

FREE

SHAVER LAKE TIMES

News for Travelers on Where To Shop, Eat, Stay and Play in the Local Sierra Nevada

Issue #2

Spring, Summer, Fall 2021

A Talahi Publication



Open for Business! Come Play and Stay With Family and Friends

Shaver Lake is surrounded by land managed by Southern California Edison and the U.S. Forest Service. It is the gateway to several wilderness regions. Here you will find an art gallery, lodging, camping, dining, gift shops, hardware store, sports bars, a sporting goods store, real estate offices and grocery stores.

It is a blessing to all of us, visitors, businesses and residents alike, that the many outdoor recreational activities that make this area so popular are available again in 2021.

So come take advantage of fishing, hiking, boating, sailing, hunting, rock climbing, horseback riding, bird watching, off road vehicle treks, sight-seeing, water sports and much more.

If you have never been to this part of the Sierra National Forest, welcome. There is always something to do. Or, if you prefer, you can simply relax with a good book.

Go to ShaverLakeTimes.com and

click *Things to Do* to get information on over 30 different exciting adventures that await you.

Take advantage of the Regional Map on page 17 of this paper. It will give you an opportunity to plan ahead on what you might wish to visit or where you might like to stay while here.

The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund

The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund supports long-term Creek Fire recovery efforts in communities within the vicinity of Fresno County's Central Sierra region including, but not limited to, Huntington Lake, Lakeshore, Big Creek, Shaver Lake, Pine Ridge, Meadow Lakes, Alder Springs, and Auberry.

To donate or to learn more about the Resiliency Fund please visit online at sierrahistorical.org/resiliencyfund or call (559) 841-4477. Send an email to resiliencyfund@sierrahistorical.org

Creek Fire Changes Landscape, Massive Restoration Underway

The tragedy of the Creek Fire becomes apparent halfway up the four lane on Highway 168 as the view changes from natural vegetation to a burned out desolate landscape.

It is considered by experts to be one of the most aggressive wildfires in California history. Nearly \$193 million in fire suppression costs were incurred. The estimated property damage tops a half billion dollars. The cause is still unknown.

(continued on page 28)

Guidelines Remain in Place to Help Keep Businesses Open

Be aware of state and local laws. Wear a mask when required. It shows respect for others and helps bring an end to an international nightmare.

Get vaccinated. Use hand sanitizer, limit the size of your party. Keep six feet of distance from those not in your household. Wash hands frequently.



View from the sweeping curve on Highway 168 looking back towards Cressman's General Store.

This devastating fire was sparked in the Big Creek drainage late in the afternoon of September 4, the beginning of Labor Day Weekend.

It destroyed 856 homes and 71 other structures. Twelve campers and 14 firefighters were injured. There were no fatalities. It consumed nearly 400,000 acres. Full containment was finally declared four months later on December 24.

What Saved the Town of Shaver Lake from the Devastating Fire?

You and others traveling to Shaver Lake in 2021 will see firsthand the results of the Creek Fire. Many will wonder why some areas were torched while others, like the town of Shaver Lake, were left unscathed.

When looking closely at maps of the Creek Fire, you notice how the burned areas surround Shaver Lake but don't com-

pletely engulf the shoreline. A section of forest north of the lake withstood the fire despite sitting in its direct path when a wall of flames roared up from Big Creek Canyon in the early morning hours of Sept. 5.

(continued on page 6)



SCE forestry management teams have done prescribed burning on property for many years.

SHAVER LAKE TIMES All the news that fits we print!

- Mountain Biking in the Sierra - 14
- Rock Jocks at Courtright - 4
- Camping With a Furry Friend - 21
- Enjoy Beautiful Wildflowers - 26
- Catch and Release Fishing - 20
- Please Do Not Feed the Wildlife - 5
- Soak in Wilderness Hot Springs - 12
- Muir Trail and PCT Hiking News - 23
- Off Road Trail Suggestions - 19
- Horseback Riding in the Sierra - 4
- Adaptive Sports Program Team - 23
- Sierra Marina Staff Fights Fire - 8
- Six Major Lakes in the Region - 29
- Star Gazing in the Sierra Nevada - 9
- SL Volunteer Information - 16
- Regional Restaurant Available - 11
- Teach the Kids to Make S'mores - 24
- Regional Museums to Explore - 13

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Courtright Challenges Rock Jocks Familiar With Yosemite

Courtright Reservoir is recognized for great trout fishing, but is quickly becoming a mecca for “rock jocks”. Climbing enthusiasts will see the alluring formation of Power Dome as they near the reservoir. It teems with a host of 5-pitch, friction scare-a-thons.

This “*lost sister*” to the well known climbing area of Tuolumne Meadows is located just two hours east of Fresno. Unlike the Yosemite experience, you won’t have to wait in line for a route.

Scattered around the perimeter of Courtright are a myriad of domes and walls.

Lost Canyon Wall - is east along Short Hair Creek featuring moderate, wildly exposed climbs and some steep and overhanging routes (5.7 to 5.11).

Tiger Cage - is east, just a few hundred yards off Courtright Road, slightly south of the reservoir, offering climbs on a thin friction slab, steep face and cracks. Several anchors can be accessed on top for top roping most routes.

Tiger Wall - is next to Tiger Cage, the 75 foot orange and black overhanging Tiger Wall covers stout face and crack climbs ranging from mid 10’s to burly 12’s. Try ‘Hungry Tiger’ (5.10b)

and ‘Tiger By The Tail’ (5.11c)

Broken Tiers/Transformer Wall - is down in the Helms Canyon, next to the reservoir spillway, this wall seldom sees traffic due to loose rock. But there are some selected routes that won’t disappoint: ‘American Pie’ (a 3 pitch, 5.9) and ‘Knappy Sack’ (a 50 foot 5.10a)



Scaling the granite faces near the Courtright Reservoir is becoming very popular for rock jocks.

Penstemon Dome - Some liken this to a classic backcountry dome with only a 15 minute approach. It is east of Punk Dome. Most routes are steep friction/edging climbs or crack corners.

For more details on climbing, go to ShaverLakeTimes.com/rock-climbing



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Take a Horseback Ride in the Beautiful Sierra Nevada

By Ed Delaney

A vacation in the mountains is even more special when you spend an hour or two riding horses through the forest.

“When I was a kid, my parents treated us to horseback rides. Then one summer, they arranged for a family backcountry horse riding trip.”

“We climbed aboard our mounts and began a six day pack trip into the Dinkey Creek Wilderness.”

“I had been camping and fishing. So as a cocky kid, I figured I knew what to expect. Boy, was I wrong. The alpine lakes, rushing streams, lush meadows, wildlife, granite formations and forest sounds were incredible. But, don’t take my word for it. Go see for yourself!”

All Expense Trips. Deluxe service includes stock, packers, cooks, food and equipment. An itinerary is created that covers a menu, livestock, guides and trip objectives.

Base Camps: Ride to your predesignated 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: Your packer or packers and livestock stay with you. You provide your camping gear, provisions and meals, including for the packers.

Inquire about these type of trips at Clyde Pack Outfit, Lost Valley Pack Station, High Sierra Pack Station, Muir Trail Ranch and D & F Pack Station.

Shaver Stable is only offering hourly rides at this time.

Go Backcountry Camping With Your Favorite Stock

Take your own animals on trail rides and overnight trips. Several facilities and corrals for equestrians are available.

Only 25 pack stock are permitted with a group. Pack in all 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 to small trees. Trees must be 18 inches and over.

Horseback riders will share trails with hikers. Practice trail courtesy, traveling single file to avoid widening trails or damage to vegetation. Do not cut switchbacks. Pack out what you bring in.

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.



Riding stables are available at Shaver Lake, Dinkey Creek, Huntington Lake and Edison Lake.



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Do Them a Favor “Please Don’t Feed Local Wildlife”

Feeding wild animals does more harm than good. Yeah they’re cute and they might seem hungry, but feeding wild animals, whether in your own backyard or while on vacation, just isn’t a good idea. There is important reasoning behind this statement.

“People” food is not nutritious enough for animals and may cause serious health problems, especially if an animal is fed items like bread, French fries and popcorn on a regular basis.

When people feed wild animals, those creatures lose their natural fear of people. Feeding makes large, potentially dangerous animals become too comfortable in recreational areas. Once they learn they can beg for food, they can become a nuisance, and even worse, a safety risk.



