



Storms Ravage Sierras, Put Major Dent in Long Drought

This winter has been atrocious, like, really bad. It's aftermath will impact summer travel plans.

Up and down the high slopes of the Sierra Nevada a barrage of heavy storms, fueled by unprecedented atmospheric rivers, deluged California leaving behind a giant frozen reservoir.

Snow fell in totals that easily defy imagination. A massive 701 inches has been recorded at China Peak.

Fantastic you say! Great news for those loving winter outdoor adventures. Well, at times, not so much!

There was plenty of snow for people to enjoy. But unfortunately, several times nobody could not get to the China Peak or snow play areas.

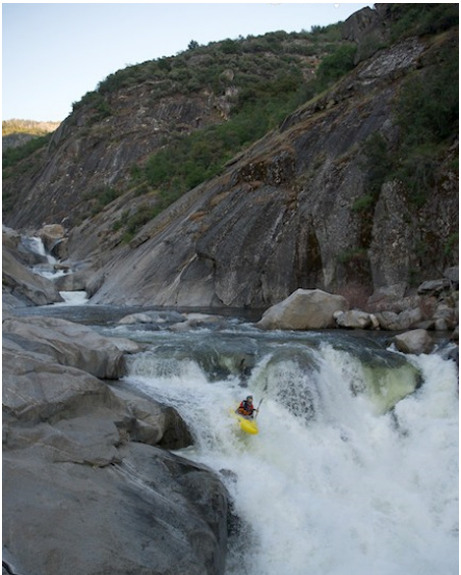
Road closures cost the Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake community businesses to lose millions in revenue. You can't make money when customers can't get to you.

At one time the only access to Shaver Lake and beyond, was via the old, switchback laden Tollhouse Road to the top of the four lane. Auberry Road was washed out at Alder Springs. Highway 168 between Lodge Road and Cressmans was blocked by avalanches and wash outs. Highway 168

Dinkey Creek Rapids a Magnet to Kayak Crowd

When Mother Nature opens the sky with rivers of water, kayak trips down Dinkey Creek are absolutely exhilarating. Brian Dorr, an experienced river rafting guide says "Dinkey Creek offers the best 6 miles of white water on the planet."

(continued on page 27)



Six thrilling miles of kayak runs down Dinkey Creek among best in the world.

between Cressmans and Shaver Lake experienced several other avalanches and traffic delays.

Helicopters had to deliver medical supplies to folks stranded at Huntington Lake.

The CHP had to provide escorts for trucks suppling fuel and basic supplies for Shaver Lake.

(continued on page 15)

Logger's Jamboree Returns This Summer

It's a pleasure to announce the very popular Logger's Jamboree is returning to the region on Aug. 6 at Huntington Lake.

The gates will open at 11 a.m. and the events will begin at noon. Admission is \$10. Kids 12 and under, military and first responders with valid ID are free.

(continued on page 14)



The very popular Logger's Jamboree is coming to Huntington Lake on August 6.

Hiking in the Sierra Will Be a Different Experience in 2023

It's typical for hiking enthusiasts to spend the winter yearning for mountain hikes. They ready their gear in late May or early June.

The local forest offers challenging trails, high mountain peaks and unparalleled views.

Several trails give entry to the John Muir or Pacific Crest Trails with the opportunity to explore California's longest road less mountain section.

These trails offer possibilities for



From top left are four lane rock slide causing 168 closure, wash out near Sierra Marina, Auberry Road washed out at Alder Springs and 168 closure just beyond Sierra Marina.

Day Trip Adventures in Local Sierra Nevada Wonderland

Just under a two hour drive along Highway 168 from the Clovis or Fresno lies an array of wonderful day adventures that you can enjoy with your family and friends.

Get an early start. Pack a picnic basket. Bring a camera, sunscreen, a light jacket, water and comfortable shoes. Stop in Shaver Lake for breakfast and select one or more of the following destination to explore.

With scenic views of the Sierra

Crest, Minarets and Edison Lake, **White Bark Vista** is just a short one mile hike in from the Kaiser Pass summit. You will be at the top of a ridge line with incredible views toward the east. If you have a high clearance, 4x4 vehicle you can drive in. The elevation at Kaiser Pass is 9,184, so keep that in mind if you're not used to high altitude.

Indian Pools is a 90 minute drive from Fresno with a trail head that actually is accessed via the China Peak Ski Resort parking lot. You will see the turn off for China Peak from 168 on the right.



Indian Pools is an easy hike from the parking lot at China Peak Mountain Resort.

It is a moderately easy hike with an elevation gain of 700ft. The dirt trail of the first mile is clear-cut with a gentle rise. There isn't much shade, so bring a hat, water, and plenty of sunscreen. There are mosquitoes and bugs here, so wear repellent to keep them at bay.

A half mile in, you'll encounter shallow pools. They are scenic, but not deep enough for swimming.

You'll soon come upon a wide (continued on page 6)

SHAVER LAKE TIMES All the news that fits we print!

- Winter Storm Damage Report - 1
 - Misty, My Furry Companion - 26
 - Camp Cooking Ideas for Mom - 5
 - Star Gazing With the Kids - 25
 - Backcountry Hot Springs - 21
 - What to Pack for Mountain Trip - 3
 - Don't Feed the Wild Animals - 7
 - China Peak Landing Concerts - 23
 - How to Make a Safe Campfire - 19
 - Regional Map (Road/Trails) - 17
 - Hiking and Camping With Pets - 18
 - Regattas at Huntington in July - 25
 - Fishing Guide Makes Tackle - 24
 - Hiking Will Be Different This Year - 1
 - Options for Dining in the Region - 13
 - Wildflowers of the Sierra Forest - 11
 - Regional Mountain Biking Trails - 23
 - Off Road Vehicle Adventures - 16
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What Should You Pack for A Trip Into The Mountains

Oh Boy! It is time to take that camping trip. If you have vacationed in the mountains before, you most likely know what to pack. However, if you are new to such adventures, here are a few tips regarding clothing and footwear. You are going into a higher altitude location. This calls for sudden weather changes that may not be anticipated. Therefore, you will want to pack a warm, heavy coat, warm gloves, thermal underwear and knit cap.

These items will keep you warm when the unexpected storm rolls in during your trip. Take stock of your footwear as well. Most likely you'll have your flip flops. They seem to be everywhere during vacations. But, they are not safe on mountain hikes. They can easily allow you to stum-

ble in rocky terrain. Instead, take a good pair of hiking boots or at least some running shoes. Having a back pack is a good idea. It carries the warmer items along with a water supply, some snacks, water proof matches and flashlight. Last, but not least, what do you carry in your pockets? Well, the most handy item is a good pocket knife.

- 10 Essentials for Mountain Trips**
- These 10 items should always be with you on a trip to the mountains.
- Whether you sprain an ankle or take a wrong turn, you may end up spending an unexpected night in the woods and you'll be so glad to have extra clothes, food and a flashlight.
1. Map - Topographic map of the region in which you will be traveling.
 2. Compass - What good is that



From top left are four lane rock slide causing 168 closure, wash out near Sierra Marina, Auberry Road washed out at Alder Springs and 168 closure just beyond Sierra Marina.

- map without a handy compass.
3. Sunglasses - If you wear a hat, get one that covers the back of your neck. Pack sunscreen, year around.
 4. Extra clothing and rain gear - The weather is unpredictable. Always keep a raincoat with you.
 5. Headlamp/flashlight - A good light source and extra batteries.
 6. First-aid supplies - It is smart to have a good kit with you on vacation.
 7. Fire starter - Have matches in a waterproof container or Butane lighter. You may need some sort of fire starter. Bring a candle or purchase a commercial fire starter. Some folks use dryer lint.
 8. Water and purification - You cannot dip-and-sip in a stream. Mountain water needs to be purified so it doesn't make you sick from giardia. Always carry extra water and purification tablets or a water filter with you on a mountain vacation.
 9. Knife / Multi tool - A Swiss Army Knife or one similar can be a life saver. You can slice cheese, clip blister bandages, and help repair gear. Keep it clean and well maintained between uses.
 10. Extra food - You may underestimate how much fuel your body needs while on vacation. Other times, you may spend an unscheduled night somewhere that was not planned. So pack a couple of trail bars, chocolate bars, chips, jerky, bread, peanut butter and other favorite stuff that doesn't require any cooking. So venture out, have fun and stay safe. We want you to come back again!

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Meal Planning Tips for Family Camping Trips to the Sierra

Spring is here with the newborn leaves, wildflowers and running streams, and summer is just around the corner. It's time to plan a camping trip. The kids can hardly wait. Dad readies his fishing gear. Mom says, "Big deal."

How come?
It seems that many families haven't learned how to properly prepare for a summer outing. Next to choosing your destination is the task of planning your meals.

If this isn't done properly, the cook may step out of one well-equipped and convenient kitchen with all its fuss and bother into the wilderness where all conveniences are gone. The fuss and bother are all that's left. It's no wonder she'd rather stay home.

Here are a few handy tips collected from many sources that will help you cut down on the cooking chores. It's best to plan meals for

coals, on a camp stove or in a RV, a few meals which can be prepared on all any of them will be noted.

Breakfast

CORNED BEEF HASH/EGGS

6 eggs
2 15 oz. cans corned beef hash
2 Tbs. Margarine
Melt margarine in heavy fry pan. Mix in corned beef hash. Stir and heat. Spread the mixture in an even layer. Take a spoon and make six depressions in the hash. Break an egg into each depression. Put a little margarine over each egg and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover the pan and steam slowly until the eggs are set, about 15 minutes. Serves 6.

CARAMELIZED TOAST

1 cup powdered sugar
1 Tbs. Cinnamon
Water and French bread
Mix powdered sugar and cinnamon in bowl. Stir in water to form a thin paste. Dip slices of bread in the



No matter where you travel in the Sierra Nevada for your vacation, planning ahead for meals on your camping trip helps make the trip more pleasurable for the entire family.

each day of your vacation.
Keep in mind the limited storage and refrigeration facilities your method of camping offers. Usually, you can buy fresh meat, vegetables, fruits and ice without traveling too far from your campsite. It's best to remember that cooking times may differ at high altitudes.

Since most people cook over the

paste and fry slowly in butter on both sides until crust is golden brown.

Lunch or Dinner

GRILLED TUNA SANDWICHES

8 bread slices
4 slices American cheese
¼ cup finely chopped celery
1 7-ounce can tuna, drained
1/3 cup mayonnaise - Butter
Mix tuna, celery and mayonnaise. Spread mixture on half the bread slices. Top each with slice of cheese and another piece of bread. Butter tops and bottoms of sandwiches. Cook on skillet over low heat on both sides until browned. Serves 4.

CHILI DOGS

8 hot dogs - 8 hot-dog buns
1 15-oz. can chili with beans
1 cup crushed corn chips
Slit each hot-dog lengthwise and put in bun. Stir chili and chips together. Spoon it in the slit hot dogs. Wrap buns in foil, bake for 20 minutes. Serves 8.

PEPPERONI CHEESE BUNS

4 hamburger buns
1 5-oz. jar cheese spread
1 4-oz. package sliced pepperoni
Spread cut surfaces of buns with

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cheese and place pepperoni on bottom buns. Wrap in foil, heat until warm. Serves 4.

FISH IN BEER BATTER

1 ¼ cups packaged biscuit mix
¾ cup beer - 1 egg - ¼ tsp. salt
4 pan-sized fish - Cooking oil
Combine the biscuit mix, beer, egg and salt. Dip the fish in batter coating both sides. Fry in hot oil for 4 - 5 minutes on each side. Serves 4.

