

CHINA PEAK TIMES

FREE

News for Travelers on Where To Shop, Eat, Stay and Play in Eastern Fresno County

Issue #17 | Winter Edition 2026 - 2027 | A Talahi Publication

Winter Adventures in Eastern Fresno County's Big Backyard



Snowmobiling Activities

Miles of groomed and ungroomed trails are available within Eastern Fresno County. Bring your own machines or rent some from Shaver Lake Power Center. Great starting points include some of the local Sno-Parks. ***See Page 11.***



Winter Special Olympics?

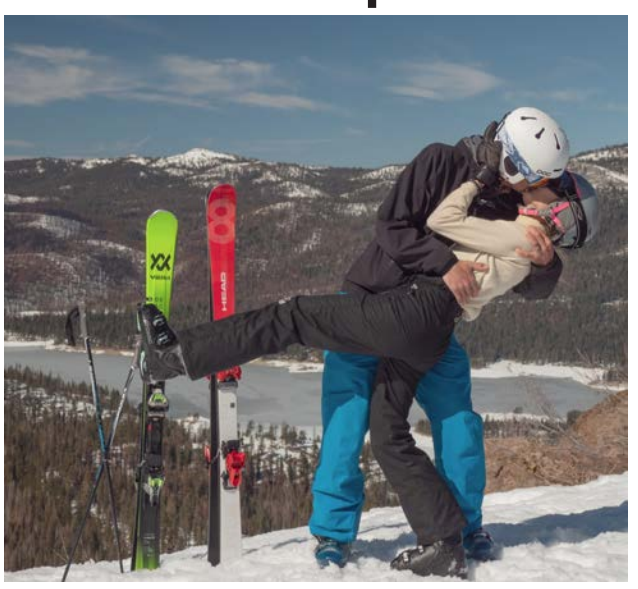
Over 35 years ago, what was to become the Shaver Lake Special Winter Olympics, was born. Widely supported by local organizations and volunteers, it was enthusiastically attended by athletes and their families. What happened? ***See Page 7.***



Cross Country Skiing

A great winter exercise for all ages and abilities can be experienced in and around Shaver Lake. Yes, cross country skiing is very popular in a variety of locations along Highway 168 and Dinkey Creek Road. Learn more. ***See Page 16.***

Come Up for the Day or Longer to Enjoy Snow Play Fun



Alpine Skiing and Boarding

China Peak Mountain Resort is known as a family friendly facility with great terrain for skiers and boarders. Perks are shorter lift lines, a variety of locations to rest, have food and drinks during your visit. ***Details at SkiChinaPeak.com.***



Snowshoe Adventures

Meandering through the forest during a sunny winter's day on snowshoes has become very popular in Eastern Fresno County's big backyard. Sno-Parks along Highway 168 offer parking, bathrooms and entry to miles of trails. ***See Page 26.***



Winter Trout Fishing

Shaver Lake is open to fishing year round, offering opportunities for rainbow and brown trout. There is a 5 trout daily limit, with 10 trout in possession. Shaver Lake Sports is an excellent source for further winter fishing details. ***See Page 15.***



Snow Play Fun • Weekends and holidays find families and friends heading up Highway 168 to frolic in the snow. Go sledding, teach your kids to make snowmen, take them skiing or boarding, introduce them to cross country skies or riding a snowmobile. ***See Page 4.***

CHINA PEAK TIMES *All the news that fits we print!*

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The China Peak Times is owned, published and distributed by Talahi Media Arts. It features the many wonderful adventures available along Highway 168 in Eastern Fresno County.
To contribute information, please do so at Talahi.com/upload.

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Sled Dog Teams • If you have a dog team, come explore the area. Let others hear the anxious pleas of your sled dogs, chomping at the bit to get running and pull sleds around the local trail network. ***See Page 10.***

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STIHL AUTHORIZED DEALER

Let's Meet the China Peak Ski Team Coach Anne Cole

by Anne Cole

In a world of comparison, I find myself questioning a decision I have never regretted making; a decision I often find myself explaining with fervor. As my friends run around the globe chasing snow, employed by robust and high-performing programs, I chose to return home. To the ski team that built me, on a mission to give the next generation everything that it gave me and more.

Early mornings filled with oatmeal topped with canned peaches. The Christmas decorations starting somewhere on the 6-mile. A touch of car sickness. Games of I-spy between Shaver and Tamarack. Asking my dad if we were there yet. Followed by putting my ski boots on and climbing all over the giant rock in the day lodge are how I remember my earliest days at the ski resort beginning.

My dad started me skiing around the age of two, and the China Peak Race Team, then the Sierra Summit Ski Team, has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My earliest partner in crime on the ski hill had two older brothers in the program, and my dad was a part of the masters program and helped coach when needed.

At some point in the 90s, we got the new team room that still serves us today; my dad helped put the roof on. Although memories and stories have blended, two-year-old me could have sworn I was there.

After a few years of endless Chair 4 laps with coveted hot cocoa and M&M breaks, I was ready to join the Sierra Summit Ski Team. I joined the ski team circa 2004, and I had the privilege of being coached by a generation of coaches who grew up ski racing in China Peak's heyday; ski racing was steeped in the culture, and the love for the sport was incredible.

Coach Karin always had a fanny pack full of hand warmers and treats. Her bag of tricks included hula hoops and other props that kept us little ones intrigued. I can't tell you how many generations of young skiers she impacted, but I know it was more than a few. Her daughter, Stephani Callahan, who started coaching for the race team in the early 80s, was the then head coach and program director.

She stayed in that position through my tenure as an athlete and a junior coach within the program. I developed lifelong friendships and a lifelong love for the sport in my early years on the ski team.

We were a chaotic bunch of youngsters, but there was a solid group of us who were consistently there, loved to ski, and begged for Mr. Toad's laps even if Chair 1 took one million years to ride (it used to stop constantly…)



Coach Cole started skiing when she was around two years old. She participated in both the China Peak and Sierra Summit Ski Teams during her youth. Now she leads the team

In the 90s, ski racing was an incredibly popular youth sport with massive field sizes, and eventually the decision to split the state into three divisions was made. This is a distinction from the awe-inspiring days of the aforementioned heyday, when the China Peak Race team produced its fair share of World Cup, Olympic, D1 collegiate, and junior Olympic-level ski racers; back then everybody raced everybody in the Far West. The Central Series had been established a little while before I started ski racing; we raced against Bear Valley, Dodge Ridge, and Yosemite Winter Club.

The Central Series races fostered a strong sense of camaraderie for athletes, parents, and coaches alike, with race dinners at every race. We grew up closely with our competitors, and two athletes that I grew up racing with in the Central Series are currently active and competitive members of the U.S. Ski Team.

I rarely willingly sacrifice sleep; however, you will occasionally find me up in the middle of the night to watch a World Cup race, cheering on my childhood competitors and friends.

When I became a J3/U16 I moved on from the Central Series, and raced in the Far West Wild West Qualifier series. At the end there were two of us girls still traveling with Coach Stephani, those late night drives consisted of back roads, taco bell stops and incomprehensible ratio of cups of coffee to bathroom stops.

The odd back road or a sniff of taco bell and I am instantly transported to the most magical ski racing years of my life. Somehow one of my most miserable ski racing memories is also one of my most cherished. Squaw Valley 2011, it had snowed and Friday's race was canceled, Saturday they had us boot pack (walk up the race run to compact the fresh snow) and they decided to run two women's SG races that day.

I had no SG points as a first year and drew DFL in the shuffle on the 2nd run. They had kept us ladies out after 4pm, the lifts were closed, the sun was setting and even our coaches were cold. I got left in the start gate just in time for a 20 minute course hold.

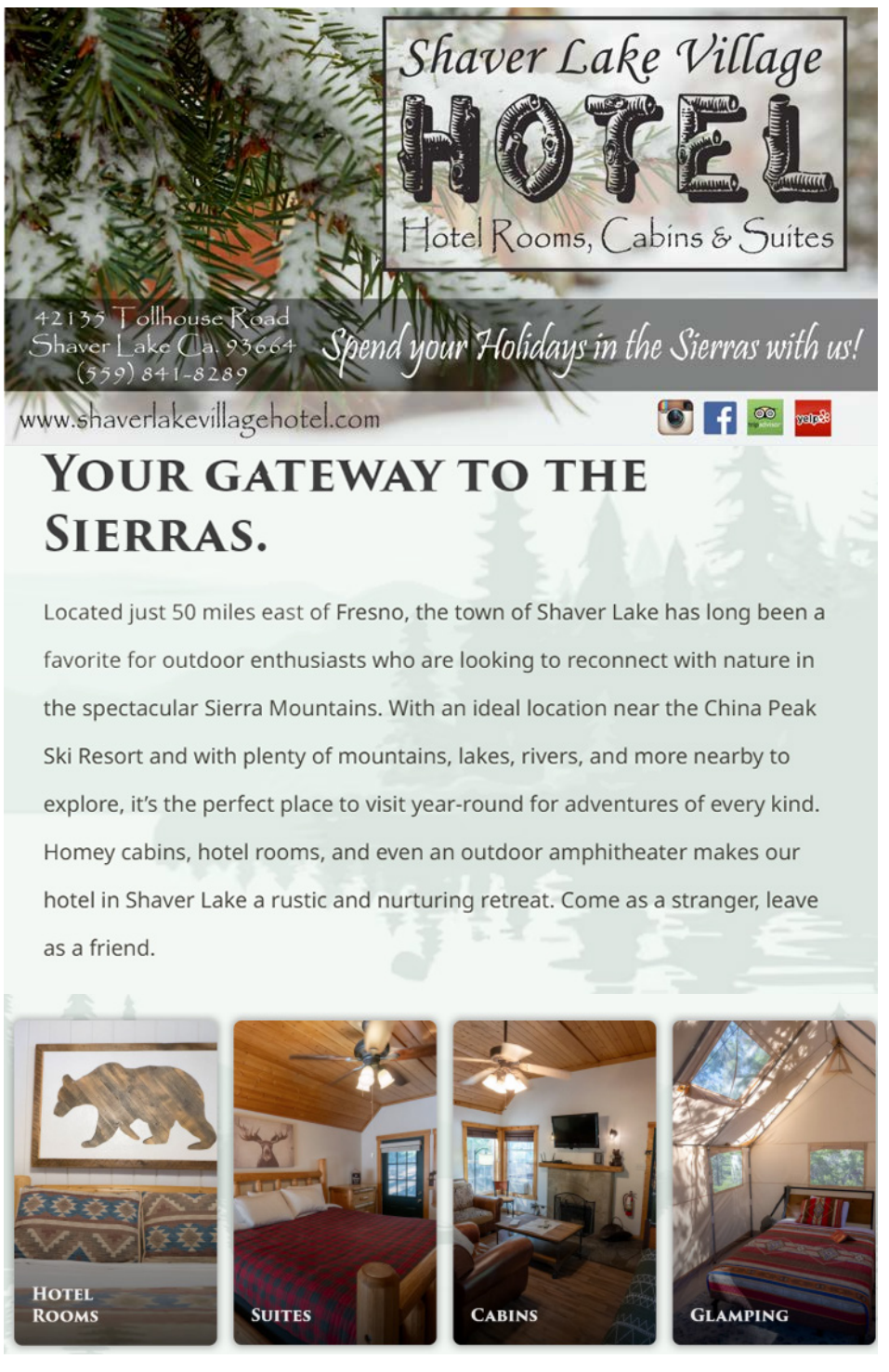
A Mammoth coach gave me her jacket and waited with me, and asked me how I knew her former athlete, his name on my hand me down SG skis. I was a freezing and petrified 13 year old, yet it was one of the most impactful days of ski racing in my life. I may have been one of the last 13 year olds to run a SG on Olympic Lady at Squaw Valley.

