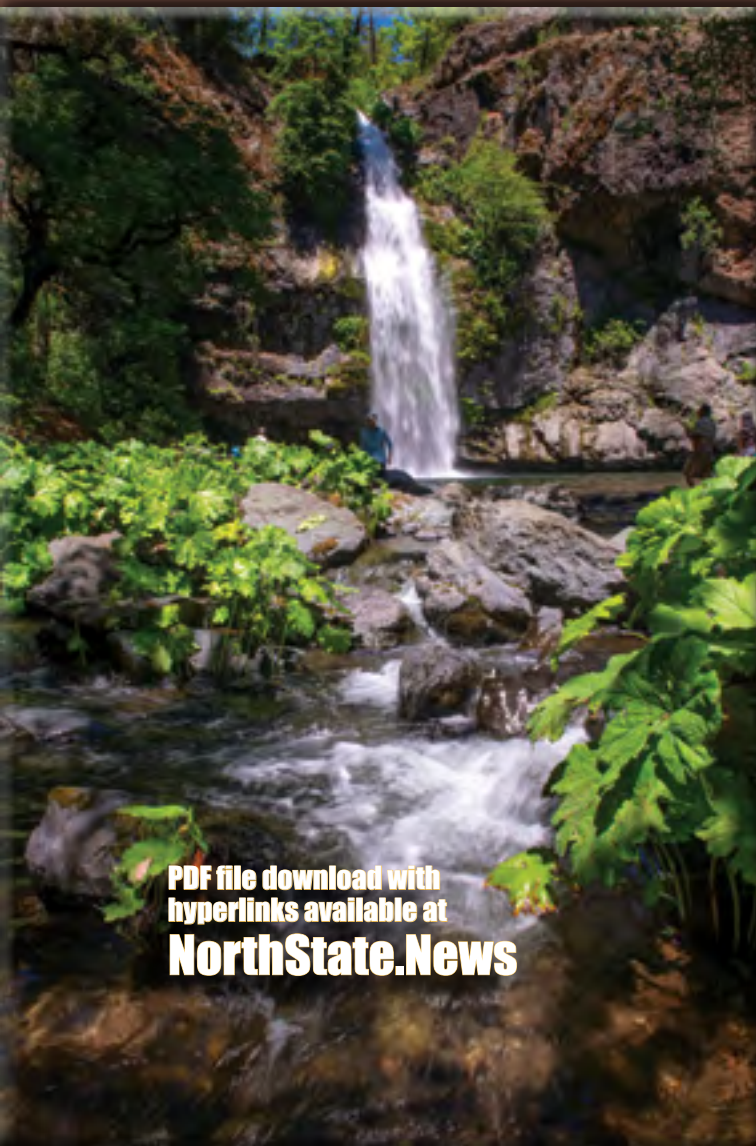




North State **VISITORS GUIDE**

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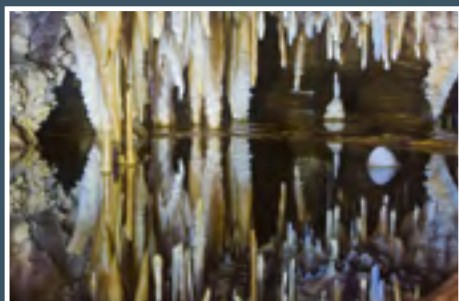
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Welcome

to Shasta Lake and the North State region

What a year it's been. The annual North State Visitors Guide is back with our largest circulation ever. Thanks to all of the advertisers this year, many of them small local business owners like ourselves, who have once again stepped up to make this publication possible.

Among the stories this year are 10 new north state hikes added by author John Soares to his hiking story from last year. Among them are hikes in the Trinity Alps area, Red Bluff, Lake Almanor and Chico. To go along with that, we've also added a story about the need for all people, locals and visitors alike, to try and do their best to help keep our big natural playground as clean as possible with a simple message: If you "Pack It In, Pack It Out."

Love waterfalls and want to see a lot of them but don't have a lot of time? We show you how you can see several of them in one day by taking a circular route on Highways 299, 89 and Interstate 5 with stops in Redding, Burney, McCloud, the Mt. Shasta area and Dunsmuir.

And after a several year hiatus, we've brought back a feature on some of the north state breweries, including several who have started up within the past year.

Also, if you've downloaded the PDF of this and some of our sister publications on your iPad or computer, we've now begun adding hyperlinks to them. So now, when you download the PDF of these publications, you'll be able to click on the ads and be taken directly to the website or social media of that business. We've also added the hyperlinks to some of the stories.

Thanks for stopping by and we hope you have a fun and a safe time this summer in the north state.

This Visitors Guide is produced by the North State Visitors Guide, P.O. Box 8025, 4138 Ashby Court, Shasta Lake CA 96019. Telephone 530.275.1716. email SLB@shasta.com. General Manager and Editor - Ron Harrington.

A PDF file of the 2021-2022 North State Visitors Guide with hyperlinks is available all year long at:

northstate.news

COVER PHOTOS: Lassen Peak and Manzanita Lake - Png Studio Photography; Candace and her dog Rufus kayaking - photo by Michael Burke; Potem Falls - photo by Michael Burke; Bike Riders - photo by Yotra Kbutda; Girl Backpacking near Mt. Shasta - photo by Leo Visions.

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Lassen, Burney Falls among region's popular national & state parks



Fishing at Manzanita Lake in the shadow of Lassen Peak and, inset, the volcanic eruption on Oct. 6, 1915.

Formal national and state parks are plentiful in the north state, offering visitors up-close and personal brushes with natural splendor of every stripe as well as a healthy dose of local history and culture.

Here's an overview of what's available to see and experience.

Lassen Volcanic National Park is one of the best-known attractions in the area and its often described as "Yosemite without the crowds."

It is home to steaming fumaroles, meadows freckled with wildflowers, clear mountain lakes, and numerous volcanoes. Jagged peaks tell the story of its eruptive past while hot water continues to shape the land.

Lassen Volcanic offers opportunities to discover the wonder and mysteries of volcanoes and hot water for visitors willing to explore the undiscovered.

Water from rain and snow that falls on the highlands of the park feed the hydrothermal system. Once deep underground, the water is heated by a body of hot or molten rock beneath Lassen Peak. Rising hot water boils to form boiling pools and mud pots. Super-heated steam reaches the surface through fractures in the earth to form fumaroles such as those found at Bumpass Hell and Sulphur Works. These features are related to active volcanism and are indications of the ongoing potential for further eruptions from the Lassen "volcanic center."

Lassen Volcanic National Park celebrated its centennial in 2014 and 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of Lassen Peak's largest eruption.

Although the road through the park normally doesn't open until mid-June, this year's moderate snow-pack enabled Lassen to open in mid-May.

Not to be outdone in the volcano department, Siskiyou County is proud to offer up 14,179-foot-tall **Mt. Shasta**, the second highest peak in the Cascade Range and the fifth highest mountain in California.

June and July are the most popular months for climbing the mountain. Reaching the peak is a strenuous task and the assistance of a guide is strongly encouraged for novice climbers. Although not formally a park, Mt. Shasta is the centerpiece of the federally designated Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area.

To the north and east of Mt. Shasta is **Lava Beds National Monument**, a land of turmoil, both geological and historical. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions on the Medicine Lake shield volcano have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features.

More than 700 caves, Native American rock art sites, historic battlefields and campsites, and a high desert wilderness experience await.

The land that was later to become Lava Beds National Monument, as

well as the highlands to the south and wetlands to the north, was home to paleolithic peoples for thousands of years. This area is still infused with cultural and spiritual importance for many modern people of Modoc and Klamath descent.

A few miles south of Mt. Shasta, on the northern edge of Shasta County, is **Castle Crags State Park**. It is dominated by the namesake Castle Crags, a dramatic rock formation in the upper Sacramento River canyon located just west of Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir.

The park offers swimming and fishing in the Sacramento River, 76

developed campsites, 28 miles of hiking trails, abundant rock climbing opportunities and access to the Castle Crags Wilderness Area.

The **Shasta State Historic Park**, a mere six miles west of Redding, tells the story of the north state gold rush. The Courthouse Museum is packed with historical exhibits and California artwork, and a row of half-ruined brick buildings reminds visitors that Shasta was the "Queen City" of the north state during the mining heyday.

Moving a few miles to the west, the **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area** is highlighted by Whiskeytown



The Joss House in Weaverville, known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds, is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California.

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PHOTO / Martina

Whiskeytown Lake’s beautiful crystal-clear waters attracts a lot of water-based recreation, including boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming and more, as well as beach areas you don’t find in other parts of the region.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

The Courthouse Museum is located in the Shasta State Historic Park.

Lake’s beautiful crystal-clear waters, which are surrounded by mountain peaks. However, water-based recreation is only a small part of what the park has to offer. The 39,000 acres surrounding the lake hold four waterfalls, pristine mountain creeks, 70 miles of trails, and opportunities to explore the history of the California Gold Rush.

Water-based activities are the primary interest of most Whiskeytown visitors which include boating, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, and fishing.

Visitors should remember that 2018’s devastating Carr Fire burned large sections of the park, as well as nearby Shasta, and recovery efforts are ongoing.

Two of the falls remain closed, but Park Superintendent Josh Hoines said the remaining two - Whiskeytown Falls and Crystal

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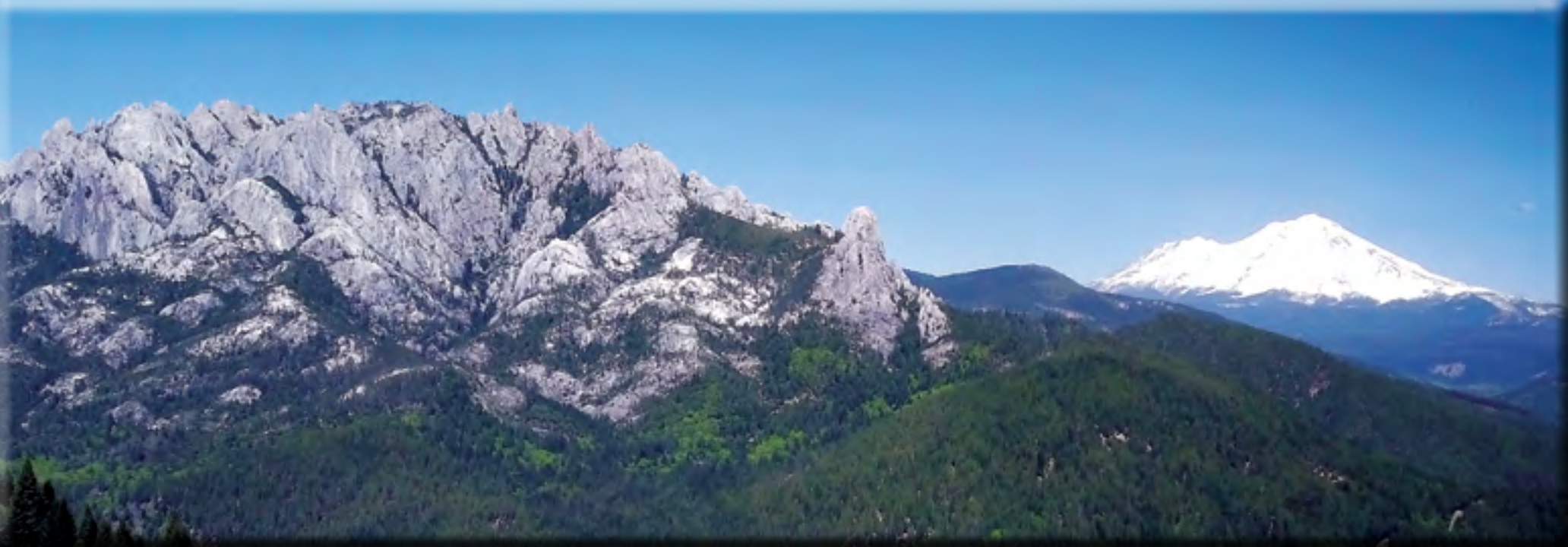
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DRONE PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

Castle Crags State Park is dominated by the namesake Castle Crags (above left), a dramatic rock formation in the upper

Sacramento River canyon located just west of Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir.

Creek Falls - are excellent choices to visit. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/whis

On display in the Taoist temple are art objects, pictures, mining tools and weapons used in the 1854 Tong War.

Visitors to Weaverville, the county seat of Trinity County west of Redding, are welcome to explore the Weaverville **Joss House State Historic Park**. It offers a fascinating look into the role played by Chinese immigrants in early California history.

To the east of Redding, no excursion to the area would be complete without a visit to **Burney Falls**, a 129-foot waterfall on Burney Creek that President Theodore Roosevelt called “the eighth wonder of the world.”

Known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds, the Joss House is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California.

The falls are located within the McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, which is the second oldest park in the state system.



Mushpot Cave in Lava Beds National Monument. PHOTO / Wirestock

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Above, the granddaddy of them all, Burney Falls.

PHOTO / Michael Burke

If you're a fan of waterfalls, you can view many in the north state within a day

By Aaron Williams

Anytime of the year - especially during the toasty summer months - is a perfect time to gas up the car and spend a day chasing waterfalls.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Above is the 70-ft. Montgomery Creek Falls.

And wherever you're at, there's nearly a dozen you can hit that, if planned right, can take less than a day's time to view them all.

For this article, we'll start in Redding and head east on Highway 299 toward Burney. (The map on page 52 in this visitors guide might be of some help).

The first stops of the day are Montgomery Creek and Potem falls, a 45-foot cascade on the Pit River, outside of Montgomery Creek.

To get to Potem Falls (seen on the front cover), turn left off 299 at Fenders Ferry Road and follow the road almost nine miles over Pit River (you'll see the PG&E dam). Cross the bridge and park for the 0.4-mile trail to the falls. There's a marker pointing the way. When you get there, you'll find the falls spilling into a shallow pool perfect for a dip and a picture.

Of course, it's a perfect place to spend the day, but we've got more waterfalls to see...so let's keep moving.

Near Potem Falls is Montgomery Creek Falls, less than a quarter-mile off Highway 299 on the road named for the falls. Prettier to look at than swim in, Montgomery Creek Falls pass through a narrow slot and fall about 15 to 20 feet into a rapidly

moving churn of whitewater dotted with rocks downstream.

Getting back on 299 east, continue on and go past Burney to the Highway 89 intersection. Next stop, the McArthur-Burney Falls State Park. Turn north (left) on 89 and the park entrance is five minutes away.

Reportedly called the "Eighth Wonder of the World" by President Teddy Roosevelt, Burney Falls is a spectacular spring-fed 128-foot waterfall that truly is eye-popping.

