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Top Ten Caddy Comments...

- #10 - Golfer: "Think I'm going to drown myself in the lake." Caddy: "Think you can keep your head down that long?"
 - #9 - Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course." Caddy: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."
 - #8 - Golfer: "Do you think my game is improving?" Caddy: "Yes sir, you miss the ball much closer now."
 - #7 - Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?" Caddy: "Eventually."
 - #6 - Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world." Caddy: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."
 - #5 - Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time. It's too much of a distraction." Caddy: "It's not a watch – it's a compass."
 - #4 - Golfer: "How do you like my game?" Caddy: "Very good sir, but personally, I prefer golf."
 - #3 - Golfer: "Do you think it's a sin to play on Sunday?" Caddy: "The way you play, sir, it's a sin on any day."
 - #2 - Golfer: "This is the worst course I've ever played on." Caddy: "This isn't the golf course. We left that an hour ago."
- And the #1 Caddy Comment is:
- Golfer: "That can't be my ball, it's too old." Caddy: "It's been a long time since we teed off, sir."



The Lake Berryessa News

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January, 2011



2010: The Year in Review

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 Berressa 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

January 11th: The Napa County Board of Supervisors will meet as the Board of the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District at the Capell Valley Fire Station. Time to be announced (but probably around 7 PM). Check <http://berryessahighlands.info/> for details.

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To the Editor:

I have been thinking about the January 11, 2011 meeting that will be held at the Lake by the Board of Supervisors to address the Lake Berryessa Highlands issues. I wanted to offer some suggestions to the residents of the Highlands who have for so long been suffering with the uncertainties and impacts that the State, County, and their own errors and having to live with this nightmare.

Following is a list of items that the owners have to address, and then resolve. Not the Board of Supervisors, but the residents who are property owners:

1. The first thing is to fire the County. They have too many issues on their plate and are not equipped to handle the water district with all of its idiosyncrasies. When I say fire the county, this means taking over the District by forming a California Water District and either hiring a firm or staff to begin the process of recovery.

2. The residents must be willing to dedicate the hours and efforts to create the District with its Directors and consultants to begin the lengthy process of fixing the water and sewer problems and dealing with a long-term solution for both.

3. The residents need to understand that they are going to have to step up to the plate when it comes to funding. It will not be cheap, but the alternative is to either continue until the State shuts down the operations and trucking of water and sewer becomes a way of life.

4. A new water plant is required as well as a sewer upgrade. They need to address the fact that allowing gray waters to enter the lake will only cost the owners more money. If an engineered solution says that they need more land; or they need a state of the art water plant; etc., then a plan with a

time table will need to be created and the residents will need to approve the plan. Not the lackadaisical vote that reminds me of an ostrich with its head buried when there is danger. They will need to bite the bullet.

5. It is going to be expensive. It could well add \$150 per month to their bill for the next 20 years, but it will fix the problem. They will be able to sell their homes, if need be; they will not have the State on their back; they will not need to rely on the Board of Supervisors to determine their fate (this scares me the most); and they will be able to improve the remaining lots when there is a need for additional housing.

6. Lake Berryessa Highlands could become a model for Districts in the future if the residents will take on the burden of running the Water District. This is the key thing that needs to happen.

7. In the event of a local vote and the voters reject a new plan, then the only solution I see is a full and total takeover by the County or State and mandated monthly rates will occur. It's important that this does not occur.

Al Colon, concerned resident
Lake Berryessa

To the Editor:

I am responding to the article in the Lake Berryessa News concerning the replacement of the Capell Creek Bridge in 2013.

Cal Trans has been in the process of replacing bridges all over the state, namely my own Pleasants Valley Road bridges. A few points to make:

There is 50/50 financial funding available to CalTrans IF the entire bridge is replaced, but NO monies available if the bridge is repaired, updated, or improved. This is a sad loss of beautiful bridges.

In my area, they were planning to

kill a 6' diameter, 300 year-old oak... how can you replace a tree like that?

Because people went to the planning meetings, the tree was saved. The report states, "trees will be replaced onsite to the extent possible" - very vague, don't you think?

Also, the CEQA finding - no burial sites, no burrowing owls, but I wonder about the noise impact on the nesting eagles that live up in that area! And the osprey! Some have been using the same nests for years.

And one more important issue that CEQA does not address - why can't such a big outfit as CalTrans replace "like for like"? Nowhere in the CEQA finding is there referral to the loss on ANOTHER ARCHED BRIDGE, and the excuse given is..."oh, it costs more money to build one of those!"

But look at how LONG an arch lasts - there are still arches intact in the Greek and Roman ruins. The beauty and wonder of the arch is so much more magnificent than the boring, concrete and steel, railroad - type bridges that have been dumped down here in the Pleasants Valley area.

At a taxpayer cost of many millions of dollars for 2/10's of a mile of work? Let's prioritize and repair some other stretches of roadway. I LIKE that arched bridge...Gee, I wonder what it would cost to do maintenance instead? Seems like a good idea to me... what about you?

Susan Hassett, Buzzard's Roost
Pleasant Valley

Camp Berryessa Receives Seed Funding; Seeks Major Grant

The local Mead Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. The District has submitted an application for a \$1.5 million grant/loan to the State Coastal Conservancy for construction of the

camp. Local supporters are being asked to write letters of support.

Camp Berryessa, to be located at the site of a former Boy Scout campground on Putah Creek at the north end of Lake Berryessa, will be the only public campground in Napa County focused on outdoor environmental education when completed.

A combined federal and state environmental review of the proposed camp is expected to be finished in the next few months. Once the review is complete, the park district and the Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the camp site next to Lake Berryessa, will be in position to sign a no-fee, long-term land use agreement giving the park district the right to construct and operate the camp.

