen and heard in daylight hours. My husband watched one as it trotted by the field he was disking with his tractor, while those of us taking a Pepperwood Preserve hike sighted one in the grasslands as he was hunting for voles and mice. Coyotes play a significant role in the ecosystem and farmlands since they keep down agricultural pests such as mice and rabbits, which also keeps rodent-borne illnesses in check.

Coyotes are highly adaptable, making your chances of spotting one pretty good. Native to California, they are found throughout most of the state in varied terrestrial biomes, such as grasslands, deserts, forest, scrub, mountains and chaparral, where they consume rabbits, eggs, reptiles, rodents, plants and more. These intelligent and cunning creatures don't only thrive in unpopulated lands, but they have adapted to thrive in urban areas, agricultural spaces and rural areas, as well.

[The Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) has an informative YouTube video called [CDFW-Wildlife Watch](#) to aid in coexisting with coyotes and other wildlife. The video explains that for safety's sake, don't feed wildlife and keep pet food out of the reach of wild animals.

These animals' beautiful coats are gray, brown and tan mixed together with a bit of black. Coyotes' black-tipped tail is bushy and often drapes downward. Smaller than gray wolves and larger than foxes, coyotes usually weigh 10-35 pounds and are 18 to 23 inches tall at the shoulder.

Actor Peter Coyote, who is on the Advisory Board of [Project Coyote](#), advocates for this flagship species since it is culturally significant and has faced threats over time to have it eradicated. The team at Project Coyote advocates for wild carnivores out of respect for human and non-human animals. They hope to build a more compassionate world through their work and encourage diversity. Like a lot of folks, they find themselves in awe at nature's beauty and thrive on cultivating joy through connections with the natural world. As Ansel Adams said, "I believe the world is incomprehensibly beautiful — an endless prospect of magic and wonder."

[Kathleen Scavone](#), M.A., retired educator, is a potter, freelance writer and author of "Anderson Marsh State Historic Park: A Walking History, Prehistory, Flora and Fauna Tour of a California State Park," "People of the Water" and "Native Americans of Lake County." She loves hiking, travel, photography and creating her single panel cartoon, "Rupert."



Fire Fighting at Lake Berryessa

This video shows CalFire's initial attack on the recent Smittle Creek Fire through the eyes of their Boggs Mountain Helitack Crew. Behind an aggressive attack that included fire engines, dozers, hand crews, water tenders, fixed-winged aircraft and helicopters, they were able to contain this fire to just 5.3 acres burned.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1138193298408805>





A History of Drownings at Lake Berryessa

Every time someone drowns at Lake Berryessa there is a flurry of comments and speculation on social media. It's a bit difficult to find accurate statistics on the internet. One AI report I found was obviously false. I searched various news sources, including old issues of The Lake Berryessa News, with mixed results. Only one person has drowned so far in 2025, none in 2024. There have been few drownings over the years.

The first chart does not separate the actual drownings from all accidents, although it is probable that all the deaths listed are from drowning. Lake Berryessa has some high numbers because it is so large.

Lakes	5-Year Total 2000-2004		
	Acc.	Inj.	Dead
Lake Shasta	242	149	8
Lake Berryessa	178	118	5
Lake Perris	146	89	5
Folsom Lake	105	56	3
Lake Tahoe	85	39	6
Castaic Lake	84	61	1
Lake Don Pedro	73	61	2
Lake Nacimiento	64	40	0
Millerton Lake	61	38	6
Clear Lake	57	51	5

September 17, 2009 - Three people drowned while swimming off Oak Shores during the last week.

July 4, 2014 - A drowning was reported on Independence Day, 2014 the second in three days. So far this year, three people have drowned at the lake, according to the Napa County Sheriff's Office.

September, 2018 - Last week was a deadly one for swimmers at Lake Berryessa, as three people died in separate drownings near the Oak Shores Area. Those three deaths forced the Bureau of Reclamation to close the lake's swimming areas while they pursue an investigation into the tragedies that occurred Sept. 7, 8 and 10.

July 9, 2021 - The Sheriff's office is warning swimmers after Lake Berryessa sees multiple drownings in less than 10 days. With two people drowning in a two-week span at Lake Berryessa, the sheriff's office is warning people that the waters might not be as safe as they look.

July 11, 2022 - An 18-year-old drowned at Lake Berryessa in Napa County on Sunday, marking the third drowning in two weeks.

May 20, 2025 - Fairfield Teen Drowns at Lake Berryessa

They Walk Among Us?

I just found this message from many years ago in my old files. Spelling and punctuation are as in the original letter. I never learned the identity of American Canyon Girl, or whether this was a spoof. On other occasions I've received comments from anonymous folks who blame an evil spirit for the unfortunate deaths by drowning at the lake.

amcyngirl said on: March 21, 2010, 10:29 am

"It's unfortunate that this ever happened! Lake Barryessa has taken so many peoples lives! Regardless of the nature of the accidents, people are always dyeing there. The

news paper does not have all the facts as well as the cause, so in my opinion, the paper adds "being under the influence" in attempt of blaming the cause of the accident on that reason. "Don't want to scare people from going there".

What I think the reason is for all the casualties at Lake Berryessa is the simple fact that the lake is angrily haunted and very hungry. I am aware of the existing town that was flooded and the cemetery which remains under water. There seems to be angry energy destroying many happy people's lives in retaliation.

I forbid my children to go there and avoid the area completely. As beautiful as it appears, it is very hungry, waiting for an opportunity to take another life...and more! Why doesn't the Register do a census or statistic on the casualties at that lake instead! Save a life!"

Another Hiker Rescue Event

The Stebbins Cold Canyon trail near the Monticello Dam strikes again! Hiking up that hill in 92 degree heat with no shade is not for most. The Vacaville Fire District noted that they get a lot of calls out to the trail, and during the summer, they respond to the area almost weekly. Hikers are urged to bring plenty of water and the right kind of clothing to complete the strenuous hike."

Seven people airlifted from Solano County hiking trail near Lake Berryessa

A group of hikers had to be rescued from a trail near Lake Berryessa on Wednesday, according to the Vacaville Fire District. Crews were called to the halfway point of Cold Canyon Trail in Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve around 12:45 p.m. for the report of a collapsed hiker at the halfway point of the trail. Officials said a 21-year-old woman was found unconscious but breathing. It's believed she was suffering from heatstroke. "That person was in serious condition and was actually transported to the hospital. Code three," said Phil Jones, the Division Chief for the Vacaville Fire Protection District.

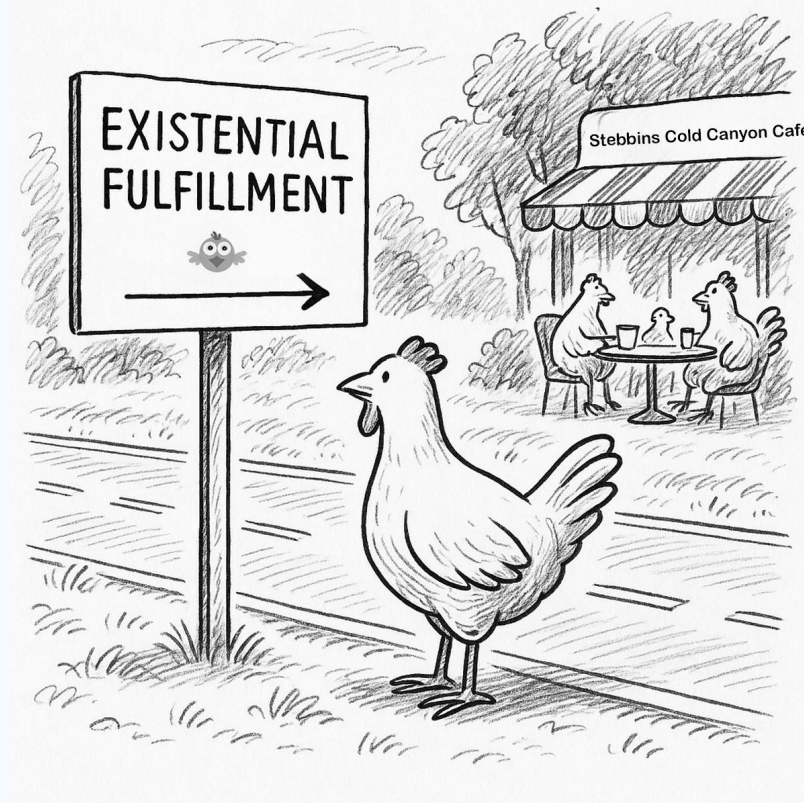
However, she was not the only person in the group feeling the effects of the heat. The fire district said a total of seven people were suffering from heat-related issues on the trail. All seven were airlifted off the trail down to the trail head for medical evaluation. The woman who was found unconscious was taken to an area hospital for treatment. The six others declined transport to the hospital. The fire district said the seven patients were part of a group of 45 U.S. Air Force personnel on a hike.

The district noted that they get a lot of calls out to the trail, and during the summer, they respond to the area almost weekly. Unfortunately, two people have died in the last two years. Hikers are urged to bring plenty of water and the right kind of clothing to complete the strenuous hike. The fire district is at the mercy of other agencies when calling on air resources for rescues, and sometimes they aren't available.

"If we don't have helicopters involved, we basically hike our crews up. We pack them up with a bunch of water and their gear, and they hike up with all the stuff to be able to pull them out. And we've had hikes and rescues that have taken 4 hours just to get the people off the hill," said Jones.

On Alltrails, a popular app that includes reviews and ratings of hiking trails, most of the trails listed in Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve are rated as difficult, with large elevation gains and little shade. See the descriptive Stebbins Cold Canyon story on The Lake Berryessa News website:

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



Through the Vine - Napa County News

<https://youtu.be/cpp2c36hKBw?si=YnmU54CXL1nPvDz>

In this latest episode of "Through the Vine," we take a look at the approved budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, dive into the new three-year cooperative fire protection agreement with CAL FIRE, and hike through Skyline Wilderness Park to learn about what's to come when the purchase of Camp Coombs becomes final.

The official YouTube page of Napa County, California.

<https://www.youtube.com/@NapaCounty>

For more information about Napa County visit:

www.countyofnapa.org



and a Blackhawk. All are used exclusively for aerial firefighting to protect Napa County,

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Features stylish interiors with a chef's kitchen complemented by solid oak floors and a cozy fireplace in the living room that opens to a deck with panoramic lake views! Boat/RV parking, and a dedicated garden area add both charm and function! A magical terraced landscape ideal for garden lovers and outdoor entertainers alike. A true work of art and a MUST SEE



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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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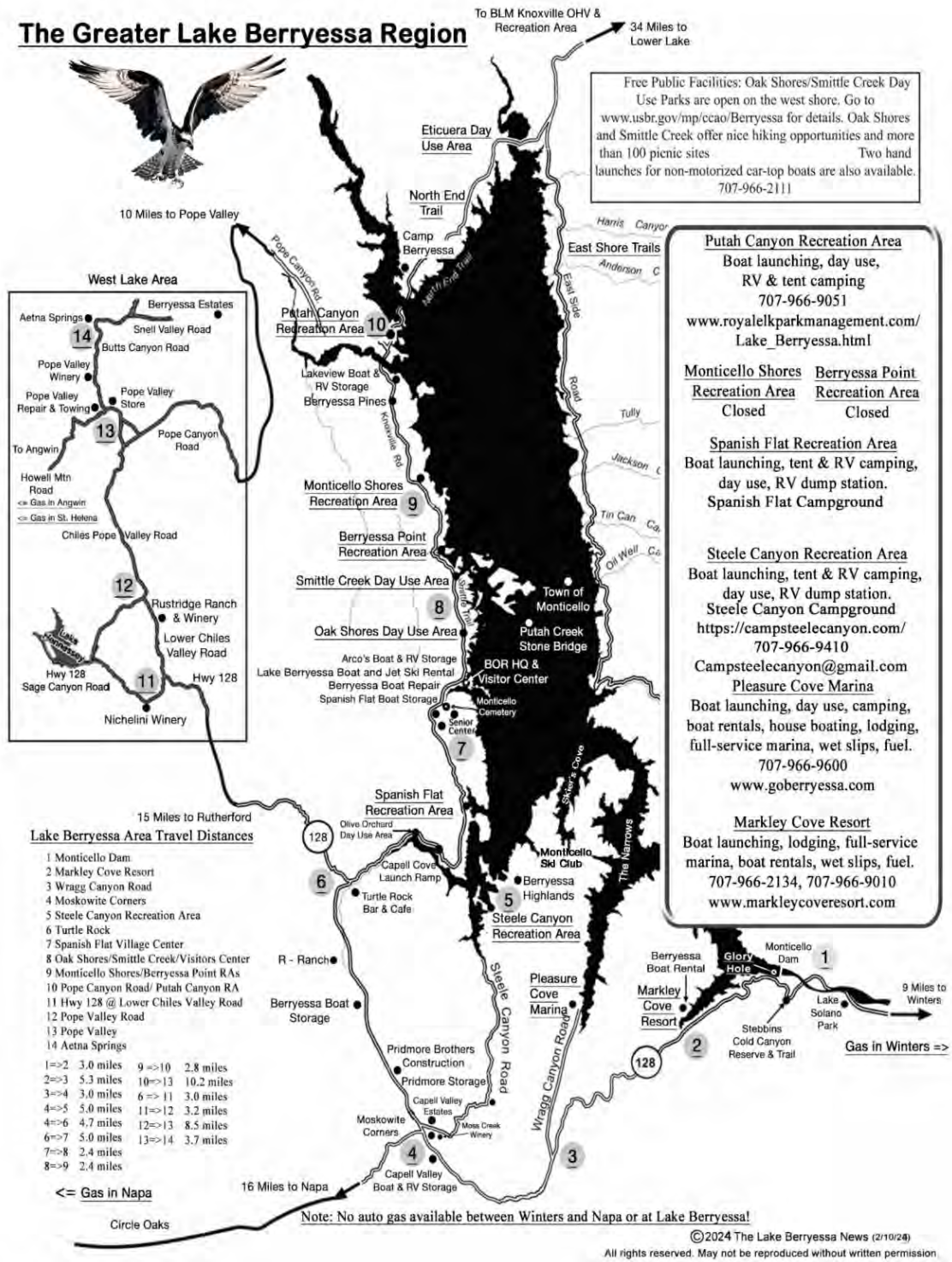


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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The Lake Berryessa News

August 24, 2025

Pickett Fire Update

News of this fire threatening Calistoga, Aetna Springs, and Pope Valley is updated regularly. See your local news sources for the latest information. At 11 AM Lake Berryessa is filled with smoke and I cannot see Berryessa Peak from the Berryessa Highlands. Photo below.

Crews hold line against Pickett Fire in Napa County as blaze reaches 6,800 acres

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/wildfire-napa-county-firefighters/>

(August 24, 2025, 9:36AM)

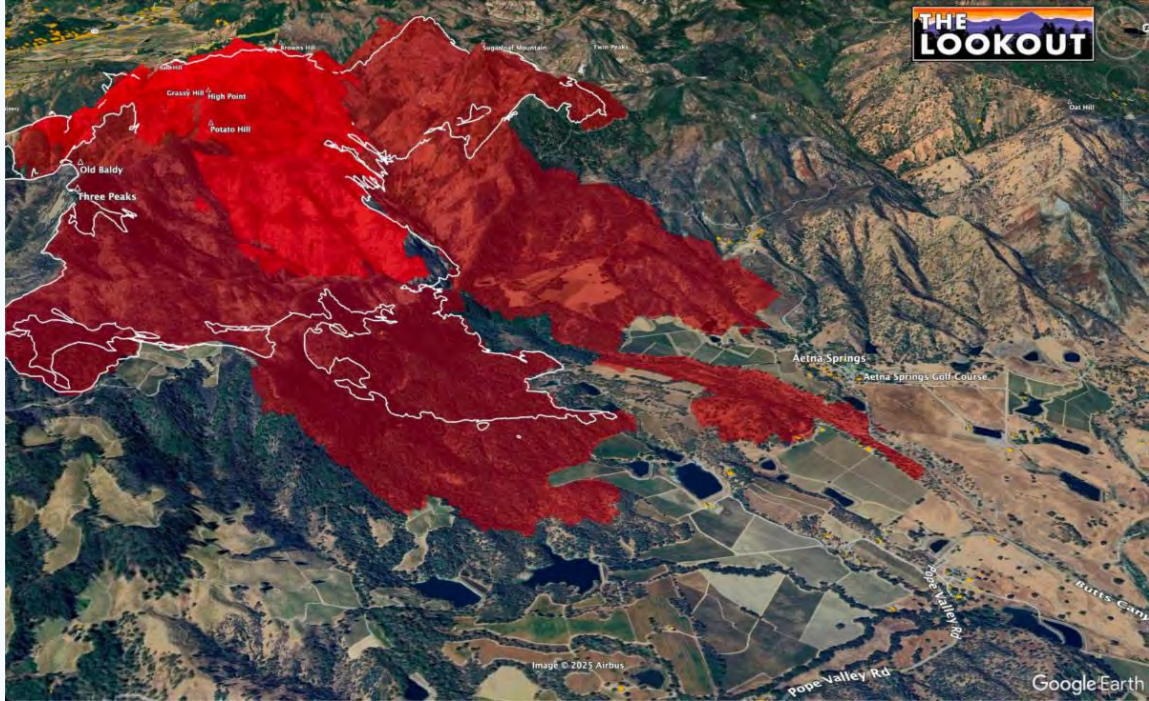
The wildfire — the largest in the region this year — spread more than 1,800 acres Saturday and grew another 270 acres overnight into Sunday, according to Cal Fire. The Pickett Fire has scorched 6,803 acres across Napa County as firefighters continue to battle both flames spreading east, rugged terrain and hot and dry conditions, according to a Sunday morning Cal Fire update. The wildfire erupted Thursday on the northern outskirts of Calistoga and has spread through steep, sparsely populated terrain within the burn scar of the 2020 Glass Fire.

On Saturday, the Pickett Fire grew by more than 1,800 acres, mostly toward Aetna Springs Road on its northeastern front. In order to curb any threat to the Aetna Springs and Pope Valley areas, fire crews conducted a controlled burn west of the road, according to a Cal Fire incident update. Defensive lines held, Cal Fire said in its Sunday morning report.

Overnight into Sunday, hand crews, bulldozers and five night-flying helicopters fought moderate fire activity and maintained 11% containment. However, the blaze grew another 270 acres. Below is a map view of the fire. The second photo is a comparison of the view from The Lake Berryessa News headquarters above the Berryessa Highlands.

Regional webcam views are available at:

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



Pickett Fire
Calistoga, Aetna Springs, Pope Valley
8/24/25
10:30 AM



Firewise 2025 — Napa Valley Gets Tactical on Wildfire

By Tim Carl, [Napa Valley Features](#)

A New Tactical Approach to Wildfire Readiness

With a new \$3.5 million county contract and a separate \$1 million CAL FIRE grant, NCCF is rolling out its 2025 “Valley Stewards” strategy. The plan centers on more than 100 Enhanced Resilience Sites — clusters of neighboring parcels, from vineyard blocks to ranchland, that commit to shared fuel breaks, mapped access routes, water resources and coordinated response zones.

Of Napa County’s roughly 50,000 fire-prone private acres, about 20,000 — steep slopes above key roadways and communities — are targeted first. The priorities come from a detailed mapping system developed with CAL FIRE, a tactical tool that tracks progress in real time but isn’t public because it contains sensitive information about private properties.

The CAL FIRE grant will help fund outreach to landowners in these areas, encouraging neighbors to develop Master Resilience Plans. These site-specific plans, written after on-the-ground reviews by Firewise staff, outline what’s needed for defensible space and infrastructure improvements — and can serve as documentation for insurers.

Read the full article at Napa Valley Features:

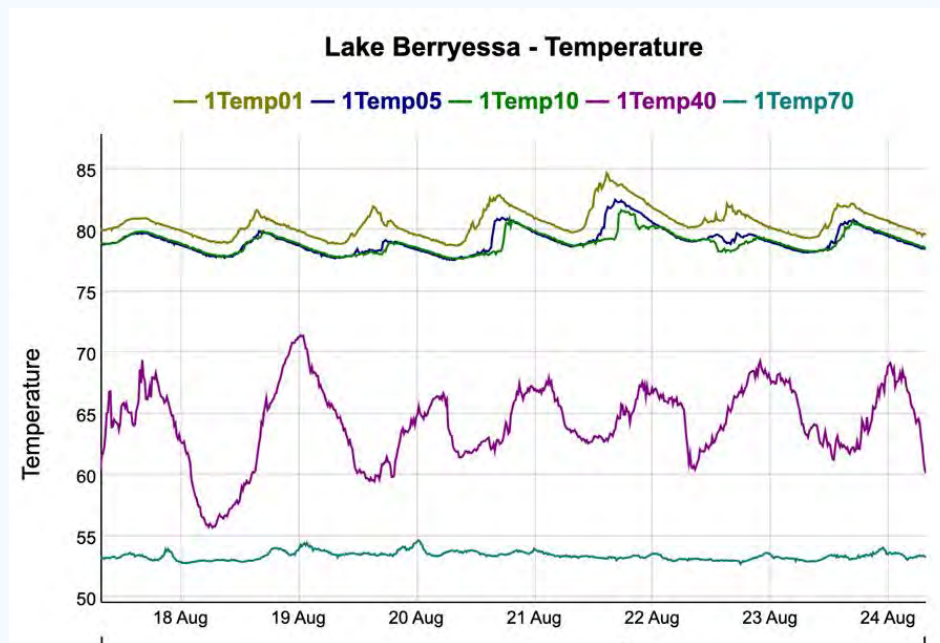
<https://NapaValleyFocus.Substack.Com/P/Under-The-Hood-Firewise-2025-Napa>

Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/24/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 432.0 feet, 8 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 90.5%

Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.





**Camp Margaritaville Resorts Plan for the Revitalization
of the Steele Canyon Recreation Area**

(Steele Canyon Campground - <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>)

The Camp Margaritaville Resorts planning process is continuing at a rapid pace. The final plan is scheduled to be presented to the Napa County Board of Supervisors in a couple of months. Despite overwhelming support for the Camp Margaritaville Resorts plan from local residents, campers, anglers, and the residents of the other small communities around the lake, there is still some opposition from what I describe as "psuedo-environmental exclusionists", the folks who don't want to see other people have fun, unless it is their narrow definition of 'fun'.

I was reminded this week of this mindset when I was forwarded a rather bizarre, fact-free email from some relatively new Berryessa Highlands residents complaining to Margaritaville corporate headquarters. I was told this letter was also sent to Supervisor Amber Manfree.

I'm including the original email below for reference followed by my, hopefully, educational response. I have also been informed that some opponents of the revitalization of Lake Berryessa are planning to attend the meeting at the fire station this coming Thursday. See the flyer above. If you support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program, please attend this meeting to let Supervisor Amber Manfree know your opinion. If you can't be there, please send a comment directly to Supervisor Manfree:

District 4: Amber Manfree
Amber.Manfree@countyofnapa.org

You can also contact the other supervisors at:

District 1: Joelle Gallagher.
Joelle.Gallagher@countyofnapa.org

District 2: Liz Alessio
liz.alessio@countyofnapa.org

District 3: Anne Cottrell
Anne.Cottrell@countyofnapa.org

District 5: Belia Ramos
Belia.Ramos@countyofnapa.org

Original Anti-Margaritaville email

From: Kelli Lynch <kelli94553@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 at 4:23 PM
To: Development <development@margaritaville.com>
Cc: Craig Davis <craigcdavis85@yahoo.com>
Subject: Proposed Massive Development at Steele Canyon in Napa CA

The purpose of this email is to inquire as to whether you are really planning a massive development at Steele Canyon in Napa. If you are moving forward with this, we would like you to know that the residents of the Berryessa Highlands neighborhood that your "resort" will dwarf are overwhelmingly against this, as are the fisherman and campers who enjoy the lake currently. We will protest this development every step of the way, including but not limited to petitions, contacting local environmental, wildlife, and water conservation groups, informing local news and Napa County residents, utilizing social media platforms, and reaching out to law firms that might like to represent our neighborhood.

This is unconscionable for so many reasons including the massive waste of water, the noise and traffic that residents will be subject to, and the fire risk to our neighborhood. Are you aware that there are several bald eagle nests on the property? That will mean Federal and State permits will be required, no construction will be allowed during nesting times, and you will be responsible for them not returning once our quiet lake is gone.

Are you also aware of the fact that a few resort corporations have already entered into exclusive negotiating agreements with Napa County/Steve Wilkins, and they have all backed out because development costs were going to be astronomically higher than they originally thought? There is little to no infrastructure here, and what there is is old and failing. Napa County wants you to pay for everything, so they don't have to invest in our neighborhood. Access to this location is not easy. Whether coming from Napa, Winters, or St Helena you are driving on old, narrow, two lane highways that cannot support the traffic

your resort would need to succeed. This January a large section of the northbound lane on highway 121 from Napa literally fell off. It is still one lane through that section. Also, the fact that you serve alcohol at your supposed "family resorts" makes the drive even more dangerous when you consider that Napa County has one of the highest DUI rates in the state. Everything considered this is just a bad idea.

Weather is also a factor. During the summer months most days and nights bring 25-30 mph winds, and during the fall and winter winds can average 40-50 mph.

Does no one at your company have enough sense to see the absurdity of building a lazy river, wave machine, and water slides on the shores of a beautiful lake? I can only imagine what the public will think of Margaritaville when they hear such a ridiculous idea. Water parks are typically in areas that don't have access to water, and should not be allowed at all in a drought state. Perhaps working to get legislation passed would be a good way to stop you from developments in the state of California altogether, where we can't afford to waste natural resources and especially water.

This would be a bad investment for Margaritaville. The locals don't want you here, you will not get nearly the flow of people that you need to be profitable, and it will cost way more than initially projected.

Craig & Kelli Davis, Homeowners in Berryessa Highlands

The Lake Berryessa News Response

To: Kelli Lynch, kelli94553@yahoo.com, Craig Davis, craigcdavis85@yahoo.com

From: Peter Kilkus, pkilkus@gmail.com

Greetings:

My name is Peter Kilkus. I am the publisher of The Lake Berryessa News. I have a website (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928340101#>), and publish a Lake Berryessa News email newsletter twice a month or so.

Tim Wilkens forwarded your letter to Camp Margaritaville Resorts to me. I don't expect that you'll receive a response from the Margaritaville folks you sent it to. The reason, as I learned myself a couple of years ago, is that the Margaritaville corporate entity is a franchise licensing business. Almost all of the Jimmy Buffet organization-related names are sold as franchises to private investor-owners. This is true for the name Camp Margaritaville Resorts which is a brand introduced a few years ago. So far there are five Camp Margaritaville RV Resorts in the US. These are franchised locations, meaning they are owned and operated by individual franchisees. Tim Wilkins and his private investors are the "franchisees" in this case.

The Camp Margaritaville Resorts offer a variety of amenities including RV sites, cabins, and other lodging options, along with resort-style features like pools, tiki bars, and entertainment stages. They're designed as family-friendly, environmentally sustainable

vacation locations. The new Camp Margaritaville RV Resorts are thriving.

<https://www.margaritavilleresorts.com/locations/ways-to-stay/rv-resorts>

I'm not sure how long you've lived in the Highlands or how much research you've done on Lake Berryessa issues. I encourage you to do a bit more research by exploring the history of the last 20 years on my website. Your letter shows several misconceptions about the plans for Steele Canyon Recreation Area. All of the required environmental studies have been completed. All the legal issues have been resolved. This is true for all the present open campgrounds and the closed resorts. The comments in your first paragraph have been discussed and litigated several times previously. Specifically, the various resorts, including the Camp Margaritaville proposal for the Steele Canyon Recreation Area (Steele Canyon Campground) meet NEPA, CEQA, Army Corps of Engineers, California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), and all other state and county requirements.

Wildlife has always thrived at the lake despite human use. In fact, wildlife viewing is an important recreational activity here as noted in the Ragatz Report (link below). We see several bald eagles and osprey every time we go boating.

I'm not sure to whom you've been speaking, but I can assure you from my contacts and social media platforms that the majority of Berryessa Highlands residents, as well as the anglers and campers who use the lake now, and the residents of the other small communities around the lake, enthusiastically support the Camp Margaritaville proposal, as do the Napa County supervisors. The plans include a \$1 million investment to upgrade the Berryessa Highlands (NBRID) water and sewer system.

The issues of traffic and crime are red herrings that have long been used against any renewal of the Lake Berryessa recreational community. They were not serious issues when the lake had 8 million visitors a year, and will not be so in the future - and they never reached up into our Highlands community. There are plans for mitigating the usual traffic outside the resort entrance that occurs sometimes on weekends.

Tim Wilkens is a local Napa resident who has been a Lake Berryessa visitor and boater for many years. He and his very savvy investors have done deep analyses of the potential financial returns from their plans and are convinced of the viability of their Camp Margaritaville proposal.

I have personally, along with thousands of other Lake Berryessa lovers, been fighting the Bureau of Reclamation's disastrous Visitor Services Plan process which began in 2000. I documented this process in my book:

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

https://www.amazon.com/Policy-Politics-Betray-People-Berryessa-ebook/dp/B08MFSQDBR/ref=sr_1_1?

A fun book I wrote about Lake Berryessa is:

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

Free downloadable chapters of both books are available on my website, or you can purchase them on Amazon. An example of a free chapter is:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Political-History/Chapter-II-Timeline.pdf>

About ten years ago I created the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program to assist folks in understanding what's going on here now. Although there's a lot to consider, I hope that you will take some time to read and understand it.

The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program Explained

by Peter Kilkus

I have referred to the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program for several years. I have been criticized that, "The "Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is not any recognized County process. It is your own invention, and does not exist beyond yourself." This statement is simply wrong, irrelevant, aimed at delaying the "Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program", and a bit mean-spirited.

The official name for Napa County's governing document for the revitalization process is:

[Managing Agreement Number 20-LC-20-2623 : Managing 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.](#)

The second element of "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is the county-funded 2017 Ragatz Report, the most detailed report about the value of Lake Berryessa to Napa County ever produced, including an extensive public survey. Read it and see.

[Ragatz Report Full](#)

[https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf,](https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf)

The third element of "The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program" is actually the

[Napa County General Plan](#)

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3334/Napa-County-General-Plan---Complete-Document-PDF>

Hopefully the Board of Supervisors will live up to its public 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."

The primary refutation of every negative attack on the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program is the Ragatz Report funded by Napa County. It includes comprehensive analysis of Lake Berryessa's potential as an asset to Napa County and a detailed survey of several thousand lake users, including Napa County residents.

[2017 Ragatz Report Full](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/2017-Ragatz-Report-Full.pdf>

[Ragatz Report Introduction & Summary of Recommendations](#)

https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Dokumentation/Ragatz-Report-Introduction_Summary_Recomendations.pdf

After false statements that the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program might violate the Napa County General Plan or that it didn't include "nature-based recreation", I wrote several reports refuting those allegations. I analyzed the General Plan and wrote a detailed report on the many ways the General Plan supports The Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program. These reports are available on my website (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>) at:

[Lake Berryessa and the Napa General Plan,](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Lake-Berryessa-and-the-Napa-General-Plan.pdf>

[Environmental Management at Lake Berryessa](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Environmental-Management-at-Lake-Berryessa.pdf>

[Nature Based Recreation at Lake Berryessa](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/Nature-Based-Recreation-at-Lake-Berryessa.pdf>

[Rancho Monticello Environmental Management System](#)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Lake-Berryessa-Support-Dokumentation/RM-001-Rancho-EMS-Manual.2.pdf>

I hope you will read this documentation. It's a lot to digest. Thanks for your attention. Also please attend the community meeting next week at the Volunteer Fire Station.

By the way, my kids and I, as do most people, love lazy rivers, wave machines, and water slides!

Respectfully, Peter Kilkus

Please join us for a Town Hall Meeting on August 28th at 6pm - 8 pm with District 4 Supervisor Amber Manfree at Capell Valley Volunteer Fire Station 14, 1193 Capell Valley Road.

Below are a list of speakers and topics (in no particular order):

Public Works – Updates on Margaritaville, road projects, and water/sewage

United Policyholders – Homeowner's and renter's insurance

Sheriff's Office – Evacuation protocols and enforcement of invasive mussel boat quarantine

Cal Fire / NCFD – Fire mitigation projects and other updates

Firewise – Status of local projects

Lake Berryessa was ranked as the 6th best fishing lake in California

Fishmasters' recent list put Lake Berryessa at 6th place on the Top 30 Fishing Lakes in California. The report highlighted Lake Berryessa's healthy populations of bass, trout, catfish, and salmon and its diverse year-round fishing opportunities. The selection was based on first-hand experience, local knowledge, and advice from anglers across the state.

Lake Berryessa supports healthy populations of bass, trout, catfish, and salmon. The lake offers various fishing opportunities throughout the year, with early mornings ideal for topwater fishing and deeper sections holding larger catches in warmer months. The large man-made reservoir in Napa County is popular for outdoor activities.

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\$410,888

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property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.
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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

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Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244

707-235-1124

amber.payne@corcoranicon.com

www.amberpayne.net

Lake Views, Outdoor Elegance & Stylish Living!

<https://www.1149rimrockdr.com/>

\$640,000

Tucked into the scenic Berryessa Highlands, this 4BR/2.5 BA home offers the ultimate indoor-outdoor lifestyle with breathtaking lake views and one of the most beautifully terraced backyards you'll ever see. Built in 1985, this home offers the perfect blend of comfort, character, and natural beauty—just minutes from Lake Berryessa recreation.



Features stylish interiors with a chef's kitchen complemented by solid oak floors and a cozy fireplace in the living room that opens to a deck with panoramic lake views!

Boat/RV parking, and a dedicated garden area add both charm and function!
A magical terraced landscape ideal for garden lovers and outdoor entertainers alike.
A true work of art and a MUST SEE



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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

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

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<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



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Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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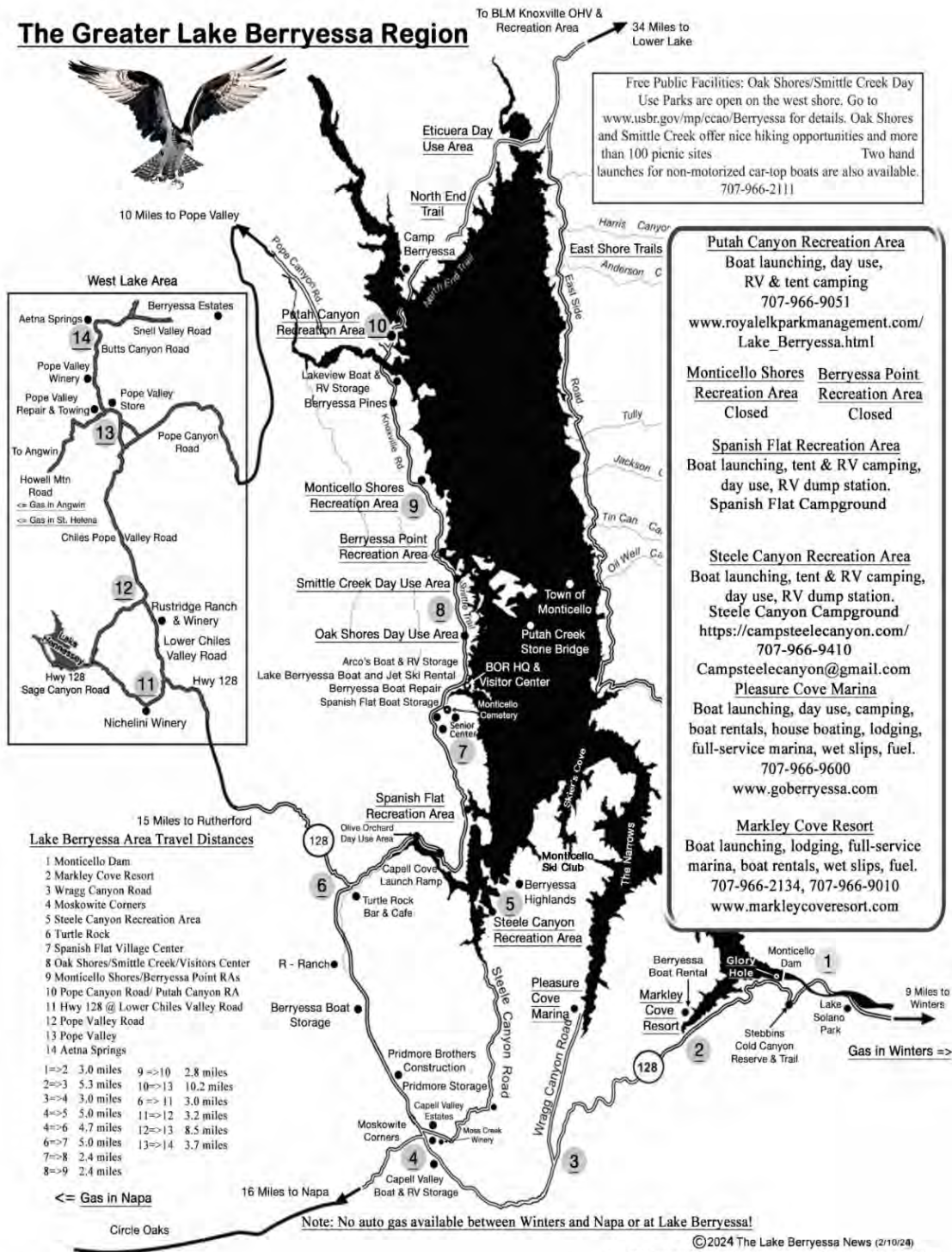


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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The Lake Berryessa News

August 31, 2025

Happy Labor Day Weekend

(The actual holiday is tomorrow, September 1, 2025)

There's great weather left to enjoy before we begin our annual Glory Hole Watch 2026 campaign after the first rainfall hits in October?, November?

Origin of Labor Day

Labor Day originates from the late 19th-century labor movement, with the first celebration in New York City in 1882, organized by the Central Labor Union to honor workers' social and economic contributions.

The Central Labor Union in New York City organized the first Labor Day celebration on September 5, 1882, featuring a street parade followed by a picnic.

The idea of Labor Day spread, with states starting to recognize it as a holiday. Oregon was the first state to make it an official holiday in 1887.

The holiday gained traction as states recognized it, and after the violent Pullman Strike of 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation making Labor Day a national federal holiday in the U.S.