The short pathway to the bottom of the falls previews the beauty of the panoramic spill. The spray delights in lowering the temperature all around as the water flowing over the cliff remains between 42 and 48 degrees year round.

Inside the park, visitors can hike down to the falls, follow trails around the stream feeding the cascade, stroll to Lake Britton for a picnic or visit the park store for a souvenir or yummy ice cream cone. Camping is available at the park, so be sure to see where your next overnight adventure might be.

Obviously a tough one to leave behind so early, but, hey, we're on a mission, right?

After leaving Burney Falls, head toward McCloud for the next stop on

the waterfall trek - but you may want to stop at a piece of cinematic history on the way.

Shortly after leaving Burney Falls, take a right after crossing the Lake Britton Bridge at the sign-posted Dusty Creek campground turnoff for a chance to check out the "Stand By Me" bridge, the one made famous in the 1980s movie directed by Rob Reiner. Drive about one-quarter mile on a dirt road. The trestle, now in disrepair, will be visible on your left.

The bridge is where the four youngsters in the movie have to outrace the train and has become a local hotspot over the past three decades.

If you don't want to get out, you can view it briefly from Highway 89 as seen in the photo on the next page.

You can read a story on the 35th anniversary of filming in the Burney area in the July 2020 issue of After Five Magazine at northstate.news in the archives section.

From Burney, it's a 45-minute drive to the next stop - McCloud Falls, a trio of unique, but equally spectacular waterfalls.

The three falls - Upper, Middle and Lower - are easily accessible by car, but to truly appreciate their splendor, a trail connects all three. Starting



PHOTO / Michael Burke

McCloud's Middle Falls (above) is the largest and widest of the three falls as it spills 75 feet down its rock face. Right, Mossbrae in Dunsmuir, the falls you're technically not allowed to go view. There are numerous photos of it online.

at Lower Falls, the 0.7-mile walk past Folwer's Campground leads to Middle Falls and then climbs up to Upper Falls.

Lower Falls is a popular swim spot with places to jump into the pool below. But take caution as submerged boulders have shifted in the past few years.

Middle Falls also offers opportunities to dip into the chilly mountain water...or just admire the sublime serenity of the wide spillway.

The McCloud River cuts a channel in the basalt to form Upper Falls, a 15-foot cascade that spills into another place to cool down during a warm summer day.

But don't stay too long as three more falls await for the home stretch back to Redding.

Just outside the city of Mount Shasta, Faery Falls is one of the latest hot spots for waterfall seekers. On the road to Castle Lake, Faery Falls can be accessed off Castle Lake Road by turning on Ney Springs Road and parking at a turnout for the nearly 1-mile hike to the falls that are flowing best in early spring.

On to Interstate 5, 10 minutes south of Mount Shasta in Dunsmuir may or may not be the final waterfall, plus one that's technically off limits, but visually stunning nonetheless.

Hedge Creek Falls is off Interstate 5 just north of Dunsmuir and offers an easy trek to the spillway where visitors can actually walk behind the water as it cascades on to rocks below.

And while the double-falls hike of Hedge Creek and Mossbrae Falls



PHOTO / Pung

is what most folks do, Mossbrae is technically off limits as it's only accessible via the train tracks to the west of the Sacramento River or by taking a trail from Hedge Creek to the river, crossing the Sacramento River and then heading upstream to Mossbrae.

Local trail officials and politicians have been working on solving the access issue by meeting with railroad officials on plans to someday create an access bridge over the Sacramento River. But that appears years off.

When in Dunsmuir, don't forget to check out the town ballfield where Babe Ruth once played a barnstorming game in 1924.

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If you don't want to travel down a dirt road and view the "Stand By Me" trestle (below) that's in disrepair, you can catch a glimpse of it from Highway 89, a few miles from Burney Falls. But you and your passengers will need to squint and look fast and a bit far in the distance (above).



PHOTO / Columbia Pictures

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PHOTO / Michael Burke

The waterfalls in Dunsmuir you can view. Hedge Creek Falls is a waterfall you can actually walk under or behind.

You can read an article about it in the April 2021 issue of After Five Magazine, available online in the archives at northstate.news.

And while that circuitous route is a full day's trip, don't think that's all the waterfalls to see in the north state. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Of course, the itinerary can be modified to include other places and things of interest along the route.

Castle Crags State Park, just south of Dunsmuir on your way

back to Redding, offers not only two amazing falls in Burstarise Falls and Root Creek Falls, but some of the most breathtaking hiking in all of Northern California.

Spring and early summer are the best times to see many waterfalls in the north state, but that's especially true of Burstarise Falls. The 6.4-mile roundtrip hike is moderate with nearly 1,000 feet of elevation gain, but the trek is worth it. Burstarise Falls, about 80 feet high, drops straight off the



PHOTO / Vesna Kriznar

granite face and splits into a magnificent spray as it hits the rocks three-fourths of the way down the falls.

The trail to Root Creek Falls is a spur off the trail to the Castle Dome inside the Castle Crags State Park. A relatively easy and flat hike, the payoff is spectacular. The falls cascades down several tiers with the Castle Dome framed at the top of the falls.

Back in Redding, head west 8 or 10 miles to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area which boasts four waterfalls that would be the envy of any region across the country.

Two of the falls remain closed after 2018's devastating Carr Fire, but Park Superintendent Josh Hoines said the remaining two - Whiskeytown Falls and Crystal Creek Falls - are excellent choices to visit in the meantime.

More, more, more

There are numerous waterfalls inside Lassen Volcanic National Park, which annually opens to road traffic around June but opened early in mid-May this year due to the moderate snow-pack.

One of the more popular falls in the Lassen park is Kings Creek Falls. A 2.4-mile moderate roundtrip hike, Kings Creek Falls is a roaring cascade that falls down a fern-filled canyon. Also located in the park is Mill Creek Falls.



PHOTO / John Soares

In addition to the falls inside Lassen Volcanic National Park, there are days' worth of activities inside the park, including places like Bumpass Hell and, of course, the summit hike.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Whiskeytown Falls is one of two out of four waterfalls in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area that are currently open to the public.



Left, a composite photo of an actual photo of Ruth playing in Dunsmuir (above) with a current photo of the ballfield looking remarkably similar as it was in 1924. You can see the ball field from Interstate 5. Dunsmuir High School's baseball and football teams still play there.

Shasta Dam: Second largest concrete dam in the U.S.

Shasta Dam – An Engineering Marvel

During the Great Depression, 4,700 workers migrated to tiny northern California cities like Summit City, Project City, Toyon, Buckeye and Central Valley looking for work. The work these hardy men found was constructing Shasta Dam, the second largest concrete dam in the United States. Built between 1938 and 1945, Shasta Dam is truly an engineering marvel made up of 16,900 50-foot-square concrete blocks.

This concrete gravity dam has two main purposes: flood control and water storage. Without the dam the Sacramento River would be prone to flooding during winter; in the summer, communities south of the dam would be prone to drought-like conditions.

The dam was built to even out these conditions and help supply the fertile California Central Valley – where two-thirds of the nation's food is grown – with irrigation. A byproduct of Shasta Dam is 710 megawatts of electricity that its five massive generators can produce.

Located about nine miles northwest of Redding, Shasta Dam was constructed in just the right location to take advantage of the confluence of the Sacramento River, McCloud River, Squaw Creek and Pit River. Behind the dam, these four tributaries pool to create Shasta Lake. Its 365 miles of shoreline make Shasta Lake a fisherman's and boater's paradise.

Regular tours on hold

Tours that take you down inside the dam have been on hold even before Covid-19 became an issue. The elevator that transported visitors to the base is undergoing a complete upgrade.

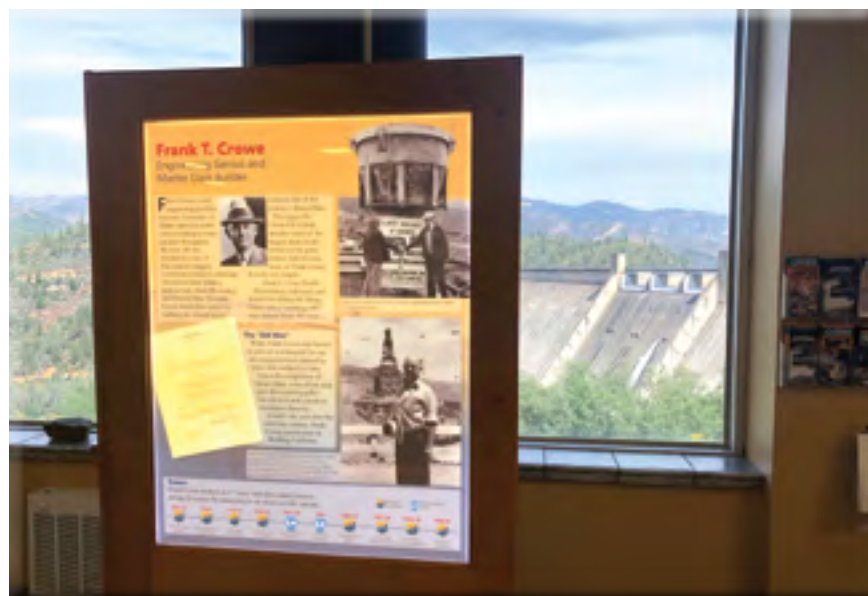
However, you're still able to enjoy a self-guided tour on top of the dam. Stop by the Visitor Center to get a copy of the Walking Tour booklet and set your own pace as you stroll across the dam, visiting six different waypoints.

During your stroll you might see



PHOTO / Sheri Harral - Bureau of Reclamation

On your way to Shasta Dam, you can pull off on Highway 151 (Shasta Dam Boulevard) and take a photo of the "Three Shastas": Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake and Mt. Shasta.



NSVG PHOTO

New displays have been put up in the Shasta Dam Visitor Center including one on the man credited with building Shasta Dam (and Hoover Dam as well) - Frank Crowe (above).

a bald eagle fighting with an osprey over a fish, or perhaps the four-story Gantry crane will be in operation near the Temperature Control Device. On

clear days you can view majestic Mt. Shasta, and almost every day there is some type of watercraft floating on the lake.

Inside the Visitor Center you will find photographs and new displays that depict the building of the dam, including one on Frank Crowe, a civil engineer, who is credited with building not only Shasta Dam but several others as well, including Hoover Dam. Plus you'll be able to watch a 21-minute documentary that is shown on a regular schedule that thoroughly explains how the dam was built.

The Reclamation Guides that staff the Visitor Center are always available to answer questions you may have about Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, or the surrounding area. If you're looking for souvenirs to commemorate your visit to the dam, take a walk through the gift shop.

Information

In mid-May, the Visitor Center was open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays. For the latest information, visit usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html or call (530) 247-8555.

Information provided by Amy Holland for Shasta Dam.



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Shasta Caverns offers a glimpse into another world and another time

By Aaron Williams

There's something cool about Lake Shasta Caverns – beyond the north-state-heat-busting cave temperature that hovers around 60 degrees.

Yes, walking into the cave is a breath of (cool) fresh air on a notoriously warm Shasta County summer day. But what's really cool about Shasta Caverns is your day is millions of years in the making.

Visitors are ferried across Shasta Lake – an all-too-quick 10-minute, but awesome boat ride that gives locals and visitors alike the chance to see the water from a new and unique perspective. A bonus is the chance to catch some of the area's wildlife up-close and personal. Deer, bobcats, bears, osprey and bald eagles all call Shasta Lake home.

"Because we are isolated on the other side of the lake and there's no other road in, we are almost like a nature preserve," said Matt Doyle, general manager of the Caverns.

A quick shuttle ride 800 feet up the mountain leads visitors to the entrance of the caverns, "discovered" by fish hatchery employee James A. Richardson in 1878 – though the local Wintu population likely knew about the caverns earlier.

As the guide opens the door to head inside the mountain (think about that for a second), the rush of the earth's natural air conditioning – the caverns are constantly 58 degrees with a high humidity that raises the temperature to about 72 – hits you and then you step into nature's laboratory.

From there, the well-informed tour guide leads you through a series

of rooms in the caverns adeptly explaining what you're seeing and answering the age-old question of the difference between a stalactite and stalagmite.

And nature – as well as geology – is what the caverns are all about.

In the movie "Shawshank Redemption," Morgan Freeman's character muses that geology is the study of time and pressure, and the Shasta Caverns are a perfect example of that as the limestone caves are living examples of what happens given time and gravity.

The caverns once sat at the bottom of a Jurassic era ocean and grew out of cracks in the rocks. Dripping water seeps minerals through the rock and sloooooowly forms the massive stalactites, stalagmites and stone draperies and flowstone deposits. Visitors can see formations that look like bacon, an ancient Wintu guide, Santa Claus, a saber-toothed tiger and a T Rex. Did we also mention bacon?

Year of the Cave and Karst

This will be an exciting year for Lake Shasta Caverns as it is the International Year of Cave and Karst.

"Hundreds of caves across the globe and dozens of organizations will be celebrating the importance of caverns," Doyle said, adding Lake Shasta Caverns will be hosting several events throughout the year including photo contests, educational series (virtual and in-person) and activities focusing on youth involvement.

"Students and schools have been a major focus of education as they have thousands of students annually participate in the Underground Classroom program, which began in 2001," Doyle said.



PHOTO / Courtesy Lake Shasta Caverns

The Cathedral Room at Lake Shasta Caverns.

Dinner Cruise set to return

Many restaurants were closed during 2020 and the Lake Shasta Caverns Dinner Cruise was no exception. Doyle said the dinner cruise crew has been actively working on modified plans to bring back the cruises by June of this year.

"The year off gave the staff an opportunity to look at the program," he said. They plan to not only continue the traditional dinner cruise,

but are looking ahead to 2022 with "land-based" dining and the addition of a Cafe underneath the main gift store. For updates you can reach the Shasta Dinner Cruises at (530) 238-2341 or visit them on Facebook.

More information

For the most current information on the caverns, including hours of operation and admission prices, visit www.lakeshastacaverns.com or call 1-800-795-2283.



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Take me to the river



NSVG PHOTO / Ron Harrington

Rafting on the Trinity River provides frothy fun for everyone

By Aaron Williams

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

The tagline in 1986's "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" is a perfect example of why Tony Delke loves

rafting down the Trinity River.

"Driving Highway 299 to the coast to get from Redding to Eureka...it's a beautiful drive, but you can't really appreciate it (at 55 mph)," he said. "You don't realize how amazing the area is until you've rafted it.

"When you're rafting there's so

much more that you see. Things slow down and you get a different perspective."

Delke, who has been rafting the Trinity River each of the past two summers, is planning a third group trip this summer.

