

Ice Lakes News - January '16

"Inexpressibly Grand"

It's easy to take things for granted (or "granite" on Donner Summit – an inside joke among the local geological cognoscenti). We are surrounded by inexpressible beauty and opportunities. In 1846 Edwin Bryant, standing on Donner Summit said, "The Alps, so celebrated in history, and by all travelers and admirers of mountain landscape, cannot, I am satisfied, present scenery more wild, more rugged more grand, more romantic, and more enchantingly picturesque and beautiful.... The view [from Donner Summit] is...inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque.

After congratulating ourselves upon the safe achievement of our morning feat [climbing up Donner Pass], and breathing our mules a few minutes, we proceeded on our journey." Parenthetically, Mr. Bryant's mule had just slipped and gone somersaulting down the Pass. Bryant and friends were afraid that the mule's career as a beast of burden was at an end but that could have been a sad story and since this is a family newsletter, you know that it can't be true. The mule got up, shook itself off, and proceeded on the journey. You can sleep well.

Our community recognized the nature of Donner Summit and contributed almost four million dollars to the purchase and preservation of the surrounding 3,000 acres. If you are new to the community, you can see the evidence of the community's participation on hundreds of cabins, which display the brown plaque (see page 4).

One small part of the 3,000 acres is Rowton Pk. on the southeast side of Serene Lakes and above the intersection of Soda Springs Rd. and Serene Rd. The traffic in summer has increased over the last few years. Not many people visit in winter, however. Some people do follow the groomed ski trails to Razorback and then up to Rowton Pk. but almost no one goes up the ridge from the benches that sit at the junction of Bogus Basin and Jack's Jump ski trails. The route requires snowshoes or some form of backcountry skis but it's special and worth the effort. The view to the south is "is...inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque" down in to the Royal Gorge, over to Snow Mtn, Palisade Pk. and Devil's Pk.



Sierra Juniper hundreds of years old on the ridge below Rowton Pk. and just below the arch.

on to page 4

The newsletter of the Serene Lakes Property Owners' Association
P.O. 669 Soda Springs, CA 95728
Serene Lakes on the Internet: <http://www.slpoa.com>

SLPOA Calendar

Next Meeting: Saturday Jan 30 : 4 P.M.
SLCWD Water Treatment Bldg. Short Rd.
potluck follows @ Pearsons' 7918 Acorn
More Meetings: 3/19 6/4 7/23 9/4
Annual Mtg/BBQ: 10AM & 2 PM 9/4, 2016
SLPOA Board Org. Mtg. Sept. 5, 2016 9AM

Beach Clean Up was held 10/10
Snowman Contest: Wednesday, Dec. 31 1 PM Lot 1
Sandfling: May 28- 10 AM
alternate dates if El Nino delivers: 6/4, 6/11
First Hot Dogs of the season at the sand fling.
Campfire Nights: 7/5 and August Saturdays 7:30 PM

DSAA Summit Clean-up June TBA

July 4 Celebrations July 3, 2015
Float decorating for 7/3 parade 7/2/16 5PM (see page 6)
(pizza, wine, soda)
(decorating bikes, floats, wagons, dogs, etc.)

SLPOA Crafts Faire/Flea Market/Art Show - July 3
Chile Cook-off, Kids' Parade July 3
Serene Lakes Days 2015: July 30/31
Kids' Activities on the beach - TBA
Cabin Tour Sept. 3, 2015 Saturday 2 PM
Sailboat Races - 1st - July 3, 2nd July 31, 3rd - Sept. 4

Water Board Meetings: Second Friday of the month
5:00 district offices 7300 Short Rd. Serene Lakes

SLPOA Officers

President: Mark Himelstein mh@himellaw.com

Vice President: Walter Dahl wdahl@dahlaw.net

Treasurer: John Loll justonlyjohn@me.com

Secretary: Sharon Ruffner sharonruffner@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: Cathy Pearson ewpcap@gmail.com

Other Board Members:

Dennis Fisco fisco@seagateprop.com

Bob McCormick bmacc8@gmail.com

Ann Reisenauer annreisenauer@yahoo.com

Cliff Busby cliff@losgatosnv.com

Administrative Ass't: Linda Cashion AdminAsst@slpoa.com

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Hallo Sailors

For the Feb 25, 2017 departure from Singapore with Star Clipper to Phuket Thailand we are getting closer than you think and I still do not have many Sereneites on the list as participants. The Europeans are starting to get serious and taking the best mid ship cabins as we speak. So folks make up your mind and join us in this great trip and call Sheila Marcel at Star Clipper to get your deposit down and reserve a good cabin.

The group numbers are 5017 and 5018.

If you have any questions please send me an e-mail at hwsiegert@aol.com or call at 707 4317121

Have a great Christmas Season and best wishes for the New Year.

Your commodore
Werner Siegert

From the Old Days in Serene Lakes

January 4, 1951

Fran Coulliard's column in the Sierra Sun, "Summit Scene," said that

"Bill Rutherford's Ice Lakes reports a doubling of last year's business with some of San Francisco's socialites forming the major parties at this mountain hide-away....

"Stig Bentgar started his rope tow on the clearest hills of Ice Lakes to the delight of guests." The hill in the quote is the one opposite what is now Lot 1 - see below from an old Ice Lakes Chalet brochure. The verticals are the posts for the rope tow.



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President's Message

Mark Himelstein

I ended my message for the October newsletter, noting the sad situation in the Middle East and eastern Europe with more refugees from war torn countries on the move than at any time since World War II. Well, it is four months later and the instability seems even worse with the horrible terrorist attacks in Paris, San Bernardino, Oregon (community college) and Colorado (Planned Parenthood). We may have peace and tranquility in Serene Lakes but we cannot shut out the events around us. Irrational screams and collective scapegoating is not going to make things better. It will only make things worse.