IMAGE CREATED WITH AI BY PINE@PINEDESIGN

Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/31/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 431.5 feet, 8.5 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 90%

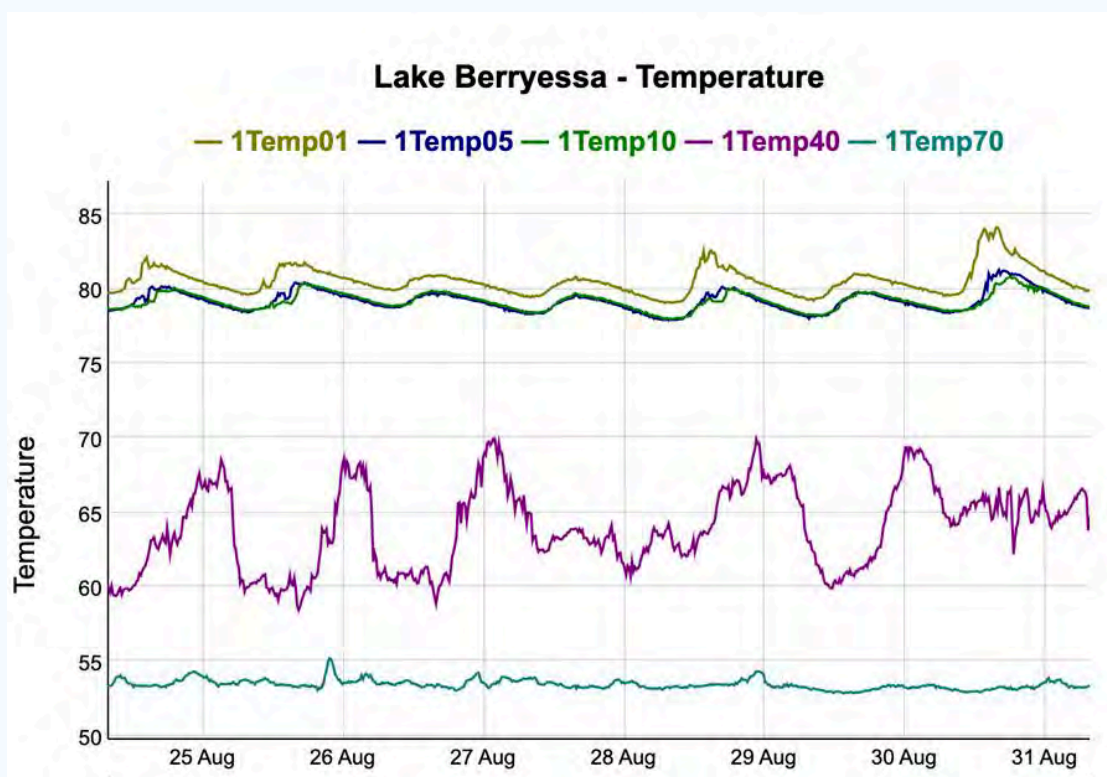
Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

Decrease in lake level from May 31 to August 31 (92 days) = 7 feet.

Decrease in Lake Level due to evaporation = 0.23 inches per day = 21.2 inches = 1.8 feet.

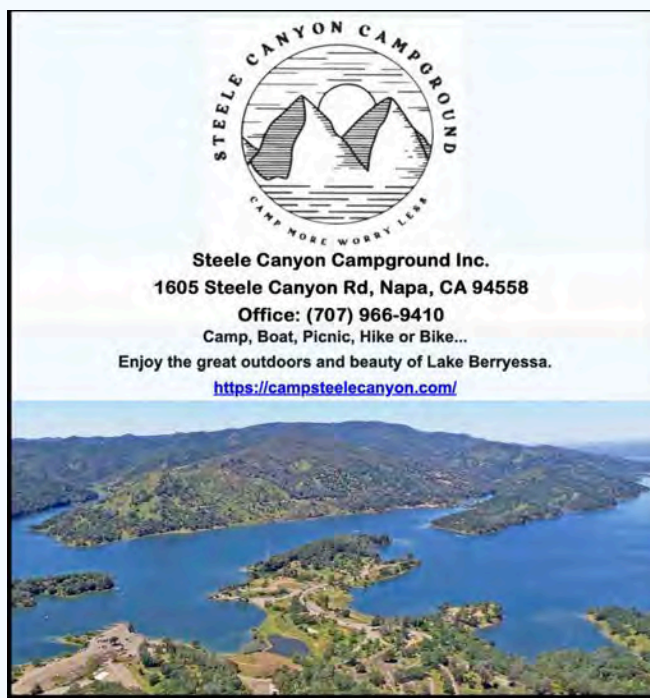
Decrease in lake level due to outflow at Monticello Dam = 5.2 feet.

Evaporation = 26% of the decrease in lake level during the summer!



Lake Berryessa at Steele Canyon Campground
Labor Day Weekend
August 31, 2025





Lake Berryessa Town Hall Meeting, 8/28/25



The meeting at the Capell Volunteer Fire Station was organized and chaired by 4th District Supervisor Amber Manfree. The meeting emphasized community-building and mutual neighbor support. It was an information-packed event which provided too much detail to cover here. Questions should be addressed to Supervisor Manfree's office.

District 4: Amber Manfree
707-259-8278
Amber.Manfree@countyofnapa.org

Abigail Flores - District 4 Board Aide
707-299-1478

There was no real controversy about, nor any opposition expressed to, the Camp Margaritaville proposal for the Steele Canyon Rereation Area. The Camp Margaritaville planning process is still underway. The County does not yet know the details of the final plan. A final plan will be presented and evaluated. A series of public meetings will be held. However, it is still a six to twelve month process to review and approve th final plan. If approved, there will still be a projected eighteen month construction process to complete the new resort.

Fire mitigation projects and other updates were described. CalFire is providing vegetation management at the closed resorts. The extensive creation of bulldozer lines have been done all over the county. Berryessa Highlands is surrounded by bulldozer fire breaks.

Sheriff's Office – Safety & Evacuation issues were described in detail.

Firewise provided status of local projects. Despite the present administration cutting a major wildfire mitigation financing project, agencies are stretching their budgets to do the most wildfire mitigation they can under the circumstances.

Public Works – The recent community survey showed that the Berryessa Highlands is eligible for grants for the water and sewer system upgrades. Berryessa Garbage company has not had a price increase in many years. They have now applied for an increase. Rates will increase.

United Policyholders – Reported that the state agreed to changes requested by insurance companies, more policies available but costs will increase. Don't go without insurance! At least get the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan, an "insurer of last resort" that provides basic fire insurance for properties that are unable to get coverage in the traditional insurance market. It is a crucial option for homeowners and businesses in high-risk areas, particularly those with a history of wildfires.

United Policyholders (UP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and a respected voice for consumers of all types of insurance across the United States. They don't sell insurance or take money from insurance companies. <https://uphelp.org/>

When is a non sequitur.....not a non sequitur?

by Peter Kilkus

My brain is sometimes faster than my mouth. My son often shakes his head at me and tells me to "slow down" when I am throwing out seemingly random unconnected ideas. This can cause problems when I'm speaking to someone whose brain is slower than their ears. If they can't keep up, they may become confused and tell me to slow down. This logical, but fast, information transfer may be confused with a non sequitur. But that does not describe a series of spoken ideas that have a logical connection but are too difficult for a slower mind than that of the speaker to process. (Take that, Evan!)

The simple definition of non sequitur is an argument, conclusion, or statement that does not logically follow from what came before it. In simpler terms, it's a statement that is completely unrelated or irrelevant to the conversation or argument it's part of. The phrase itself is Latin, meaning "it does not follow"

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Speed listening was easier to do because it was passive. Experiments proved that the brain could process audible information at a 30% higher rate than normal. A standard recording of a lecture or book on tape could be sped up without causing a frequency increased "chipmunk sound" by simply removing the spaces between words. The speech sounded normal only faster, causing a firehouse of words into the brain.

I tried them both, and they worked! The problem was that brain fatigue set in rather quickly. That made me consider the common practice of human subvocalization.

Subvocalization is the internal, silent "sounding out" of words while reading, essentially an inner voice pronouncing the words in your head. This phenomenon is a natural part of the reading process that can aid in comprehension and memory retention but also limits reading speed to the rate of speech. It is also known as silent speech and can involve subtle physical movements, though it's not as overt as actual speaking. You can feel your tongue and throat muscles moving. There have been fiction stories written about overhearing what people are thinking by focusing a very sensitive microphone at a target's throat.

Subvocalization can enhance your understanding and memory of what you are reading by providing an auditory pathway for processing information. It limits reading speed to roughly the speed of your speech (about 200–250 words per minute), as you are mentally "speaking" the words.

The brain requires actual time to process input into real information and put it into memory. The brain is not a muscle, but it runs on chemistry - the movement of real molecules from place to place in a liquid soup sponge.

So, what about visual information transferred into the brain by something like a television or computer screen? At what point does input exceed capacity and is simply wasting time. How much actually gets in there and how long does it last and remain accessible for any purpose? Not an easy question. Maybe it's simply the visual version of enjoying a delicious drink - gratification with out long-term recollection? Sounds like a very philosophically accurate description of life!

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“If I had to live my life over, I'd live over a saloon.”

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4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

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Offered at \$65,000

Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot

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Flat Then Upslope Lot

1100 Headlands Drive

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9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres

Offered at \$475,000

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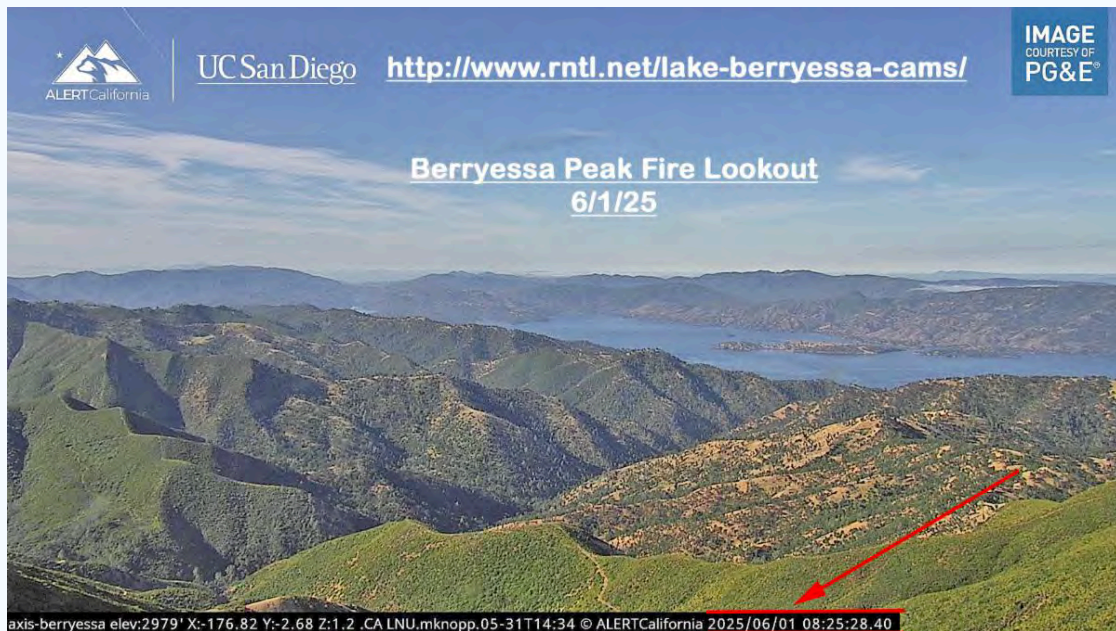


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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





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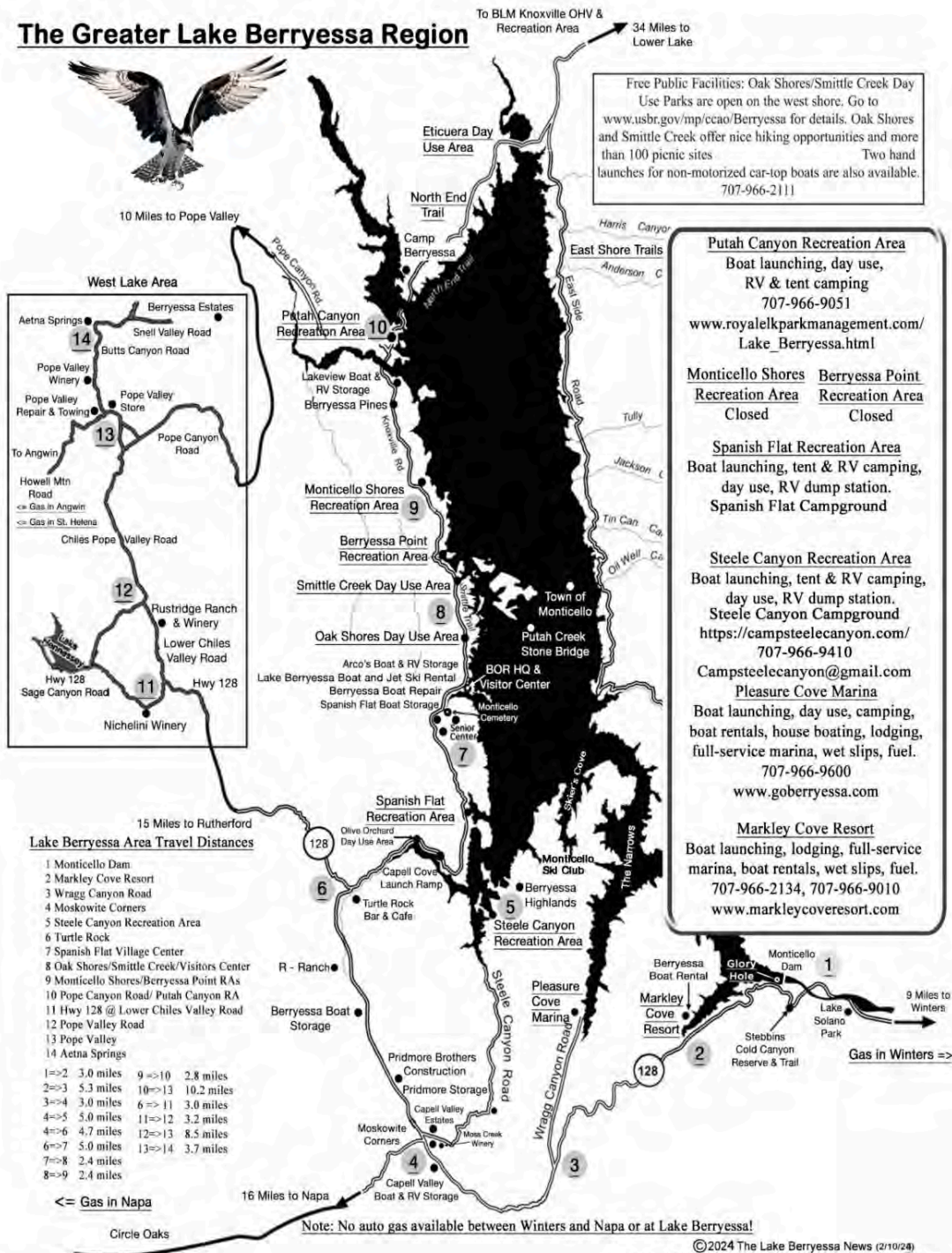
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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



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The Lake Berryessa News

August 31, 2025

Happy Labor Day Weekend

(The actual holiday is tomorrow, September 1, 2025)

There's great weather left to enjoy before we begin our annual Glory Hole Watch 2026 campaign after the first rainfall hits in October?, November?

Origin of Labor Day

Labor Day originates from the late 19th-century labor movement, with the first celebration in New York City in 1882, organized by the Central Labor Union to honor workers' social and economic contributions.

The Central Labor Union in New York City organized the first Labor Day celebration on September 5, 1882, featuring a street parade followed by a picnic.

The idea of Labor Day spread, with states starting to recognize it as a holiday. Oregon was the first state to make it an official holiday in 1887.

The holiday gained traction as states recognized it, and after the violent Pullman Strike of 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation making Labor Day a national federal holiday in the U.S.



Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/31/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 431.5 feet, 8.5 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 90%

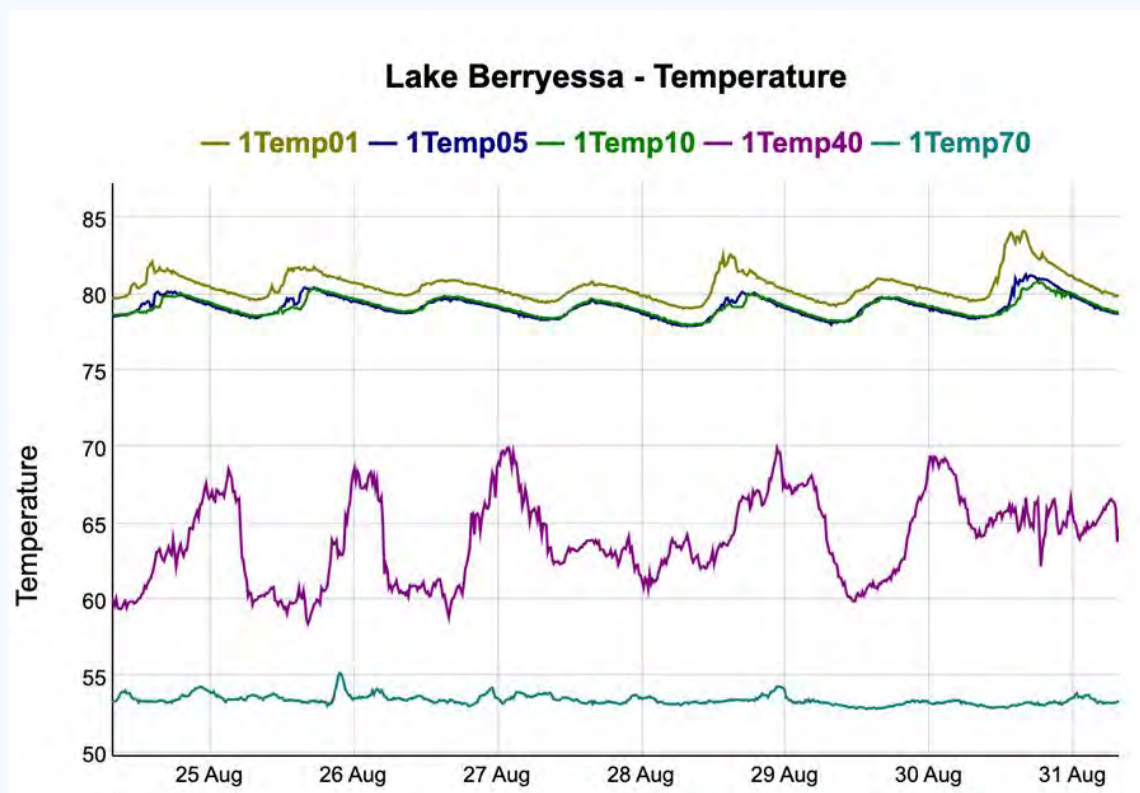
Lake surface temperature is 80 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

Decrease in lake level from May 31 to August 31 (92 days) = 7 feet.

Decrease in Lake Level due to evaporation = 0.23 inches per day = 21.2 inches = 1.8 feet.

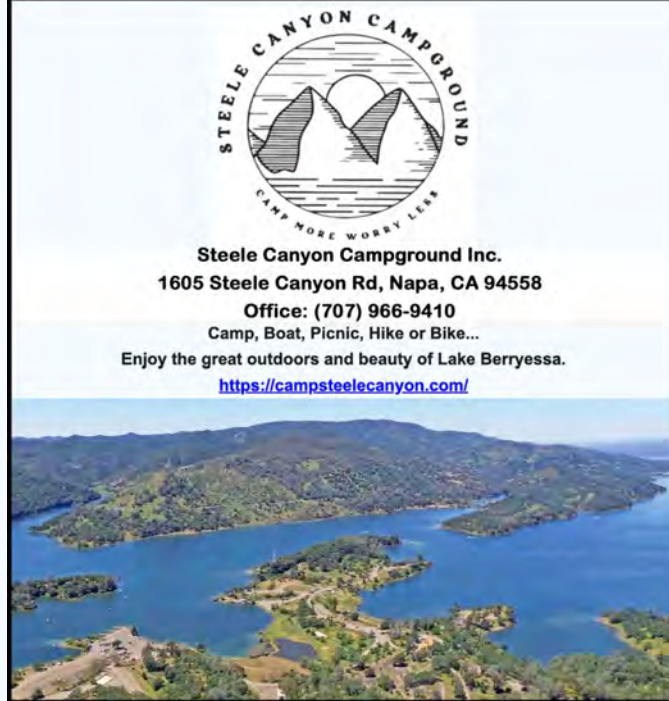
Decrease in lake level due to outflow at Monticello Dam = 5.2 feet.

Evaporation = 26% of the decrease in lake level during the summer!



Lake Berryessa at Steele Canyon Campground
Labor Day Weekend
August 31, 2025





Lake Berryessa Town Hall Meeting, 8/28/25



The meeting at the Capell Volunteer Fire Station was organized and chaired by 4th District Supervisor Amber Manfree. The meeting emphasized community-building and mutual neighbor support. It was an information-packed event which provided too much detail to cover here. Questions should be addressed to Supervisor Manfree's office.

District 4: Amber Manfree
 707-259-8278
 Amber.Manfree@countyofnapa.org

Abigail Flores - District 4 Board Aide
 707-299-1478

There was no real controversy about, nor any opposition expressed to, the Camp Margaritaville proposal for the Steele Canyon Rereation Area. The Camp Margaritaville planning process is still underway. The County does not yet know the details of the final plan. A final plan will be presented and evaluated. A series of public meetings will be held. However, it is still a six to twelve month process to review and approve th final plan. If approved, there will still be a projected eighteen month construction process to complete the new resort.

Fire mitigation projects and other updates were described. CalFire is providing vegetation management at the closed resorts.The extensive creation of bulldozer lines have been done all over the county. Berryessa Highlands is surrounded by bulldozer fire breaks.

Sheriff's Office – Safety & Evacuation issues were described in detail.

Firewise provided status of local projects. Despite the present administration cutting a major wildfire mitigation financing project, agencies are stretching their budgets to do the most wildfire mitigation they can under the circumstances.

Public Works – The recent community survey showed that the Berryessa Highlands is eligible for grants for the water and sewer system upgrades. Berryessa Garbage company has not had a price increase in many years. They have now applied for an increase. Rates will increase.

United Policyholders – Reported that the state agreed to changes requested by insurance companies, more policies available but costs will increase. Don't go without insurance! At least get the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan, an "insurer of last resort" that provides basic fire insurance for properties that are unable to get coverage in the traditional insurance market. It is a crucial option for homeowners and businesses in high-risk areas, particularly those with a history of wildfires.

United Policyholders (UP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and a respected voice for consumers of all types of insurance across the United States. They don't sell insurance or take money from insurance companies. <https://uphelp.org/>

When is a non sequitur....not a non sequitur?

by Peter Kilkus

My brain is sometimes faster than my mouth. People sometime shake their heads at me because I am throwing out seemingly random unconnected ideas. This can cause problems when I'm speaking to someone. Conclusion: Upon further contemplation, maybe I really am the problem!

The simple definition of non sequitur is an argument, conclusion, or statement that does

not logically follow from what came before it. In simpler terms, it's a statement that is completely unrelated or irrelevant to the conversation or argument it's part of. The phrase itself is Latin, meaning "it does not follow"

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Speed listening was easier to do because it was passive. Experiments proved that the brain could process audible information at a 30% higher rate than normal. A standard recording of a lecture or book on tape could be sped up without causing a frequency increased "chipmunk sound" by simply removing the spaces between words. The speech sounded normal only faster, causing a firehouse of words into the brain.

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The Wit's Guide to Non-Sequiturs

<https://wit.substack.com/p/the-wits-guide-to-non-sequiturs>

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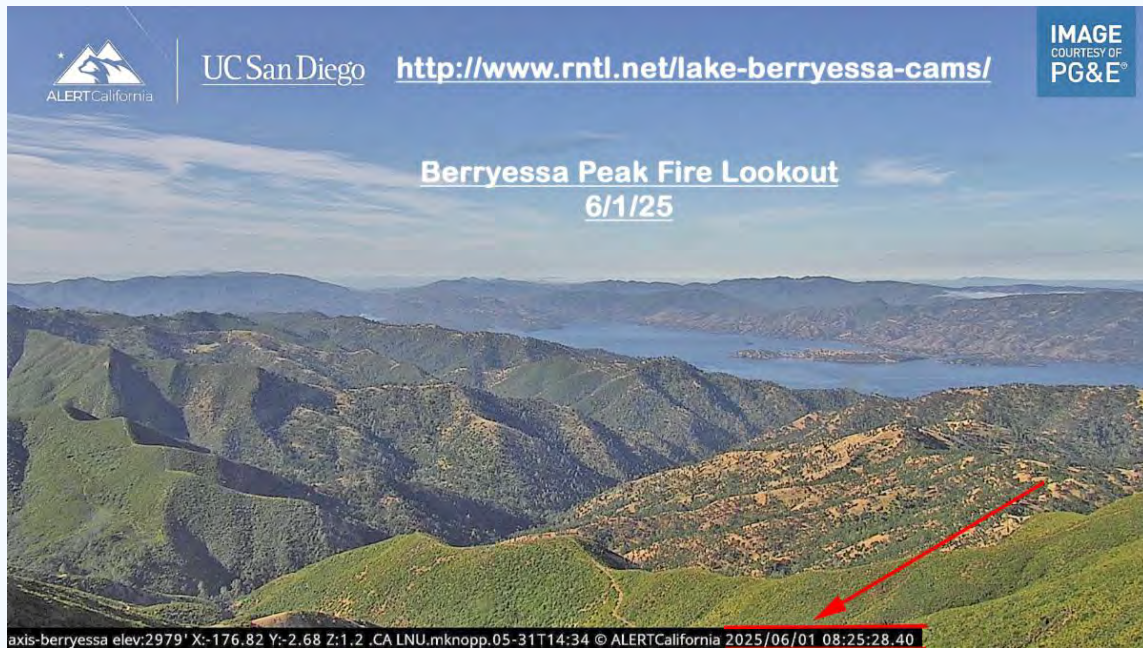


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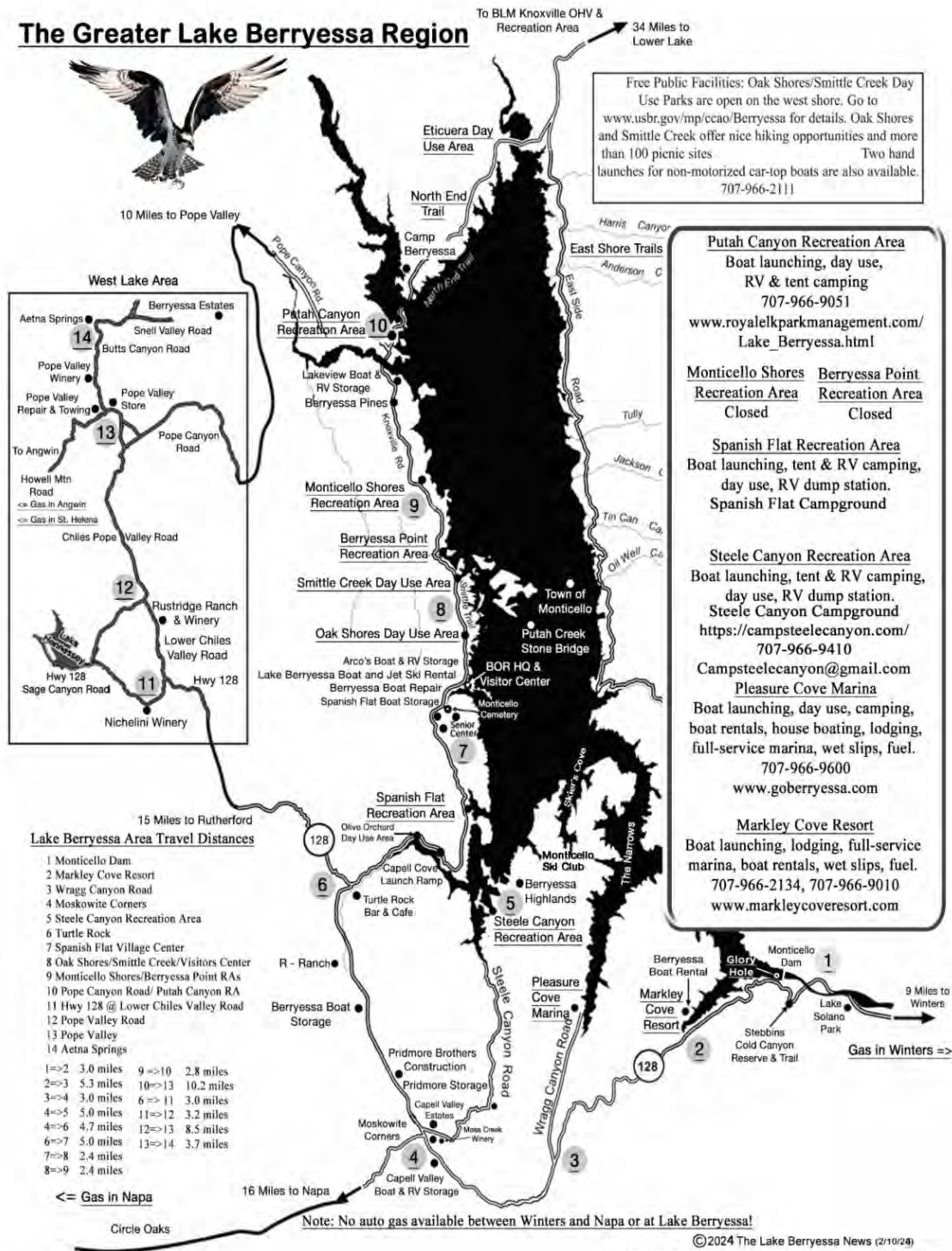
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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The Lake Berryessa News

September 14, 2025

Spanish Flat Campground is Temporarily Closed (9/14/25)

According to Napa County, Spanish Flat Campground is temporarily closed to the public. It should reopen in a few months.

Lake Berryessa Boat and Jet ski Rentals is fully open for business. They are authorized to launch their boats at the Spanish Flat launch ramp. The weather at Lake Berryessa for the next two weeks looks great. Come on out and take advantage of their off-season rates.

<https://lakeberryessaboats.com/>



OFF SEASON IS HERE!!! SAVE BIG ON WEEKDAYS & SUNDAYS ON ALL BOATS AND JET SKIS NOW!!

Saturday Off-Season begins 9/27/25
Remember, we include your gas. Saving you up to \$250 on your rental!





NXT-22 Off-Season Savings

Sunday Savings
4 Hours \$975 - \$125 = \$850 Off Season
6 Hours \$1195 - \$135 = \$1060 Off Season
8 Hours \$1370 - \$175 = \$1195 Off Season

Weekday Savings
4 Hours \$935 - \$135 = \$800 Off Season
6 Hours \$1135 - \$145 = \$990 Off Season
8 Hours \$1275 - \$150 = \$1125 Off Season

Call to Book



PB 2 Luxury Bennington

Sunday Savings
4 Hours \$660 - \$120 = \$540 Off Season
6 Hours \$895 - \$150 = \$745 Off Season
8 Hours \$1075 - \$210 = \$865 Off Season

Weekday Savings
4 Hours \$615 - \$95 = \$520 Off Season
6 Hours \$820 - \$105 = \$715 Off Season
8 Hours \$960 - \$135 = \$825 Off Season

Book Now



Yamaha WaveRunners

Sunday Savings
2 Hours \$300 - \$30 = \$270 Off Season
3 Hours \$395 - \$45 = \$350 Off Season
4 Hours \$465 - \$55 = \$410 Off Season
6 Hours \$595 - \$65 = \$530 Off Season
8 Hours \$730 - \$100 = \$630 Off Season

Weekday Savings
2 Hours \$280 - \$30 = \$250 Off Season
3 Hours \$370 - \$35 = \$335 Off Season
4 Hours \$430 - \$40 = \$390 Off Season
6 Hours \$540 - \$70 = \$470 Off Season
8 Hours \$640 - \$80 = \$560 Off Season

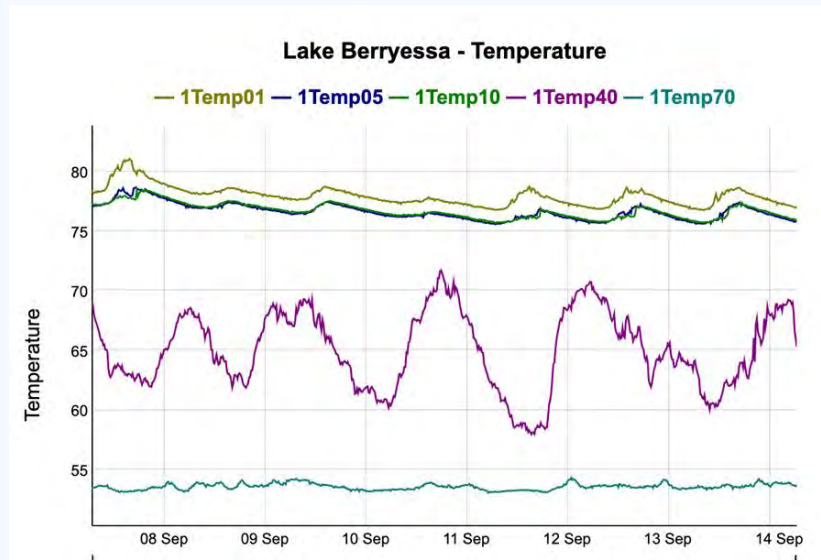
Book Now

We will be open through October (weather permitting) with a limited fleet. Please call for vessel availability after October 4th.

Lake Berryessa Statistics (9/14/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 430.7 feet, 9.3 feet below Glory Hole.

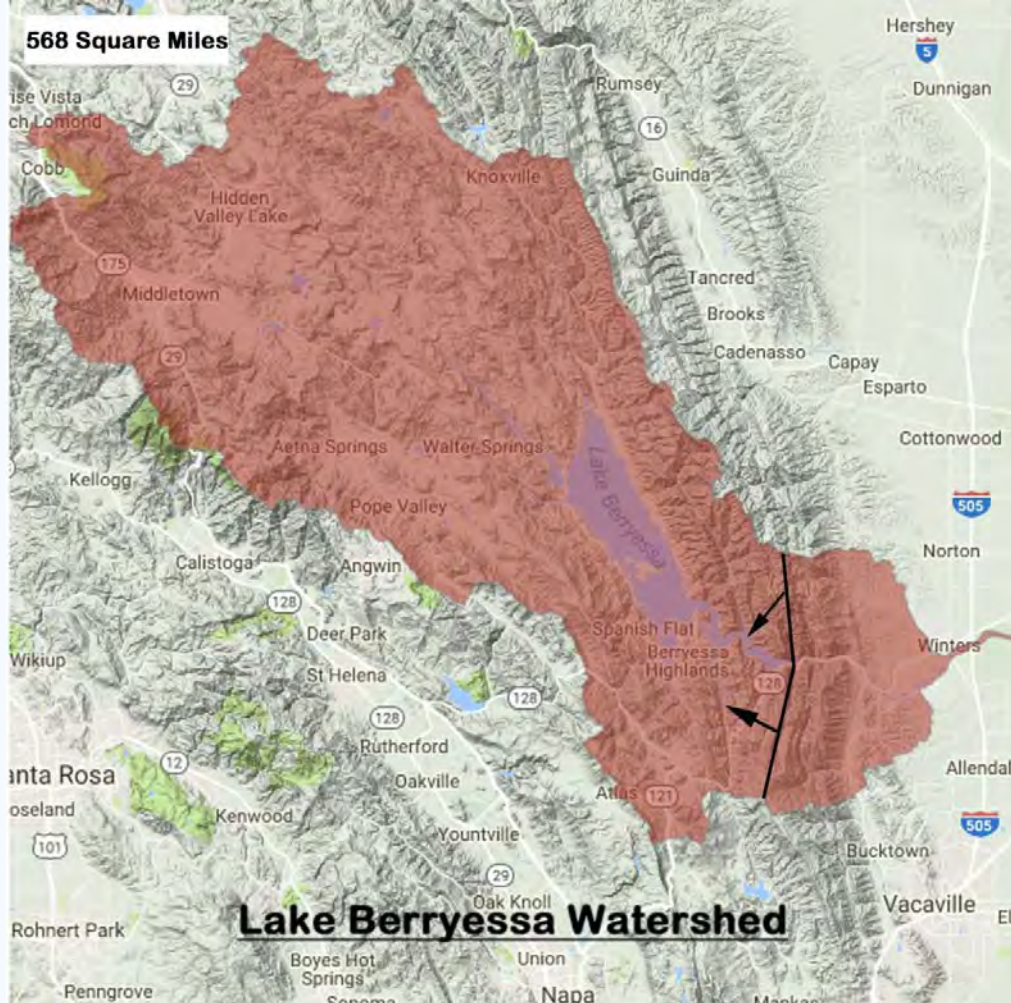
Lake capacity is at 88.9%



Glory Hole Watch 2026: The Pre-Game Show

On September 10, 2025, the first official "rain" fell on Napa County and Lake Berryessa. The official total at Monticello Dam was .07 inches. The first official rain of 2024 was .03 inches on October 13, 2024. But are these rainfall totals significant? They do mitigate the wildfire threat a bit.

Rainfall totals vary significantly across the Lake Berryessa watershed. The Lake Berryessa water supply is derived from the 568 square mile drainage basin above the dam. The elevation of the basin ranges from 182 feet at the dam to 4,722 feet at Cobb Mountain at the upper end of Putah Creek with most of the basin lying below 1,500 feet. Cobb Mountain rainfall is usually about three times of rainfall at Monticello Dam.



The actual rainfall totals and other weather measurements of weather activity can be monitored by anyone by going to the links included below.

Local Lake Berryessa 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>

While .04 inches was recorded at the East Side Road station on September 10, no rainfall was recorded at the other Lake Berryessa weather stations.

The rainfall total at Monticello Dam is actually just a minor calibration monitoring point since it shows the effect of the average rainfall across the whole watershed. The most important consideration is lake level rise which determines the water volume held in the lake itself.

So, when do we officially begin Glory Hole Watch 2026? The first rainfall of the year only starts to saturate the ground. Things become interesting when we experience the first significant rainfall. The official "rain year" monitored by the Solano County Water Agency runs from July 1 to June 30. Below is a chart of the last 29 years of rainfall statistics at Lake Berryessa measured at Monticello Dam. Notice the extreme variability.

See my story about Glory Hole Watch 2024 on Napa Valley Features with a lot more detail about how all the pieces work together.

Top Stories of 2024 #5: Lake Berryessa — Glory Hole Watch 2024
[https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/top-stories-of-2024-5-lake-berryessa?](https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/top-stories-of-2024-5-lake-berryessa?utm_source=publication-search)
[utm_source=publication-search](https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/top-stories-of-2024-5-lake-berryessa?utm_source=publication-search)

Lake Berryessa doesn't begin to rise until about 2.5-3.0 inches of rainfall has saturated the dry ground. Which means that Glory Hole Watch 2026 will officially begin on the first day that Lake Berryessa begins to rise. Get ready to rumble!

Berryessa Highlands Rentals

108 Parkview, 3 bd/2 bath, \$2,600 per month

1104 Steele Canyon Road, 4 bd/2 bath, \$2,700 per month

1280 Steele Canyon Road, 3 bd/3 bath, \$3,700 per month
Water/sewer included - HUGE LAKE VIEWS!

Coming Soon - For Sale

New Lake View Home on 1/2 acre, \$499,000



Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

Reclamation announces seasonal hours and facility updates at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation adjusted operating hours at Lake Berryessa beginning Sept. 7, as part of its seasonal transition. Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead for changes to facility access, boating regulations, and recreation services.

Dufer Point Visitor Center

- Open weekends and holidays, 12 to 3 p.m.
- America the Beautiful Interagency Passes available by appointment on weekdays and during open hours on weekends

Oak Shores Day Use Area

- North End: Closed for the season starting September 7
- South End: Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Parking and launch fees must be paid and receipts displayed on dashboards
- America the Beautiful Interagency Passes available by appointment on weekdays and during open hours on weekends
- Group Reservations - Oak Shores offers four large shade shelters at Acorn Beach and Foxtail Flat. Reservations for groups of up to 50 people are available for \$25 per shelter, per day at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). For larger gatherings, contact the Park Ranger Office at 707-905-7896.

Smittle Creek and Eticuera Day Use Areas

- Open year-round for wildlife viewing, picnicking, and hand-launch watercraft
- Smittle Creek Trail remains open and accessible from two trailheads:
 - Smittle Creek Day Use Area (year-round)
 - Coyote Knolls parking lot (summer only)
- Starting September 7, parking lot gates will close at 5 p.m.

Capell Cove Boat Launch

- Closed indefinitely due to staffing.

Boating and Mussel Prevention

- 30-Day Quarantine Requirement:
- Beginning November 2024, all trailered vessels must complete a free 30-day quarantine before launching, unless they:
 - Already have a Lake Berryessa green seal
 - Provide proof of decontamination
 - Use non-petroleum-powered or non-trailered vessels
- Learn more at the [Solano County Water Agency Mussel Prevention Program](#)

Tip: Boaters should confirm ramp closing times with operators to avoid delays or a second quarantine period.