And one more important issue that CEQA does not address - why can't such a big outfit as CalTrans replace "like for like"? Nowhere in the CEQA finding is there referral to the loss on ANOTHER ARCHED BRIDGE, and the excuse given is..."oh, it costs more money to build one of those!"

The projected total cost for the initial development of the camp is \$1.7 million.

Background information including a site layout and budget are available on the Lake Berryessa News web site at: LakeBerryessaNews.com

Trincher Family Lake Berryessa Land Donation

Bob and Evelyn Trincher have donated nearly 3,400 acres of open space near Lake Berryessa to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. They also donated an additional 240 acres to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District (LBRID) at the Lake Berryessa Estates. The land is located along Putah Creek and in Spanish Valley, northwest of Lake Berryessa.

The 240 acres the Trincheros donated to the LBRID will help the District protect water quality by providing additional area for spray dispersal of treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant that serves the residents of Lake Berryessa Estates.

Event Calendar

January 11 - Tuesday: Capell Valley Fire House, 7:00 PM - Board of Supervisors meeting as the Board of the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District debates future of the District.

January 22 - Saturday: Berryessa Senior Center Crab Feed. See Page 10 for details.

January 22 - Saturday: The Community Church of Lake Berryessa's youth group will be conducting a frozen meat drive. The church has a food pantry which serves 40 - 50 local families a week. Our supply of meats is getting very low and needs to be restocked. If you would like to participate in this effort please call the church at 252-4488 and leave your name and number. We will call and schedule a pickup time for the 22nd. If pickup is not convenient other arrangements can be made. Thank you for participating and God Bless. Pastor Bob Lee

January 22 - Saturday: The Winters Chamber is having their "Year in Review 2010" annual banquet on January 22, 2011. Tickets are \$35. Call Winters Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center: 530-795-2329 or 530-795-3202

January 29 - Saturday: Pope Valley School Crab Feed. See Page 10 for details.

Ongoing Events:

Exhibit honors Monticello Valley: A free exhibit, honoring the people of Monticello Valley, which was flooded in 1956 to create Lake Berryessa, is open at Spanish Flat Village Center, 4318 Knoxville Road, Lake Berryessa. The exhibit is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day through the summer. For information, call Carol Fitzpatrick at 287-3708 or e-mail pumpkinridge@ymail.com.

2011 Berryessa History Calendar Now Available. Printed by the Berryessa Senior Center with great historical photos. Available at the Monticello History Exhibit and the Country Store. Proceeds support the Senior Center.



95 Food Mart

Intersection of Hwy 128 and Pleasants Valley Road

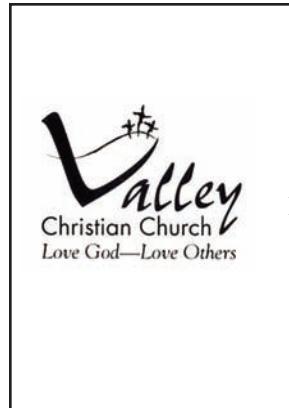
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Dam Level Update as of Monday, 1/3/11

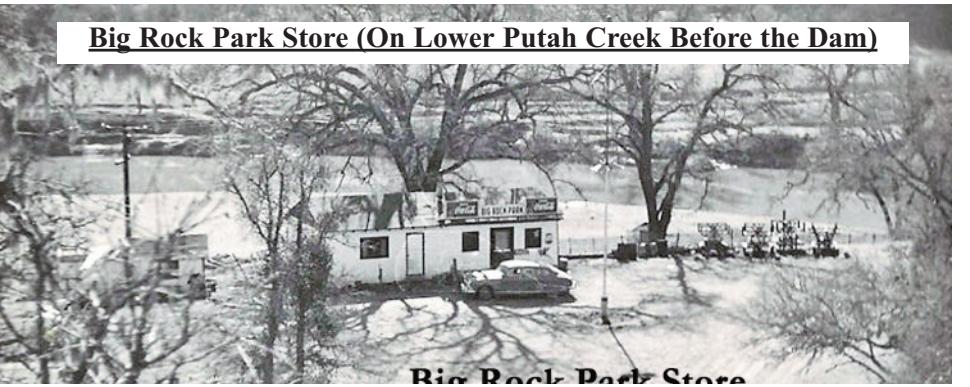
The elevation of (Glory Hole) at Monticello Dam is 440 feet (msl). Lake Berryessa has had 13.14 inches of rain since July 1, 2010. The water is now 23.06 feet below the top of the spillway.

Date	Elevation	Evap	High	Low	Rain
12/5/10	412.50	0.02	64	49	0.05
12/6/10	412.63	0.00	56	50	1.00
12/7/10	412.66	0.03	65	41	0.04
12/8/10	412.69	0.01	59	45	0.16
12/9/10	412.77	0.00	54	50	0.26
12/10/10	412.80	0.00	62	51	0.00
12/11/10	412.81	0.01	64	50	0.02
12/12/10	412.83	0.00	67	49	0.00
12/13/10	412.82	0.00	60	51	0.00
12/14/10	412.84	0.00	58	52	0.13
12/15/10	412.86	0.03	58	40	0.21
12/16/10	412.86	0.02	57	35	0.00
12/17/10	412.86	0.01	53	38	0.18
12/18/10	412.13	0.00	55	43	0.77
12/19/10	413.59	0.00	59	51	1.10
12/20/10	413.98	0.00	54	43	0.96
12/21/10	414.28	0.02	50	41	0.36
12/22/10	414.54	0.01	54	46	0.64
12/23/10	414.67	0.01	57	42	0.00
12/24/10	414.77	0.01	56	38	0.00
12/25/10	414.87	0.01	56	38	0.00
12/26/10	415.13	0.01	52	42	0.78
12/27/10	415.32	0.00	55	41	0.04
12/28/10	415.55	0.01	55	43	0.01
12/29/10	416.24	0.00	55	42	0.89
12/30/10	416.40	0.20	54	30	0.00
12/31/10	416.50	0.03	52	30	0.00
1/1/11	415.65	0.02	47	35	0.56
1/2/11	416.94	0.00	45	37	0.52