Anyway, back on track, the Winter Solstice actually brought winter this year. As I write this, Mother Nature has dumped multiple feet of snow over several storms at Serene Lakes. It hasn't looked like this since 2011 and portends a winter with plenty of white stuff. The ski resorts will be humming and the streets full of frolicking humans and other critters. Don't put it off, get up here and enjoy the winter beauty of the mountains along with all of the recreational opportunities which are available for the taking. For once, the experts were right, El Nino has arrived.

The next SLPOA Board meeting is on Saturday, January 30, 2016, starting at 4 p.m. at the SLCWD Board room. There will be a number of issues on the agenda, including the status of a proposed cell tower in Serene Lakes; whether the community is safer after the propane upgrades in Serene Lakes over the past three years; update on the traffic situation in Serene Lakes; update on revisions to the Green Sheet; whether SLPOA should ask SLCWD to allow it to set aside the Sunset cove area [the area along the lake immediately north of the old lodge building – ed.] for a walking trail and dog use; and, an update on trail use in TDLT areas this past summer, including how mountain bikers and hikers got along. We will also devote time to planning winter activities including winter activities for kids' and adults. We will also get a report on how the ski areas are handling traffic as it affects our community. If you have had any experiences or ideas about this issue or any other issue you think is important to our community, feel free to send comments to our administrative assistant, Linda Cashion. Her email address is AdminAssistant@slpoa.com.

Following the Board meeting there will be a community potluck at Earl and Cathy Pierson's home on Acorn [#7918 – ed]. Plan to attend to meet your neighbors and fellow mountain lovers.

Now that it is winter, we need to be safe on the streets. Try to walk at the side of the road against traffic and, please, make sure your dogs are on leash when walking them around the lakes. With the snow cars can no longer stop on a dime and, often, visibility is low. We don't want any tragic accidents.

Has anyone else noticed there have been no blackouts so far. Kudos to PG&E for their work in preparing for winter. I hope by the time you read this newsletter we still haven't had any electrical outages.

Mark Himelstein
SLPOA President



Mr. Himelstein, engaged in an appropriate winter event with his friend, Cuzco. Loyal readers will know that George Lamson has an inexhaustible supply of photographs of which this is one.



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Closer in though, are the rock formations deposited when the Sierra were not the Sierra we know. Volcanic conglomerate flowed from what is now Nevada, west. Later the Sierra rose pushing the 30 million year old deposits to over 7,000 feet in elevation. Erosion now exposes the hoodoos (towers of rock such as to the center right of the arch in the picture here), cliffs, and a natural arch. Atop, stand the venerable Sierra Junipers (page 1), some of which are more than a thousand years old.

If you want to get to the ridge, go uphill directly behind the benches at the intersection of the Jack's Jump and Bogus Basin ski trails. Head for the ridge, which is to the right or south, and then walk up along it. The first hoodoo is a wide one. Just past the second hoodoo (center right of the picture here) make sure you are on the ridge and look over the side. There's the natural arch and Devil's Pk. in the distance. That's the view here.

The gnarled trees in the neighborhood are the Sierra Junipers. If you want to read more about the junipers, go to the Historical Society's website, donnersummithistoricalsociety.org, and then to the Heirloom pages.

There's an article, "Donner Summit Sentinels" in the October, '13 [Heirloom](#). In the January, '14 [Heirloom](#) there is a follow up, "Junipers of Donner Summit – Déjà vu"

The Sierra Juniper picture on page 1 was taken in December, just before a storm and just at dusk. It's best viewed in color on the SLPOA website.



The arch below Rowton Pk. - Devil's Pk. in the background. That's the second hoodoo at center above the arch.



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Serene Lakes Adieu David and Julie Africa

As many of you may know Julie and I have sold our cabin, and have left Serene Lakes as home owners. We could never really “leave” Serene, it was too much of our lives for fourteen years. We have made so many wonderful friends, met some very remarkable people, and a few characters, well, maybe more than a few.

We watched son Christopher grow up there, and become part of the community in his own right. Did you know that there was an Africa on the SLPOA board for ten years, including Chris? The children he met there have all grown up, gone into their own adult careers, and will be life-long friends.

The friendships we have forged there will be also long-lived for Julie and me as well. We will forever have the memories of Serene Lakes Days, Fourth of July celebrations, and the sometimes exuberant annual meetings and barbecues.

I can remember our first Sand Fling as newbie volunteers, IF you want to get involved, join in at the first event of the season, Sand Fling, you will meet many new friends. After Sand Fling our involvement grew into fourteen years of Serene Lakes Days events, Chili Cook-offs and parade organizations; and Julie’s volunteer coordination duties for SLPOA. All the time making new friends and building relationships from previous years.



So, don’t be surprised if you see us around Lot 1 once in a while, sitting on the patio of the Bubnis Building, yacking it up with Ed, Kathy, Ralph, Brenda, and any other passers-by. The topic will most likely be “what a beautiful spot we have here”.

Serenely Yours,
David, Julie, and Chris Africa
djafrika@sbcglobal.net

Left, David and Julie on the left being honored by Sharon and Bob Ruffner at the Labor Day annual meeting. Photo by George Lamson

And on a Personal Note: [to which the editor adds, "Ditto."] sharon Ruffner

For nearly 15 years, the Serene Lakes community and SLPOA specifically, benefited from the altruism of the Africa family. David, Julie and their son Christopher barely completed construction of their cabin on Alpine Way when they began immersing themselves as volunteers, jumping in where ever and when ever they saw a need.

While they are probably most remembered for their long enduring run as irreplaceable co-chairs of Serene Lakes Days, all three members of the family served on the SLPOA Board, David as president, Julie as Vice-President and Christopher as Fire Protection Liaison and Facebook Administrator.