I attended College at the University of Nevada, Reno; I ski raced for the then varsity club program and poured countless hours into working with my teammates and our ski team boosters to hopefully restore the program to an NCAA ski team.

All of this in between training, coaching and majoring in biology. I started my coaching career in the basin at Diamond Peak, I quickly learned that China Peak isn't actually a small ski resort, Diamond Peak is.

The following season my sister joined the Diamond Peak race team and my dad joined the coaching staff; I was on a mission to make a name for myself, without my dad

(continued on Page 12)





CalTrans and the CHP do everything they can to keep you on the road, but keep in mind that the best way to keep you family and friends stay is to drive slower in icy conditions.

Snow and Icy Conditions Require You Drive More Carefully in Winter

The excitement of hitting the slopes or taking the family to the winter mountains for snow play might take your mind off being careful on the highway.

Don't hurry. Drive slowly. Arrive at your destination safely. Everything takes longer on snowy roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning – nothing happens as quick as on dry roads.

The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten.

Know your brakes. Whether you have anti lock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking.

Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning.

Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get a vehicle moving again up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can.

Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

Teach Your Children the Skills of Creating a Frosty Snowman

Here is a fun idea! When winter time comes along and storms bring heavy snow that piles high, get the family and your friends together to build a snowman!

It is not that hard. What could be more simple than rolling up three snowballs and stack them with the largest on the bottom and the smallest on top.

Next you go wild with your artistic side as you decorate your new friend. Hey, they need a face, arms, clothes and who knows what!

Make sure you build your snowman on a flat surface. Check for snow that's real moist and easily packable. Scoop some up and press it together.

Keep working it until it forms into a ball. See! You can make a snowman. Try to put him in the shade. This will help the guy last longer. And who doesn't like a snowman who can last longer.

Roll up your snowman by packing a snowball with your hands for the bottom section.

Continue adding to it and make it into a round shape. Wear warm, waterproof gloves to protect your hands from handling cold snow.

Create a smaller middle section and put it onto the bottom ball. Make sure to center it on the bottom. Form a one foot snowball for the head and put it on top. Then pack some snow between the sections to the snowman a uniform look.

For a little different look, create a really large fat body and put a head on top of it.

Now the real fun begins: bringing your creation to life. Stick the traditional carrot in his face for a nose. For the eyes, use charcoal, buttons or pebbles. Make a mouth with a row of pebbles, charcoal or a couple of sticks.



Don't forget to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate after building a cleaver snowman this winter.

Place two sticks for the snowman's arms. For an even more exciting snowman, put a shirt or coat around your creation's body.

Top the character off with a hat, scarf, a tie, sunglasses, or other accessories to make your snowman stand out from others.

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Huntington Lake Lodge Was Setting for 1916 Winter Fair

Stemming from the rising popularity of a newly man made lake, investors built the Huntington Lake Lodge in 1915.

Located near the Lakeview Cottages, some remnants, like the old fish pond, situated in front of the lodge entrance still remain.

The Swiss style facility was touted as a beautiful American Plan hotel with cozy cottages amid lofty pines, 7,000 feet above the sea.

It offered outdoor recreation like trout fishing, boating, horseback riding, bathing and hiking.

Early marketing noted excellent automobile roads made this resort easy to access. An alternative was a night train to Fresno connecting with observation car of San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad, followed by a stagecoach ride or vigorous hike.

Not much has changed. Huntington Lake was at that time and still is a popular place for the gathering of families and friends wishing to renew ties and continue traditions.

Afternoons were spent on the docks or along the shore. Laughter came from nearby campgrounds and cabins. Sails could be heard flapping in the breeze.



Afternoon picnics were very popular at the Huntington Lake Lodge during its heyday.

The quiet outboard motor hum of fishermen trolling on the lake was frequently heard. The quiet stillness of the first snow signaled a time to pack up and head down the mountain. All are moments experienced and shared by generations.

As the 1916 winter approached, Huntington Lake Lodge owners and Southern Pacific Railroad decided to promote a winter tourism.

Jointly, they planned the 1st Annual Ice and Snow Carnival to offer winter activities. These included ice skating, skiing, tobogganing, and snowshoeing, as well as a snowshoe race and a dog sled race.

The idea gained traction, mainly among members of the Commercial Club of Fresno.

To get to this February event had tide to ride the "Crookedest Train in the World", not to escape the heat, but to frolic in the snow.

The excursion started out at the Fresno Southern Pacific Railroad station at Tulare and H Streets. Those traveling to the carnival took the Friant Line, north to El Prado.

This was the switch yard for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the SJ&E Railroad at the intersection of present day Willow and Copper.

From there they transferred to a train pulled by a Shay locomotive that traveled north-east along Little Dry Creek, then following the San Joaquin River and foothill creeks until reaching the Auberry rail yard

The passengers boarded a train powered by a Climax locomotive, geared for steep, winding terrain.

The excited group were awed by views from steep cliff side precariously perched rails along the walls of the San Joaquin River canyon.

The engine climbed and twisted up



To reach the Lodge you had to take the "Crookedest Trail in the World," to get there.

to the town of Cascada, now known as Big Creek. Passengers exited the train and were now in an snow covered environment.

At Cascada a stagecoach was taken for a mile or so until snow made such travel impossible. Travelers then changed to a specially designed snow-boat, or Sierra plane.

The snow was too soft and deep for ordinary sleighs. Even eight horses could not pull them.

The genius of Leonard Ellis led to a strongly constructed sled, shaped like a rowboat. The underside was covered with heavy zinc. It was dragged by four to six mules. Each plane could carry eight people.

When the guests arrived the lodge was buried up to the second-story windows. The cottages were com-



The SJ&E Railroad was very instrumental in the development of hydroelectric power.

pletely buried. Tunnels were dug to allow entry to all structures.

The carnival participants came up on three successive days, some on Friday, others Saturday, while the last arrivals were on Sunday.

Unbeknown to folks arriving, a snow fortress, Fort Fresno, was built by the winter lodge residents from which they could attack the newcomers with snow balls.

Consequently, upon reaching the summit, passengers were immediate thrust into a snow battle. Invaders fought hard, showing an aptitude in making and throwing snowballs, especially since few of them had ever been in the snow before.

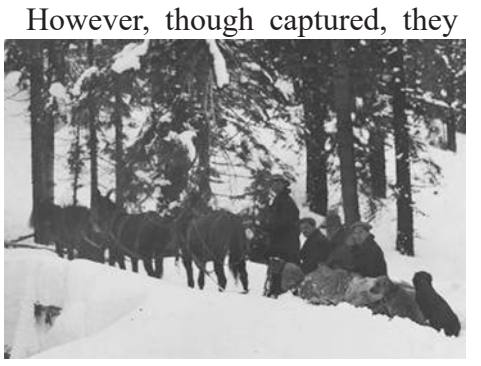


The current location of the Lakeview Cottages is where the Huntington Lake Lodge was build around the turn of the 20th Century. It hosted a 1916 Winter Fair for hearty visitors.

The second day, the newly arriving party was ambushed by residents and the first group as well.

As their Sierra planes came to a halt, they were attacked with a shower of snowballs. Entirely surprised, each became a victim to the fort defenders, who, overturned the planes and took everyone prisoner.

However, though captured, they



The last leg of winter travel to the lodge was by Sierra plane, pulled by 4 - 6 mules.

rallied from the shock, falling upon their captors, and effected their escape with a blaze of snowball fire.

The two parties united forces against the hapless third-day group, who were subjected to a rain of snowballs when they arrived.

They took to the woods until the defenders were lulled into a sense of false security. Then they swooped down with valor, and the battle ended. A good time was had by all!

Unfortunately, the lack of easy travel access, coupled with a low public turnout, this 1916 event marked an attempt at winter operations before the lodge restricted stays to summer months.



The 1916 party included outdoor sports and here you can see folks with snowshoes.