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joeyswatercraft@aol.com

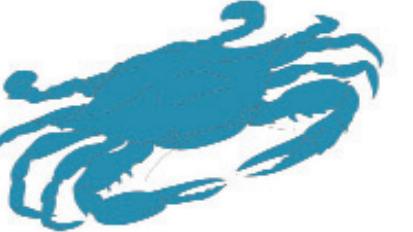

Crab Feed
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Berryessa Senior Center
 4380 Spanish Flat Loop Rd.
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 \$40.00 PER PERSON
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MENU:
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No Outside Alcoholic Beverages Permitted
Reservations Required - Seating is Limited
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 Reservations must be made by January 14.



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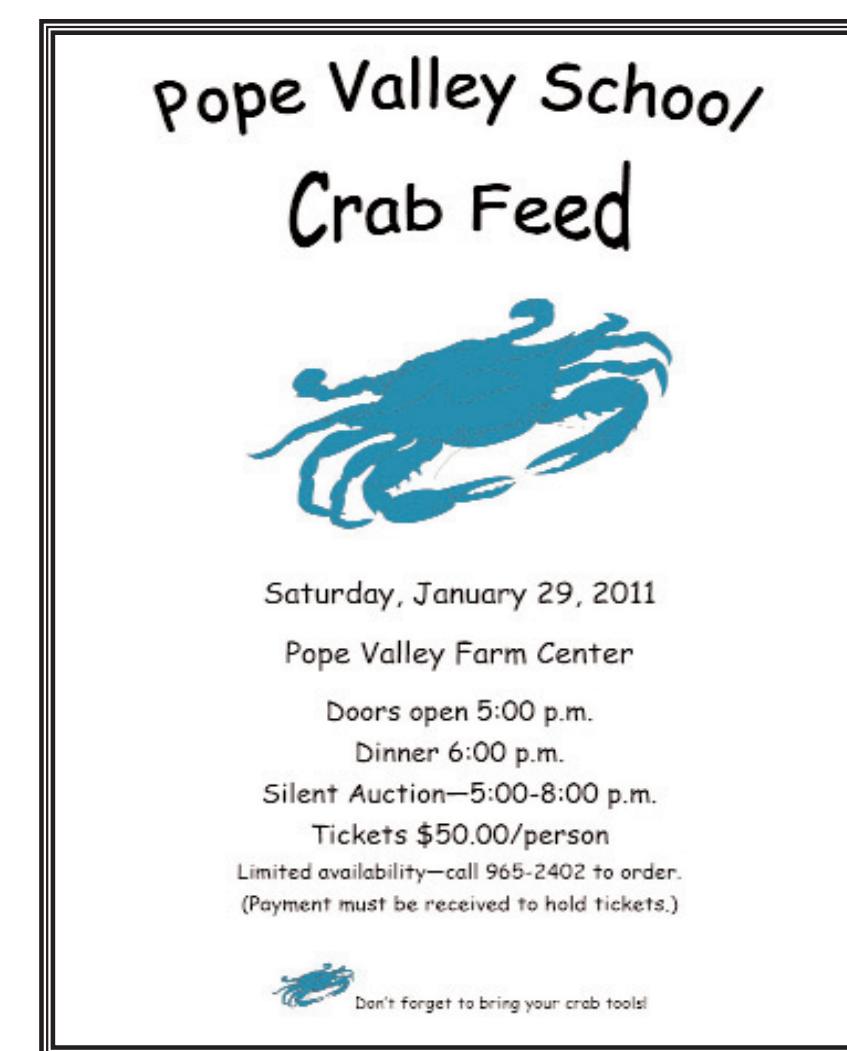


**Pope Valley School
Crab Feed**

 Saturday, January 29, 2011
 Pope Valley Farm Center
 Doors open 5:00 p.m.
 Dinner 6:00 p.m.
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How to Start a Fight

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied,

"Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!" That's how the fight started.....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes", she sighed,

"He's my old boyfriend.... I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" And then the fight started...



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I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.


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Monticello History Exhibit News

By Carol McGinnis Fitzpatrick

I wanted to tell you that there are new treasures at the exhibit. The pictures keep coming in from people who lived in the valley. You might have seen the school desk that came from the valley floor. People who once went to school there are signing it...what a treasure!



The school bell that once was Mrs. Eaton's from the Monticello School is now on display. She took it with her when she retired from teaching. Her family donated it to the Exhibit so everyone could enjoy it.

There's another story that goes with the bell. In 1944 near the end of World War II a young soldier was on leave in his hometown of Monticello. He knew he would soon have to return to the war. But then word came that war had ended.

The young man was so happy that he broke into the Monticello schoolhouse, grabbed the bell and climbed up into the steeple where he rang the bell joyously. And that's how the Town of Monticello learned about the end of WWII!

And just last week the people who bought the Samuel Springs property brought in the Monticello Hotel sign. It's very rusty but it's the real deal.



I have a DVD of the Eye on the Bay TV show about the area and the Berryessa Valley. If you want a look at that let me know.