The Africas devoted many hours (most behind the scenes) to the “Save Donner Summit” and “ Let’s Buy It” campaigns and headed up the Stewardship committee once the 3000 acres was saved. They chaired the Lot 1 (Homeowner’s Beach) improvement committee, worked snack shack duty, oversaw Sand Flings and Beach Closures, and coordinated multiple July 4th parades and chili cook-offs (David having won “Best Overall” chili and securing his name on the coveted Lot 1 plaque). They hosted many a gourmet dinner and always found room and a plate for the surprise guest, or two or three.

David retired earlier this year and Julie beat him to it by a few years. They sold their cabin and are enjoying a much expanded travel calendar. Chris continues to work for Cal Fire at the NorCal Command Center.

This author noted that the newsletter targets 1100 readers. If you weren’t able to personally meet the Africas (or consume one of their amazing culinary creations), rest assured, they were always looking out for you and taking care of your community. There will be a corner of sand at the beach, under the pine tree (next to the recycle bin) that will always look a little empty without a certain set of Tommy Bahama chairs and a comfy quilt.

Proposed S.L. Cell Tower

Dick Simpson

About a year ago Epic Wireless Group, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, approached the Water District (SLCWD) with a proposal to improve Verizon's cellular telephone service in Serene Lakes by erecting a 'monopine' tower in the meadow south of the Serene Lakes fire station. Community members have since expressed concerns. Owners of cabins near the site are concerned about visual impact, and noise, and other issues. They have met with both the Water District and SLPOA boards. The SLPOA Board appointed a committee in October to investigate the issues. The committee has carried out a series of cell service measurements across around Serene Lakes, investigated possible alternate locations, and looked at alternate technologies.

Current Conditions: An on-line application can be used to map line-of-sight coverage from different locations. Figure 1 shows line-of-site coverage in Serene Lakes from a presumed cell tower at Donner Ski Ranch. Committee measurements with Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile cell phones are consistent with Figure 1. The northwest corner of Serene Lakes is reasonably well served from Donner Ski Ranch, but most of the community is shielded by 'Forest Service Ridge' on the east. T-Mobile, which operates from the tower at Soda Springs Mountain Resort, has the best measured local coverage though the pattern is similar to Figure 1.

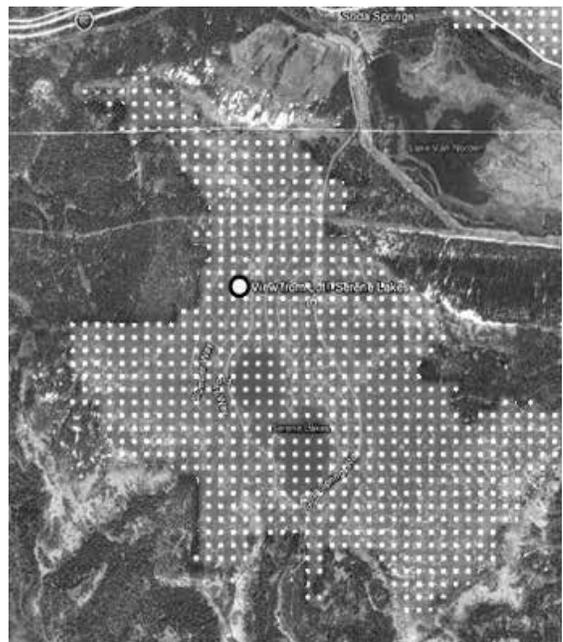
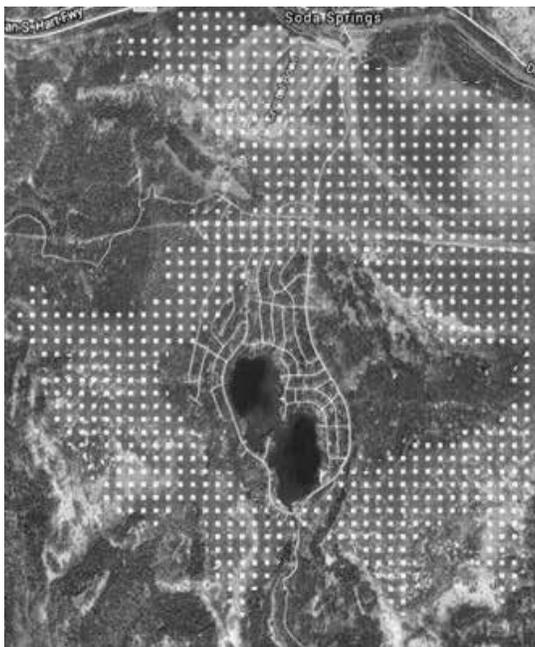


Figure 1 (left): Stippled pattern, Red, indicates current line-of-site Serene Lakes cell coverage from Donner Ski Ranch using the application <http://heywhatsthat.com>. Cell services use microwaves which bend slightly over ridges and around corners to some extent, so measured coverage is somewhat better than line-of-sight. Figure 2 (right): Stippled pattern Red indicates line-of-sight coverage from the proposed tower behind the fire station (larger yellow white dot); the new tower should fill Verizon coverage gaps. Both images kindly provided by George Lamson.

Alternatives: Alternate sites are difficult to find because carriers want road access, electrical power, and (preferably) a nearby fiber cable for connecting into their service networks. A site at Royal Gorge's Summit Station appears equally feasible to the fire station meadow location; but Verizon has already explicitly rejected it. The fiber requirement makes a distributed antenna system (half a dozen less conspicuous 'nodes' scattered around Serene Lakes) more costly; home-scale 'nodes' have typical ranges of only 100 feet.