A Redding native who remembers floating the Sacramento River as a kid, Delke said river rafting down the Trinity River is a hidden gem in the north state community.

There are a handful of outfits west of Redding in Trinity County that offer a host of full- or half-day trips with experienced guides who know the river intimately.

In the Junction City to Willow Creek area they include Trinity River Rafting, Redwoods & Rivers, Bigfoot Rafting and Six Rivers Rafting, while closer to Redding, Old Bridge Rafting is based in Lewiston.

They expertly man the raft, teaching the fine art of paddling, while also educating visitors about the wildlife and ecology of the

"You don't realize how amazing the (Hwy 299) area is until you've rafted it...Things slow down and you get a different perspective."

**- Tony Delke
Redding**

canyon. If you want to take your own kayak down the river, they and the other businesses offer shuttle services as well.

That's what Redding's David Hillebert loves about trips on the Trinity River - the flexibility.

"We're done everything from floating in our IK (inflatable kayaks) to a youth group with 30 kids," said the cardiac surgery physician's assistant. "The guided tours are perfect for beginners. You don't have to be highly skilled."

But he added that there's enough excitement on the river to get your heart racing.



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NSVG PHOTO / Ron Harrington

"It's not boring...it's not totally placid," he said.

The consistent flows of the Trinity, Hillebert said, are part of what makes the trips enjoyable while guides are also a highlight of the trip.

"They're knowledgeable, make sure everything's safe, but also tell jokes and stories to put everyone at ease," Hillebert said.

Most rafting companies offer half- and full-day trips as well as kayak rentals and shuttle service to drop-in points. It's recommended you bring something you're prepared to get wet in, protective footwear, sunscreen, a hat and water. Of course, rafters can bring single-use disposable cameras, although services offer professional shots as the raft descends into the Hell Hole rapid toward the end of the run.

"Our shortest trip is about 3.5 hours and it's perfect for rafting and then jumping in on a hot day," said Dana Steinhauser of Trinity River Rafting. "Everyone loves to splash around when the temperatures rise."

And that includes humans and animals alike.

Steinhauser said romps of otters have been seen floating near some popular swimming spots, while flocks of baby ducks – sometimes up to 24 strong – have been seen following their mothers. Osprey and bald eagles can be spotted with a keen eye as they patrol the skies. And the banks are teeming with

wildflowers and other beautiful plant life.

"Beside the adventure in front of you, there's all these other aspects to floating down the river," Steinhauser said. "There's history (the Trinity was a Gold Rush spot) and all the riparian beauty."

"There's so much to learn on a trip, but there's also nothing like the sound of the water flowing."

Delke said he wishes he would've known about rafting on the Trinity years ago.

"It's truly a hidden gem," he said. "We have the luxury in Redding to be able to drive to a lot of places all within a short drive."

And, he said, that's what makes a day trip rafting on the Trinity River great.

"We've gone with five families and six rafts and it was an easy day," he said. "You can leave (Redding) by 8 a.m., get there by 10, have some coffee and you're done by 4 p.m. and you're spent. You get home by 6, have some dinner and then everyone is ready for bed."

So don't forget to slow down, enjoy the river...or else you might miss something.

More Rafting

In Redding, North Country Raft Rentals offers raft rental trips on the Sacramento River. In Siskiyou County there are rafting companies that offer trips on the Klamath River.

For more information, check the websites and social media of the various rafting businesses.

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Granite spires and emerald lakes make the Trinity Alps a paradise for backpackers

PHOTO / Ryan McGaughey

Need to get away from it all, but don't want to trek to the four corners of the Earth? Good thing the Trinity Alps are right in Northern California's backyard.

The Trinity Alps cover 821 square miles and feature 550 miles of maintained trails, including a 17-mile stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail, and offer something for everyone.

Most of the trailheads are accessible from Highway 299, Highway 3 and Forest Highway 93.

Jeff Morris, a Weaverville native, cannot remember a time in his life that did not involve the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.

"Every summer, there was at least one trip into the Trinities, usually for several nights," Morris said in a previous NSVG story. "I probably did my first backpacking trip—with a really small pack—when I was 5 years old. The Alps have always been a part of our lives."

The Trinity Alps (named for the granite spires and peaks on the eastern side that reach as high as 9,000 feet) has been officially designated as a 525,627-acre wilderness area for more than 35 years, but their presence has been felt for millions of years.

For an uncountable stretch of time, the Trinities were the summer hunting lands of the Wintu and other American Indian tribes. The discovery of gold in the region in 1852 brought fortune-seekers, prospectors and settlers, who were then followed by loggers.

When President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act

of 1964, thus protecting 9.1 million acres of land "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," the stage was set for the protection of the Trinities some 20 years later.

That act of Congress served as a spark for the Morris family and others, Jeff Morris said.

"My grandparents, Leonard and Florence Morris, and my dad, Robert Morris, were all very active in helping move the proposals forward," he said. "It really started in 1964, when the Wilderness Act was passed. They and a number of other community members saw the opportunity presented in the Act, even though the Alps weren't included."

"My grandmother's family had been packing mules and running cattle into the Alps since the 1850s. There was well over a hundred years of family history before the Wilderness bill passed."

It took one sixth-grade outing for Weaverville native Jim Reynolds to fall in love with the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. And at 821 square miles or 525,000 acres, there's a lot to love.

"Before I got into rock climbing, the only thing I wanted to do was go backpacking," Reynolds said in a previous NSVG story from Yosemite National Park, where he lived and was pursuing his rock-climbing passion while also serving on a search and rescue team.

Reynolds' first venture into the Alps was led by Ascend Wilderness Experience, a nonprofit

organization that takes youth on five-day backpacking trips into the Alps to develop personal and social development and an appreciation for the natural environment.

Reynolds said he went on several more Ascend trips and then started taking friends and sharing the skills he had acquired.

Reynolds said his appreciation for the Trinity Alps had grown even more once he left the area.

"It has always felt isolated up there compared to Yosemite," he said. "The John Muir trail is always packed, but there's a good chance you'll find solitude up there in the Alps."

The Alps tend to be "really lush and full of life and less desolate than the high country in the Sierra Nevada," Reynolds said at the time. "It has this really cool kind of convergence of all these watersheds and the granite up there is beautiful."

Hikers will find lush meadows, soaring granite spires, glacial cirques dotted with brilliant blue lakes (many stocked with trout), stands of Douglas fir, spruce, ponderosa, cedar and hemlock trees, and hundreds of species of shrubs, plants and flowers.

For families and newcomers to the backpacking scene, Reynolds suggested Boulder Lakes as a great starting point.

"It's a nice and real low entry-level," he said. "You can backpack in the two miles and set up camp. You're in the Alps and you can go explore from there."

Amanda Barragar, a former Wilderness Patrol worker with the U.S. Forest Service who co-directs

Ascend Wilderness Experience, said Boulder Lakes is particularly well-suited for young hikers. The trail is accessed from the Coffee Creek area off of Highway 3.

"This is a fantastic day hike, with plenty of room to picnic and swim," she said. "As an overnighter, it's a good option for parents introducing the idea of backpacking to their young children. The hike takes approximately an hour to Big Boulder Lake—just long enough to feel immersed into the wilderness and reach a classic high alpine lake setting, but soon enough to 'quit while you're ahead' before any meltdowns from the kiddos."

Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake, which are accessed 13.3 miles north of Coffee Creek, are also good for families, Barragar said. It's an easy 7.2-mile round trip day hike or backpack and Lake Eleanor is only 0.3 miles from the trailhead, and those with really young children might appreciate this lake for the ease of being in nature with a toddler.

Families willing to push it a little farther, Shimmy Lake is another 3.3 miles and promises a fair bit of solitude without the requirement of a long hike.

Barragar also likes Tangle Blue Lake, an easy 7.6-mile roundtrip day hike or backpack trip.

"This pretty lake has a large meadow on one side and plenty of exploring options for longer trips," Barragar said. "The Tangle Blue trail, accessed 13.3 miles north of Coffee Creek, is a great connector to a number of through-hiking options and day hikes."

“One mile before Tangle Blue is the East Boulder Lake trail which takes you by Big and Little Marshy Lakes and connects you to the Pacific Crest Trail. From there it’s an easy jaunt to East Boulder Lake or a number of other spur trails to other lakes.”

Reynolds recommended the popular Canyon Creek Lakes trail for an introduction into the immersive aspect of the Alps. Barragar said the moderately difficult 8-mile hike affords plenty of camping options and multiple waterfalls along the way.

For a full immersion, a multi-day trek from Caribou Lakes to Stuarts Fork will work just fine. It’s 26 to 30 miles long and the best way to tackle it is to stage shuttle a vehicle at the Stuarts Fork trailhead and begin the hike at Big Flat trailhead near Coffee Creek.

It’s a moderate to hard slog to Caribou Lakes, and from there a short but steep scramble will take you to Sawtooth Ridge and the commanding view of the Alps. Enjoy the sights and then commence the 96 switchbacks that make up the Caribou Scramble to arrive at either Emerald or Sapphire Lake. From there, it’s a gamble through Morris Meadows and on out to Stuarts Fork.

For sheer gnarliness, Reynolds said either Morris or Smith Lake is the target.

“There’s no real trail up there and any way you can go is going to be kind of a heinous adventure,” Reynolds said.

The payoff, though, is an unmatched view and a near-guarantee of solitude.

Barragar notes that the Alps are in danger of being loved to death by visitors as most places in the Alps simply can’t accommodate large groups. Barragar encouraged hikers to check in with the local Forest Service office to get a sense of activity and develop a backup plan in case your first destination is too busy.

Black bears are prevalent in the Trinities and hikers are encouraged to use bear bags or canisters to minimize bear encounters.

The Trinities continue to take up a big part of Morris’s world. Today, he said, he’s filled with memories of backpacking trips with friends and family, “being able to look back



PHOTO / Jeff Goulden

A young woman and her dog hiking the Canyon Creek Trail in the Trinity Alps.

and reflect on spending very quiet evenings around a campfire by alpine lakes as osprey fished—just being in the magnificent theater of nature.

“There’s just unbelievable biological diversity. It’s a very unique place. We are very fortunate that people came forth with the effort, vision and tenacity to get them protected.”

A Trinity Alps Wilderness Permit and a California campfire permit are required for camping in the Trinities. Both are free and available through the Forest Service. Call (530) 623-2121 for details.

Previous stories by Jon Lewis with later contributions by Aaron Williams.

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Take a Hike in the North State

PHOTO / Michael Burke

At 10,457 feet, Lassen Peak crowns Lassen Volcanic National Park and is by far the most prominent summit in upper Northern California,

By John Soares

Summer is here and it's the season for getting outdoors and into the beauty of nature. Here is a prime selection of trails, some easy, some more challenging, that let you explore the wild areas of the north state.

You'll find both lower-elevation and higher-elevation trails below.

The lower elevations trails (near Chico, Red Bluff, and Redding) get very hot in summer, so do them early to mid-morning or in the evening before sunset, and always bring plenty of water.

The high trails in the mountains can have patches of snow well into July.

Contact the governing agency before you do your hike; you'll get the latest trail conditions, plus info about weather and maps. Most of the trails described here allow dogs and are so noted. Always bring a leash.

SHASTA COUNTY

Anderson River Park

Anderson, a small town just south of Redding, harbors a hidden gem for hikers. An easy mile-long paved loop travels beside the banks of the Sacramento River, and also among broad valley oaks and tall cottonwood trees. Dirt roads and paths branch off the paved loop to let you explore nearby ponds and access secluded spots on the river bank.

From I-5 in Anderson, take exit 668 and get on Balls Ferry Road. Head northeast 0.5 mile and then turn left onto Stingy Lane. After 0.2 mile, turn right onto Rupert Road and continue another 0.7 mile to enter Anderson River Park. Park in the large lot near the Kiddieland playground and the KC Grove Amphitheater.

More information: City of Anderson Community Services, 530-378-6656. Dogs allowed.

save Mount Shasta. Gain the summit on the challenging 2.5-mile climb and you'll win both bragging rights and a top-of-the-world view.

Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay, Redding

First walk across Redding's famous landmark, the stunning Sundial Bridge, where you can stop in the center and watch the Sacramento River rushing below. Next see plants from a variety of Mediterranean climates across the globe in McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Top off the excursion with an easy 1.5-mile walk on the Arboretum Loop Trail.

To find the parking area, take I-5 exit 678 and drive west on Highway 44. Take exit 1, go right, and then right again.

More information: City of Redding Parks and Recreation, 530-225-4095. Dogs allowed.

Dry Fork Trail

This less-traveled trail runs most of its length along or near the shore of Shasta Lake, beginning on the west side of Shasta Dam and ending 4.7 miles farther at a dirt road on the south end of the Dry Fork arm of the lake. You'll gain full views of Mount Shasta, plus have numerous opportunities to access the shoreline for a refreshing swim on hot days.

To reach the trailhead, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake just north of Redding and go west on Shasta Dam Boulevard (also known as Hwy 151). Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, and Mount Shasta, and then arrive at the east side of Shasta Dam at 7.2 miles. Pass through the security checkpoint, cross the dam, and then park in the lot immediately to the right on the far side of the dam at 7.6 miles.

More information: Shasta Lake National Recreation Area, 530-275-1587. Dogs allowed.

Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail and Shasta Dam

This excursion starts with an up-close exploration of massive Shasta Dam and then wanders gently along the Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, allowing open vistas of the Sacramento River. From the parking area, walk to the edge of the steep slope to view Shasta Dam's massive face and the water surging out of Shasta Lake far below (and check out the informative displays in the Visitor Center if it's open).

To find the Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, head to the southeast corner of the parking lot, as far from Visitor Center as possible, and go 150 feet down Shasta Dam Boulevard. You can walk for several miles on the near-level Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, which frequently runs along an old ditch that brought water to gold mining operations over a century ago.

To reach the parking area, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake just north of Redding and go west on Shasta Dam Boulevard. Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake and Mount Shasta, and then park in the large lot on the east side of Shasta Dam at 7.2 miles.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office, 530-224-2100. Dogs allowed.

Burney Falls, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

Every day of every year, 100 million gallons of cold spring water



PHOTO / John Soares

The complete Lake Siskiyou Trail trail forms a 7.6-mile loop around the lake in the shadows of Mount Shasta.

plunges 129 feet to pound the broad expanse of cobalt blue at the base of Burney Falls. Walk the relatively easy 1.2-mile Falls Loop Trail to observe both the top and bottom of one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the West. This is a popular trail so you may want to plan your visit for weekdays and early mornings.

To find the beginning of the trail, follow your ears from the parking lot to the falls overlook. To reach the park, get to the intersection of California Highways 299 and 89 east of Burney, go 6.0 miles north on 89, and then turn left and follow the signs for McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. Park in the main lot beyond the check-in station.