Concession-Operated Facilities

Alternative recreation opportunities, including boat launching, are available at concession-operated sites:

- Markley Cove Resort: [markleycove.com](https://www.markleycove.com) | 707-966-2134
- Pleasure Cove Marina: [goberryessa.com](https://www.goberryessa.com) | 707-966-9600
- Steele Canyon Recreation Area: [campsteelecanyon.com](https://www.campsteelecanyon.com) | 707-966-9410
- Spanish Flat Recreation Area: [Spanish Flat Campground](https://www.spanishflatcampground.com) | 707-966-0200
- Putah Canyon Recreation Area: [royalelcparkmanagement.com](https://www.royalelcparkmanagement.com) | 707-966-9051

For more information about activities, fees, maps, and updates, visit the [Lake Berryessa Website](#), call 707-905-7896, or email BOR-Berryessa@usbr.gov.

Reclamation plans Open House to discuss East Side Road Projects at Lake Berryessa

*Rehabilitation work is planned to address damage
from 2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fire*

The Bureau of Reclamation will host an open house at Lake Berryessa's Dufer Point Visitor Center on Sept. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. to share information and gather public feedback on upcoming projects along East Side Road, scheduled to begin in 2025. Reclamation is preparing Environmental Assessments to guide several restoration and management efforts. The first project, the East Side Road Fuel Reduction Project, proposes targeted grazing and prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risk and improve ecosystem health. This assessment is expected to open for public comment later this fall.

In addition, Reclamation has secured federal funding to support rehabilitation efforts to replace East Side Road culverts and rehabilitation of burned areas, which will restore fencing and native grasslands damaged by the wildfire.

These projects aim to address non-emergency repairs and improve lands unlikely to recover naturally following the 2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fire, which burned more than 400 acres of Lake Berryessa's northeast shoreline and 60% of Solano Project lands. Planned efforts will also help reduce invasive species such as black mustard and mitigate future fire risk.

For more information, contact the Lake Berryessa Field Office at 707-905-8469, emailing BOR-Berryessa@usbr.gov, or visit the Lake Berryessa website at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/>.

The Lake Berryessa News Free Content

The Lake Berryessa News (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>) can be your primary source of information about Lake Berryessa - present and past. Our motto is (and it's basically true) that, "Without The Lake Berryessa News, there would be no Lake Berryessa news."

There are hundreds of stories, photos, and documents dating back to before the completion of Monticello Dam and the drowning of the Berryessa Valley and the Town of Monticello. Free downloadable chapters of my books are also there for you to access. My goal is to provide factual news and information for and about the Lake Berryessa region and its extended community. Tim Carl of Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>) graciously wrote about The Lake Berryessa News in articles on his publication:

[Peter Kilkus: nearly two decades of hyper-local news reporting in Napa County](#)

[Top Stories of 2024 #5: Lake Berryessa — Glory Hole Watch 2024](#)

[Free Lake Berryessa Book Chapters Available For Download](#)

[Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource:](#)

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[East Side Story](#)

[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Napa Opposes Building the Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

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

[As Lake Berryessa Turns!](#)

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

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

[Glory Hole Introduction](#)

[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Index Of Primary Documents](#)

Nestled in the beautiful Berryessa Pines Community

181 Berryessa Drive

<https://181berryessadr.com/>

\$410,000

Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.
This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,
Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdrms, 2 bath
property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.
The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.
New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck
offering stunning views of Lake Berryessa.
Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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

Lake Views, Outdoor Elegance & Stylish Living!

<https://www.1149rimrockdr.com/>

\$630,000

Tucked into the scenic Berryessa Highlands, this 4BR/2.5 BA home offers the ultimate indoor-outdoor lifestyle with breathtaking lake views and one of the most beautifully terraced backyards you'll ever see. Built in 1985, this home offers the perfect blend of comfort, character, and natural beauty—just minutes from Lake Berryessa recreation.



Features stylish interiors with a chef's kitchen complemented by solid oak floors and a cozy fireplace in the living room that opens to a deck with panoramic lake views!
Boat/RV parking, and a dedicated garden area add both charm and function!
A magical terraced landscape ideal for garden lovers and outdoor entertainers alike.
A true work of art and a MUST SEE



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

<https://1300steelecanyonrd.com/>



1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$644,000

CORCORAN

4 3 2,443

ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #0130224
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net



1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,149,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244

707-235-1124

amber.payne@corcoranicon.com

www.amberpayne.net

Lake Views, Outdoor Elegance & Stylish Living!

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\$640,000

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amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Lake Berryessa Lots

259 Sugarloaf Drive

APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$68,900

Spanish Flat Woodlands

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$15,000

Flat then downslope

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$43,000

Flat Then Upslope Lot

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$47,000

Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,000

Corner Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,500

Flat Then Downslope

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,500

Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1187 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-024-000 .34+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$16,000

Flat Then Downslope Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$85,000

Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$59,000

Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1183 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-023-000 .35+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$16,000

Flat Then Downslope Lot

1045 Arroyo Grande Drive

APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$65,000

Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$50,000

Flat Then Upslope Lot

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$125,000

Flat Improved Lot

9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres

Offered at \$475,000

Improved Acreage

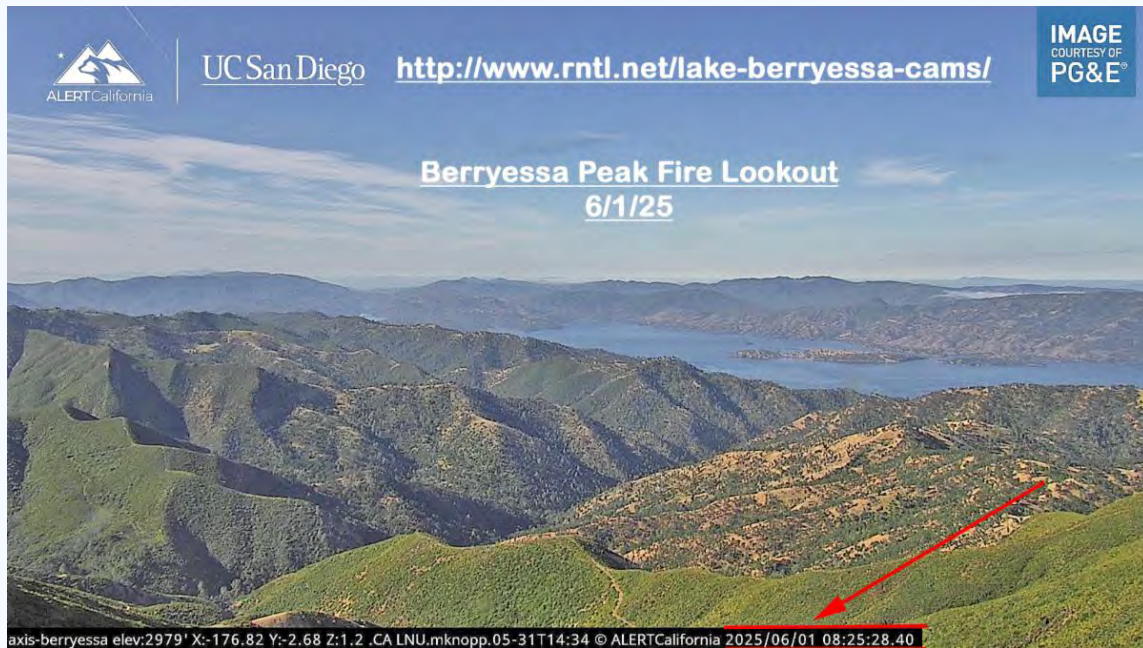


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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





Steele Canyon Campground Inc.
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558
Office: (707) 966-9410
Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...
Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.
<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



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WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
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SERVICE, PARTS, & SALES



MERCURY
Authorized Dealer
Service, Parts & Accessories



TOHATSU



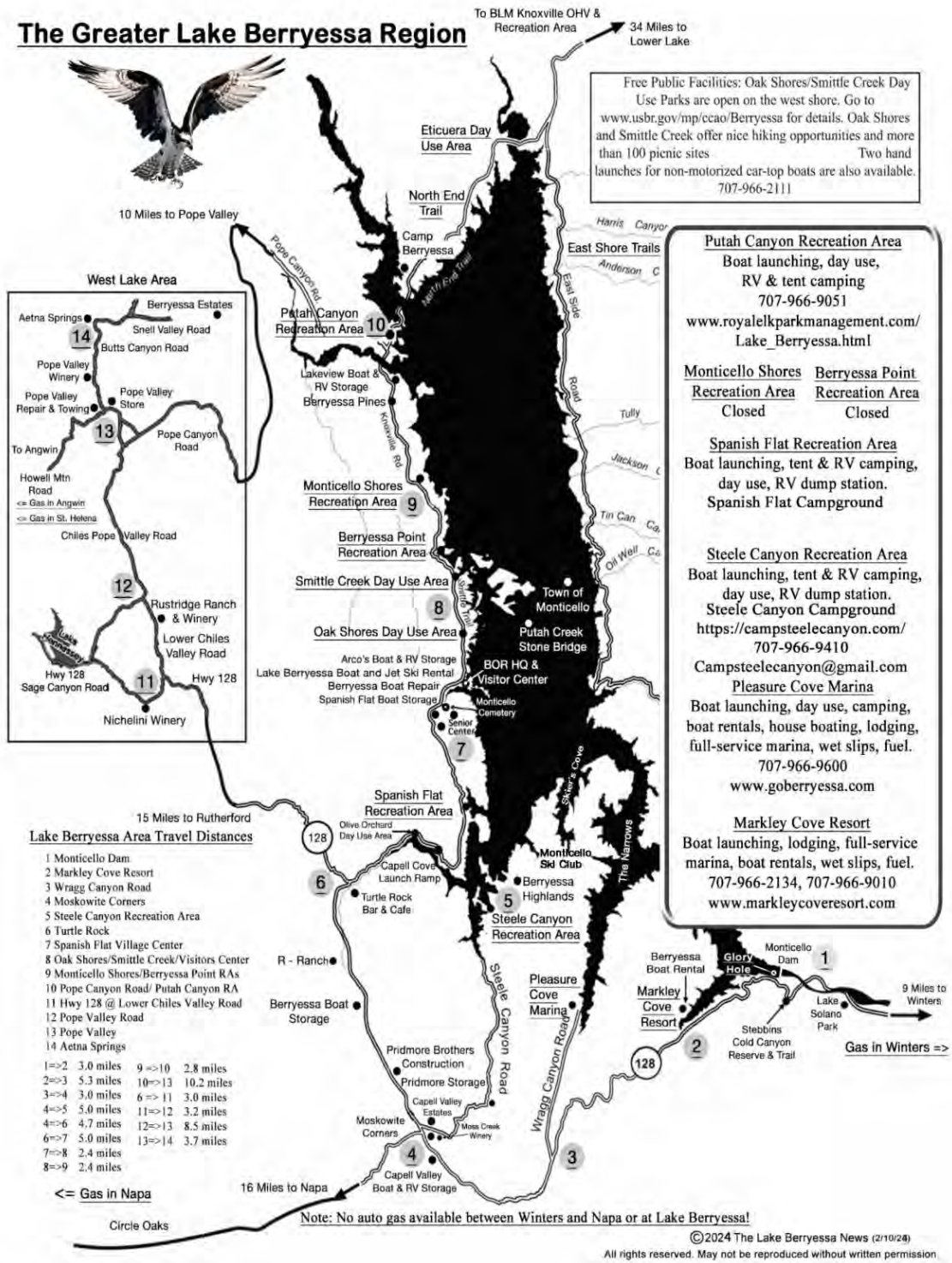
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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The Lake Berryessa News

September 21, 2025

The great weather continues at beautiful Lake Berryessa!



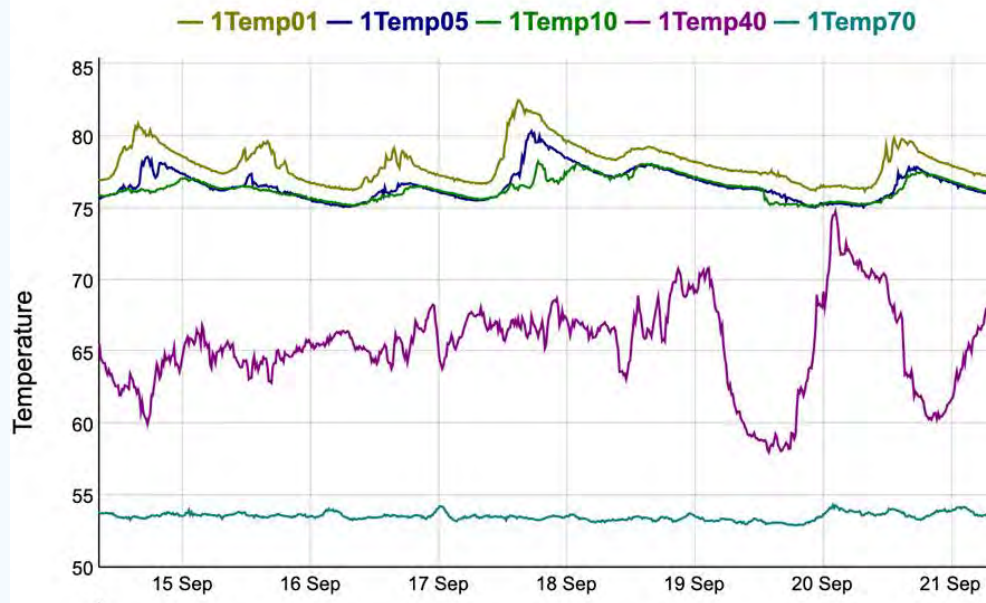
Lake Berryessa Statistics (9/21/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 430.3 feet, 9.7 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 88.5%

Surface temperature dropped to 77 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down.

Lake Berryessa - Temperature



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Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

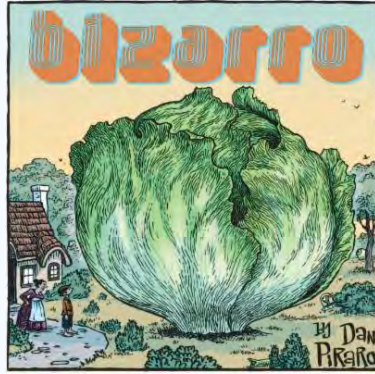
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

**Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales**

The Sunday Funnies

See some of your favorites at:

<https://www.usatoday.com/comics/>



More Sunday Funnies: How Silly Can You Get!

Can the Pink Salt Trick Help You Lose Weight?

In the "People will believe anything they see on social media" category, sprouts the "pink salt trick", a viral social media trend for weight loss that involves drinking a mixture of pink Himalayan salt and water, sometimes with lemon juice. However, experts and dietitians confirm there is no scientific evidence that this works, and Oprah Winfrey and TV host Rachel Maddow have no connection to it. Fraudulent websites using amazingly realistic AI-created videos falsely claimed Winfrey and Maddow endorsed the so-called "pink salt trick," redirecting users to shady supplement sales pages which promote the fad.

Always check the facts at Snopes.com before you believe what rumors you see on social media. If it doesn't seem right, it's probably not.

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/oprah-pink-salt-weight-loss/>

Simply put, no, the "pink salt trick" is not a science-backed strategy for weight loss or debloating. This trend, which involves mixing pink Himalayan salt with lemon juice and water, has gone viral; however, there's no research to support claims that it boosts metabolism, burns fat or reduces bloating.

Some supporters claim that the sodium in the drink contributes to electrolyte balance, enhances hydration and reduces bloating. But adding extra salt to your water could actually have the opposite effect. According to the [American Heart Association](#), about 90% of Americans exceed their daily sodium allotment. For people who already consume a high-sodium diet, more sodium can lead to increased water retention, making you feel puffier.

<https://www.today.com/health/diet-fitness/pink-salt-trick-rcna226084>

Social media never seems to run out of wellness tricks that promise big results in no time. From detox teas to apple cider vinegar shots, there's always a new trend that claims to melt fat, flatten your stomach or boost your metabolism overnight.

Influencers share their pink salt concoctions, racking up millions of views, with promises that the simple drink boosts metabolism, helps you shed pounds and reduces bloating. Some even suggest that the sodium in the salt balances electrolytes and enhances hydration.

However, while pink salt may look pretty in your pantry and lemon water can be refreshing, there's no scientific evidence to confirm that this combination accelerates weight loss or magically reduces stomach bloating. In fact, for many people, adding extra salt to water may actually have the opposite effect, making you feel more bloated.

There are many variations of this hack online, but the recipe is simple. Start with an 8-10 ounce glass of water, add a dash of pink Himalayan sea salt and a squeeze of lemon juice. Some recipes call for a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar or a dash of cayenne pepper. Lemon juice does provide a little vitamin C, but most people don't add enough to boost the nutrition of the drink significantly.

Pink Himalayan salt is often marketed as "healthier" than table salt because it contains trace minerals like magnesium, potassium and calcium. But the amounts are so tiny that they don't provide any meaningful health benefits. Additionally, coarse pink salt doesn't contain iodine, a nutrient that helps support thyroid health. Using pink salt in place of regular iodized salt could potentially create nutrient gaps over time. Also, using coarse salt, such as pink salt, instead of fine salt can lead to consuming more salt overall.

So remember: TANSTAAFL! There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch.



The Lake Berryessa News Free Content (Repost in case you missed it last week)

The Lake Berryessa News (<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>) can be your primary source of information about Lake Berryessa - present and past. Our motto is (and it's basically true) that, "Without The Lake Berryessa News, there would be no Lake Berryessa news."

There are hundreds of stories, photos, and documents dating back to before the completion of Monticello Dam and the drowning of the Berryessa Valley and the Town of

Monticello. Free downloadable chapters of my books are also there for you to access. My goal is to provide factual news and information for and about the Lake Berryessa region and its extended community. Tim Carl of Napa Valley Features (<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>) graciously wrote about The Lake Berryessa News in articles on his publication:

[Peter Kilkus: nearly two decades of hyper-local news reporting in Napa County](#)

[Top Stories of 2024 #5: Lake Berryessa — Glory Hole Watch 2024](#)

[Free Lake Berryessa Book Chapters Available For Download](#)

[Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource:](#)

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

[How High Is Lake Berryessa?](#)

[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[East Side Story](#)

[Hiking and Wildlife Viewing](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Napa Opposes Building the Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Construction](#)

[Raise Monticello Dam](#)

[Power Generation at Monticello Dam](#)

[Monticello Dam Failure Analysis](#)

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

[As Lake Berryessa Turns!](#)

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

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

[Glory Hole Introduction](#)

[How Does Glory Hole Work?](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Nestled in the beautiful Berryessa Pines Community

181 Berryessa Drive

<https://181berryessadr.com/>

\$410,888

Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.
This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,
Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdms, 2 bath
. property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.
The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.
New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck
offering stunning views of Lake Berryessa.
Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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Lake Views, Outdoor Elegance & Stylish Living!

<https://www.1149rimrockdr.com/>

\$630,000

Tucked into the scenic Berryessa Highlands, this 4BR/2.5 BA home offers the ultimate indoor-outdoor lifestyle with breathtaking lake views and one of the most beautifully terraced backyards you'll ever see. Built in 1985, this home offers the perfect blend of comfort, character, and natural beauty—just minutes from Lake Berryessa recreation.



Features stylish interiors with a chef's kitchen complemented by solid oak floors and a cozy fireplace in the living room that opens to a deck with panoramic lake views! Boat/RV parking, and a dedicated garden area add both charm and function! A magical terraced landscape ideal for garden lovers and outdoor entertainers alike. A true work of art and a MUST SEE



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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$644,000

CORCORAN

4 3 2,443

ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$995,000



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1011 Steele canyon

<https://1011steelecanyonrd.com/>

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres

\$1,149,000

Exceptional Lake Berryessa Estate - Premier Peninsula Location. Discover unmatched privacy with the shoreline just steps from your door. As the only residence on this secluded stretch, it truly feels like your private lakeside retreat. The property attracts diverse wildlife, with visits from bald eagles, ospreys, deer, and foxes. The home features an open floor plan with high ceilings and expansive windows creating a bright atmosphere. Interior finishes include tile, laminate, and carpet flooring with a cozy fireplace. Minutes from the Steele Canyon Recreation Area.

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Lake Views, Outdoor Elegance & Stylish Living!

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\$630,000

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Lake Berryessa Lots

259 Sugarloaf Drive

APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$68,900

Spanish Flat Woodlands

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$15,000

Flat then downslope

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$43,000

Flat Then Upslope Lot

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$47,000

Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,000

Corner Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,500

Flat Then Downslope

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$29,500

Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1187 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-024-000 .34+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$16,000

Flat Then Downslope Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$85,000

Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$59,000

Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1183 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-451-023-000 .35+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$16,000

Flat Then Downslope Lot

1045 Arroyo Grande Drive

APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$65,000

Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot

Offered at \$50,000

Flat Then Upslope Lot

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot

Offered at \$125,000

Flat Improved Lot

9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres

Offered at \$475,000

Improved Acreage

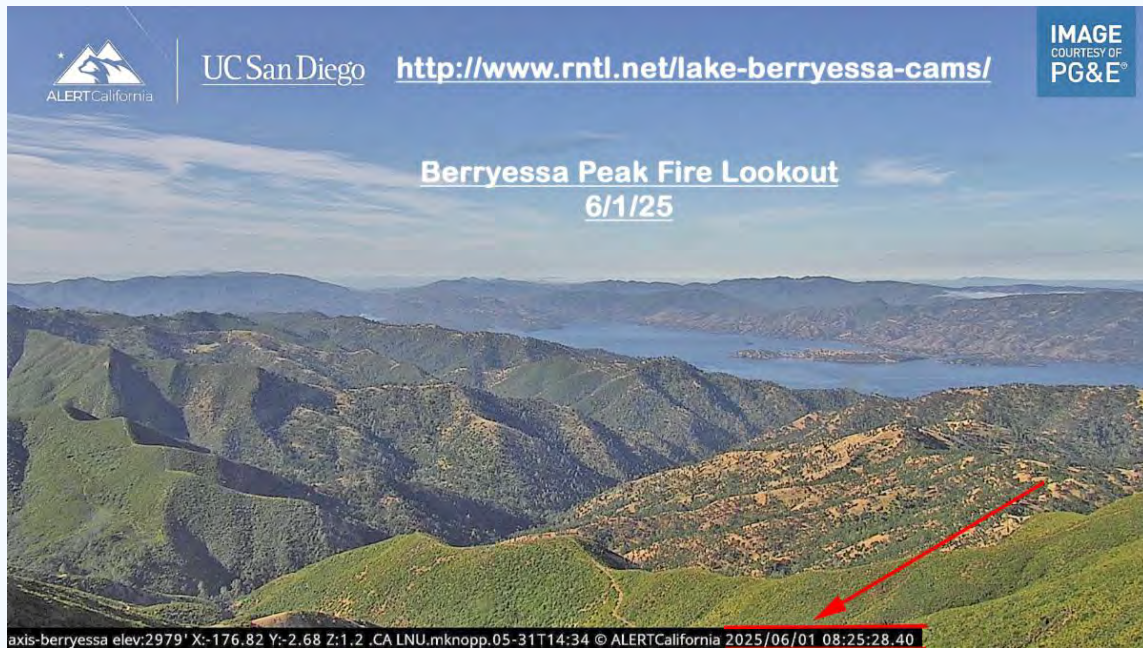


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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

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

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.

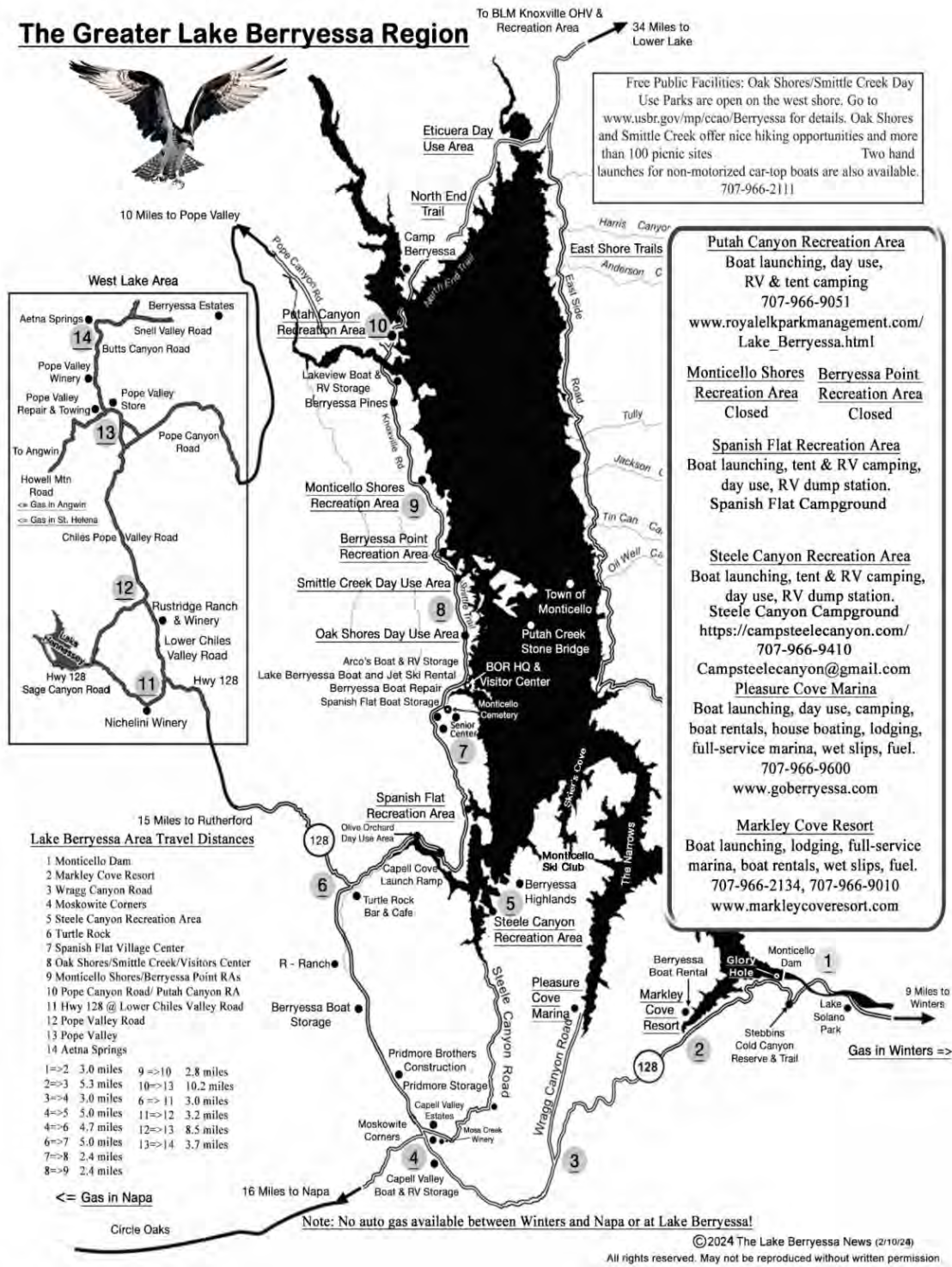


4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)

707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com

Call or go online to book now

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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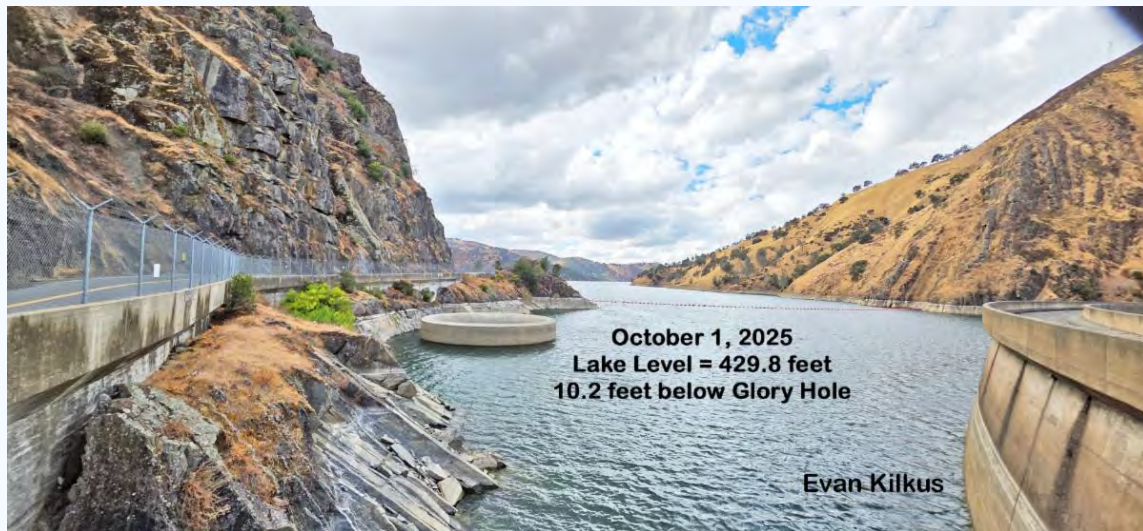
The Lake Berryessa News

October 5, 2025

Although summer is over, good times continue at beautiful Lake Berryessa. Rainfall has been minimal so far - only 0.1 inch at Monticello Dam. The lake is dropping about a half-inch per day and is now at 10.4 feet below Glory Hole.

No real news about the progress of Camp Margaritaville Resorts at Steele Canyon Campground. The planning process continues with some contract terms being worked out with the Interior Department - Bureau of Reclamation in Washington, DC.

According to Napa County, Spanish Flat Campground will reopen by first of year at the latest.



Lake Berryessa Statistics (10/5/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is at 429.6 feet, 10.4 feet below Glory Hole.

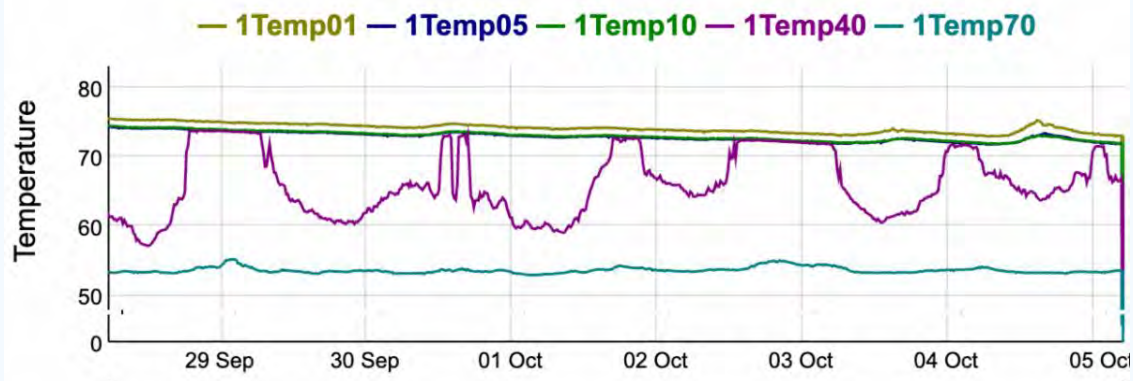
Lake capacity is at 87.7%

Surface temperature has dropped to 72 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down. The chart shows that mixing has begun. The lake is moving towards "turnover" when cold weather, wind, and rain will mix the lake to the same temperature from top to bottom.

As Lake Berryessa Turns!

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Tech-Manual-Chapters/-Lake-Berryessa-Turnover.pdf>

Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Night Firefighting Aircraft Training Again at Lake Berryessa

Saturday evening, CAL FIRE conducted a night aerial firefighting training exercise around Lake Berryessa. Our CAL FIRE Hawk from the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base was joined by our Exclusive Use Type 1 Helitankers as we train together to sharpen skills, enhance safety and ensure a unified response during nighttime fire suppression operations. Training today means being ready to protect our communities tomorrow.

<https://www.facebook.com/CALFIRELNU>



Berryessa Highlands Rentals

108 Parkview, 3 bd/2 bath, \$2,600 per month

1104 Steele Canyon Road, 4 bd/2 bath, \$2,700 per month

1280 Steele Canyon Road, 3 bd/3 bath, \$3,700 per month

Water/sewer included - HUGE LAKE VIEWS!

Coming Soon - For Sale

New Lake View Home on 1/2 acre, \$499,000



Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

The Sunday Funnies

See some of your favorites at:

<https://www.usatoday.com/comics/>

Pleasure Cove Marina (Suntex) - Lake Berryessa

BIG upgrades coming to Pleasure Cove's docks!

Exciting progress alert at Pleasure Cove Marina! We are moving fast on our new build, which will add 150 brand-new covered slips, ranging from 26 feet up to 80 feet! Don't miss your chance to secure a spot for your boat on stunning Lake Berryessa. Spaces are filling up quickly! Fill out our inquiry form today to reserve your new slip and be one of the first to enjoy this massive upgrade!

Sign up here: <https://hubs.la/Q03MbXfm0>





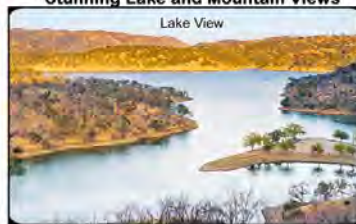
**Welcome to your own 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private half-acre with
a new home overlooking beautiful Lake Berryessa!**

4101 Berryessa Knoxville Road

\$499,000

**Here is your chance at an affordable home and land ownership in Napa County
at its most amazing and overlooked treasure - Lake Berryessa.
Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.**

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views



Sparkling New Interior



Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

**Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales**

Spanish Flat Firewise Council Meeting

Monday, October 13, 5 PM

Berryessa Senior Center

4380 Spanish Flat Loop Rd

District 3 Supervisor Anne Cottrell is scheduled to attend.

Nestled in the beautiful Berryessa Pines Community

181 Berryessa Drive

<https://181berryessadr.com/>

\$410,000

Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.
This home offers a serene lakeside living experience,
Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdrms, 2 bath
. property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet.
The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility.
New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck
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Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$639,000

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ICON PROPERTIES

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\$895,000



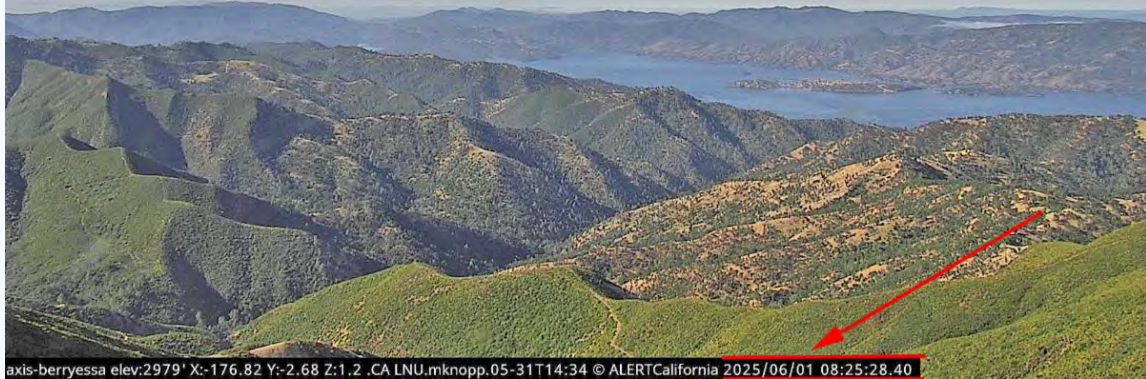
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Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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Office: (707) 966-9410

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<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



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Call or go online to book now



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TOHATSU

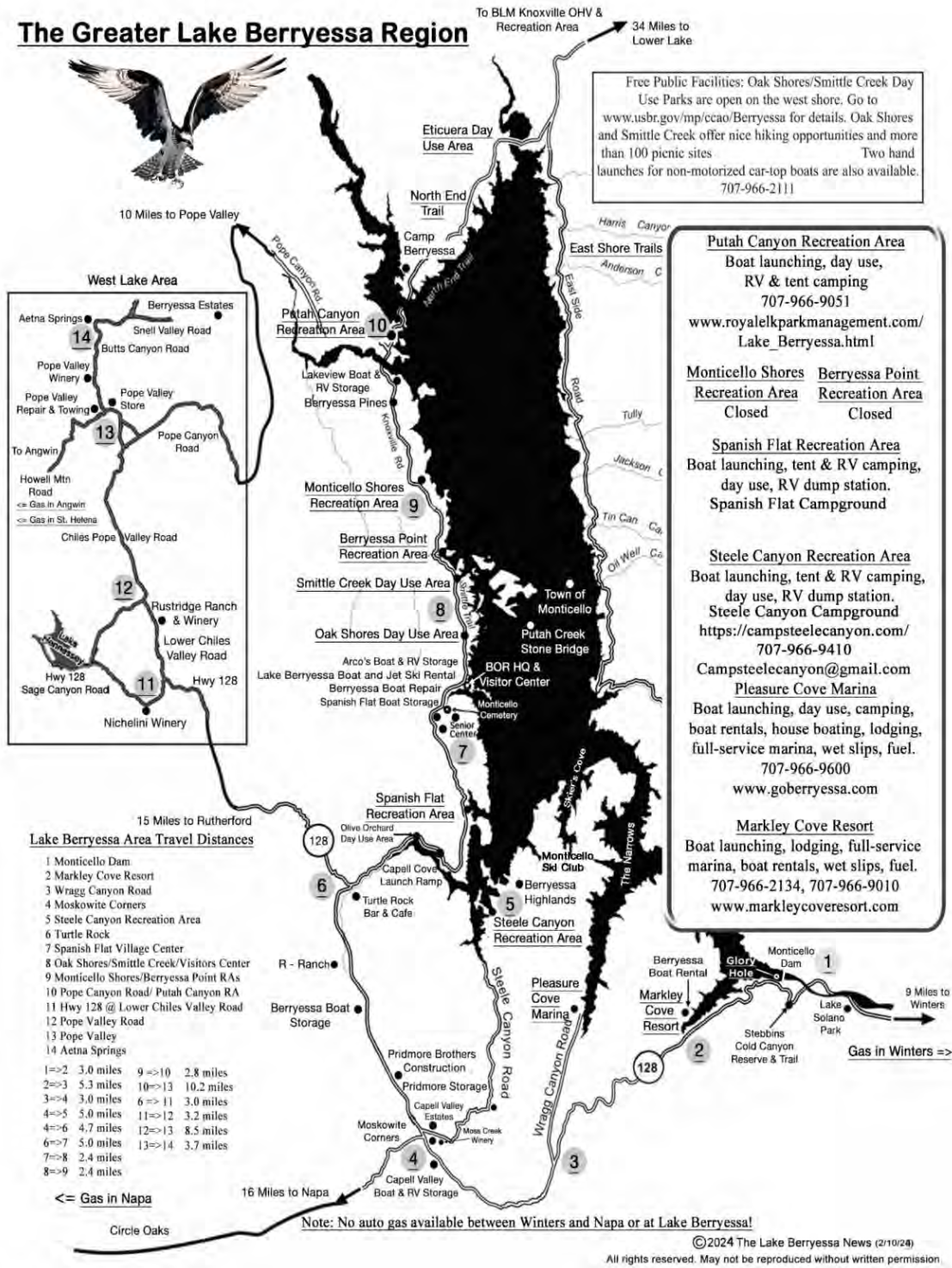


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News October 19, 2025

The lake had been dropping about a half-inch per day, but stopped for a couple of days after the last 2.14 inches of rain on 10/14 and 10/15. It has started dropping again and is now at 429.25 feet, 10.75 feet below Glory Hole.

The warm sunny weather predicted for next week will dry out the land. It will take several more inches of rain to produce any significant runoff.