Future: The debate continues, currently only involving Verizon and SLCWD directly. The cell committee will continue to research these issues. For more information (including summary maps showing measurements for Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile), send an e-mail request to hut.coord@yahoo.com.

Dark Skies - Carole Raisbeck

One of the greatest pleasures of life here at the Lakes is to step outside your cabin, look at the big night sky and watch those incredible stars .

Away from the city lights we are able to search for falling stars and bright planets, pick out constellations and even trace the paths of orbiting satellites ---what a thrill.

But this show happens only in the dark. Sadly,our dark skies have been diminishing as the number of outdoor cabin lights increases in our community,

In an effort to preserve the character of our night sky the SLPOA Board of directors is asking that homeowners take affirmative measures to minimize outdoor lighting.

What about exterior lighting for the snowplows and blowers, you might ask? Placer County Road Maintenance Department says lighting is NOT required, but a minimum amount, such as lower voltage motion sensors, or even little Christmas lights, can be helpful, especially on newer cabins that are not yet familiar to the operators.

Here are the steps you can take to help preserve our wonderful evening views.

1. Replace the sodium and mercury vapor lamps as they are overkill for the amount of lighting required. Unless they are installed with a lot of shielding they spill into the night sky and shine into you and your neighbors' windows.

2. Put your outdoor lights on a motion sensor. Indeed, the California legislature is considering a bill requiring all new construction to be fitted with motion sensors for outdoor lighting in an effort to save energy.

3. Do not use exterior lighting fixtures where the source, i.e. the bulb, is visible from neighboring properties. Consider using 30W reflector bulbs (lengthening extensions are available), or fixtures with solid covering on the sides. In effect, the light should point down or reflect back onto your cabin, not shine out across the street. Carole Raisbeck at 426-0629 and Ann Bowles at 426-0690 have a supply available, \$3.00 for 30W bulbs and \$6.00 for an extension.

4. Use lower voltage bulbs.

5. Reach out to your neighbors and politely explain why they should comply.

Ask your family your friends, and your renters to please turn off those outside lights as quickly as possible. It will save energy, money, and the beauty of our night skies.

For more information go to the California Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association web site



Above: Milky Way over Lake Serena by George Lamson

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Some Lost SLPOA Business

Ed Shea 2015 RSLYC Commodore

This article came in a little late; the last edition had already gone into the mail, but placing it here will remind you there are other seasons at Serene Lakes besides the snow shoveling season.

Serene Lakes 2015 Sailboat Race #3

The third and final race of the year brought out the largest field of sailors of the season. The conditions were perfect with a moderate breeze and temps in the high 70s. The course was set up in the traditional “port / starboard”

triangle format with two laps of each triangle. The breeze held and the spectators on Lot 1 were entertained by the bugle playing of Jill Marek, who is a trained musician in addition to her skills as an ER Doctor in Oakland.

The start began with the traditional pile up on the leeward side of the line with Seth Eddy, Bernard Pech and Duane Faitel getting out in front of the pack. The line of racers was in a relatively tight pack making for entertaining viewing from the packed beach at Lot 1. Dave Groechel was on top of his game as usual and the dual began between him and Duane F right up until the end of the race.

After a racers completed both triangles in the first lap the field was led by Dave G, Duane F, Seth Eddy, Charlotte & William Peale and Werner Siegert. Seth then had a problem at the jibe mark on the port triangle and had to fight to get back in the race. The dual between Dave G and Duane F continued with the lead being exchanged several times. At the end it was Duane F who prevailed with three “bullets” or first place finishes for the summer. I cannot recall that feat being accomplished in the 10 years that I been involved at Serene Lakes sailing. Strong work Duane!

The overall season standings ended with the following top five racers (who raced in all three races):

- Duane Faitel – First Place
- Werner Siegert – Second Place
- Seth Eddy – Third Place
- Bernard Pech – Fourth Place
- Stu Gerould – Fifth Place

I would like to “shout out” to our young racers consisting of two intrepid teams. Charlotte & William Peale put forward a great showing in a borrowed Laser, taking third place and Saul & Zane Chaplin sailing the “USS Platypus” put

forth a solid tenth place against the adult laden field. Rumor has it that the older sailors are going to supply Saul & Zane with a proper jib next year so they have a legitimate chance to be in the winner’s circle.

Have a great winter and I hope to see you on the slopes.