More info: McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, 530-335-2777. No dogs allowed. Park entrance fee.

Lassen Peak, Lassen Volcanic National Park

At 10,457 feet, Lassen Peak crowns Lassen Volcanic National Park and is by far the most prominent summit in upper Northern California, save Mount Shasta. Gain the summit on the challenging 2.5-mile climb. It's 2000 feet of elevation gain, but the wide trail ascends at a steady rate. Be in good shape and bring warm clothes, food, and plenty of water.

From the summit you'll win both bragging rights and a top-of-the-world view: nearby is the chaotic lava field created by the 1914-1921 eruptions, and beyond the vista encompasses much of Northern California, including all of Lassen Volcanic National Park, distant Mount Shasta, the Sacramento Valley, and mountain upon mountain stretching to the far horizons.

The trailhead is on the park highway 12 miles north of the junction of Highways 36 and 89, and 22 miles southeast of the junction of Highways 44 and 89. More information: Lassen Volcanic National Park, 530-595-4480. No dogs allowed. Park entrance fee.

Mill Creek Falls, Lassen Volcanic National Park

Love waterfalls? Then you'll love Mill Creek Falls, where two streams meet at the top and then plunge 80 feet down a multihued cliff to crash on the rocks below.

The best part? Most park visitors choose more popular paths, leaving this one for the knowing few.

The trail begins near the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and Southwest Campground and undulates gently for 1.6 miles through forest and past clearings strewn with wildflowers before arriving at the waterfall.

Find the trailhead near the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center beside the park highway, 6 miles north of the junction of CA Highways 36 and 89, and 28 miles southeast of the junction of CA Highways 44 and 89.

More information: Lassen Volcanic National Park, 530-595-4480. No dogs allowed. Park entrance fee.



PHOTO / John Soares

Walking the gap above Seven Lakes Basin means you can say you hiked part of the famous Pacific Crest Trail.

SISKIYOU COUNTY

Spring Hill Trail, Mount Shasta

A favorite with locals, this moderate route leaves from the north side of town to gain 600 feet of elevation over 1.4 miles on an old dirt road to the top of Spring Hill. Along the route you'll pass under stately sugar pines with their footlong cones, and you'll get full views of looming Mount Shasta. The summit features a 360-degree vista that includes Black Butte to the north, Mount Eddy to the west, and Castle Crags to the south.

If coming from the south, take I-5 exit 738, drive east on Lake Street and turn left at the light onto Mount Shasta Boulevard. Go 1.1 miles, turn right onto Ski Village Drive, and then immediately turn left on a small road that quickly leads to the trailhead.

From the north, take exit 740 and then go 0.4 mile to turn left onto Ski Village Drive.

More information: Mount Shasta Trail Association, mountshastatrailassociation.org. Dogs allowed.

Lake Siskiyou Trail, Mount Shasta

This easy hike is best on a warm summer day. Walk the broad path under ponderosa pines and black oaks, pausing to admire views of Mount Shasta and Mount Eddy towering above the deep-blue waters of the lake. When the mood strikes, find one of the many side paths down to the shoreline and take a leisurely swim in the cool waters, which warm up nicely by early July.

The complete trail forms a 7.6-mile loop around the lake, but the south-shore segment is best. From the parking area, walk toward the lake and turn left on either the first or second trail (they join after 0.4 mile). Wander westerly past coves and

vistas for 1.5 miles until you reach the edge of Lake Siskiyou Resort.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 738, go west 0.2 mile and then turn left on South Old Stage Road. Go straight onto W.A. Barr Road at 0.5 mile, cross Box Canyon Dam, and then, 2.8 miles from the freeway, turn into the large parking lot on the right, opposite Castle Lake Road.

More information: Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, 530-842-8220. Dogs allowed.

Horse Camp on Mount Shasta

Want to have some idea what it's like to climb Mount Shasta? Then do the first, easy part of the most popular route to the summit by climbing through a mature red-fir forest for 1.7 miles from Bunny Flat to the Sierra Club Cabin at Horse Camp. At Horse Camp you can drink ice-cold water from a spring, explore the Sierra Club Cabin, and, best of all, gaze up Avalanche Gulch towards the top of Mount Shasta; you might even see climbers ascending or descending.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 Exit 738 in central Mount Shasta and drive east on Lake Street, which becomes Everett Memorial Drive as it leaves town. Continue up Everett Memorial Drive to the large parking area at Bunny Flat, a total of 12.1 miles from I-5.

More information: Mount Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. No dogs allowed.

Seven Lakes Basin gap, west of Mount Shasta

Want to walk on the famous Pacific Crest Trail? Then do the moderate 2.4-mile hike along the PCT to the gap above Seven Lakes Basin. As you move along the high-mountain ridge, you'll alternately gaze west at the rocky peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, and east at the broad

bulk of snow-capped Mount Shasta. The hike ends at the gap above Seven Lakes Basin, where you'll see several lakes below, plus Castle Crags to the east and distant Lassen Peak far to the southeast.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 738 in Mount Shasta. Go west 0.2 mile and then turn left on South Old Stage Road. Go straight onto W.A. Barr Road at 0.5 mile. Pass Lake Siskiyou and curve west as the road becomes Forest Road 26. Continue on this paved road to reach Gumboot Saddle and the Gumboot Trailhead, 18.3 miles from I-5.

More information: Mount Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. Dogs allowed.

Deadfall Lakes and Mount Eddy via the Pacific Crest Trail, west of Mount Shasta

With its summer wildflower displays, beautiful alpine lakes, and mountain vistas, this hike ranks as one of the best in Northern California, and it's popular with both day hikers and backpackers.

The first 2.7 miles to Middle Deadfall Lake are moderate with only modest elevation gain, but you'll need to be a strong hiker for the steep climb over the last 2.3 miles to the top of Mount Eddy, at 9025 feet (and 2250 feet of total elevation gain from the trailhead).

The summit panorama includes Mount Shasta, the Trinity Divide mountains, and the Trinity Alps. You'll be happy whether you choose the moderate option or the strenuous option.

Note: if you think there are too many cars at the trailhead, cross the road and hike west on the PCT (northbound), the opposite direction of Deadfall Lakes: you'll get both beautiful vistas and solitude.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit

751 (Edgewood), get to the west side of the freeway, and turn right. Drive .3 mile and then turn left onto Stewart Springs Road. Go 4.0 miles on Stewart Springs Road and then climb right up paved Road 17 (Parks Creek Road) for another 9.3 miles to the large trailhead on the left at Parks Creek Saddle.

More information: Mount Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. Dogs allowed.

Greenhorn Park, Yreka

This is an excellent option that's just a three-minute drive from I-5. Want quick and easy? Walk the flat and paved path that circles Greenhorn Reservoir, where you'll see plenty of ducks and geese on the water and redwing blackbirds in vegetation near the shore. For longer options, take the trail running upstream along the south side of Greenhorn Creek, and consider the network of trails that snake along the oak- and pine-dotted south slope of the park.

To find the trailhead, take Exit 773 off I-5 in south Yreka. Get to the west side of the freeway and turn right on Main Street. Drive north 0.3 mile and turn left on Ranch Lane. Follow Ranch Lane 0.4 mile west to the large parking lot by a picnic area in Greenhorn Park.

More information: City of Yreka Parks and Facilities, 530-841-2386. Dogs allowed.

Whitney Butte Trail

This mostly level route lets you experience the highlights of Lava Beds National Monument, including sweeping vistas over northeastern California and the opportunity to visit volcanic landforms and features. The path runs mostly level for 3.3 miles to the base of Whitney Butte, a cinder cone, near the edge of the Callahan Lava Flow, an extensive sheet of basalt that erupted 1100 years ago.

Consider hiking cross-country to the top of Whitney Butte for an impressive vista. If you want to enter Merrill Cave at the trailhead, you must check in at the Visitor Center first and follow all precautions and procedures.

To reach the trailhead, take Lava Beds National Monument Road 2.1 miles north of the Visitor Center (or 7.6 miles south of the Hill Road/Lava Beds National Monument Road



PHOTO / John Soares

Iron Canyon and Jed's Overlook lets you explore some of the best Sacramento River Bend area on this easy hike through open country in Tehama County.



PHOTO / John Soares

The easiest way to hike into the northern portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness begins at the Scott Mountain Summit and travels near the border of Trinity and Siskiyou counties. It climbs southwesterly on the Pacific Crest Trail.

junction) and then drive west at the sign for Merrill Cave and continue 0.8 mile to the parking area.

More information: Lava Beds National Monument, 530-667-8113. No dogs allowed.

TRINITY COUNTY

Pacific Crest Trail from Scott Mountain Summit

This is the easiest way to hike into the northern portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The route begins from the west side of Highway 3 at Scott Mountain Summit and travels near the border of Trinity and Siskiyou counties as it climbs southwesterly on the PCT (even though it's the direction headed north to the Canadian border).

The views steadily improve: you'll see buff and orange mountains to the east, followed by vistas north of the Russian Wilderness and Marble Mountain Wilderness, and eventually Mount Shasta to the east. Cross into the Trinity Alps Wilderness at 3.0 miles and continue along the PCT to a vista point at 4.4 miles that includes a full view west of the high peaks in the granitic center of the Trinity Alps.

To find the trailhead, drive State Highway 3 for 6.9 miles southeast of Callahan or 25.2 miles north of Trinity Center to find the large trailhead signed for "Scott Mountain Summit" (actually a saddle) on the west side of the highway.

More information: Weaverville Ranger Station, 530-623-2121. Dogs allowed.

TEHAMA COUNTY

Iron Canyon and Jed's Overlook

Explore some of the best of the Sacramento River Bend area on this easy hike through open country. You'll especially enjoy the wide-ranging vistas over much of far Northern California: look for Lassen Peak to the east, Mount Shasta to the north, the Trinity Alps to the northwest, and the Coast Range to the west, plus nearby

volcanic mountains.

Go left at a trail fork 200 yards from the parking area and then walk 1.5 level miles to Jed's Overlook. This site commemorates the American explorer Jedediah Smith, who passed through here in 1828.

Take in the all the mountain views and also gaze down at the Sacramento River coursing swiftly below. Return the way you came.

The trailhead is on the north side of Highway 36 about 5.2 miles from the junction of Highways 36 and 99 in Red Bluff, west of I-5 Exit 649.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office, 530-224-2100. Dogs allowed.

LASSEN COUNTY

Bizz Johnson Trail

If you're traveling Highway 36 in Lassen County you'll definitely want to explore the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail, which runs nearly flat on the old bed of the historic Fernley and Lassen Railroad.

The 7.7-mile section from Devil's Corral to Susanville is especially scenic. It travels beside the clear waters of the Susan River, which is bordered by willows and cottonwoods. Vegetation is a mix of high-desert juniper and typical forest species like ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. You don't have to walk all the way to Susanville: just do as much as you like.

Find the Devil's Corral trail-access point on the south side of Highway 36 about 14 miles east of Westwood and 7 miles west of Susanville. If you want to start from the Susanville end of the trail, take Highway 36 to Susanville and head south on Weatherlow Street, which eventually becomes Richmond Road. Follow Richmond Road to the trail-access point at the historic Susanville railroad depot.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Information Office, 530-257-0456. Dogs allowed.

BUTTE COUNTY

Upper Bidwell Park Trails

Chico is blessed with one of the best and largest local parks in the country: Bidwell Park, which is bisected by Big Chico Creek. Lower Bidwell Park in the main part of town features flat, shaded paths that are great for strolling, but for a real hike, head to Upper Bidwell Park.

There are many options, but one of the best, especially in the warmer months, is the Lower Yahi Trail. It runs 4 miles through a mix of foothill and riparian vegetation along Big Chico Creek, with easy access to several swimming holes—Alligator Hole, Bear Hole, Salmon Hole, Brown's Hole—that are especially inviting on hot summer days. There's also an extensive network of other trails that climb along the slopes and ridges of the Big Chico Creek canyon.

To reach the main trailhead for Upper Bidwell Park, take the East Avenue exit off Highway 99 in Chico (Exit 387B), drive east on East Avenue for 2.7 miles, and then, at a traffic circle, continue straight onto Wildwood Avenue for 1.7 miles to the large trailhead parking lot on the left.

More information: City of Chico Parks Department, 530-896-7800. Dogs allowed.

PLUMAS COUNTY

Lake Almanor Recreation Trail

This level, paved path along the west shore of Lake Almanor attracts walkers and bikers, plus people looking to take a dip in the lake's cool waters on a hot summer day. Look to the lake's surface for a variety of ducks, geese, and other water-loving birds. Look to the high mountains for views of Lassen Peak and other prominent summits. The trail itself passes primarily through forest shade.

There are several access points for the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail. From the intersection of Highways 36 and 89, head south on 89 and look for roads to the left that go to day-use areas and campgrounds: all will connect you to the trail. To reach the southern terminus near Canyon Dam, drive about 11 miles south of Highway 36 and turn left at the sign for the Canyon Dam boat ramp.

More information: Almanor Ranger District, 530-258-2141. Dogs allowed.

About John Soares

John is the author of *Day Hiking: Mount Shasta, Lassen & Trinity Alps Regions* and *100 Classic Hikes: Northern California*, fourth edition, which cover all the best trails in the North State. Get details of all his books plus info about his favorite trails at NorthernCaliforniaHikingTrails.com.



Keep it clean & green: If you pack it in, pack it out

By Jon Lewis

You're finally free of your Covid-19 confines and ready to enjoy some time on your favorite trail. With Mt. Shasta looming over one shoulder and an old-growth fir tree shading the other, you can already feel the outdoors working its restorative magic once again.

And then you see it: A dirty diaper, a greasy wrapper from some burger joint, a couple of empty beer cans and a suspicious pile of something that you soon realize actually belongs in a toilet. Bummer. And there goes that natural alpine high. Even Bigfoot would be bummed.

As scenarios like that bucolic buzzkill have become increasingly—and distressingly—all too common, advocates for the outdoors and public land stewards are cranking up an information campaign aimed at visitors and locals alike.

The message: If you pack it in, pack it out.

It's not complicated, says Lauren Yerkes, a front desk employee at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's Mt. Shasta ranger station.

"Travel with extra garbage bags, be aware of your surroundings and leave it better than when you arrived," she said.

"It seems to be getting worse," Yerkes said, and she suspects the garbage issue could be tied to one of several factors. A lot more people are getting out and some of them are new to the nature thing.

"There are some folks who are just starting to visit the forest and they don't have the mentality about leaving it pristine," Yerkes said. "Maybe they're bringing the habits of the concrete jungle."

