

Serene Lakes News

May 2019



President's Message



By Diane Scanlon

Summer is just around the corner...Or is it? It's literally mid-May and it's snowing again.

As I see it—that's OK. We will have a lot of work to do once the snow melts. Walking around the lakes, I can see that there are power/cable lines, downed limbs, trees, and debris left from our winter storms.

With that in mind, I am just going to come out and say it: ***We need your help!*** I am asking for volunteers of all sorts. There are a number of things that we are looking to accomplish this spring and summer and SLPOA could use input from more of our members.

The **Sand Fling** opens up Lot 1 and is currently scheduled for either June 22 or 29th—depending on the snow melt. Tools and equipment like rakes and shovels are needed. I am asking for your physical presence too. You have heard the saying, ***many hands make light work***—well ***we can use your hands!*** **Confirmation of the date for this event will be coming via an email blast and will be posted on our website at SLPOA.org.** We on the Board and those who often participate in setting up for the summer are looking forward to seeing you there!

Due to a short summer season we are not having a formal cleanup day like we did last year—however if you see trash or debris—I encourage you to pick it up and incorporate it into your normal garbage disposal process. However, I am happy to share that Truckee Fire is offering a great program for individual cabin owners this summer! The **Truckee Fire Protection District Defensible Space Rebate Program** will reimburse you the cost of a green waste dumpster rental so can you remove vegetation and create defensible space around your cabin (this is in addition to the Chipping Program we will be having this summer too.) Simply provide a paid receipt (\$70 value) from Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal, and Truckee Fire will reimburse you the full cost of the dumpster rental. For full details visit [Truckee Fire Defensible Space](#).

Another opportunity to get involved—if you have an expertise/interest in Fire Prevention and Propane Safety. These are big topics being discussed in our community right now—and they impact everyone. If you have an interest in participating in either of these Safety Committees, please reach out to Robert McCormick who is the Safety Committee Chair at bmacc8@gmail.com.

Three (3) of our Board members who have served us in very special ways, Cathy Pearson (Secretary), Dennis Fisco (Treasurer, former President) and Robert McCormick (Safety Committee, Government Liaison) are being termed out and we are looking for 3 new members. This is a great way to learn more about your community, as well as to offer input into SLPOA operations. If you have an interest in sitting on the Board please contact me at president@slpoa.com or one of your board members.

Finally, I would like to solicit cabin owners to participate in this fall's Cabin Tour! It's not too early to put your cabin on the list, and it's a great way to motivate you into getting things done around your cabin this summer. If you are interested, contact me or Nancy Himelstein at nrkatzhimel@icloud.com. We look forward to working with you to get set up.

I would say that everyone has an expertise or can offer resources in some way. Serene Lakes and the surrounding area offer a number of fun activities all year. Giving back in any of the ways I have listed above is priceless; and in my experience only serves to increase your enjoyment up here.

PLEASE BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF SLPOA—It's Never Too Late!

COMMUNITY EVENTS BULLETIN BOARD

June 22 (back-up date June 29)—SLPOA Sand Fling; Beach open for the summer

June 29—DSA Summit Cleanup, 9 AM; meet at Soda Springs General Store, p. 6

July 3—Float decorating party, 5 PM, Lot 1, supplies for decorating floats, bikes, p. 4.

July 4—SLPOA Parade, 11 AM; decorate a float, join the march, p.4.

--12 noon Chili Cook Off, p. 4.

--2 PM first Sailboat race of the year

--SLPOA Family Movie Night, begins at dusk, Lot 1

July 6, July 27, September 1—Summer Trail Runs, 7:45 AM; meet on Serene Rd. at Lot 1

July 20—SLPOA Board meeting, 4 PM, Water District office, Short Rd.; 6:30 potluck, Lot 1 Beach

July 21—DSA Lake Mary event, p. 6.

July 26, 27, and 28—Serene Lakes Days --Friday night Volunteer Happy Hour

--Saturday: Serene Lakes Days events, Lot 1,

-- SLPOA Family Movie Night, begins at dusk, Lot 1

--Sunday, 4th Annual Ice Lakes Triathlon, second Sailboat Race, Lot 1.