Photos here of the 2015 Serene Lakes Yacht Race by George Lamson

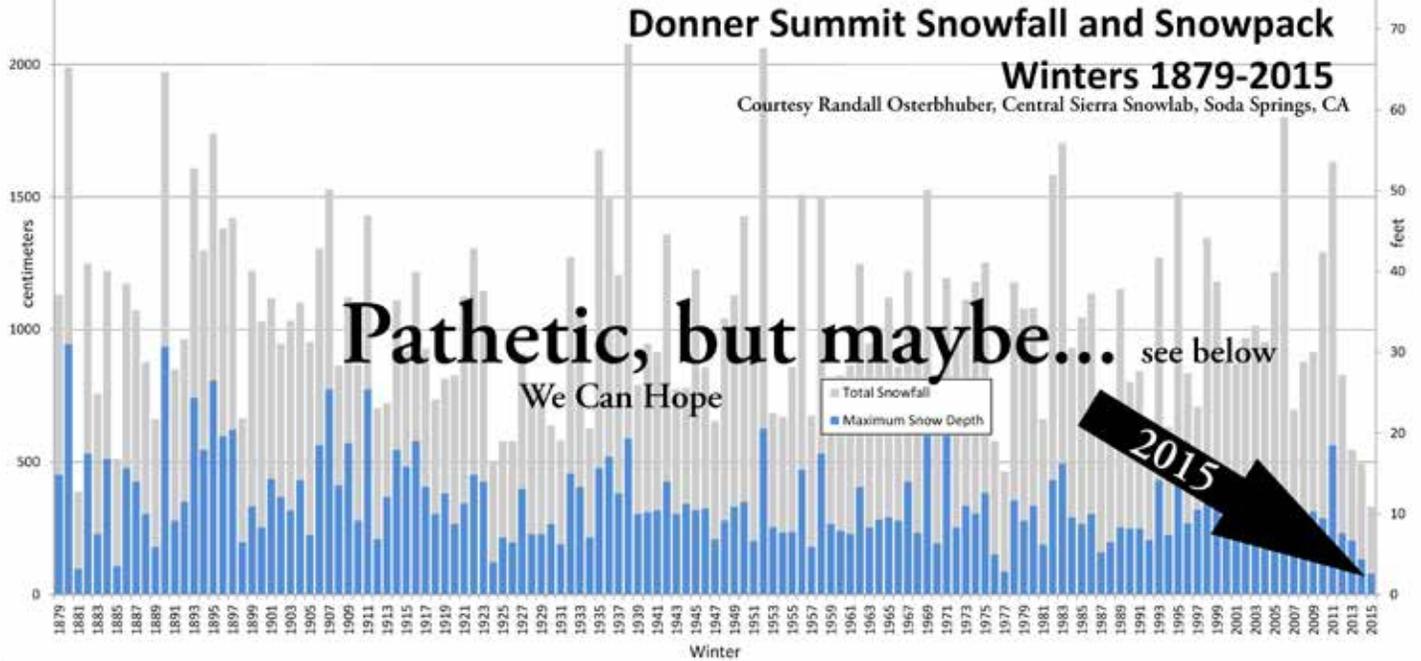


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Donner Summit Snowfall and Snowpack

Winters 1879-2015

Courtesy Randall Osterhuber, Central Sierra Snowlab, Soda Springs, CA



DEEP SNOW AT THE SUMMIT

The Grass Valley Republican, of the 14th says: Isaac Thompson, of Nevada Ice Company, arrived from the Summit yesterday noon. He left the Summit Thursday morning, on the Westward bound train, and did not get through to Colfax until Saturday morning. The snow on the Summit ion a level wa about twenty feet deep. One night last week, during the heaviest storm, four feet of snow fell in twelve hours. In coming down this side of the Summit the snow along the railroad track was on a level with the top of the passenger cards.

Daily Alta California,
June, 16, 1872

Most everyone is hoping for a decent snow year. Last year was a record breaker on the down side. 2011 was a record breaker in the other direction. You'd think with all the technology at our finger tips and all the "apps" available, there'd be some way to even out the years.

At newsletter deadline the State snow survey showed local precipitation at 136% of normal. That's a good start and a good omen unless you have a big deck to shovel or run a snow removal business.



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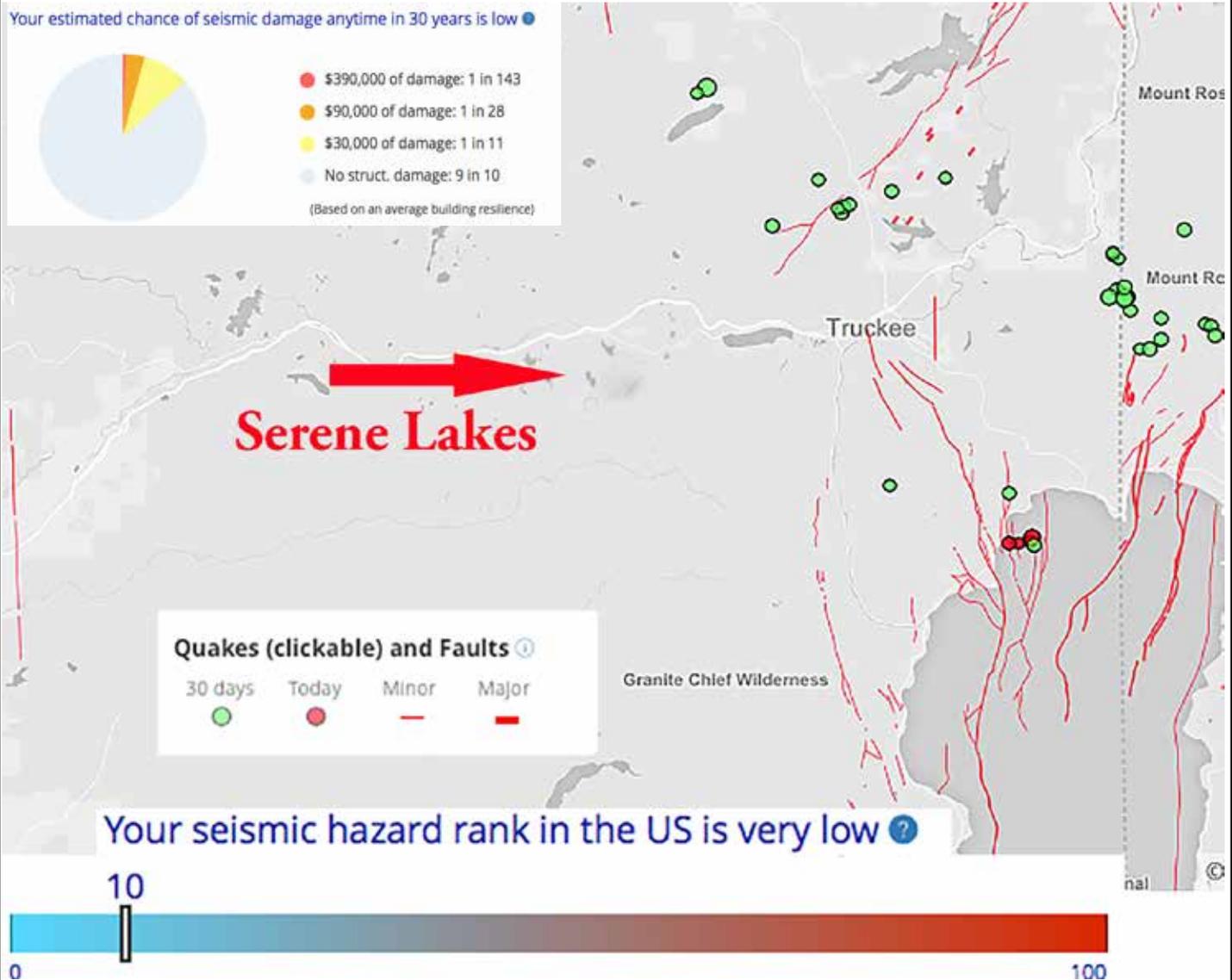
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Local Earthquake Hazard