Snacks

HOBO POPCORN

4 squares heavy foil, 4x4 inches
4 tsp. cooking oil
¼ cup popcorn string
Place 1 tsp. oil and 1 tbs. of popcorn in the center of each foil square. Bring foil corners together to make a pouch. Seal edges well, allowing room for popcorn to expand during cooking. Tie each pouch to a long stick with a piece of string. Put the pouch directly on hot coals and shake constantly until the corn is popped. Season with butter and salt. Serves 4.

(See more meals ideas at ShaverLakeTimes.com/cooking)

Supplies and Equipment

A handy checklist of supplies and equipment are listed below.
Cereals Bread, rolls
Cookies, candy, marshmallows
Canned milk, Coffee, tea, cocoa
Sugar, salt, spices, pepper

Biscuit/pancake flour - Cooking oil
Peanut butter, jelly, honey Mayonnaise, salad oils Mustard, catsup, pickles, olives Crackers
Canned stew, hash, chili, tuna, salmon, sardines, Baked beans, macaroni, spaghetti Canned roast beef or ham Canned chicken
Paper towels, napkins, soap, dishcloth, towels Potholders, aluminum foil, plastic bags Table covering
Fruit juice (frozen/canned), Fruits (dried/fresh/canned) Veggies (fresh, frozen, canned) Salad materials
Meats (fresh/frozen) Eggs & bacon
Fresh milk, Margarine or butter
Cheese or cheese spread
Tent, stakes, poles - Hatchet
Canvas or ground cloth
Flash lite - Matches - Shovel
Lantern & fuel - Folding Chairs
Insect repellent Table
Rope, clothesline, clothespins
First aid kit - Air mattresses
Cots, pump, sleeping bags
Blankets - Pocketknife
Portable toilet, liners, tissue
Charcoal
Plastic bucket, washing bowl
Mirror - Water containers
Camp stove & fuel Pans, plates
Cups, Coffeepot, Ice Chest
Knives, forks, spoons, utensils
Can opener, spatula, peeler
Plastic juice container
Laundry bag, Binoculars, camera
Books & games - Old newspapers
Compass - Warm clothes
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Day Trips: Local Region Offers Large Number of Destinations

(continued from page 1)

section of the creek surrounded by rocks. At the top of the next rise, you'll find a large swimming hole surrounded by big granite rocks. This is the popular swimming hole because it is the largest and deep enough to jump in. (5ft or 6ft). The granite boulders provide a place to sit that overlooks the pool. The official trail ends here, about 1 mile or so in.



Near the middle of the Dinkey Creek Campground is the popular Honeymoon Pool.

Mushroom Rock is accessed about 2 miles beyond the Huntington Lake Dam as you wind down the road toward Big Creek.

Turn on road 8S32. Stay on the main dirt road for approximately 4.5 miles. The Mushroom turn-off sign is 3/10 of a mile to the parking area. Just follow the trail sign approximately 300 yards to the vista at 8,000 feet where you can see Shaver Lake and the Big Creek Powerhouse.

Black Point is accessed just past the Mushroom turn-off sign. Follow the dirt road approximately 1/4 mile to the parking area. The trail is 1/2 mile to the top and is a moderately strenuous walk. Here both Huntington and Shaver Lakes are visible.

McKinley Grove is an isolated patch of Giant Sequoias just 30 minutes from Shaver Lake along Dinkey Creek Road.



Spectacular giant Sequoias grove offers hiking trails, picnic tables and restrooms.

From Dinkey Creek, take the McKinley Grove Road turnoff. A short paved path leads through a cluster of about 20 big trees.

The grove is exceptionally scenic. Most visitors stopping here are on their way to or from the scenic high country just a few miles further up the road, including Wishon and Courtright Reservoirs. This is a great spot for a picnic, taking pictures and walking amongst the giants.



Near the middle of the Dinkey Creek Campground is the popular Honeymoon Pool.

Honeymoon Pool is the largest and deepest of several pools found in the vicinity of the popular Dinkey Creek campground.

Take the Dinkey Creek Road turnoff from Tollhouse Road, located just across from the Shaver Lake Community Center. Drive for about 12 miles and continue past the Dinkey Creek Store and Ranger Station. Stop and pay the day use fee. It is well worth the price.

Look for the signs for the Honeymoon Pool stairway. This is a favorite spot for families with kids. In addition to the Honeymoon Pool, there are several additional swimming holes upstream.

They include one where you can jump off a cliff, another where you can slide down slippery rocks, called the slicks, as well as three or four more pools upstream.



Rancheria Falls will provide a spectacular photo opportunity with the 2023 runoff.

Rancheria Falls is not far past the turnoff for China Peak about 20 miles up Highway 168 past the community of Shaver Lake.

Turn right on road 8S31. The trail head is 1.2 miles up the Rancheria Falls Road. It is 7,200' at the trail head and 8,120' at the end of the trail near the base of the Fall, a two mile round trip hike.

There are restrooms at the trail head. Please pack out what you pack in. Bring water with you. Do not drink from streams or lake).

During the summer the falls are spectacular. Rancheria Falls is approximately 150' high and 50' wide. There are plenty of rocks on which to sit and have a snack or simply enjoy the beautiful surroundings, feeling the mist in the air.

“Please Don’t Ever Feed the Wildlife” Means Exactly That

Wild animals do not thrive on “people food”. Their digestive systems are very different from ours.

“So don’t feed the wildlife,” means just that!

Common sense, right? Rules are put in place for safety or a situation occurred where a rule needed to be created. Below are some rules, not guidelines that you need to take with you into the wilderness.

1. “People” food isn’t good for animals. Human foods aren’t nutritious enough for animals and may cause serious health problems.

2. It makes wild animals lose their natural fear of people. Feeding can make large, potentially dangerous animals become too comfortable in residential or recreational areas. Once animals learn they can panhandle for food, they can become a nuisance, or even worse, a safety risk.



Raccoons eat fruits, berries, nuts, fish, frogs, crayfish, mice, rabbits and bird eggs.

3. Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles is dangerous to animals, people, and property. Animals can be hit by moving vehicles or might try to enter vehicles in search of food. In Yosemite National Park in, more than 1,100 vehicles were broken into by black bears, causing millions in damages.

4. Wild animals that depend on people for food can cause injuries or spread disease. When wild animals gather for food handouts, it can cause crowding and competition. These unnatural conditions increase the chances of fighting and injury among animals. It can also increase the spread of diseases, some of which may be transmitted to pets and humans.



Bobcats can leap 12 feet to catch prey and can take down larger prey, like young deer.

What can you do?

1. Rinse all recyclable glass and plastic containers to remove any food remnants and odors. Some animals, like skunks, can get their heads stuck in containers and wind up starving to death. Cut and/or crush plastic con-

tainers, and cut each ring of plastic six-pack carriers.

2. Feed your pets inside.

3. Make sure plastic food wrap is rinsed and put in a tied bag or securely covered garbage can.

4. When visiting parks and similar settings, clean up after yourself and follow the rules regarding wildlife. Encourage others to do the same.

5. Learn when to step in. If you see an animal who you think may be injured or orphaned, make sure the animal truly needs your help be-



Deer forage on forest vegetation including local native trees, grasslands and brush

fore feeding the animal anything or attempting a “rescue.”

6. Feed backyard birds and squirrels at home, (approved food if you want). We oppose feeding wildlife when it might cause problems, but feeding birds and squirrels is generally harmless. Don’t feed them by hand. Instead, set up a feeder where you can watch them from a distance.

7. Provide some natural food sources. Plant some native bushes, trees, or flowers and put up a birdbath or other water feature for your local wildlife. You’ll be on your way to creating a humane backyard.



Rarely seen and very shy, a fox’s diet is made up of meat protein like mice and squirrels.

So, please remember when you take your family camping trip this summer, or your out enjoying a hike in the Sierra National Forest, that you are just guests.

These animals that people are trying to ride, “save” or feed are wild and have natural instincts when it comes to hunting, foraging for food and surviving.

Trees and plants do not need to have hearts and bad words on them. Flowers do not need to be plucked from the soil. Instead, enjoy the beauty of nature and all it has to offer.

Take a moment for yourself and put away that phone and selfie stick and live in the moment.



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Leave No Trace Behind As You Venture into the Forest

Know the regulations and concerns for the area in which you'll be camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, boating, riding horses, biking, 4-wheeling or fishing.

Avoid popular areas during heavy use times. Learn to properly store your food to protect it from bears and other animals. Repackage food into re-usable containers like Ziploc bags.

Avoid tin or aluminum cans and glass. Reduce the amount of trash brought into the woods by eliminating all unnecessary packaging.

Stay on designated trails while hiking or backpacking. Walk single file in the center of the path. Use only existing trails. Don't shortcut switchbacks.

If traveling cross-country, hike on surfaces like rock, sand, gravel, pine needles, or dry grasses to prevent vegetation damage and erosion.

Always dispose of your waste properly. If an object wasn't there when you came then don't leave it there when you leave!

You are responsible for anything you bring in with you. Carry out all your trash. Make your site or travel route look like nobody was ever

there. Leave absolutely no signs of human influence.

Remove all evidence of your stay in the forest. Inspect your campsite for trash or misplaced gear before you leave. Pick up any trash that others may have missed or that may have been dropped by accident.

If there are no restrooms in your local, bury all human waste in a hole at least 6-8" deep. Make sure these holes are at least 200 feet from any water sources, campsites, or trails. Carry out used toilet paper. Carry out feminine hygiene products. Do not bury them.

Wash yourself and dishes at least 200 feet from any water sources and away from campsites.

Food scraps will attract insects and animals. Filter your dishwater and carry out your food scraps with the rest of your trash.

Leave What You Find - Take only pictures home with you. Leave only the lightest of footprints. Bring home only memories. Resist the temptation to take souvenirs. Leave stones, feathers, artifacts, shells, petrified wood. By doing so, you will allow others to enjoy what you enjoyed.

Respect Mother Nature - Leave the place you're visiting in a natural condition. You can't improve what was created by Nature. Do not alter a site in any way.

Good campsites are found, not made. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving an area. Be sure to scatter your leftover cold ashes away from your campsites.

Respect Wildlife - Treat wild animals with respect. You are a visitor, traveling and camping in their backyard. Do not feed them! Cook and eat away from your campsite so you don't attract bears.

Camp at least 200 feet from natural water sources. Animals come to there to drink and may be frightened by your presence.

Be Considerate of Others - Preserve the solitude. Respect other hikers by traveling and camping quietly. Leave your radios at home.

Camp as far from other visitors. Pets are best left at home. If you do bring a pet keep them on a leash and under control at all times. Uphill hikers have the right of way.



Historic image of the flume that carried thousands of logs from Shaver Lake to Clovis.

History of Flume That Moved Logs to Clovis

One hundred and eight years ago, the last log flume carried lumber out of the Sierra National Forest at Shaver Lake to the valley below.

California was booming and lumber was needed. The San Joaquin Valley Railroad arrived in Clovis in 1891 and the flume in 1893. Both created new markets for ranchers, farmers and the lumber industry.

These flumes made the Central Valley a major lumber producing area, and created mill towns like Clovis.

Read the full story at ShaverLakeTimes.com/flume



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At The Southern Gateway to Yosemite National Park

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Operating Under Permit by Sierra National Forest

Treat Yourself to an Exciting Trail Ride on a Gentle Horse

If you have never done so, plan to take yourself, or your family and friends on a horseback ride this season. If you have been before, it's time to go again.

Thrill to the rasp of an old saddle, the musk of the animal, the joy of a slow walk along a forest path, riding past a pristine lake or fording a shallow stream.

The world looks better from the back of a horse. The Ute Indians of the Rockies once said, "The way to heaven is on horseback." Perhaps they're right.