In 1927 the roof caught fire, but was quickly repaired. The lodge continued operations until 1931. The lodge had never been on a paying basis and summer attendance had been dropping

The lodge was used by the military guarding the dams during WWII, then demolished after the war ended.

Article from "Winter Sports at Huntington Lake Lodge in the High Sierras: The Story of the First Annual Ice and Snow Carnival (1916)" by George Wharton James. It is available on Amazon.com

Watch a video at https://youtube.com/watch?v=ym0MUW5J3_U.



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


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Big Creek General Store


Pizza Factory - Prather


The Inn at China Peak Restaurant


Shaver Pub 'n Grub


The Sawmill - Shaver Lake

Mountain Tripper offers patrons with several delicious breakfast and lunch selections. A variety of coffee and tea selections also await you. Eat inside or outside. Free WiFi. Located next to Bob's Market. (559) 841-7106.

Hungry Hut features delicious standard, deluxe or veggie burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, a BLT, fries, plus delicious old fashioned milk shakes. You can also enjoy your favorite beer. Open daily, year 'round. (559) 841-3222.

Inn at China Peak Restaurant Start out at Jack's Bar after a day on the slopes for some delicious food and libations. Then, step next door and have dinner in their unique upscale restaurant. SkiChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Loma Vista Gas Mart offers Mexican Food, Chester's Fried Chicken, Shaved Ice and Scoops of Ice Cream, cold beer and fountain drinks. It is also known as being a well stocked convenience store. The fuel pumps are the only ones available in Shaver Lake. (559) 841-5303.

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

Shaver Lake Restaurant at the Point is an upscale establishment with indoor dining as well as sitting on the deck overlooking beautiful Shaver Lake. Enjoy lunch and dinner. Enjoy a game of pool, a full bar and live musical performances. (559) 841-5329

Shaver Lake Pizza is very popular on the mountain. The staff prepares all items with fresh made ingredients. Lots of beverages, including beer and wine are available. Offering great Calzones, salads, hot sandwiches and appetizers. ShaverLakePizza.com. (559) 841-7249

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

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

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

Big Creek General Store on Point Road in Big Creek, features delicious meals and has outdoor seating available, weather permitting. Naturally it also carries everything you would expect in a general store. (559) 839-3332

Velescos Mexican Restaurant in Prather features a great selection of delicious Mexican style meals. Call ahead and order a breakfast burrito to eat on the way up the mountain or be sure to drop in for dinner on the way home.(559) 855-6565

Subway Sandwich Shop is located in Prather in the Canyon Fork Shopping Center. Select from a tempting array of sandwiches or salads. Don't forget the chips, cookies and your favorite beverage. You can stop in for a breakfast selection or lunch treat for later on your way up to the mountains. (559) 855-7827.

Buckhorn Bar and Grill is located midway on the slopes at China Peak Ski Resort. The popular facility offers delicious food, especially pizza, and your favorite libations. SkiChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Lakeshore Saloon and Grill is located at the popular Lakeshore Resort on Huntington Lake. Enjoy a wide variety of tasty food and beverages while watching your favorite NFL team in action. Check the LakeshoreResort.com website for details on musical entertainment. (559) 893-3193.

Sawmill Restaurant is open for weekend dining on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This facility has always been known for great food. Check Facebook or email thesawmillshaverlake@gmail.com for updated menus items and further details.

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


Shaver Lake Restaurant - At The Point


Subway Sandwich Shop - Prather



Shaver Lake Pizza


Falcon Junction - Prather



Buckhorn Bar and Grill


Mountain Tripper


Short Horn Bar and Grill



Shaver Lake Deli


Velescos Mexican Restaurant - Prather


Lakeshore Resort Saloon

What Happened to the Winter Special Olympics?



For 35 years China Peak and Sierra Summit along with the Shaver Lake Lions joined together to volunteer their time and resources to support the Shaver Lake Winter Olympics.

Contributed by Ed Delaney

Over 35 years ago three coaches and a few athletes made the trek to China Peak and thus began the Fresno County Special Olympics.

With the help of whomever was operating the Huntington Lake ski resort, the community of Shaver Lake and many other sponsors and volunteers, the program grew to over 100 athletes and coaches.

The three day ski race competition had downhill Alpine, cross country and snowshoe events. It became one of the premiere Special Olympics events in the country.

Unfortunately, after a Covid era panic, the program was canceled. Just like that, athletes who loved winter sports had nowhere to go.

Thus, the winter competition was set to continue with a handful of athletes and volunteers. However, the Special Olympics Organization told them they could not ski under the Special Olympics Events Flag, as they had in the past.

Fortunately, current China Peak management and a few die hard skiers, worked together to keep the Olympic flames embers alive, under the banner of ***Friends of Robin***.

According to the spokesman Robin Brown for Friends of Robin, Kester Edwards holds the key to letting the group operate under the Special Olympic Flag.

So who is Edwards? He is a longtime Special Olympics athlete, and currently the Manager of Sport and Development at Special Olympics in Washington, D.C. He is known as a sports innovator and played a role in bringing open water swimming to the Special Olympics.

His goal was to challenge athletes in a bold new way. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Kester was sent to Happy Haven School for people with intellectual disabilities. At the age of 9, he started training as a Special Olympics swimmer, and learned success for the first time.

He went on to compete in soccer, basketball, volleyball and floor hockey. He competed in the 1987 World Summer Games. In 1995, he was serving as an official at the Special Olympics World Games in Connecticut.

Kester Edwards got his local Honorary ESPY award in a spirited meeting at Special Olympics headquarters in Washington, D.C.

It seems a person with that background would jump at the opportunity to let a group of folks with intellectual disabilities compete under the same banner as he did!

After all, the Special Olympics mission remains as vital today as it did when the movement was founded in 1968. It strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people.

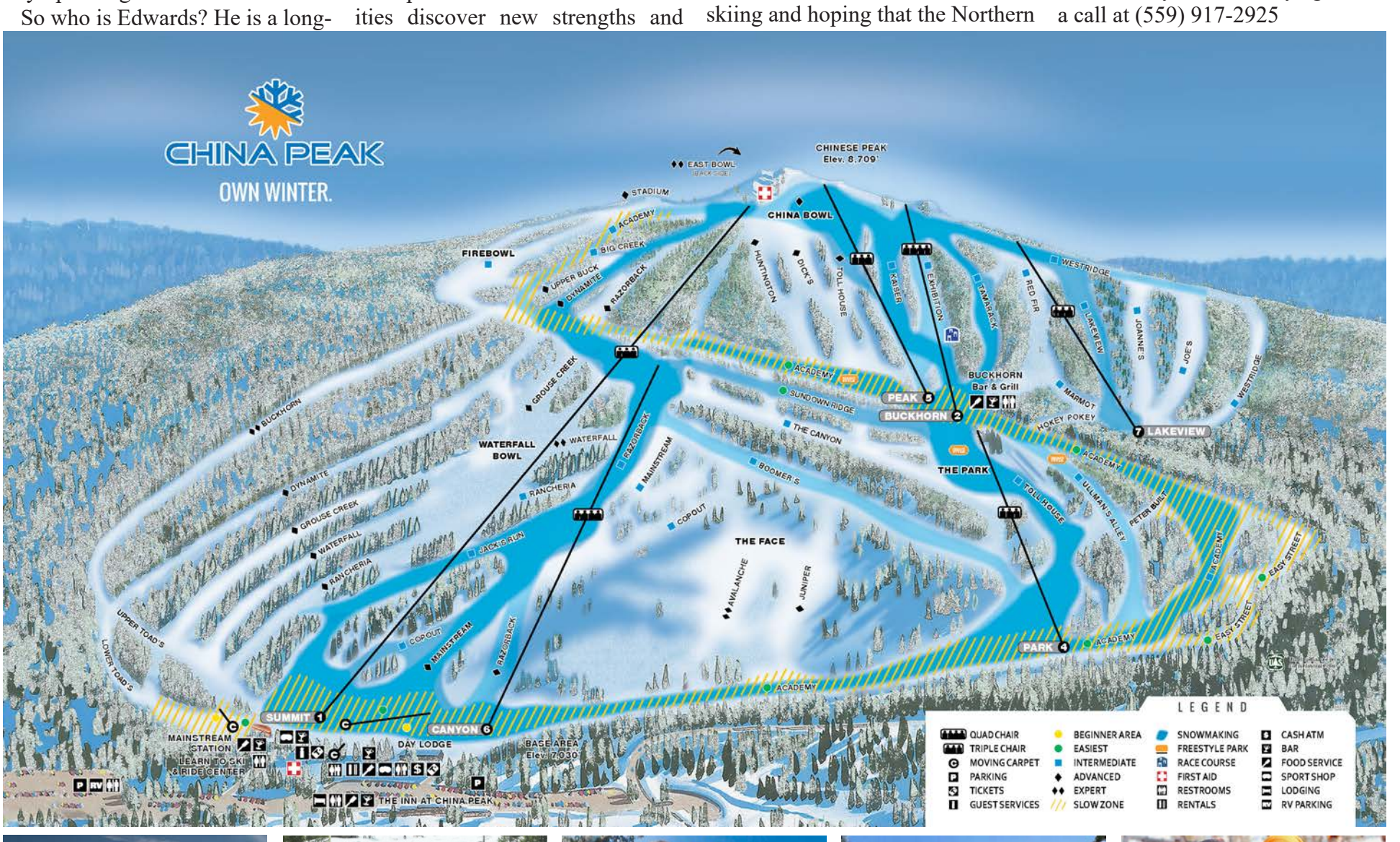
People with intellectual disabilities discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. Athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment—on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

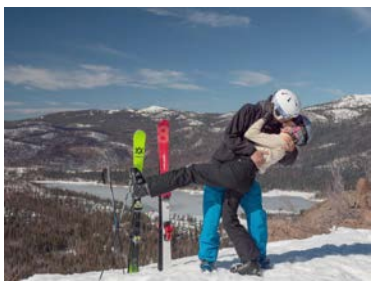
Opportunities are also created for families, community members, local leaders, businesses, law enforcement, celebrities, dignitaries and others to band together to change attitudes and support athletes.