Glory Hole Watch 2026 will start after the lake begins rising again. Unfortunately, some weather prediction services are forecasting a lower than normal rainfall year. Stay tuned.

Lake Berryessa Statistics (10/19/25)

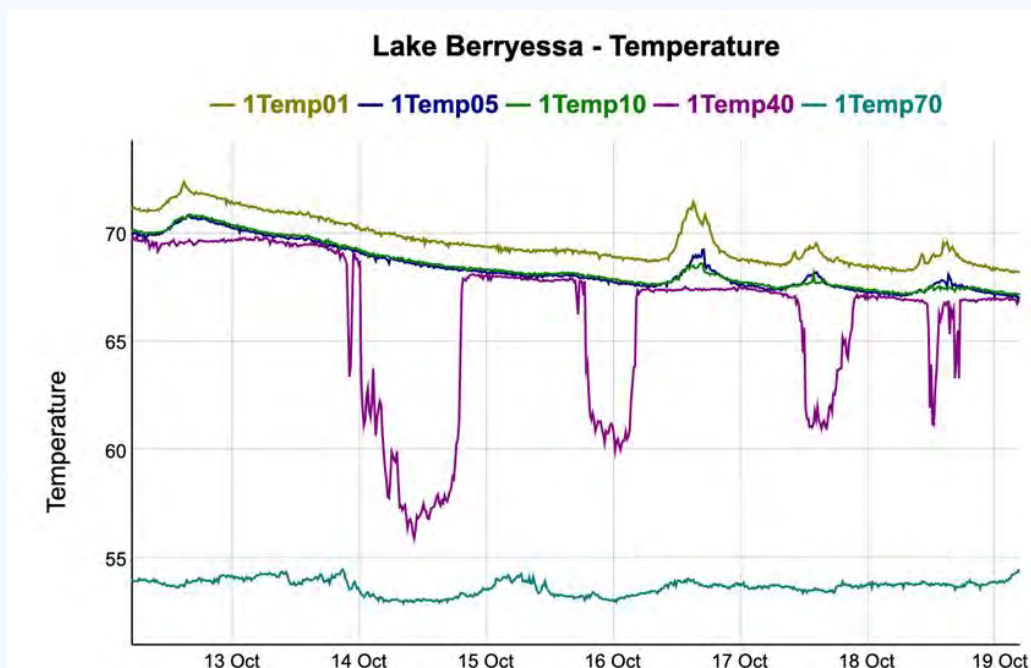
The Lake Berryessa water level is at 429.25 feet, 10.75 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 87.3%

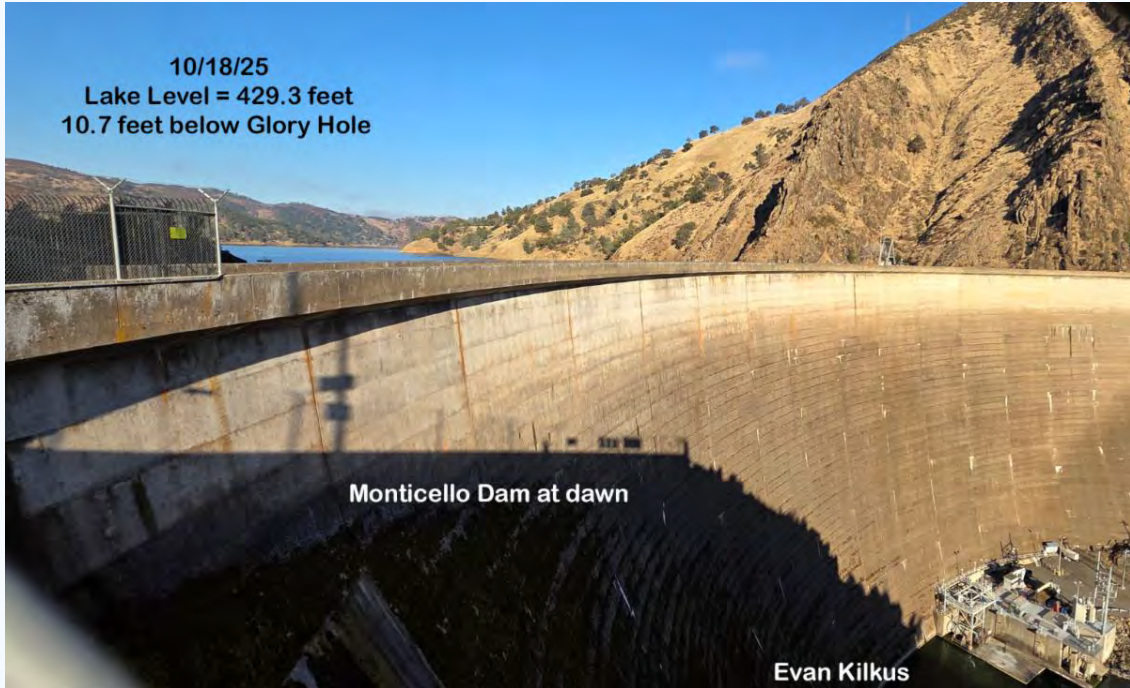
Surface temperature has dropped to 68 degrees from the surface to 10 feet down. The chart shows that mixing has begun. The lake is moving towards "turnover" when cold weather, wind, and rain will mix the lake to the same temperature from top to bottom.

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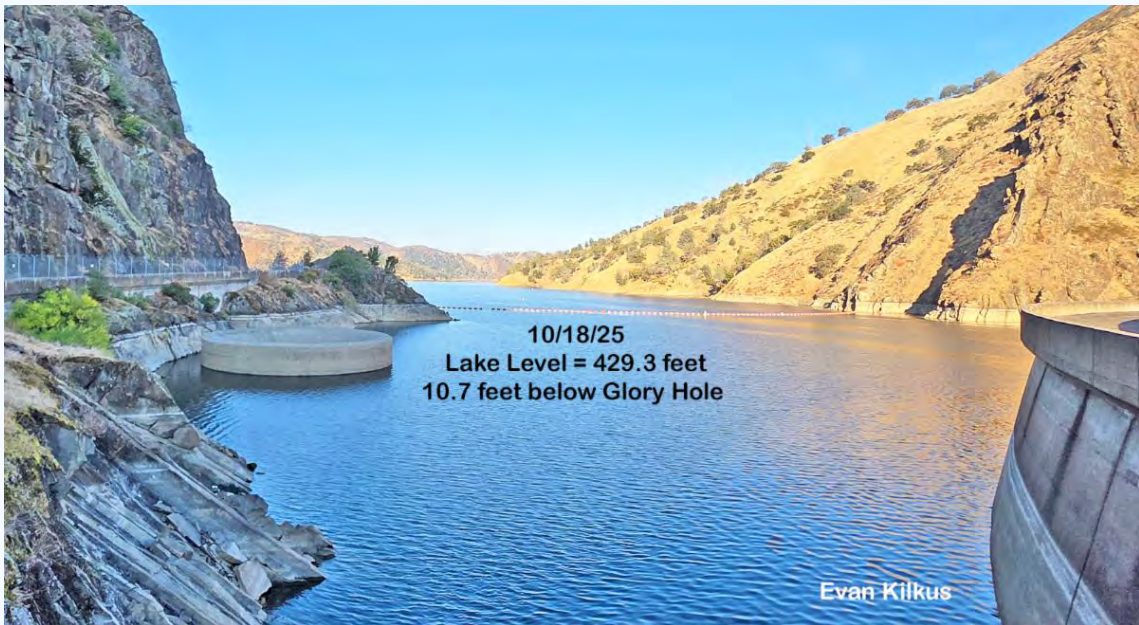
10/18/25
Lake Level = 429.3 feet
10.7 feet below Glory Hole



Monticello Dam at dawn

Evan Kilkus

10/18/25
Lake Level = 429.3 feet
10.7 feet below Glory Hole



Evan Kilkus

10/18/25
Output at 180 cubic feet per second



Evan Kilkus



Foxy's Fall Century Ride on Saturday October 18th, 2025, is the Davis Bike Club's popular late-season cycling event. Often described as the ideal first century ride, it offers challenges, distances, and scenery for riders of all levels. Coincidentally, Lake Berryessa News associate editor, Evan Kilkus, caught a photo of a couple of Foxy riders at Monticello Dam. The weather was perfect! See the map below and imagine doing this ride!

I actually first heard of Lake Berryessa when my son, Chris, was a professional bicycle racer. He and friends would do a century by riding their bikes from Marin County to Lake Berryessa, camp out for the night, and finish their 100-mile trek by riding home the next day.

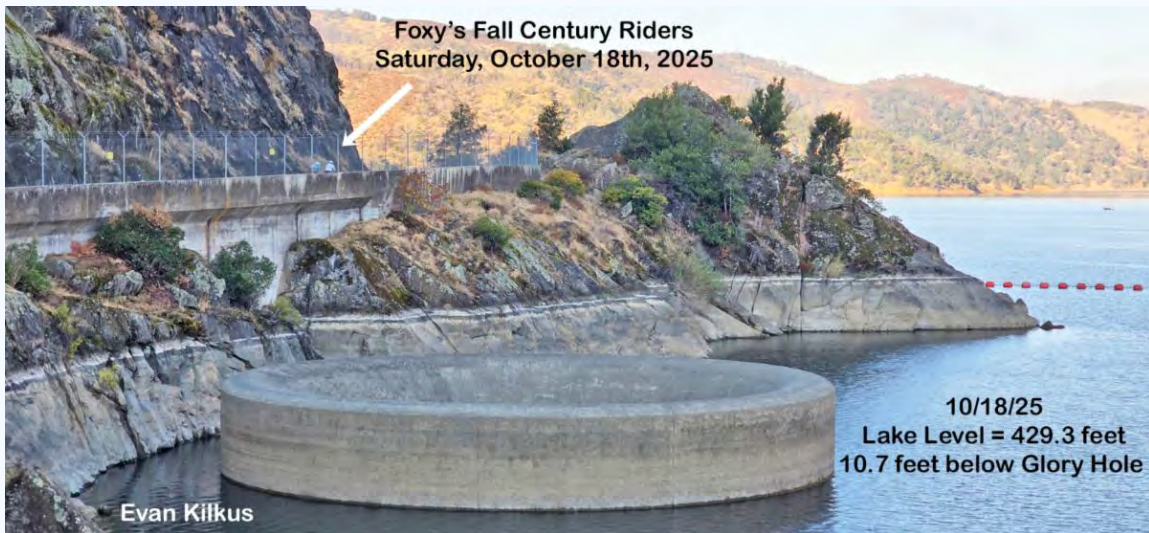
100 mile Century

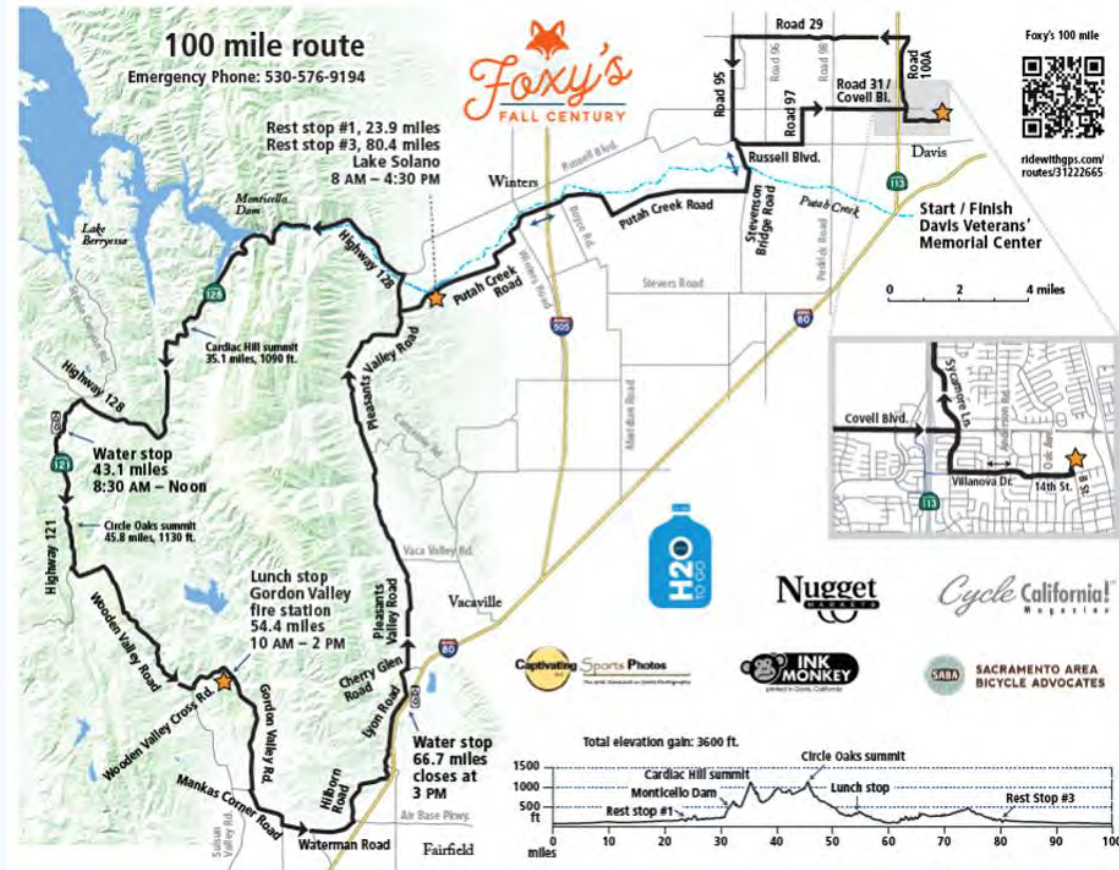
With approximately 3,100 feet of climbing through Yolo, Solano, and Napa counties, this "moderately challenging" route climbs along Highway 128 westbound as riders approach Lake Berryessa. Most of the climbing occurs before the descent into Wooden Valley and lunch stop at the Gordon Valley fire station, on a lightly traveled back road on the edge of Napa County. Return to Lake Solano via Pleasants Valley and Putah Creek Roads, then back to Davis.

**Foxy's Fall Century Ride
Saturday, October 18th, 2025**



**Foxy's Fall Century Riders
Saturday, October 18th, 2025**





Track the real-time Lake Berryessa weather at:

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>

Berryessa Pines

KCANAPA461

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA461>



California prepares for extreme weather swings as new water year begins

California's water year runs from October 1 to September 30. The Solano County Water Agency's water year runs from July 1 to June 30.

The new State water year began with a clear message from the state's top water official. "There is no such thing as a normal water year in California," said Karla Nemeth, director of the state Department of Water Resources. "Just in the past two winters, deceptively average rain and snowfall totals statewide masked the extremely dry conditions in Southern California that contributed to devastating fires as well as flood events across the state from powerful atmospheric river events. California must be ready to respond to emergencies from droughts to floods to fires," Nemeth added.

DWR reported that Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is currently 109% of average for this date. Lake Berryessa, the Solano County Water Agency reported Tuesday afternoon, was at just shy of 430 feet. It spills at 440 feet.

County officials also are still working to make the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Plan a little more Solano friendly, massaging a proposal that would leave more of Lake Berryessa water for local uses rather than for the state's Delta and river habitat goals. "However, there is uncertainty about conditions this winter," the state agency said in a statement.

"The latest outlook from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center shows a 71% chance of La Niña conditions this fall, decreasing to a 54% chance in December through February," the statement said. "La Niña events have historically resulted in more dry than wet years, but research also suggests that even as the climate grows hotter and drier overall, the precipitation that California does receive will arrive in stronger storms, increasing the risk from flooding."

The agency noted that last winter there were extremely dry fall conditions in Southern California, which helped fuel the destructive Eaton and Palisades fires just weeks before the typical peak of atmospheric river storm activity in California. The timing meant a multi-agency effort working to protect downstream communities and watersheds as part of the state's largest watershed protection mission to keep hazardous material from contaminating local water supplies and waterways.

Extreme flooding, the agency said, will remain a critical concern moving into this water year as a warmer atmosphere drives more moisture through more powerful storms. DWR has more than 4.3 million sandbags and 191 flood fight materials containers pre-positioned for quick deployment across the state if needed.

"The past decade has clearly demonstrated the need to prepare for extremes," state Climatologist Michael Anderson said in the statement. "A dramatic flood year in 2023 was followed by two years with large spatial disparities. While our water supplies are in a good position heading into the new water year, we will be watching closely for dry and wet extreme conditions that can pose hazards statewide."

"California also starts this water year with more groundwater data than ever before, helping groundwater sustainability agencies and communities monitor conditions in their region to promote long-term sustainability and protect drinking water supplies against the impacts of climate change. Over the course of 2024, the state received average precipitation, helping sustain natural and managed recharge efforts after the exceptionally wet 2023. These last three years (2023, 2024 and 2025) have seen continued increases in groundwater storage," the statement said.

Steele Canyon Campground signs a one-year contract extension with Napa County

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO NAPA COUNTY AGREEMENT NO. 240192B

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Reclamation ("BOR") and 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, protection of natural and cultural resources, and provision of public health and safety at Lake Berryessa.

WHEREAS, County and Concessionaire entered into Agreement No. 240192B ("Agreement") effective November 1, 2023, for Concessionaire to operate the Steele Canyon Resort Area at Lake Berryessa ("Property") while the County pursues a long term agreement for development and operation of resort concessions at the site; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement expires on October 31, 2025, and the parties would like to extend the Agreement for one year, with an option to extend the Agreement again for another year;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties amend the Agreement as follows:

1. Section 1, Paragraph A.1 of the Agreement is amended to read in full as follows:

1. Period of Performance

This Agreement, herein and hereafter referred to as the "Interim Concession Contract" shall be effective on November 1, 2023, and shall expire on October 31, 2026, unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Interim Concession Contract. County may extend the term of the Interim Concession Contract one additional year, in its sole discretion, on the same terms and conditions by providing written notice to Concession Contractor at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date.

2. County and Concession Contractor agree that while employee housing is allowed at the Property pursuant to Exhibit D, Paragraph D.3.d.xxv of this Agreement, federal law only allows employees to live on concession property while concessions are being operated for public use pursuant to federal regulations found at 43 C.F.R. § 429.4(b)(6). Otherwise, residing on BOR land is prohibited pursuant to federal regulations found at 43 C.F.R. § 429.31(b). Contractor shall ensure that none of its employees are residing at the Property beyond 10 days after this Agreement is terminated or expires.

3. This Amendment No. 1 represents all the changes to the Agreement agreed to by the parties. No enforceable oral representations or other agreements have been made by the parties except as specifically stated herein. All other provisions of the Agreement not addressed in this Amendment No. 1 shall remain in full force and effect.

Steele Canyon Campground on Instagram: "We're happy to announce that wood-burning fires and charcoal are now allowed again in the campground in designated areas! Due to the recent rain, we have contacted CalFire LNU Headquarters, and got the okay! Please remember to follow all fire safety guidelines and never leave fires unattended. Let's enjoy the warmth responsibly!"

Berryessa Highlands Rentals

108 Parkview, 3 bd/2 bath, \$2,600 per month

1104 Steele Canyon Road, 4 bd/2 bath, \$2,700 per month

1280 Steele Canyon Road, 3 bd/3 bath, \$3,700 per month

Water/sewer included - HUGE LAKE VIEWS!

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New Lake View Home on 1/2 acre, \$499,000



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Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

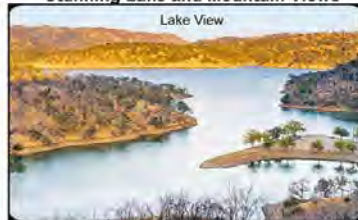
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Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views



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Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

New Special Tax Proposed for Berryessa Highlands Property Owners

Napa County Board of Supervisors Meeting - 10/21/2025 9:00 AM

See the full agenda and attachments here...

Agenda

Adopt a Resolution calling a Special Election on January 20, 2026 enabling voters to approve or reject Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Measure “A” establishing an annual Special Tax of \$1,560 on all parcels in the District with existing infrastructure available to connect to the water and sewer systems, and approving and submitting an argument in favor of Measure “A”.

Argument In Favor Of Measure A

The Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID) has experienced significant budget volatility and shortfalls exceeding \$400,000 the past five fiscal years due to aging water and sewer infrastructure, unplanned maintenance expenses and loss of over 90 customers due to the devastating 2020 LNU wildfire. NBRID has previously relied on discretionary loans from Napa County to bridge these significant budget shortfalls.

NBRID’s sewer and water systems are in urgent need of capital improvements, including expansion of wastewater treatment plant capacity, rehabilitation of sewer lift stations, and rehabilitation of the water distribution tank. Without these improvements, the systems could fail. NBRID needs additional revenue to complete these essential capital improvement projects, fund increasing operating costs, and establish a balanced budget with sufficient reserves.

A 2024 Median Household Income (MHI) Survey report designated NBRID a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) - meaning the certified MHI of those who participated in the survey was below 80% of the statewide MHI.

Measure A would impose a special tax of \$1,560 on all parcels in the District with a sewer or water service lateral stubbed to the street beginning in fiscal year 2026-27. The tax revenue would be used to fund sewer and water operations, capital improvements and emergency reserves. The tax would restore financial stability to NBRID and in conjunction with the DAC designation would make it eligible to apply for State and Federal Program CIP grants. These grants could be used to replace aged facilities, address treatment capacity deficiencies, and increase fire protection storage.

The tax would expire after ten years. However, the Governing Board could reduce the amount of the tax or terminate it prior to the end of the ten-year term if NBRID achieves its revenue and reserve balance goals early through acquisition of new customers.

A Uniquely "unique" Opportunity in the Berryessa Highlands

1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa

\$250,000



Under Construction - Buyer to Finish Opportunity knocks with this corner-lot property featuring lake views and approved plans for a 4BR/3BA home plus loft. Framing and foundation are in place; buyer to complete construction. The property includes a pool (condition unknown) and offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa.

Napa County is removing the red tag.

This property will no longer be red tagged! Ready for a new buyer!

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/1061-rimrock-drive-napa-ca-94558/100947206/regionId/100>



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Embrace a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.

This home offers a serene lakeside living experience, Picturesque lake view. Single-family home with 3 bdms, 2 bath . property sits on a generous lot of about 7,405 square feet. The third bedroom is used as an office or den, providing flexibility. New dual-pane windows, new HVAC system, Access to a spacious deck offering stunning views of Lake Berryessa. Ideal for relaxation and entertaining.



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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$639,000

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Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



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This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



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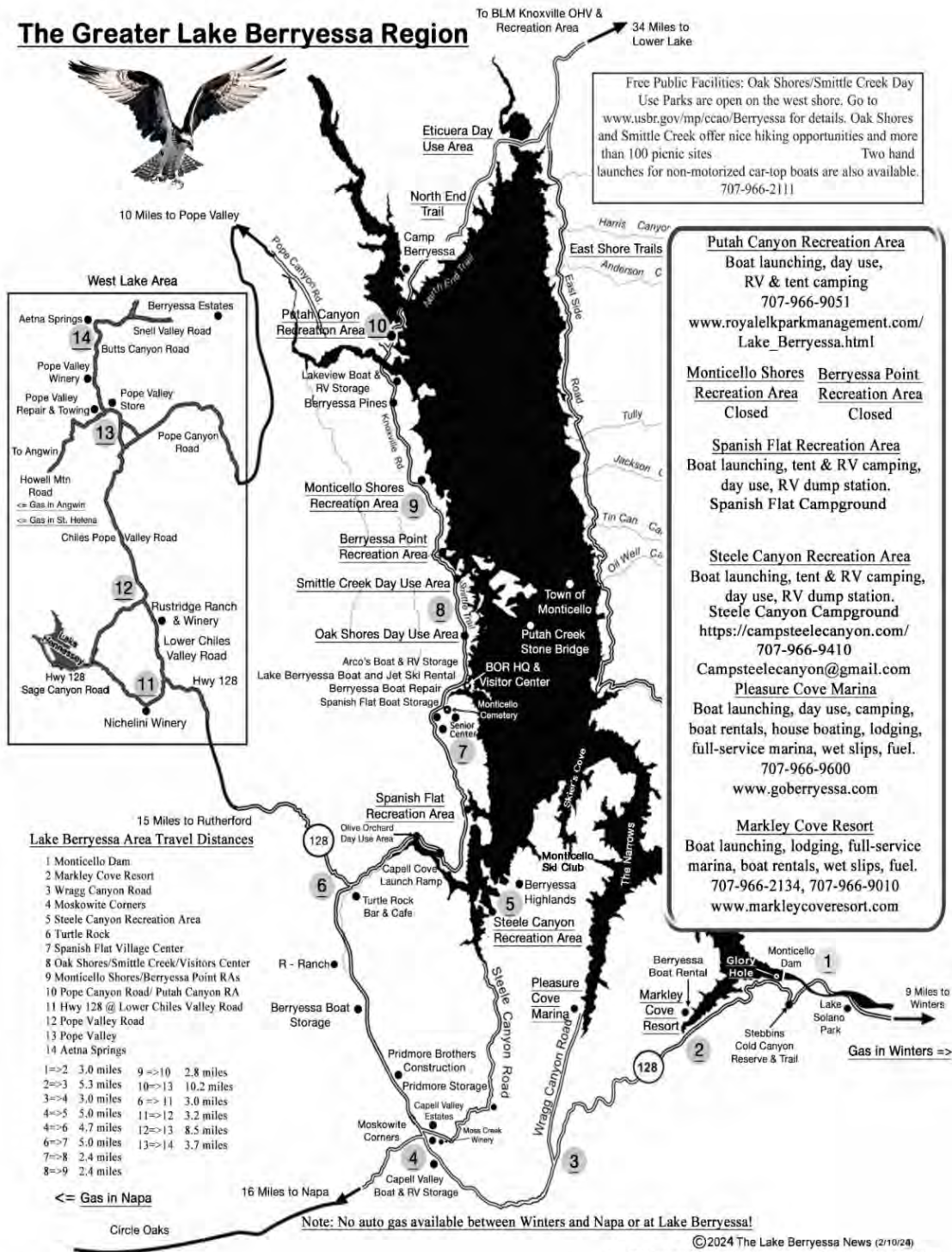


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News
October 26, 2025

Alien Space Lasers Disrupt Glory Hole Watch 2026!

The lizard people on the Moon are apparently using their weather control lasers to play games with our Lake Berryessa environment. If you are skeptical, get the facts at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reptilian_conspiracy_theory



(Note: Yes, it is a slow news day!)

After a meager 2 inches of rain a couple of weeks ago, we are being teased today with a heavy mist. Only .03 inches fell at Monticello Dam yesterday bringing total rainfall at the dam to 2.7 inches. It will take several more inches of rain to produce any runoff.

The Solano Irrigation District dam keepers have kept the dam output at an average of 150 cubic feet per second during the last week (100 million gallons per day or 300 acre-feet per day), down from 230 cfs last week. The photo of the dam output below barely shows any ripple from a flow of 180 cfs because the large main output flow is from large pipes well below the surface.

The lake level has only dropped 1.8 inches during that week. Evaporation counted for less than .1 inches per day of that.

As reported previously, Glory Hole Watch 2026 will start after the lake begins rising again.

Lake Berryessa Statistics (10/26/25)

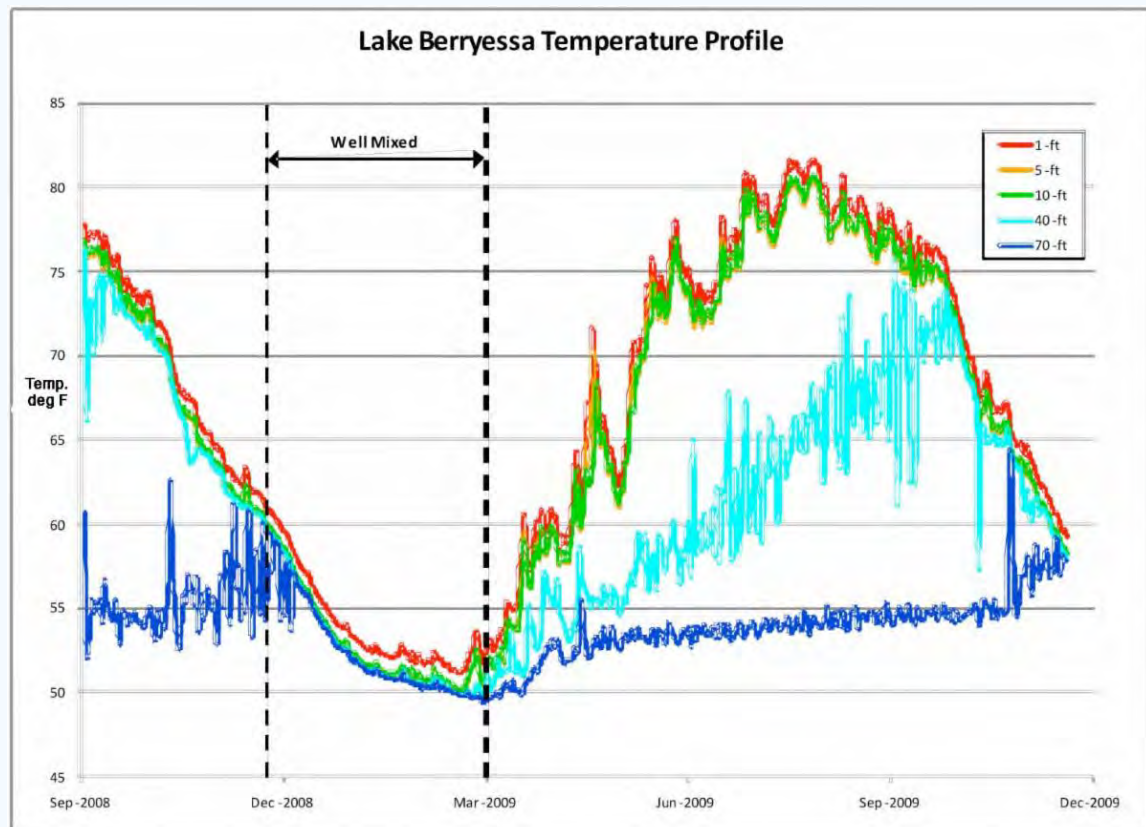
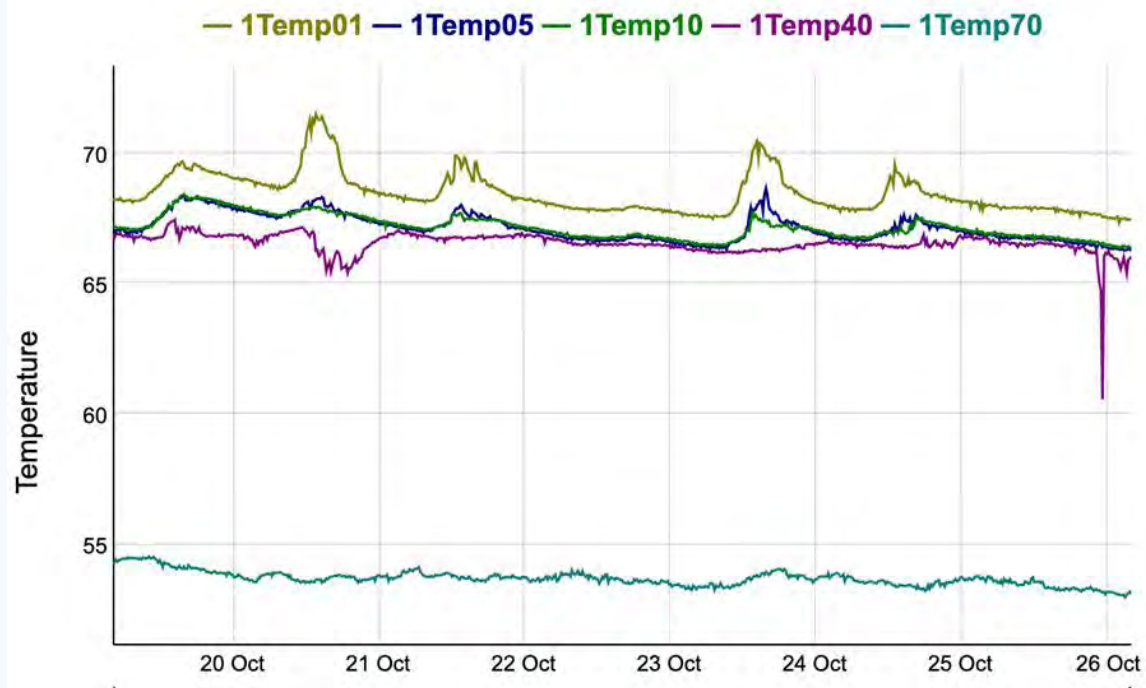
The Lake Berryessa water level is at 429.1 feet, 10.9 feet below Glory Hole.

Lake capacity is at 87.1% (1,351,651 acre-feet). When full, the lake holds 1,551,292 acre feet.

Surface temperature has dropped to 67 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down.



Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Track the real-time Lake Berryessa weather at:

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>

Berryessa Pines

KCANAPA461

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCANAPA461>



Meteorological Quick Study from the Lake Berryessa News

Before the term "atmospheric river" came into vogue a few years ago, we used to call the phenomenon a "pineapple express" because it usually originated near the Hawaiian Islands. Since I love pineapple, especially while sipping a pina colada on a beach on Maui, I will continue to call that type of atmospheric river a pineapple express.



Here is a breakdown of some common weather terms and their definitions, based on material from the National Weather Service. Luckily, most of these don't affect Lake Berryessa.

Atmospheric river (Pineapple Express): Long and wide plumes of moisture that form over an ocean and flow through the sky over land,

Blizzard: Wind speeds of 35 mph or more and considerable falling and/or blowing of snow with visibility of less than one-quarter mile for three or more hours.

Cyclone: A storm with strong winds rotating around a moving center of low atmospheric pressure. The word is sometimes used in the United States to mean tornado and in the Indian Ocean area to mean a tropical cyclone, like a hurricane.

Derecho: A widespread and usually fast-moving straight-line windstorm. It is usually more than hundreds of miles long and more than 100 miles across.

El Nino, La Nina: El Nino is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that starts with unusually warm water in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and then changes weather worldwide. The flip side of El Nino is La Nina, which is an occasional but natural cooling of the equatorial Pacific that also changes weather worldwide.

Heat index: What the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature.

Hurricane or typhoon: A warm core tropical cyclone in which the minimum sustained surface wind is 74 mph or more. Hurricanes are spawned in the North Atlantic and central and eastern North Pacific oceans. Typhoons develop in the northwest Pacific. They are known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific.

Microburst: Occurs when a mass of cooled air rushes downward out of a thunderstorm,

hits the ground and rushes outward in all directions.

Polar vortex: Usually refers to the gigantic circular upper air weather pattern in the Arctic region, enveloping the North Pole (but it can apply to the South Pole, too). It is a normal pattern that is stronger in the winter and keeps some of the coldest weather bottled up near the North Pole. The jet stream usually pens the polar vortex in and keeps it north. But at times some of the vortex can break off or move south, bringing unusually cold weather south and allowing warmer weather to creep north.

Snow squall: An intense but short-lived period of moderate to heavy snowfall, with strong winds and possible lightning.

Storm surge: An abnormal increase in water depth above the normal tide, generated by a storm.

Tornado: A violent rotating column of air forming a pendant, usually from a cumulonimbus cloud, and touching the ground. On a local scale, it is the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena. Tornadoes can appear from any direction, but in the U.S. most move from southwest to northeast. Measured on an EF-scale from EF0 to EF5, which considers 28 types of damage to structures and trees. An EF2 or higher is considered a significant tornado.

Tropical depression: A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind is 38 mph or less.

Tropical storm: A warm-core tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface winds range from 39 to 73 mph.

Tsunami: A great sea wave or seismic sea wave caused by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide or volcano.

Nor'easter: The term used by the National Weather Service for storms that either exit or move north along the East Coast, producing winds blowing from the northeast.

Waterspout: A tornado over water.

Wind chill factor: A calculation that describes the combined effect of the wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

Wind shear: A sudden shift in wind direction and/or speed.

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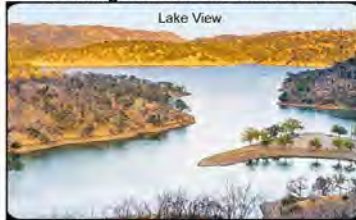
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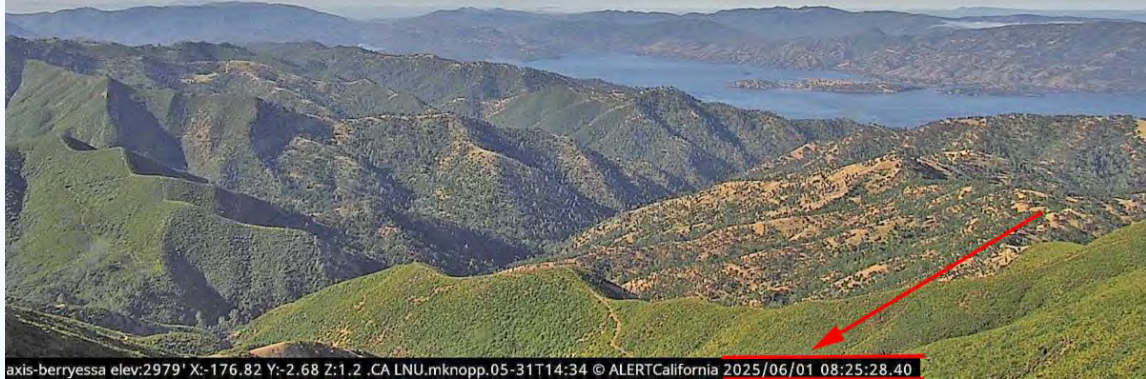
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Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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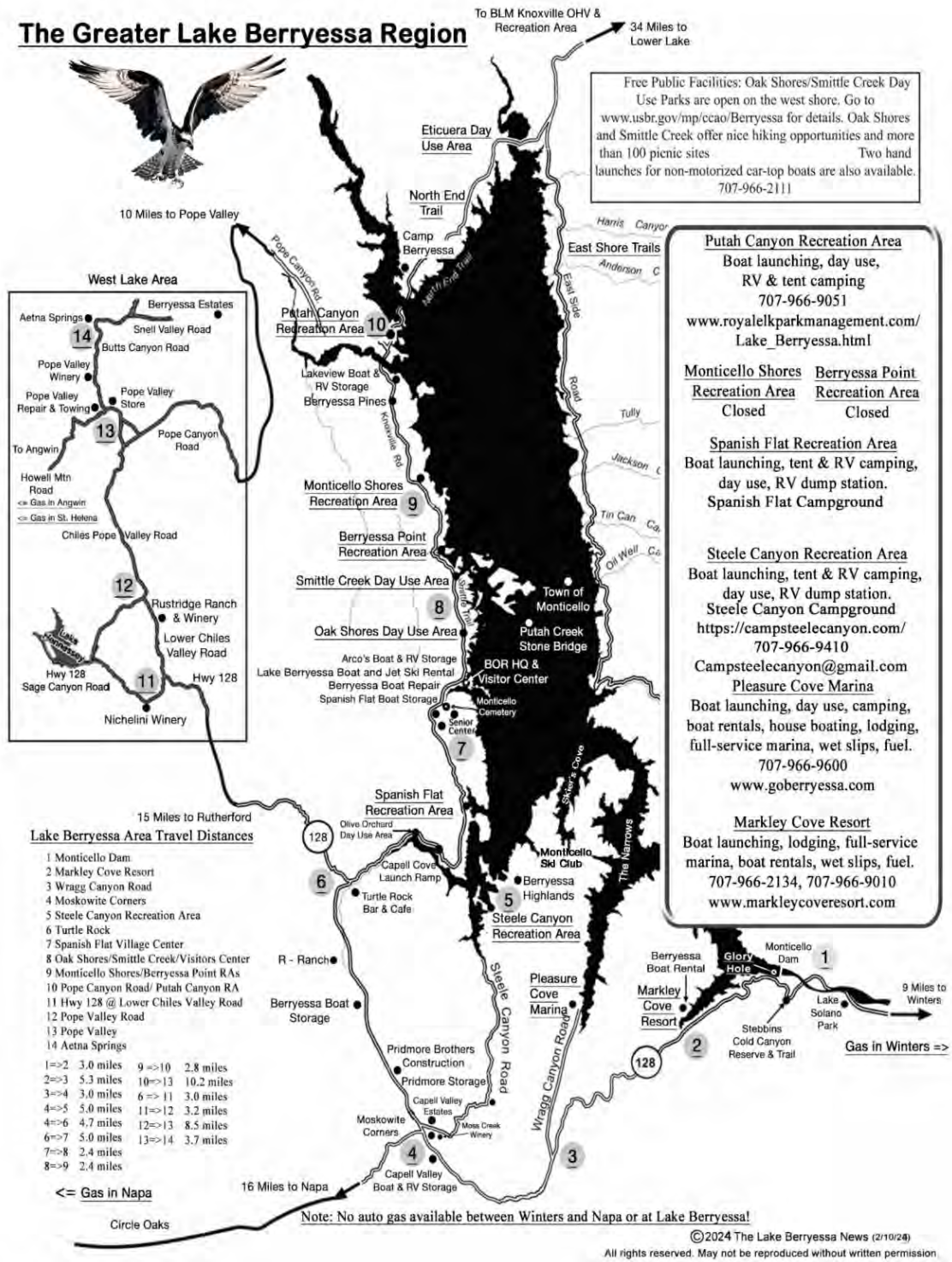
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News
November 2, 2025

Welcome to the first day of "Fall Back" Daylight Saving Time!