Here in the SLPOA Ice Lakes News offices we take our responsibility seriously to present useful local information. One day while reading the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) prior to a heavy day in the SLPOA news offices, the [Ice Lakes News](#) staff came across an article about discovering local earthquake hazards. Naturally, the first inclination was to plug in Serene Lakes. After all, the USFS says there can be no more Van Norden Lake because of the earthquake hazard posed by the 50 acre feet of lake that the State will allow.

Just what is the earthquake danger in the vicinity?

Temblor.net, produced by a retired USGS fellow, provides local earthquake hazard information including the readings of recent earthquakes in the area. The map above, which shows better in color (SLPOA.com) shows nearby faults. Clicking on green dots presents data on recent earthquakes. Two weeks and one month before deadline there had been two earthquakes about 10 km from Serene Lakes. One measured .3 on the Richter Scale and the other, .4.

To do your own search, go to <http://www.temblor.net>. If you'd like to carry the app around with you to amaze your friends, then try <http://beta.temblor.net> in your phone's browser. In an Android, tap the menu and then 'save to home screen.' In an iPhone or iPad, tap the 'upload' icon at the bottom center of the screen, then the 'Add to Home Screen icon', and tap 'Add' in the upper right.

Local Chef Review

Kirke Hasson

Scott White, our neighbor on Tamarack, is an accomplished chef. His professional credentials include service as sous-chef at Ice Lakes Lodge and other commercial engagements, and he is available for hire to be chef for one-time repasts for group events.

Although he can easily oversee events for 100 or more, he is also willing to undertake (solo) smaller assignments, including fantastic multi-course meals for gatherings of 15-25 friends and neighbors.

Doing business as "Castle Chef" (castlechef@gmail.com), he recently turned his talents to the December 29, 2015, gathering shown here at Kirke and Nancy Hasson's cabin on Soda Springs Road. Their neighbors attending included Bill and Nancy Oudegeest, Andrew Bridges and Rebecca Lyman, John and Rachel Horsch, Roland and Jean Au, and other guests. 'Our extended family gathered here in Summer 2014 for several days,' said Kirke Hasson, 'and it was a treat to have Scott's masterful hands at work in the kitchen, allowing us to relax before a series of superb dinners, each one different.'

Scott hit the mark again on December 29.'"



Left: Scott at work in the Hasson kitchen.

Below, the gathering in the Hasson cabin with Scott in the background.

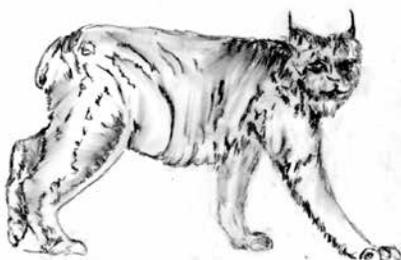
Photos by Kirke Hasson



I Thought I Was Special

Leaving Serene Lakes a couple of weeks before this newsletter's deadline I was heading down Soda Springs Rd. just about where the cross-country ski trail crosses the road east of Pahatsi. It was 5:30 in the morning. Walking leisurely across the road was a large cream-colored animal about the size of a Golden Retriever. It did not have a canine outline though. It's long sleek tail stretched out behind and it had a definite cat face. We've been in Serene Lakes for 36 years. I've never seen a mountain lion in the neighborhood although I've seen tracks.

A couple of mornings later I was headed to Summit Station for some skate skiing, and walking leisurely across Hillside near Acorn, was a smaller cat-type individual with no tail. It was a bobcat, the first I've seen in the neighborhood.



I was very pleased with myself and chortled about it for some days until I shared the experiences with neighbors. It turns out the bobcat has been seen by lots of people.

The drawings here, by Nancy Oudegeest, are in lieu of photographs, which I don't have.

You might want to keep your pets in so there's no snacking.

New History Menu at the Summit Restaurant

For some years the Donner Summit Historical Society has been providing historically-themed menus for Maria Montano's (Serene Rd.) Summit Restaurant in Soda Springs, just at the freeway exit. We've covered all kinds of topics. In this issue the lead article is about how visitors have been remarking on Donner Summit's magnificence in prose, painting, photography and commercial ads. Then there is an article on the first women to go over Donner Summit in automobiles and motorcycles. One ran over a fellow's foot in San Francisco and that apparently led to marriage. You'll have to stop by for a meal and a "read."

Rules for Greenbelts from the Subdivision maps cover sheet.

Those certain strips of land shows here as "greenbelt Areas" and "Recreation Areas" are hereby reserved for the use of all land owners of any parcel of land which is a portion of Ice Lakes Subdivisions No. 1 and No. 2, any re-subdivision thereof, Serene Lakes Unit 1, plus any subsequent unit hereof. The use of these areas shall be in accordance with the condition as set forth hereinafter.