August 10-11—SLPOA/Historical Society co-sponsored Marge Powell Memorial Hike, 9:30 AM

August 31—Cabin tour, 2 -5 PM, p. 2.

--SLPOA Family Movie Night, begins at dusk, Lot 1

September 1—Membership Meeting, 9:30 AM; Barbecue, 2 PM; Sailboat race 2 PM, all on Lot 1.

September 14-15—Donner Party Hike, near Sugar Bowl, details at <http://donnerpartyhike.com>.

The Mayor's Corner

By Ralph Suter

Wow! What a winter! I'm glad we were in sunny Yuma where the weather was very mild.

We returned to beautiful spring weather, but that didn't last very long. In May winter rolled in again giving us at least two more feet of snow. According to Jeff Krebill at our water district we received over 40 feet of snow this season. February broke a record with 25 feet. All this heavy snow brought some major damage to the community. One house was knocked completely off its foundation and many others have major roof and deck damage.

Many Serenites escaped to warmer climates for a while. Jan and Vera Benes traveled to Greece and Italy. Ed and Kathy Bubnis took the granddaughters to Hawaii. Cliff and Sue Busby visited Mexico. Mickey and Nancy Gray basked in Hawaii. Ken and Lynn Hall explored Israel. Mark and Nancy Himelstein enjoyed the big island of Hawaii. Jennifer McLane and Laurel Tuggey relaxed on Santorini and shopped in Paris. Bill and Nancy Oudegeest went to Holland. Werner Siegert took Anika and his grandchildren on a European road trip.

It looks like slim pickings in the eats department. Donner Ski Ranch is open for lunch and dinner and plans to serve breakfast on the weekends this summer. Soda Springs Store has deli sandwiches and take-and-bake pizzas. Sierra Mountain Pizza (530-427-5006) in Kingvale is open Fridays from 5 to 8PM and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11AM to 8PM. We hear their pizza is very good, but haven't had a chance to try it. Down by Donner Lake, Donner Kitchen serves breakfast and lunch, but weekends there may be a long wait. The Creamery is also open and serves street tacos on Fridays. The Bistro on the west end that was supposed to be ready last year is planning to open sometime this summer.

If you are looking for something fun to do, check out our Nancy O's Gallery in Soda Springs where she offers many interesting classes. Looking forward to seeing you at Beach Opening, whenever that may be.

Let me know your news. 'Til next time: Ralph Suter 426-3855 ralphbrenda@att.net.



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

SLPOA OFFICERS AND BOARD

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SLPOA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

**Even if we have to buy a hundred snow shovels,
we will have a great 4th of July**

In 2011 we had to dig a path through the ice down to the door of Snack Shack in order to welcome the 4th of July. This year, even if we have to rent a back-hoe to make sure the celebration is fun and exciting, we guarantee an amazing Independence Day Celebration.

Join us for the parade at 11:00 AM on Thursday the 4th of July; a great Chili Cook Off provided by some of the best cooks in America; and, hot dogs, cokes and beer plus great music. It will be a day to remember, snow or no snow. The Serene Lakes Community has been described by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of those places that represents everything that is wonderful about America. So, if you like real family fun with a fire engine leading the parade, Stars and Stripes music, a game of Independence Day trivia and food that reflects Americana, you just have to be there.

And---don't forget, we provide the crepe paper, balloons, red, white and blue paper so you too can design your own entry to the parade. Bring your bike, wagon, baby carriage, golf cart, jeep or dog and any decorations you might have around the cabin and join us at 5PM on the 3rd of July at the beach. You too can create a great parade entry. See you there.

By Ken Hall

**New this year: Afternoon band, Movie Night,
Salsa added to chili cook-off**

The 4th of July Committee could use some more volunteers for the parade organization. Specifically, we need someone to handle the sound for the music and microphone, and we need a few people at the beginning of the parade to help organize the parade participants. Please contact Jenyth Utchen at jjenyth@gmail.com if you can help out.