Most people dislike daylight saving time's twice-a-year clock change, with many favoring a switch to permanent standard time or permanent daylight saving time instead. The most cited reasons for dislike are the disruption to sleep and daily routines, with many experiencing fatigue, irritability, and difficulty adjusting for a week or more after the change. Sounds a bit silly on its surface. Are there that many people who can't deal with a one hour time change? It's not like the jet lag of a 3 hour change flying from San Francisco to New York or 15 hours from San Francisco to Hong Kong.

My preference is to split the difference and "fall back a half-hour" in winter and leave it there permanently. Although I like the extra daylight, but as a morning person it's a bit disconcerting to me when it's still light out after 9:30 PM at Lake Berryessa in August.

Today I didn't get an extra hour of sleep - I got the same amount of sleep I get any night. What I actually got was an extra hour to live my waking life!

The longest day of the year is the summer solstice, which occurs around June 20 or 21 in the Northern Hemisphere, and the shortest is the winter solstice, around December 21 or 22. The dates are reversed for the Southern Hemisphere. These solstices are the result of the Earth's axial tilt as it orbits the Sun.

The difference in daylight hours between these two days is significant, with the longest day being about 4.5 to 5 hours longer than the shortest day, and this difference increases with latitude, as seen by comparing a northern city like Redding to a southern city like San Diego.

Common complaints include sleep disruption, reduced mood and mental health, and a lack of energy savings (one of the original proposed benefits). Some people worry about their children having to go to school in the dark. Tell that to people in the Nordic countries. Norway's daylight hours vary dramatically with the seasons and latitude, from approximately 20 hours in southern Norway during summer to just a few hours in winter!



Lake Berryessa Statistics (11/2/25)

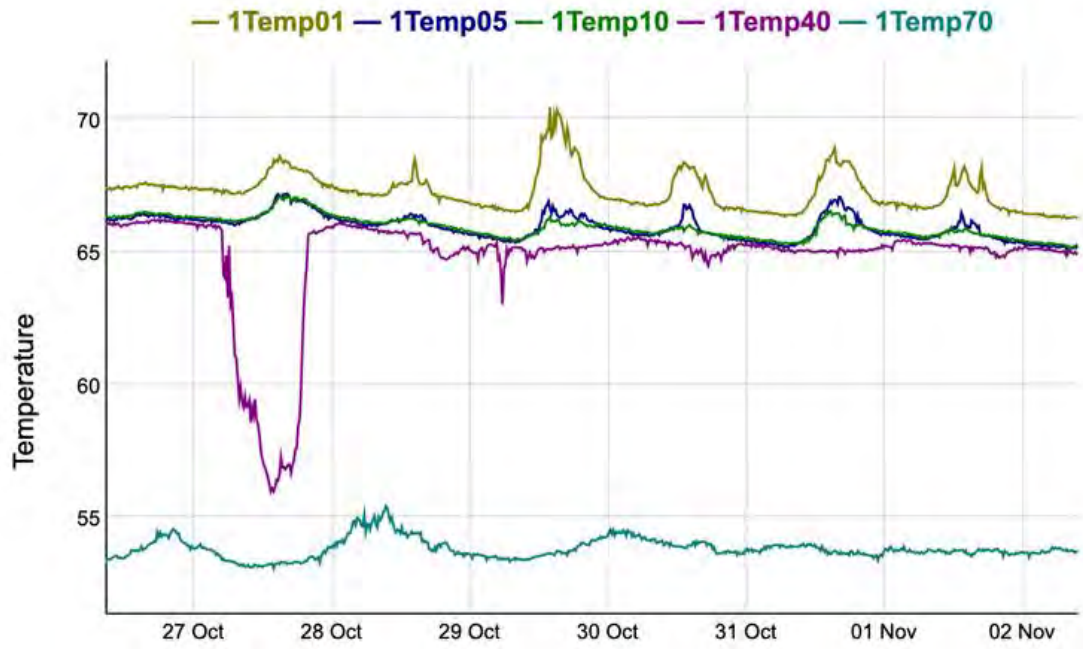
For the last three days the Lake Berryessa water level has hovered at 428.95 feet, 11.05 feet below Glory Hole.

The lake output has dropped from 185 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 85 cfs. The minimum output allowed by law and contract is 45 cfs to serve the population of Solano County and preserve the downstream fishery. Find the conversion from cfs to acre-feet or gallons per minute at:

<https://waterrights.utah.gov/automm/cfs2af.asp>

Surface temperature has dropped to 66 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down.

Lake Berryessa - Temperature



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Lake Berryessa Property Management and Sales



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Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

I am working on a comprehensive report titled:
Morning Glory Spillways (Glory Holes) Around the World.

Here are some examples of Morning Glory spillways around the world:

Monticello Dam (Lake Berryessa), California, USA: This is perhaps the most famous example, with a 72-foot diameter opening and a 200-foot drop into a narrowing shaft.

Hungry Horse Dam, Montana, USA: This dam has the highest morning glory spillway in the world, controlled by a 64-by-12-foot ring gate.

Geehi Dam, New South Wales, Australia: This dam features the largest bell-mouth spillway in the world, measuring 105 feet in diameter at the lake's surface.

Whiskeytown Lake, California

Harriman Dam, Vermont, USA

Ladybower Dam, Derbyshire, England

Gibson Dam, Montana, USA

San Roque Dam, Cordoba, Argentina

Shing Mun Reservoir, Hong Kong

Nekogahora Pond, Japan

Owyhee Dam, Oregon, USA

Garrison Dam, North Dakota, USA

Pontsticill Reservoir, South Wales, United Kingdom

Wildwood Lake, Pennsylvania

There are numerous other small "glory holes" in lakes around the world.

Some Glory Hole examples are shown below:

1. Harriman Dam - Vermont

2. England

3. Whiskeytown Lake, California

4. Ladybower, Derbyshire, England (Note the 2 Glory Holes.)







A Uniquely "unique" Opportunity in the Berryessa Highlands

1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa

\$250,000



Under Construction - Buyer to Finish Opportunity knocks with this corner-lot property featuring lake views and approved plans for a 4BR/3BA home plus loft. Framing and foundation are in place; buyer to complete construction. The property includes a pool (condition unknown) and offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa.

Napa County is removing the red tag.

This property will no longer be red tagged! Ready for a new buyer!

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/1061-rimrock-drive-napa-ca-94558/100947206/regionId/100>



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244

707-235-1124

amber.payne@corcoranicon.com

www.amberpayne.net

Your A-Frame Retreat Awaits!

<https://www.1017headlandsdr.com/>

\$505,000

Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands!

Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!

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



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



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<https://1300steelecanyonrd.com/>



1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$639,000

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ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



A Lake Berryessa Phoenix Rising!

9419 Steele Canyon Road

<https://9419steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$475,000

A phoenix is a mythological bird that has become a symbol of rebirth and immortality, rising again from the ashes as a new being.

Every property tells a story. This story of a Phoenix begins with sweeping views of Napa's hillsides, a private gated entry, and nearly 42 acres that back up to the serenity of a land trust.

A single-story home and large detached garage once stood proudly here before the 2020 LNU Fire. What remains is the dream for a new chapter: a paved driveway, septic, well, and propane tank already on site (buyer to verify condition). The former homesite and barn/garage site are perfectly perched to maximize the incredible views, making it easy to imagine your dream home rising here once again.

Whether you envision a contemporary retreat, a rustic estate, or a peaceful getaway, the setting is already in place. With its natural elevation, mature surroundings, and unmatched privacy, this property offers a rare blend of seclusion and possibility.





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

Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

259 Sugarloaf Drive

APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Spanish Flat Woodlands

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$43,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$47,000
Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,000
Corner Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Flat Then Downslope

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$85,000
Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$55,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1103 & 1099 Westridge Drive

APN# 019-491-011 & 010 -
0 .29+- Acre Each
Offered at \$45,000 & \$39,000
Two Lots to be Sold Together

1045 Arroyo Grande Drive

APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres
Offered at \$475,000
Improved Acreage

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

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

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)

707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com

Call or go online to book now



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4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
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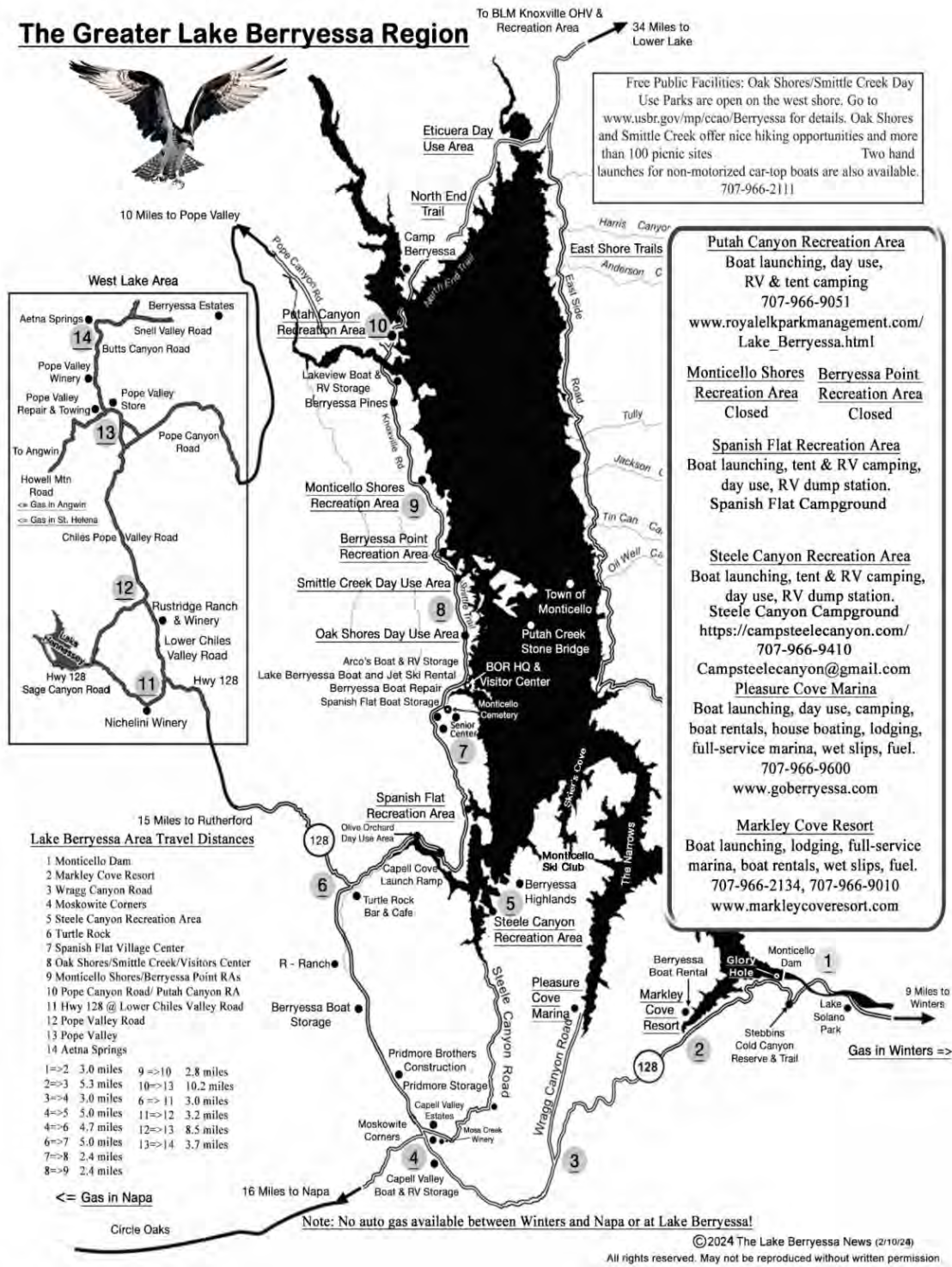


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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The Lake Berryessa News
November 16, 2025

Happy Thanksgiving from The Lake Berryessa News!

Please enjoy family and friends, your real turkey, real food, vegetarian food, vegan food (there is a stark difference), tofurkey, gluten-free food (this is no joke to my friends who suffer from gluten allergy), and all the trimmings!



"If You Don't Like the News, Go Out and Make Some of Your Own!"

Those of us of a certain age will remember Scoop Nisker and his famous tagline above. He was a Bay Area radio journalist of the Hunter Thompson-type during the sixties reporting on hippies, the anti-war movement, People's Park, Timothy Leary, and Eastern philosophy. My 25 years of experience in fighting the folks who helped destroy the Lake Berryessa recreational and residential communities reminds me of a slight modification to that quote which more accurately describes their actions and now even modern political discourse as:

If You Don't Like the News, Go Out and Make *UP* Some of Your Own!

We've all used the cliché, "I've got good news and bad news, which would rather hear first?" But what about "sort of good news, ok news, sort of bad news, and no new news." This is the situation at Lake Berryessa today.

The "sort of good news" is that a local development company, Napa Valley Land Company, LLC, has signed an "Exclusive Negotiation Agreement" with Napa County to develop a plan to rebuild the Monticello Shores Recreation Area (previously Rancho Monticello Resort) as a glamping destination called El Campo del Sol. The group managing this process is Panoramic Advisors (<https://www.panoramicadvisors.com/who-we-are>). They state that "Our vision is to create a glamping resort as an upscale, comfort-camping experience at Lake Berryessa at a reasonable and approachable cost level." Among El Campo del Sol's proposed features – 50 to 100 cabins, up to 150 safari tents and yurts, a lodge, a rope course and zip line, a restaurant and bar, an amphitheater, a pool and a marina. (See the illustration below.)

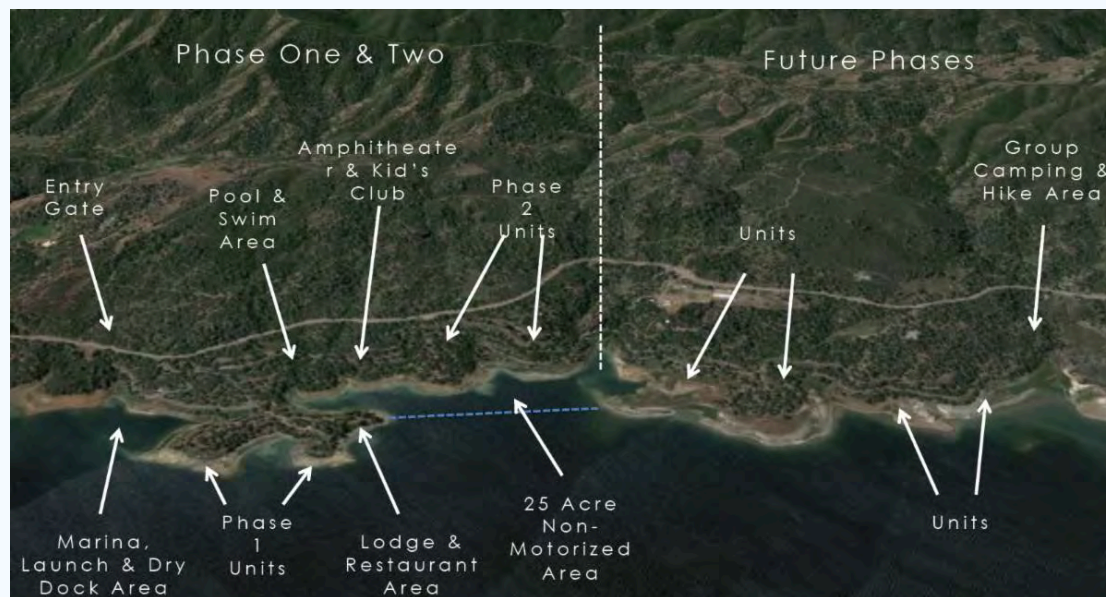
The "ok news" is that the present manager of Steele Canyon Campground, Rocky Costanzo, will be taking over management of Spanish Flat Campground under an interim concession contract with Napa County effective on January 1, 2026, which will expire on October 31, 2027. The Spanish Flat Campground has been closed for a few months. This

contract implies that it will open again on January 1st. Per Napa County, "Rocky has done such a good job managing the Steele Canyon Campground that he was an easy choice to manage Spanish Flat as an interim concessionaire."

In the "sort of bad news" category, all development work on the Camp Margaritaville project for the revitalization of Steele Canyon Recreation Area (Steele Canyon Campground) has been paused by Camp Margaritaville Resorts. The group is seeking a longer term contract from the Bureau of Reclamation for financial planning reasons. Camp Margaritaville representatives are back in Washington, D.C. this week. They have a top lobbyist working to get this done, but they say it will take 2-3 months to complete the process.

In the "no new news" category, Putah Canyon is open with camping and day launching. Markley Cove and Pleasure Cove are open with marinas. Berryessa Point is closed.

El Campo del Sol Plan Below (Monticello Shores).



Lake Berryessa Statistics (11/16/25)

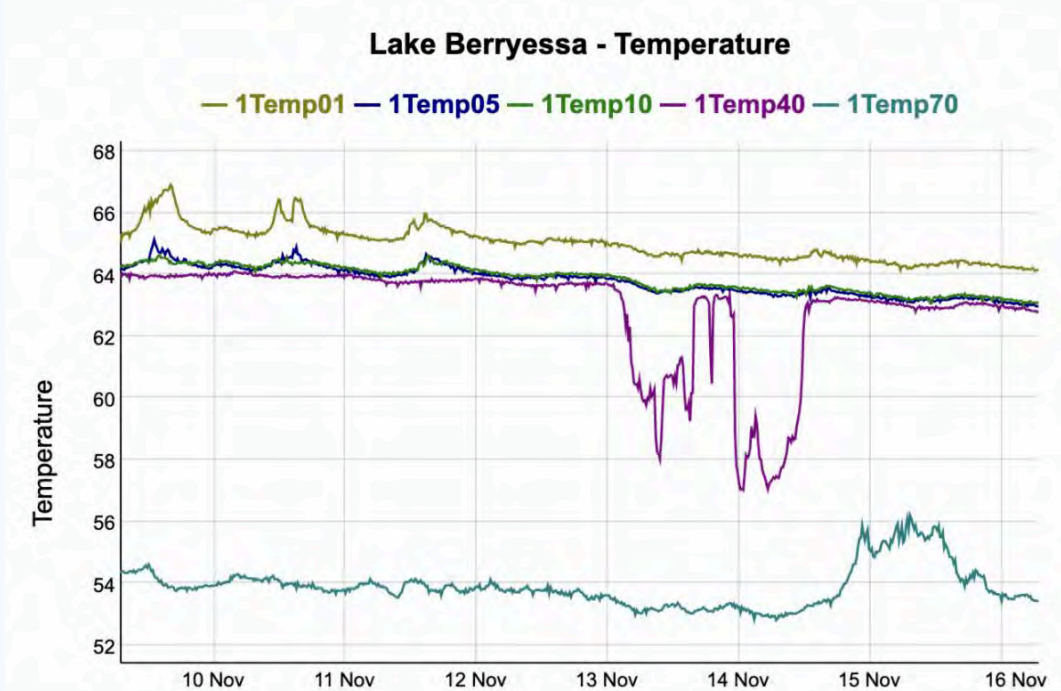
Modest rainfall of 1.6 inches so far during the last few days has brought the season total at Monticello Dam to 5.01 inches.

The Lake Berryessa water level has been hovering at 428.90 feet, 11.1 feet below Glory Hole for the last few days - up a quarter inch from 428.80 feet on 11/12/25.

The lake output has dropped to 105 cfs (cubic feet per second). The minimum output allowed by law and contract is 45 cfs to serve the population of Solano County and preserve the downstream fishery. Find the conversion from cfs to acre-feet or gallons per minute at:

<https://waterrights.utah.gov/automm/cfs2af.asp>

Surface temperature has dropped to 63 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down.



NBRID Community Meeting on November 18, 2025 at the Capell Valley Fire House

The County is planning a Community Meeting to discuss Measure A. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6 pm @ Capell Valley Fire Station, 1193 Capell Valley Rd.

More information will be sent out via mailers and other media. Please try to attend and bring questions. This ballot measure has been approved by the Board of Supervisors, and it was put together with the help of a couple dozen community members.

This is an opportunity for our community to qualify for up to \$20M in grants for necessary improvements to our water system. This may be a once in our lifetime chance to make our water system more resilient for the decades to come. Some of the changes these grants afford us will likely be mandated by the State of California soon and ALL of it may be coming out of our pockets without these grant funds. Please participate in the process and most importantly, educate yourself. Joe Sponseller

Lake Berryessa Senior Center Holiday Party



**Join us for a delightful holiday
celebration filled with joy!**

December 6, 2025
5:00 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
4380 Spanish Flat Loop
Rd.

**Please bring an
appetizer or
dessert to share**

RSVP by November 30th
to Lisa (707) 815-0330

**If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please reach out to Lisa.
We look forward to celebrating with you.**

Berryessa Highlands Rentals

**1104 Steele Canyon Road, 4 bd/2 bath
\$2,600 per month**

**1280 Steele Canyon Road, 3 bd/3 bath
\$3,000 per month**

Water/sewer included - HUGE LAKE VIEWS!

Lake Berryessa Property Management and Sales



Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

**Welcome to your own 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private half-acre with
a new home overlooking beautiful Lake Berryessa!**

4101 Berryessa Knoxville Road

\$449,000

**Here is your chance at an affordable home and land ownership in Napa County
at its most amazing and overlooked treasure - Lake Berryessa.
Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.**

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views



Sparkling New Interior



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**Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales**



Price Reduced

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/1061-rimrock-drive-napa-ca-94558/100947206/regionId/100>

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

1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa
\$199,000

Under Construction - Buyer to Finish Opportunity knocks with this corner-lot property featuring lake views and approved plans for a 4BR/3BA home plus loft. Framing and foundation are in place; buyer to complete construction. The property includes a pool (condition unknown) and offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa. Property is NO LONGER red-tagged buyer will need to renew/coordinate with Napa County to proceed. Prior home burnt in the 2020 LNU fires. Perfect project for an investor, builder, or buyer ready to bring this home to completion.

A real estate advertisement for a property at 1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa. The ad features a large aerial photograph of the property, which is a corner lot on a hillside overlooking Lake Berryessa. The property is under construction, with a large house and a pool visible. The ad includes the text "Price Reduced" and a link to the listing. It also provides contact information for Amber Payne, Realtor, and details about the property, including its location, price, and construction status.

Your A-Frame Retreat Awaits!

<https://www.1017headlandsdr.com/>

\$505,000

Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands!
Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!
Just minutes to the lake's best recreation, this home offers
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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$634,000

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ICON PROPERTIES

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<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

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\$895,000



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<https://9419steelecanyonrd.com/>

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Every property tells a story. This story of a Phoenix begins with sweeping views of Napa's hillsides, a private gated entry, and nearly 42 acres that back up to the serenity of a land trust.

A single-story home and large detached garage once stood proudly here before the 2020 LNU Fire. What remains is the dream for a new chapter: a paved driveway, septic, well, and propane tank already on site (buyer to verify condition). The former homesite and barn/garage site are perfectly perched to maximize the incredible views, making it easy to imagine your dream home rising here once again.

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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

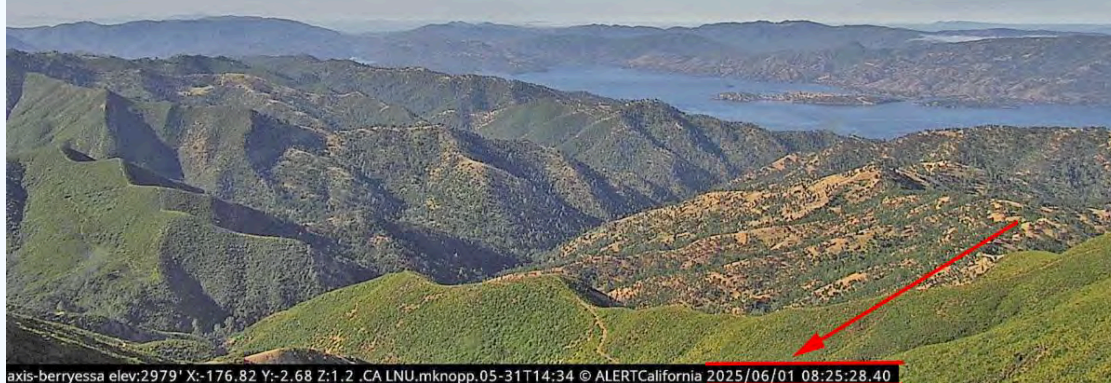
259 Sugarloaf Drive APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot Offered at \$65,000 Spanish Flat Woodlands	1121 Steele Canyon Road APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot Offered at \$15,000 Flat then downslope	1026 Arroyo Lindo Court APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot Offered at \$43,000 Flat Then Upslope Lot
1268 Steele Canyon Road APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot Offered at \$47,000 Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot	201 Mulford Drive APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot Offered at \$29,000 Corner Lot	817 Bahia Vista Court APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot Offered at \$29,500 Flat Then Downslope
814 Bahia Vista Court APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot Offered at \$29,500 Mostly Flat Then Downslope	1100 Headlands Drive APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot Offered at \$125,000 Flat Improved Lot	422 Woodhaven Court APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot Offered at \$85,000 Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot
1053 Headlands Drive APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot Offered at \$55,000 Mostly Flat Then Upslope	1103 & 1099 Westridge Drive APN# 019-491-011 & 010 - 0 .29+- Acre Each Offered at \$45,000 & \$39,000 Two Lots to be Sold Together	1045 Arroyo Grande Drive APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot Offered at \$65,000 Flat then Upslope Lot
1078 Headlands Drive APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot Offered at \$50,000 Flat Then Upslope Lot	https://lakeberryessaland.com/	
		9419 Steele Canyon Road APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres Offered at \$475,000 Improved Acreage

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

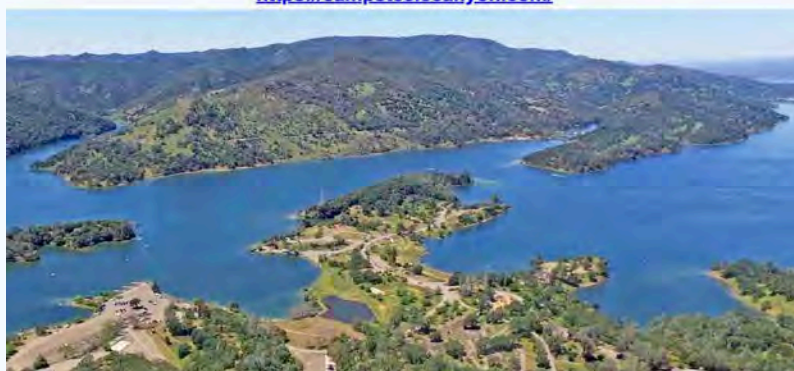
This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.
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Office: (707) 966-9410
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Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.
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Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



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Call or go online to book now



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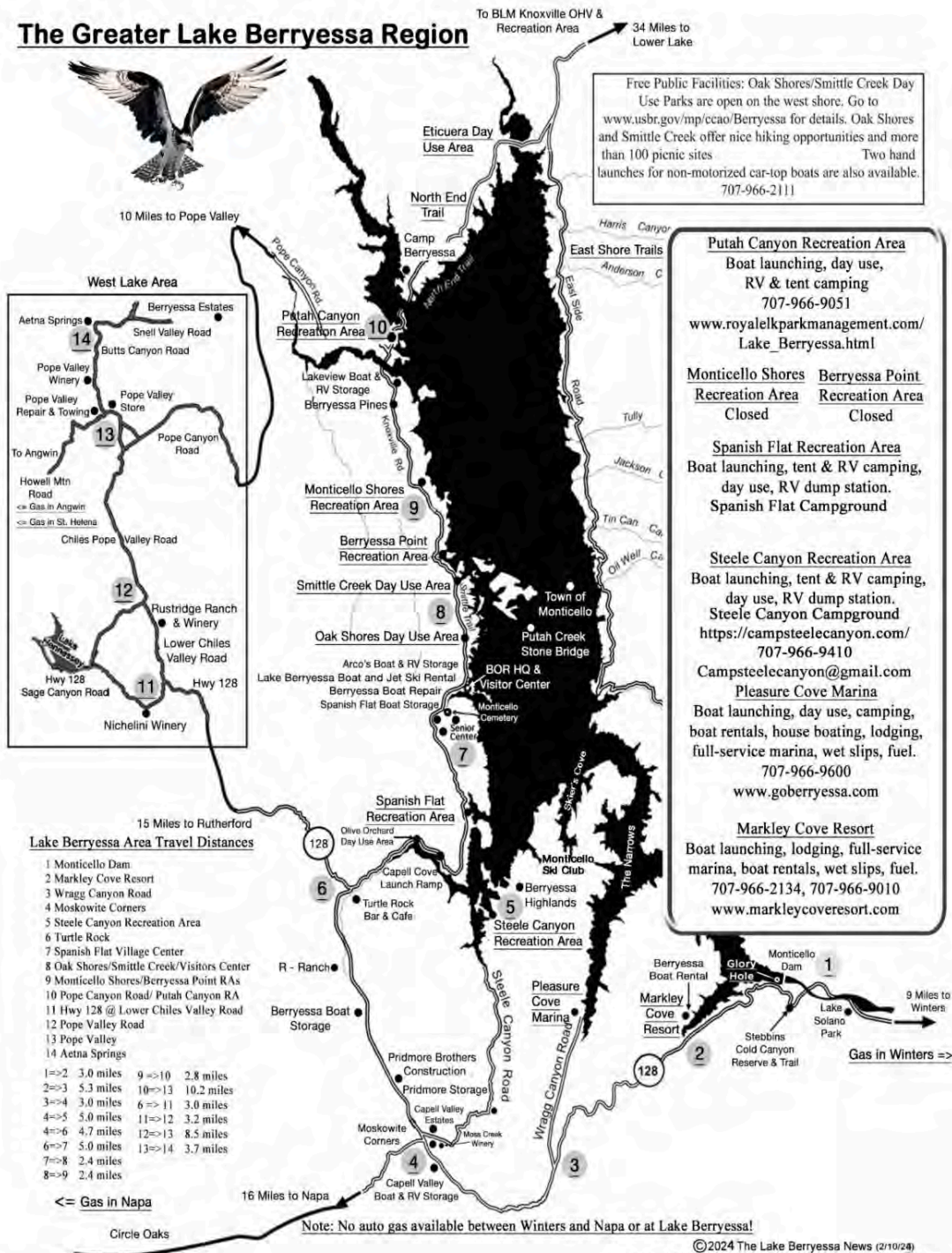


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News
November 30, 2025

The Christmas Season is in Full Swing!

Now that the Thanksgiving holidays are over, it's time to decorate that Christmas tree and put up those Christmas lights again. Best wishes to those who will be celebrating other December holidays such as Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Bodhi Day, Las Posadas, St. Lucia Day, Yule, St. Nicholas Day, Immaculate Conception Day, Zarathosht Diso, New Year's Eve, Feast Day of Our Lady Guadalupe, and other December religious and cultural holidays around the world.

The Christmas holidays are also a time for reflection and enjoying past memories. Below is an illustration I made for Christmas 2005 - twenty years ago! Where are they all now?



Lake Berryessa Statistics (11/30/25)

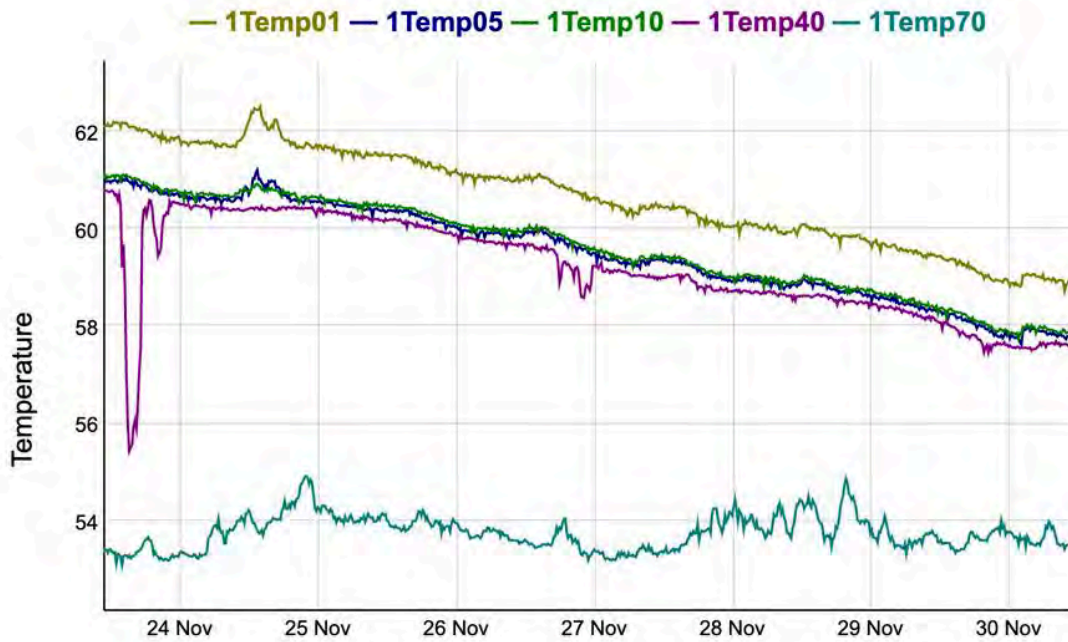
Modest rainfall so far to date has brought the season total at Monticello Dam to 6.14 inches. The table below shows that Lake Berryessa total annual rainfall has only been above 40 inches 5 times in the last 29 years.

The Lake Berryessa water level has been hovering at 429 feet, 11 feet below Glory Hole for the last 30 days. The lake output running at an average of 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) during that same 30 day period.

Surface temperature has dropped to 58 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down an 54 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

	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"
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Lake Berryessa - Temperature



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Amusingly Ironic (amusironic?) vs Ironically Amusing (ironamusing?)

Irony is when the opposite of what is expected to happen occurs. It creates a contrast between how things appear and how they actually are, often with humorous or striking results.

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Example: The chef at a restaurant known for its exquisite desserts is allergic to sugar. This is amusingly ironic because the contradiction between his profession and his allergy is the very thing that is funny.

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Example: After you spent weeks complaining about a boring new co-worker, he turns out to be a brilliant and hilarious stand-up comedian on the weekends. His hidden talent is genuinely amusing, and it's ironically amusing because it completely subverts your earlier complaints.

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These are often small, relatable moments where the reality of the situation is unexpectedly contrary to what was expected.

The traffic safety expert who never learned to drive. William Eno, the "Father of Traffic Safety," invented the stop sign, crosswalk, and traffic circle, yet he never got his driver's license.

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\$2,600 per month

1280 Steele Canyon Road, 3 bd/3 bath
\$3,000 per month
Water/sewer included - HUGE LAKE VIEWS!

Lake Berryessa Property Management and Sales



Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Welcome to your own 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private half-acre with a new home overlooking beautiful Lake Berryessa!

4101 Berryessa Knoxville Road
\$449,000

Here is your chance at an affordable home and land ownership in Napa County at its most amazing and overlooked treasure - Lake Berryessa. Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views
Lake View



Sparkling New Interior





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Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales



Price Reduced

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/1061-rimrock-drive-napa-ca-94558/100947206/regionId/100>

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

1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa
\$199,000

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A real estate advertisement for a property at 1061 Rimrock Drive, Napa. The ad features a large aerial photograph of the property, which is a corner lot on a hillside overlooking Lake Berryessa. The property is under construction, with a large brick building and a pool visible. The ad includes the text "Price Reduced" and a link to the listing on the Corcoran website. It also provides contact information for Amber Payne, Realtor, and a detailed description of the property, including its location, size, and construction status. The property is currently under construction and is being offered for sale at a reduced price of \$199,000. The ad mentions that the property has approved plans for a 4BR/3BA home plus loft, and that the framing and foundation are in place. It also notes that the property includes a pool (condition unknown) and offers stunning views of Lake Berryessa. The ad states that the property is no longer red-tagged and that the buyer will need to renew/coordinate with Napa County to proceed. It also mentions that the prior home was burnt in the 2020 LNU fires and that the property is a perfect project for an investor, builder, or buyer ready to bring this home to completion.

Your A-Frame Retreat Awaits!

<https://www.1017headlandsdr.com/>

\$505,000

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



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



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

<https://1300steelecanyonrd.com/>



1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$634,000

CORCORAN

🏠 4 🚗 3 📏 2,443

ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



A Lake Berryessa Phoenix Rising!

9419 Steele Canyon Road

<https://9419steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$475,000

A phoenix is a mythological bird that has become a symbol of rebirth and immortality, rising again from the ashes as a new being.

Every property tells a story. This story of a Phoenix begins with sweeping views of Napa's hillsides, a private gated entry, and nearly 42 acres that back up to the serenity of a land trust.

A single-story home and large detached garage once stood proudly here before the 2020 LNU Fire. What remains is the dream for a new chapter: a paved driveway, septic, well, and propane tank already on site (buyer to verify condition). The former homesite and barn/garage site are perfectly perched to maximize the incredible views, making it easy to imagine your dream home rising here once again.

Whether you envision a contemporary retreat, a rustic estate, or a peaceful getaway, the setting is already in place. With its natural elevation, mature surroundings, and unmatched privacy, this property offers a rare blend of seclusion and possibility.