Trail rides offered by regional stables are a relaxed, calm experience. It will involve mostly walking and only going faster if the guide and all the riders in the group feel comfortable to do so.

If you are new to riding, don't plan on a ride that lasts for more than an hour or two. That is the perfect amount of time to go on your first trail ride.

When you are ready for a real horseback adventure, contact one of the regional pack stations or stables and arrange for a extended back-country trip. There are several trip types and they listed below.

All Expense Trips. A deluxe service that includes stock, packers, cooks, food and camping equip-

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Base Camps: Ride to your pre-designated campsite where your tent camp has been moved in by mule prior to your arrival. Stay in one location. All meals are provided. You have your own personal horse for daily rides.

Spot Trips: You ride to your destination. Your provisions are moved by pack animal to your preferred location. The stock and packer return for you on a predetermined date. You provide your own camping gear and food.

Continuous Hire: Packer and livestock stay with your party during your trip. You provide your own camping gear, provisions and meals, including packers. Inquire about such trips at:

Clyde Pack Outfitters near Dinkey Creek - DinkeyStables.com, (559) 298-7397. Lost Valley Pack Station, (559) 855-3960. High Sierra Pack Station - HighSierraPackStations.com (559) 285-7225 Muir Trail Ranch - MuirTrailRanch.com (209) 966-3195. D & F Pack Station - DFPackStation.co (559) 288-3527. Shaver Stable - ShaverStable.horse (559) 841-8500 Only offers hourly rides.



For an adventure this season, plan for a horseback ride in the Sierra National Forest. Several pack stations and riding stables can get you up in the saddle and along your way!



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Shaver Lake Times - page 10

Visit Us Online at ShaverLakeTimes.com

Enjoy Seeing Wildflowers - But Please Don't Pick Them

For many visitors to the forest, a field of wildflowers is one of the most beautiful experiences they can encounter in Nature.

There is a deep impulse people carry from childhood into adulthood to reach out and pick a flower. Please don't do it!

But this is such a beautiful butterfly filled meadow or along a public wooded trail lined with spring beauties, irises, or wake-robins.

It is because we all carry such memories that we have devoted an entire article celebrating wildflowers in the local Sierra National Forest.

Millions of people visit the public lands each year and if only a small fraction of them each picked a few flowers, soon there would be none for the rest of us to enjoy.

Almost all wildflowers are fragile and many wilt and perish soon after being picked. Over the years, the repercussions of wildflower picking by unthinking people go far beyond the loss of the flowers themselves.

A critical chain of events is trig-

gered for years to come once wildflowers are lost. We don't often realize it, but wildflowers support entire ecosystems for pollinators, birds, and small animals on a micro scale. Butterflies and other insects, small birds, and animals depend on seeds, nectar, and pollen for their food supply and life support system. In addition, some pollinators are not very mobile or have very small home ranges or depend on just one species of plant and die once their habitat has been destroyed. The Forest Service is very enthu-



Milk Weed

many different animals; from pollinators to birds, to small mammals. Many folks are now planting butterfly gardens that benefit these beautiful animals and bring enjoyment and joy to the gardener.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service is experiencing increased poaching of native wildflowers; even some that are listed as endangered species. Many people desire species that are not available commercially because these plants are difficult to grow or take too many years to reach maturity; and some people desire the rarest of the rare bringing those precious jewels ever closer to extinction.

Consequently, some people are illegally removing wildflowers and other native plants from their natural habitats. In some cases entire populations of a species have been stolen.

There are legal ways to collect native plants from national forests and grasslands that will allow their use but still sustain them for future generations.

Remember, respect and protect wildflowers and their habitats, leave only footprints, and take only memories and photos so that future generations may enjoy the flowers.

Story courtesy of U.S. Forest Service



Shooting Star



Baby Blue Eyes

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If you and your friends would like to ride your horses in the regional backcountry, you are in luck. If you will be staying overnight you will need to get a wilderness permit.

Take Your Horses into the Backcountry this Summer

The Sierra National Forest provides excellent opportunities for trail riding and overnight camping. This is great news for those with their own riding stock,

Forest trails are shared with a variety of users such as off-highway vehicles, hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

Each user needs to practice trail courtesy on these multi-user thoroughfares. To keep from causing any damage or erosion please remember to practice trail courtesy, traveling single file to avoid widening trails or damage to vegetation. Do not cut switchbacks. Pack out what you bring in.

Only 25 pack stock are permitted in the wilderness with any group. You must pack in all of the feed for your animals. Supplemental certified weed-free feed such as alfalfa pellets or crimped oats, are recommended.

Pack and saddle stock must NOT be tied within 100 feet of any water, trails, or campsites. Don't tie stock

Regional Cell Phone and/or WiFi Service

The mountains are not real cell phone or wifi friendly. But that can be a really good thing.

Your kids will hate the fact they cannot recharge their phones. So use this time to educate them.

After a family hike, a dip in the lake, a fishing adventure, a horseback ride or another fun event, have them express what they got from the experience.

Take a box of crayons, a few pencils and a large blank pad for the kids. Then have them draw a picture and/or write an explanation of the adventure that they can share with other family members and friends not along on the vacation.

Thus, they have an educational experience with art and writing that end up being a form of story telling.

Who knows. Perhaps a budding graphic artist, journalist or designer will be born!

to small trees, which must be 18 inches or larger in diameter.

Badger Flat Campgrounds are located 5 miles east of Huntington Lake off the Kaiser Pass Road.

Here you have a standard family campground which is well-separated from a large group campground.

The family campground has 15, first-come, first-served sites among the trees close to Rancheria Creek. Campsites can accommodate trailers, RVs, and tents. There is no potable water.

Before entering the site, campers are asked to check in at the Eastwood CLM office located at the east end of Huntington Lake.

Horses are permitted at both Badger Flat Campgrounds, but there are no special equestrian facilities.

The spacious group site can accommodate up to 100 people and 35 vehicles. Although it lacks some common campground amenities such as piped water, it serves as an excellent gathering place for OHV and equestrian groups. A trail connects to the California Riding and Hiking Trail. A sandy area along adjacent Rancheria Creek provides a nice wading area.

In the wilderness several areas on the forest provide camping facilities and corrals for equestrian users.

Overnight stays in the wilderness require a Wilderness Permit. Day use does not require a Wilderness Permit. Please check with the U.S. Forest Service at Prather (559) 855-5355 for any restrictions that may be in place.



For those with their own livestock, there are adequate campgrounds at Badger Flats.



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Mountain Tripper



China Peak Landing



Florence Lake Store



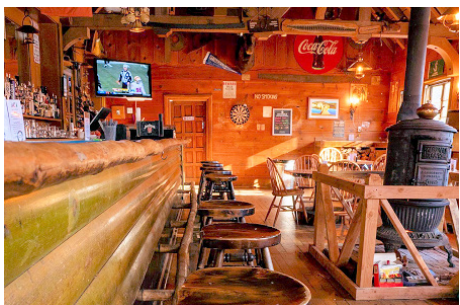
Shaver Lake Pizza



Hungry Hut



The Inn at China Peak Restaurant



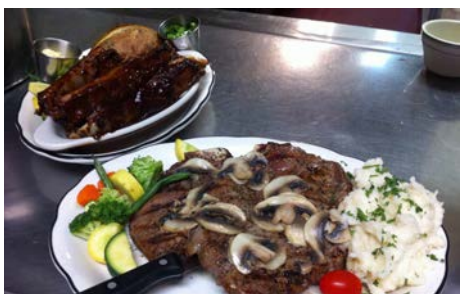
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Shaver Lake Deli



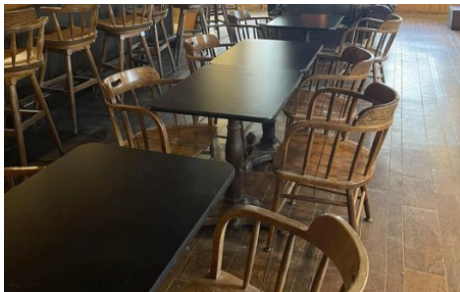
Loma Vista Food Mart and Fuel



The Trading Post



Shaver Lake Restaurant - At The Point



The Sawmill Restaurant



Mono Hot Springs River Rock Cafe



Wishon Village Store



The Grill at Huntington Lake Resort

Variety of Food Selection for Those Out and About in the Region

Mountain Tripper for delicious breakfast and lunch selections. Free WiFi. Located next to Bob's Market. (559) 841-7106.

Hungry Hut offers delicious standard and deluxe burgers and sandwiches, fries, plus great milk shakes. Open daily, year 'round. (559) 841-3222.

Inn at China Peak Restaurant Jack's Bar offers food and libations. Step next door and have dinner. Ski-ChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Lakeshore Resort at Huntington Lake, 2.5 miles past China Peak. Facility is undergoing renovations, please check their website LakeshoreResort.com (559) 893-3193.

Loma Vista Gas Mart offers a Mexican Food, Chester's Fried Chicken, Shaved Ice and Scoops of Ice Cream, cold beer and fountain drinks. (559) 841-5303.

The Trading Post is Shaver Lake's popular dining house. Enjoy a drink at the beautiful bar and then sit down to great food, their top priority. Indoor and outdoor seating is available. (559) 841-5394. Shaver-TradingPost.com

The Grill at Huntington Lake Resort has seating on the deck overlooking the marina at the Lake. Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner, ice cream and snacks. Visit them at Huntington-LakeResort.com

Shaver Lake Restaurant at the Point has seating indoors and on the deck overlooking the Shaver Lake. Enjoy lunch and dinner. Full bar and live musical performances. (559) 841-5329

Shaver Lake Coffee and Deli offers chunky bread, grab and go burritos and a variety of deli lunch items. Several coffee drinks are available. Sit indoors or outdoors. (559) 841-3555.

Vermilion Valley Resort Restaurant is great for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Weekend barbecue is legendary. Visit them at EdisonLake.com.

Shaver Lake Pizza all made with fresh ingredients. Beer is available. Offering great Calzones, salads, hot sandwiches and appetizers. Shaver-LakePizza.com. (559) 841-7249

Short Horn Bar and Grill is locals favorite place to meet, eat, drink, dance and chat. Has only pool table in town. (559) 841-6464. Visit ShortHornBarandGrill.com.

Shaver Pub 'n Grub has atmosphere, drinks, fish & chips, burgers, pastrami sandwich and more. Full bar. 4 TV's with Direct TV NFL Sunday Ticket. (559) 841-4411. ShaverLakePubnGrub.com

Pizza Factory - Prather features "real hand tossed pizza", delicious salads, a variety of pasta, plus hot and cold sandwiches. Cold beer and fountain drinks. Lots of indoor seating. (559) 855-2800.

Big Creek General Store on Point Road in Big Creek, features delicious meals and has outdoor seating available, weather permitting. (559) 839-3332

Velescos Mexican Restaurant is in Prather featuring delicious Mexican style meals. Stop by on your way up and down the mountain for breakfast or dinner. (559) 855-6565

Subway is located in Prather. Select from a tempting array of sandwiches or salads. Stop by for a breakfast or lunch treat on your way up to the mountains. (559) 855-7827.

Florence Lake Store has ferry across lake to hiking trail-heads. Get snacks, cold drinks, hot coffee and co-coa. Florence-Lake.com

China Peak Landing at Huntington Lake has delicious food, snacks, your favorite drinks on a lake front setting. ChinaPeakLanding.com

River Rock Cafe at Mono Hot Springs famous Buffalo and Elk, as well as Burgers, Pasta, Steaks and Fish, all surrounded by beautiful wilderness scenery. MonoHotSprings.com

Sawmill Restaurant reopened this past winter under new ownership. It is open for weekend dining on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Check Facebook or email thesawmillshaverlake@gmail.com for updated menus items and further details.