Have you ever heard of a Poe-tree? The Serene Lakes Kids Club would like to create one during 4th of July week. Please join Poet Laureate Jenyth Utchen at Lot 1 the mornings of July 1, 2, and 3. Write a verse; we'll pin it to the tree for everyone to see on the 4th of July. Children between ages 1 and 100 are invited to drop a line. Look for the red, white, and blue ribbons on the south side of the Lot 1 lawn.

By Jenyth Utchen.



4th of July Chili and Salsa Cook-Off
**WE HAVE ADDED SALSA TASTING
TOO!**

Lot 1, July 4th (Thursday)

**Tastings will begin after the Kid's
Parade (noonish)**
Judging Tickets \$3 each

**This year you may purchase tickets
starting at 10 AM at Lot 1 on the 4th.**
**We will call judges up in groups to
taste to cut down on the judging lines.**

**FOR ALL INTERESTED
COOKS**

For more details. please contact:
Sue Busby, sue@castlepeak.com or
Ann Reisenauer,
annreisenauer@yahoo.com
Deadline to enter is June 30th





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Experience Nancy O Glass Gallery & Studio By Nancy Oudegeest

Summer hours will start June 8th when the gallery will be open 10AM to 6PM Thursday through Sunday and 6PM to 9PM Wednesdays and Fridays.

Every Wednesday will feature an **Intro to Fusing** class—the basics from cutting the glass to firing it. Students will work at their own pace and produce 1 to 2 pieces for \$75.

Starting June 12th every Thursday, Friday and Sunday during gallery hours offers artists an opportunity to **drop in and create** their own small fused project. Projects will range from \$15 to \$35. This is the perfect option for anyone who is just visiting the area for a short time or where a scheduled class doesn't work. No experience is necessary; children 10 and older are welcome with an adult present.

Starting June 14th every Friday from 6-9 is **Open Studio** time for anyone who has taken 1 or more classes at the Nancy O Gallery and now would like to work on their own. Fees are dependent on the materials and the kiln needed.

Scheduled classes – make sure to call ahead for a reservation as classes do fill up.

June 15th, 6 – 9 PM– Garden Flowers - \$50
 June 22nd, 6 – 9 PM – Crazy Fish Garden Stakes - \$50
 July 6th, 4 – 6 PM– Night Lights - \$50
 July 13th, 6 – 9 PM – Spoon Rests - \$50
 August 3rd, 6 – 9 PM – Garden Flowers - \$50
 August 17th, 4 – 6 PM – Small Bowl - \$50
 August 24th, 6 – 9 PM – Picture Frames



Nancy O Glass Studio

Gallery Winter Hours
 Thursday - 6p.m.-9p.m.
 Friday – Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m.
 Sunday - 10a.m.-2p.m.

21547 Donner Pass Rd.
 Soda Springs, CA 95728
www.nancyoglass.com
nancy@nancyoglass.com

classes and private parties
 available

209.968.0146



DSA News from Elizabeth Tanhoff

DONNER SUMMIT CLEANUP—SATURDAY, 6/29, 9 AM

A little bit from you means a lot to us!

Saturday, June 29nd - 9:00AM

Meet in front of the Soda Springs General Store for area allocation or send an email to admin@donnersummitca.com

Volunteers receive a ticket to a prize drawing and a hamburger lunch.

DSA LAKE MARY EVENT – SUNDAY 7/21, 11 AM- 3PM!

Enjoy an afternoon with the family at Lake Mary:
 Lunch with pre- and post-hikes
 Live music, live and silent auction, bounce house.
 More information will follow...