Lazy bear

Giving people food to wildlife can be a form of animal cruelty. Most animals have natural diets and specific kinds of digestive bacteria. Human food causes the wrong type of bacteria to become dominant in their stomachs. These animals may no longer be able to digest their natural foods and end up starving to death. What could be more cruel? What can you do?

1. Rinse all recyclable glass and plastic containers to remove any food rem-



Porcupine

nants and odors. Some animals, like skunks, can get their heads stuck in containers and wind-up starving to death. Cut and/or crush plastic containers and cut each ring of plastic six-pack carriers.

2. When traveling with pets, feed them inside.

3. Make sure plastic food wrap is

rinsed and put in a tied bag or securely covered garbage can.

4. When visiting outdoors, clean up after yourself and follow wildlife rules.

5. Learn when to step in. If you see an



Pine Martin

animal who you think may be injured or orphaned, make sure the animal truly needs your help before feeding the animal anything or attempting a “rescue.”

Remember we are just guests when you take your family camping trip this summer, or are out enjoying a hike.

The furry critters that people are trying to feed, ride or save are wild. They have natural instincts when it comes to hunting, foraging for food and surviving.

Meanwhile, the beautiful trees do not need to have stuff carved on them. Colorful flowers need to be photographed, and not picked. Rock formations don’t look better spray painted.



Grouse

Kaiser Wilderness Businesses Are Ok

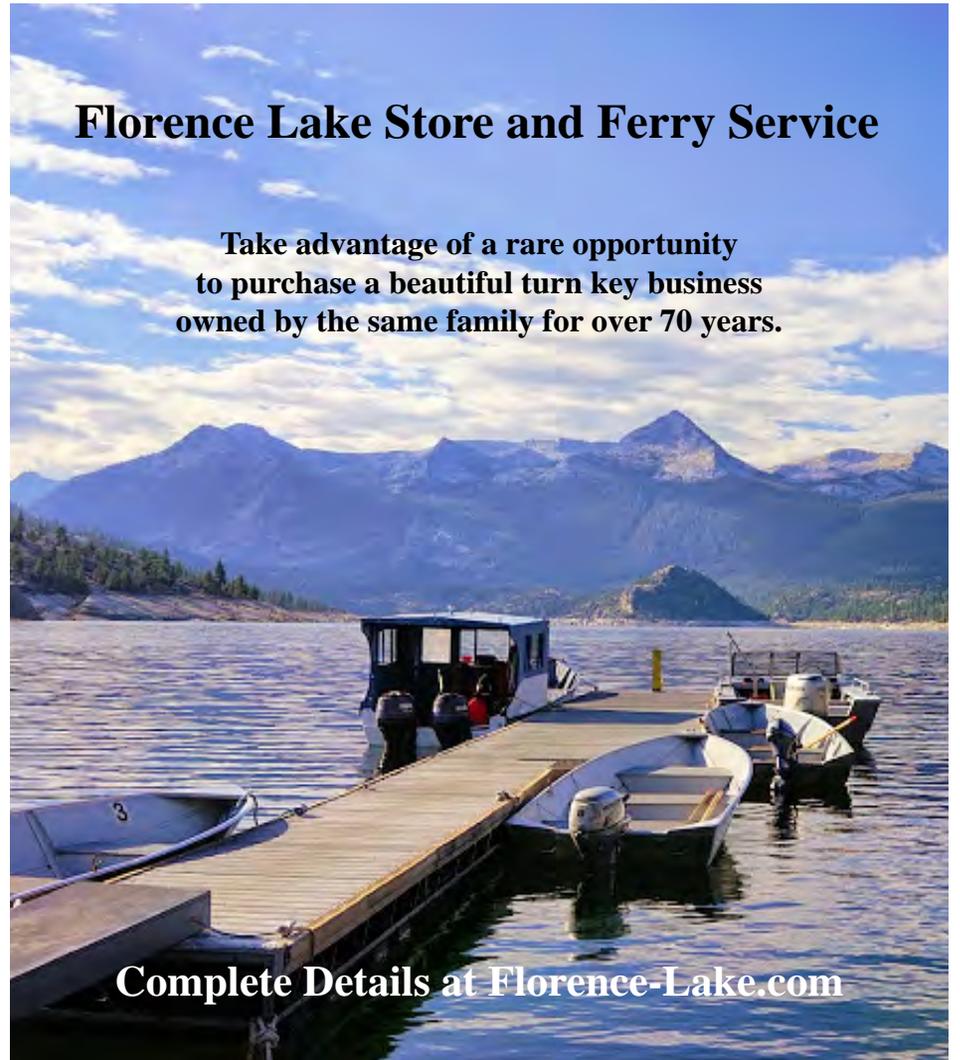
It is wonderful to report that the popular backcountry resorts and pack out-fits accessed via Kaiser Pass Road all remain undamaged by the Creek Fire.

This includes the Portal Forbay Campground, High Sierra Ranger Station, Mono Hot Springs Resort, Mono Hot Springs Campground, Vermilion Valley Resort at Edison Lake, High Sierra Pack Station near Edison Lake, Ward Lake, Florence Lake Store and Marina as well as the Muir Trail Ranch.

So it is safe to head for the high country and have a great time!

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Shaver Lake Saved by Aggressive Firefighters and Forest Management

(continued from page 1)

Shaver Lake survived because of aggressive firefighting combined with years of SCE's forest management skills.

A fire's essential role in the forests is now a widely accepted fact. In the early 1960s this was controversial. Fire was considered bad for the environment. Around this time, retired SCE forester, John Mount was studying at Berkeley.

"Only one of the professors, Harold Biswell, advocated fire and everyone else said, 'No, you're crazy,'" said Mount.

He posed the question, "If lightning starts fires, who put them out before 1850?"

"The answer of course is nobody," he said, "and that means fires burned all the time. There was no way to put them out. So from 1960 on, I advocated fire."

In 1979, Mount was recruited by SCE to manage its 20,000 acres of private forest around Shaver Lake.

"It was a jungle," said Mount. "It hadn't been managed since Edison purchased the land in 1919."

He started prescribed burning. When asked whether his bosses were supportive of his controversial methods, he laughed and replied, "They were.

and had to train the loggers because they weren't used to logging that carefully."

Mount's practices and philosophies continue under Steve Byrd, now SCE's natural resources program manager.

"About 15 years ago I noticed a big change within the Forest Service. They started doing more and more prescribed burning on their land," Byrd said.

"About six years ago I really saw a change in Cal Fire. They actually came to us and asked, 'Hey, we would like to come out into the forest with you guys, burn with you and learn how you guys do it.'"

Shaver Lake has fire dangers on three sides: Big Creek Canyon (north), Jose Basin (west) and Blue Canyon (south).

"We always knew that fire was a risk coming up at us on federal land," Byrd said. "For us it was a matter of what we do when it gets here. How will we stop it?"

Byrd said, 800 acres were burned around Ely Mountain from late November into December of 2020. Nine months later, the Creek Fire roared up the canyon, but the flames did not burn up and over Ely Mountain, on forest service land, but is surrounded by SCE property. Coincidence? Byrd doesn't think so.



Continuing with the practice of proscribed burning, started under the leadership of retired forester John Mount, SCE's forest management team helps to prevent unwanted fire on their property.

SCE managed forest land west of Shaver lake shows some charred trees and ground cover caused by back burning during the Creek Fire, but most of the trees are alive and intact. Just up the road on national forest land, nearly all the trees are burned from the fire.

On Shaver Lake's west side, containing the village, dam, Camp Edison, the marinas, day-use areas and private cabins, a network of fuel breaks stretches south from Stevenson Mountain all the way past the village.

These areas were thinned and treated with prescribed burns in partnership

with SCE and Highway 168 Fire Safe Council. There is so little ground fuel that backfires deliberately set along the highway hardly spread.

"Preparation, combined with all the firefighters in there behind those homes, in what was an absolute dogfight, is what saved Shaver Lake," Byrd said.

Mount now consults on Fresno County California's Forest Management Task Force, advocating prescribed burning and thinning in the state's forest.

"This big fire should have never ever happened," Mount said. "All that forest should have been burned and thinned."



SCE land after the Creek Fire.



Sierra National Forest land after the fire.

They didn't know it, but they were."

Mount employed a specialized system of logging and not just cut trees to be cutting trees. "I was very selective

"Efforts on the northern boundary worked. When the fire came up from Big Creek Canyon it hit that spot and stopped cold," he said. "Right there."