I will keep you informed on any thing new....But I want to tell you ...every time I'm there something magical happens....If you plan to come let me know, weekends are best. Email Pumpkinridge@ymail.com or call 707-287-3708.



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The Lake Berryessa News Horoscope

Aries (3/21-4/19): You'll suddenly be torn away from your friends and cast out of the only home you've ever known by the authorities, who will insist your sentence is over and you're free to go.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Next week will be a time of magical romance and unending joy for you, thanks to your boundless talent for self-delusion.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): In a wacky horoscopic mix-up, you'll encounter a mysterious stranger who takes you on a journey over water just as you're trying to start new projects at work.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): There will be nothing you can do to avert the disaster of next week, although there will be plenty that a reasonably bright and competent person could do.

Leo (7/23-8/22): A messenger from the Lord will appear to you in glory this week and, in a voice that shakes mountains and shivers oceans, announce price hikes on all divine services.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): You will be given the Legion of Honor by the French for crocheting an adorable pink, yellow and blue cover for the Eiffel Tower.

Libra (9/23-10/22): This week's revelations will be especially mortifying for you, seeing as how you've been insisting for years that life is not some sort of big pie-eating contest.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): While you're starting to think your problem is that you're too "in your head," it's actually a rare species of cranial tapeworm.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): The king's men part you can understand, but you've never really comprehended how all the king's horses were supposed to help.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You'll be trapped in a paralyzing dilemma that can only be solved if you learn something new, take the initiative, or have an original thought of your own.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): While you're often disgusted by the shallowness and ignorance you see all around you, you have to admit it's made it easy for you to get dates.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Your combined proclivities toward paranoia and depression combine when you start to think a race of alien lizards people are controlling life's lowest echelons from behind the scenes.

Polar Bears as Political Pawns: President Obama sides with George Bush!

By Peter Kilkus

Actually the title of this article is a bit misleading. The Obama administration is actually just sticking with a George W. Bush-era decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to deny polar bears endangered species status. Both Obama and Bush simply support the scientific evidence that polar bears are not an endangered species. The Fish and Wildlife Service defended the previous administration's decision to give the polar bear the less-protective "threatened" species designation, a move that will frustrate environmentalists who hoped for the stronger protection as an "endangered" species under the Endangered Species Act.

Even the present "threatened" status applied to polar bears is questionable, and not primarily based on any population data. In fact, the population of polar bears seems to be either stable overall or increasing. Their numbers are not large - around 22,000 overall — which means that their status is certainly worth watching. But the main reason for trying to place them on the threatened list was to argue about global warming, not polar bears.

Polar bears have become the poster children in the fight against global warming – even the Toyota Prius is being promoted by a scientifically-silly but heartwarming ad showing a polar bear hugging a Prius owner. He would have eaten the Prius owner!

A more reasonable analysis comes from the book "Cool It" by Bjorn Lomborg. Lomborg is considered "controversial" in the environmental community because he actually applies careful analysis

to environmental problems .

What various studies have really told us is that of the twenty distinct subpopulations of polar bears, one or possibly two were declining in Baffin Bay; more than half were known to be stable; and two subpopulations were actually increasing around the Beaufort Sea. Moreover, it is reported that the global polar-bear population has increased dramatically over the past decades, from about five thousand members in the 1960s to twenty-five thousand today, through stricter hunting regulation.

We hear vastly exaggerated and emotional claims that are simply not supported by data. Yes, it is likely that disappearing ice will make it harder for polar bears to continue their traditional foraging patterns and that they will increasingly take up a lifestyle similar to that of brown bears, from which they evolved. They may eventually decline, though dramatic declines seem unlikely.

But 49 bears from the Hudson Bay population are getting shot each year, and this we can easily do something about. Thus, if we really want a stable population of polar bears, dealing first with the 49 shot ones might be both a smarter and more viable strategy than using polar bears to try to enact radical greenhouse gas emissions.

The argument in Lomborg's book is simple:

1. Global warming is real and man-made. It will have a serious impact on humans and the environment toward the end of this century.

2. Statements about the strong, ominous, and immediate consequences of global warming are often wildly exaggerated, and this is unlikely to result in good policy.

3. We need simpler, smarter, and more efficient

solutions for global warming rather than excessive if well-intentioned efforts. Large and very expensive CO2 cuts made now will have only a rather small and insignificant impact far into the future.

4. Many other issues are much more important than global warming. We need to get our perspective back. There are many more pressing problems in the world, such as hunger, poverty, and disease. By addressing them, we can help more people, at lower cost, with a much higher chance of success than by pursuing drastic climate policies at a cost of trillions of dollars.

These four points will rile a lot of people. We have become so accustomed to the standard story: climate change is not only real but will lead to unimaginable catastrophes, while doing something about it is not only cheap but morally right. We perhaps understandably expect that anyone questioning this line of reasoning must have evil intentions. Yet Lomborg thinks-with the best of intentions-it is necessary that we at least allow ourselves to examine our logic before we embark on the biggest public investment in history.