To volunteer or donate please contact Beth,
admin@donnersummitca.com



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HEADWATERS SCIENCE CAMP RETURNS

By Spencer Eusden



Give your child the opportunity to explore Serene Lakes this summer! This hands-on science program is designed for children of Serene Lakes families around the unique ecology of the area—like those at left learning about aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Day campers will explore the natural spaces around Serene Lakes, ask scientific questions, design and conduct experiments to answer their own questions. Science is fun and engaging when children get to ask their own questions and design experiments to test what makes them curious. This program will show your child science is fun and all around them while forging a unique connection to the Serene Lakes area. Drop off time is 8:30 - 9:00 AM and pick-up is 2:30 - 3:00 PM each day.

SERENE LAKES MEMORIAL DAY

By Ann Reisenauer & Richard Simpson



Friday - Kayaking on the South Fork of the Yuba River. The dam has not been notched; there's plenty of water in Lake Van Norden and the River.



Sunday - Skiing off Royal Gorge's Stagecoach Trail after 4 inches of new snow



The Truckee Passport Program

During the summer of 2019, Truckee will celebrate 150 years of the Transcontinental Railroad and its impact on the Donner Summit and Truckee Area. We invite all students, parents, visitors and locals to get a Golden Spike Passport and learn about the local history.

The Passport highlights 24 separate locations where history associated with the Transcontinental Railroad was created. The Passport can be traversed in any order, but it is often easiest to cover the first 12 locations by parking the car and walking around historic Truckee starting at the Welcome Center at the Train Depot. The second half of the sites is most easily covered in a car.

All sites have a large poster with interesting stories that occurred right there. Use the local stamp to show that you have visited the site. Some of the locations may be closed when you want to visit them. Do not get discouraged. Come back on the weekend or check online for operational hours.


Passports cost three dollars, so don't lose them. They are precious; especially for the memories they are intended to capture. Passports may be purchased at the California Welcome Center at the Truckee Train Depot.

Bring your Passports, completed or not, to the August 31 Picnic starting at 11 AM in the Truckee Regional Park. See you there!

For more information, check out:

<https://www.goldspike.org/golden-spike-program>.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS, DONNER SUMMIT-TRUCKEE
TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

JUNE 2019

June 10 Locomotive technologies Pizza on the Hill 11509 Northwoods Blvd Truckee, 6 PM
 June 15 Interpretive Walk, Town of Boca site, 10:00AM
 June 15 Historical Talk, Boca Brewery, Steam and Beer. Donner State Park Visitors Center. 5:30 PM
 June 22 Historical Talk, Chinese and their Importance to the Railroad. Truckee Tahoe Airport Conf Rm,
 7:00pm And Bill George video "Sacramento and the Transcontinental Railroad".
 June 29 Historical Talk, Snow Sheds-Fires and other Related Subjects. Truckee Tahoe Airport Conf Rm., 7:00PM
 June 29 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park, 11-3PM

JULY 2019

July 4 Town of Truckee Annual Parade. Theme: Transc. RR 150th Anniversary. 10:00AM at the High School
 July 6 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park 11-3PM
 July 18 Historical Talk, History of the Construction of the Railroad, Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Dinner, Tahoe
 Donner Lodge 12850 Northwoods Blvd., 5:30 PM
 July 20 Historical Talk, Lincoln Highway. Donner Memorial State Park, Visitors Center, 5:30 PM
 July 20 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park, 11-3PM
 July 27 Historical Talk, Logging Railroads. Truckee Tahoe Airport Conference Room, 7:00PM
 July 28 Trestle Tour Drive/Walk. Meet at 9:00AM at the Railroad Museum, 10075 Donner Pass Road, Truckee
 Driving/Walking Tour of old Logging Trestles.

AUGUST 2019

August 3 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park, 11-3PM
 August 3 Historical Talk. Truckee Lake Tahoe Railway. Truckee Tahoe Airport Conference Room, 7:00PM
 August 10 Historical Walk. Jibboom Street, History of the Red-Light District. Time Pending
 August 10 Historical Talk, Art Truckee, Red-Light District of Truckee, History of the Women, Time Pending
 August 17 Historical Talk, Vigilantism. Donner Memorial State Park, Visitors Center, 5:30PM
 August 17 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park, 11-3PM
 August 24 Historical Talk, Henness Pass, Truckee Tahoe Airport Conference Room, 7:00PM
 August 31 Final Picnic, Truckee River Railroad, Regional Park Truckee, 11-3PM.