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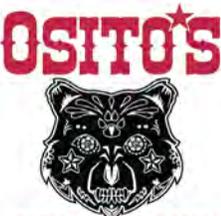
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Marina Crew Helped Save Shaver Lake From Environmental Disaster

Labor Day weekend is traditionally the end of the summer for thousands of visitors to the region. Sierra Marina, at the far end of the lake, near the Big Creek turnoff, is usually teeming with activity.

Well, this past year on Sept. 5, the Saturday before Labor Day, employees at the marina were desperately scrambling to protect it and all the boats from the massive Creek Fire.

Sheldon Sandstrom, manages the marina which has over 400 slips, gas dock, boat repair shop, mini store, watercraft rentals and dry storage facility.

As usual, that morning, he was walking the deck watching folks heading out to have fun. But this Saturday was different. Looking over the mountain towards Big Creek, he could see the huge glow of the ever-growing Creek Fire spreading out from the ignition point of Camp Sierra the evening before.

Sandstrom attends annual marina-oriented conventions and one year fire safety was discussed. He learned that a marina fire is usually caused by faulty boat wiring.

After that experience, he decided to buy two \$7,000 pumps, lots of fire hose and nozzles. That was seven years ago.

“I never thought a major forest fire

would threaten us,” he said. “But suddenly we were in the thick of it.”

Sandstrom knew the marina and all the boats therein were insured since this is required by SCE. But he was concerned about the environmental consequences if all at the marina burned in the fire and ended up in the lake.

He and his crew quickly outfitted a couple of pontoon boats with the pumps and hose. Then they went to work.

“I really want to tip my hat and thank the staff that fought this fire back and saved the marina,” said Sandstrom.

“I thank my sons, Seth and Ethan, along with employees Jake Karem and Terry Kifer plus all the other support staff behind us. These four young men supported me. They let me lead them as we stayed in the middle of a firestorm to make sure the marina and all the boats were saved.”

“We achieved our goal. No boats were damaged. These young men made it rain for hours to keep the dock and canvas wet. Take a minute to thank them when you get a chance to see them. I couldn’t be more proud of them. And if any one ever deserved a tip it would be them.”



Jake Karem is driven by Sheldon Sandstrom (not pictured) in the marina to knock down embers.



Seth Sandstrom jumps into action to help prevent embers from Creek Fire landing on marina.



Sheldon Sandstrom maneuvers pontoon boat so that Jake Karem in front can direct water flow.



As the embers from the Creek Fire fall into the marina, Jake Karem uses hose to cool them down.



Terry Kifer and Seth Sandstrom hustle to get fire hoses into action to keep embers from the marina.



Backdraft on shore broke the dock and electrical and phone connections were no longer working.

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Treat Yourself to a Special July and August Light Show in the Sierra Sky

The Perseid Meteor Shower appears to radiate from the constellation of Perseus. Meteors are usually observed starting in mid-July, with peak observations occurring in mid-August.

When it comes to California Meteor Showers the Perseid Meteor Shower usually puts on the best show of the year, unless there is a full moon.

A new moon with the darkest conditions offers the best viewing of meteor showers. It's best to obtain a calendar with notations of full moon and new moon, as well as major holidays, so you can plan your outings around the night sky and three day weekends.

The meteors are debris of the comet Swift-Tuttle. At its peak, the shower produces 60 or more meteors per hour and sometimes the Perseid Shower produces brilliant fireballs.

Here are some interesting facts about the Perseus Constellation. First of all, it is in the northern sky.

The constellation is named for the Greek mythological hero and demigod Perseus, best known for slaying the Gorgon Medusa.

The constellation is fairly faint and

difficult to see in light-polluted areas. Its two brightest stars are Mirfak and Algol.

The Perseid meteor shower radiates from the constellation in July and August.

Meteors, which are also referred to as falling or shooting stars, occur when the Earth passes through debris fields left by passing comets.

What we are witnessing, when we see a shooting-star, is a small piece of interplanetary matter, called a meteor, entering the Earth's atmosphere and 'burning up' at a height of about 100 km. While most look bright white, some can appear blue, green, yellow, orange, or red. Some may even explode at the end of its visible flight.

Most showers produce about 20 meteors per hour but there are showers which can produce hundreds of meteors over a period of less than an hour. Such shows are, unfortunately, very rare. Meteor showers are named after the constellation from which they appear to radiate and can happen any month throughout the year.

(Source for this story is the website <http://www.totalescape.com/tripez/perseid.html#perseids>)



Plan to spend a few evenings around a campfire in the High Sierra in the mid July to August time frame. Visitors can usually see some exciting aerial light shows brought to you by meteors.

2021 Events

With the unknown status of regional events for 2021, they will be posted at ShaverLakeTimes.com/events

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Hungry Hut

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Hungry Hut is the closest local restaurant that is like a fast-food burger facility. They offer all the standard burgers and sandwiches, fries, plus great milk shakes. Open year 'round. (559) 841-3222

The Inn at China Peak Restaurant at Huntington Lake. Jack's Bar offers great food and libations. Enjoy a drink and appetizers, then step next door and have dinner. SkiChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Cressman's General Store at the top of the four lane, features breakfast beerocks, pastries, deli sandwiches, cookies and is known take and bake pizza and delicious daily entrées. Cressman.org. (559) 841-2923.

Lakeshore Restaurant and Saloon offering casual meals at reasonable prices. The adjacent bar is a mountain classic. At Huntington Lake, 2.5 miles past China Peak. LakeshoreResort.com (559) 893-3193.

Loma Vista Gas Mart offers you a variety of food types including a Mexican Food menu, 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

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

Burgers and Bourbon at the Point has seating indoors and on the deck overlooking the Shaver Lake. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner. Full bar and occasional musical performances. (559) 841-5329

Vermilion Valley Resort Restaurant is great for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Weekend barbecue is legendary. Sit around the campfire and swap stories under the night skies. Visit them at EdisonLake.com.

Ositos Mexican Pub is in the former Sawmill Restaurant. Not Your Typical Mexican Place. A from scratch kitchen, using authentic Mexican ingredients, serving up a fresh take on your on your favorites! (559) 841-3237. Visit them at OsitosMexicanPub.com/

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

Short Horn Bar and Grill is locals favorite place to meet, eat, drink, dance and chat. Great cheeseburgers, fries, other sandwiches and cold drinks. They have the only pool table in town. (559) 841-6464.

Shaver Pub 'n Grub is known for atmosphere and drinks, with burgers, pastrami sandwich, fish & chips and chicken tacos. Catch sporting events on 4 TV's with Direct TV NFL Sunday Ticket. (559) 841-4411.

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 and features 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 the Canyon Forks Center 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. Visit Subway.com



The Inn at China Peak Restaurant



Cressman's General Store



Lakeshore Restaurant and Saloon



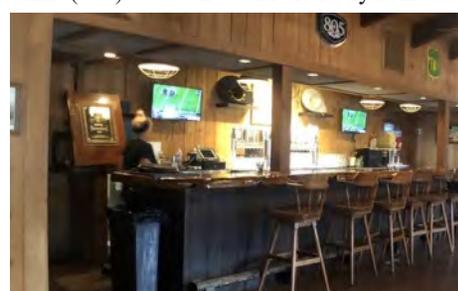
Loma Vista Food Mart and Fuel



The Trading Post



Burgers and Bourbon - The Point



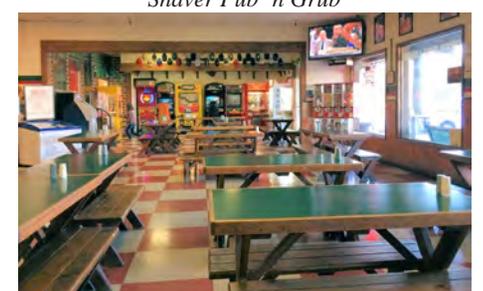
Ositos Mexican Restaurant



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

Mother Nature Fuels the Hot Springs in Kaiser Wilderness

Active geothermal pockets are lurking under the landscape of the Kaiser Wilderness. Heated by Mother Nature, warmed waters rise naturally to the surface to create 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 the hot springs by



traveling over Kaiser Pass. After nine miles of paved road, turn onto the well-marked Edison Lake Road dropping down and crossing the San Joaquin River with the turn off to the campground just past the bridge.

Old Pedro - Cross over to the south side of the river and make your ascent up the hill about 40 feet to “Old Pedro” – one of Mono’s hottest springs averaging around 106-107 degrees.