"We have not given up or stopped skiing and hoping that the Northern California Special Olympics office changes Its mind," said Brown

"You can help by writing a letter to Edwards to encourage him to sanction us and allow us to continue as before! Email him showing support at Sports@specialolympics.org.

"You make a donation, volunteer, or sponsor an event by contacting me," continued Brown. " My email is Runrabbitrun1@yahoo.com. If you want to discuss this matter with me and see what more you might be able to do, you can always give me a call at (559) 917-2925










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Fresno Sheriff's SAR Group Is All Volunteer Organization



Black Hawk Helicopter assists as Search and Rescue team conducts a winter wilderness rescue in the Sierra National Forest. If you have the time and skills, join them!

Mission Statement

"To provide highly skilled and dedicated volunteers to assist the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and other agencies requesting mutual aid in search and rescue operations."

The Fresno County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team was formed as an auxiliary unit of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982.

It is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of diversified volunteers, formed to augment the Fresno County Sheriff's Office during search and rescue operations not only in Fresno County but California too.

SAR Team members are trained in a variety of search and rescue disciplines: orienteering, tracking, wilderness/winter survival, first aid/CPR, swift water, high/low angle rescue, helicopter safety, search techniques and search management.

These skills facilitate the SAR's ability to respond to any number of urban and wilderness emergencies.

Skills perish with time, so they train constantly. They earn and expect nothing, and are grateful for searches ending well, although they know that does not always happen.

Each team member is responsible for providing all of their personal equipment to be mission-ready. The cost of hiking apparel, boots, backpacks, sleeping systems, food, etc., is all donated by each member, typically costing $2,500 each.



Search and Rescue team member is getting a friendly hug from Big Foot. The furry critter is a mascot for the SAR annual fundraising event held at Shaver Lake in August.

The SAR team members donate thousands of service hours participating in Search and Rescue Operations in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

Information on Joining the Team

The Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team is always looking for volunteers with a love of the outdoors and a passion for giving back to their community.

This is a major commitment! Members must participate, hone skills, keep skills on the cutting edge, commit to regular trainings, be ready to mentor new recruits, walk out the door on a moment's notice to search for someone.

This is 100% commitment to the folks in the community. Members will be on call 24/7/365.

They won't get paid a cent and must love this work. The men and women of this group are the elite. They become friends for life. ***They are a TEAM.***

If you have something to give. Good They need you! Please apply.

Download and fill out the document, "Member-application " at this website: http://www.fresnosar.org/Resources. Follow their directions from that point. Get on board and then stand ready, 24x7x365 for the next call.



Don't Leave Home Without Them, Chains are Required

For your driving safety, California State Law requires you to carry now chains or cables from November 1 to April 1 when driving in a area that is prone to snowfall.

All vehicles are subject to being checked by the Highway Patrol when they enter a chain control area. You can be fined or turned around even if it not presently snowing.

So, if you are planning to visit regions offering winter activities like the Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake area, you need to know the rules regarding snow chains and how to properly use them.

Snow chains or cables are devices fitted to a vehicle's drive tires. They add traction when driving through snow and ice. They are usually purchased to match the tire size (diameter and tread width).

A drive that starts out on a sunny afternoon along the Central Coast or further inland could take you into a situation where you'd not only need chains, but you'd need to put them on in a hurry. Or you could drive to your destination and encounter little snow on the way, but wake up in the morning to a blizzard.



Here you can see a vehicle without chains on an icy highway that the drive lost control of and crashed head-on into a CalTrans snowplow. Now they get a ticket and tow charge!

For advance planning, search online for any of your favorite weather apps. For up to date road conditions and closures you can follow Caltrans on their website or get their app for your mobile device.

The following are the California DMV levels of snow chain requirements. Requirement One (R1): Chains, traction devices or snow tires are required on drive axle of all vehicles except four wheel/all wheel drive.

Requirement Two (R2): Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles except four wheel/ all wheel drive vehicles with snow-tread tires on all four wheels.

(NOTE: 4 wheel/all wheel drive vehicles must carry traction devices in chain control areas.)

Requirement Three (R3): Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles, there are no exceptions.

Regulations require that you MUST carry chains when driving in designated chain control areas, marked by a sign that says, "CHAINS REQUIRED" - even if you are driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

During a snowstorm, Caltrans or the CHP may close the roads to all motorists who don't have chains on their tires. And in the rare instance that you got in without chains and snow starts when you didn't expect it, you might get a traffic ticket, and/ or your vehicle could be towed out of the snow area at your expense.

You can buy chains at auto parts stores and tire shops. When you buy your chains or cables, ask someone to show you how to put them on. Then try it yourself.

According to CalTrans, you need to install your chains before you reach a checkpoint, which will be about within a mile after passing a "Chains Required" sign. Pull off the road on the right to do that.

If chains are required, the speed limit automatically changes to 25 to 30 miles per hour. After you pass the End of Chain Control signs, find a safe area to get off the road and remove them.





Sled dog racing is a winter sport with a large number of teams belonging to several Sled Dog Organizations. Huntington Lake and Tamarack SnoParks are open to this activity.

Help Bring Sled Dog Racing and Tours to the Local Sierra Scene!

Sled dog sporting enthusiasts, drivers and spectators alike, are big fans of the sport because of the extreme athletic endurance, deep historical Arctic survival traditions, and the unique bond formed between humans and animals.

By observation, sled dogs love the cold weather long-distance running. A few breeds have instinct to know when and how to pull. They respond well to verbal commands.

The dogs show extreme physical excitement, with barking and howling when they anticipate a run.

Locally, sled dogs are allowed on trails out of the Huntington Lake and Tamarack SnoParks. So, if you have a team bring them up here this winter. Show off your teams ability. Give some lucky group the thrill of their life with a ride behind your noisy comrades!

If you are part of an organization that depends upon fundraising, then bring this up to your group discussions in regard to using this theme to create an event.

It could be held any weekend in February and March.

Two of the top sled dog racing and touring groups at the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers at sndd.org, and Norsled at norsled.org.

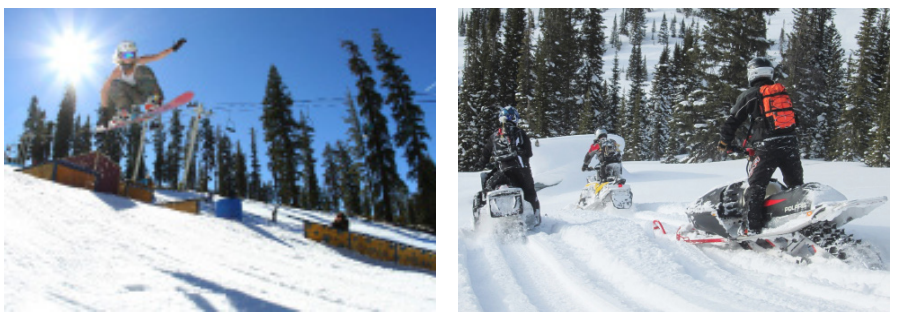
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REI Techs Explain Why You Need to Wax Your Equipment

Article by REI Technicians

Snow is slippery stuff. So, what's the point of waxing skis or snowboards? And a fair point it is.

There are two surfaces to gliding down the slopes: the snow itself and the one you can control, the base of your skis or snowboard.

Two Simple Reasons for Waxing:

1. Healthier gear: Waxing will not save you from gouges caused by exposed rocks, but waxing will seal bases to prevent them from drying out.

This is similar to applying a moisturizer to your skin. Dried out bases are prone to delaminating.

2. Adding Speed: Even if you're a beginner, waxing give you smoother slope experience.

You can get some extra speed when you are ready to move from snowplow turns to parallel turns, or from skidding turns to carving turns on a snowboard.

This story applies to snowboards and skies, but we will use "skis" from here on for clarity.



A proper application of wax to your skis or snowboard will help with carving turns.

When "wax" is mentioned, it refers to "glide" waxes that go on the full length of skis or the tips and tails of cross-country skis. "Kick" waxes are a separate subject concern in the center of cross-country skis.

How to Choose Your Wax

Wax serves as an intermediary between the snow and your ski bases. Snow changes all the time. But you can't change the material in your ski bases.

The solution is to change the wax on that base material to one that's calibrated to the conditions when and where you're skiing.

• ***Hot waxes*** are sold for specific temperature ranges. The temperature is the key factor in determining how the snow and the waxed surface of your base will interact.

A wax's temperature range is listed on its packaging or online product data. You can also simplify your choice by going with a "universal" hot wax.

It will last longer than a rub-on wax, but it won't boost performance as much as a temperature specific wax.

• ***Rub-on wax:*** For a quick-and-easy performance bump, you can use all conditions rub-on wax. Please understand, it will not be nearly as effective or long lasting as hot waxing your bases.

• ***High-performance wax:*** Options for advanced skiers can get more complicated. Waxes with high levels of fluorocarbon (as opposed to hydrocarbon) are an expensive variation that can help in wetter snow.

Generally, the best advice is to focus on matching the temperature forecast to your wax and the wax price to your budget.

When Should You Wax Your Equipment?

Professional ski racers frequently apply new wax before every run. Conversely, some people never wax. There's no one right answer for how often you should wax.



Properly maintain your equipment regularly. Tools needed for waxing include (1) Iron, (2) Scraper, (3) Snowboard or ski wax, (4) Nylon and Brass Brush, (5) Gummy Stone , (6) File Guide, (7) Base Cleaner, (8) Phillips Screwdriver, (9) File, (10) Diamond Stones.