We need to remind ourselves that our ultimate goal is not to reduce greenhouse gases or global warming per se but to improve the quality of life and the environment. We all want to leave the planet in decent shape for our kids. Radically reducing greenhouse-gas emissions is not necessarily the best way to achieve that. The data analysis in "Cool It"

shows that it actually is one of the least helpful ways of serving humanity or the environment. Read a longer version of this article at:

www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

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Lake Berryessa Rainfall Comparisons for the Last 12 Years

Season	First Rain	Total By 1/1	Last Rain	Season Total
97-98		10.77"	5/28/98	46.26"
98-99	11/10/98	7.18"	4/11/99	23.46"
99-00	10/30/99	6.5"	5/21/00	26"
00-01	10/20/00	4.54"	4/28/01	24.7"
01-02	10/29/01	15.73"	5/20/02	23.38"
02-03	11/7/02	19.34"	5/9/03	31.6"
03-04	10/31/03	12.01"	3/26/04	25.64"
04-05	10/19/04	15.55"	5/18/05	36.36"
05-06	9/26/05	17.4"	5/22/06	40.56"
06-07	10/3/06	5.36"	5/4/07	12.7"
07-08	9/19/07	4.48"	5/25/08	25.32"
08-09	10/3/08	6.6"	5/5/09	23.96"
09-10	9/13/09	6.5"	5/28/10	26.41"
10-11	10/17/10	12.39"		

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2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Dear Business Owner/Community Partner,
Thank you for your interest in joining the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce. 2011 will be a major transition year for the Lake Berryessa community with the Pensus Group opening several more resorts for launching and camping. As part of this lake wide renewal, we are planning a tourist information program to make Lake Berryessa and its businesses more easily accessible to visitors.

We have worked with the Napa Valley Destination Council (NVDC) to promote the Lake Berryessa region as a major recreational asset to Napa Valley visitors. The result is our own web page on the new NVDC web site: www.LegendaryNapaValley.com.

In the Fall of 2010 Lake Berryessa area businesses and history were featured in a two-part Eye on the Bay presented by CBS. The shows will air again during Spring, 2011. Copies of a DVD of the show are available upon request. Lake Berryessa is featured in the Napa Valley Guidebook" which is distributed nationwide.

Ongoing benefits to our members and community partners include:

Listing on our web site: www.LakeBerryessaChamber.com as well as postings about your business and local events on our Facebook page.

Regular email communication with important news about issues affecting the area.

Regular meetings and events where you can discuss the issues with fellow members.

Our local Chamber of Commerce office is located at the Spanish Flat Village Center, 4338 Berryessa Knoxville Rd. and is open 4 days per week. Lake Berryessa information packets are available which include your business fliers and brochures, which are professionally displayed in a brochure stand for visitors to browse.

The chamber has become influential within the Napa County tourism and political sectors. Your support as a member will help to expand that influence for the good of our community, especially during this time of change at Lake Berryessa.

HERE'S HOW TO JOIN/RENEW:

1. Complete an application form available at: www.LakeBerryessaNews.com.
2. Send a check for \$25 payable to the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce.
3. Mail the completed form and your check to:

Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 9318
Napa, CA 94558

Thank you,

The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce Board: Dee Cuney, Peter Kilkus, Cathy Pridmore, Jerry Rehmke, Marcia Ritz, Sharyn Simmons, James Winchell

Polar Bear Facts

Polar Bears are the most recent of the eight species of bears, probably having evolved from brown bears around 200,000 years ago. Today, 25,000 to 40,000 polar bears roam the Arctic.

Polar bears are the world's largest land predators. The largest polar bear recorded is 1,002 kg (2,210 lb). A Prius weighs 3,000 pounds. Male polar bears may grow 10 feet tall and weigh more than 1400 pounds. Females reach seven feet and weigh 650 pounds. In the wild polar bears live up to age 25.

Their maximum running speed is 40 kph (25 mph), but polar bears quickly overheat when they run, and therefore do it rarely.

Polar bears use a combination of body language and vocalizations to communicate. For example, head wagging from side to side often occurs when polar bears want to play.

In winter, polar bears clean themselves with snow instead of water. They rub their head in the snow, push forward on their stomachs, and roll on their back.

Female polar bears usually give birth to five litters during their life span. They usually only have two cubs. The babies are much smaller than human babies when they're born. They are the size of a rat and weigh little more than a pound. They can grow to full man size in a year if they have lots of food.

Despite what we think, a polar bear's fur is not white. Each hair is clear hollow tube. Polar bears look white because each hollow hair reflects the light. On sunny days, it traps the sun's infrared heat and keeps the bear warm at 98 degrees F. Polar bears are so well insulated that they have to move slowly to avoid overheating.

Polar bear fur is oily and water repellent. The hairs don't mat when wet, allowing the polar bears to easily shake free of water.

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Monticello: The History of History

by Peter Kilkus

When Carol McGinnis Fitzpatrick decided to organize a Monticello History Exhibit to collect and display stories, photos, and artifacts from the old Town of Monticello and the Berryessa Valley she knew it would be a labor of love, but she may not have known how much labor it would actually take!

Due to her hard work, and that of friends and family, a fascinating view of local history has taken shape in the Spanish Flat Village Center at Lake Berryessa.

And as Carol said the other day, "But I want to tell you ...every time I'm there something magical happens. I wanted to tell the story of the town and valley as it was before everyone scattered to the winds due to the dam and filling of Lake Berryessa. But now it seems as if the scattered threads of the tapestry are coming together again."

People keep coming to visit, returning pieces of history for the exhibit - whether they be stories about valley life, photos of people and events, or actual physical mementos like an old school desk from the Monticello School.

But one day a few months ago a visitor came by who was responsible for one of the most fundamental elements of Carol's life – her very existence!

A Tale of Mothers and Daughters

As Carol tells the story, it was another fascinating day at the exhibit, explaining the various historical treasures to some visitors. As usual, Carol asked them if they had ever visited the old town and did they have any stories they remembered. Betty said that her husband, Frank, had visited Monticello many times as a young man and was sitting right outside.

Frank was unable to enjoy the exhibit because he was 94 years old and could no longer see. Carol sat

next to him and asked if he remembered his visits those many years ago. He was a bit brusque at the start and claimed he didn't remember much, but warmed up to Carol as she explained her mission to preserve the history of Monticello.