Wishon Village Store at Wishon Reservoir has snacks, drinks, groceries and more. (559) 865-5361. WishonVillage.com



Short Horn Bar and Grill



Shaver Pub 'n Grub



Pizza Factory - Prather



Big Creek General Store and Restaurant



Velescos Mexican Restaurant - Prather



Subway Sandwich Shop - Prather



The Restaurant at Vermilion Valley Resort



Queen Contestant - Lexi Kirkpatrick



Queen Contestant - Clara Sullivan

Pine Ridge Boosters Bring Back the Logger’s Jamboree

(continued from page 1)

Thanks to the efforts of the Pine Ridge Boosters club along with their sponsors: China Peak Mountain Resort, Elming Tree Service and Donaghy Sales, local loggers can once again strut their stuff.

Spectators will be treated to all their beloved logging events. In addition to the talented contestants, you can check out many local vendors who will be showcasing their offerings with Art and Crafts.

Professional and amateur competitions such as double hand bucking, ax throwing, choker setting and hot power sawing showcase their talents. This type of activity helps preserve the identity of the hard working men and women who pioneered the logging industry in California.

The Sunday event will be matched with Saturday’s Country Jam Concert at China Peak Landing on August 5. Wow! A full weekend of fun in the mountain sun.

Tioga-Sequoia Brewery will be sponsoring the Beer Garden. Local food favorites will include Duck

Haus, Loretzeria Pizzeria, Dippin Dots and Funnel Cakes.

Inside the festival area there will be local arts & craft vendors, face painting and even horseback riding for the little loggers in attendance.

Four local young ladies share the desire to represent the event as the 2023 Logger’s Jamboree Queen.

They are Lexi Kirkpatrick who will be attending Reedley College to pursue a welding career.

Makayla McGrath will also be attending Reedley College and studying Crop Science.

Isabel Quintero plans a career in Criminal Justice and Business.

Clara Sullivan will be attending CSU San Marcos to earn a Political Science degree.

One hundred percent of the proceeds go to benefit the Pine Ridge Boosters, a non profit that directly supports the students, staff and families of Pine Ridge School

If you have any questions, want to make a donation or get a booth, contact Tess Erdman, the Booster’s President, at (559) 960-5014

Shaver Lake Viaduct Project to Fix Road

The Shaver Lake Viaduct project will provide a rerouting of Highway 168 around the stretch of road that keeps washing out near the Sierra Marina. The purpose of the project is to alleviate repeated slope and pavement failures with a projected completion date of 2028.

The project would construct a two-lane viaduct on a new alignment of State Route 168 near the Shaver Lake shoreline. The viaduct would be a bridge-like structure set on deep foundations spanning the area of current pavement distress.

The viaduct will be 780 feet long, with the roadway realigned 63 feet into existing hillside. The realigned roadway will straighten the road.

This realignment would simplify construction staging, reduce the need for reversing traffic control, and shorten construction days. Construction would take about 550 days over 19 months to complete.



Queen Contestant - Makayla McGrath



Queen Contestant - Isabel Quintero

Five Helpful High Altitude Tips to Keep You Safe on Vacation

Many folks spend a good part of the winter season thinking about the upcoming summer season. They enjoy time spent in examining their destination options and planning for their next excursion.

Then they begin to make all the necessary arrangements. There are some several considerations they may not have considered.

To ensure that your vacation exploring the mountains is a pleasant and relaxing one, here are a few tips from outdoor and health professionals that will help you to make proper adjustments to the higher altitude.

Tip 1#: Remember you will be traveling in a different environment. Always arrive in good physical condition. This will help ensure you stay in good shape during your vacation.

Tip #2: Take time to acclimatize to different altitudes you may experience during a trip. Most visitors to the mountains live at much lower elevations. At higher elevations the air is thinner with less oxygen and humidity than at sea level. Spending time at a certain altitude before traveling to a higher altitude will prevent common symptoms associated with altitude sickness. These symptoms may include muscle fatigue, insomnia, slight shortness of breath, or mild headaches. If travel-

ing to elevations over 11,000 feet, you might think about carrying some oxygen with you.

Tip #3: Be sure to drink plenty of water during your trip. It is easier to get dehydrated at higher altitudes. Drinking 8-10 glasses of water will help prevent many of the symptoms associated with altitude sickness.



Drink Water



Proper Diet



Cut Back on Alcohol and Caffeine



Ease into Exercise



Use Sun Protection

Tip #4: Limit your alcohol consumption. You don’t have to avoid them completely. But, as tempted as you may be, after all it’s your vacation, try to avoid alcoholic beverages during the first day of your visit. You will find that you sleep better and be ready for your holiday adventures.

Tip #5: Make sure you bring and apply sunscreen. Use an SPF of 15 or higher and re-apply every four hours. Wear protective clothing like hats and bandannas.

Rental Cottages With A Shaver Lake View



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Atmospheric Rivers Bring Chaos to Local Mountains

(continued from page 1)
District 6 Cal Trans crews worked nearly round the clock to reopen the roads, repair the various road damage and keep traffic flowing. One critical section of Highway 168 near the Sierra Marina suffered severe damage and now has one lane traffic for months to come.

Here on the West coast, news media frequently talks about “the big one”. Normally this refers to a potential major earthquake. But



The Cal Trans District 6 crew worked around the clock to clear the highway.

there’s another “big one” according to USGS natural hazards scientists. This would be an atmospheric river-driven mega-storm causing catastrophic damage. Such a storm causes extensive flooding across the state, raising environmental health concerns, causing thousands

of landslides, disrupting critical infrastructure for days or weeks and causing billion dollars in damages and in business interruption losses.

Well, the winter of 2022/2023 brought just such an event. So what is an atmospheric river?

Atmospheric rivers are the largest “rivers” of fresh water on Earth. Atmospheric rivers over the Pacific can transport water vapor at a rate equal to 7–15 times the average daily discharge of the Mississippi River.

They can be hundreds to thousands of miles long, and up to 300 miles across!

In just week in March, much of the Shaver and Huntington Lakes region received over 10 feet of snow. This massive snowfall actually caused snow removal crews to step back.

There were several factors involved in this decision. The biggest factor by far is safety. Not having access to equipment during the storm allowed snow to pile up to dangerous levels.

Prior to the storm, in a few location, the snocats were just getting under tree limbs and power lines. The operators were digging down to pass under the branches or lines. There were at least four locations



An aerial view of the Shaver Lake Community showing just how much fell this season, bringing the town to a near standstill. (Photo: FOX26 Photojournalist Olen Hogenson)

that power lines were certainly buried under snow.

Figuring out how much snow piles up in the Sierra each winter is critical. Historically this has been done primarily by sticking long metal



Extreme icy conditions on Highway 168 caused many vehicles to get stuck.

tubes into the snow and weighing the icy core caught inside.

Today sensors mounted on low flying airplanes provide a much more comprehensive picture.

Pilots with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

traverse craggy backcountry terrain while hugging the ground at 500 feet, involving a good amount of adventurous flying.

The statewide snow pack in May was 237% of normal. The deepest on record since snow sensors were established in the mid-1980s. The amount of water contained in the snow was 61.1 inches.

It is also deeper than previous records of 227% set in 1983 and 224% set in 1969, and tied with the record of 237% set in 1952.

So 2023 looks to be at least the second, if not the biggest snow pack on record

California winter storms of 1861 and 1862, were the largest and longest California storms in the historic record and the cause of the Great Flood of 1862.



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\$40,000,000				
\$30,000,000				
\$20,000,000				
\$10,000,000				

Source: Fresno MLS



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Shaver Lake Times - page 15

Regional Off-Road Trails Offer You Easy to Difficult Adventures

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) adventures are abundant in the local mountains. Learn all OHV laws, restrictions, and closures. Respect private property, wildlife and others. Always operate your vehicle in a safe, responsible manner.

Off-Highway Requirements

All vehicles operating on public lands must be registered with the DMV. The DMV will issue Green or Red Stickers for off-road vehicles. Vehicles legal to operate on the highway already have a street-legal license.



Many Central Valley Organizations Provide Poker Run Adventures Each Year.

Multiple Use

Many people with different interests will enjoy an area simultaneously. Trail courtesy allows everyone to have an enjoyable experience. Please follow the rules below:

Motorcycles Yield to All

Bicycles Yield to Horses and Hikers

Hikers Yield to Horses

Organized Events

Use of forest lands for organized recreation events, like poker runs or rallies, requires a Special Use Permit. Contact the Prather Forest Service Office for details and requirements.

Some Local

Riding Opportunities

Dusy-Ershim OHV Route: Backcountry route. Classified Most Difficult. Runs 31 miles in the John Muir/Dinkey Wilderness. Takes 2 to 3 days. Experienced drivers only. Do not travel alone.

Take Hwy 168 to Huntington Lake, go right on Kaiser Pass Rd. Drive to summit. Go right at White Bark Vista sign. Also can access by crossing Courtright Reservoir dam. Stay on the road to the Dusy-Ershim OHV route sign.

Route begins at 8,400 feet, with many open rocky areas. Portions of the trail cross large granite slabs and are marked with rocks. You rise to 10,000 feet at Thompson Lake.

Spanish OHV Route: More Difficult. Easy for experienced drivers. A challenge for others. The 3.5 mile route on loose dirt, some granite, a few rocks, and a little uphill. Takes 4 hours. Not recommended for van



For those enjoying some challenging moment during their off road adventure, the Sierra National Forest features several destinations that will test your limits and give you a thrill.

type 4WD vehicles or full size pickups, due to some tight maneuvering.

Take Hwy 168 from Clovis to the Dinkey Creek Rd., just before Shaver Lake community. Go right and continue to turnoff for McKinley Grove Rd. Continue 17 miles to Wishon Dam. Drive across dam and go 2.5 miles and turn at Crown Valley Trail head. Take the road 1.5 miles to the Spanish Route, it starts a short distance beyond Rancheria Creek.



It is suggested that you travel with a group when venturing far into the backcountry.

Swamp OHV Route: Experienced drivers. Not recommended for long wheel base vehicles. Route is about 9 miles and takes 4.5 hours.

Take Hwy 168 from Clovis to the Dinkey Creek Rd., just before Shaver Lake community. Go right to McKinley Grove Rd. Travel 2.5 miles to Swamp Lake Route. Turn north and go 3 miles to the fork in the road. At fork, turn left. Drive 1.1 miles to fork. Take the left fork 0.8 miles to the trail head gate.

Edison and Florence Lake Routes

Take Highway 168 east from Clovis to Huntington Lake. Take Kaiser Pass Rd. east to the junction of the roads that take you to Edison or Florence Lakes. The routes include:

Hooper Diversion: Classified Easy. Is 2.5 miles. Takes 2 hours. Located off of Florence Lake Rd. (7S01). Follow 7S01 for 5.5 miles to road 7S65, turn left, travel to Jackass Meadow Campground. Continue 2 miles to Hooper Diversion Dam.

Bear Diversion: Two miles long. Classified Easiest. Takes an hour. Located off of Edison Lake Rd. (5S80). Follow 5S80 2 miles past Mono Hot Springs. Go 1 mile to road 6S38. Turn right and continue to Bear Diversion Dam.

Onion Springs: Five miles. Classified Easiest. Takes 2 hours. Near Edison Lake. Take road (5S80) to road 6S83. Follow road 6S83 for 3 miles to Edison Lake. Go along dam 3 miles to Onion Springs Route.