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 have to get out and cool down after 10 or 15 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.

From Old Pedro, you have three alternatives for reaching other hot springs. Walk 300 yards east through a meadow with stepping stones to walk on to keep from sinking into the mud to **Iodine Springs**.

A more strenuous hike takes you to “**Little Eden**”, a swimming pool size hot spring perched high on the ridge through the steep meadows.

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 and you’ll see



Many visitors to the region will take a day and drive up toward Huntington Lake and then take the Kaiser Pass Road to the Edison Lake Road where they will find several hot springs as seen herein.

a large granite outcropping with a pool called the **Rock Garden** beside it.

It is a warmer hot spring, big enough for several folks.



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

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. When you see the resort below, look to your left and see a pool perched on the very top of a ridge. 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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Visit the Unique Museums in the Surrounding Region

Visitors to the area can take time to visit three wonderful museums. One near Sierra High School, one at Huntington Lake and the other at Camp Edison at Shaver Lake.

The Eastern Fresno County Historical Society Museum is one mile east of Hwy 168, at the bottom of the "Four Lanes" at 33280 Lodge Rd., Tollhouse.

Their mission is to preserve knowledge and artifacts of eastern Fresno County like: mining, logging, ranching, Native heritage, hydroelectric development, and the cultural development of many small communities.

Learn about the foothills and lower mountain history with pictures, exhibits and



Visitors enjoy spending time at the Billy Creek Museum along the shore of Huntington Lake.

written descriptions of life between 1850 and 2018. (559) 855-6552 Visit: efchs.com

Next in line along Hwy 168 is the Museum of the Central Sierra, located near the entrance to Camp Edison. Kids will love this adventure.

Your children and/or grandchildren can enjoy crafts while you browse extensive collections of Native American, logging, mining, ranching and pioneer era artifacts. Venture outdoors to see the exhibits that offer visitors an interactive experience.

At the hydro-electric powerhouse (the only exhibit like it in the world), you will learn the history of hydro-electric power and why the water in this area is called the "hardest working water in the world."

The steam donkey and powerhouse are working exhibits. Here is the only running powerhouse in a museum in the world.

Visitors are offered scavenger hunts, hikes to points of interest and monthly concerts in the amphitheater.

The gift shop at the museum provides adult and children books on California history, Native American culture, pioneer lives, natural history, wildlife, environmental issues facing the West, and recreational activities in the Sierra.

The Museum is open seven days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

There is never a charge to get into the museum. However, they are a non-profit and appreciate any donations. The address is 42642 Tollhouse Rd just inside the entrance to Camp Edison in Shaver Lake. A complete calendar of events is



This reconstructed gas station depicts what you would have seen in the early days of vehicle travel. This is one of many outside exhibits at the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society Museum.

available at: SierraHistorical.org. You can contact the staff at (559) 841-4478.

Finally, the Billy Creek Guard Station Museum is found on Huntington Lake Rd. by the Lower and Upper Billy Creek Campgrounds.

It is a three building complex loaded with history and interpretive displays that range from the Monache or Western Mono Native American people, European pioneers, the development of the hydroelectric project and the mystery surrounding the B-24 that was lost in Huntington Lake in 1943.

To visit the museum, please use California State Hwy 168 and travel up the mountains to Huntington Lake, where the highway ends. Turn left onto Huntington Lake

Road and travel 5-1/2 miles until you see the Museum Sign, then park in front of the Museum on your left. You will go back in time and enjoy doing it! Welcome!

See HuntingtonLakeHistorical.com/billy_creek_museum. (559) 347-0402



A replication of an old powerhouse sits behind the main Museum of the Central Sierra building.

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This Region Offers Extensive Trail Adventures for Mountain Biking

In his infinite wisdom, Mark Twain once said "Learn to ride a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live."

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.



There are a variety of trails that you can take on your mountain bike in the Shaver Lake region.

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 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

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 ride but 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".



Riding through the forest can be relaxing, but like swimming, should be done with a companion.

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Shaver Lake Volunteers Care for Trail Maintenance in the Area

Shaver Lake Volunteers (SLV) maintains the trail system around the lake and develops maps that describe and rate those trails. With the exception of Camp Edison's nature trail, all trails are multi-use.

This means they are open to any kind of non-motorized traffic. Hikers, horses, and bicycles all share the trails.

When meeting a horse on the trail, yield to the uphill side of the trail and

the mounts a rest by the water in Dorabella Cove.

If you want to take a walk from Camp Edison or Dorabella Campground find the Lily Trail that follows the shore of Dorabella Cove onto Nevin's Peninsula.

Look for Shaver Lake Volunteer flyers in area businesses to catch monthly trail building or guided hikes.

These trails are possible because everyone pitches in. You can help by saving clean, CRV refundable recyclables. After collecting from the yellow bins around Camp Edison, the volunteers sort and transfer these recyclables, nearly three tons every summer.

With Zero administrative costs, using volunteer effort, this recycling program funds all of the trail building and associated interpretive publishing done by the Shaver Lake Volunteers annually.

Look for the laminated trail map and the Walker's Companion at your favorite local stops.

For more information on trails or volunteer opportunities, Visit ShaverLakeVolunteers.com.

Take a Camping Trip This Summer in Nearby Sierra National Forest

After this past year, camping may be just what you, your family or friends need this summer. It is one of the most popular recreation activities in the Sierra National Forest and it is usually economical as well.

Kids take well to camping. During the experience they can learn many new things about the environment and themselves as well.

It is not unusual to see three generations of a family enjoying themselves amongst the pine trees.

Here in the Central Sierra Nevada, there are several campgrounds avail-

able to you. You can pick your own spot online or get a wilderness permit from the Forest Service and head off into the backcountry.

There can be winter storm activity that you should avoid. Camping reservations are available. But many are operated on a first-come, first-served system. You can typically stay in most campgrounds for 14 days.

Most of them fill up quickly during holiday weekends. So when traveling during this time you should come prepared to camp in undeveloped areas.

If you are traveling with an oversized motor home or camp trailer, you will need to find a location that may be more suitable to your needs.

Proper food storage and a clean camp is very important. Never leave food in camp unattended.

If bear boxes are available use them to store all food and scented items. Store all food and related supplies, including ice chests, in the trunk of your vehicle. Food should be sealed in air tight containers.

In vehicles without trunks, all food and related supplies must be stored out of sight. Cover your food completely to hide it from a bear's view.

Clean the inside of your vehicle and remove any open drink containers and food (including wrappers).

Do not leave food or ice chests on your picnic table or in tents. Dispose of all trash properly.



Hundreds of developed and undeveloped camps sites exist here in the Sierra National Forest.

able to you. You can pick your own spot online or get a wilderness permit from the Forest Service and head off into the backcountry.

The best time to camp is from June to October. Prior to and after those dates,



Above, the Shaver Lake Volunteers work to install a brand new sign for the Stevenson Trail.

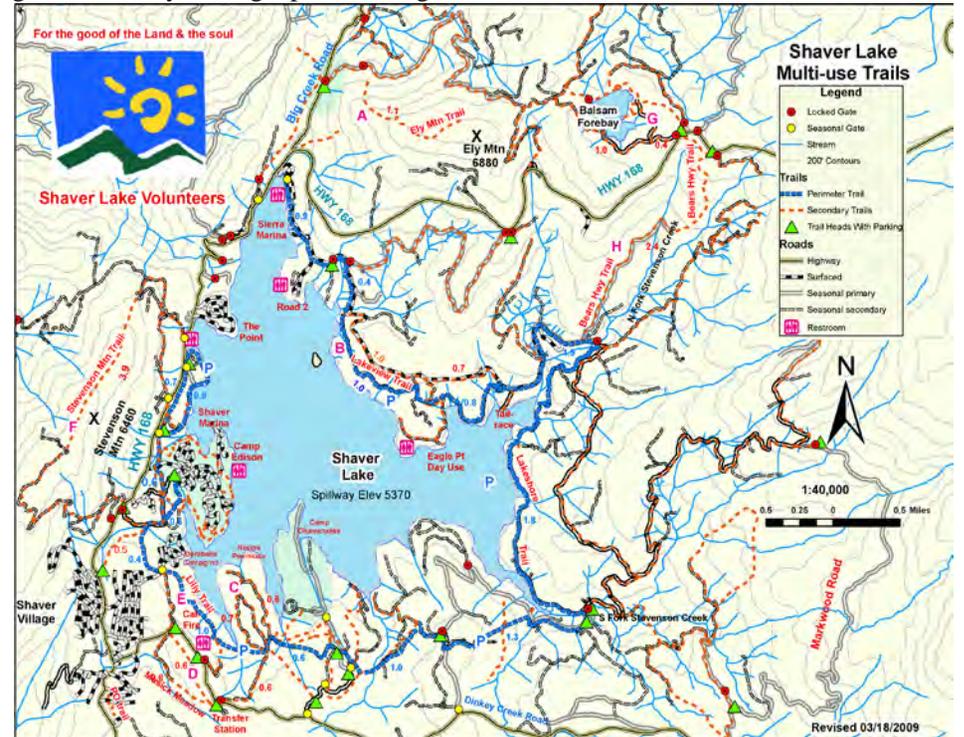
When cycling, remember to slow for blind turns and hills. Mountain bikers favor the Stevenson Mt. Loop from the south entrance. It climbs up the mountain along a dirt road, with scenic views of the central valley and the lake from the top.