He then seemed to remember the past as if it were yesterday. He began to tell a story that profoundly affected Carol. As he got into the story Carol says, "I got goose bumps over my entire body. I

focused in on everything he said and the way he said it as if my life depended on it – and it did!"

Frank was 94 years old. He lived in Vacaville had been a carpenter who came to Monticello to work in the 1930's. "I worked hard at an early age, not like the young nowadays!" He had also been a cowboy and often came to the big rodeos in Monticello. One day he and some friends had come from Vacaville to lower Putah Creek down by Big Rock, the swimming hole and resort that is now under water at the mouth of the Narrows, to go swimming. It was a place that many people would come to swim and camp in those days.

He recalled that he was perched up on some rocks overlooking the river when heard people yelling and screaming. They were just pointing and waving their arms. As Frank tells the story, "I realized that I was the one who would have to try to pull her out. I jumped in off the rocks, skinning my stomach and chest on the bottom of the river. The water was murky, but I could see her hair floating around and grabbed her lifeless body and pulled her to the shore. When I put her down on her stomach she started spitting up water and crying. I was kind of mad at the people who were closer but didn't jump in – I don't know why they didn't."

As the little girl came back to life and people crowded around her, Frank thought they were family so he just swam back across to his car and headed home to Vacaville without telling anyone his name.

Meanwhile Carol had tears welling up in her eyes and started asking questions as soon as Frank paused: How old were you? "Oh, about 17." How old was the little girl? "Oh it was so long ago – maybe 11 or so." Carol's quick calculation made that 77 years go. She gently put her hand on Frank's shoulder and told him a story of her own.

Carol's mother, Ruth McGinnis, had had a profound experience as a child and often related it to her family as they were growing up. It seems that Ruth's family also went to Big Rock on Putah Creek to camp and swim. Once when Ruth was about 11 she snuck away from camp to go out to a raft in the river. The day before she had also snuck away but had been able to walk out to the raft.

This time the raft must have moved to deeper water because when she tried to put her foot down to go out farther, there was no bottom and she fell. She panicked and began screaming for help while flailing around and gulping

water. As Ruth relates the story, she would go under and come back up again, yell for help, then sink. She recalls being too tired to stay up and realized she was drowning! She remembers slowly going to the bottom and drifting down the river. Her last recollection was her head and shoulder hitting the bottom.

Then she awoke on the shore with a young man looking down at her!

The funny ending to this story, which will make us all think about what we have and haven't told our parents, is that Ruth NEVER TOLD her mother that she had almost drowned that day. Carol's mother, Ruth, had never told her mother, Dorothy Borges, (Carol's grandmother) because Ruth had snuck away from the family and didn't want to admit she had been "bad".

The sad ending to this story is that Carol was planning to have her mother meet Frank after all these years, but when she called him two months later she found out that he had just passed away.

This story is dedicated to Frank Garcia Puerta Sr., his wife Betty Puerta, and to mothers and daughters everywhere!