She also wonders if younger people are being educated on the importance of protecting the natural resources abundant in the north state.

John Harch, a retired surgeon currently serving as president of the Mount Shasta Trail Association's board of directors, says his alpine community is a victim of its own growing popularity.

"We have a very beautiful, pristine area that is cool in the summer, it's green, and historically it has not been heavily used by outsiders," said Harch, who has been a Mount Shasta resident for the past 29 years.

"Slowly it has gotten to be better known and we're seeing more and more people each year come to visit," he said. "In the past year, due to Covid, we got bombarded. One result: overflowing garbage cans at trailheads, litter along the trails,



ILLUSTRATION / Phil Fountain

Pack it in, pack it out and Bigfoot won't come after you. He may even become your buddy.

beer cans, fecal waste, diapers, wrappers...none of that needs to happen.

"If you're going to enjoy nature, you have to understand the principles that most already know. If you bring it here, you can bring it home. Bring a little bag and take it back with you. Pack it in and pack it out, and that goes for poop too."

The preferred method for dealing with human waste is to pack it out in a "WAG" bag (an acronym for Waste Alleviation and Gelling). The puncture-proof sealable plastic bags come with kitty litter and hand sanitizer; once used, the bags can easily be disposed of in a secure trash can.

"The alternative is to dig a 'cat hole,' 200 feet from any waterway," Harch said. "That's less preferred

but still better than leaving it out for animals to get into. Most of us who use nature regularly pack our poop out."

The all-volunteer Mount Shasta Trail Association has a couple other ways to keep the outdoors as clean, green and enjoyable as possible:

Plan ahead. Have a map, check the weather, bring appropriate clothing, pack plenty of food and water and avoid a catastrophe.

Leave it be. Take no natural souvenirs.

"If everybody takes a pretty rock, plant or flower, pretty soon there are no pretty rocks, plants or flowers," Harch said.

Stay on established trails. The less travel on nondurable surfaces the better to reduce erosion and damage to fragile organisms.

Control your pets. Don't let them chase wildlife, disrupt the landscape or have aggressive interactions with humans.

Minimize campfire impacts. Limit campfires to approved areas only and consider using a camp stove instead.

Think before you wash. Don't bathe in streams, rivers and lakes. (Soap in the waterway poisons plants and animals.) Carry your water 200 feet from the source to wash dishes, clothes and bodies.

"We want people to come and enjoy our area," Harch said. "There's just a few simple rules to follow."

Plus, you don't want to get on Bigfoot's bad side. Seriously.

For more, visit www.mountshastatrailassociation.org

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Shasta Lake a popular destination

Banner year in 2020; this summer could be even bigger despite a dwindling lake level

PHOTO / Michael Burke

You won't see Shasta Lake full like this in 2021, but you may end up seeing things from the historic past when

roads and bridges and the Head Tower near Shasta Dam pop up as the lake level goes down.

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By Aaron Williams and Ron Harrington

There's usually a silver lining in any situation...if you look for it.

Case in point – the Covid-19 pandemic renewed, or sparked an interest in people getting outdoors and exploring. That was evident last summer for many businesses in and around the north state, including the marinas and campgrounds at Shasta Lake.

Matt Doyle, general manager at Lake Shasta Caverns, said he saw a spike in visitors at the Caverns while the marinas also reported brisk business last year as people sought safe outdoor adventures with other travel destinations shuttered due to Covid.

As the U.S. tourism industry was hit particularly hard with estimated losses cumulatively totaling around \$500 billion in 2020, many tourist-oriented and outdoor activity businesses in the north state did really well.

While many people opted to forgo trips abroad, and other travel destinations like Disneyland were shuttered, it created an opportunity for many to branch out – and spread out. And what better place to do that than the north state? Hiking, biking, fishing, golfing, houseboating and more socially distant activities that are found in abundance around here proved to be very appealing to many people cooped up at home over the past year.

“People from all over the West

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Coast were coming to Shasta County to social distance – naturally,” Doyle said.

Doyle, who’s been with the Caverns for 20-plus years, said the demographic data supports Covid-weary people were looking to get outside, explore and do things within their family bubble.

Many marinas and campgrounds around Shasta Lake reported 2020 as one of their best summer seasons in years as people from other areas flocked to the north state, which at that time had few reported Covid-19 cases like the rest of the state and country.

“It was a weird roller-coaster ride,” Kevin Kelly, general manager at Holiday Harbor, said about last year’s season. When the state first issued stay-at-home orders in March of 2020, he said they started to receive one cancellation after another. Then a few weeks later, the tide turned... in a big way.

“We went from where we thought we might have to close our doors to (asking ourselves) how are we going to handle the influx of people,” he said. And it continued throughout the summer and into the fall.

“Last summer was one of our best summers on record,” he said.

It was the same for the other marinas on the lake as well.

“We had a fair amount of people renting houseboats last summer looking for a way to get out safely with people in their bubble,” said



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Most if not all of the Shasta Lake houseboat businesses had one of their best summer seasons in years in 2020. Campgrounds also did well.

Amber McCracken of Antler’s Resort & Marina and Antlers Campground in Lakehead.

Added Doyle: “We used to see that drop after August, but with people working from home and hybrid school, we saw more people coming in midweek (to the Caverns) in the winter because they weren’t tied to a physical work or school location.”

And it’s not only vacationers who’ve previously been to Shasta County, but also many newcomers these businesses saw arrive this past year.

For the campground side of their

business, McCracken said people camping at Antler’s are generally return customers from previous seasons, but they saw a huge influx of new faces last summer as people decided to buy or rent RVs, trailers and tents. She said many of those new guests vowed to return.

“If we would have had 100 more tent sites, I’m sure we would’ve filled those, too (last summer)” McCracken said.

It was the same with other campgrounds in the area with many of them turning away guests nightly.

So what might stand in the way of

a big influx of tourists this summer? In most years, it would likely be the lake level. No matter how deep Shasta Lake is, many visitors still often base their decision to come to Shasta Lake - and the north state area in general - on how far down the lake level is from the shoreline.

However, Doyle, having tracked tourism figures since the 1960s, said there’s usually a delayed reaction to the lake level. Plus, it may not even make as much of a difference this year.

“The impacts (of a low lake level season) usually show up the next year as people are leery of coming back,” he said. But he believes this year “we’re going to see the guests say ‘We’re coming regardless.’”

Is that you?

“And, really, once you’re on the water, it’s fine,” Doyle said. “The fishermen are out there in full force. The lake is super hot.”

Doyle said he took his boat out on Shasta Lake in May and once he got on to the main body of the lake, there was plenty of room to ski and fish.

“If you’re looking from the freeway, you’re only seeing the river and tributaries,” he said. “There’s plenty of water out there.”

“I know some people might cancel (houseboat vacations) because they think of the low levels,” he added, “but I’ve heard they fill that reservation as fast as it was canceled.”

- See Page 30









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- Continued from page 27

Still Postcard Perfect

Low lake levels or not, the scene is still postcard perfect: You've beached your houseboat in a cove on Shasta Lake. The air is warm, but comfortable. Family and friends gather on the shore for dinner as the sunset glows with brilliant reds, oranges and pinks to the west, enjoying the last little bit of daylight. Soon the night will paint the sky black and dot it with a million stars.

With more than 365 miles of shoreline spread across 30,000 acres, Shasta Lake offers it all. From houseboating adventures to waterskiing, wakeboarding and wakesurfing, to fishing, the lake is a giant playground for water enthusiasts. But don't forget about all the surrounding land, which bring its own special treasures as well.

The lake is serviced by a handful of marinas which rent houseboats and other water-sports "toys" in addition to offering other amenities. Houseboat rentals are the bread and butter of the marinas, but what if you don't have time for a full week out on the lake?

Ski boats, jet skis, kayak, canoes and SUPs all are available for day-use rental at most of the marinas on Shasta Lake, along with businesses on the lake like the Fun Factory.

(For those looking to kayak or paddleboard at such places as Whiskeytown Lake or Kutas Pond near the Sacramento River in Redding, Headwaters Adventure Company in Redding and Whiskeytown Marinas at Oak Bottom offer rentals).

On Shasta Lake, there are six boat launches – Bailey Cove, Centumudi, Jones Valley, Packers Bay, Antlers and Hirz Bay – which are perfect starting points in search of the lake's many submerged creatures, including bass, catfish and even crappie.

There are four arms of Shasta Lake to explore: the Sacramento Arm, the McCloud Arm, the Squaw Creek Arm, and the Pit River Arm. Each flows into the lake created by the building of Shasta Dam in the 1930s and '40s.

The dam is the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project – as well as the largest man-made reservoir in



PHOTO / EcoPrint



PHOTO / Matt Switzer for WNRA

All kinds of water sports are available on Shasta Lake, including jet ski (above), patio boats, wakeboards and towable and more. Things such as paddleboarding and kayaking are also available to do at Whiskeytown, west of Redding, and Kutas Pond on Park Marina Drive in Redding.



PHOTO / Ross Helen

California – which serves to deliver water south to the rich agriculture fields in central and southern California and helps make the state the world's sixth leading economy.

The Sacramento and McCloud rivers flow into the lake from the north while the Pit River and Squaw Creek arms comes from the east.

Lakehead, along Interstate 5, sits at the north end of the lake and sees the Sacramento flow past. Antlers and Sugarloaf marinas sit on the Sacramento arm.

Along the McCloud arm are Holiday Harbor Marina and access to Lake Shasta Caverns, a truly magical trip inside the granite mountains across the river. A trip inside the caverns offers visitors a geological time-travel experience of stalactites and stalagmites.

And while the action centers around the water, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of jumping off spots to explore in and around the lake.

A map of the lake with some of the things to see can be viewed on the pages 28-29 of this Visitors Guide.

Still, be careful

Still, the dropping water level can't be ignored, the Shasta County Sheriff's Office's boating safety division said, reminding boaters to be vigilant about excessive debris and land just under the water as lake levels drop throughout the summer.

Doyle said "we're tracking close to 2014 water levels" when the lake fell to 177 below full.

But even then, he said, only three boat launches on the lake will be unusable should the levels drop that low. The projections, he said, call for the end of June to be 114 from the crest with the end of August sitting 156 feet down.

With those numbers, ramps at Jones Valley, Antlers, Bridge Bay and Centimudi should all still be capable of launching boats.

"Even almost 100 feet down, Shasta Lake still has more water than the other man-made lakes in Northern California," Doyle said of Lake Oroville and Folsom Lake.

And finding the next silver lining, he said that low water levels also generate interest in finding remnants of life before the building of Shasta Dam, including roads, bridges and tunnels submerged by the flooding of land behind the dam.

"The Head Tower is already starting to poke out," he said of the crane visitors can see when walking over Shasta Dam. "They cut it at 110 feet thinking they'd never see it resurface again."

He also said that areas in Lakehead near Sugarloaf should emerge as levels drop this summer.

"There are train tunnels and trestles that become a tourist destination," he said. "By the end of the summer, there's a well-worn path to them."



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AS REAL AS IT TASTES

New book looks back at Shasta County copper towns



PHOTOS / Courtesy Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Above, the Golinsky family and others in Kennett. According to the book, the first Golinsky Hotel in 1888, shown here, was established by Bernhard Golinsky (seated on the left with his wife, Rosa). Golinsky was often referred to as the “father of Kennett.” Bottom photo, the legendary Diamond Saloon, one of more than 40 saloons located in Kennett. All of it is now under water at Shasta Lake, not far from Shasta Dam.

By Aaron Williams

When most people visit Shasta Lake, they see recreation, fun and lots of water. Ron Jolliff sees the water, but also history...and lots of it.

The author of the recently released “Shasta County Copper Towns,” Jolliff’s historical book of photos dives into Shasta Lake to look at the stories of the towns and booming industry that lived and thrived north of Redding before being sunk with the building of Shasta Dam.

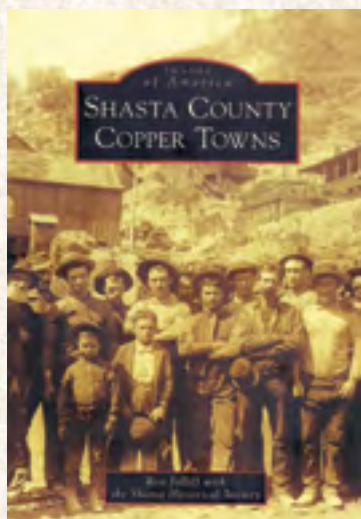
“When I first came here, I saw the lake,” he said. “And the longer I spent around it, the more I began to see the mining scars and what is underneath the lake.”

Indeed, there’s history submerged beneath the 30,000-acre reservoir. The lost communities of Kennett, Copper City, Elmore, Baird, Etter, Pitt and Winthrop as well as sacred Winnemem Wintu sites were lost by the flooding of 47 square miles behind the dam.

And while much has been written about the boomtowns that sprouted up during the Gold Rush and subsequent mining days from the 1850s through the early 20th century, less was known about the mines themselves and the railroads in and out of Kennett, Coram and other places booming in the 1800s.

Jolliff said a treasure-trove of photos prompted the book.

“To me, it’s a part of history that



people don’t know about,” he said. “Shasta County went through the Gold Rush stage and then lode mining for copper.”

He said the initial Gold Rush was a financial score for the individual miner, where the following booms were lucrative for big companies which came in and stripped the land looking for big ore strikes.

“The Copper boom brought in as much money (to towns like Kennett and Coram) as gold ever did,” Jolliff said. “They were mining on the Pit and McCloud rivers, and towns like Coram popped up to 5,000 where Redding had like 8,000 people.”

Copper was used in making not only alloys that helped build things that settled the West - like barbed wire

for fencing - but supplied ammunition for battles in World War I, as Jolliff said, “every shell was copper coated.”

“A lot of money flowed into Shasta County and a lot of people got wealthy,” he said, noting that companies often got richer than the individual. “Immigrants from all over the world came here looking for work and we had employment when other places saw a depression.”

The largest of the towns that now sit under the lake, Kennett (located near Shasta Dam) was once called home by more than 10,000. The booming mining town – one of the most important given its proximity between Portland, Ore. and San Francisco - boasted nearly 50 saloons, mercantile stores, a hospital, a hotel, schoolhouse and even an opera house.

The first mention of Kennett was in 1852 after the discovery of gold on Blackbone Creek, later named Kennett in honor of railroad man “Squire” Kennet. The town took on an extra “T” over time, the result of a mapmaking error.

And while the boom-bust cycle of mining caused towns like Coram to be abandoned when no longer profitable, Kennett lasted longer than most as it was a north-south railroad hub.