SEPTEMBER 2019

September 14 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park, 11-3PM
 Sept. 14-15 Donner Party Hike event (Mt. Judah Lodge Sugar Bowl and the State Park) donnerpartyhike.com
 Sept. 28 Truckee River Railroad for Kids and Adults Truckee Regional Park 11-3PM

Updated listed available on Facebook: "Donner Summit-Truckee Golden Spike Celebration"
Or via: <https://www.goldspike.org/>

May, July, August Newsletter Editor:
istahap@jps.net

Kathy Neuburger
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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Two new totems—owl and raven—were added to the pole on the corner of Acorn and Hillside on April 25, 2019. Thunderbird, there since June 2017, got new talons to replace those that froze off. (Photos and story by Bill Oudegeest)

Donner Pass Road Construction Delay

Community members had been told that Donner Pass Road Construction would begin this summer. However, it has been delayed. This is the explanation, from Jessica Hankins, Public Works Project Manager from Nevada County:

“Central Federal Lands Division (CFLHD), the lead agency on the project, has completed the project plans and specifications. CEQA compliance is also complete. However, CFLHD has recently notified the County the project will not go out for bidding this spring. This change is due to several factors, including permitting, federal funding, and heavy snowfall issues. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2020 when these issues are anticipated to be resolved. As such, the County will accept encroachment permit applications for activities within the right-of-way in 2019.”

<h3>Donner Summit Rentals</h3> <p>Hassle Free Vacation Rental Services User Friendly Website Online booking Competitive Rate Large Investment in Advertising and Marketing Low Commission</p>		 <p>Leanne Grimmer 530-426-9323 contact@donnersummitrentals.com www.donnersummitrentals.com</p>
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THE POWER OF SNOW



The deep snow piled high by plows fell into the river, creating an ice dam 50 ft. upriver and 6-8 ft. higher than the water under the railroad bridge.

The Union Pacific transcontinental line was shut down. The auto bridge flooded.

Extra fire and emergency personnel were stationed in Serene Lakes, because there was no access into Serene Lakes for emergency vehicles.

Many of us heard about this on the news or received text alerts from Placer or Nevada Counties.

This is how it looked.



Photographs and on-scene reporting by Bill Oudegeest.

MORE SNOW COVERAGE



THIS WINTER'S SNOW STATS (to 5/31/19)

From Central Sierra Snow Laboratory:

Snowfall so far this winter: 488 in. (40.6 ft.)

2019 was the snowiest February on record, when 221.3 in. (18.4 ft) fell

Deepest day so far was 2/27/19, 178.3 in. (14.9 ft.)



Krista Voosen

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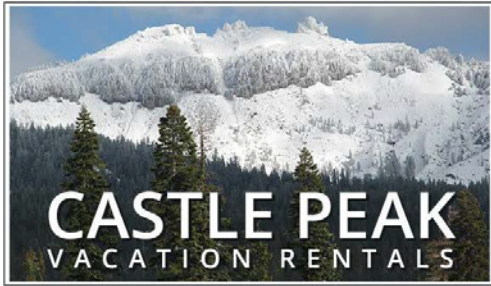
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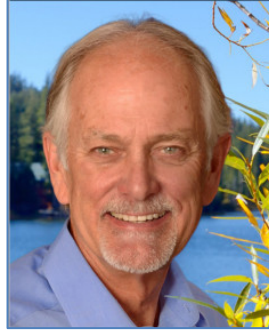
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A CAUTIONARY TALE...

Serene Lakes homeowners had a leak in their above-ground propane tank. While the gas didn't fill the house, it did leak into the snow around the tank.

The propane-saturated snow became a hazardous material, which required excavation, an expensive proposition.

Another reason to make checking your propane tank a priority this summer.

(Photos and story, Bill Oudegeest)



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