Red Mountain: There are several routes that lead to small lakes, including West Lake, Strawberry Lake, Red Mountain, Coyote Lake, and Mirror Lake.

Take Hwy 168 in Clovis towards Shaver Lake. Continue 13 miles past the lake. Turn on Road 8S10. Follow the signs for 3 miles to the intersection of Road 8S42, and then travel 2.5 miles to reach the trail heads.

West and Strawberry Lakes: Easy. West Lake trail is 1 mile long and Strawberry Lake is 2.5 miles long.

Red Lake: More Difficult, 2 miles in length and takes 1 hour. This route accesses Red Lakes.

Coyote Lake: Most Difficult and is 3.5 miles long and takes 2 hours. It provides access to Coyote Lake.

Mirror Lake: Most Difficult and is 1.5 miles long and takes almost an hour. Route down to the Mirror Lake is a tough one!

Brewer OHV Route: Just above Shaver Lake. Easiest. Great for beginners. It is 3.5 miles and takes about 1 hour to drive. Take Hwy 168 east from Clovis to Shaver Lake. Follow Hwy 168 past the lake to the Tamarack Sno Park Area. Turn east on Road 9S69 and travel about 3 miles, then turn left on Road 9S69. Continue on Road 9S69 for 2 miles until you reach Road 9S10 on your right. Follow Road 9S10 for 1.5 miles to you get to a gate.



Make sure to stay on trail routes so as not to negatively impact the surrounding forest.

Bald Mountain: Only route locally open year-round. Accessible from the south by taking Dinkey Creek Rd. east from Shaver Lake about 9.5 miles, turn left on Rock Creek Road (9S09). Go north on Rd 9S09 for 3.5 miles to start of the route. Staying right at the first two intersections will put you on the more challenging lower loop. Stay left for the most direct and easier route to the top of Bald Mountain.

DeBenedetto's Moose Haven at Shaver Lake

16 guests · 5 bedrooms
· 9 beds · 2.5 baths

Make Your Reservation at
[Airbnb.com/h/moosehaven](https://www.airbnb.com/h/moosehaven)



A short drive will bring you to Shaver Lake, where you can enjoy boating, fishing, jet skiing, and more!



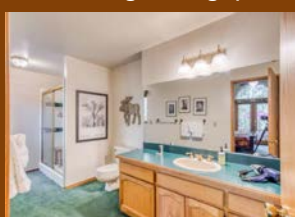
This comfortable home in the Granite Ridge Subdivision near Shaver Lake offers modern amenities and plenty of space for a large group or multiple families.

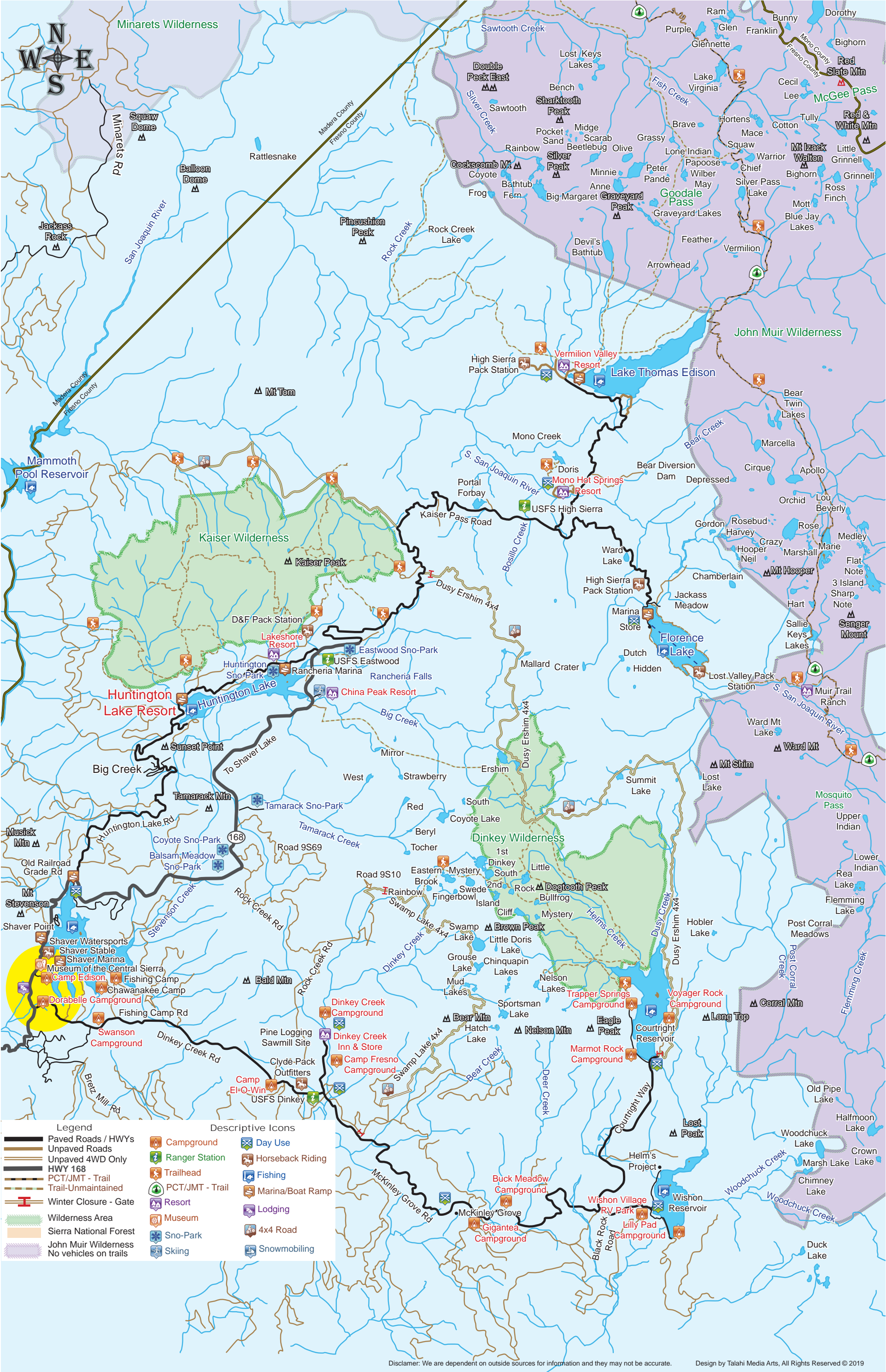


There is a wood-burning fireplace and comfortable leather furniture in the living room, a huge deck with forest views for outdoor dining, soaking up sunshine, and running around.



Kitchen has a gas grill and is fully outfitted for all your cooking needs. Group the kids together in the large bunk room to play games or watch movies.





Disclaimer: We are dependent on outside sources for information and they may not be accurate.

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In Depth Guide to Camping With Friendly Canine Friend

Camping with a dog can be a wonderful experience. An experience that benefits their well-being and deepens their bond with you.

But it be overwhelming as you try to determine what to bring, where to go, and how to care for your dog(s) out on the trail.

It is much more common these days to see hikers and campers moving through the forests with their favorite furry companions.

But, be aware that pets and vacations don't always go hand in hand. However, one of the reasons you got a dog in the first place was to have adventures together, right?

So the most important thing is be honest with yourself about your particular pup or pups. Will they be a good match for the camping world, or should they be left at home?

Why is camping with dogs is so much fun? The reasons to take your dog camping by far outweigh leaving them behind.

Yes, they can restrict your plans somewhat. But the enjoyment we get from them is multiplied when we're out on an adventure together in the scenic Sierra National Forest.

- They are a great source of distraction from letting your mind drift back to 'at home' worries.

- They keep your kids entertained

so you can snatch precious quiet time here and there.

- So long as they've had their exercise, they're always good for afternoon nap time with you.

- They provide protection for you when you are camping in more wild locations.

- They draw you to other dog owners, making it easy to meet new people.

- They're always keen to help collect wood for the fire.

- You're guaranteed to get morning kisses – whether you like it or not!

- You'll never miss a sunrise – being woken up by pawing at the tent zipper does have its benefits (honestly!).

- They'll create moments to remember forever.

What sort of dog do you have? If you've never taken your furry friend camping, it's worth considering if your dog is a 'camping dog' or not. Be honest. You don't want to bother others.

Is your dog a yapper? No-one wants a dog barking at nothing for hours or long into the night. So if your hound has a tendency to vocalize their woes then set up your camp far away from other people.

Does your dog tend to be aggressive around other dogs?



Vacationing with your furry friend can be rewarding for both of you. But you need to be sure that you dog is trained to mind your commands or you are going to be disappointed on the trip.

sive around other dogs?

If fiddo enjoys likes a bit of a scrap now and again, then make sure you keep it leashed **AT ALL TIMES**.

But, that will no stop other dogs approaching your dog to arrange for a sniff or two. Therefore, you might want to consider carrying a muzzle too.

Will your dog come back when you call him? If not, then again, you will need to keep your dog on a leash, both at camp and out and about.

Does your dog hate being on a leash? If this is the case, then wilderness camping, far from others, is the way forward for your and the beast. Pet friendly camping grounds need to have their rules

and there will be strict regulations on free-roaming dogs.

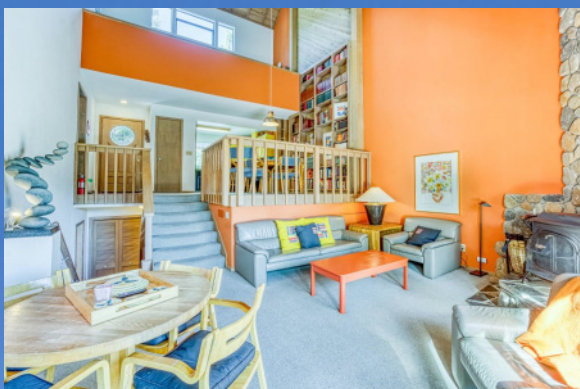
What will you be doing on your camping trip? If you plan on spending your days sightseeing in towns or visiting tourist attractions, bringing your dog along probably won't work. Leaving unattended dogs at a campground or in a hot vehicle for hours is a really bad and unhealthy idea.

Be prepared and plan ahead to choose a campsite that allows dogs. There might be extra costs and certain restrictions. Make sure your animals has an ID on them so it will be easy to identify. Add details of the campground and your mobile number to a temporary tag. More Details:

ShaverLakeTimes.com/camping-with-furry-friends/



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Building a Proper Campfire Takes Skill and Knowledge

Sitting around a warm fire with friends and family is a pleasant way in which to spend an evening while on vacation.

Knowing how to properly build, maintain and douse a campfire is very important. Your safety and the environment around you depend upon how well you tend your fire.

If you are staying in a developed campground, you must build fires only in a designated fire ring, grill or fireplace. These are provided primarily to keep your fire contained.



Many camp sites will have a fire ring in place in which you can build a safe fire.

When camping in an undeveloped site, be sure making a fire is allowed. Additionally, a campfire permit may be required.

Look around the site before starting a fire. Gather some rocks and make a fire ring. If there are pine needles nearby or low-hanging branches, keep your fire small. In dry conditions, fly-away embers

could easily ignite a wildfire. Don't make a fire in these conditions.

In backcountry areas where fires are permitted, try to find and use an existing fire ring. When you leave, clean it out. If there is none, build



A safe controlled campfire can be made in a fire pit that you find at your camp site. When done, dismantle it.

An alternative to a fire ring is a mound fire. Use your shovel to build a round, flat platform of dirt. It should be about 6-8 inches high. Use this as the base for your fire. You can easily disperse the mound when you're finished.