Check out these guidelines:

• Rewax when you are in a new region where the snow is drier or wetter than your regular ski area.

• Rewax more often if you ski regularly in powder, as powder wears wax away more quickly.

• Rewax more often if you have an "extruded" base vs. a "sintered" base. You can't really tell by looking. Check your skis' specs to be sure. Sintered bases have more pores in them, so they retain wax for longer periods of time.

• Rewax if you see a pronounced chalky-gray residue on your ski bases.



Technician uses hot iron to melt the wax that is applied to your skis or snowboard.

• Rewax whenever it feels like the snow is getting sticky.

• Rewax at the end of ski season to keep bases from drying out. Keep the moisturizing layer thicker, too. Do not remove excess wax with a scraper until the start of next ski season.

Should You Wax Your New Skis?

• Brand new skier? You can leave on the light coating of universal wax that all skis come with for your first few lessons. It will keep speeds down yet still keep the base healthy.

• Experienced skier: Immediately rewax your new skis. Putting on a thick coat of wax chosen for your anticipated snow conditions.

Shop Waxing vs. DIY Waxing

Most newer skiers let their local ski shop handle the waxing work, because shop techs have the expertise to select the right wax and the wherewithal to apply it correctly.

If you're willing to do a little practice and get a few basic tools, though, you can hot wax at home. Learn how by reading Glide Waxing Your Skis or Snowboard (https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/glide-waxing-skis-snowboard.html).

Get Travel Information from Prather Rangers

Use of the Sierra recreational adventures spans all four seasons. Visiters can get valuable information from the Prather Forest Service office. It is located near the roundabout at the intersection of Highway 168 and Auberry Road.

The fall and winter seasons are all about fall-colors, skiing, snowshoeing, cross country treks and snowmobile riding.

The High Sierra Ranger District is known for its breathtaking landscapes and diverse ecosystems spanning in elevations ranging from roughly 2,000 to over 13,000 feet.

Visit fs.usda.gov/r05/sierra/recreation. Call (559) 855-5355

Snowmobile Trails Offer Up a Very Unique Way to Explore the Sierra

For a terrific adrenaline thrill treat yourself to a snowmobile ride. Take a journey through the unparalleled beauty of the Sierra snow covered alpine scenery.



Enjoy the thrill of a snowmobile ride in the Sierra National Forest. Always ride safely.

There are over 200 miles of groomed snowmobile trails awaiting you in the Sierra National Forest offering higher-elevation terrain and scenic winter trails for motorized recreation.

Always operate these machines in a safe manner!

Once you hop on a "motorized sled" and roar out along a forest trail, you will understand why it is so popular.

As winter storms arrive, Kaiser Pass shuts down, but that doesn't mean you can't see the sights under a blanket of snow. Instead, you need to jump onto your snowmobile, or rent one from Shaver Lake Power Center. (ShaverLakeFun.org.)

They will deliver machines to Huntington Lake and Tamarack SnoParks for you.

Both of these popular SnoPark destinations off Highway 168 feature groomed trails designated for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, shoe shoeing and dog sledding.

Parking is available at both facilities on a first-come, first-serve basis. Sanitation facilities are provided at each of the parks. Camping, littering, and over-night parking are prohibited. Make sure you pack out all trash when you leave!



China Peak Race Team Is In Good Hands With Anne Cole's Guidance

(continued from Page 3)

in the ski industry. I jumped ship to a place then known as Squaw Valley. My time at Squaw Valley made me fall in love with the sport all over again, the kids showed me the mountain and I skied terrain like I had never skied before, every single day. Squaw Valley (now Palisades Tahoe) has one of the largest ski teams in the United States; I cut my teeth on a large group management, a skill that I am thankful to have today.

I joke that I became an adult in Olympic Valley, but it is more truth than humor. I wrapped up my time in Tahoe coaching with the Sugar Bowl Ski Team and Academy where I learned more about ski racing technique and fundamentals than I ever did through my coaches education experience. I also experienced the life of a dorm parent, a development experience to say the least.



You can sign youngsters up for the Race Team by visiting ChinaPeakRaceTeam.com.

I had plans to return to the now Palisades Tahoe the following winter; a college graduate determined to stay a ski coach for as long as possible.

Housing in the area post covid was tough, I was in the middle of trying to put the pieces together as many ski coaches do every fall when an opportunity arose. As a kid I always knew I wanted to come back to China Peak Team in a coaching capacity and as a young person, I made it my mission to learn as much as I possibly could from all of the other programs I worked in for when the time came.

When I got the call at 24 years old, my first instinct was "I'm not ready yet." I called one of my mentors at Palisades and he told me I had to do it, too large of an opportunity to pass up. At 24 years old, I walked into a program that looked a little different than what my childhood perspective had gleaned, with a fiery mission of changing the culture instantly.

I had an arguably humbling first season in the program, ski racing is not the generational sport it once was. I am learning how to educate families with a variety of ski racing backgrounds, everyday. I am not sure I have convinced too many people yet, but I am steadfast that spring skiing is magic for parents and athletes alike; and someday I hope to see a large group of my athletes skiing through the end of April (June?) As I navigate the humbling new realities of our sport, I am so proud of the work that my staff and I have accomplished in these last four seasons.

The Race Team as it currently stands, has incredible support from China Peak. We could not do what we do without them. Time on snow is incredibly valuable for our athletes and the resort has been phenomenal in allowing us to early load almost every Sunday.

Supporting us in hosting new and bigger ski races and allowing us consistent hill space that meets our training needs. Our ski team culture is back to skiing as a team on powder days (my favorite!) kids building their independence through sport, and Mr Toads (how that one was lost, I will never know.)

The Central Series is still a grass roots effort, a few less dinners, yet, possibly more collaborative than ever. Snow Summit has joined the Central Series and as a group we did something pretty major in the 2025.2026 season.

China Peak with the help of our Central Series friends hosted a U14 California Challenge Race; the first Far West qualifier we have hosted in my lifetime.

And our friends at Bear Valley hosted our first ever Far West Divisional Championships in the Central Series. Affording our athletes the opportunity to race on home turf at the highest level of competition available to them



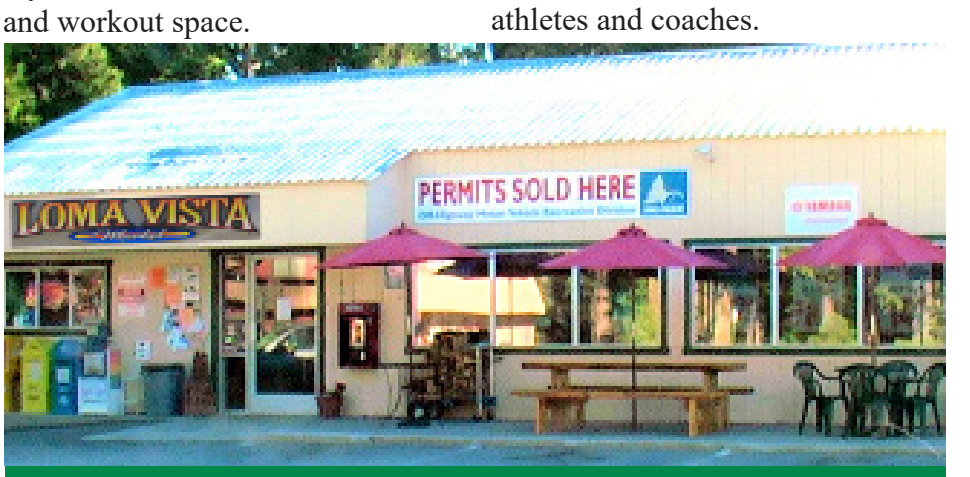
Five youngsters participating with the China Peak Race Team await their turn to whiz down the slope. They have excellent leadership under the guidance of Coach Anne Cole.

is something I am especially proud of. If I have called on you to volunteer, or even if you just got stuck at our crossing last February, thank you for being apart of our village.

Our new rowdy SG race that starts off of the top of Upper Razorback, crosses academy and heads down Jacks Run (formerly known as Boulder Alley) is named after the late Ray Kellner; The "Kellner Classic." The man who ran the ski team when it produced some of the greatest skiers in the U.S. Even Tamara McKinney hung out with Ray's version of the China Peak Race Team. In a very full circle moment we have recently taken over the building that once served the China Peak Race Team long before my time as a coaches/admin office and workout space.

The future is bright for our little program! I have an extraordinary team of board members, coaches, athletes and parents behind me that have allowed me to chase my dreams of putting China Peak and the Central Series back on that map and growing our program. A mission rooted in its legacy, but working in the now and towards the future for the best version of today and tomorrow's program.

My perspective regarding the program, and who I am as a coach is continuously evolving, as is the program. A few things stay the same; I love to ski, I love my athletes, and I love our not so little mountain. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to foster the next generation of skiers and impart my knowledge on our athletes and coaches.






HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
FRESNO
MAZDA

Charlie Lee Blasingame, the Sierra Cattleman from China



An image of Charley Lee Blasingame's mountain cabin before being heavily damaged by the elements. It is said to be located near China Peak Mountain Resort's Firebowl Ski Run.

What? Yep! This happened when two cultures collided in a most unusual manner. Let's take a look.

Jung Lee, from China's Northern Provinces in the mid 1850s, migrated as a child to San Francisco. Arriving in 1873, he immediately secured a job in the Chinese District.

Meanwhile, over 200 miles away on a bustling ranch in Academy, California, housewife Mary Jane Blasingame, felt overwhelmed.

Burdened by a growing household and the pressures of family life, she asked her husband to obtain a domestic servant for her.