Conditions Affecting "Greenbelt Areas" and "Recreation Areas"

The Owner of such property:

1. is prohibited from erecting or causing to be erected any permanent structure thereon.
2. is prohibited from cutting, benching, or regarding said property without written authorization of the county of Placer.
3. May plant, landscape or otherwise improve the appearance of said property provided such work does not conflict with or violate any conditions prescribed in the foregoing subparagraphs (1) & (2)
4. Shall not inhibit or restrict ingress and egress through said areas by persons holding the legal right to do so by virtue of this map.
5. Shall not remove or harm any tree or other work planted or constructed thereon, except with permission of the county of Placer.

July, 1966



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 Established - 2001 Soda Springs, CA Volume I Issue 6 2016

Hours: Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. MThF Noon-8:30 P.M. Tues. 4-8:30 P.M. The bar is open until the crowd is gone.



Donner Summit Lodge, A Short History

Ever since the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. was built in the early 1860's to service the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, there have been hostleries along the route over Donner Pass.

The first auto to cross Donner Pass crossed in 1901. The first successful motorized "transcontinental" crossed the country using Donner Pass in 1903 on a motor bicycle. With the arrival of the automobile, lodges began to spring up to service automobiles and provide relief for the "autosts."

By 1913 the first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway, was in operation and auto traffic increased considerably. In 1913 there were 150 "transcontinentalists" and by 1923 the number had increased to 25,000. Small lodges and service stations were built along the route and early automobiles would have gone right past what is now Donner Summit Lodge. Once the highway was open in winter the lodges offered accommodations for snow sport enthusiasts.

Donner Summit Lodge was built in 1938 to take advantage of the growth of traffic over the, by then, year-round Highway 40. The lodge was expanded twice from the picture above, first just after World War II and then in the 1970's. Additions were made to both ends of the original lodge. The sign on the lodge above says, "Donner Summit Lodge Fine Food Ski Dormitories Cabins."

The picture above is from the Norm Saylor Collection as are the two photos on page 6.

Donner Summit Is Magnificent

People have been saying that for a long time. The Native Americans apparently appreciated the beauty. They kept coming back to summer here year after year, decade after decade, century after century for thousands of years. More convincing though is that all the petroglyph sites have wonderful views of nearby peaks. There is not one site, of dozens, that does not have a spectacular view.

The first diarists with the wagon trains began the tradition of remarking on the beauty. Some visitors were almost rhapsodic in their praise.

In 1846 Edwin Bryant said, "The Alps, so celebrated in history, and by all travelers and admirers of mountain landscape, cannot, I am satisfied, present scenery more wild, more rugged more grand, more romantic, and more enchantingly picturesque and beautiful, than that which surround this lake [Donner Lake...]. The view is at the top is, inexpressibly comprehensive, grand, and picturesque. After congratulating ourselves upon the safe achievement of our morning feat, and breathing our mules a few minutes, we proceeded on our journey."

John Steel, in 1850, said, "A short distance north of the pass I climbed the dizzy heights of a granite peak. The view was magnificent."

In June 13, 1885 the *California Spirit of the Times* magazine said, "The air has a fresh crispness about it that gives a new life to the visitor whether he has come from the fertile plains or the foggy city. And no wonder...there are seven thousand feet between you and sea level. Seven thousand feet nearer heaven and so much nearer purity. It is a relief to... look up to the stars, nowhere brighter than here, with only the dark pines dosing in the distance... The air redolent with the perfume of fresh grass and wild flowers; and aromatic with pine needles. It is a physical pleasure to breathe, a 'delight to exist'. It is small wonder that a millionaire [Mark Hopkins]... should confess to be happier and healthier here than in the handsomest house on California Street. Nob Hill, to the sierras indeed."

Mary Ann Graves was a member of the Donner Party and one of the "Forlorn Hope" which escaped Donner Lake. They slogged through the snow and climbed to the top of Donner Pass. They were starving and exhausted but the view overcame the exhaustion. She said, "The scenery was too grand for me to pass without notice." She remembered another member of the group saying, "We were as near to heaven as we could get."

Thornton Round was 14 in 1914 when his father took him and the rest of the family across the country by automobile. "I don't believe I have adequate words to describe the real beauty of Donner Pass. As we stood looking down I had a floating sensation... I lost all fear as I looked at one of the most beautiful blue lakes [Donner Lake] I had ever seen. Everything below us seemed suspended in shimmering light."

Artists, photographers, print makers, and even advertisers also noted the beauty in their works as you'll see on the next pages.

Summit Restaurant does catering too. Call 426-3904

Serene Lakes Subdivisions:

- Ice Lakes 1
- Ice Lakes 2
- Serene Lakes 2
- Serene Lakes 3
- Serene Lakes 4-5
- Ice Lakes Lodge
(8 lots opposite the lodge)
- Serene Estates
(4 lots opposite Lot 1 building)

Snowmen people - 2016 Jane Loll



4th Annual SLPOA Snowman Party

Oh Baby, was it ever cold outside! With a daytime temperature of only 19° and strong gusts of wind, it certainly felt as cold as last year's frigid event. Challenged with dry and powdery snow, this year's entries were amazing. From a snowman making his own snow angel, to an ice fisherman sitting on a dock, to a serene snow mermaid, our beach was transformed into a snowy wonderland.

29 families and 127 participants built 33 snow sculptures. The dozen or so onlookers were either jealous or thought we were crazy. Congratulations to these hardy folks - our biggest showing yet:

The Weirs, The Foehrs, The Leddys Family, The Maloneys, The Wassermanns, The Nelsons, The Burmans, The Hillyards, The Interlopers, The Greens, The Bailey Boys, The Martins, The Ferrimans, The Corys, The Stocktons, The Giron/Siegerts, The Taylors, The Haberlachs, The Meeks, The Williams, The Newsomes, The Manskers, The Kustics, The Trainas, The Detweilers, The Denzlers, The Bielke-Lolls, and the Tills.