Next you need to gather your fuel for the fire. There are three types:

- Tinder includes small twigs, dry leaves, needles or forest duff.
- Kindling consists of small sticks, typically less than one inch around.
- Firewood is any larger piece of wood and is what will keep your fire going long into the night.

It is important to only use local



One of the greatest thrills you can experience when camping is sitting around a nice campfire with friends and family, perhaps enjoying a barbecue dinner or s'mores!

firewood. Grocery and convenience stores as well as places offering sporting goods usually have firewood for sale. Many times a campground host has bundles of firewood for sale.

Do not bring your own wood. Campgrounds may even ban bringing firewood to avoid introducing troublesome insects into a forest.

When foraging for firewood, gather wood laying on the ground. Do not cut live trees or break off branches from standing trees, even dead trees. Birds and wildlife make use of dead branches and snags.



Gather firewood that is dead and down on the ground. Do not cut trees or branches.

Don't use wood larger than your wrist. Larger chunks of wood rarely burn completely and typically end up as charred, ugly scraps.

Cone, Log Cabin or Pyramid methods to build your fire.

Cone: Make a small cone of kindling around a few handfuls of tinder loosely piled in the center of the fire ring. You add larger logs a few at a time as needed.

Log Cabin: Put two large pieces of firewood parallel to one another. Leave room between them to form a base. Then place two slightly smaller pieces on top at a 90 degree angle and perpendicular to form a square. Set plenty of tinder in the middle of the square. Continue adding a few more layers of firewood around the perimeter, getting a little bit smaller with each layer. Finish with a layer of kindling and tinder across the top. Leave space between logs so the fire can get plenty of oxygen.

Pyramid: Begin with 3 or 4 large logs set side-by-side as a bottom layer. Turn 90 degrees and add second layer of smaller logs on top. Alternate this pattern with a few more layers, making each one smaller. Put some kindling and tinder on top.

Light the tinder with a match or

lighter. Using fire starter that is designed to easily ignite can help the tinder catch the flame. (Be sure to carry waterproof matches and fire starter. Fire-making materials are considered one of the Ten Essentials.) After lighting the tinder, blow lightly at the base of the fire to provide oxygen, which will help increase the intensity of the flame and further ignite the wood. As the fire burns, move embers to the center to burn them completely. Ideally, you should reduce them to white ash.

Extinguish your fire by pouring water on it, (be careful not to stand where the steam can scald you), stirring the ashes, then applying more water. Repeat as often as needed. Ashes should be cool to the touch before you leave the site. Be utterly certain a fire and its embers are out and cold before you depart.

Note that the practice of using dirt or sand to extinguish a fire is problematic because it can insulate coals, which can become uncovered later, igniting a wildfire.



Always make sure your campfire is completely out before you leave the camp site.

Never leave campfire unattended!

Clean up the Campfire

Burn trash items only if they can be fully consumed by fire and turned to ash. Do not attempt to burn plastic, cans or foil. If you do burn something that's not fully consumed, collect the remains when the fire is out and either pack it out or put it in a trash receptacle.

When you're in the backcountry, pack out any trash found in your pit. Extract any charcoal pieces left inside your ring, carry them away from your site, crush the chunks, then scatter the remnants and dust throughout a broad area. Dismantle any structure you might have built.

Register at: SARWildRun.com

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Hiking in the Sierra Will Be a Different Experience in 2023

(continued from page 1)
not just atop its peaks, through June, into July and possibly into August.

“This is the winter that doesn’t want to end,” said Tyler Salas, a regional meteorologist.

The 2023 snow pack will cause hiking season delays. It will make it difficult for those reluctant to give up early reserved permits for popular trails like the John Muir.

“It’s not just about difficulty. Hiking in the snow is difficult,” said Peter Hirst, who leads trips for the Sierra Club and REI. “But it’s about danger-

Safe Hiking Checklist

 Hiking Boots	 Lots of Water	 Map & Compass
 Snack or a Lunch	 Rain Gear Extra Clothes	 Light & Batteries
 First Aid Kit	 Matches & Firestarter	 Knife or Multi-Tool

ous stream and river crossings.”
As the snow pack melts, it will turn rivers and even smaller creeks into raging torrents, making for wet crossings more dangerous. Even bridges may be washed out.

If you have particular trail in mind, and are concerned about access, contact a local pack station and ask about conditions in their region.

Day Hike and Backpacking Trails

These trails lead into wilderness areas. Get a wilderness permit for any trail if you are staying overnight.

Permits are available online at: recreation.gov/permits/445858 or at High Sierra Ranger District Prather office. All permits must be picked up at this office.

Kaiser Loop trail is 15.6 miles long, begins at Deer Creek Trail head and ends at Loop.

Dinkey Lakes trail is 11.3 miles long beginning at Willow Meadow and ends at Cliff Lake Trail head.

Dinkey Creek trail is 11.7 miles long, beginning at Cow Creek Quarry and ends at Deer Creek.

String Meadow trail is 11.3 miles long beginning at Onion Springs Trail head and ends at Silver Creek.

Stevenson trail is 11.5 miles long beginning at Isberg 24e01 and ends at Ritter Creek.

College Rock Trail head is five miles round trip. No fishing or swimming or facilities. A steep and

strenuous hike. Great view once you reach College Rock. Trail head starts at D & F Pack Station.

Bear Ridge Trail head - From the Eastwood Visitor Center in Huntington Lake go 17 miles on Kaiser Pass road to Edison Lake turnoff go left and travel 5.9 miles to the Bear Ridge turn off. The PCT can be accessed from this trail head.

Mono Creek Trail head - Edison Lake Area. Trail head starts not to far past Vermillion Valley Resort approximately 1 mile, stay to the right and continue .5 mile to the trail head. Trails accessed from this point are Devil’s Bathtub; Graveyard Lakes, Quail Meadows, PCT.

Rancheria Falls Trail - Huntington Lake Area, gentle grade rises from 7200’ to 8,120’ and is steeper at the base of the Falls. About one mile past China Peak Resort, turn right on road. Trail head is 1.2 miles up the Rancheria Falls Rd. Accessible Restroom at trail head. Two miles round trip.

Nellie Lake Trail head - Kaiser Wilderness - Travel on Huntington Lake Road to Upper Billy Creek Campground. The trail head is 1/2 mile behind the campground. Follow the sign towards the overflow camping. Ten mile round trip is 3 hours with numerous stops due to



With the winter storms of 2022/2023, open trails devoid of snow may not be the norm until late June or even mid July in some of the higher elevations in the Sierra Forest.

the steepness, a 3,000’ elevation climb. Excellent day hike as well as a beautiful sub-alpine lake.

Billy Creek Trail head – Huntington Lake area. Access to Kaiser Loop Trail, Nellie Lake and Mary’s Meadow trails.

Black Point National Recreation Trail – Huntington Lake/Kaiser Wilderness. Access to Black Point National Recreation Trail head.

Coarse Grass Trail head - Entrance into the south west corner of Kaiser Wilderness. Trail leads past Coarse meadow toward the Northwest Corner of Huntington Lake.

Deer Creek Trail head - Access to: Potter Creek Trail, Kaiser Loop Trail, Mary’s Meadow

Hidden Trail head - Access to: Gloria Meadow Trail, Kaiser Loop, Nellie Lake Trails

Potter Cutoff Trail head - Access to: Potter Creek Trail, Kaiser Loop trail, Upper and Lower Twin Lakes

Pryor Trail head – Access to Pryor Lake from Kaiser Peak area.

Sample Trail head - Access to: North entrance to the Kaiser Wilderness, trail ties into Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, Potter Pass, Kaiser Loop Trail. Trail head is shared with the **Rattlesnake** Trail head into the Ansel Adams Wilderness.



A major logging operation took place in the Sierra Forest near Dinkey Creek.

Pine Logging Sawmill Great for Half Day Trip

For a fun morning or afternoon adventure, go visit the old Pine Logging Camp near Dinkey Creek.

It was built in 1937 and remained in operation until 1979. You can visit the historic town site just off Dinkey Creek Road about 11 miles from the community of Shaver Lake. See PineLogging.org/Home

This lumber camp along with its mills was a self-contained community that operated during the spring, summer and fall seasons.

As you descend toward the community of Dinkey Creek on Dinkey Creek Road, you will see a sign for a CDF station on the left. It is well worth the time spent wandering among the various rustic buildings and imagining what life would have been like in this busy community.

The immense wood scrap burner still stands out the areas central feature. If you go inside, with all the bullet holes, it is like being in a kind of planetarium.

Bring along your camera, snacks or a lunch, sunscreen, water and comfortable shoes.

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Several Hot Springs Near San Joaquin River to Enjoy

The Kaiser Wilderness features active geothermal pockets. These naturally warmed waters rise to the surface through granite rock formations. Here, Mother Nature has blessed the region with several natural hot springs in which you can soak and relax.

They are located near the San Joaquin River, not far from the Mono Hot Springs campground. Most of these hot springs were cemented in and made much more comfortable by men working on the early Florence Lake Dam in the 1920s.

You can reach these rustic hot by traveling over 9,100 ft. Kaiser Pass. After nine miles of paved but much of it one lane road, turn onto the well-marked Edison Lake Road dropping down and crossing the San Joaquin with the turn off to the campground just past the bridge.

Here is a partial list

Old Pedro - Cross over to the south side of the river and make your ascent up the hill about forty feet to "Old Pedro" – one of Mono's hottest springs averaging around 106-107 degrees with daily variations.

The two cement lined pools are the remnants of a bath house built by the California Conservation Corps in 1934. It is an in and out

pool – you can't continuously stay in it without having to get out and cool down after ten or fifteen minutes.

Reed Pools - Climbing another 100 yards above Old Pedro, you find Reed Pools. They are cooler and refreshing on hot days. Behind the circular cement water tank are remnants of the old bath house.

At times a hot spring outflows from a pipe with a tub beneath it. This is a perfect place to sit and let the hot water pour over the top of your head!

From the hot springs in the vicinity of Old Pedro, you have three alternates for reaching the other hot springs. You can walk about 300 yards east through a muddy meadow with stepping stones on which you can hop on to keep from sinking into the mud to the Iodine Springs.

With a more strenuous hike one can reach "Little Eden", a swimming pool size hot spring perched high on the ridge through the steep meadows.

To avoid a steep climb to reach Little Eden, return across the river to your vehicle. Drive back across the bridge. Park at the trail head on the south side.

About 100 yards down the path heading west along the river you will see water crossing the footpath. Look up to your left to water source



Scattered along the San Joaquin River on the Edison Lake Road are several hot springs that are very popular with hikers and campers. Plan to drive up and take a relaxing soak.

and you'll see a large granite outcropping with a pool called the Rock Garden beside it.

It is a warmer hot spring, big enough for several folks with beautiful maiden hair ferns tumbling into the pool above the bubbles which is the hottest part of the pool at about 104 degrees.

Mud Baths is 30 yards uphill and over the rocks. It is a cooler pool. The soft clay lining makes for excellent facials!

Another 140 yards down the path from Rock Garden and the Mud Baths is Iodine Springs. These cement lined tubs are deep enough to stand in.

The easy way to get to Little Eden, a hot spring big enough to

swim in, is to drive up Edison Lake Road one mile and cross a small grated bridge. Park in recessed area just above the bridge.

Walk out onto the rocks below the road overlooking the basin, When you see the resort below, look to your left and discover a beautiful pool perched on the very top of a ridge – the last place you would expect to find standing water! Its easiest to circle around to your left from this vantage point and reach Little Eden going down the path on the west side of the boulders to reach the pool below.

Rose Garden is nearby. It is another of the cooler pools where you can sit without having to get in and out.