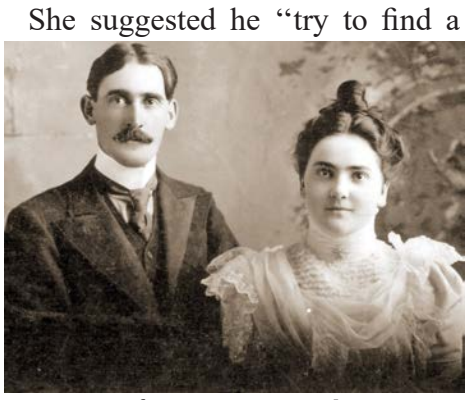
Her man, Jesse August Blasingame, was a thriving self-made man. Born April 28, 1826, in Talladega County, Alabama, he was a Private First Class in the Mexican-American War, June 1846 to May 1847. For his service, he received "scripts" to buy land.

After the war Blasingame tried a bit of gambling and gold rush panning, but to no avail. So in 1859, J.A. used his "script" to purchase his first bit of land near Big Dry Creek in Fresno County.

He raised cattle, sheep and horses. By the end of 1860, with around 12,000 acres, he was one of the largest Fresno County land owners. The family still has ties to the cattle industry at their Blasingame Ranch.

Knowing J.A. was visiting San Francisco for a combination of business and carousing, Mary Jane reminded him of her request.

She suggested he ''try to find a



A portrait of Jesse August and Mary Jane Blasingame who "adopted" Charley Lee.

China boy" on his trip. She heard they were excellent domestic workers who rarely married, thus perfect for fashionable white families.

In San Francisco, Lee worked at a Chinese restaurant. By coincidence, Blasingame saw a boy outside, suffering from a beating.

He consoled the boy, Jung Lee, and learned the boss did this. He asked Lee if he would come work as a house servant at the ranch.

Lee was eager for the opportunity. Since Lee was indebted at the time, how his freedom was legally secured is unclear.

Blasingame family lore says most likely he was purchased or perhaps J.A. won his freedom in a poker game. He was a notorious gambler.

Thus the boy came home with J.A. The family called their young Chinaman "Charley". Despite the expectation that he would work as a house servant, and Mary Jane Blasingame's views on the merits of hiring a ''China boy,'' the young man was better suited to the outdoor life. So, J.A. let Charley join the herdsmen managing his livestock.

Soon his identity changed from Chinese servant to adoptive family member. Jung Lee changed his name to Charley Lee Blasingame.

Years later, J.A.'s grandson, Alfred, recalled that ''my father and Charley were raised together.''

Through the years Charley earned the responsibility to open the cabin in the spring to make it ready for the



Charley relaxes with a smoke outside the mountain cabin he called home for years!

herding operations. He planted the vegetable garden for ranch hands and planting hay to feed livestock.

Charley hand-dug an irrigation ditch upstream on Warm Creek to bring water for the garden and livestock. A wooden corral was constructed around the structures to protect the livestock and garden.

Charley made an attempt to stay year round. But the long, cold Sierra winter proved to difficult.

After the 1877 regional drought most Chinese sheepherders were replaced by newly arrived French, Basque, and Portuguese shepherds.

Fresno writer Ernestine Winchell described a moment herders under Charlie's leadership threatened him, stating they would no longer follow instructions by a Chinese boss.

This dilemma was settled when Alfred Blasingame, his employer and friend, actually arrived in the camp during this confrontation.

Alfred ordered: ''Charley, here, is boss of the Blasingame sheep. You Frenchies and Portigees that don't like it, get off the mountain!'

Charley enjoyed such a great reputation that after J.A. Blasingame's death in 1887, he was asked to manage the Blasingames' herds and range as head cowboy.

An intriguing fact is Charley referred to the Blasingame family's holdings as his own, showing his degree of investment in their empire.

Fate would have it that Charlie met two of the greatest outdoors men of his generation: John Muir, and Joseph LeContes.

He met Muir, an advocate for the preservation of wilderness areas, at China Camp near Vermilion Valley, present day Edison Lake. He was intrigued to see the naturalist chasing butterflies with a net, referring to Muir as a crazy ''sonakabichi'' man with a butterfly net.

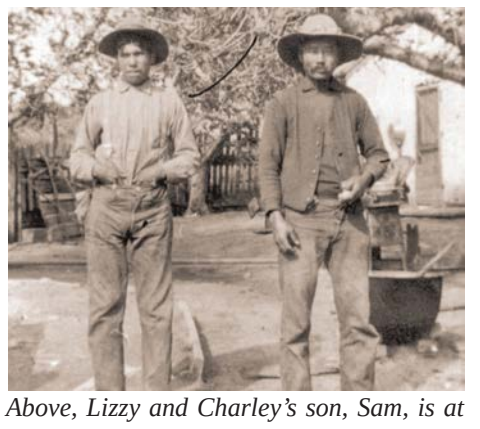
Charley's broken English cussing was a source of constant amusement to others. Charley was widely known for injecting ''sonakabichi'' into virtually all conversations,

Charley's interactions with LeConte, a man against sheep grazing was more substantive. They established a lifelong friendship. They often met on LeConte's expeditions.

They spent hours around a campfire, swapping tales. In 1892, LeConte co-founded the Sierra Club with Muir and others. LeConte always brought Charley a quart of whiskey during each visit.

By 1890, the sheepherders were under fire for grazing in the Sierra. In 1893, the Sierra Club fought to ban sheep grazing. President Harrison created the Sierra Forest Reserve, which outlawed sheep grazing. The Blasingame family switched to Sierra cattle grazing. Charley even ran his own small herd of cattle next to his employers.

Already called ''Chinaman Charley,'' by whites, another nickname ''Indian Charley'' came after marrying Elizabeth "Lizzy" Lorenson,



Above, Lizzy and Charley's son, Sam, is at the left and his famous father is to the right.

a Native American around 1900.

The couple had a son, Sam Lee, who followed his dad into the cattle industry. Evidently, he possessed few of his dad's skills. Once his dad fired Sam for incompetence. His family always joined him on the seasonal trips into the wilderness.

In his world inhabited mostly by whites, Charley thrived. His reputation as the Blasingame's ranch manager was bolstered by the fact he befriended many important newcomers to the Sierra.

Charley's relationships with rangers helped the Blasingames to continue getting grazing permits. In 1904, a Sierra Reserve Ranger described Charley in his logbook as a ''remarkable character''.

Tragically by the early 1920s, his health was failing. He moved to Clovis, living on retirement from the Blasingames. On his deathbed in 1877, J.A. Blasingame made his children promise to ''take care of Charley.'' He more than deserved this. Charley had served "his" family for more than six decades,

Suffering from diabetes, Charley was admitted a Fresno hospital. He died there in June 1924. On his death certificate, his occupation was listed as ''steward'' for the Blasingame family. Despite his efforts for the Blasingames, Charley had no material benefits for his efforts.

Though Charley requested to be returned to China for burial, he was interned in the Blasingame family plot, "remarkable in a period when cemeteries were still generally segregated by race and nationality".

Charley left $500 to his son. Unfortunately, a house fire after his death destroyed Charley's diaries, started when he was a boy, along with his papers. He had hoped the Blasingames would translate the documents to write his memoirs.

Honoring work as a smart businessman and cowboy, a ***Fresno Bee*** obit said "Charley's memory is perpetuated by a mighty Sierra monument Chinese Peak. It was named for Charley Lee Blasingame by his friend Joseph LeConte.

The fact the name was allowed to remain despite the controversy over Sierra naming conventions, reflect the reputation Charley enjoyed.

The remains of Lee's house sit on the southwest corner of the ranch near the town of Academy, with a few Chinaberry trees that were in his garden and the remains of the root cellar. A few personal items of his remain in the family, including traditional Chinese wooden shoes, cooking pots, and rice wine jugs. These personal artifacts suggest he maintained a connection with his Chinese past throughout his life.



On a clear winter's day the Shaver Lake trout are jumping for joy as they await their adversary - the fisherman! The popular lake is open year around for anglers to try their luck .

If You Have an Interesting Story or Photos, Please Send Them In!

The ***China Peak Times*** is dedicated to helping merchants show off their businesses and assist visitors in knowing where they can eat, stay, play and invest.

It is one of three tabloids that is published by Talahi Media Arts. If you have a story idea, by all means please contact us. The editor is always looking for new and interesting material.

The same goes for photographs, maps or specialty artwork. Those submitting material receive a writing byline or photo credit for all material submitted.

Items can be sent along to the editor at https://talahi.com/upload. There is no limit as to how big an image or file may be.

The subject matter can cover nearly anything pertaining to the outdoor world of winter sports in Fresno County's big Sierra backyard. First person stories are of particular interest.

Some regional history or tales of individuals from the past or in the present are always welcome.

If you have never submitted a story anywhere, no worries. The editor will review it and make suggestions, then return it to you to modify if necessary.

You can contact Ed Delaney at (559) 298-3133 or ed@talahi.com for further details or if you have questions regarding the ***China Peak Times***.

Try Catching Your Trout Limit Year Around at Shaver Lake

You may be pleased to learn that winter trout fishing on Shaver Lake has been a popular pastime for many years.

While other Sierra waterways are closed to angling, Shaver Lake fish are still available. But, naturally, you still have to catch them!

Expect cold mountain conditions and snow. Water levels drop during winter months, which can restrict or prevent boat launching depending on the year and water management.

A mixed limit of trout and kokanee is possible. Browns are also looking for a meal. Most fish are in the top 25 feet.

For those fishing from a boat, the most productive spots to try are around Stevenson Bay, Black Rock and the island. These seem to provide for the most action.

Bank fishermen frequently connect near Sierra Marina and the Browns near Shaver Marina.

You are limited to five trout per day, with a maximum of 10 trout in possession. There are no special gear restrictions during winter on the lake.

Of course, a valid California fishing license is required for all anglers aged 16 and older.

Target Species: Rainbow trout, brown trout, and kokanee salmon. Cold-water tactics like using bright soft plastics (such as orange Trix worms) or scent attractants work well for trout slowing down in chilly temperatures.