An equestrian favorite is Nevin's Peninsula, accessed from the Dinkey Creek Rd. rest stop. The trail head is on the north side of 168 between Camp Edison and Shaver Village.

It is a wide dirt and gravel road with good visibility. Bring a picnic and give



Visitors Kiosk was generously provided by the Shaver Lake Volunteers, an all volunteer group.



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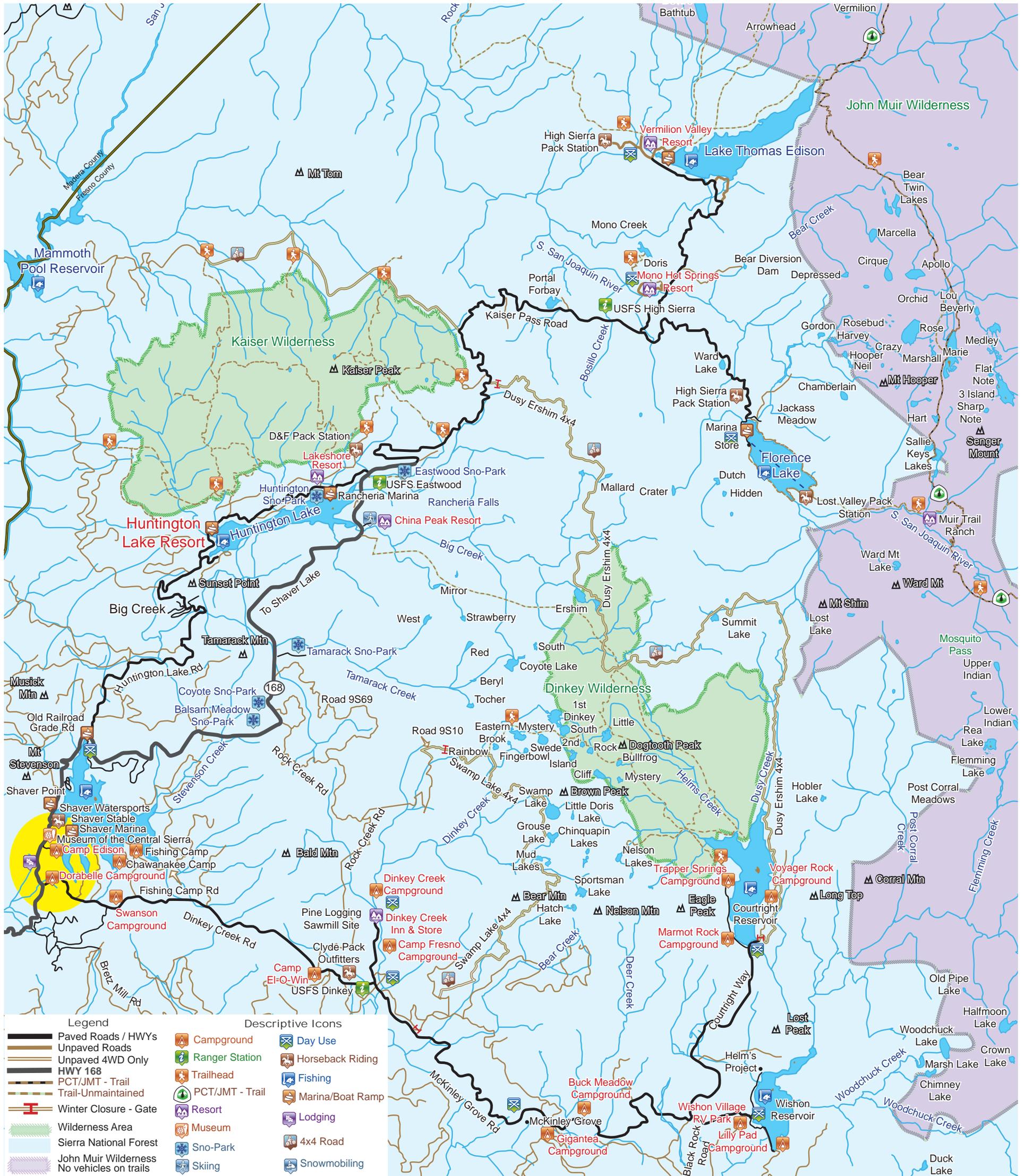
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SHAVER LAKE TIMES



Legend	Descriptive Icons
Paved Roads / HWYs	Campground
Unpaved Roads	Ranger Station
Unpaved 4WD Only	Trailhead
HWY 168	PCT/JMT - Trail
PCT/JMT - Trail	Resort
Trail-Unmaintained	Museum
Winter Closure - Gate	Sno-Park
Wilderness Area	Skiing
Sierra National Forest	Day Use
John Muir Wilderness	Horseback Riding
No vehicles on trails	Fishing
	Marina/Boat Ramp
	Lodging
	4x4 Road
	Snowmobiling

Enjoy a Day Long Family Adventure in the Beautiful Dinkey Creek Region

For an special day, drive up Dinkey Creek Road. Explore the Pine Lumber Camp, go swim at the Dinkey Creek Campground and hike the giant Sequoias.

Drive up Dinkey Creek Road off Highway 168. Ten miles after the turn-off, turn left to the Dinkey Creek Mill Work Center and Pine Log Camp.

The Pine Logging Camp was a lumber mill at Dinkey Creek built in 1937. It operated until 1979. Park and wander through the old logging operation.

Next, continue up Dinkey Creek Road and stop at the gate to pay a day use

stream for you to explore. The water is nice and cool. Relax in the water and sun.

After enjoying the water, drive back down Dinkey Creek Road a short distance and turn left on McKinley Grove Road. Continue for six miles to the



Take time to visit the giant Sequoia trees at the McKinley Grove in the Kings River watershed.

McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias.

This isolated grove consists of between 150 and 200 giant trees located in the Kings River watershed. The grove occupies a small bowl-shaped depression at an elevation of 6,200 feet. It features a handicap accessible interpretive trail.

Be sure to take water, snacks or a lunch, towels, walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen and your camera.



The Honeymoon Pool is one of several popular swimming holes near Dinkey Creek Campground.

fee. Dinkey Creek has two popular swimming areas: the Slicks and Honeymoon Pool. Three or four more pools are up-



Above is a picture from 1955 of the old Pine Lumber Camp near Dinkey Creek. It was built in 1937 and continued to operate until 1979. It is an interesting location to tour while visiting the region.

Osprey and Eagles Soar in the Friendly Skies of the High Sierra

Shaver Lake is home to a wide variety of wildlife. But only a couple rule the sky: the Bald Eagle and the Osprey.

Bald Eagles live near lakes, rivers and wetlands where they can find fish to hunt.

Locally, trout make up the majority of the eagle's diet. While they will hunt, they prefer to steal fish from their smaller cousins, the Ospreys.

Bald Eagles will mate for life and will usually live 15-25 years in the wild. Not all will have a white head and tail. In fact, it usually takes four to five years for the birds to reach maturity and then molt into their characteristic colors.

Here on Shaver there are a dozen or more nesting pairs of Ospreys. Every spring sees these birds arrive at the lake to begin nesting.

When nesting is complete and winter is approaching, these birds will migrate south to spend their winters in Mexico and Central America.

Ospreys are fish specialists and are equipped with unique adaptations that help them hunt. Some of these include reversible outer toes, backward-facing scales on the talons and feet to act like barbs to hold the fish, closable nostrils to keep the water out and dense, oily plumage to prevent feathers from getting water logged.