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amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

259 Sugarloaf Drive

APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Spanish Flat Woodlands

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$43,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$47,000
Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,000
Corner Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Flat Then Downslope

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$85,000
Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$55,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1103 & 1099 Westridge Drive

APN# 019-491-011 & 010 -
0 .29+- Acre Each
Offered at \$45,000 & \$39,000
Two Lots to be Sold Together

1045 Arroyo Grande Drive

APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres
Offered at \$475,000
Improved Acreage

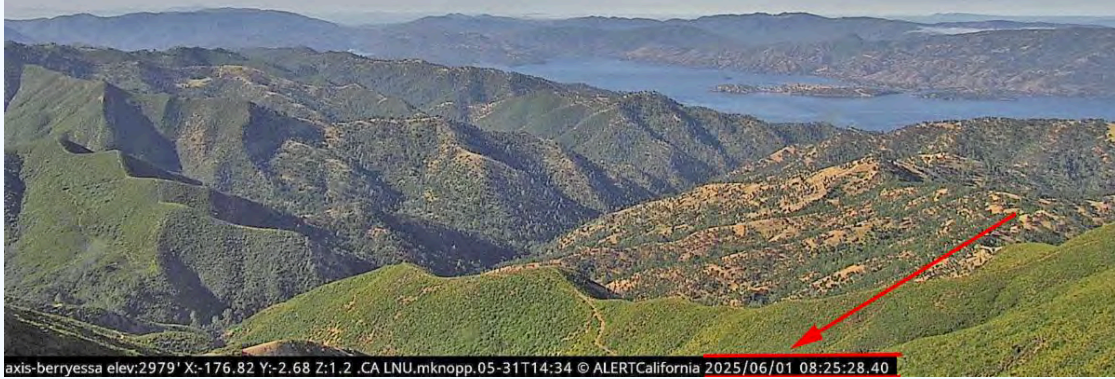
<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

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

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



707-966-9954
4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
LAKEBERRYESSABOATREPAIR@GMAIL.COM

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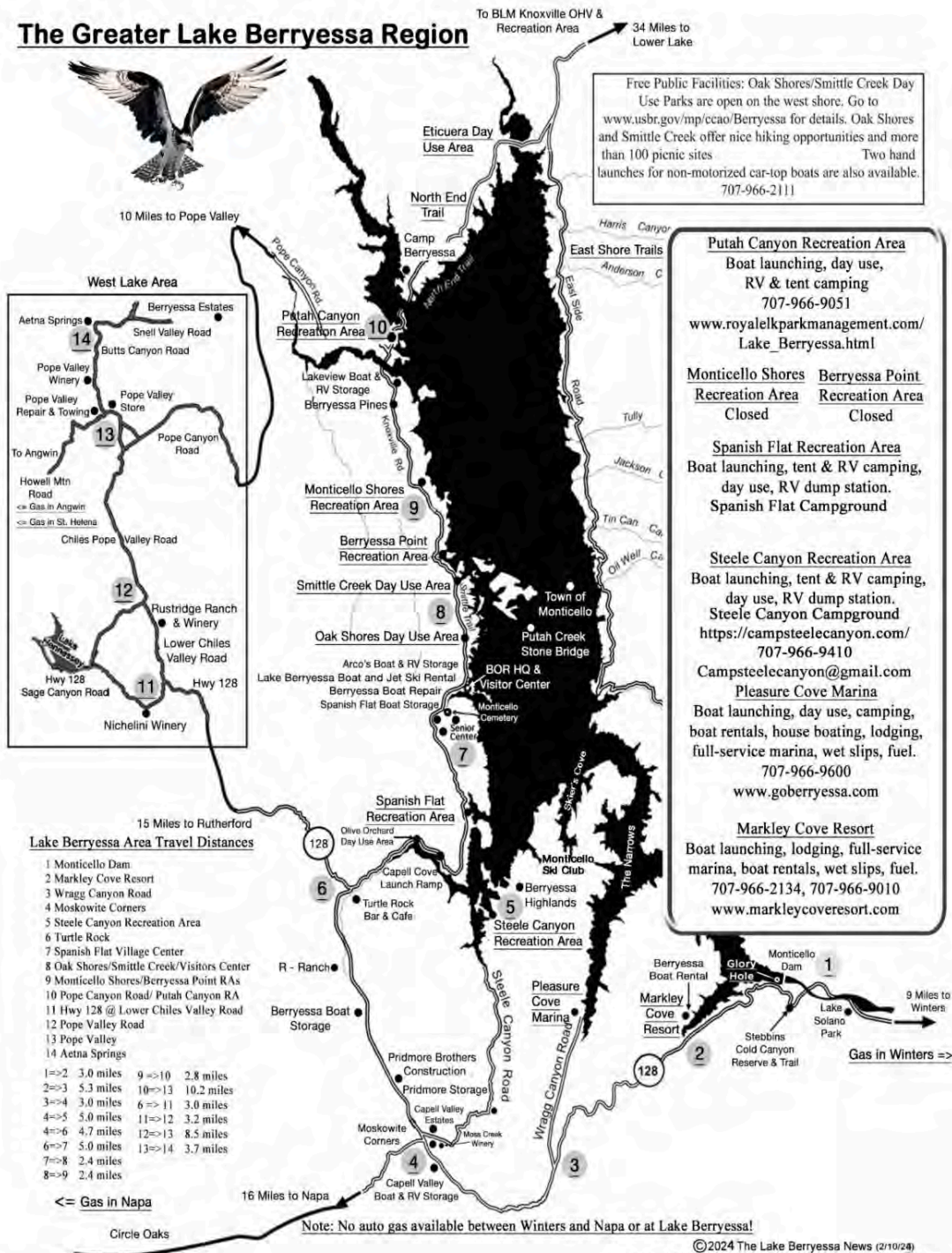


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707-480-3157

Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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



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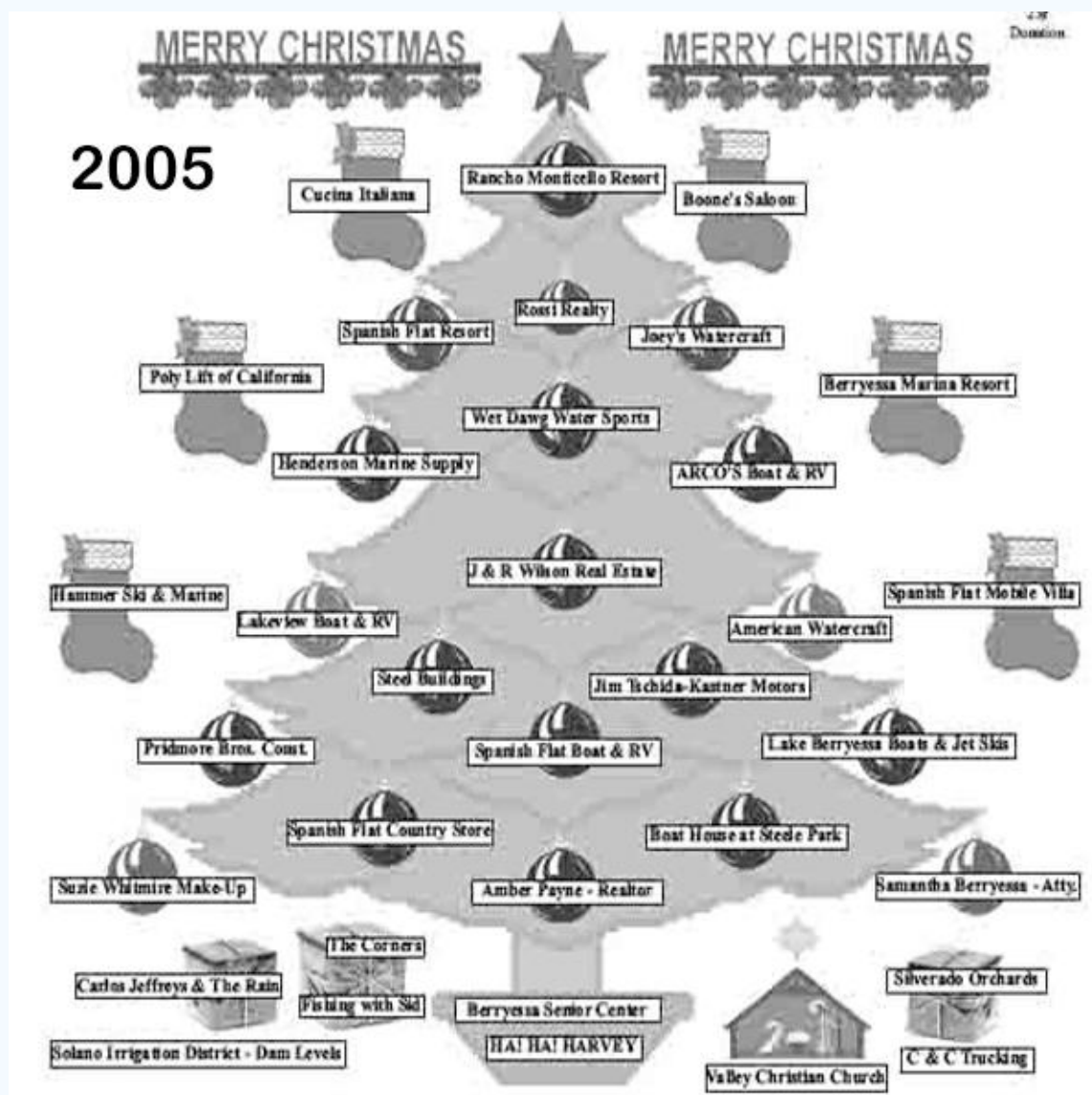


The Lake Berryessa News
November 30, 2025

The Christmas Season is in Full Swing!

Now that the Thanksgiving holidays are over, it's time to decorate that Christmas tree and put up those Christmas lights again. Best wishes to those who will be celebrating other December holidays such as Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Bodhi Day, Las Posadas, St. Lucia Day, Yule, St. Nicholas Day, Immaculate Conception Day, Zarathosht Diso, New Year's Eve, Feast Day of Our Lady Guadalupe, and other December religious and cultural holidays around the world.

The Christmas holidays are also a time for reflection and enjoying past memories. Below is an illustration I made for Christmas 2005 - twenty years ago! Where are they all now?



Lake Berryessa Statistics (11/30/25)

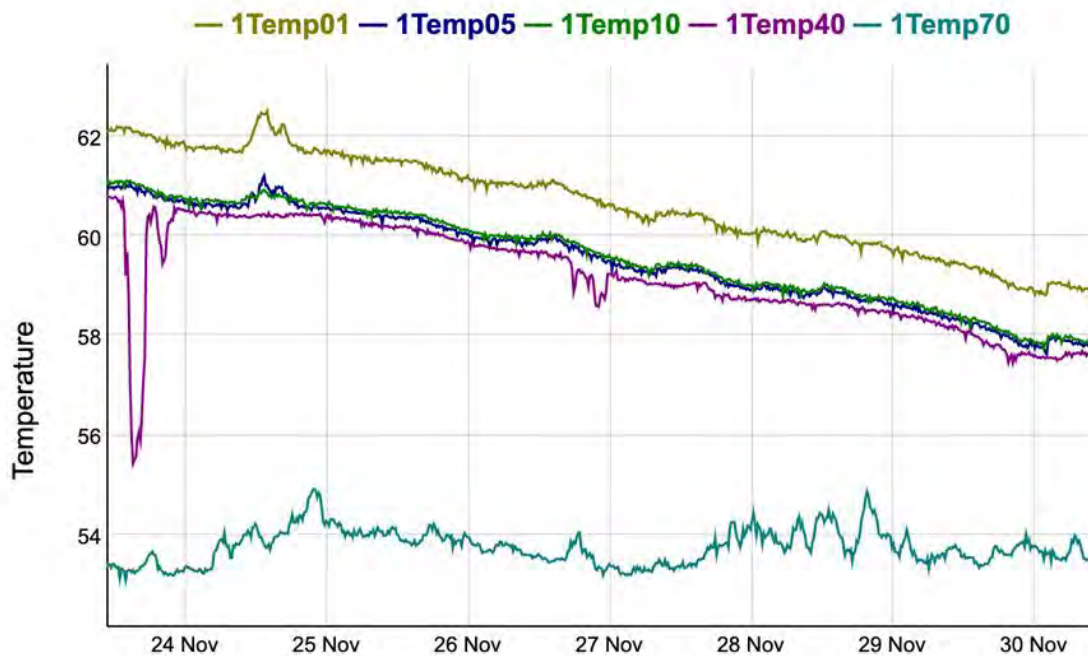
Modest rainfall so far to date has brought the season total at Monticello Dam to 6.14 inches. The table below shows that Lake Berryessa total annual rainfall has only been above 40 inches 5 times in the last 29 years.

The Lake Berryessa water level has been hovering at 429 feet, 11 feet below Glory Hole for the last 30 days. The lake output running at an average of 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) during that same 30 day period.

Surface temperature has dropped to 58 degrees from the surface to 40 feet down an 54 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

	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"
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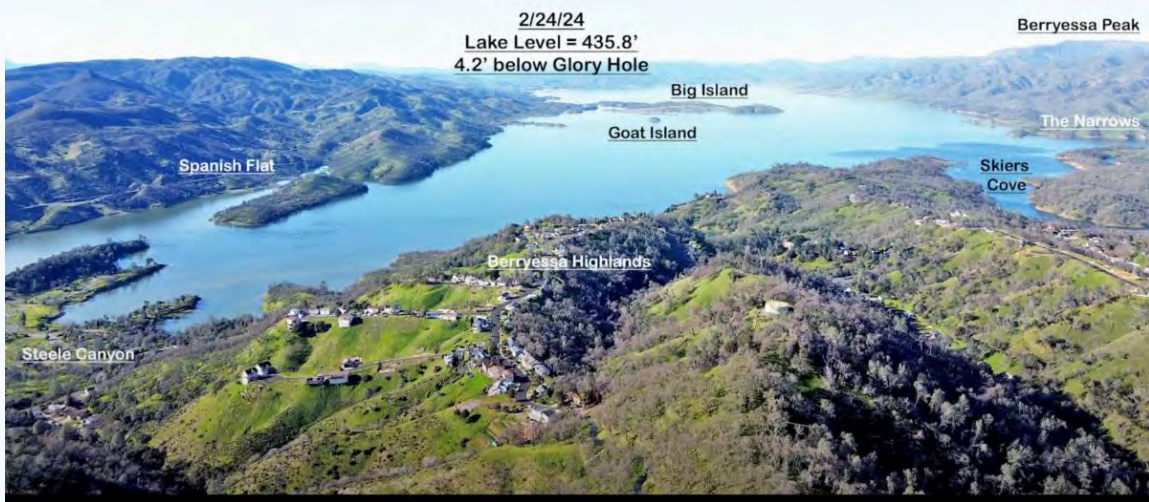
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**Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales**



Price Reduced

<https://www.corcoran.com/listing/for-sale/1061-rimrock-drive-napa-ca-94558/100947206/regionId/100>

An aerial photograph of a property under construction on a hillside. The property is a corner lot with a view of Lake Berryessa and the surrounding hills. The house is under construction, with the foundation and framing visible. A pool is also visible in the foreground.

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Welcome to this charming A-frame style home in the Berryessa Highlands!

Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!

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



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



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1300 Steele Canyon Road, Napa

\$634,000

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ICON PROPERTIES

Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa

<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



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A Lake Berryessa Phoenix Rising!

9419 Steele Canyon Road

<https://9419steelecanyonrd.com/>

\$475,000

A phoenix is a mythological bird that has become a symbol of rebirth and immortality, rising again from the ashes as a new being.

Every property tells a story. This story of a Phoenix begins with sweeping views of Napa's hillsides, a private gated entry, and nearly 42 acres that back up to the serenity of a land trust.

A single-story home and large detached garage once stood proudly here before the 2020 LNU Fire. What remains is the dream for a new chapter: a paved driveway, septic, well, and propane tank already on site (buyer to verify condition). The former homesite and barn/garage site are perfectly perched to maximize the incredible views, making it easy to imagine your dream home rising here once again.

Whether you envision a contemporary retreat, a rustic estate, or a peaceful getaway, the setting is already in place. With its natural elevation, mature surroundings, and unmatched privacy, this property offers a rare blend of seclusion and possibility.



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Build Your Dream Lake House

Summary of Lots Available

259 Sugarloaf Drive

APN# 019-322-004 - .37+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Spanish Flat Woodlands

1121 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019-442-004 - .31+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$15,000
Flat then downslope

1026 Arroyo Lindo Court

APN# 019-441-014-000 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$43,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

1268 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 019- 432-001 - .21+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$47,000
Flat Space with a hill at the back of the lot

201 Mulford Drive

APN# 019-322-008-000 .52+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,000
Corner Lot

817 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-451-012 .28+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Flat Then Downslope

814 Bahia Vista Court

APN# 019-452-004 .32+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$29,500
Mostly Flat Then Downslope

1100 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-504-006-000 .24+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$125,000
Flat Improved Lot

422 Woodhaven Court

APN# 019-504-013-000 .33 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$85,000
Flat then Downslope Lake View Lot

1053 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-482-011 .27+- Acre Lot
Offered at \$55,000
Mostly Flat Then Upslope

1103 & 1099 Westridge Drive

APN# 019-491-011 & 010 -
0 .29+- Acre Each
Offered at \$45,000 & \$39,000
Two Lots to be Sold Together

1045 Arroyo Grande Drive

APN# 019-462-027-000 .51 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$65,000
Flat then Upslope Lot

1078 Headlands Drive

APN# 019-432-010-000 .23 +- Acre Lot
Offered at \$50,000
Flat Then Upslope Lot

9419 Steele Canyon Road

APN# 032-110-045-000 41.73 +- Acres
Offered at \$475,000
Improved Acreage

<https://lakeberryessaland.com/>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

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Office: (707) 966-9410

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

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Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

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

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Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



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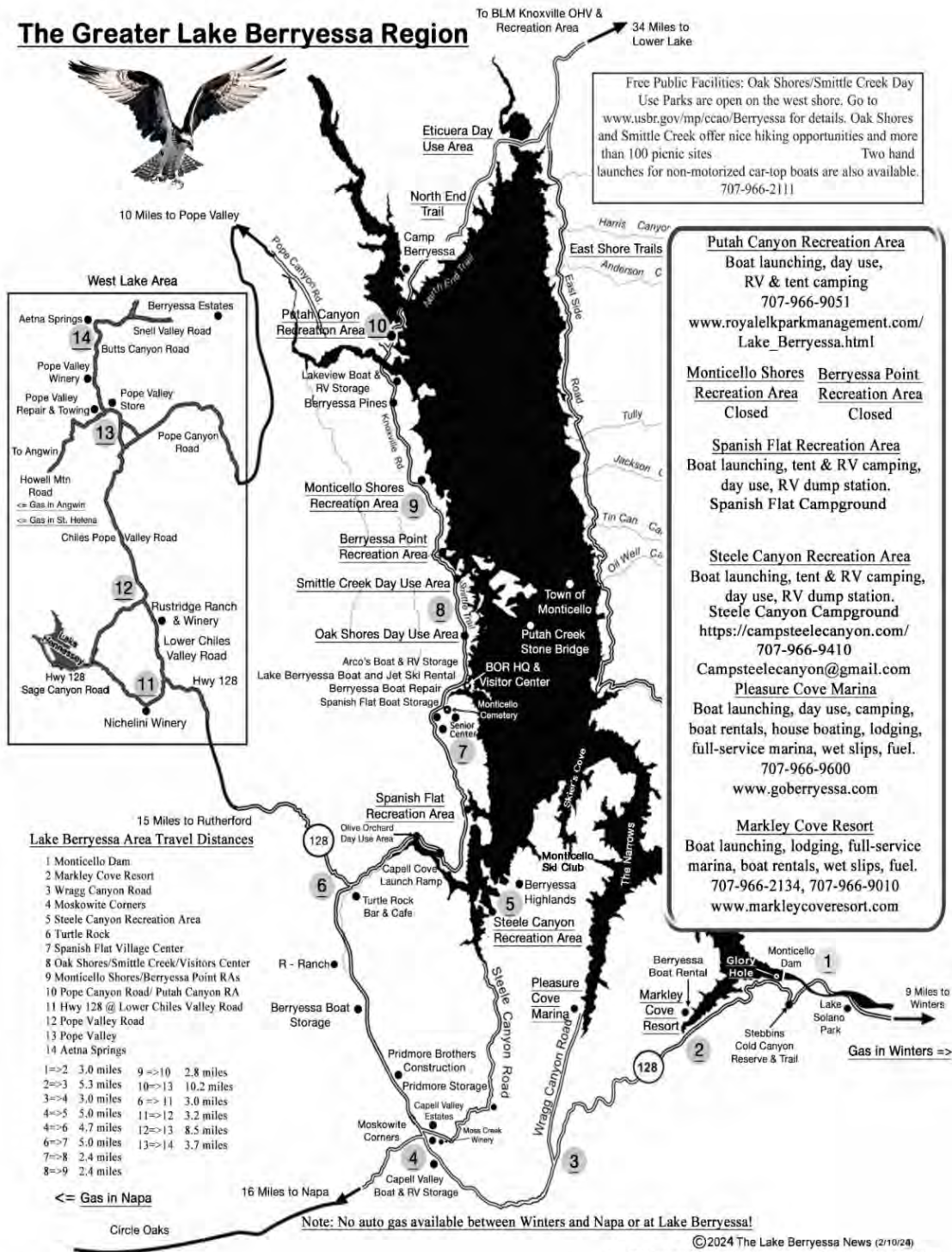


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News
December 7, 2025

The Christmas Season is in Full Swing!

Now that the Thanksgiving holidays are over, it's time to decorate that Christmas tree and put up those Christmas lights again.

The Christmas holidays are also a time for reflection and enjoying past memories. Last week I posted Lake Berryessa front page Christmas tree illustrations from 2005 and 2006. This issue highlights historical 20th year and 25th year personal anniversaries related to Evan and my jet ski racing histories here at Lake Berryessa.





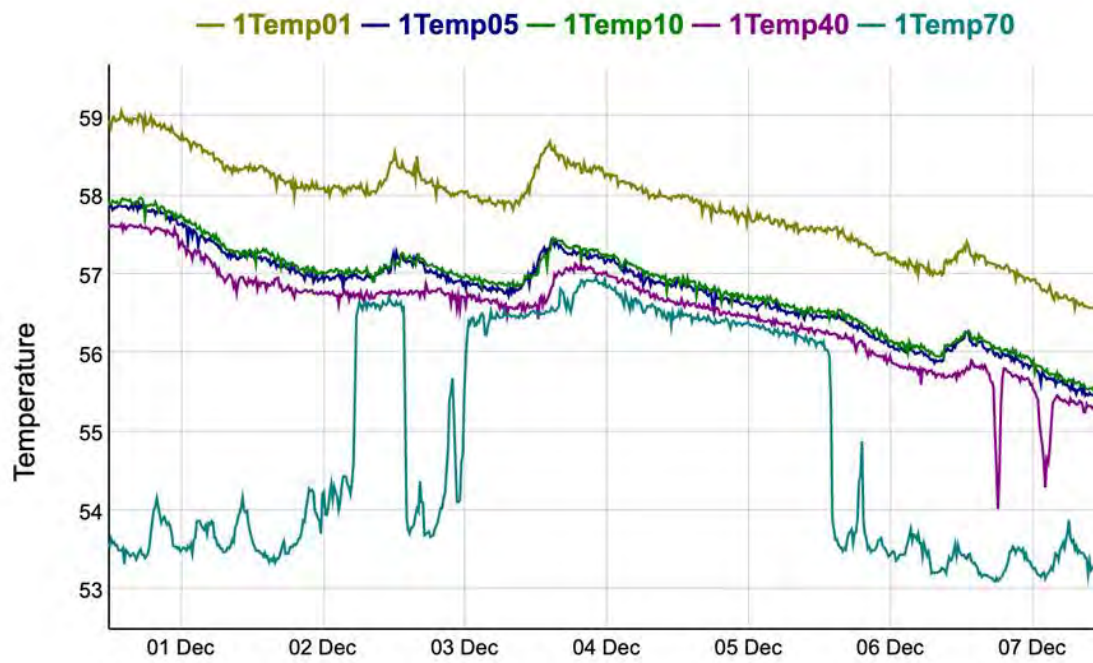
Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/7/25)

Modest rainfall so far to date has brought the season total at Monticello Dam to 6.14 inches. The table below shows that Lake Berryessa total annual rainfall has only been above 40 inches 5 times in the last 29 years.

The Lake Berryessa water level has been hovering at 428.9 feet, 11.1 feet below Glory Hole for the last week. The lake output running at an average of 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 198 A-F (acre feet per day).

Surface temperature has dropped to 58 degrees at the surface and 57 degrees to 70 feet down to the bottom. This indicates that due to cold, windy weather the lake has "turned over" and the water temperature is the same from the surface to the bottom.

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"	15.84"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/10/22 - .42"	19.13"	41.86"
27	23-24	9/22/23 - .24"	7.66"	28.14"
28	24-25	10/13/24 - .03"	12.07"	22.97"
29	25-26	9/11/25 - ".07"	6.14" (12/1/25))	



Breaking Rust is Breaking Bad

I like country music, especially country rock like Red Solo Cup by Toby Keith (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CLacRKKhG8>) or Redneck Yacht Club by Craig Morgan (<https://youtu.be/ul7Ghu1FpnQ>) featuring some nice jet ski shots. (See my story, Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing, below.)

Brad Paisley's song Water could be a Lake Berryessa theme song (<https://youtu.be/1AHnQtY1bg4>). One of the oddest and funniest, but accurate, country songs from the "good ole days" is Fifteen Beers Ago by Sheb Wooley (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRibcUVGKJ8>).

Many country songs are relatively simple and repetitive like Fifteen Beers Ago, but the latest, supposedly "hit country song", Walk My Walk, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwKmdH83qo0>) was written by a computer. Some news outlets reported that the song became a #1 hit. But that is not accurate, as reported by Time Magazine in the story below.

No, That AI-Generated Country Song Isn't a No. 1 Hit

Andrew R. Chow, Time Magazine

"Walk My Walk," a laughably generic country song about independence and defiance, had middling organic momentum on streaming and search before it topped Billboard's Country Digital Song Sales chart last week. The song is currently nowhere to be found on updated daily streaming country charts on Spotify or Apple Music.

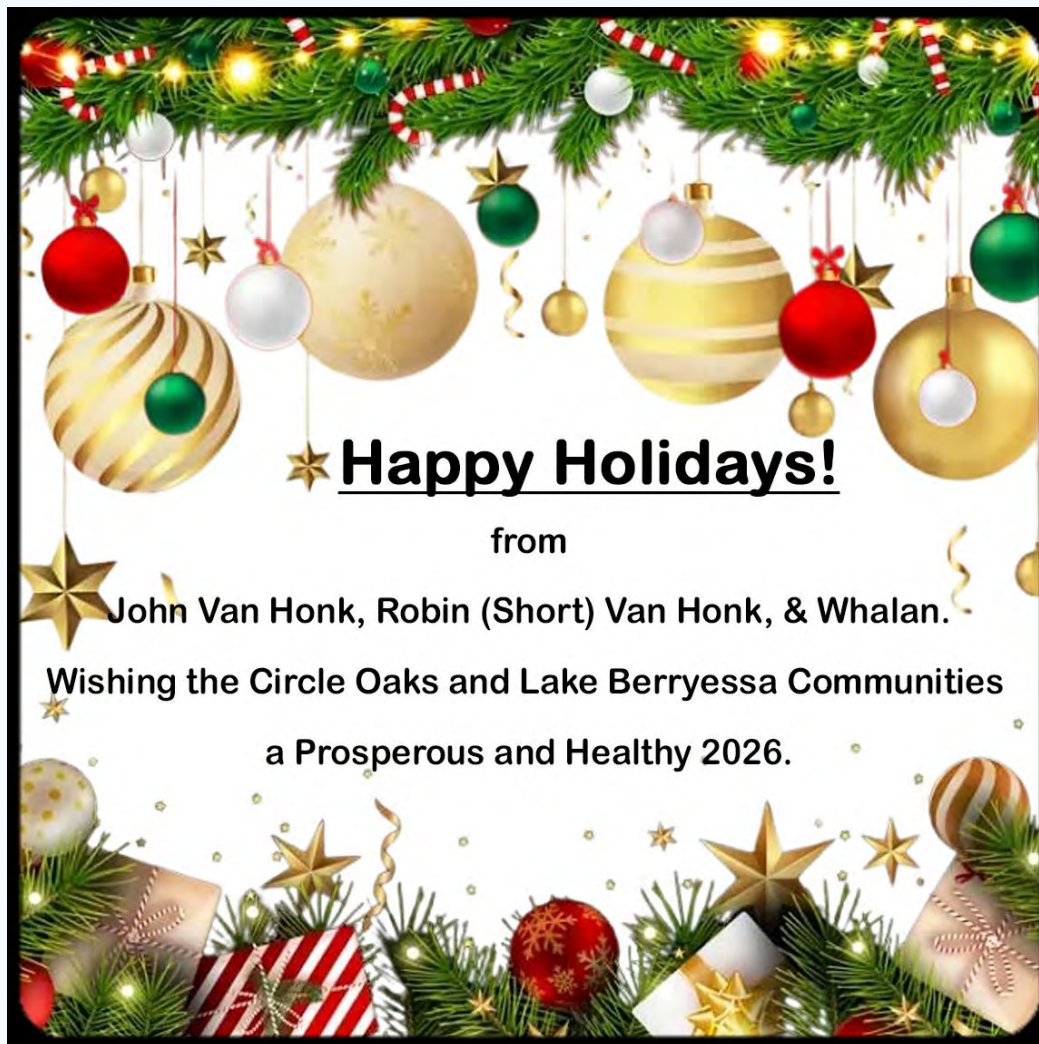
But because very few people actually buy digital songs anymore, it only takes a few thousand purchases to top the Country Digital Song Sales chart. This dynamic raises the possibility that someone took this specific tack to generate momentum. This would not be a new phenomenon—Billboards' digital sales have been a target for manipulation for several years now, forcing the company to make several tweaks to tamp down on gamesmanship.

Feeding frenzy. So "Walk My Walk" is No. 1 in one metric, but not a meaningful one. Regardless, the headlines around its chart-topping have created a flywheel effect, creating

more interest and outrage around the song. Some people now like it and some hate it—but people are clicking either way, driving it No. 2 Spotify's Viral 50 USA chart.

“The permissiveness of Billboard with their charts has been a systemic problem for many years, especially in country music—and that’s what’s facilitating this whole news cycle,” says Kyle Coroneos, the founder of the website Saving Country Music. “Whoever is behind the single, this is exactly what they wanted: to make headlines by going No. 1 on a country chart, and then you get the feeding frenzy, and it bursts through the zeitgeist.”

Slow creep. Still, the “Walk My Walk” discourse shows how AI continues to permeate the music industry in increasing ways. There has been at least one AI artist on a Billboard chart for the past four weeks. And studios like Universal Music Group have been striking deals with AI companies. “The whole industry needs to stand up and say, ‘How are we going to deal with these AI tracks?’” Coroneos says. “This isn’t a year from now, this is happening right now, and it’s affecting real-life human creators who are also trying to get to the top of these charts and are failing.”



Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Kilkus (12/4/25)

When does history actually become HISTORY? Back at the turn of the century Evan, his brother Chris, and I used to do a lot of scuba diving. I started diving with the latest

underwater video cameras in large water-proof housings. One time we decided to rent jet skis to ride in the ocean waves. We were hooked immediately and bought our first jet ski when we got back home. We rode at different local lakes until we discovered Lake Berryessa. It turned out that my underwater video hobby translated well into making videos of our racing adventures.

I bought a mobile home at Steele Park Resort in 1997. We soon learned that a family could not subsist on only one jet ski (a Kawasaki 900ZXi), so we bought another (a Kawasaki 1100 STX). Coincidentally, Steele Park Resort was also the home to Joey Pearce's watercraft repair shop. Evan and I soon "fell in with a bad crowd" of jet ski racers including Joey Pearce, Jim Pearce, John Bonkowski, and Jerry Skaggs. Before we knew it, Evan and I were hijacked to our first IJSBA Region 2 race at Camp Far West in 2001. We soon became members of the Joey's Watercraft Racing Team.



That's history. But the Jet Skis Rock story is really HISTORY. Next year, 2026, will be the 25th anniversary of our first jet ski race! See Jet Skis Rock, The Beginning, Peter & Evan's First Race (2001), on my new YouTube page "Jet Skis Rock" (@jetskisrock).

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

A couple of years later Evan and I inherited IJSBA Region 2 as promoters. Evan founded Pacific Coast Entertainment, and the races were on. Evan ran the show as President. I became Vice-President In Charge of Going Places and Picking Stuff Up (it was actually on my business card). The Team SKI logo on our Joey's Watercraft Racing shirts was due to John Bonkowski. The SKI stands for Safety, Kindness, Integrity.



Joey's Watercraft Racing's team leader was Joey Pearce. While Evan had national success, I think I was just the oldest jet ski racer in California. I actually got a first place award in the Master's Runabout class while racing in the early years. Of course I think I was the only racer over 50 years old at that time - first in a class of one! (No one can tell your age when you are wearing a helmet!)

Coincidentally, digital video camera technology was advancing rapidly. Cameras were

becoming smaller and video editing software was becoming less expensive and feature rich. I became our racing videographer and had a great time shooting and editing our racing videos at our local races and at the Lake Havasu IJSBA Jet Ski World Finals. It was an exciting experience getting to know the racers, staff, announcers, and fans. I shot and edited many videos from 2001 to 2006 when we retired as Region 2 promoters.

One disclaimer: I apologize. I was an amateur videographer then and was enamored of all the interesting transitions the software allowed me to use in the videos - often too many! Also you'll notice I sometimes repeated the same music in different videos.



My jet ski racing interest was rekindled last summer when Wild West Watercross sponsored a race at Putah Creek Campground at Lake Berryessa. Twenty years is a long time to some, but to others like me it seems like yesterday (ask Evan). In my case it was a fact. On June 14th, 2025, Putah Canyon Campground hosted the first jet ski race at Lake Berryessa since 2005 which was the 20th anniversary of the last jet ski race Evan and I put on at Steel Park Resort in April 2005.



Evan started working with the Wild West Watercross folks as a course marshal.



I attended their excellent Sparks Marina event and was further drawn into the excitement. Coincidentally, I was photobombed into a picture of Ian Roberts and his family. Ian was one of our young racers back in the "olden days". Ian's daughter is a jet ski racer now. Ian follows a long-honored tradition of racers mentoring their children to become racers. Jake Pearce, Joey Pearce's son, is another example.



Wild West Watercross is putting on a race at Camp Far West on May 16 & 17, 2026 which will be the 25th anniversary(!) of Evan's and my first jet ski race. We'll be sure to attend!

Due to my renewed interest in jet ski racing, and the excitement that Wild West Watercross is bringing to the sport, I decided to re-edit and post many of my historic jet ski videos on You Tube on a new page titled Jet Skis Rock (@jetskisrock). I loved making them and still enjoy watching them. I didn't want them to get lost in history because they really are a part of jet ski racing HISTORY. As a jet ski racer myself, I can assure you that racing through those huge wake sprays takes skill and courage.

If anyone has any special videos or photos they would like to see added to the Jet Skis Rock history, please send them to me at pkilkus@gmail.com. The Wild West Watercross 2026 racing schedule is copied below.

Their website is: <https://www.wildwestwatercross.com/>.

Their Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fullthrottlewaterx>.



Jet Skis Rock You Tube List Final (12/4/25)

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

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

Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLrI_fzc

Jet Skis Rock 2, The Beginning, Peter & Evan's First Race (2001)

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

Jet Skis Rock 3, Jet Ski & Snowmobile Ramp Jumps

<https://youtu.be/DMbDUj77-CI>

Jet Skis Rock 4, Ocean Wave Jumps (2002)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf_koAH_E48

Jet Skis Rock 5, Racing Action

<https://youtu.be/8uLa6hhHPBk>

Jet Skis Rock 6, Crash & Rescue

<https://youtu.be/VurSqs5B0CU>

Jet Skis Rock 7, Jet Ski Crashes & Jumps

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiL_5gpd8yg

Jet Skis Rock 8, Jet Ski Extreme Racing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwPiYa84fiY>

Jet Skis Rock 9, Nashville Watercross Nationals (2002)

<https://youtu.be/RHT1Gjb7LWk>

Jet Skis Rock 10, Indoor Racing Paris Bercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC--vCcm7K0>

Jet Skis Rock 10-1: First Indoor Paris Bercy Jet Ski Races, (July 4, 1990)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzciJV5hKH0&t=242s>

Jet Skis Rock 11, Pahrump Las Vegas (2003)

<https://youtu.be/bAncbEZPEZk>

Jet Skis Rock 12, Argyll Park, CA (2004)

<https://youtu.be/cTcAo5ZK7H8>

Jet Skis Rock 13, Escape from Alcatraz Event (2004)

<https://youtu.be/lyrE58c7WdE>

Jet Skis Rock 14, Western States Cup Promo (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5-yCyqiN5U>

Jet Skis Rock 15, Western States Cup (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCNEZcbU02s>

Jet Skis Rock 16, Lake Havasu World Finals (2001)

<https://youtu.be/xQBcDaRM-rk>

Jet Skis Rock 17, Evan Wins, Awards & Family (2003)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG4Ynyx2G2Q>

Jet Skis Rock 18, Lake Havasu World Finals (2003)

<https://youtu.be/TCYhatEoOfM>

Jet Skis Rock 19, Lake Havasu World Finals (2004)

https://youtu.be/Onom_vN6tXk

Jet Skis Rock 20, Lake Havasu 2006, Race, Freestyle, People

<https://youtu.be/XdVnTcaZ6dM>

Jet Skis Rock 21, Freestyle Example - Lee Stone

<https://youtu.be/u9zd2o7bpEE>

Jet Skis Rock 21-1, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YEQW07-Y>

Jet Skis Rock 21-2, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2022, Lee Stone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s_q9SEE65U

Jet Skis Rock 22, Nedra Atwood, #1 Fan Interview

<https://youtu.be/tVrRGTH2Bi8>

Jet Skis Rock 22-1, World Finals 2017 - Nedra Atwood Interview

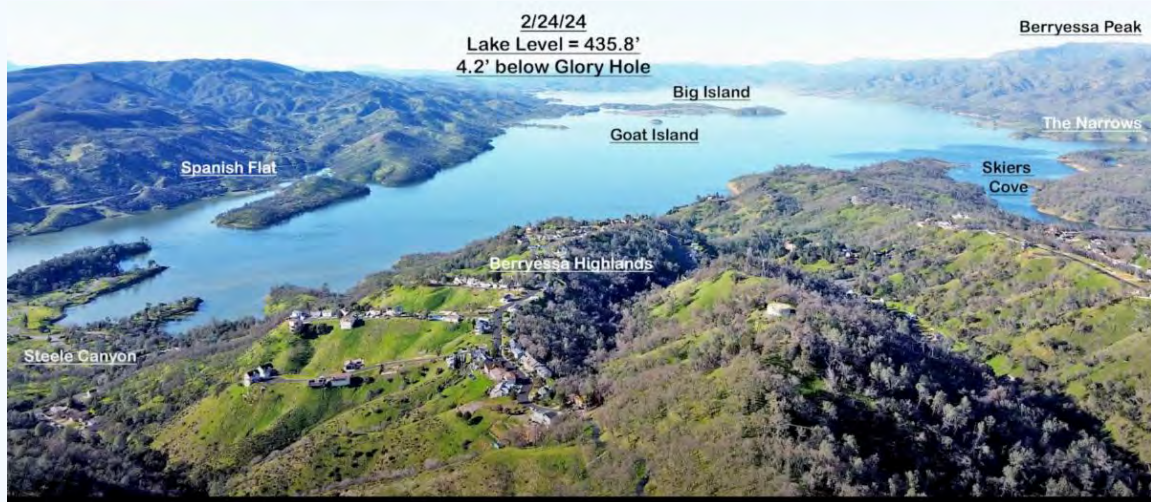
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNIAdqhsJPk&t=8s>

Jet Skis Rock 22-2, Nedra's Song - A tribute to PWC's #1 fan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjFoG-hqksc>

Jet Skis Rock 23, Hot Water- the Movie (2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EV9EuOE6c>



Rustic French Farmhouse Vibe & Lake Views!