Check with local spots like Shaver Lake Sports for current winter conditions, spots to try and local bait recommendations.

Bank Fishing: Popular spots include the area around the dam over to road one. Effective baits include trout dough bait (PowerBait) in pink or green, salmon eggs, and crawlers.



No need to put your fishing gear away for the winter! Head up to Shaver Lake anytime.

Trolling or static fishing from a boat works well when weather permits, but low winter water levels or ice/snow can occasionally restrict boat ramp usability at Sierra Marina or public launches. Using bright-colored soft plastics, Trix worms with scent attractants, or flat-line trolling with small Rapalas and Kastmasters can attract cold-water trout.





Enjoy Cross Country Skiing at Several Local SnoParks



Think about it. You hardly ever seen a heavy cross country skier because the exercise these athletes get is great for the body. Many cross country skiers are also avid runners as well.

Cross-country skiing is widely practiced as a recreational activity in the Fresno County backcountry.

Huntington Lake Trailhead

Located at the Huntington Lake Boat Ramp near Lakeshore Resort, the trailhead provides additional parking for the area. Restrooms and trail information are on site.

The trails are open to snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, sled dog teams and snowshoers. Please be courteous of other users.

Huntington Lake Trail

The trail may be entered from either the Kaiser Pass or Huntington Lake Trailheads. From Kaiser Pass the trail heads west above Highway 168 below the Rancheria Cabin Tract. It crosses the Huntington Lake Road adjacent to China Peak Landing and proceeds through College Campground to the Huntington Lake Trailhead. From this trailhead it proceeds across the Deer Creek Bridge into Deer Creek Campground onto the Huntington Lake Road, which is not plowed in the winter. The trail follows the road toward the town of Big Creek and ends at the Stump Springs road intersection. From this trail you may access the Willow Hill Trail, Grouse Creek Trail, Mushroom Rock Trail, and the Stump Springs Trail. The trails provide many scenic views of Huntington Lake, Bear Butte, China Peak and surrounding country.

Willow Hill Trail

The trail intersects the Huntington Lake Trail west of the Upper Line Creek cabin tract. The trail stays to the north of the Huntington Lake Road for approximately two miles, passing through Cold Storage Meadow, intersecting the Huntington Lake Road at Billy Creek Campground. This route provides access to the West end of the lake during the spring and an alternate route from the main trail.

Mushroom Rock Trail

The trail intersects the Huntington Lake Trail approximately 1/2 mile below Dam 3 on the Huntington Lake Trail. It proceeds four miles to the Mushroom Rock Vista area. On clear days you can see the Coastal Range. A nice spot for a picnic.

Grouse Creek Trail

The trail intersects the Huntington Lake Trail below Dam 3 on Huntington Lake. The trail follows the road on the South Shore of the lake passing the Lakeview Cabin Tract. It proceeds to Dam 2 where it follows a logging road below the dam and continues across the Big Creek Bridge, up to Highway 168 crossing.

It proceeds from the crossing to the intersection of the Coyote Lake Trail and follows a logging road to the Tamarack Creek Bridge. The trail then proceeds to the intersection of the Tamarack Trail and on to the South Fork of Tamarack Creek Bridge then onto the Tamarack Ridge Snowmobile trailhead.

Rancheria Trail

Trail intersects Kaiser Pass Trail 1/2 mile from Kaiser Pass Trailhead and proceeds across Rancheria Creek Bridge around the Kokanee work center. Past that the trail follows a road past Bear Butte, continuing along a ridge, crossing Rancheria Creek at Badger Flat Campground. It runs through the campground to the Kaiser Pass Trail.

China Peak Trail

The trail intersects the Rancheria Trail 1/8 mile past the work center, crossing Highway 168 and proceeds to the Huntington Heliport. The trail proceeds to the lower China Peak parking lot adjacent to Big Creek and Camp Gold Arrow.

Tamarack Sno-Park offers scenic, groomed winter trails.

Chipmunk Trail

Trail shared by cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

Porcupine and Raccoon Loops

A 4-mile route designated exclusively for skiing and snowshoeing.

Raven Loop

A 4.4-mile loop restricted to cross-country skiing only.

Arrive early on weekends as the parking lot fills up quickly during peak snow days. Always carry tire chains in your vehicle during winter conditions.





Traveling Tips for To Keep You Safe During Winter Outdoor Snow Play

Thanks heavens it's a weekend. You've made up your mind, you're going skiing and you don't have to figure out an excuse to call in sick!

Obviously, you need to carry chains and drive carefully when venturing into the mountains during the winter.

For instance, you know your vehicle is in good condition. The tires are properly inflated. The fuel tank is at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up. You have your cell phone and emergency numbers.

You have packed blankets, kitty litter, a shovel, gloves, hats, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle.

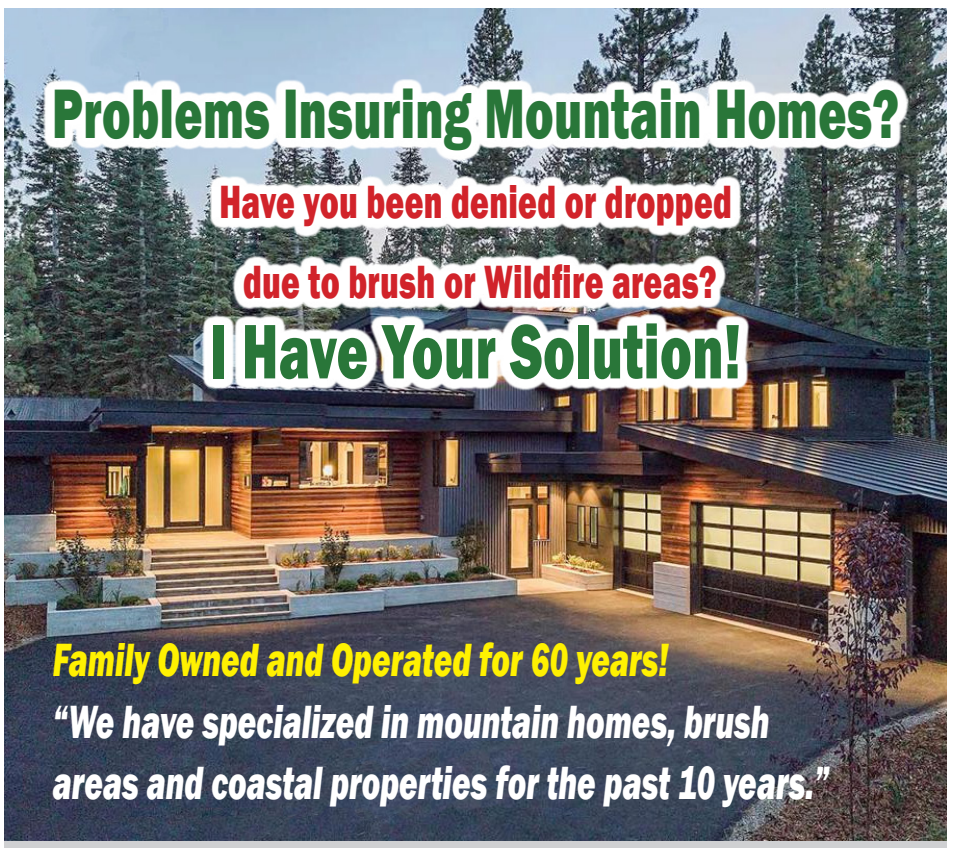
You know that if you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost. Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow.

Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.

Run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and conserve gasoline. Make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged.

If blocked, the exhaust fumes could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the vehicle with the engine running.

But, why worry. You're prepared! Hit the slopes and enjoy yourself!



If you have suffered a loss and will be rebuilding - Call me.
If you are a survivor of a wildfire and want a fresh pair of eyes to review your situation - I'm here for you.
Not sure how insurance works - I will explain it to you
If you have been without insurance - No problem.
Home and Auto Discounts - Yes, just ask me



Devin Wilson Insurance Services
(559) 782-0366
devinwilson1@allstate.com.

China Peak Events Set for the 26/27 Winter Season

New Year's Eve

The annual NYE China Peak festivities return. Enjoy skiing and live music during the day. The base area Rail Jam starts at 3:30 pm. Once it gets dark it's time for the annual Torchlight Parade and Fireworks, as skiers and snowboards ride down the mountain lighting up the dark. When the parade ends, fireworks begin. Afterwards, enjoy dinner at JW's restaurant at the Inn at China Peak as Sully's Pub at the Daylodge gets ready for the party. It reopens from 8 pm to Midnight as folks dance in the new year with a live DJ.

Pond Skimming

Grab your swim suits and join in as you make the treacherous transition from snow to water, hoping to make it all the way across the pond without getting soaked. The Pond Skim will take place late March or early April, depending on weather and snow-pack. Win prizes for best skim, best trick, and best wipe out. Don't want to risk a wet wipe out? Join the spectators on the sidelines and help the kids pelt competitors with snowballs. There will be live music and lots of goodies to be had from the event sponsors. Depending on the snow pack Pond Skimming will take place in the base area near Mainstream or on the mountain near Buckhorn.

College Days

College Days are back. On the last Sunday of the month in January, February, and March, college students will receive discounts on rentals, lessons, and lift tickets. Whether you're an experienced rider or beginner who wants to try the sport, the best deals for college students will be found on these days. Each College Day will see the presence of the Fresno State Ski and Snowboard Club, stop by their booth and see how you can join in on the fun.

Casa De Untz

On MLK and President's weekend Buckhorn is going full party mode! DJ Mvsty will be out to play, and is bringing friends. The Saturday of each holiday weekend enjoy live DJ tunes from 11 am - 3 pm with Casa De Untz, a DJ collective that includes Mvsty and other DJs.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny has China Peak marked on its route. On the Saturday of Easter weekend for family friendly egg hunts in the base area. Fun is for all ages. The Easter Bunny doesn't stop at the base area, it makes its way up the mountain! Keep your eyes open for egg hunts across all terrain on the mountain.