Copper City, first known as the Pittsburgh Mining District, later as Brownsville, even later as Williams, and lastly as Copper City derived its name from the “Original Williams and

Kellinger Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company.”

Copper City, on the Squaw Creek arm of what’s now Shasta Lake, followed the typical boom-and-bust cycle until the town officially died in the early 1900s when the Bully Hill smelter closed.

“People that go to Bully Hill, if they look, can still find lots of things from that period,” Jolliff said. “Most people don’t get out of their boats, but if they go and look all those scars are remnants (of history).”

Additionally, a majority of land the Winnemem Wintu declared sacred was also lost to the flooding of land behind the dam, something that’s still a sticking point today as discussions continue about raising the height of the dam and lake.

And while Kennett and Copper City are sunk under as much as 400 feet of water, other places either are still above the flood line or partially submerged, Jolliff said, including Coram, which was located below where Shasta Dam is located.

“Delamar, the biggest smelter and mine, only flooded halfway up the town,” Jolliff said. “There’s another world and history out there.”

But much of that history is indeed underwater as the second wave of Shasta County boomtowns were working to construct Shasta Dam and, ultimately, flood the first wave behind the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project.

Around 1920, the mining heyday in Shasta County started to wane - first, because the price of copper plummeted, and, second, because environmental concerns forced changes in the way mining was done.

“There’s still a ton of copper, gold, silver and ore out there, it’s just not economically feasible to recover,” Jolliff said.

And so a new economy - tourism - evolved on top of towns that once roared with life.

“The book brings a picture of what it was like before the dam,” Jolliff said.

“Shasta County Copper Towns,” done in conjunction with the photographic collection of the Shasta Historical Society and the “eclectic” collection of Ralph Hollibaugh, is one of Aradia Publishing’s Images of America books. It retails for \$21.99 and is available at the Shasta County Historical Society, Arcadiapublishing.com, Lake Shasta Caverns, the Mendocino Book Company, Ron’s Books, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.





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Dining Guide Map on page 39. Check restaurant websites and social media for latest information on hours and services.

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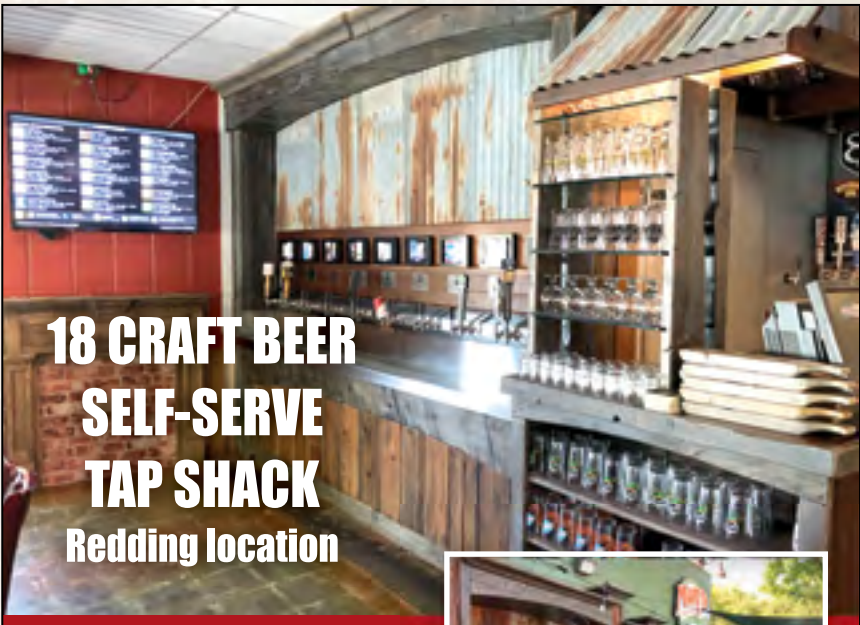
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Pages 35-38

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Note: Map not to scale

Drawing by Bob Hammond
www.creatinghappy.net



Variety is the spice of life in the north state brewing scene

By Jon Lewis

Good things are a' brewin' on the north state's growing ale trail.

From new kids on the block making splashy arrivals to the forebearers who got in early on the craft brewing renaissance, there are ales, lagers, stouts and seasonal offerings to fit every preference and then some.

Here's a seven-brewery sampler flight that covers beermakers from the south (Corning and Red Bluff) to the north (Redding, McCloud, Dunsmuir)

and from the east (Susanville) to the west (Weaverville). Cheers!

Paskenta Brewery & Distillery

The result of an ambitious expansion of the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, this new outfit is serving handcrafted beers and spirits inside the new Rock & Brews restaurant. Head brewer Robert Kolb brings a couple decades' worth of experience, including 20 years at Sierra Nevada Brewing, and adds his brown, golden and pale ales to the mix along with an

IPA and a wheat beer.

"We're a destination location and this adds one more layer to that," said Duke Walter, Rolling Hills' food and beverage manager. "Offering our brewed beer and a catalog of our own spirits sets us that much more apart from other destinations. It makes it a unique experience when you're at Rolling Hills Casino."

Rock & Brews is part of a restaurant chain founded in 2010 by a pair of music promoters, a restaurateur and KISS members Gene Simmons

and Paul Stanley. In addition to the Paskenta Brewery offerings, the bar features 38 other beers on tap as well as house-distilled vodka, gin and three styles of rum.

Visit rollinghillscasino.com

Fall River Brewing Company

Fall River was the little engine that could in 2012 when it began brewing in a small commercial building in eastern Shasta County. These days it's a full-throated locomotive that's putting Redding on the craft brewing map.



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Under the sure hand of owners John and Amanda Hutchings, Fall River opened a popular taproom in Redding in 2013 and then relocated its expanded brewing operation to Redding in 2018. A taproom within the brewery has proven to be a big hit as well, giving fans on both sides of town a chance to enjoy fresh beer.

Hexagenia IPA, a hop-forward ale named after the aquatic insect favored by hungry trout in the Fall River, remains the brewery's flagship. Other popular sellers include Numb Numb Juice, Day Off, Lazy Hazy, Liquid Candy and Blood Knot. John Hutchings said the four hard seltzers in the Beach Pops series are doing well too.

Fall River will soon release a series of vodka-based cocktails-in-a-can, Hutchings said, starting with a Moscow Mule variation called Mule Kick. The Fall River crew has developed a way to distill beer into a low-calorie and gluten-free 20-proof vodka product. A non-alcoholic beer will be featured soon as well, Hutchings said.

Visit fallriverbrewing.com

Cedar Crest Brewing

Cedar Crest, which traces its roots to a mom & pop winery in Manton, has transformed itself into a respectable brewery hosting fans at popular taprooms in Red Bluff and Redding.

"We believe in bringing people together for the greater good of the community," said Kate Grissom, Cedar Crest's CEO and co-owner. "Both of our tasting rooms are strategically located in the heart of town: the downtown."

Red Bluff's tasting room is on Main Street inside Enjoy the Store and has become a popular hangout for young and old alike. The Redding location, where the brewery is located, is on Placer Street, a stone's throw from the freshly renovated Market Street.

"Both places are for events and we're big advocates of live music," Grissom said.

The beers crafted by head brewer Mark Livingston reflect Cedar Crest's Manton roots and the brewery's whimsical frog branding: "Manton



Hopper," "Rocky Pond Blonde," "Single Hopper Pale Ale," "El Jefe Double IPA" and "Dark Matter Stout" are some of the eight core beers. Seasonal offerings include the popular Watermelon Wheat.

Visit cedarcrestbrewing.com

Dunsmuir Brewery Works

Established in 2009 by David Clarno and brewmaster Aaron Greener, it took about five minutes before this picturesque little brewpub became a favorite for southern Siskiyou County craft beer connoisseurs and thirsty Interstate 5 travelers.

Like many small businesses throughout the north state, Dunsmuir Brewery Works was impacted by the pandemic, but it survived—thanks to mild spring and fall weather and ample patio dining space—and is ready to rock this summer.

Greener is particularly excited about the new landscaped beer garden on the adjacent parcel that will increase outdoor seating and provide a live music venue capable of hosting full-sized bands.

On the beer front, Greener always has his staples on tap, including Rusty Spike red ale, OsoLicious Porter and a Kristallweizen called Liquid Sunshine.

"I always like to have something light and summery," he said.

His latest offering is Sucker Punch, a hefty (9.2 percent ABV) New England-style IPA.

Visit dunsmuirbreweryworks.com

- Continued on page 42

**Map of Brewery Locations
on Page 39**

Trinity County Brewing Co.

- Cold Beer
- Hot Food
- Family Friendly

530.423.4114
301 Main St.
(Hwy 299 West)
Weaverville
West end of town

[f](https://www.facebook.com/trinitycountybrewing)
[i](https://www.instagram.com/trinitycountybrewing)

trinitycountybrewing.com

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Siskiyou Brew Works

Pat Brush, the proprietor and brewmaster at Siskiyou Brew Works, had an early introduction to the world of German beer and he has stuck to his guns ever since. That Deutschland influence is evident in the styles of beer he brews in his McCloud shop, from Rescue Ale, a Kolsch made with

ingredients imported from German's Rhine Valley.

His Snowman's Ale is an authentic German altbier and Lager's Slaaber is a dark lager brewed with German hops, malts and yeast; Red Cloud Ale (named after the historic mill town's company-run brothel) is a Belgian Abbey Rouge style offering with a

distinctive red tint.

Brush does cater to American tastes, however, with his easy-drinking, hop-forward Mother McCloud Ale.

He brought his all-things-European passion to the Mt. Shasta Taproom, which he opened last fall on Mt. Shasta Boulevard across from Ace Hardware. Guests can enjoy brats, pretzels, sauerkraut and other treats while sampling authentic imported beer from 18 taps. Specialties include beer from Weihenstephan, the oldest brewery in the world.

"I only have two American craft beers—the rest is the real deal," Brush said.

Visit siskiyoubrewworks.com or the Mt. Shasta Taproom on Facebook

Trinity County Brewing Co.

Neil Petersen and Jacob Corella met in 2011 while they were both through-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and a decade later they combined their mutual passion for beer and established a brewery and pub in Weaverville.

Petersen, the head brewer, keeps 12 taps busy pouring a variety of pilsners, IPAs, brown ales and seasonal offerings. He celebrated the brewery's one-year anniversary in May by tapping a barrel-aged porter. Thanks to a low infection rate in Trinity County and a large patio for outdoor dining, the brewpub made it through the Covid-19 pandemic relatively unscathed.

"We're pretty grateful," Petersen said. "A lot of people are pretty stoked to have a local brewery and they take a lot of pride in that."

The brewery will be hopping this summer with open mic nights on Thursdays and two concerts a month, including the Brothers Reed on the Fourth of July.

Trinity County Brewing's kitchen offers smoked tri-tip, brats, burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, house-made fries and a variety of specials.

Visit trinitycountybrewery.com

Lassen Ale Works

Since it's located inside a former Susanville lumber building they call the Boardroom, it seems only natural that Lassen Ale Works lead brewer Erik Jefferts would have an affinity for loggers, er, lagers.

"We've made that our niche," Jefferts said of the bottom-fermented beer. "We never have fewer than 12 beers on, and often as many as 15. We have five lagers on right now."

Big sellers at the Boardroom include Thompson Peak Pilsner, Amador Amber and Eagle Lake IPA, but Jefferts has noted customers are seeking out lower-alcohol offerings like Mo'Citra, a summer hazy pale ale, and Bumpass Helles, a crisp golden lager.

"I think the bloom may be off of the really strong IPAs," Jefferts added.

Just in case, the Boardroom has its Volcanic Double IPA and Belgian Style Dubbel XX on tap as well.

Lassen Ale Works began in the historic Pioneer Bar and moved to the Boardroom four years ago. The popular gathering spot features pizza, salad and wings. The Pioneer Bar, in a building established in 1862, closed a year ago.


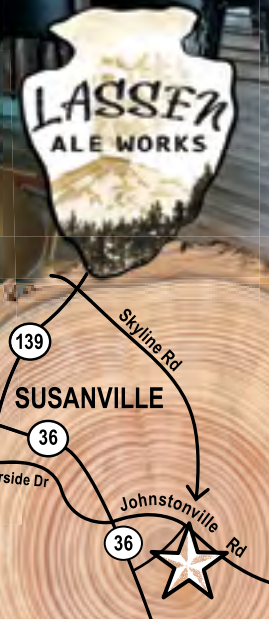
Visit lassenaleworks.com


Brewpub

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 McCloud (530) 925-5894



325 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd.
 Mount Shasta (530) 918-6066




SiskiyouBrewWorks.com



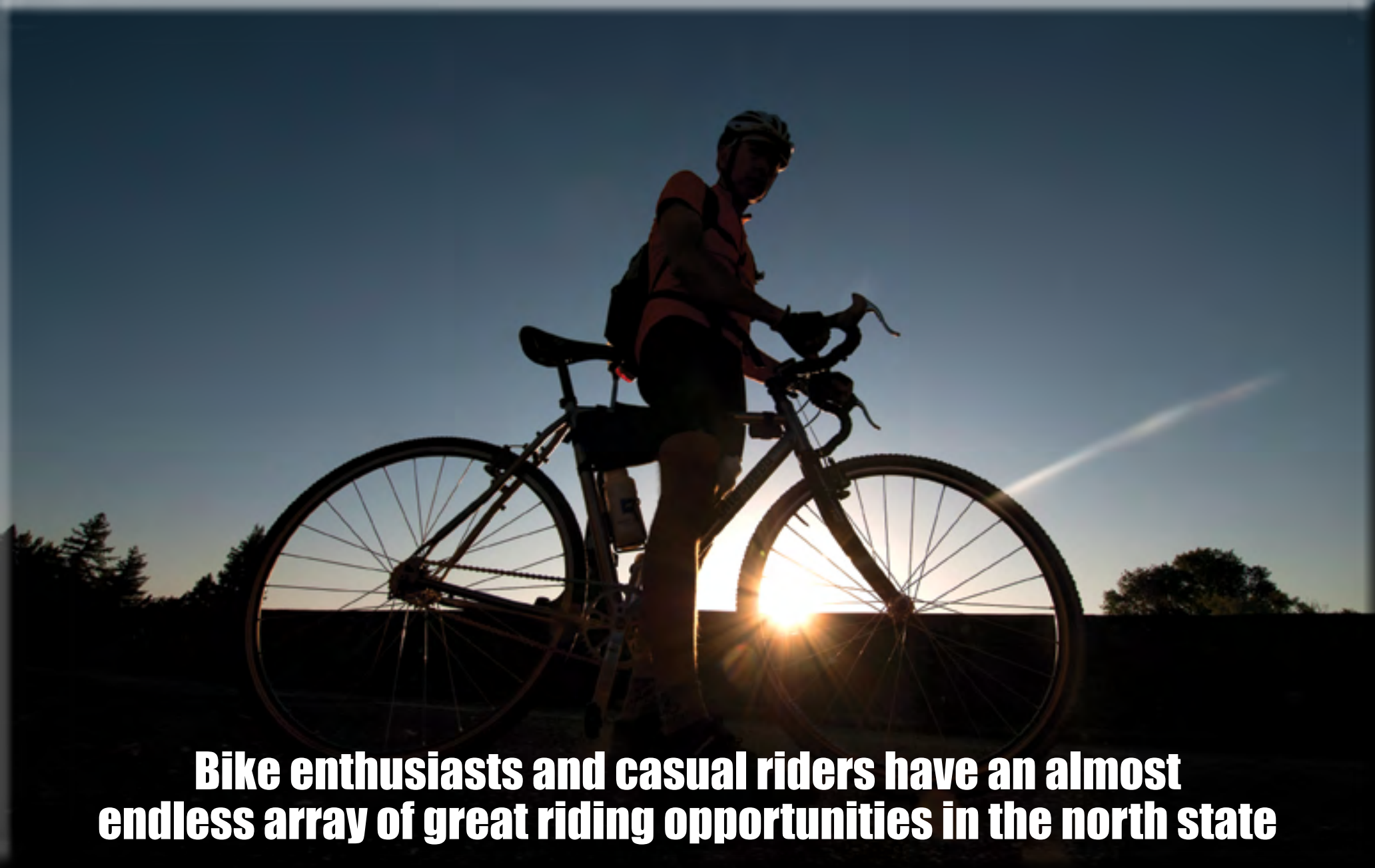
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Bike enthusiasts and casual riders have an almost endless array of great riding opportunities in the north state

PHOTO / Michael Burke

By Sandy Rich

In Northern California, you can ride through mountains, plains, wildflowers, tunnels and tall trees. So why take your bike on vacation? Because “riding with your buddies, your family or with new friends is just fun” says Don Bradbury of the Trinity Trail Alliance. Plain and simple, you need to bring your bike to experience all Northern California has to offer.