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Be a Great Camper - Don't Leave Your Footprint Behind

Bring your family, friends or that special someone and enjoy your time in the forest. But, be sure to do your part in leaving all the forest lands and campgrounds in a healthy condition and trash free.

When you check your calendars and plan to gear up and go camping, a checklist is normally made. In so doing, you pack the must haves for the trip; food, water, camping equipment, maps, electronics and so forth. Important items commonly overlooked in the mad dash to hit the road are trash and recycle bags.

This simple oversight causes hundreds of man hours and thousands of dollars each year in clean up labor.

Recycling helps us to convert old products into new useful ones. Saving resources and sending less trash to the landfills helps to reduce air and water pollution. In other words, it's good for the environment.

Reasons to Recycle - Not Litter:

1. Protects Wildlife: Using recycled materials reduces damage

forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.

2. Good for our Economy: U.S. companies rely on recycling programs to provide raw material they need to make new products.


3. Reduces water pollution: Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.

4. Reduces waste: The average American discards seven pounds of garbage every day. Most of this goes into landfills.

5. Litter lasts a long time: orange peels--two years, plastic bags--10-20 years, tin cans--50 years, aluminum cans--80-100 years, glass bottles--1 million years, plastic bottles--Indefinitely.


So next time travel for a day, weekend or extended vacation to the mountains to enjoy a beautiful lake, planning an exciting hike, or just recreating for the day please help keep the local mountains clean and safe.

Leave No Trace




Leave No Trace - Be prepared with food, water and clothes to protect from cold, heat and rain. Research Travel Area. Use maps. Keep dogs on leash.

Stick to Trails and Camp Overnight Correctly - Walk and ride on trails to protect trailside plants. Avoid stepping on plants or trees. Respect private property. Use existing or designated campsites.




Pack It In and Pack It Out - Put all litter in plastic trash bags. Take it out with you. Use bathrooms or outhouses. If none, dig hole and bury human waste 6" - 8" deep, 200' from water.

Leave It As You Found It - Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you found them so others can enjoy them. Treat living plants with respect. Don't carve your name into trees.



Be Careful With Fire - Use campstove for cooking if possible. Be very careful with a campfire and remember it is not a garbage can. Make sure campfire is completely out before leaving site.

Let the Wildlife Alone - Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Never approach, feed or follow them. Store your food where wildlife cannot to it. Human food is very bad for forest critters.



Share Trails and Manage Your Pet - Be considerate to others on trail. Keep pets under control. Listen the sounds of nature. Don't make loud sounds. Don't bother anyone else.

Catch and Release Fishing Method Good Idea for Fish and Fisherman

Catching and then releasing them back into the water ensures that fish populations remain healthy. It increases a chance of reeling in the really big one.

- Upon releasing a fish, most anglers figure that if it swims away, it's just fine and will survive. Unfortunately, this isn't necessarily true.

- Fish hooked in the gills or gut have a much lower rate of survival than those hooked in the outer portions of the mouth.

Many think you can bring a deeply hooked fish in, cut the leader, and the hook will rust out right away. No such data exists. A gut hooked fish has better chance of survival if you cut the line.

Mortality is also affected by exhaustion. Exhaustion creates extremely high levels of lactic acid - potentially fatal. Also, large fish have a problem with overheat-

ed muscles that break down in the course of a long fight. An exhausted fish has problems avoiding predators after release.

Fish have a protective outer layer of slime. Handling them with dry hands can remove that slime and leave them prone to infection. Don't net the fish or lift them out of the water. Don't hold them up for mug shots. Keep them submerged, reach over with a hook-out and set them free.

Keep the fish in the water and resuscitate it. Handle the fish gently with wet hands or moist gloves. If you must net it, use a release net made of soft knot less fabric and keep the fish under water in the net. Don't lift the fish up in the air or squeeze it. I know you want a picture before you let it go, but that photo-op may kill the model.

Story by Angling Unlimited

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Great for Exercise and Viewing the Beautiful Mountain Scenery

There's a sense of freedom that comes along with riding a bicycle. From mountain biking to road cycling, each one provides a different aspect to the sport that should be experienced. Luckily, the Sierra National Forest is a mountain biker's dream! It is the home to a variety of cycling adventures.

Here's just a few of the cool biking opportunities available to you in and around Shaver Lake.

Crisp mountain air, a variety of easy or aggressive trail rides mixed with the scenic tours make bike riding a great pastime for all ages. You can experience miles of mountain biking trails through majestic Sierra National Forest in the Kaiser Wilderness and Dinkey Wilderness as well as the Courtright and Wishon Reservoir regions.

The Sierra National Forest offers some of the finest single-track riding anywhere, from easy to technical. Detailed maps are available at Shaver Lake Sports and a guide to the region published by the Shaver Lake Visitor's Bureau is to be found at most business in the region.

Nonetheless, there are many opportunities for two-wheel enthusiasts on, or near, the Sierra National Forest.

Paved roads that head into the forest are usually very steep but offer scenic-if challenging- hill climbing. Summers can be hot and dry. It's



Many forest trails are shared by hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. important to carry extra water.

The Dinkey Creek trail is 11.7 miles long. It begins at Cow Creek Quarry and ends at Deer Creek. The trail is great for Mountain Biking and hikers as well.

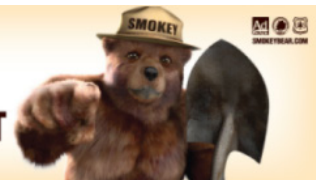
The ride from Mono Hot Springs to Edison or Florence Lakes round trip is about 10 miles. The trail to Florence is fairly steep. The one to Edison is a less strenuous and very scenic.

You can ride the Kaiser Pass Road to Sample Meadows then the Stump Springs Road down to Big Creek and back to Shaver.

You can cover 56 miles round trip from Shaver Lake to the dam at Wishon. Courtright Reservoir is another nice place to take a bike ride. It is about 11 miles from the Wishon Village Store. It is in beautiful high Sierra terrain that is often referred to as "Tuolumne Meadows without the crowds".

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Naturally being interested in what enticed Kokanee Salmon and trout to his line, he experimented with a variety of spinners, flashers, and lures.

Dick was born in Tulare, California on July 21st, 1946. His fishing career started at age four. His folks owned a sporting goods and market



Dick Nichols is a legendary Shaver Lake Fishing Guide who created a line of tackle.

at Lake Success in Tulare County. His father was a great fisherman and taught the young boy well.

However, Dicks says "My mom was as good a fisherman as dad, and my dad was very good."

He attended Porterville High School and helped with the family business. At 17, my dad asked me to take a group of TV country and

western entertainers fishing on Success Lake. They all gathered on our family pontoon boat. I knew all the band except members except one guy. When I asked him his name, he answered Merle. He was the famous singer, Merle Haggard.

He became great friends with my family. I guess he and the band were the beginning of my fish guiding career.

During his years at Porterville High, he met classmate Diane. They began dating and were married in 1966. The two have been loving partners for the past 56 years.

"Yeah, one fine fisherman lives here, with the catch of his life," chuckled Dick.

"I fished Lake Success, streams, and ponds six days a week during my younger years," said Dick. "It seems I was born to have a fishing pole in my hand."

Dick served with the Army and was stationed at Fort Ord, California. Then he joined the California Highway Patrol in 1968, from which he retired in 2004, after spending parts of five decades.

After retiring, he spent a lot of his free time fishing. Since he always caught fish, his friends loved to accompany him. He helped them catch fish too!

So, in 2005 I realized my dream job of serving as a fishing guide on Shaver Lake. For the next 17 years I helped the old and young alike to enjoy a day on Shaver Lake trying



Hundreds of pictures like the one above have been taken over the years by Dick Nichols so those fishing with him can take home a lasting evidence that they did well on the fishing trip.

to outwit fish.

During his time as a guide, Dick started making various types of tackle and tested it while taking customers fishing. His creations worked great.

"Everyone that fished with me used the fishing tackle that I created," boasted Dick. "Dave Hurley, the iconic Fresno Bee fishing report writer, suggested I market my tackle."

Dick decided to try his suggestion and thanks to old sporting goods managers like Bob Scharton, at Herb Bauer's, Karen Newman at Valley Rod and Gun and Debby Dixon at Shaver Lake Sports, he got a chance to offer his line of tackle to the general public. It worked!

"At present, Dick's Mountain Tackle is offered at 10 stores in Fresno, Tulare and Madera counties.

It has been estimated that over 13,500 Kokanee and trout were caught by Dick's guide service guests over 17 years.

"They all used my tackle," stated Dick. "I'm totally confident this tackle and feel those using it will have the same success on the right days!"

So, these days Dick is busy measuring leader line, tying hooks and assembling his line of tackle.

Check out Nichol's website at DicksMountainTackle.com to see all the products available. Try them out for yourself. Soon both you and the fish will be hooked.



Record Snowfall Claims Historic Bridge on Dinkey Creek This Winter

The Dinkey Creek Bridge, a popular historic bridge, built in 1938 was destroyed by snow this winter.

This Truss Bridge is said to be the first "bow-string arch truss" bridge constructed in California.

The bridge was closed to vehicle traffic in 1965. In 1988 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"I know there is a lot of snow up there and so to see it have that kind of impact is -- it's devastating," said Kim Sorini-Wilson, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger.

More than a bridge, it was a very

special place and served as a personal landmark in the lives of thousands of forest visitors.

"You hear about folks getting married on the bridge, others having the ashes if relatives placed in and around the bridge," said Aguirre said Aaron Aguirre Director of Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services with the City of Fresno, who administers the nearby Camp Fresno.

"It does have a sentimental value to many people -- not just in the Shaver/Dinkey Creek area, but throughout the Valley."



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Stargazing With Kids - How to Inspire Young Astronomers

Stargazing with children is an enjoyable pastime for parents and kids. Here are some suggestions to make astronomy fun for kids when you go camping. Let your child lead the way and listen to their questions about space and the night sky.

Start Early

The sky is darkest after midnight, but you'll still be able to spot the moon, a few planets, and the most brilliant stars right after sunset. Get the full effect of a camping trip when bedtimes are more relaxed. Remember to bring layers when you are venturing outside, as it can be cold at night even in summer. Bug spray, snacks and drinks are all recommended.

The first consideration should be getting comfortable. Bring a mat to lie on or camp chairs. Allow time to adjust to the dark. Keep an eye on the weather. Have a back-up plan should clouds appear or rain sets in.

Find The Stars

A number of websites are devoted to help you find constellations. Some sites allow you to print a sky map that will show you where stars will appear. You can even use your phone to find helpful stargazing resources and apps. The iPhone-friendly SkyView – Explore the Universe or the Sky Map app

for Android users provide information and assistance in searching for constellations.

Have Fun

Try a mix of activities and don't worry if things don't go the way you plan. Never be afraid to answer with "I don't know, but that's a good question. Let's look it up together." Build on their curiosity, kids learn better through play, so have fun! Here are some tips for getting into astronomy.

Protect Your Night Vision

Lanterns and flashlights create light pollution that can prevent a clear view. Cover your white lantern or flashlight with cellophane or red paper. This will make it easier to see more stars and dimmer constellations. Turn your phone screen off or turn your screen red to protect your night vision.

Get the Gear

Increase your child's understanding with astronomy apps for phones or tablets or 10 x 50 binoculars, which magnify stars well and are easier for kids to hold steady than a telescope. Look for lightweight models and check the smallest eye width setting fits them. Get them into the habit of always using the neck strap. Check when Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn



Teach your kids about the stars whenever you have the chance. Your next camping trip is the ideal time to start them learning. High altitude skies offer an array of fantastic views.

will be visible and avoid trying to observe the fainter planets during the brightness of a full Moon.