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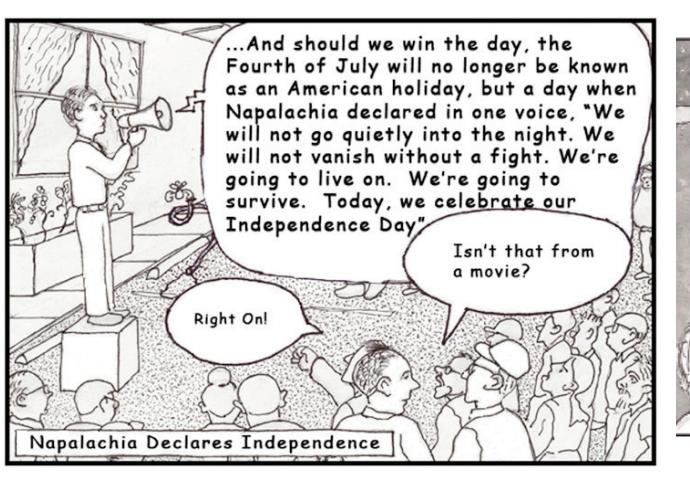
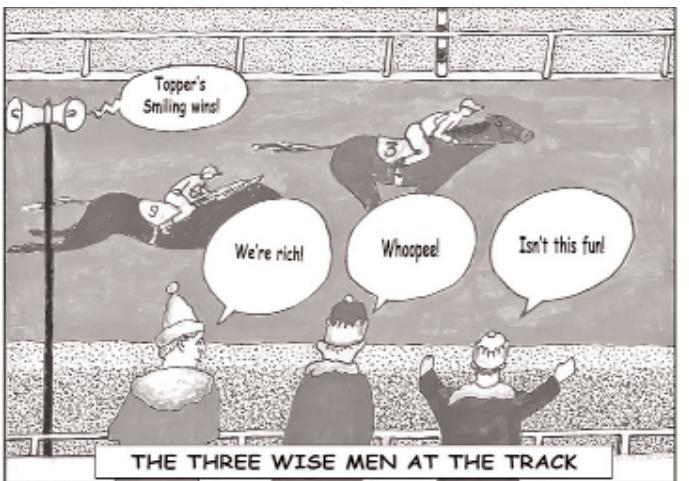
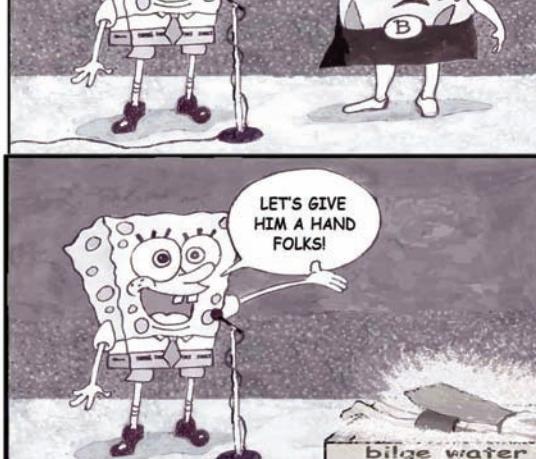
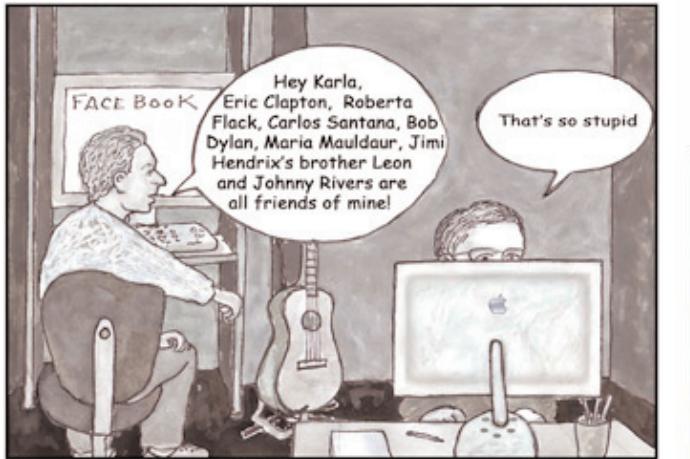
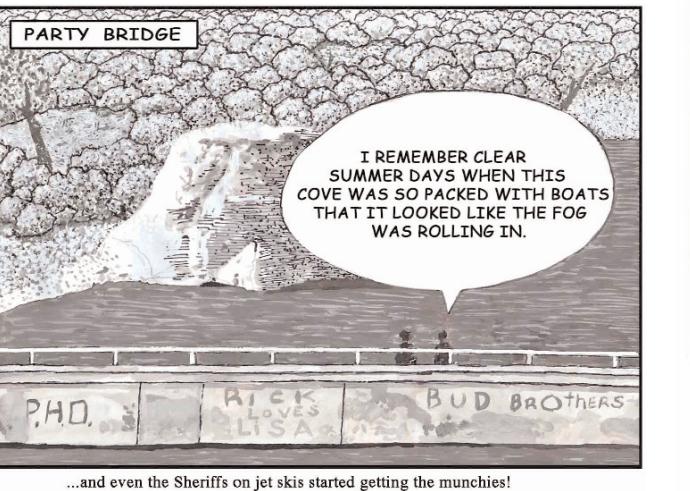
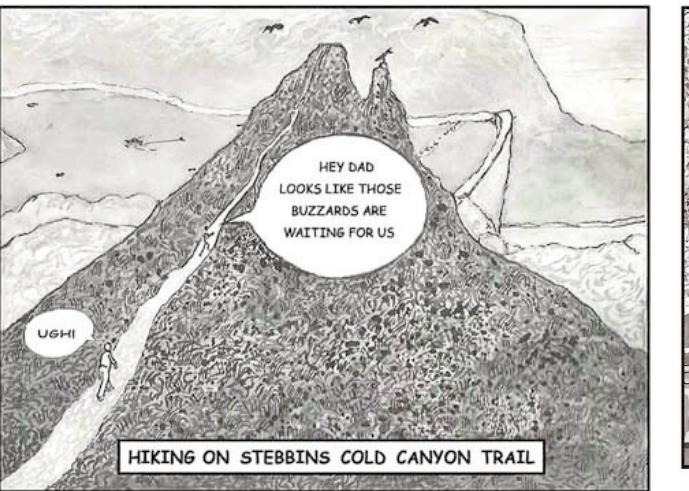
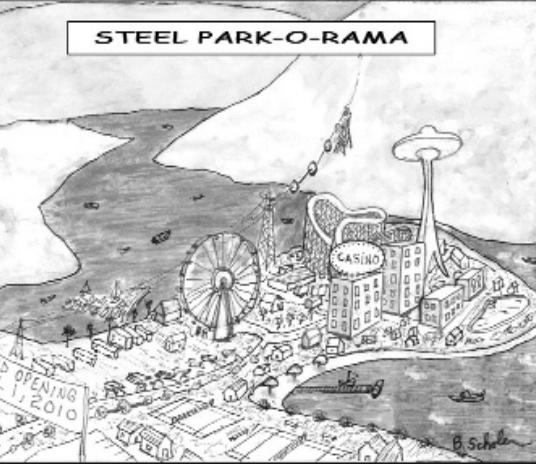
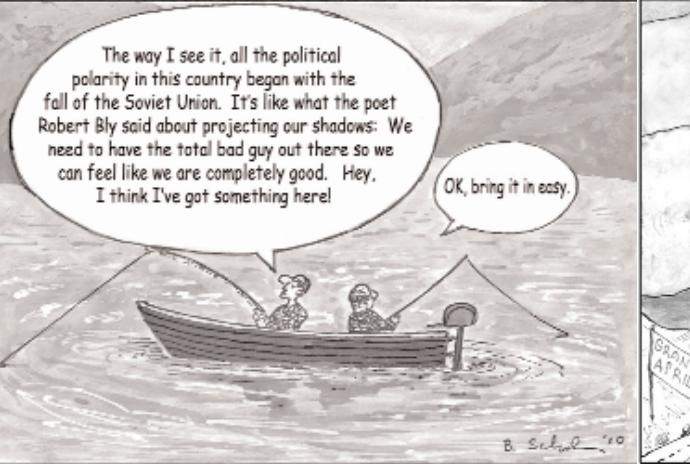
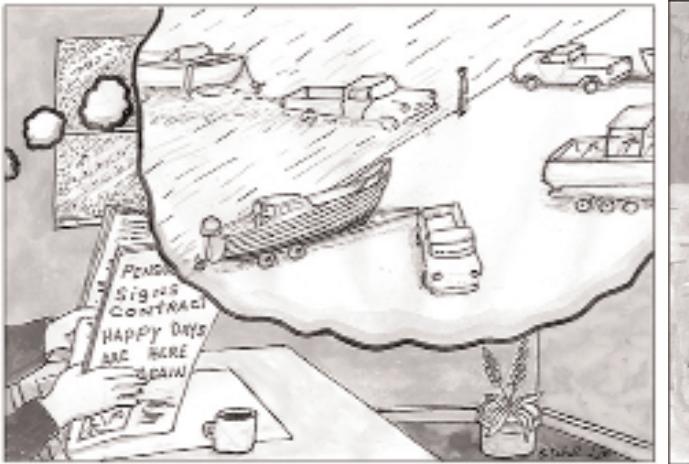