They are also capable of seeing underwater and will often completely submerge themselves in pursuit of a fish. Like all birds of prey, their vision is incredible (6-8 times better than a human) and can spot fish swimming below the surface from far away.

Ospreys are better hunters than Bald Eagles but are also smaller. As a result, as noted above, the Bald Eagles have discovered they do not need to hunt with the ospreys around.

They can simply wait for an osprey to catch a fish and then steal it from them.

Both birds will make huge stick nests in large trees along the shore of the lake. Osprey nests will typically be at the very top of the tree while the eagle nests will be down the tree a bit.

Living in such close proximity, these birds are always in a battle with each other for food and space. If you watch and listen you will regularly hear these



Above is a lovely image of a Eagle parent and its offspring, referred to a fledgling or eaglet.

birds yelling at each other and observe territorial displays.

Keep an eye out for these nests and birds. Early in the morning is the best time to watch the ospreys fish.

If you're lucky, you may even see an eagle catch a fish out of mid-air after it has stolen it from an osprey.

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Sierra National Forest Offers You a Variety of 4-Wheel Drive Adventures

Off road enthusiasts will find numerous trail riding experiences near Shaver, Dinkey Creek, Courtright and Wishon Reservoirs and the Kaiser Wilderness.

Herein you will find a few 4-wheel trekking opportunities. For a complete listing of trails please visit ShaverLakeTimes.com/off-road-trails.

Bald Mountain: This popular route is the only route on the district that is usually open year-round. The route is accessible from the south by taking Dinkey



Off-road trails are found throughout the Sierra National Forest. Always venture off road safely.

Creek Road east from Shaver Lake and at approximately 9.5 miles turning 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. To access from the north take Hwy 168 above Shaver Lake to the Tamarack Snow-Park, travel along Rd 9S09 for 3 miles to the intersection of Rd. 9S02. Take Rd. 9S02 south and you will come to the north trail head in less than 10 minutes. This route is known as the “easy way” to the top of Bald Mountain. Stay right at the first intersection after the trail head.

Just south of Huntington Lake, off of Hwy 168, you will find the Red Mountain routes. They include West Lake, Strawberry Lake, Red Mountain, Coy-

ote Lake, and Mirror Lake.

To get to the Red Mountain area, take Hwy 168 east from Clovis towards Shaver Lake. Continue 13 miles past Shaver Lake and turn on the Road 8S10, Red Mountain trail head. 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: These routes are classified as Easy routes and will lead you to West and Strawberry Lakes. The West Lake trail is 1 mile long and the Strawberry Lake is 2.5 miles long.

Red, Mirror and Coyote Lakes: Red Lake is classified as a More Difficult route. It is 2 miles in length and takes 1 hour to drive. It accesses Red Lake just outside of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness.

Coyote Lake is classified as a Most Difficult route that is 3.5 miles long and takes 2 hours to drive. It provides access to Coyote Lake. The shoreline of the lake from the outlet westward to where the trail first approaches the lake is the wilderness boundary.



Some rasty rocks and boulders await 4-wheelers that enjoy the thrill of adventurous trails.

Mirror Lake is classified as a Most Difficult route which is 1.5 miles long and takes almost an hour to drive. It provides access to Mirror Lake. The route down to the lake is a tough one!

Brewer Route: Just above Shaver Lake you will find the Brewer OHV route which is classified as Easiest. This trail is great for beginners or those looking to test a new vehicle. The route is 3.5 miles long and takes an hour to drive.

Take Hwy 168 east from Clovis to Shaver Lake. Follow Hwy 168 past Shaver Lake to the Tamarack Sno Park. 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 and large bulletin board.

ShaverLakeTimes.com/off-road-trails

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Consider the Catch and Release Fishing Method

Catch and release fishing improves native fish populations. It assures that more fish remain and reproduce in the ecosystem. It also provides opportunities for increasing the numbers of anglers to enjoy fishing and catch fish.

In catch and release fishing, anglers immediately release the fish. It takes practice.

Learn the proper techniques and you'll soon be catching and releasing fish in a safe, humane way.

- 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 that are hooked in the gills or in the gut have a much lower rate of survival than those hooked in the outer portions of the mouth. If you rupture a gill with a hook, a hemorrhage ensues and the fish bleeds to death. Gut hooked fish survive poorly for a number of reasons.

Many people think they can bring that deeply hooked fish to the boat, cut the leader, and the hook will rust out right away. There is absolutely no data that would suggest the hook rusts away.

Mortality is affected by exhaustion. A big fish hooked on ultra-light tackle can't be forced to the boat until it's totally worn out. This stresses your catch and exhaustion creates extremely high



Catch and release fishing improves the population of native fish and assures that more fish will remain and reproduce in the ecosystem. However, you need to learn the proper techniques required. levels of potentially fatal lactic acid.

In addition, a big fish has problems with overheated muscles that break down in the course of a long fight.

Handling a fish with dry hands can remove their protective slime, leaving them open to infection. Don't net fish or lift it out of the water. Keep it submerged, carefully remove the hook and set it free.

Please note that fish gills are internal organs. Reaching into the gill plate to hoist a fish can damage sensitive tissues.

- Pinch the barb on your hook flat so it's easily removed. Use the right hook. Circle hooks are the ideal choice.

- Bring the fish to the boat quickly to

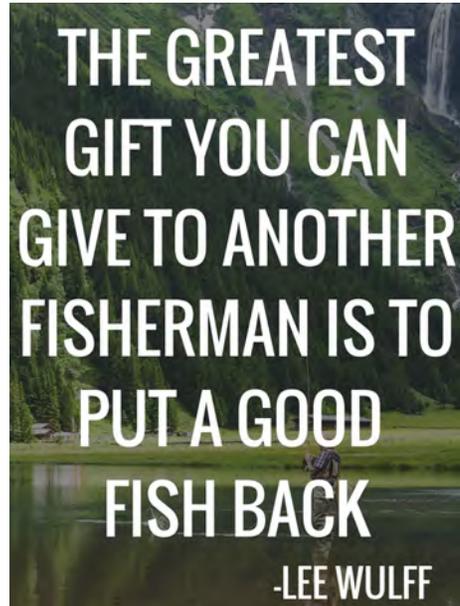
avoid extreme exhaustion.

- 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.

- If you plan to keep a fish for the table, let the hook-up decide what you kill. If a trophy fish is hooked in the lip for an easy release, let it go. If a smaller fish is bleeding, keep it and eat it.

By fishing responsibly, it will mean more fish in the future for everyone.

Story by Angling Unlimited



Releasing native fish will help to ensure that the enjoyment of this popular recreational activity will last for generations.

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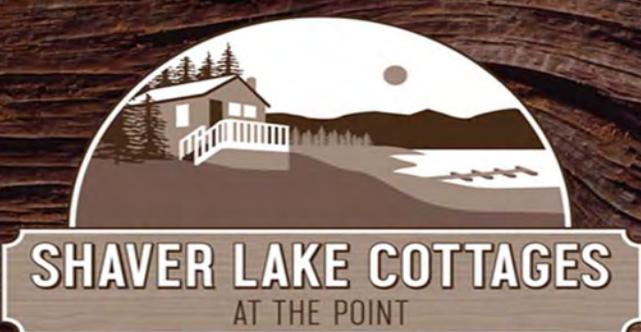
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A Basic Guide to Camping With Your Furry Companion

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

But 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 friend. Are they a good match for camping, or should they be left at home?



Traveling with your furry friends can be fun. Take them with you while hiking and camping.

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

Yes, they can restrict your plans somewhat. But the enjoyment you get from them is multiplied when out on an adventure together.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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're always good for afternoon nap time with you.

- 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 for hours. So if your hound has a tendency to vocalize their woes then set up your camp far away from other people.

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Four Huntington Kid Camps Damaged by Fire. Three Not to Open for 2021 Season

Sadly Huntington Lake Boy Scout Camps Kern, Oljato and Silver Fir, along with private Kennolyn Camp suffered severe damage in the Creek Fire and will not be open in 2021. Gold Arrow Camp, near China Peak, sustained moderate damage, but will open.

Fortunately, much of the area surrounding the lake itself were unaffected, including the Kennolyn waterfront, boathouse and dock facilities along with



Above, the bell at Camp Kern, so important to all who know its history, survived the Creek Fire.

much of the Gold Arrow Camp facility.