SHASTA COUNTY **The Hub of Northern California**

Redding

Redding has seen an influx of tourism dollars directly related to mountain biking in recent years, so thanks for coming to our part of the world.

The local improvements are mostly due to a number of governmental agencies and private entities working together. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), The McConnell Foundation, Trail Labs Co and The Redding Trail Alliance (RTA) have all been major forces in helping to put Redding and surrounding areas on the mountain biking map.

Two major local projects for the 2021-22 building season are aimed at cyclist include the Deisthorst-to-Downtown (D2D) River Trail extension, and The Redding Bike Park.

The D2D has been in the works

for several years with the goal of a safe travel from the River Trail and up into the heart of downtown Redding for hikers and bikers. The section of Riverside Drive that winds under the train trestle is narrow and dangerous for pedestrians, bikes and cars trying to navigate it together. By eliminating car traffic, it will be a scenic and safe way to get up to the many bike friendly restaurants in the downtown area.

Estimates for the construction of \$2.638 million came from The State Active Transportation Program (\$2.13 million), some from the State Transportation Improvement Program (\$400,000) and the remaining \$100,000 are local funds. Construction started spring 2021.

The adult-sized Redding Bike Park has been in the works for several years. The Caldwell Junior Bike Park, an RTA project, is proof that we want flow. Nathan Knudsen, executive director of the RTA, explains their main goal is fun.

“While RTA believes in the importance of the connectivity of trails and how they are an outlet for very diverse user groups, our primary goal is how much fun individuals of all skill levels have while experiencing the trails,” he said.

Check out all their projects and detailed design plans on their website.

RTA has been busy during the lockdown working on fundraising for Redding Bike Park and, as weather allowed, were continuing work in the

Swasey Recreation Area. They made a new flow trail aptly named The Snail Trail Extension that feels like your own roller coaster ride.

Most of Swasey is perfect for beginner to intermediate riders. Gradual uphill and fun, flowy descents make this a great place to ride. The intermediate and expert trails are steep up and steep down with rocky and rugged terrain. A solid workout ride would be up the Wintu Trail or Escalator and then enjoy the downhill that you earned.

Take a picture of the trail guide at the trailhead if you didn’t pick up a map at one of the local bike shops. Please be prepared for a great time by bringing enough water, snacks and a first aid kit. Also, there are rattlesnakes, so use caution at creek crossing and watch where you step.

If you have younger kids, go to Caldwell Junior Bike Park for junior sized thrills or try out the new Learner’s Loop, also an RTA project at Swasey, designed for young riders to learn about the fun of mountain biking.

More dirt trails are available along the east side of Keswick Lake north of Keswick Dam. The FB trail can be accessed off Lake Boulevard starting at Keswick Dam Road and ending at Shasta Dam. Easier rides include a loop at the Hornbeck Trailhead or climb to the top of Chamise Peak off Flanagan Road.

See the Healthy Shasta website

for detailed trail maps and difficulty ratings for the whole FB complex.

For a paved experience with no cars, go to the Sacramento River Trail starting in the Turtle Bay area. It is paved and all bridges have been rebuilt since the 2018 Carr Fire. For younger kids, please use the south side once past Diesthorst Bridge. It is much flatter and has nice views of Keswick Dam. Once you pass the dam, the paved trail runs beside the west side of Keswick Lake all the way to Shasta Dam.

This part of The River Trail is great for dedicated road cyclists who come from far and wide to train here due to our generally mild winter season.

The local road riding club, Shasta Wheelmen, has an excellent website with ride maps and ride calendars for those wanting longer rides.

“We welcome all road bike riders on our planned rides,” said Lisa Creps of Shasta Wheelmen. “We love to share the beauty of Shasta County.”

When planning your ride with the group, please be prepared to sign a release of liability waiver.

Burney/Fall River Mills **In Eastern Shasta County**

There are many century rides throughout our state, but if you ask Redding locals, they all mention the annual Fall River Century. Overwhelming reasons are the aid stations and the food. Oh, the food. Plus the scenery is spectacular.

Bill “Biker Bill” Campbell is the president of the Burney-Fall River Bicycle Association, hosts for the Fall River Century.

If you want to get away from the road, The Great Shasta Rail Trail (GSRT) is an ongoing project with 40 of the eventual 80 miles of trail open for riding. Being built on the former cinder rail bed for the train that connected Burney and McCloud in Siskiyou County, you can ride to the famous bridge made famous in the movie “Stand By Me.”

If you have kids with you, Biker Bill says going on the “GSRT section from Highway 89 to Burney is likely easier for young children since cinders are smoother.” Specific mountain route maps are available at www.cycleburneyfallriver.com. He also recommends you “download maps onto electronic devices because cell service is not universal in this rural, remote region.”

Palo Cedro

The Palo Cedro Park is growing this year thanks to the dedicated effort of the Palo Cedro Park board members. Park President Matt Bogdanovich was excited to share the news that “the park is looking to fund restrooms. The Redding Trail Alliance has committed the funding to complete a compacted pump track this year and, as funding allows, they plan to pave the pump track.” For locals and visitors, this is one more option to improve skills and ride with your kids in a controlled environment.

FIND IT ONLINE

Burney Chamber of Commerce
burneychamber.com
 Burney-Fall River Bicycle Association
Cycleburneyfalls.com
 Palo Cedro Park
pcpark.org

SISKIYOU COUNTY

In The Shadow of the Mountain

Mount Shasta

Mt. Shasta is home to several organizations that have your recreation in mind. There are the Mount Shasta Trail Association (MSTA), the Siskiyou Outdoor Alliance, the Siskiyou Mountain Club and the Mt. Shasta Mountain Bike Association (MTSMBA). The most recent big trail building push has been work on the 2013 Conceptual Trails Plan to build 100 miles of new trail in 10 years.

According to the Mt. Shasta Mountain Bike Association: “The diverse terrain around Mount Shasta provides many options for any skill level of mountain biker. Whether you are looking for a family friendly ride or a challenging singletrack, our local trails have plenty to offer.”

MTSMBA, in partnership with the USFS and Bike Shasta, recently announced that work has begun on the expansion of the Gateway Trail network. In the press release dated April 10, 2020, they stated “this project, located on national forest system lands administered by the Shasta McCloud Management Unit, will add



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Redding’s Sacramento River National Recreation Trail is part of Redding’s growing trail system. Meandering over 9 miles along the banks of the Sacramento River, the wide, paved surface is popular for walking, jogging, roller blading and bicycle riding. Access is available from Hilltop Drive, Caldwell Park, and the Sundial Bridge.





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46.5 miles of multi-use non-motorized trail to the existing Gateway trails. On-the-ground trail construction under direction from the Forest Service is being coordinated by the MSTA and Trail Labs, CO., a small business owned by internationally-known trail designer Andrew Pellkofer.”

As for current riding opportunities, for an easy and flat ride, try the Lake Siskiyou Loop trail that circumnavigates the lake with stunning views and shaded areas perfect for children and kids of all ages. Go to Trailforks.com for detailed trail maps of the Gateway trails. There are 10 miles of cross-country trails with elevation changes to challenge most riders.

If a pure downhill experience is what you want, contact Shasta Gravity Adventures specializing in shuttles to great trails like the Sisson-Callahan Trail. They also offer bike tours and youth programs throughout the year.

There is a skatepark at Shastice Park in the city of Mount Shasta where you can ride scooters, bikes and skateboards. It is also a great place to start or end your ride as many trails terminate at the park.

Yreka

The last major stop before you get to Oregon is Yreka, a great place to ride with road, mountain and gravel routes. A gravel grinder uses a special bike with a combination of a road bike for speed and has some of the comforts of a mountain bike like suspension. You ride on varied surfaces of asphalt, gravel, dirt trails and back roads and have much less interaction with traffic.

According to Cycle Siskiyou, the organization working to increase cycling tourism, “Siskiyou County is the best destination in California with over 10,000 miles of dirt roads. Greenhorn Park is one of the most beautiful and well used recreation areas in all of Siskiyou County.”

FIND IT ONLINE

Trail maps and other links
mountshastatrailassociation.org
siskiyououtdooralliance.org
cyclesiskiyou.com
siskiyoumountainclub.org/
signatureroutes
mtsmba.org
shastagravityadventures.com
trailforks.com

LASSEN COUNTY

Riding High at the Ranch

Susanville

The Susanville area has undergone dynamic growth in recent years. While road biking is popular in Lassen County, according to Matt McLain, Interagency Trail Coordinator for Lassen County, “many of the distance cyclists have transitioned to Gravel Grinding. The ease of access to miles of unpaved county and forest service roads adjacent to our city centers offer a relatively traffic free opportunity to explore the county in a more natural setting.”



PHOTO / Nathan Knudsen

Two youngsters riding on a wooden feature at Caldwell Jr. Bike Park in Redding.

The most well known event is Riding High At The Ranch hosted by Susanville Area Bicycle Association (SABA), which usually takes place in May, but is skipping 2021. It is staged at the Susanville Ranch Park, which has become not only a jewel for local citizens but also a draw to visiting mountain bike enthusiasts.

“I constantly speak to visitors from surrounding communities and long distance travelers enjoying our local trails,” McClain said. “Most riders opt to ride the mountain bike centric inspired ‘upper park.’ The most popular ride is climbing Heart Attack Hill to Easy Up to Rocky Top then descending the flowy bermed out Best Trail Ever before descending Heart Attack back to their vehicle at Base Camp.

“Local residents and riders with more time take advantage of the 29 miles of single track located in the park offering a wide variety of views, challenges and ecotypes.

“My favorite thing about cycling is enjoying the outdoors with friends while getting some exercise and interacting with the local trail community. Our region offers miles of easily accessible trails for all skill levels creating a variety of opportunities to get out and explore the abundant natural and open space of Lassen County.”

FIND IT ONLINE

Susanville Ranch Park is
susanvillerranchpark.com
Mountain Trails is blm.gov/visit/
bald-mountain-trails
Bizz Johnson and Southside Trail
is at blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson

TRINITY COUNTY

In the Heart of the Alps

As you drive west on Highway 299 out of Redding, you will drive through the historic California Gold Rush town

of Weaverville. Although you can find much to do in this town with its many shops and restaurants, there are a number of ways to get out into the hills with trailheads nearby.

“Mountain biking lets you take time to discover the natural world around you, or you can challenge yourself to do more; ride faster, climb steeper, get more technical” says Don Bradbury, avid cyclist and member of the Trinity Trail Alliance (TTA).

The TTA is an educational and charitable non-profit association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve great trail experiences for mountain bikers and other non-motorized trail users in Trinity County, and to create a trail friendly community through awareness, safety advocacy and promotion of trail use for fun, fitness and transportation.

The TTA seeks to preserve, protect, and promote trail access and diverse trail opportunities on public and private lands through outreach, activities and events. They host the LaGrange Classic, a mountain bike race held every June, on the Weaver Basin Trail System. It will be held virtually this year.

The area is used by all levels of riders, and according to Bradbury “we are in the process of expanding our trail system to encompass a more diverse topography, including the ever-popular Lakeshore Trail along Trinity Lake.

“Many of our backcountry roads are used by road bikers. Highway 3 is a favorite from the south end of Trinity County to the north end at Scott’s Mountain. The Weaver Basin Trail System is constantly used by families and kids for walking, biking and equestrian riders. The Trinity Trail Alliance is in Phase II of construction of the Trinity Bike Park in Weaverville at Lowden Park, designed by Trail

Labs. The Pump Track is a favorite of kids and adults. This spring will see the addition of the Skills Track for those who want to sharpen their abilities for more technical mountain biking.”

The Redding Trail Alliance has been busy up in the Weaver Basin Trail System as well. With the addition of three new flow trails, Knudsen suggests picking your ride by difficulty rating that is similar to ski areas. Choose the trail called Blue Lead for an easier ride or Black Lead for the experienced riders.

More information can be found at the TTA website, trinitytrailalliance.com. For a detailed trail map see the link on the TTA website.

TEHAMA

Gateway to Lassen

Red Bluff

Situated near Lassen National Park and the Sacramento River, Red Bluff riders have been making great strides to put their name on the cycling map. The link below on MapMyRide shows that you can ride in almost every direction, with many routes on nearly deserted roads.

mapmyride.com/us/red-bluff-ca
wildwestgravelgrinder.weebly.com
healthyshasta.org/bike-challenge

Virtual competitions and rides are dominating the scene this year. With the accuracy of apps like Strava and Garmin, riders can see where they stack up against fellow riders or just complete rides like the Bigfoot Mountain Bike Challenge during the National Bike Month of May.