914 Cape Cod Court

\$549,000



Discover a peaceful retreat above Lake Berryessa with this beautifully updated 2-bedroom, 1-bath home featuring a flexible floor plan and tons of character. Enjoy modern upgrades and handcrafted charm throughout, from custom wine barrel shelving made in Napa to river rock tile floors and full-height windows opening to expansive decks with filtered lake views.

Two decks invite indoor-outdoor living, perfect for relaxing or entertaining. This home's artistic layout and custom details make it truly one-of-a-kind, unforgettable for the right buyer who appreciates authentic style and Napa craftsmanship.



<https://www.914capecodct.com/>



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Your A-Frame Retreat Awaits!

<https://www.1017headlandsdr.com/>

\$505,000

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Filtered lake views and relaxed Napa Valley living come together!

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Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



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Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

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

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



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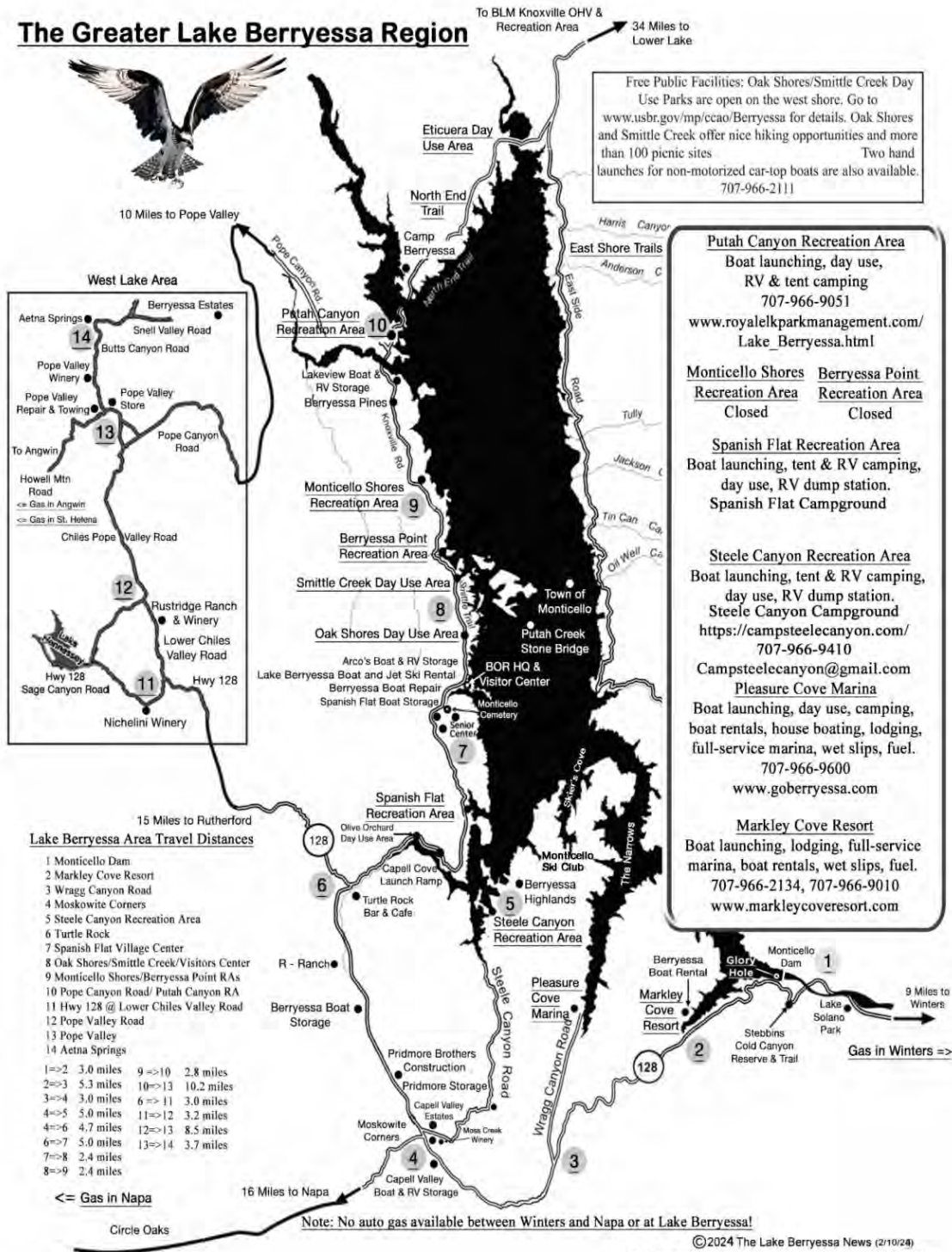


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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

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The Lake Berryessa News
December 14, 2025

Only eleven days until Christmas! I am definitely not adept at buying presents. I learned the hard lesson illustrated below when, as a young boy, I bought my mother a device for Christmas that would cut a potato into french fries with a simple push of a handle. She took me aside and gently told me that I should never, ever, buy a woman a present that reminds her of housework!



This gift is perfect for anyone, even if it reminds them that they have to clean the refrigerator.

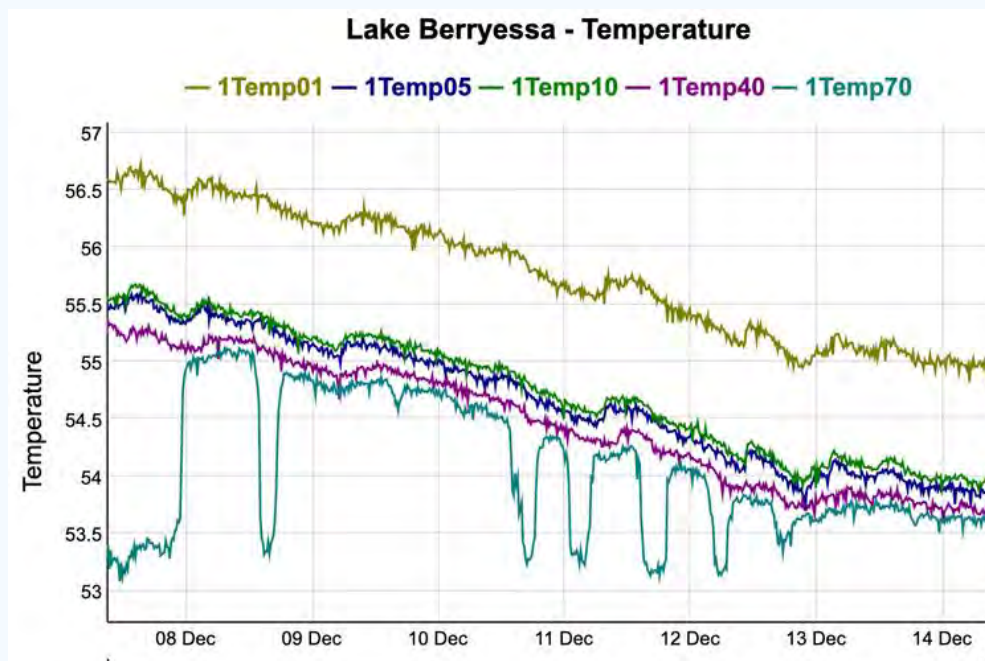


Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/14/25)

The season total at Monticello Dam is still only 6.14 inches with little rain on the horizon.

The Lake Berryessa water level has been hovering at 428.7 feet, 11.3 feet below Glory Hole for the last week. The lake output running at an average of 100 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 198 A-F (acre feet per day).

Surface temperature has dropped to 55 degrees at the surface and 54 degrees from 5 feet to 70 feet and down to the bottom. This indicates that due to cold, windy weather the lake has "turned over" and the water temperature is the same from the surface to the bottom.





2010: The Year in Review

(Some History from Fifteen Years Ago in The Lake Berryessa News)

There were several big stories at Lake Berryessa in 2010, one of the biggest being the ongoing water/sewer system problems faced by residents of the Berryessa Estates and Berryessa Highlands. The two other big stories were the Supervisor election and Pensus.

In January Jeff Parady announced his intention to run for Napa County District 3 Supervisor which began a very interesting political battle.

In February, Pensus won the bid for six Lake Berryessa resorts and began contract negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation. The Capell Valley School was officially slated for closure in June with a proposal to make it a Community Center. The 2010 Census created local jobs. And Economic Stimulus funds were targeted at cleaning up the closed resorts, also creating about 20 jobs.

March brought a Meet the Candidates Night with Jeff Parady, Michael Haley, and Diane Dillon expounding on their views for the future of Lake Berryessa.

April started off with a bang when the Lake Berryessa News April Fool's Edition actually convinced many people that a floating Native American Casino consisting of 50 houseboats linked together was coming soon. The big true story in April was that Pensus actually signed a contract with Reclamation and announced the opening of Lupin Shores (Steele Park), Chaparral Cove (Putah Creek), and Foothill Pines (Spanish Flat).

In May, Lupin Shores and Chaparral Cove opened for launching, tent and RV camping, but the opening of Foothill Pines was delayed a year. The Amgen Tour of California brought Lance Armstrong to Lake Berryessa. The Monticello History Exhibit hosted a big reunion event. Pensus published its 10-year plan for resort redevelopment.

The Supervisor's election heated up in June when Parady beat Haley in the primary forcing a November run-off with Dillon. Capell Valley School and Wooden Valley School closed for good. June also saw the return of Bilgee the Bilge Pad and the Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership to the lake.

In July CBS' Eye on the Bay came to Lake Berryessa and produced a two-part show for broadcast on San Francisco's KPIX. Tragedy also came to the lake in July when local soldier, Chase Stanley, died in Afghanistan. He was honored by hundreds of people with a parade from Napa to a memorial service in Monticello Cemetery.

The good news in August, especially for the Berryessa Highlands, was that the Winchell family opened the Crossroads at Lake Berryessa at the Corners which includes a store, restaurant and bar.

September was relatively quiet. Cucina Italiana threw a 7th Anniversary Party and there was the annual Earth Day underwater cleanup at the Pope Creek Bridge.

In early October, CBS' Eye on the Bay finally aired the Lake Berryessa two-part show which was well received and nicely done. On October 17, the first rain of the winter came to the lake.

The November election saw Parady lose to Dillon, in a close race, by only 247 votes out of 9,800. Pensus presented a new 10-year plan to Reclamation.

By the end of December the lake had received 12.4 inches of rain, the highest early rainfall total since 2005.



**Lake Berryessa Explorer, John Daniels, Discovered
the Location of the Old Putah Creek Stone Bridge**

It's always sad to learn of the passing of a person who was important to the history of Lake Berryessa. John Daniels was such a person. To me he was an adventurer, an explorer, and a classic Lake Berryessa outdoorsman. I'm glad I shared this historic epic adventure with him.

John Edward Daniels (October 31, 1953 - November 26, 2025), 72, passed away at his home in Napa on November 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family, following complications from Alzheimer's disease. Drawn to the water, he owned several boats throughout his life and spent countless joyful days on Lake Berryessa, Lake Tahoe, Lake Shasta, and many other favorite destinations. He was also a licensed private pilot. In 1997, John climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and toured the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania with his son, Johnny. His sense of adventure, his kindness, and his remarkable sense of humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

John lived life with energy, humor, and a love for the outdoors. He was an avid snow skier, water skier, and hiker. He fished for sturgeon in the San Francisco Bay, trolled for fish in Lake Tahoe and Lake Berryessa. Fishing was his greatest lifelong hobby besides water skiing.

John found the old Putah Creek Ridge. Then he took the Lake Berryessa News and experienced scuba divers to the bridge and the divers videotaped it for the first time since it and the Town of Monticello were drowned by the lake waters.

Read the full story at: Scuba Diving The Putah Creek Stone Bridge (2012)

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Past-Stories-&-Reports/SCUBA-DIVING-THE-PUTAH-CREEK-STONE-BRIDGE.pdf>

See the full video of this epic dive adventure with John's narration on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0oGbYjao9U>

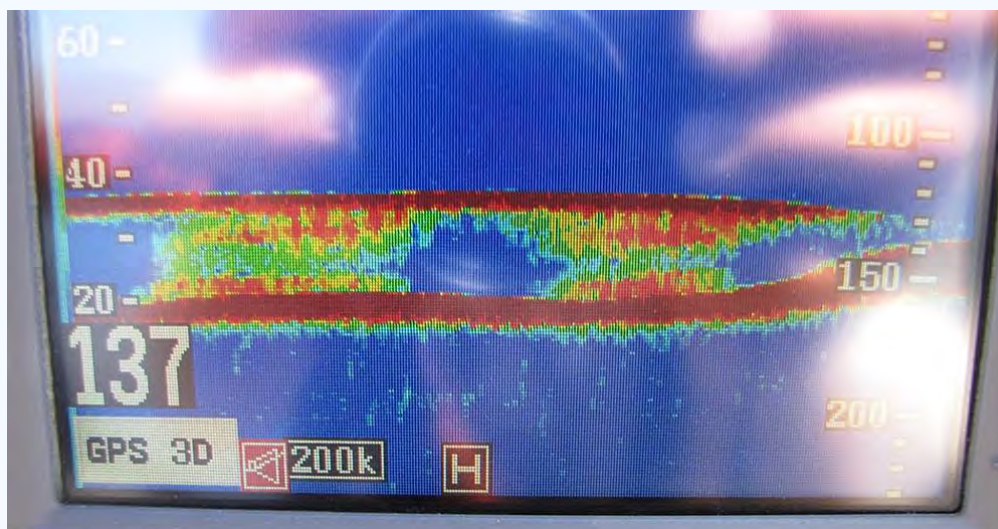
In John's own words: "I've spent thousands of hours with my family on Lake Berryessa, mostly waterskiing, but more recently, fishing. I've also wanted to see below the surface of the lake, to see large fish that I frequently mark on my sonar. Back in early June of this year I purchased a small underwater camera. I first tried to find any signs of Monticello, but without any success.

I then started to search for the Putah Creek Bridge. After several weekends of attempts I finally found it on June 25th, about 1,200 feet south of where I first thought it was, in 160ft. of water. I marked and saved it on the sonar. I spent numerous times crossing back and forth over it to verify it's center until I felt that I might be able to secure my boat over that spot.

I lowered a bow anchor line down with the boat perpendicular to the bridge and secured it to the North face of the bridge wall. I then cast a stern anchor and secured it to the opposite wall. I lowered the camera down on a 160ft cable with small LED lights attached. To finally send the camera down I needed a perfectly calm day on the water. There was very little control of the camera, with it being so small and trying to send it straight down on a line that was half the length of a football field."



"I was thrilled to see this beautiful front face of the bridge wall with mortar joints still looking as if they were just placed yesterday. The top outer edge had a perfectly shaped stone cap and reveal, typical of stone bridges for that time in Napa County. The key stones that formed the arches were massive and appeared gigantic in relation to others I've seen."



Coincidentally, during that same period another group of explorers was looking for the same bridge, as well as several other bridges, that are below the surface of Lake Berryessa. The group of technical scuba divers, led by Dave Van Valkenburg and Sharon Eckroth, had formed the Berryessa Bridges Project to find and document the historical bridges with still photography and video recordings.

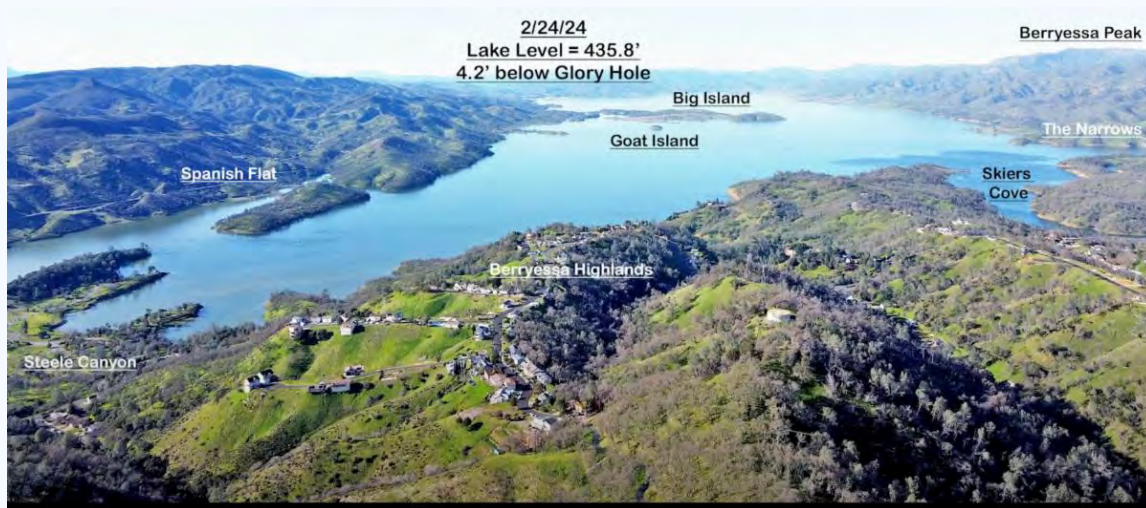
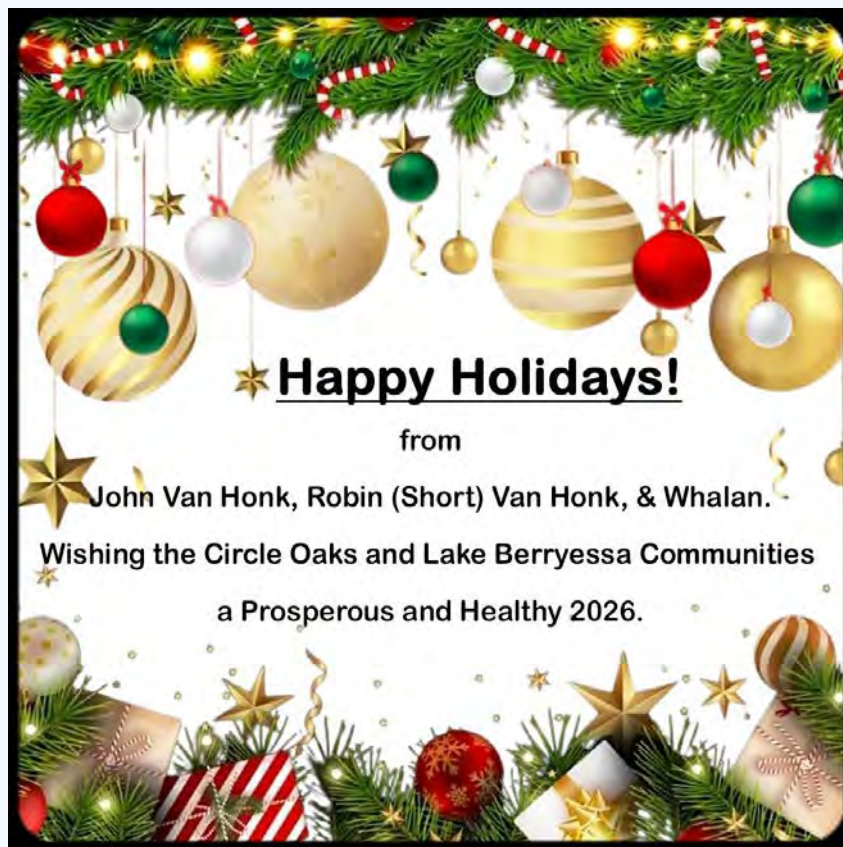
The Lake Berryessa News did its small part in this adventure by bringing John, Dave, Sharon, and Les together to share notes over pizza in October. I was amazed at the research that had been done by the Berryessa Bridges Project group, especially the computer graphics magic of Dave Van Valkenburg. Dave had superimposed a view from Google Earth, an old aerial photograph, and the plot map from Carol Fitzpatrick's Monticello History Exhibit to pinpoint the location of the bridge.



John Daniels Obituary

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/napavalleyregister/name/john-daniels-obituary?id=60193177>





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914 Cape Cod Court

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Two decks invite indoor-outdoor living, perfect for relaxing or entertaining. This home's artistic layout and custom details make it truly one-of-a-kind, unforgettable for the right buyer who appreciates authentic style and Napa craftsmanship.



<https://www.914capecodct.com/>



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Sunsets, Space & Style This Lakeview Property Has It All! Perched on a corner lot with stunning lake and sunset views, this one-of-a-kind custom home blends charm, flexibility, and function. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherrywood floors, and a beautifully updated kitchen with quartz counters, soft-close cabinetry, and a large island open to the family room with fireplace. The luxurious primary suite features a jetted tub, heated floors, and French doors leading to a covered porch with lake views. Need more space? Use the home as a 4BR/3BA or enjoy a detached ADU above the garage with its own bedroom, full bath, and kitchenette perfect for guests, rental, or multi-gen living. Outside, the professionally landscaped lot features custom brick patios, terraced gardens, RV/boat parking with electrical hookup, and even a generator & SOLAR. Whether you're entertaining under the stars or unwinding in total privacy, this home has everything you need and then some!

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Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Kilkus

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

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

Jet Skis Rock You Tube List Final (12/4/25)

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

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

Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLtRI_fzc

Jet Skis Rock 2, The Beginning, Peter & Evan's First Race (2001)

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

Jet Skis Rock 3, Jet Ski & Snowmobile Ramp Jumps

<https://youtu.be/DMbDUj77-CI>

Jet Skis Rock 4, Ocean Wave Jumps (2002)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf_koAH_E48

Jet Skis Rock 5, Racing Action

<https://youtu.be/8uLa6hhHPBk>

Jet Skis Rock 6, Crash & Rescue

<https://youtu.be/VurSqs5B0CU>

Jet Skis Rock 7, Jet Ski Crashes & Jumps

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiL_5gpd8yg

Jet Skis Rock 8, Jet Ski Extreme Racing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwPiYa84fiY>

Jet Skis Rock 9, Nashville Watercross Nationals (2002)

<https://youtu.be/RHT1Gjb7LWk>

Jet Skis Rock 10, Indoor Racing Paris Bercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC--vCcm7K0>

Jet Skis Rock 10-1: First Indoor Paris Bercy Jet Ski Races, (July 4, 1990)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzciJV5hKH0&t=242s>

Jet Skis Rock 11, Pahrump Las Vegas (2003)

<https://youtu.be/bAncbEZPEZk>

Jet Skis Rock 12, Argyll Park, CA (2004)

<https://youtu.be/cTcAo5ZK7H8>

Jet Skis Rock 13, Escape from Alcatraz Event (2004)

<https://youtu.be/lyrE58c7WdE>

Jet Skis Rock 14, Western States Cup Promo (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5-yCyqiN5U>

Jet Skis Rock 15, Western States Cup (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCNEZcbU02s>

Jet Skis Rock 16, Lake Havasu World Finals (2001)

<https://youtu.be/xQBcDaRM-rk>

Jet Skis Rock 17, Evan Wins, Awards & Family (2003)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG4Ynyx2G2Q>

Jet Skis Rock 18, Lake Havasu World Finals (2003)

<https://youtu.be/TCYhatEoOfM>

Jet Skis Rock 19, Lake Havasu World Finals (2004)

https://youtu.be/Onom_vN6tXk

Jet Skis Rock 20, Lake Havasu 2006, Race, Freestyle, People

<https://youtu.be/XdVnTcaZ6dM>

Jet Skis Rock 21, Freestyle Example - Lee Stone

<https://youtu.be/u9zd2o7bpEE>

Jet Skis Rock 21-1, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YEQQuWo7-Y>

Jet Skis Rock 21-2, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2022, Lee Stone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s_q9SEE65U

Jet Skis Rock 22, Nedra Atwood, #1 Fan Interview

<https://youtu.be/tVrRGTH2Bi8>

Jet Skis Rock 22-1, World Finals 2017 - Nedra Atwood Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNlAdqhsJPK&t=8s>

Jet Skis Rock 22-2, Nedra's Song - A tribute to PWC's #1 fan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjFoG-hqksc>

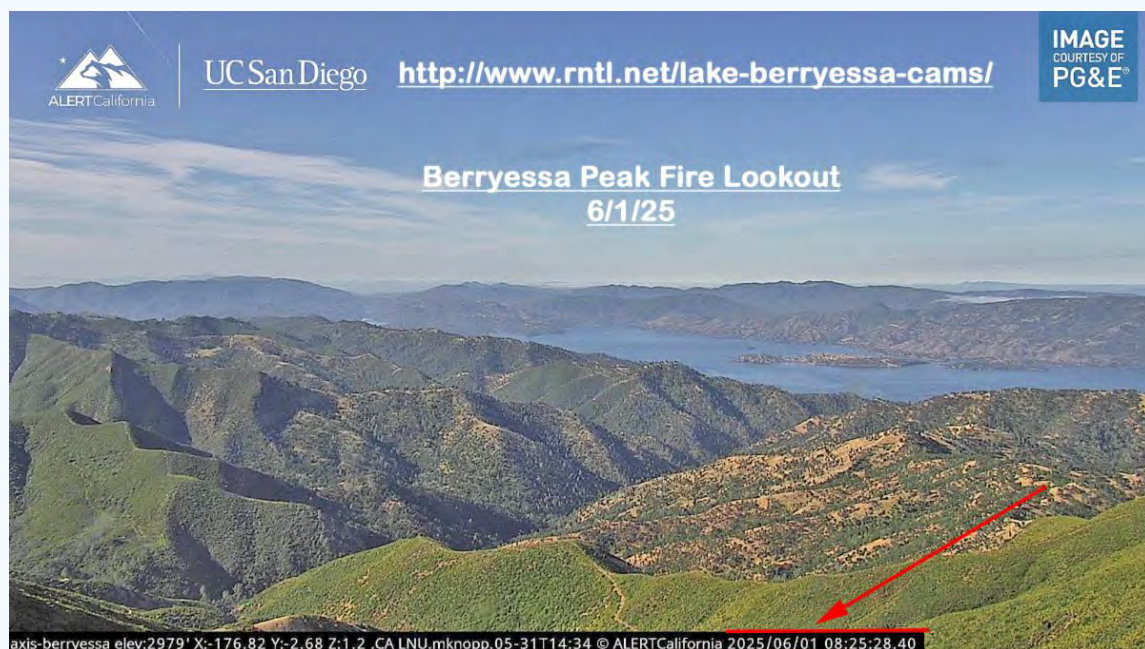
Jet Skis Rock 23, Hot Water- the Movie (2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EV9EuOEr6c>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





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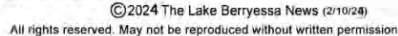
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

To BLM Knoxville OHV & Recreation Area 34 Miles to Lower Lake



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The Lake Berryessa News
December 21, 2025

Happy rainy (finally) Sunday from Lake Berryessa.

Only 4 days until Christmas and Santa Claus is everywhere!

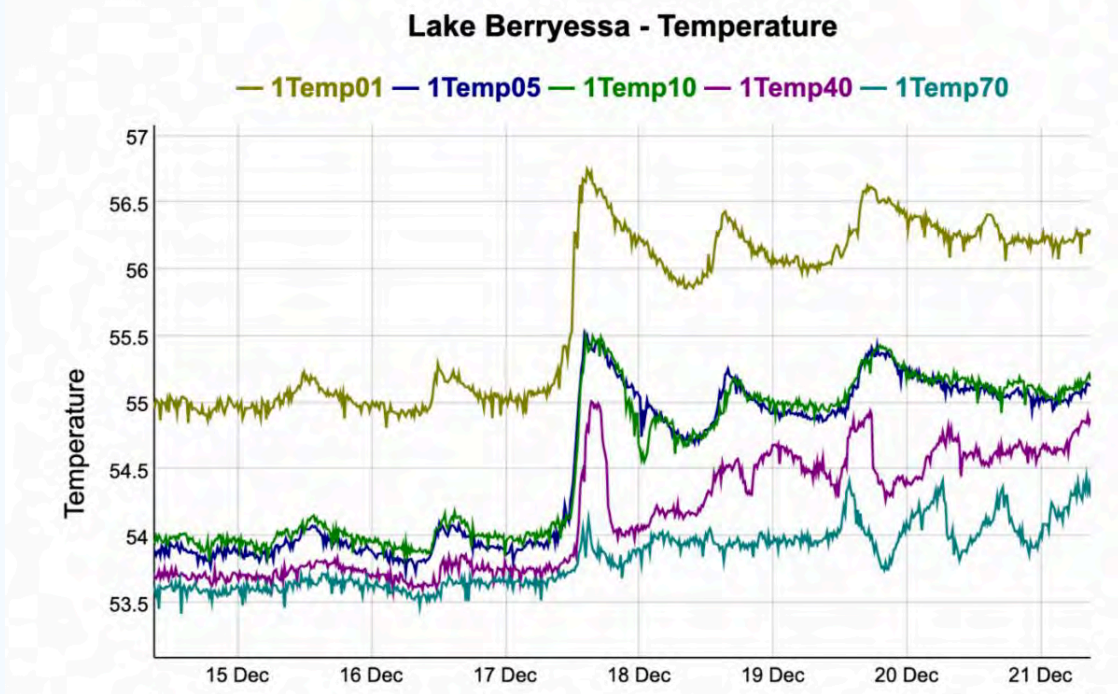


Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/21/25)

An additional .43 inches at Monticello Dam has brought the season total at Monticello Dam is 6.57 inches with more rain predicted for the next few days.

Lake Berryessa water level is still at 428.6 feet, 11.4 feet below Glory Hole. The lake has not yet started to rise but should go up during the next few days. The lake output is running at an average of 105 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 208 A-F (acre feet per day).

The recent warm weather has increased water temperatures to 56.5 degrees at the surface and an average 54.5 degrees from 5 feet to 70 feet and down to the bottom.



Record run of 2,150 King salmon returns to Putah Creek



Sammuel Huang, a junior specialist in Nann Fangue's lab at UC Davis, returns a Chinook salmon to Putah Creek after being counted and measured in the fall of 2025

Since time immemorial, many thousands of Chinook salmon once spawned in the headwaters of Putah Creek. The salmon were no longer able to make the migration up the creek to their historic habitat after the Monticello Dam created Lake Berryessa and the diversion dam formed Lake Solano in 1957. However, a smaller number of Chinooks still made it most years into the waters below the diversion dam to spawn.

Fortunately, the decades of efforts of creek restoration by salmon advocates have borne fruit in recent years. A record 2,150 fall-run Chinook salmon returned to spawn in Putah Creek this fall, according to a report from the Solano County Water Agency. Water is now released to maintain continuous flow downstream. Approximately 32,000 acre-feet per year is required to be passed below the dam for environmental purposes. Another 200,000 acre-feet of Putah Creek water per year is diverted to Solano County farmers (about 75%) and urban users (about 25%).

"The number of adult salmon returning in 2025 is a testament to the collaborative efforts among citizens, water managers, landowners and scientists who are all working together to create a creek that can support people, fish and wildlife," Solano County Water Agency General Manager Chris Lee said in the report. "This successful run validates the work done to date and gives us great confidence Putah Creek will continue to support salmon runs for generations to come."

With more than 2,150 adults spawning, SCWA reported that the creek is expected to produce potentially 500,000 baby salmon next spring, "a level of natural production comparable to a small fish hatchery."

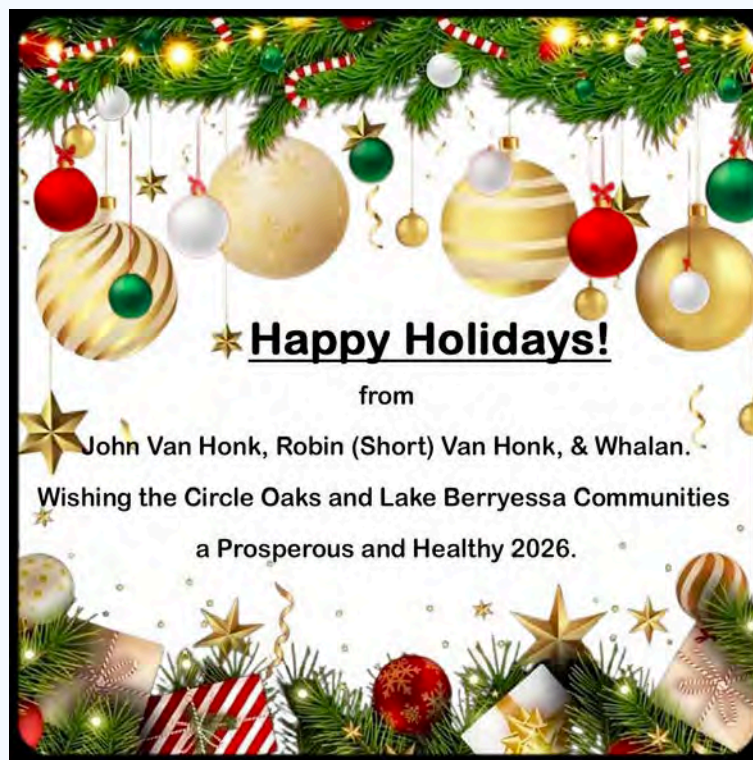
Lake Berryessa is a popular fishery for rainbow trout, landlocked king salmon, kokanee salmon, black bass, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish. While a number of factors have contributed to the demise of the smelt, salmon and other Bay-Delta fish populations in

recent years, no factor is more central than the export of mass quantities of water from the Delta to corporate agribusiness and Southern California water agencies.

Key factors on Putah Creek salmon numbers:

- The success is the culmination of a 25-year, \$20 million grant-funded restoration effort.
- Current work on salmon passage in the lower creek, including the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which is funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation Board.
- In 2025, the SCWA placed 500 tons of gravel in the creek as targeted habitat enhancement. Salmon rely on clean gravel beds to build their nests for spawning.

SCWA also implemented a test release of extra water this year, timed to mimic natural flows, a technique known as functional flows. This pulse of water appears to have successfully attracted and guided more salmon into the creek.



December Headlines

Research Reveals Ancient Egyptians Received Significant Help From Parents While Building Pyramids

Report Finds More Americans Using GoFundMe For Basic Necessities

White House Touts Affordability Of Hay-Based Christmas Dinners

MAGA Boycotting Costco Has Increased Customer Shopping Satisfaction By 350%

Ragú Unveils Sensory Deprivation Marinara Tank, Claiming the new offering would revolutionize the use of pasta sauce in stress reduction and pain relief

Merriam-Webster Accused Of Bias After 'Dictionary' Named Word Of The Year

Trump Reports 145% Of Americans Approve Of His Direction On The Economy

Japanese Monk Racks
Brain For Haiku That Will Knock
Them On Their Asses

BREAKING: Trump Expected To Rename San Andreas Fault To Joe Biden's Fault

Researchers Find Moon Serves No Purpose But Alerting Raccoons It Safe To Come Out

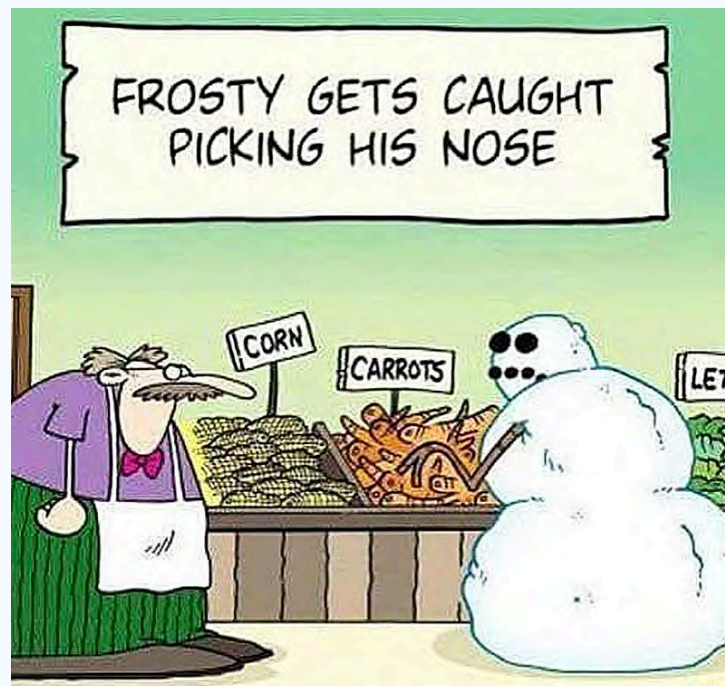
Fraternity Under Investigation After Forcing Pledges To Volunteer At Soup Kitchen

White House Reclassifies Nursing As Hobby

OpenAI Reveals ChatGPT Primarily Used To Ask If Hot Dog Too Old To Eat

New AI Chatbots Let Users Text With Jesus

Trump Imposes 25% Tariff On Chinese-Made Trump Products



How to spot suspicious health supplements and avoid getting scammed

The internet is littered with unproven health supplements that use deceptive marketing and sales practices to trick victims into handing over their money. Not all health supplements are scams, but many of those that are scams engage in consistent practices that internet users can learn to spot at a glance.

While the exact goal may differ from scam to scam, most health supplement scams have the same objective: to take buyers' money and run. The scammers usually try to pressure the victim into overpaying for multiple bottles of the product and sometimes even try to trick their victims into unwittingly signing up for subscriptions. Even though scammers often claim to offer money-back guarantees, in actuality they try to make it difficult or even impossible for customers to get their promised refunds.

These unproven health supplements can pose risks to victims, too. Many don't work at all, and some are filled with random substances or even doses of prescription medications that can cause permanent injuries.

Scammers selling unproven health supplements often try to lure victims by establishing the illusion of credibility, such as with fake celebrity endorsements and customer reviews. They also create false urgency, using meaningless countdowns and language that suggests the "deal" being offered won't last.

Many of these supplements put meaningless labels on their bottles, including labels suggesting they are in some way Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved. The FDA doesn't actually regulate supplements, meaning such labels are meaningless or outright false. Credible health supplement products usually carry labels certifying they've been reviewed by third-party testers.

In July 2025, the physician and media personality [Sanjay Gupta spoke out](#) about ads that used artificial-intelligence (AI) deepfakes to create ads that falsely made it appear as if Gupta had endorsed a memory-enhancing supplement that claimed, without any evidence, to treat Alzheimer's disease.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB), has an online scam tracker to help identify scams:

(<https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/16895-bbb-tip-misleading-ads-and-subscription-traps-for-weight-loss-products>).

- They may make extravagant claims about their supplements being miracle cures or from a scientific breakthrough to prey on victims' hope.

- They may use false celebrity endorsements or fake customer and doctor reviews to get their victims' trust.

- They often create false urgency with countdowns and language to rush victims into making a decision before they have a chance to think it through.

- They often try to force or trick their victims into bulk orders and subscriptions to get as much money out of them as they can.

December Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Express yourself, do a backflip, try to do the splits. Dance and the world will be yours.

Taurus (4/20-5/20): Smiles help the world go round, especially when the smiles are accompanied by dirty big wads of cash. Cold hard cash. In fact, forget the smiles, just give everyone money.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): Just because people laugh at you doesn't make you a comedian.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): 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.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Skeletons in your closet are a sign that you have an eventful life and are nothing to be embarrassed about.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): The sounds of fairies in your head are brought on by the alcohol. It may be time to stop drinking this week.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Luckily, today is the best day you're going to have over the coming months - so let loose. Incidentally, it may be in your "letting loose" that you cause the accident that sees you spend the coming months in traction.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): When "taking out the trash" remember that blood stains don't easily wash out of white shirts.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): As the fella once said, ain't that a kick in the head. Not that you'll be kicked in the head, it's a metaphor. I mean, hell, for all I know you *are* going to get kicked in the head, so maybe just wear a helmet for the rest of the day.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Any spikes that you see in your power usage may be due to unforeseen and deadly circumstances.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): The good and the great come together today and miss you entirely during all their endeavors. Which is a bit sad, really.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): All of that which you experience today will be catalogued under "things not to do in public again".

THE SECRET IS OUT!

We are delighted to announce that the operator of Steele Canyon Campground has expanded its operations to include Spanish Flat Campground!

We are eager to welcome you and strive to make your experience at Spanish Flat truly enjoyable.

We are currently working on our new logo and website. Reservations will officially open on January 1st, 2026, and our new home online will be campspanishflat.com.