“While we are heart-broken by the fire’s impact on our camp,” stated Dan Johnson, “we are excited for the opportunity to re envision our lake camp program.” Details at KennolynCamps.com.

Camp Kern saw the central part of camp, including the dining hall and other

important structures, have been significantly damaged or destroyed by the fire.

Once conditions in the area allow them to make an assessment, they will provide more details as to what is a total loss and what can be salvaged. Falling trees are the likely cause of fire damage. Fortunately, camp facilities are covered by insurance for fire, which will help greatly in restoration. More details at CampKern.org.

Camp Silver Fir sustained significant damage to the infrastructure and the forest. It is located near the Upper Line Creek Tract. Three of four structures were destroyed. The primary program facility survived intact. It is possible the facility will be back in operation by summer 2022 as a base camp and for limited troop camping. Details at vhcbsa.org/csf

All the primary buildings survived at Camp Oljato, on the western shore of the lake. Much of the camp was undamaged. However, the electricity and water systems are not functional. A lot of hazard trees will have to be felled. It requires access by boat and could not be worked on during the winter. It will not be open. Details at Pacsky.org/camping/camp-oljato.

Gold Arrow Camp will be open for the 2021 season, but is soliciting donations to help rebuild the most structures and replace equipment that was destroyed. More details at GoldArrowCamp.com.



Built in 1904, Cressman’s General Store was totally destroyed by the Creek Fire. Tragically, the owners, Ty and Tara Gillette, lost their home to the flames as well. They are rebuilding both!

Come and Say Howdy at Cressman’s as Popular Business Rebuilds After Fire

For those who don’t know, Cressman’s General Store was originally built in 1904 to serve those working in the booming logging industry.

It was situated on a flat spot at the half-way point in a long journey that began on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley and ended in the high country.

Logging teams, pulled by horses, mules or oxen, would rest and be watered on the flat area at Cressman’s, prior to their journey up the winding mountain road.

After the early days, it serviced to provide food, fuel and supplies to loggers, construction workers, hikers, cyclists, fishermen, campers and others.

It has seen good and bad times. About 12 years ago the good times returned when Keith Davis, Vince Wiggins and Jean Kilpatrick purchased the place.

They lowered fuel prices, charging less than stations in Prather and Shaver Lake. They changed their menu dramatically. You could start the morning with beerocks and breakfast burritos. Really good pizza was available by the slice, whole pie, or as a take-and-bake item.

Made to order sandwiches, delicious take and bake dinner entrees, freshly baked pies, muffins, cakes and more, plus gallons of coffee moved across the counter daily. Some people just stopped in for the cookies!

Next they fixed up the historic barn. Thus Trade Days began Artisans could sell pottery, paintings, woodworking and other objects d’art once a month.

They provided several jobs to local folks to cook, bake, make sandwiches, run the store and oversee Trade Days.

Then the unthinkable, they decided to sell. Loyal customers were a bit concerned. They liked Cressman’s as it was.

But Keith, Vince and Jean found the perfect buyers, long time local residents Ty and Tara Gillette.

“When I found out about the opportunity I just thought it was too good to pass up,” said Ty Gillett. The family includes two children, Emmett and Paige.

The hundreds of daily customers stopping at Cressman’s hardly noticed any operational differences. That is a real testament to the Gillette family as they took the reigns and moved forward.

Then the Creek Fire roared over the mountain and destroyed everything. The Gillette’s posted on Facebook that they lost Cressman’s and their home.

They wrote, “A beloved historical landmark has been lost and the pain our family and our community is enduring is almost suffocating at times. We will rebuild this landmark and continue to support our community members.”

Loyal customers are excited that the fuel station and a limited store operation will be available this season while plans to rebuild Cressman’s take place. More details at Cressmans.org.

Cell Phone and WiFi Service Information

Mountains are not cell phone or wifi friendly. But that can be a good thing.

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 their family and friends.

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Providing Exciting Outdoor Adventures to Individuals With Various Disabilities

The Central California Adaptive Sports Center (CCASC) 2021 summer season provides fun in the mountains for very special participants.

Weekend camp outs and single day programs are being offered. CCASC provides lessons, all camping and recreational equipment, as well as all meals. All activities are designed with adaptations for varying disabilities.



Program combinations include mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, fishing and kayaking.

Depending on interest and suitability, weekend camp activities include a combination of mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, fishing, paddle boarding and yoga.

Weekends include two days and two nights of camping overnight in tents at our lakeside campground. All weekend programs will begin at 6 pm on Friday night

and end at 1 pm on Sunday afternoon.

If you prefer to come just for one day, there are several single day sessions available or you can join others for a Saturday during of one the weekend sessions. All single day programs begin at 9 am and end at approximately 4 pm.

For each participant, we need at least one volunteer in addition to staff instructors for both summer and winter seasons. No experience necessary. Instructors must be at least 18 years of age. Base Area and Field Assistants must be at least 16.

Detailed agendas, program fees, and additional information provided at CentralCalAdaptive.org or (559) 593-2504.



Taking the challenge on rock climbing is just one of many adventures offered to participants.



The view from the John Muir Trail that runs between Mt. Whitney in the south and Yosemite Valley to the north. You can send a resupply package to Vermilion Valley Resort or the Muir Trail Ranch.

John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails Follow Same Path in This Region

Approximately 90 miles from Fresno, after a scenic drive winding through the Kaiser Wilderness, lies access to the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails.

The Pacific Crest Trail runs 2,665 miles, stretching from the Canadian border to the Mexican border.

The John Muir Trail follows 211 miles of the same route from Mt. Whitney in the south to Yosemite Valley to the north.

It passes through what many backpackers say is the finest mountain scenery in the country. This is a land of massive peaks, thousands of lakes, canyons and granite cliffs, plus it is

also a land blessed with the mildest, sunniest climate of any major mountain range in the world.

The PCT has become a favorite trail for thru-hikers. Other hikers utilize the trail by hiking only portions of the trail, which is known as “section hiking”.

There are many ways to do it. A main concern of hikers is “What resupply options do I have?”

In this region you can resupply at the Vermilion Valley Resort at Edison Lake (EdisonLake.com) or the Muir Trail Ranch near Florence Lake (MuirTrailRanch.com).

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Making Delicious S'mores Treats is a Wonderful Camping Tradition

Over the years, an off the wall questions directed to mountain grocery store clerks is "where do I find the s'mores?"

The usual answer is "You don't really get them anywhere. You have to make them. Would you like me help you find the ingredients?"



People of all ages, enjoy the thrill of making a few tasty S'more treat over an over the campfire.

These include a box of graham crackers, a bag of regular sized marshmallows, some Hershey Bars and a long roasting tool.

Making a s'more can be very educational and you can teach kids some valu-

able camping skills. A big part of the excitement in creating them is toasting marshmallows over a campfire. First you will need to start one. Show the kids how to make a safe campfire using a provided fire ring. Next you pile different sized sticks and dry pine needles into a tee-pee shape. Then have the kids light the pile under adult supervision.

Toast the marshmallows to a "crispy, gooey state." Put the marshmallow on top of a chocolate bar and place that in between two graham crackers. Yummy!

Nobody agrees on where s'mores came from, but seriously, would anybody over eight years-old ever think of squishing together a chocolate bar, a toasted marshmallow, and a pair of graham crackers to make a dessert?

So now you know you can't just buy a good gooey "s'more" at the grocery store!

However, it is a wonderful experience for a kid, as well as those watching their enjoyment, as they get to make their own, all of course, under adult supervision.

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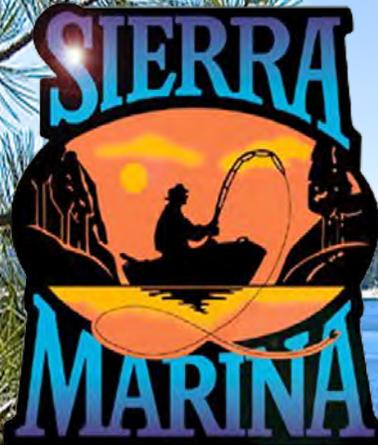
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Thank you to all of the first responders and local heroes of the Creek Fire. We are forever grateful!



Basic Tips to Follow When Traveling in High Altitude Sierra Environments

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

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: Acclimatize to different altitudes you may experience during your trip. Air is thinner at higher elevations, with less oxygen than at sea level. Gradually moving to higher altitudes will prevent common symptoms associated with altitude sickness. These symptoms may include muscle fatigue, insomnia, slight shortness of breath, or mild headaches. At elevations over 11,000 feet, you might think about carrying some oxygen with you.