Will you find your next favorite ride somewhere around a lake, river, creek, waterfall or dry creek bed? Who knows. But if you don’t bring your bike, you will never know.



Golf enthusiasts can find a number of courses in the area

Golf is a great way to take in the outdoors and provides a nice option after the hiking, biking, climbing, paddling and fishing are done. There are more than a dozen courses within about an hour's drive of the Shasta Lake and Redding area.

Options ranging from a quick jaunt around a 9-hole executive layout to an exhilarating tour through lush pines and emerald fairways with majestic snow-capped Mt. Shasta looming as a constant backdrop.

Mount Shasta Resort

Snuggled up against Mt. Shasta, this 18-hole course requires accuracy, a thoughtful approach and shot-making skills. A truer test of golf is hard to find in the north state.

Noted hole: The par-5 fourth. It's a journey through a lush forest of firs and pines, but you need to be careful the whole way, avoiding a dropoff on the right and an extra-thick stand of trees on the left. It's well worth the adventure, though.

1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd. outside of Mount Shasta; (530) 926-3030.

Trinity Alps Golf Club

A great escape from the valley heat, this delightful 9-hole course is an easy drive from Redding and offers views of the Trinity Alps.

Noted hole: The par-4 third. Not overly long but fraught with peril.

130 Golf Course Drive, Weaverville; (530) 623-6209. trinityalpsgolfandrestaurant.com

Other north state courses

Weed Golf Course

A 9-hole track located at 22730 Old Edgewood Road, Weed; (530) 938-9971. weedgolfcourse.com

Lake Shastina Golf Resort

This Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course features 27 holes. Located at 5925 Country Club Drive off Highway 97 outside Weed; (530) 938-3205. lakeshastinagolf.com

McCloud Golf Course

A 9-hole course in the old mill town

to the west of Mount Shasta, located at 1001 Squaw Valley Road; (530) 964-2535. mccloudgolfclub.com

Fall River Golf & Country Club

This Intermountain-area course rolls through pine and juniper forests and past abundant lakes. Located at 42889 Highway 299E; (530) 336-5555. fallrivergolf.com

Grape Ranch Golf Course

This 9-holer features plenty of water. Located at 22499 Golftime Road in Palo Cedro; (530) 547-3012. graperanchgolfclub.com

The Golf Club at Tierra Oaks

This 18-hole championship-caliber golf course accepts public play. Located at 19700 La Crescenta Drive; (530) 275-0795. tierraOaksgolfclub.com

Gold Hills Golf Club

Gold Hills winds tightly through the neighborhood, making accuracy paramount. Fairly long and uphill all the way. Located at 1950 Gold Hills Drive, Redding; (530) 246-7867. goldhillsgolf.com

Lake Redding Golf Course

A 9-hole course in the middle of Redding. Located at 1795 Benton Drive; call (530) 243-1930. lakereddinggolfcourse.com

Allen's Golf Club

A family-friendly, tree-filled 9-hole course nestled into river bottom land in south Redding. Located at 2780 Sacramento Drive; (530) 241-5055. Allensgolfcourse.com

Churn Creek Golf Course

A 9-holer that takes you through the Churn Creek Bottom area of Redding. Located at 7335 Churn Creek Road; (530) 222-6353.

Anderson Tucker Oaks

A forgiving 9-hole course that's long enough to be challenging. Located at 6241 Churn Creek Road; (530) 365-3350.

The Links at Rolling Hills

An 18-hole John Daly signature links course, located next to the Rolling Hills Casino, 2657 Everett Freeman Way in Corning; (530) 528-4600. rollinghillscasino.com

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More north state regional attractions

There is so much to do and see in the north state—and particularly in the outdoors with lakes, rivers, mountains and forests all clamoring for attention—that it's a pretty tall order just coming up with a list.

Here are some of the regional attractions, grouped by county, that are worth a look when you've got some time to spend. Some you can find in more detail elsewhere in this publication.

Shasta County

The **Sundial Bridge** in Redding is definitely on the must-see list as evident by the hundreds of visitors daily who check out the brilliant white engineering marvel that spans the Sacramento River, connecting Turtle Bay Exploration Park with the 200-acre arboretum and the Sacramento River Trail system.

Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the 700-foot-long bridge is highlighted by its 217-foot mast that acts as a giant sundial. It opened in 2004.

Turtle Bay Exploration Park is a museum complex that interprets the relationship between humans and nature. It includes a 20-acre botanical garden, a natural history and science museum, a freshwater aquarium, a pair of art galleries and a forest camp.

The **Cascade Theatre** in downtown Redding is an art deco movie palace that opened in 1935. It underwent a massive \$5 million restoration and reopened in 2004. The 999-seat theater has become a popular venue for concerts, plays and community events.

French Gulch is another fun spot to get an idea what gold mining was like back in the day. Founded by French miners in 1849, French Gulch at one point featured four saloons, two hotels, a post office, two stores and an assayer's office. Today, the French Gulch Hotel bed-and-breakfast and the E Franck & Company bar are great touchstones to the town's colorful past.

Subway Cave, located 15 miles north of Lassen Park, offers another



BULLETIN PHOTO / Katie Harrington

Designed by architect Santiago Calatrava, the Sundial Bridge in Redding opened in 2004.

glimpse into the volcanic world. It's a self-guided tour of a lava tube that's about a third of a mile in length. Hard hats are not required, but sturdy shoes and a flashlight are. A coat may come in handy since the cave stays at a cool 46 degrees year-round.

Trinity County

The **J.J. "Jake" Jackson Memorial Museum** in downtown Weaverville is packed with lessons on gold mining through the years. The museum grounds also include a history park where visitors can checkout a ditchtender's cabin, blacksmith, tinshop and stamp mill.

Siskiyou County

Although it pales in comparison to neighboring Mt. Shasta, **Black Butte** is still an impressive member of the volcano club. Rising up just east of Interstate 5, the collection of lava domes reaches an elevation of 6,325 feet. A 2.5-mile trail leads to

the summit and rewards hikers with spectacular views of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Eddy and the Klamath Range.

The city of **Dunsmuir** is worth some investigation. The little alpine village is steeped in railroad lore and filled with interesting shops and a botanical garden in the city park and



The Cascade Theatre in downtown Redding.



PHOTO / State of California

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico is a three-story, 26-room Victorian House Museum that stands as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina.

the ballpark where Babe Ruth played during a barnstorming tour in 1924.

The **Living Memorial Sculpture Garden**, located on Highway 97, 13 miles north of Weed, is a moving, heartfelt array of striking metal sculptures that honor those who fought in Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

Tehama County

A visit to Red Bluff, the Tehama County seat, will let travelers enjoy a quintessential downtown. Browse the shops along Main Street and then go relax at the Cone & Kimball Plaza and admire the **75-foot-tall clock tower**.

While downtown, check out the historic **State Theatre**, which has been restored to its cinematic glory. Visit **Gaumer's Mineral and Mining Museum**, on Belle Mill Road, for a display of beautiful gems and rare mineral specimens.

The tiny community of Vina is home to the **Abbey of New Clairvaux**, a Trappist monastery and vineyard that is worth a visit.

The Tehama County city of Corning is known as the **Olive Capital of the World** and several farms offer tastings, gifts and occasional harvest celebrations.

Lassen County

The **Ash Creek Wildlife Area**, located in the heart of Big Valley, is one

of the most remote, least improved and most pristine of all California Department of Fish and Wildlife's wildlife areas. The 14,754-acre preserve and freshwater wetlands is home to pronghorn antelope, sandhill cranes, bald eagles and more.

Butte County

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico is a beautiful, three-story, 26-room Victorian House Museum that stands as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell. John Bidwell was known throughout California and across the nation as an important pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, politician and philanthropist. Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell, the daughter of a socially prominent, high ranking Washington official, was deeply religious, and committed to a number of moral and social causes. Annie was very active in the suffrage and prohibition movements.

The Bidwells were married April 16, 1868 in Washington, D.C. with then President Andrew Johnson and future President Ulysses S. Grant among the guests. Upon arrival in Chico, the Bidwells used the Mansion extensively for entertainment of friends. Some of their guests at Bidwell Mansion were President Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman, Susan B. Anthony, Governor Stanford and John Muir.



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Don't let the level fool you, Shasta Lake's a hot fishing prospect

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife implemented new inland sport fishing regulations that took effect on March 1, which will allow year-round fishing in area rivers and tributaries with varying restrictions.

The new regulations are meant to reduce confusion and make it easier to understand bag and possession limits, and replaces district regulations with statewide regulations. In general, the rules for streams and rivers have been streamlined to reduce complexity, although flowing waters have more restrictive regulations and allow less harvest than still waters.

While anglers can now enjoy year-round fishing, area conservationists have some concerns for the wild trout population. The fall and winter months will require artificial lures with barbless hooks and don't allow harvesting, which they say can still be detrimental to the trout. In the spring and summer months there is concern for the taking of the larger broodstock trout and disturbing spawning areas, which are normally found in the smaller tributaries.

As for fishing during a drought



year, it doesn't require a seasoned fishing guide to note that Shasta Lake is low and getting lower, thanks to an unusually dry rainy season. But that doesn't mean anglers should feel down in the dumps.

There are still plenty of fish in the lake—and now there's less water for them to hide in. In fact, as the lake level lowers, a lot of the structures

that attract trout and bass become exposed and serve as targets for fishermen.

Fishing on **Shasta Lake** is at its best during late spring and into the start of summer. Both trout and bass are near the water's surface by the middle of May. For bass, try Senkos and similar plastic worms, top-water baits like the Zara Spook and tubes like the Gitzit and Strike King.

The cooler surface water should last into late June, and during that time trout are busy feeding near the surface. For the rainbows, it's hard to go wrong with tossing out a nightcrawler or some Powerbait.

During the dog days of summer, the warm water slows down the bass bite so the best bet is to fish during the late evening, using jigs, spinnerbaits and top-water baits. Trout tend to go deep during the summer months and anglers will most likely need a downrigger to get their lures and blades down 40 feet or more.

For anglers on the shore, it's hard to go wrong with live bait like minnows, crawdads and nightcrawlers.

From a boat, work around the

points and next to submerged trees and other structure, using super flukes (soft rubber fish-like "twitch" baits), brush hogs (which resemble little aquatic creatures) and senkos (weighted plastic worms).

Bass are just one of the sportfish species that make Shasta Lake a mecca for anglers. Here's a list of what could end up on the other end of the line: sturgeon, crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, catfish, king salmon, kokanee (landlocked coho salmon), rainbow trout and German brown trout, to name a few.

Good fishing doesn't end with Shasta Lake. The lower Sacramento River, as it bends through Redding, has a well-earned reputation as a year-round trout fishery that's very popular with fly fishermen.

Elsewhere in the north state, the Pit and McCloud rivers are popular in **eastern Shasta County**, along with Hat Creek and the Fall River. The **Trinity River** is widely known for its steelhead runs while **Trinity and Lewiston lakes** provide plenty of opportunities for trout and bass.

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More things to do around the north state in the ***GREAT OUTDOORS***

With its abundant natural resources, the north state is known far and wide as a great place to go fishing, camping and hiking. It's got a few other activities up its sleeve, though, and here's a list:

Rock Climbing

Castle Crag, the dramatic rock formation visible from Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir, is a favorite destination for rock climbing enthusiasts. "There's just so much out there and it's accessible by everyone," said Farren Forcella, an avid climber. Lover's Leap, a formation near Etna in Scott Valley, is another hot spot. At Lassen Volcanic National Park, the cliffs below Eagle Peak draw a lot of attention.

More info: "Mt. Shasta Area Rock Climbing – A Climber's Guide to Siskiyou County" by Grover Shipman orshastaguides.com/rock-climbing/



PHOTO / Buddy Fairbanks

The fourth hole at Enterprise Park disc golf course.

Disc Golf

There are a variety of courses open in the north state and even a pro shop, Redding Disc Golf (2610 Bechelli Lane, Suite B), to outfit players of all abilities.

Popular courses include one at Enterprise Community Park, 4000 Victor Ave. in Redding, and another in Shasta Lake at 2600 Virginia Ave. Other courses can be found in Anderson River Park, Lee Fong Park in Weaverville, Miner's Point in Junction City, Red Bluff (Dog Island), Shastice Park (Mount Shasta) and College of the Siskiyous in Weed.

More info: www.reddingdiscgolf.com and www.dgcoursereview.com



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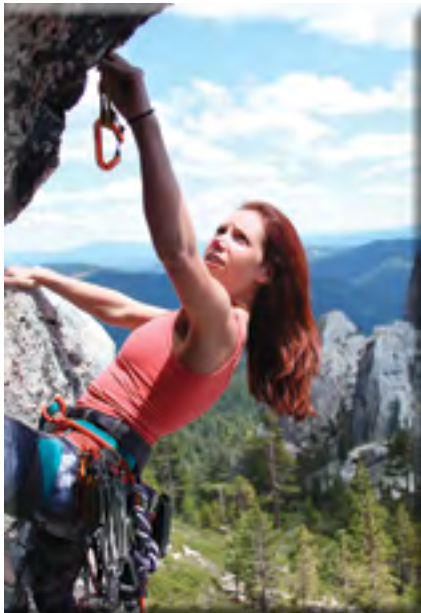


PHOTO / Wendy Ewing

Farren Forcella, an avid north state climber, shown here climbing at Castle Crag, the dramatic rock formation visible from Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir.

fool you: BMX (bicycle motocross) is big deal in the north state.

In the city of Shasta Lake, races are held on a regular basis at the Nor Cal Boomtown BMX track in Margaret Polf Park on Shasta Dam Boulevard at Sacramento Street.

Races also are held at the Red Rock BMX track at 650 Antelope Blvd. in Red Bluff. Mike Puckett is the track operator and can be reached at (530) 526-3836.

More info: www.usabmx.com/tracks/0987



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Off-Road Motoring

The Chappie-Shasta OHV Area offers more than 250 miles of roads that are open to motorcyclists, all-terrain vehicle drivers and quad runners. Visitors to the rolling, brushy hills near Shasta Lake will find off-highway vehicle riding challenges for all abilities.

Named after former Cong. Eugene Chappie, the OHV Area is open year-round. It is located on the west side of Shasta Dam. A campground is available.

More info: reddingdirtriders.com

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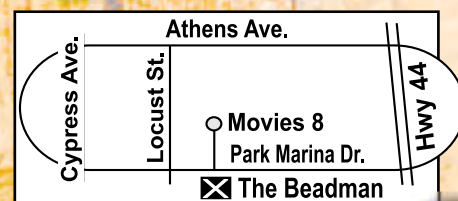


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