Important: Please note that Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat remain separate entities. Therefore, no passes, credits or reservations are transferable between the two campgrounds. However, keep an eye out for familiar, friendly staff at both locations!

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The Steele Canyon Team



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[Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing](#)

by Peter Killus

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

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

[Jet Skis Rock You Tube List Final \(12/4/25\)](#)

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

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

Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLtRI_fzc

Jet Skis Rock 2, The Beginning, Peter & Evan's First Race (2001)

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

Jet Skis Rock 3, Jet Ski & Snowmobile Ramp Jumps

<https://youtu.be/DMbDUj77-CI>

Jet Skis Rock 4, Ocean Wave Jumps (2002)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf_koAH_E48

Jet Skis Rock 5, Racing Action

<https://youtu.be/8uLa6hhHPBk>

Jet Skis Rock 6, Crash & Rescue

<https://youtu.be/VurSqs5B0CU>

Jet Skis Rock 7, Jet Ski Crashes & Jumps

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiL_5gpd8yg

Jet Skis Rock 8, Jet Ski Extreme Racing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwPiYa84fiY>

Jet Skis Rock 9, Nashville Watercross Nationals (2002)

<https://youtu.be/RHT1Gjb7LWk>

Jet Skis Rock 10, Indoor Racing Paris Bercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC--vCcm7K0>

Jet Skis Rock 10-1: First Indoor Paris Bercy Jet Ski Races, (July 4, 1990)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzciJV5hKH0&t=242s>

Jet Skis Rock 11, Pahump Las Vegas (2003)

<https://youtu.be/bAncbEZPEZk>

Jet Skis Rock 12, Argyll Park, CA (2004)

<https://youtu.be/cTcAo5ZK7H8>

Jet Skis Rock 13, Escape from Alcatraz Event (2004)

<https://youtu.be/lyrE58c7WdE>

Jet Skis Rock 14, Western States Cup Promo (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5-yCyqiN5U>

Jet Skis Rock 15, Western States Cup (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCNEZcbU02s>

Jet Skis Rock 16, Lake Havasu World Finals (2001)

<https://youtu.be/xQBcDaRM-rk>

Jet Skis Rock 17, Evan Wins, Awards & Family (2003)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG4Ynyx2G2Q>

Jet Skis Rock 18, Lake Havasu World Finals (2003)

<https://youtu.be/TCYhatEoOfM>

Jet Skis Rock 19, Lake Havasu World Finals (2004)

https://youtu.be/Onom_vN6tXk

Jet Skis Rock 20, Lake Havasu 2006, Race, Freestyle, People

<https://youtu.be/XdVnTcaZ6dM>

Jet Skis Rock 21, Freestyle Example - Lee Stone

<https://youtu.be/u9zd2o7bpEE>

Jet Skis Rock 21-1, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YEQQuWo7-Y>

Jet Skis Rock 21-2, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2022, Lee Stone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s_q9SEE65U

Jet Skis Rock 22, Nedra Atwood, #1 Fan Interview

<https://youtu.be/tVrRGTH2Bi8>

Jet Skis Rock 22-1, World Finals 2017 - Nedra Atwood Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNlAdqhsJPK&t=8s>

Jet Skis Rock 22-2, Nedra's Song - A tribute to PWC's #1 fan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjFoG-hgksc>

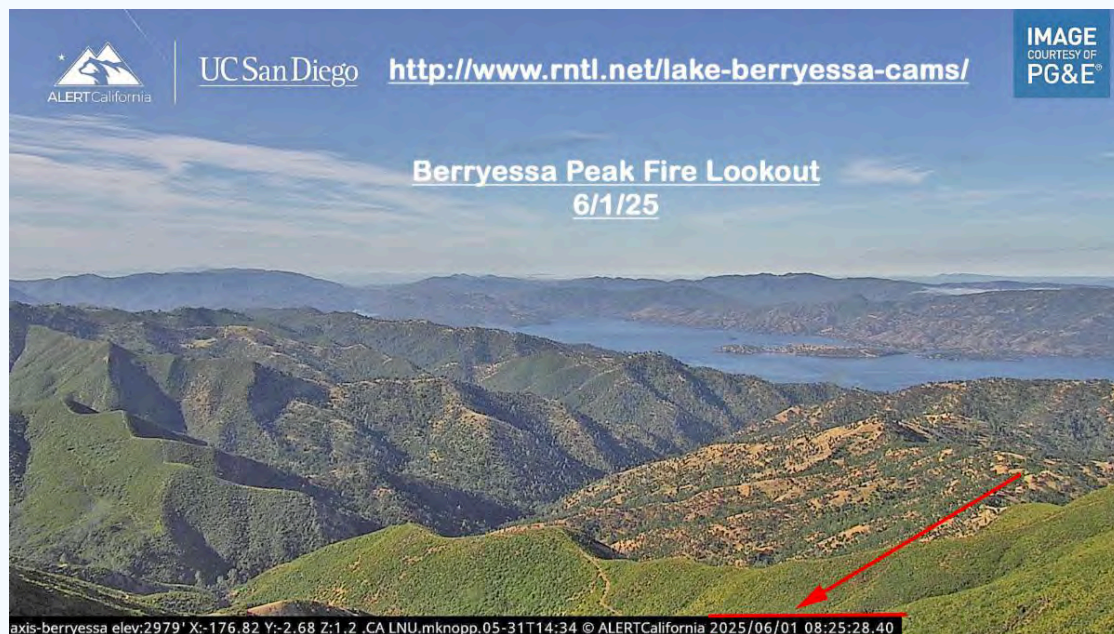
Jet Skis Rock 23, Hot Water- the Movie (2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EV9EuOEr6c>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





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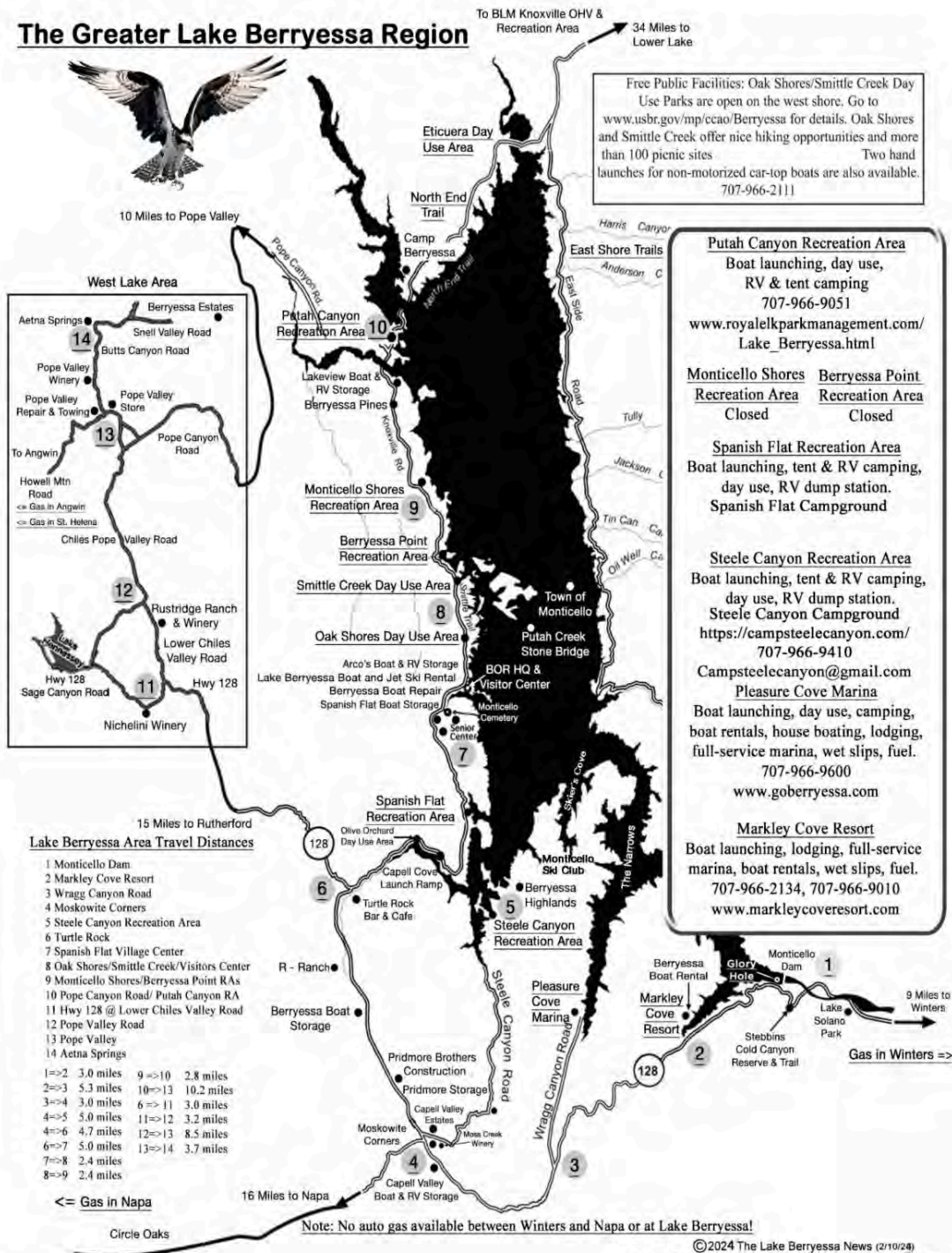
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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The Lake Berryessa News December 28, 2025

Christmas is over and a New Year is coming on fast. Time to write 2026 on all our checks and emails. Here's a final attempt at: Christian Christmas humor? Christian New Year's resolution humor? Paraphrasing the Bible humor? What would you like to title it???



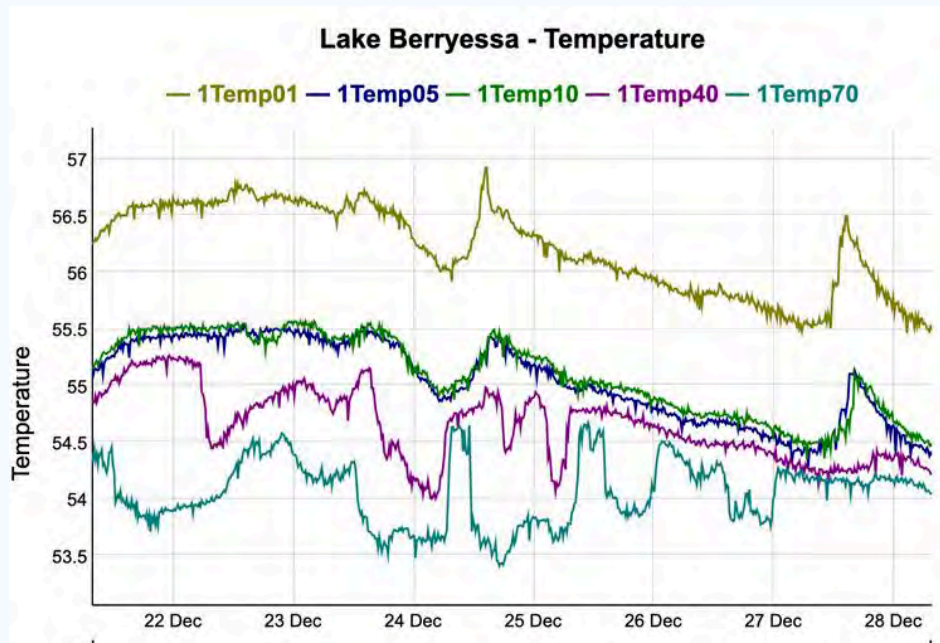
Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/28/25)

An additional rainfall at Monticello Dam has brought the season total at Monticello Dam is 11.98 inches.

Lake Berryessa water level has risen to 431.5 feet, 8.5 feet below Glory Hole. The lake output is running at an average of 45 cfs (cubic feet per second) the lowest output allowed by law and contract.

Lake capacity is at 90%

Water temperatures are 55.5 degrees at the surface and an average 54.5 degrees from 5 feet to 70 feet and down to the bottom.



Some readers have commented about the different rainfall levels around the lake. The rain totals at Monticello Dam have always been higher than the rest of the lake due to its location in the Devil's Gate, a narrow, windy canyon.

The highest rainfall totals in the Lake Berryessa watershed are at the far north end, Cobb Mountain, where the totals are typically three times those at the dam.

Rainfall at Lake Berryessa as of 12/28/25

Monticello Dam

September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 - .07"
October 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025 - 2.29"
November 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025 - 3.78"
December 1, 2025 - December 28, 2025 - 5.84"
Total - 11.98"

Skiers Cove (Below the Berryessa Highlands)

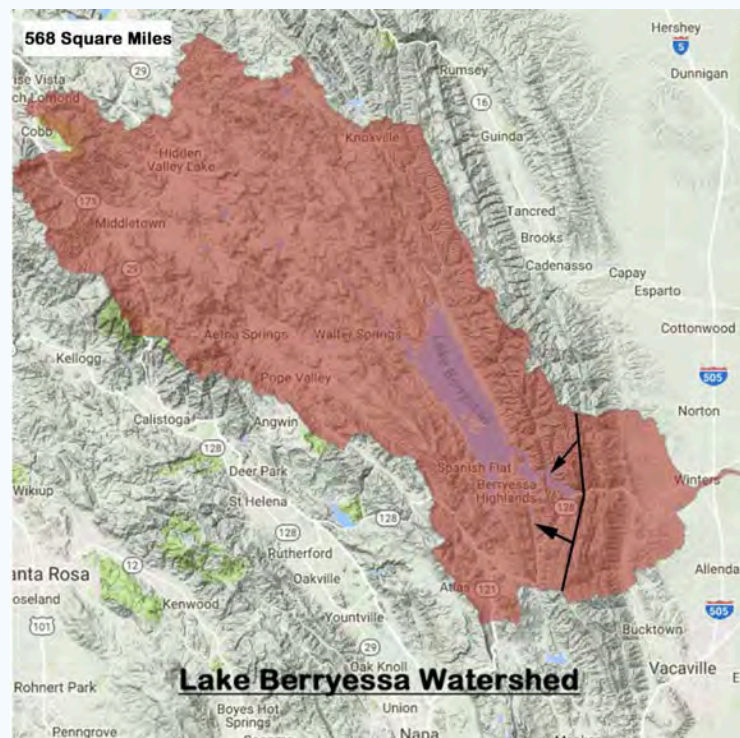
September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 - .02"
October 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025 - .89"
November 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025 - 0"
December 1, 2025 - December 28, 2025 - 7.38 "
Total - 8.29"

East Side Road (Across from Big Island)

September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 - .21"
October 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025 - 1.37"
November 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025 - 2.91"
December 1, 2025 - December 28, 2025 - 3.64"
Total - 8.13"

Spanish Flat (Near the Spanish Flat Recreation Area)

September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 - .1"
October 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025 - .56"
November 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025 - 1.44"
December 1, 2025 - December 28, 2025 - 6.75"
Total - 8.85"



	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"	17.11"	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"	15.84"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/19/22 - .42"	19.13"	41.86"
27	23-24	9/22/23 - .21"	7.66"	28.14"
28	24-25	10/29/24 - .25"	12.07"	22.97"
29	25-26	9/11/25 - .07"	11.98"	12/28/25

Another long-term resident and Lake Berryessa supporter has left us.

From local Berryessa Highlands resident Jim Casten: "It is with a very heavy heart that I have to tell everybody here in the Highlands that our friend and 50 + year resident of the Highlands, Frank Accettola passed away suddenly last night after long term covid issues. I have no funeral information at this time."

Editor's comment: Another sad Lake Berryessa loss. Seeing him flying his ultra-light at Steele Park was always a treat. Frank was a member of SIRS (Sons In Retirement) and I saw him at our luncheon meeting every month - and at the Corners on a regular basis. Frank's brother John passed away in 2021. John started Polylift of California, installing boat lifts and docks all over the western states. I had one of his lifts for my boat slip at Steele Park Resort.

Now that the holidays are almost over, we may regret some of our holiday food and drink decisions. Reminds me of that very old Alka-Seltzer commercial - "I ate too much; I ate too fast!". Here's a story about the food pyramid we all learned about as children but has gone through many changes during "recent" decades.

The Rise, Fall, and Potential Return of the Food Pyramid

Time Magazine by Chad de Guzman



Bloomberg reported that the Trump Administration is considering reinstating the food pyramid when Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) jointly update the U.S. Dietary Guidelines. HHS and USDA update the guidelines every five years.

An HHS spokesperson told Bloomberg that “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is committed to new dietary recommendations that are rooted in rigorous science” and that “the 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans will be a big part of the Trump Administration’s commitment to Make America Healthy Again.” A USDA spokesperson said the updated guidelines “will address the chronic disease epidemic plaguing our nation, by prioritizing whole, healthy, and nutritious foods.”

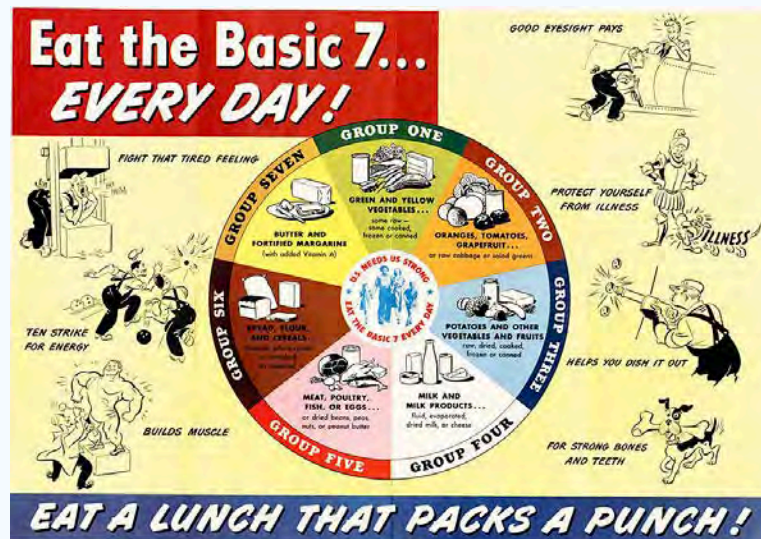
TIME has reached out to both departments about the potential return of the food pyramid. Unnamed sources told Bloomberg that the visual is expected to focus on protein and whole foods, which Kennedy has long endorsed as he aims to steer the public away from ultra-processed food products.

The rise of the food pyramid

Early public nutrition advice from the USDA came as a warning. Wilbur O. Atwater, a chemist and renowned nutritionist, published in a 1902 Farmers' Bulletin: “Unless care is exercised in selecting food, a diet may result which is one-sided or badly balanced—that is, one in which either protein or fuel ingredients (carbohydrate and fat) are provided in excess. ... The evils of overeating may not be felt at once, but sooner or later they are sure to appear.”

Over the years, U.S. authorities have tried to make recommendations on what Americans should eat—and to create visuals so that the public can easily understand the dietary recommendations.

In 1943, during World War II, the USDA issued dietary advice in the form of the “Basic Seven,” which took into consideration potential shortages in food rations, according to a chapter by Carole Davis and Etta Saltos in the 1999 book *America’s Eating Habits: Changes and Consequences*. Three of the seven categories were dedicated to fruits and vegetables, and one slot each was dedicated to the following: milk and milk products; meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; bread, flour, and cereals; and butter or fortified margarine. But it didn’t recommend a portion size of each food group.

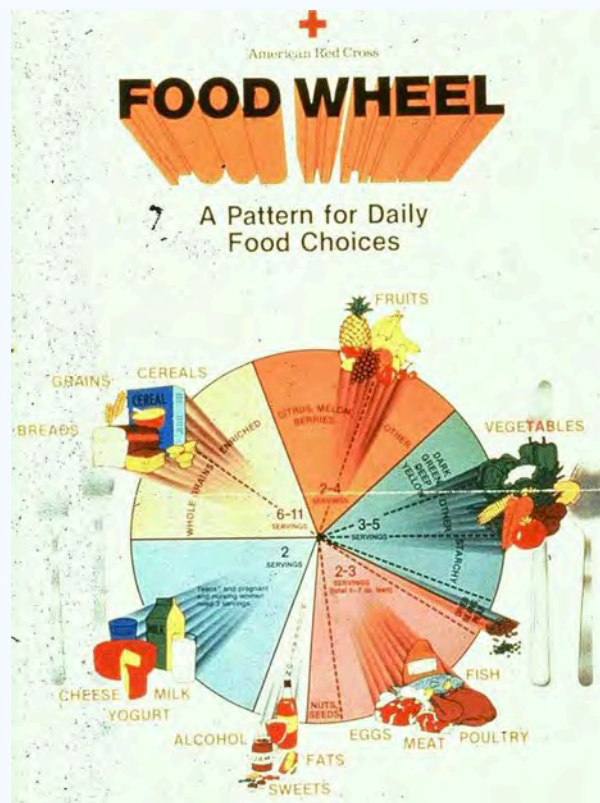


In 1956, the Basic Seven was simplified to the Basic Four, organized into the groups: milk, meat, vegetable-fruit, and bread-cereal. It also provided rough daily serving suggestions for each group: four servings each for vegetable-fruit and bread-cereal, two for meat, and “some” for milk and milk products.

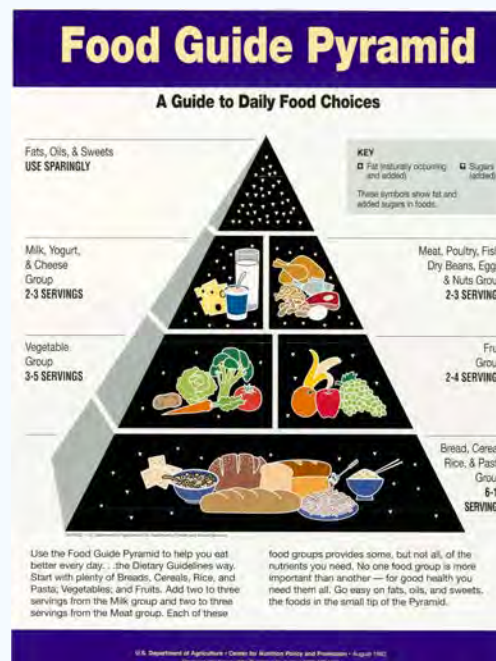


In the 1970s, the U.S. Dietary Guidelines as Americans know it today began to take shape, as disease became increasingly linked to unhealthy diets. Dietary fat was increasingly under scrutiny, and in 1977, a Senate committee led by Sen. George McGovern (D, S.D.) released Dietary Goals for the United States that recommended consuming less sugar, sodium, and fat—and more complex carbohydrates and “naturally occurring” sugars.

Then, in 1980, the USDA and the HHS released the seven-point Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as the overconsumption of sugar, fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium steadily gained recognition as risk factors for developing chronic diseases. To illustrate what a healthier diet would look like at the time, the USDA, in cooperation with the American National Red Cross, presented consumers with “The Food Wheel: A Pattern for Daily Food Choices” in 1984.



Four years later, the food guide was released in a pyramid format. The width of the pyramid level roughly indicated the proportion of food servings: at its base were bread, rice, cereal, and grains, which should have the largest servings; and at its apex were fats and sweets, which should be consumed sparingly.

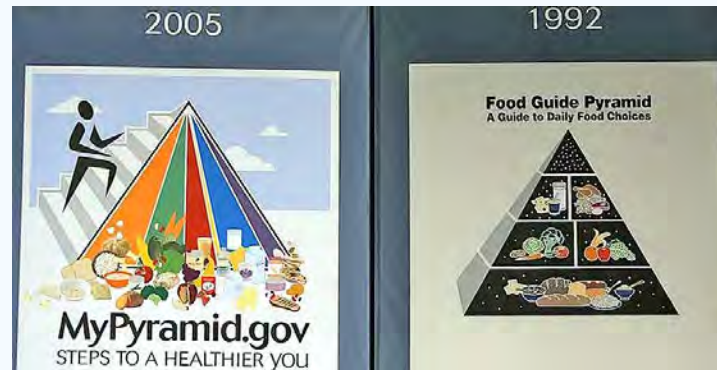


The fall of the food pyramid

But even the pyramid drew flak for still being broad and vague. For instance, it recommended that Americans eat 6 to 11 servings of grains, but details such as serving sizes and which specific food items within each category were healthier options (like brown rice compared to white rice) remained unclear. Critics also highlighted how it failed

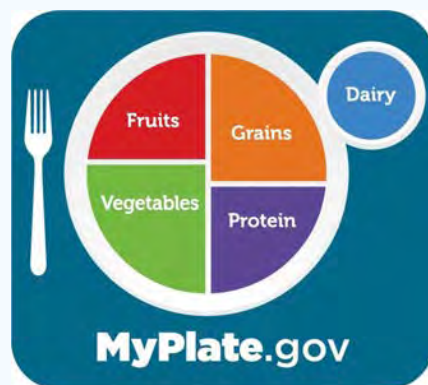
to account for individual differences in dietary requirements, such as across different age and health demographics.

To address those concerns, work began in 2003 to update the pyramid, and two years later, a new version was released, called MyPyramid. It was outfitted with stairs, meant to remind Americans of the need for exercise, and its food divisions were flipped to the side, in bands of varying colors to represent different food groups: orange for grains, green for vegetables, red for fruits, yellow for oils, blue for milk, and purple for beans and meats.



In 2011, the U.S. abandoned the food pyramid in favor of what it called MyPlate, which used a plate to represent what the average person should eat per the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Tom Vilsack, then the Agriculture Secretary, described MyPlate as a “simple, visual, research-based icon that is a clear, unmistakable message about portion size.”

MyPlate’s recommendations are easy to follow: half of a plate should contain fruits and vegetables, and roughly a quarter each for grains and protein. A smaller plate to the side was for dairy. The goal, as then-First Lady Michelle Obama presented it, was to make the American plate look like the one shown in the MyPlate graphic.



The potential return of the food pyramid

Details on what a new dietary guideline visual will look like are still under discussion. Kennedy, who as HHS Secretary oversees nutrition standards, has vocally advocated against ultra processed foods, which he claims are “poisoning” Americans, blaming such products for causing chronic diseases and high national obesity rates.

But Kennedy has also peddled misinformation about food. He’s spoken out against seed oils like canola and soybean, even though experts have touted their health benefits, and

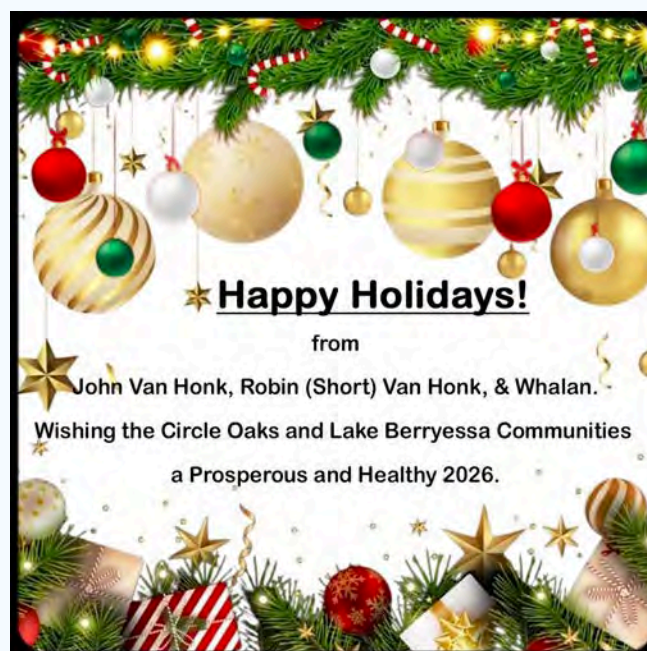
has endorsed beef tallow as a replacement. He has also embraced raw milk, even though food safety experts have warned of the high risk of contracting food-borne illnesses from consuming it.

The forthcoming guidelines have caused anxiety among nutritionists, given Kennedy's beliefs. At a July event in Colorado, Kennedy said the guidelines will "stress the need to eat saturated fats," which are associated with health risks. That same month, Kennedy also promoted full-fat dairy products, criticizing what he described as an "attack on whole milk, cheese, and yogurt" as he announced his overhaul of the nation's dietary guidelines. "The dietary guidelines that we inherited from the Biden Administration were 453 pages long," Kennedy said in August, though the current guidelines are only 164 pages. "They were driven by the same commercial impulses that put Froot Loops at the top of the food pyramid."

While the food pyramid may be brought back, albeit likely with different details, Kennedy has indicated that the new guidelines in total will be just a few pages long. Kevin Klatt, a research scientist and instructor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology at University of California, Berkeley, says that such a reform reflects "a bit of a misunderstanding of the role of the Dietary Guidelines."

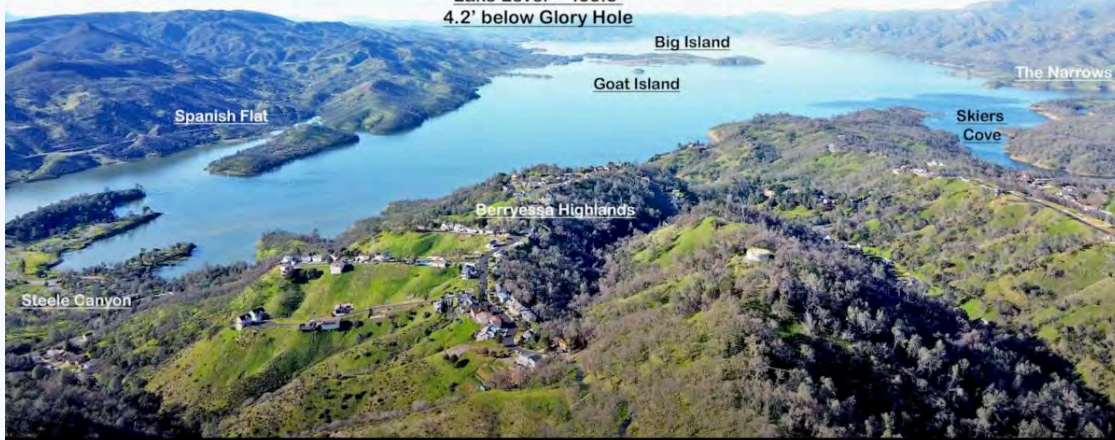
"The title indicates they are 'for Americans' but the user is not actually intended to be the American public," Klatt said in August. "Since 2005, the dietary guidelines have really been intended to be used by healthcare professionals and as a policy document. The current administration seems to want to roll that back, and doesn't seem to acknowledge that it's a policy document."

<https://time.com/7333903/food-pyramid-diet-guide-rfk-maha-american-nutrition-visual-history/>



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4.2' below Glory Hole

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Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

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

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

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Jet Skis Rock: A Video History of Jet Ski Racing

by Peter Kilkus

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

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

Jet Skis Rock You Tube List Final (12/4/25)

Full Jet Skis Rock Playlist

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

Jet Skis Rock 1, Introduction

https://youtu.be/j_nLtRI_fzc

Jet Skis Rock 2, The Beginning, Peter & Evan's First Race (2001)

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

Jet Skis Rock 3, Jet Ski & Snowmobile Ramp Jumps

<https://youtu.be/DMbDUj77-CI>

Jet Skis Rock 4, Ocean Wave Jumps (2002)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf_koAH_E48

Jet Skis Rock 5, Racing Action

<https://youtu.be/8uLa6hhHPBk>

Jet Skis Rock 6, Crash & Rescue

<https://youtu.be/VurSqs5B0CU>

Jet Skis Rock 7, Jet Ski Crashes & Jumps

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiL_5gpd8yg

Jet Skis Rock 8, Jet Ski Extreme Racing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwPiYa84fiY>

Jet Skis Rock 9, Nashville Watercross Nationals (2002)

<https://youtu.be/RHT1Gjb7LWk>

Jet Skis Rock 10, Indoor Racing Paris Bercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC--vCcm7K0>

Jet Skis Rock 10-1: First Indoor Paris Bercy Jet Ski Races, (July 4, 1990)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzciJV5hKH0&t=242s>

Jet Skis Rock 11, Pahrump Las Vegas (2003)

<https://youtu.be/bAncbEZPEZk>

Jet Skis Rock 12, Argyll Park, CA (2004)

<https://youtu.be/cTcAo5ZK7H8>

Jet Skis Rock 13, Escape from Alcatraz Event (2004)

<https://youtu.be/lyrE58c7WdE>

Jet Skis Rock 14, Western States Cup Promo (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5-yCyqiN5U>

Jet Skis Rock 15, Western States Cup (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCNEZcbU02s>

Jet Skis Rock 16, Lake Havasu World Finals (2001)

<https://youtu.be/xQBCDaRM-rk>

Jet Skis Rock 17, Evan Wins, Awards & Family (2003)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG4Ynyx2G2Q>

Jet Skis Rock 18, Lake Havasu World Finals (2003)

<https://youtu.be/TCYhatEoOfM>

Jet Skis Rock 19, Lake Havasu World Finals (2004)

https://youtu.be/Onom_vN6tXk

Jet Skis Rock 20, Lake Havasu 2006, Race, Freestyle, People

<https://youtu.be/XdVnTcaZ6dM>

Jet Skis Rock 21, Freestyle Example - Lee Stone

<https://youtu.be/u9zd2o7bpEE>

Jet Skis Rock 21-1, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YEQW7-Y>

Jet Skis Rock 21-2, Jet Ski Freestyle, Havasu World Finals 2022, Lee Stone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s_q9SEE65U

Jet Skis Rock 22, Nedra Atwood, #1 Fan Interview

<https://youtu.be/tVrRGTH2Bi8>

Jet Skis Rock 22-1, World Finals 2017 - Nedra Atwood Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNIAdqhsJPK&t=8s>

Jet Skis Rock 22-2, Nedra's Song - A tribute to PWC's #1 fan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjFoG-hqksc>

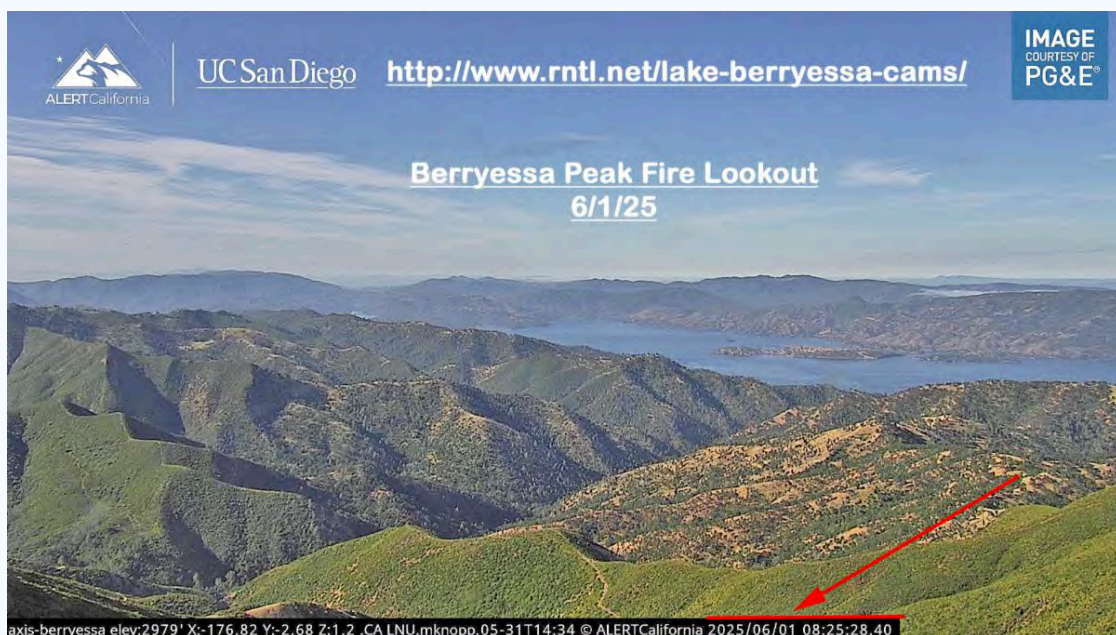
Jet Skis Rock 23, Hot Water- the Movie (2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EV9EuOEr6c>

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

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





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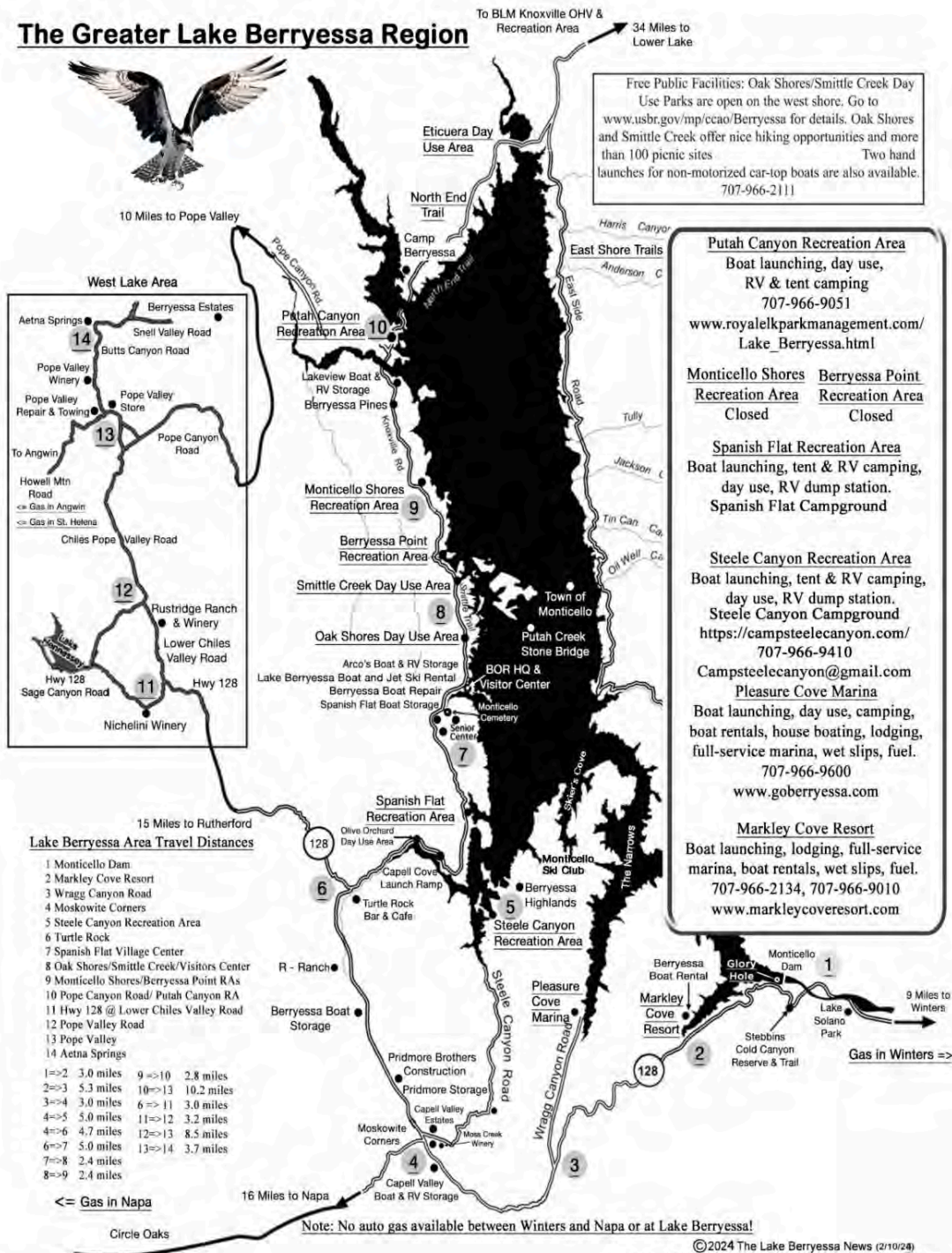
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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