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**New Year Traditions Around the World**

"Auld Lang Syne" was written by Robert Burns in 1741 and literally means 'old long since,' or 'days gone by.' This song is traditionally sung in many countries at midnight on January 1st, signaling the beginning of the New Year.

First city to celebrate - Sydney, Australia, hosts the first major New Year's Eve celebration each year.

New York Times Square Celebrations - The first Ball lowering celebration atop One Times Square in the USA was held on December 31st, 1907 and is now a worldwide symbol of the turn of the New Year, seen via satellite by more than one billion people each year.

The original New Year's Eve Ball weighed 700 pounds and was 5 feet in diameter. It was made of iron and wood and was decorated with 100 25-watt light bulbs.



Baby New Year Tradition - The tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year was started around 600 BC by the ancient Greeks, who, at the start of a year would carry a baby around in a basket. The purpose of it was to honour Dionysus, the God of Fertility and symbolize his annual rebirth. This custom is still practiced in parts of Greece.

Hogmanay - The New Year in Scotland is called Hogmanay. Some people in Scotland follow a ritual that appears quite strange, but it actually has a

great significance. One can find barrels of tar set on fire and gradually rolled down the streets in the villages of Scotland. This ritual symbolizes that the old year is burned up and New Year is going to begin.

Burning "Mr Old Year" - In Columbia, Cuba and Puerto Rico families stuff a life-size male doll with things and then they dress it up in old clothes donated from each family member. At the stroke of midnight, this "Mr Old Year" is set on fire. This is done with the simple belief that a doll thus stuffed have bad memories or sadness associated with them, and that the burning of these will help one to do away with past unhappiness and usher in happiness in life with the coming year.

Eating Noodles - Late on the evening of December 31st, people from Japan might eat a bowl of buckwheat noodles called "toshikoshi soba" [year-crossing noodles] and listen for the sound of the Buddhist temple bells, which are rung 108 times at midnight. The sound of these bells is said to purify the listeners of the 108 sins or evil passions that 'plague every human being'.

Eating 12 Grapes - In Spain people eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve. This peculiar ritual originated in the 20th century when freak weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. Not able to decide what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and the grape growers came up with the idea of the New Year ritual.

Gifts in Shoes - In Greece children leave their shoes by the fireside on New Year's Day, which, incidentally, is also the Festival of Saint Basil in Greece, with the hope that Saint Basil, who was famous for his kindness, will come and fill their shoes with gifts.

Carrying a Suitcase - In Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, those with hopes of travelling in the New Year carry a suitcase around the house at midnight. Some people may even carry it around the block to ensure travelling at greater distances.

Wearing new slippers - In China, many people wear, in the new year, a new pair of slippers that were bought before the new year, because it suggests stepping on the people who gossip about you.

New Love - Apparently, in Mexico, wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring new love in the upcoming year.

Foods - It was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It is still held, for example, in some regions that special New Year foods are the harbingers of luck.

For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. The hog, and its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

Black-eyed peas - Many parts of the USA celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures.

**Lake Berryessa Area Travel Distances**

11.8 Miles - Winters to Markley Cove

8.3 Miles - Markley Cove to Moskowitz Corners

20.1 Miles - Winters to Moskowitz Corners

4.7 Miles - Moskowitz Corners to Turtle Rock

13.0 Miles - Moskowitz Corners to Napa

3.2 Miles - Lower Chiles Valley Rd at Hwy 128 to Pope Valley Rd.

8.5 Miles - Lower Chiles Valley Rd at Pope Valley Rd. to Pope Valley

5.0 Miles - Turtle Rock to Spanish Flat Village Center

7.4 Miles - Turtle Rock to Oak Shores Park

3.0 Miles - Turtle Rock to Lower Chiles Valley Rd.

14.7 Miles - Turtle Rock to Pope Valley via Chiles Valley

15.5 Miles - Turtle Rock to Chaparral Cove Resort via Knoxville Rd.

10.2 Miles - Pope Valley to Knoxville Rd. via Pope Canyon Rd.

8.3 Miles - Pope Canyon Rd. to Spanish Flat Village Center

18.5 Miles - Pope Valley to Spanish Flat Village Center via Pope Canyon

19.7 Miles - Pope Valley to Spanish Flat Village Center via Chiles Valley

2.4 Miles - Spanish Flat Village Center to Oak Shores Park

10.5 Miles - Spanish Flat Village Center to Chaparral Cove Resort

3.7 Miles - Pope Valley to Aetna Springs Road

11.3 Miles - Pope Valley to Berryessa Estates

4.1 Miles - Pope Valley to Angwin

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