Find the Pictures

Think of the galaxy as a game of connect-the-dots; challenge kids to find constellations. Read legends about common ones, like Orion and Perseus, to help kids remember what they've seen.

Follow a Stars

The skies above can become comfortably familiar if you teach little ones to look for a few easy-to-spot constellations again and again. Two to return to: the Big Dipper and Venus.

Look for bright targets

"What is the brightest thing you can see in the sky tonight?" It is easiest to start by looking for bright targets, so teach them how to observe the Moon or how to find the planets.

Do they notice the red glow from Mars? Have they seen the Moon during the day? Try asking them how you might measure the change in the apparent shape of the Moon over time. They could take a picture or draw the Moon with glow in-the-dark paint once a week.

A verse of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star leads nicely into a discussion about why stars twinkle, but planets don't twinkle as much. The

stars, being much further away and pinpoints of light, appear to flicker because of the way their light is affected by our atmosphere. The planets, which are much closer and reflect the light from the Sun, aren't affected as much.

Other Things To Consider

Star colors: Stars often change color and temperature as they age. Try to look for stars that are white, blue, yellow, orange or red.

Constellations: The sky is full of constellations, which are groups of stars named after people, animals and objects.

The Milky Way: Light from millions of distant stars makes up the Milky Way. It may appear as a faint cloud if you are able to see it. The best time to view it is February to October.

Moon phases: While stargazing, check which phase the moon is in. The sun reflects on the moon's surface differently depending on its position around Earth. While stargazing, you may see a full moon or you may only be able to see a small sliver of it.

Wildlife: Watch for wildlife while stargazing. You may be able to see or hear owls, bats, opossums, raccoons and other animals under the night sky.

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With all of the winter rain and snow, Huntington Lake is going to be delayed on getting topped off. Southern California Edison is forecasting the lake to be about 5 ft down at the end of May and then back full (one to two feet down as usual) by the second week in June providing another perfect setting for the 2023 High Sierra Regatta. It looks like deep keel boats will have difficulty launching in May, but the shallow draft boats should be fine. The regatta will be held the weekends of July 8-9 and July 15-16. Get full regatta details at FresnoYachtClub.org/high-sierra-regatta. Have a great sailing season!

Hiking With Misty The Dog That Saved My Life

It was on a Monday morning at our campsite in early June. I told my husband, Ed, I wanted to go on a hike to take pictures of wildflowers and the beautiful Sierra scenery.

This was my first camping trip with him at Wishon Village RV Resort. I wanted to go hike a trail the resort owner told me about when I was shopping at their general store. This would also be my first time hiking alone.

My husband suggested I take our dog Misty with me. We talked about



Misty and Debora shared an interesting experience hiking in the Sierra Nevada.

where I was going. I explained I was going on a trail that would take me downhill away from the resort. It led south in the direction of the north fork of the Kings River. It was in this area that I was to look for a historic foot bridge.

It was good that we talked about where I was going and how long I would be away. We agreed on my hiking plan. It was important that he knew where I was going and about how long I would be away from camp. Figuring I would be gone most of the day, I packed a small

Visit Information Kiosk at Community Center

“What is there to do and see here?” “Where can I camp?” “Is propane available up here?” “What’s on the other side of Kaiser Pass?” “Is there a grocery store around here?” “Can I get a regional map somewhere?”

Visitors have an easy way to find what they’re looking for. The Shaver Lake Volunteers group realized that tourists needed overview of the region.

Diverting from their normal focus on trails, the group constructed a unique Visitor Information Kiosk in the Shaver Lake Community Center parking lot just off Highway 168, near Dinky Creek Road.



Kiosk was generously provided by the Shaver Lake Volunteers, a volunteer group.

backpack with a snack and water bottle for Misty and me.

Off we went, the two of us, so happy together. She is an Australian Shepherd that loved to go everywhere with us all the time. As I hiked down the hill my eyes were filled with rays of sparkling sunshine with butterflies and birds flying nearby. I was also busy taking pictures of wildflowers along the trail.

The earth beneath my hiking boots was a combination of decomposed granite dirt and gravel. It was heavily covered with pine cones and pine needles. As I hiked along the trail, I saw a few small stone trail markers. But as I walked farther along, the trail became less noticeable.

After 90 minutes of hiking, Misty and I started walking over a huge granite rock that had a giant horizontal crack across a third of the area. Off in the distance was my destination, the historic foot bridge. We continued to just the right spot where I could get a good shot.

We made It! Misty and I hiked to the historic footbridge. I got wonderful pictures of the bridge, the wildflowers and the beautiful Sierra scenery. I was so happy and filled with joy on that early summer day. I was able to go on such a wonderful hike with my dear sweet Misty. We sat in the shade and ate a snack and drank some water. Misty and I made it through the first half of our hike. We were rested. Now it was time to head back to camp.



Misty, an Australian Shepherd, loved playing with nearly anything that could be thrown.

Like anyone who loves their dog I said, “let’s go girl” and we started walking back uphill away from the beautiful Sierra wildflowers and the iconic historic foot bridge that had all my attention. Off we went to hike back to camp.

We started walking across the huge granite rock with the giant horizontal crack. When I tried to walk directly over the crack Misty stopped right in front of me! I tried to walk around her, but she blocked me. I scolded her and then went down a different direction away from where she wouldn’t let me walk.

After I stepped away a few steps I stopped. I looked back into the crack of the rock. I then saw why Misty was not letting me cross that section



Historic Cliff Camp Bridge is a suspension bridge over the North Fork of the Kings River, downstream of Wishon Reservoir, was built by rangers and a party of mining men, in 1916.

of rock. There were four large rattlesnakes resting in the crack!

All through our hike I had Misty on a leash. She was walking com-



The rattlesnake is a species of pit viper. It is venomous, with a very toxic bite. Avoid it.

fortably next to me as we walked on enjoying our journey. Misty was only 3 years old and had only basic obedience training, like sit, stay and come.

As we hiked along the trail after

the huge granite rock the well-worn path started to disappear. I didn’t notice at first. I thought I was going in the right direction, hiking uphill and toward our campsite. I gradually noticed that Misty was pulling me and I gave her the command “heel”.

I tried to get her to walk in the direction I thought we should go, but she just sat down and refused to move! So, I sat down next to her. I gave her a hug and I asked her to help me. At that moment I realized I was lost. I had no idea where the trail was.

I said, “OK girl, go find Ed!” and she did! Misty led me all the way back to camp. I was glad that I didn’t go hiking alone, that dog saved my life twice!

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Learn a New Camping Skill, Old Style Dutch Oven Cooking

Today using a Dutch Oven to cook has a new following. Dutch Oven Cook Offs have become nearly as popular as Chili Cook Offs.

Back in the day, Dutch Ovens were central to cooking out in the open for pioneers, miners, cowboys and others for years.

With a Dutch Oven, an inventive cook can roast, bake, simmer, fry, boil and steam their food. They can bake delicious fresh bread, cobblers, cakes and pies.

On a recent camping trip, a friend of the *Shaver Lake Times* decided to bake some biscuits for his family's dinner. Here is his explanation.



Placing coals on the lid well as placing the oven on coals cooks everything evenly.

"My wife was given a Dutch Oven for Christmas. So naturally we took it with us on a camping trip to Death Valley," he explained.

"We decided would bake some biscuits to try out this new device. What could go wrong with baking

some biscuits?"

"I took a roll of Trader Joe's Buttermilk Biscuits and separated them into individual biscuits on the bottom of the Dutch Oven," he continued as we sat on the outside porch drinking a beer.



You can simply hang your Dutch Oven over a campfire to prepare your evening meal.

"I had a good fire going and put the oven in the campfire pit. Then I let them bake for about 10 minutes as suggested on the package," my friend continued. "You can imagine my surprise when I opened the lid and saw my biscuits literally on fire."

"Obviously, I needed to learn how to do this correctly, so I opened another roll of biscuits," he concluded with a chuckle or two.

He has since spent time learning how to use this cooking system and has successfully baked bread, roasted chicken, made some delicious pulled pork and tasty tri-tip.

There are two cooking methods.



Camp cooking is naturally a necessity when out in the wilderness. Why not try Dutch Oven cooking. This is a skill that is easy and it is fun to practice. Results can be delicious.

First you can use it to cook an item or dish and second you can place a dish on a trivet in the Dutch Oven which will keep the dish from burning the food inside.

You can even put a Dutch Oven on a stove top or into your regular oven at home.

Here are some basics to help you get started. When roasting, coals must be equally distributed on the lid and under the oven. For baking,

have more heat on the lid than under the oven. A three to one ratio is suggested. Boiling and frying require heat from the bottom.

Most of the heat comes from the bottom with a few coals on the lid, which can be used as a griddle for pancakes or eggs.

So read more about how to use a Dutch Oven and give it a try on your next camping trip. It can be fun for the whole family!

Test Your Kayaking Skills Over Short Thrilling Stretch Along Dinkey Creek

(continued from page 1)

This year Dinkey Creek should be at a prime high to medium flow, even into the summer months. This creek offers a relatively short run of just six miles long. But it is jam-packed with huge slides and awesome rapids, with very little space between the horizon lines.

Dinkey Creek starts with a bang. After a few short paddle strokes into the run you slide down a huge put in slide. The water continues to flow down massive, smooth and beautiful pieces of granite for awhile.



Here comes some excitement as the kayaker shoots towards some fast white water ahead.

down them.

"After Willie Kern's there is a short pool before a perfect 20 foot waterfall," Dorr continued. "The stream then temporarily forgets it's good clean and honest nature as it proceeds to deliver three rapids with undercuts and siphons on them. The last of



Running the rapids on Dinkey Creek in the spring and early summer can be thrilling.

which is a relatively big portage."

"However, once you seal launch back in the joy and fun is restored and you continue to drop and work your way through a network of slides and rapids that are simply incredible.

There are some more portages further down the run we did, however, have a phenomenal afternoon blasting down this Californian classic."

There is far too much whitewater to be able to comment on all it, I will simply say that Dinkey Creek both lived up to and exceeded all of my expectations.

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Shaver and **Huntington** Lakes are the two most well known lakes locally. Let us introduce you to **Edison** and **Florence** Lakes as well as the **Wishon** and **Courtright** Reservoirs.

They are accessed from the community of Shaver by taking Dinkey Creek Rd. to McKinley Grove Rd.

You follow McKinley Grove Road through the McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias and on to the two reservoirs that are part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Helm’s Project.

Wishon is just beyond Wishon Village about 26 miles from Shaver. You get to Courtright off McKinley Grove Road by turning onto Courtright Way that will take you by PG&E private housing and onto the reservoir which is about 11 miles from the turnoff.

There are boat launching facilities at both locations. Wishon Vil-

lage RV Park features RV and Tent Camping and a nicely stocked general store. A marina with boat rentals is available as well. Details at WishonVillage.com.

For those ready to try the other direction past Huntington Lake and into the Kaiser Wilderness, you will find **Portal Forbay** (35 miles), **Ward** (40 miles), Edison and Florence Lakes (each 45 miles) as well as fantastic fly fishing on the **San Joaquin River** (40 miles) near Mono Hot Springs. There are public campgrounds available at these locations. Check recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

There are boat rentals and a small store at Florence Lake, plus a ferry service across the lake to popular hiking trails and the Muir Trail Ranch. On the shores of Edison Lake you will find Vermilion Valley Resort with lodging, restaurant, boat rentals, ferry service for PCT hikers and a well stocked general store. You can learn more by visiting Florence-Lake.com or Edison-Lake.com

Fishermen who troll these lakes find them outstanding. Various lures, spinners, lead core line and night crawlers work well. Night crawlers or Power Bait are the best for those shore fishing from shore.



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