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

Tip #4: Limit your alcohol consumption. You don't have to avoid them completely. You will find that you

sleep better and be ready for your holiday adventures.

Tip #5: Make sure that you wear sunscreen. At higher elevations the UV sun rays are more intense, making you more susceptible to sunburn. To protect your skin use sunscreen of an SPF of 15 or higher. Wear protective clothing like hats and bandannas.

Hiking Safety: THE TEN ESSENTIALS



Each of these 10 Essentials is important to have with you for hiking and other adventures.



Above Indian Paintbrush wildflowers provide the splash of red in the colorful array of flowers.



Shooting Star wildflowers are pictured here with a faded backdrop of green highlighting them.

Scenic Wild Flowers Brighten the Sierra Nevada Landscape

Have you ever reached out and picked a beautiful wild flower that caught your eye. Yea, me too. But we need to be more careful.

Most wildflowers are fragile and will 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.

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.

A critical chain of events is triggered for years to come once wildflowers are lost. Did you know 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 enthusiastic about the public's increased interest

in native plants found on our national forests and grasslands.

This interest and increased knowledge and awareness of the benefits of landscaping and gardening with native plants have resulted in nurseries producing native plants for the public to grow. Landscaping and gardening with native plants has many benefits including the creation of habitat for 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.

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.

Remember, respect and protect wildflowers and their habitats, leave only footprints, and take only memories and photos so that future generations may enjoy our precious natural heritage.

Story courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

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Massive Restoration Effort Follows Devastation Caused by Creek Fire

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the property damage to homes and other structures, the Creek Fire destroyed nearly everything else in its path, including transmission, distribution and communication lines.

Southern California Edison (SCE) initiated a massive restoration effort which took place amid challenges that included damaged and destroyed trees and debris, poor air quality, mountainous terrain and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 2,000 personnel, nine lay down yards and 4,800 pieces of equipment were assembled to repair the hydro facilities, power poles and wire damaged.

SCE's hydro team lost the ability to move water through its powerhouses and on to Millerton Lake. This water provides a source of irrigation for the Central San Joaquin farmers.

The manual valve at the reservoir is located at the end of a 100-yard tunnel



Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley rely on the waters moved along by SCE Hydro Team.

SCE's hydro team needed to enter the facilities and manually operate the valve. Smoke from the fire caused the oxygen monitor alarms to go off and the team had to turn back.

Finally the SCE teams found the air quality had improved. A two-man crew entered, opened the valve to release the water-flow and exited in under an hour.

The electrical restoration work for the Creek Fire involved more than 1,000 SCE vegetation management contract crews. They have inspected or mitigated more than 81,000 trees damaged or destroyed by the fire.

Restoration by the numbers is im-



One of the nine laydown yards that was set up by SCE to enable crews to carry out restoration.

pressive with 2,000 personal mentioned before, plus 977 tree trimmers and crews replacing over 761 power poles. This work was augmented by the use of 5 helicopters. The huge crew was provided with 222 sleeper trailers.

"This is a Herculean effort and we are coordinating closely with industry



Tons of downed trees end up being turned into bark which can be used in a variety of ways.

and government to rebuild this infrastructure and restore power safely and as quickly," said Greg Ferree, SCE vice president and incident commander.

"We are proud of the extraordinary effort all SCE and contract personnel are putting forth to restore service quickly and safely while also removing hazards that could jeopardize our crews, facilities and the public," said Matt Deatherage, SCE manager and IMT member.

During this ongoing effort SCE complied with COVID-19 safety protocols in the yards and the restoration sites. Masks were worn, sleeper trailers were used at 50% capacity and food was indi-



Logging trucks are moving 100s of fire damaged trees off the mountain during this process.

vidually served rather than buffet style. Crews ate in their trucks, trailers and at socially distanced outside tables. The trailers have housed several hundred field workers for the past few months.

Forest personnel, utility workers and many community organizations continue with restoration efforts. Soil erosion and rock slides are a concern for travelers within burn areas. Numerous dead standing trees across the forest are a potential danger. Therefore, a portion of the forest will remain closed until conditions improve.

Huntington Lake Properties



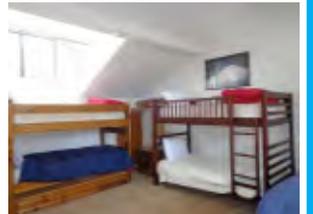
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Courtright Reservoir is part of the PG&E Helm's Project where fishing can be excellent.

Shaver and Huntington Lakes are probably the two most well known lakes in the region. But when you travel further inland to Edison and Florence Lakes or to Wishon and Courtright Reservoirs you are in for a treat.

Courtright and Wishon are accessed from the town of Shaver by taking Dinkey Creek Road to McKinley Grove Road.

You follow that road through the McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias and on to the two reservoirs that are part of the PG&E Helm's Project.

Wishon is 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.

Both reservoirs offer great fishing and boat launching. Wishon Village features RV and Tent Camping, a general store and a marina with boat rentals. Details at WishonVillage.com.

For Edison and Florence, drive to Huntington Lake. Turn onto Kaiser Pass Road. You will pass Portal Forbay (35 miles) and the High Sierra Ranger Station. To reach Edison Lake (45 miles) turn left on Edison Lake Road, go past Mono Hot Springs (40 miles) to the end of the road. Fly fishing is very popular on the San Joaquin River near Mono Hot Springs.



The San Joaquin River in the Kaiser Wilderness near Mono Hot Springs offers some of the best fly fishing this side of the King's River in the Sierra National Forest. Tie a fly and go give it a try!

To reach Florence Lake (45 miles) continue on Kaiser Pass Road. You will pass Ward Lake (40 miles) and continue to the end of the road.



Huntington Lake may be more well know for sailing, but you can catch some trout there too!

Florence Lake (Florence-Lake.com) has a store, marina and ferry service across the lake to hiking trails and the Muir Trail Ranch. Edison Lake has Vermilion Valley Resort with lodging, store, restaurant, boat rentals and ferry service for PCT hikers. (EdisonLake.com)

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

Further details on each of the lakes and other waterways as well is available at ShaverLakeTimes.com/fishing.

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COME VISIT OUR EXPANDED GIFT ITEM SELECTIONS



Ice Cream
Milk Shakes



(559) 841-3555

41758 Tollhouse Rd., Shaver Lake (between Shaver Lake Hardware and Trading Post Restaurant)

Winter

- Ski & Snowboard Rentals & Waxing
- Snow Sleds, Saucers, Tubes
- Snow & Ski Apparel
- Hiking & Snow Boots
- Camping Gear
- Fishing Tackle & Licenses
- Hunting Supplies & Licenses
- Snow Tire Chains
- Snow Park Passes
- Souvenirs

SHAVER LAKE SPORTS

Open year 'round for all your sporting needs!



Summer

- Camping Gear & Supplies
- Hiking & Work Boots
- Fishing Bait & Tackle
- Fishing Poles & Nets
- Fishing Licenses
- Beach Toys & Sporting Goods
- Summer Apparel
- Boating Supplies
- Souvenirs

www.ShaverLakeSports.com (559) 841-2740

ShaverLakeSports@gmail.com 41777 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake, CA 93664

Happy Camper General Store
Located Inside Camp Edison



Shaver Lake Marina

559-841-5331 ShaverLakeMarina.com



Summer Fun!

- * Groceries * Sundries * Ice * Hand-Scooped Ice Cream *
- * Firewood * T-shirts * Sweatshirts * Souvenirs & More!

- * Boat Slips* Pontoon Boats * Fishing Boats * Canoes*
- * WaveRunners * Pedal Boats * Paddle Boards * Kayaks *

Shaver Lake Hardware 559-841-3600

We provide the tools and supplies you need to take care of your home and business.
41698 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake, CA 93664 www.ShaverLakeHardware.com



#MountainStrong

We carry all types of hardware supplies including:

- Logging/Climbing Gear
- Drill Bits and Drivers
- Door Hardware
- Electrical Supplies
- Nuts and Bolts
- Saws and Blades
- Paint and Paint Supplies
- Work Boots

Equipment Repair Shop

Visit our website for
Equipment Rentals



SANGER SOLID CAN BE AS BOLD AS YOUR ADVENTURES



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