Coordinator Jane Bielke-Loll is looking for an assistant to help out next year. It's an easy event. Email jloll@mac.com. Please consider joining as a volunteer.



Photos by John Loll

Progress at the Lodge

Roland Au

Happy New Year from the Tuckers and Aus from the Lodge (formerly known as Ice Lakes Lodge).

As we reflect on our remodeling experiences of 2015 we wanted to share with the SLPOA membership where we're at in our project to convert the Lodge into two residences as of January 1, 2016.

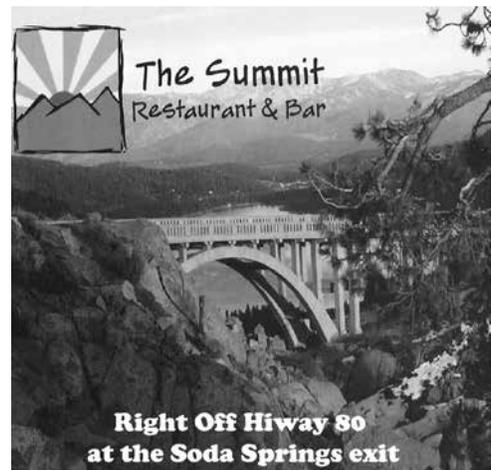
So far we have demolished walls, ceilings, and floors, and have hauled away fifteen (15) 30 yard dumpsters. Additionally we've discovered and corrected dry-rot that affected all of the support posts to the exterior decks and the roof of the port cochere.

With all of this demolition we have ended up with all sorts of surplus building materials that we will not be reusing in our remodel, so if you're thinking about doing some remodeling yourself we have or will have double pane windows and sliding glass doors, fiberglass bath tubs, pine wainscot, and tempered glass panels that were used on our deck railings. If you have any questions about these items you can either e-mail me at: roland@summerfieldfoods.com or call me at (707) 217-9586.

I have also attached some photos of our progress that might be of interest.

Another thing that we've discovered in our ownership of the Lodge this last year, after speaking with the water district manager, is that while some of the lots around the lakes [mostly on the east side] do not abut the lakes, the Lodge does. This confusion has given some community members the belief that there's a public right away behind and around our Lodge property. Since there isn't we respectfully request that people respect our private property rights by not intruding on our private beach.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you as we continue our remodeling project....



Walking Through Donner Summit History

Dozens of stories of Donner Summit history, dozens of historical quotes, hundreds of photographs and drawings, and lots of maps.

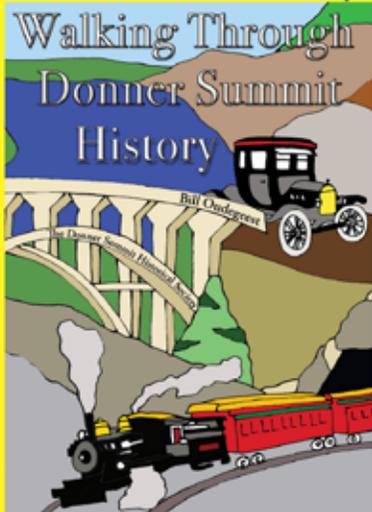
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- Soda Springs General Store
- Donner Summit Historical Society
- Donner State Park Visitors' Center
- The Bookshelf book store in Truckee

- via the web: www.donnertsummithistoricalsociety.org
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Membership Renewal Time

Sharon Ruffner, SLPOA Membership Chair

January begins SLPOA's annual membership drive. The membership year coincides with the calendar year so that we can budget for summer activities when SLPOA is most active. Dues are still a terrific deal at \$125 per year!

SLPOA dues are spent entirely on community activities on the Summit. The snack shack at the Homeowner's Beach (Lot 1) expanded its offerings this past summer and thanks to the many volunteers, was able to open 7 weekends from the Fourth of July to Labor Day. The merchandise committee ordered new styles including a commemorative 50th anniversary t-shirt. Boat storage and docks were expanded to multiple locations around the lake. The Propane Task Force documented and published the location of propane tanks and kept pressure on vendors to complete inspections. Serene Lakes maintains its Firewise community status due to the efforts of the Fire/Defensible Space committee and free chipping was once again made available to members. SLPOA's 50th anniversary was celebrated with an outstanding community built float and decades themed golf carts during the July 4th parade. Serene Lakes Days boasted record numbers in the Water Balloon Toss, the Cabin Tour showcased terrific homes (with tasty wine and food) and the annual meeting and BBQ continued to mark the Golden Anniversary. Movie nights were expanded and a new propane fire-pit allowed s'mores toasting while still maintaining fire safety. John Muir stopped by and treated the crowd to several Scottish tales. Many outdoor enthusiasts turned out for the variety of hikes on the Royal Gorge property or for the annual Margie Powell Hike.

SLPOA activities and facilities are successful because of the great efforts of our volunteers. Not everyone has the time to volunteer but you can do your part and write a check so that SLPOA can continue these activities as a benefit to the community. In an effort to decrease the mailing of newsletters, we are offering additional newsletters for free if you opt for online delivery. If you want an extra newsletter mailed to you, the price will be \$10.

Please fill out the membership form on the next page and send it in with your check. You can also pay your membership dues online at SLPOA.COM While you are at the website please check to see that all of your contact information is up to date. If there is a problem at your cabin this winter, you will want us to get in touch with you.

The SLPOA board hopes to see you up on the summit enjoying our winter wonderland or at a SLPOA sponsored function this summer funded by your membership dues.

Sharon Ruffner, SLPOA
Membership Chair



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