Regional Forest Cell Phone and WiFi Service is Sketchy

When you are traveling in the Sierra National Forest keep in mind that cell phone service and Wi-Fi connections are extremely limited if not completely unavailable.

Where weak signals are found, coverage is completely dependent on your courier as well as exact elevation and topography.

As an example, some higher or exposed spots that have a line of site to Mt. Tom like parts of Edison Lake, Mono Creek and Mono Hot Springs, might pick up limited AT&T service.

T-Mobile, and Verizon bars are occasional found in the Lakeshore Resort area, as well as parts of the Shaver Lake community.



Most likely you will find your cell phone is great for taking pictures, not communications.

No public Wi-Fi is provided by the Forest Service anywhere. Some private facilities like Camp Edison, Lakeshore Resort, Mono Hot Springs, Vermilion Valley Resort, and Wishon Village offer service. A few rental facilities have Wi-Fi, but connections are typically slow.

Several visitors, requiring reliable communication or remote connectivity bring personal satellite communicators or portable satellite Internet setups like Starlink.



You are unlikely to find cell phone bars from carriers out and about in the Sierra.

Use this lack of service to help your kids see that this can be a really good thing. Take this time to help educate young and old alike, regarding the great outdoors!

When you pack for your trip, include books or magazines for the adults and, a box of crayons, pencils and a large blank pad for each of the kids. Jig saw puzzles can be fun for all ages as well.

Then have everyone draw a picture and/or write an explanation of the adventure that they can share with other family members and friends not along on the vacation. Perhaps they can create a journal of their vacation.

Dedicated Caltrans' Crew 655 Keeps You Safe on Highway 168



The CalTrans team works diligently to make sure you are traveling on a safe and secure road system as you travel from the San Joaquin Valley floor to the scenic Sierra Nevada.

Crew 655 also known as the Shaver Lake Crew maintains over 120 lane miles on State Route 168 between Sample Road and Kaiser Pass Road and can easily tell you where each large boulder, sharp turn and roadway oddity is. For many on this crew, this familiar stretch of road is home.

The surrounding communities of Auberry, Prather and Shaver Lake rely on this crew. Without them, wintertime tourism would be difficult, routes to school would be inoperable and those who travel to the Valley for appointments, work and errands would be unable to complete their to-do list.



A new day, a new shift. The crew grabs supplies for the day: a thermos of hot coffee, breakfast burritos, jerky for a quick snack later, dry gloves and any essentials that might make the shift more comfortable.

This is no 8-5 shift, in fact this is no eight-hour shift; the days are long and cold, and the nights are even colder.

Weekends don't exist and neither do holidays. Mother Nature dictates when this crew gets to take a well-deserved break and some years she is more generous than others.

Crew 655 consists of at least 12 crew members (re-enforcements are brought in from other areas if needed) that split the 12 to 15-hour shifts.

During these shifts, crew members can be found manning six plow trucks, two blowers, and two graders; often the seat of some equipment never has a chance to get cold, as soon as one person exits the vehicle another enters, and work continues.

As locals and visiting tourists lay in warm beds, half of the 655 Crew is using dump trucks, loaders and blowers to remove snow from local parking lots and truck it to the outer edges of town making room for those who will seek local favorite treats in just a few short hours.

The other half of the crew can be found sanding roadways and clearing out local snow parks for visitors who will be coming up for the day.

As the sun rises and folks descend upon the area, the crew spends a portion of the day partnering with Highway Patrol to enforce chain control at varying locations including the bottom or the top of the Four Lanes, Sierra Marina or Balsam Sno-Park.

Those not working the chain control areas are out using a road grader to peel the snow pack and ice off the road and the blowers to get the snow off the road to give a safer and wider travel space for motorists.

Days prior, the crew went into Storm Protocol, the process of planning and executing last-minute repairs, culvert cleaning, weather monitoring, pothole filling, and preparations for any environmentally sensitive areas that are susceptible to flash floods or rock slides.

The crew carefully times when the storm might hit and just how much time they can spend at home with families before Mother Nature calls them to work.

If you happen to head up to the Greater Shaver Lake region for a leisurely weekend, don't forget to show your appreciation to the Shaver Lake Crew.

The best way to acknowledge their hard work is to give them plenty of time and space to do their work and remember ***#DontCrowdThePlow!***



Visit the App Store or Google Play to Enjoy Benefits of China Peak App

Kick off an extraordinary skiing journey with the China Peak App, your dedicated guide to Cali Pass or China Peak, Android or iPhone.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Get real-time conditions, track your activity, view live webcams, make advanced purchases…and having the most up to date information at your fingertips at all times.

The app is a portal to an unmatched skiing experience, providing detailed insights and features specifically for CP and its avid skiers. Stay updated with real-time lift statuses, and weather conditions, to plan your ski adventures perfectly.

Effortlessly navigate with detailed 3D maps, manage your ski passes, and track your downhill progress all in one convenient place.

The China Peak App also nurtures a dynamic skiing community, enriching your social and engaging experiences on the slopes. Your skiing adventure begins now!





I'm Andrew, the owner of Doxa Outdoors, Fresno's very own outdoor and goggle brand.

For the past 4 years, we've helped people get outside, explore, and experience the outdoors. From snowboard sales, and rentals to paddle boards, kayaks, outdoor gear, and our own Doxa goggles, we're proud to be a locally owned Fresno Business.

Doxa was created with a passion for the outdoors and a desire to build quality gear for people who love adventure.

Fresno Proud
Snowboard Sales and Rentals
Doxa Googles - Our Own Fresno Brand
Outdoor Equipment and Rentals
Helping People Explore the Outdoors

Doxa Outdoors • Gear Up • Get Outside.







Adaptive Sports Center Gives Folks Priceless Opportunities

For over 11 years, the wonderful staff, sponsors and donors of the Central California Adaptive Sports Center (CCASC), have helped to provide access to skiing, snowboarding and other outdoor sporting adventures to many who have suffered mental or physical injuries.

Activities: CCASC's offers lessons for persons with disabilities of all skill levels and interests, including sit-skiing, stand-up skiing, ski-biking, snowshoeing and mountaineering. Family members are encouraged and welcome to participate in all activities.

Availability: Winter programs are available to all persons with disabilities Thursday through Sunday, Thanksgiving weekend through April 30. Naturally these dates are dependent upon Mother Nature and China Peak Mountain Resorts opening and closing dates.

Although drop ins can be accommodated, advance reservations are strongly recommended.

Through grant funding from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Adaptive Sports Program, CCASC is able to offer lessons to Veterans with disabilities at no charge. Discounted lift tickets and rentals are available for family members.

Duration: Most of CCASC's winter activities are planned to last for a half-day or all day. Half-day programs run from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon or 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Full day programs run from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Location: All programs take place at China Peak Mountain Resort unless otherwise designated.

Participant Support: The ratio of participants to CCASC instructors is normally 2:1. For some activities, such as alpine (downhill) skiing, the ratio is 1:1. In most cases, a CCASC field assistant will be assigned to the instructor to assist with each participant.

Legal Stuff: All participants and persons associated with program activities are required to sign a liability release form.

Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult approved by the parent.

The successful programs the ASC provides are inclusive to families and friends, empower our participants in their daily lives and have a positive enduring effect on self efficacy, health, independence and overall well-being.

Some discounts and scholarships are available to non-veterans. For details or to schedule a program, contact: randy@centralcaladaptive.org or call 559-593-2504.

Central California ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER

Make a Donation Right Now!

Winter Activities
- Sit-skiing
- Stand-up skiing
- Stand-up snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Mountaineering



Please volunteer your time and/or make a donation to assist in the allowing folks to participate in the winter sports program offered by the Adaptive Sports Center at China Peak.



Now she says "Look what I get to do today, instead of what do I have to do today?"



Seasonal Employees Are Vital for Success of Regional Businesses

Nearly every restaurant, lodging facility, market and other businesses are always seeking seasonal employees to help serve customers.

These jobs can be in Big Creek, Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake. Typically the age range for staff members starts at 16, with a student work permit.

Snowbirds are very popular with employers since they come with their own housing! Yes, housing for seasonal employees or anyone working in the region can be a problem.

Many jobs available don't require special skills. Others do. The most important thing for employers is that you can be depended upon to show up for your shift. Even seasonal staff members are vital for daily operations. Each employee is important.

Your duties may change almost from minute to minute as you are plugged into a variety of jobs that are important to your employer.

Make sure once you have made a commitment for a job, that you stay in that position for the mutually agreed upon time frame.

The benefits of working in the mountains include having the great outdoors surrounding you when you are on your own time.

If you enjoy skiing, boarding, snowshoeing, cross country treks, snowmobile rides, and hanging out with new friends, this could be a great move for you!

Just contact local businesses for details.

Central Valley Indian Health Clinic Is Open Every Weekday in Prather

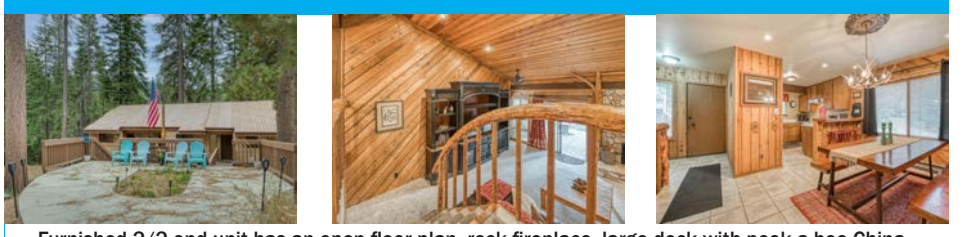
Central Valley Indian Health Clinic in Prather, has been around since 1995 serving Native American families and Mountain Communities in the surrounding Fresno County area. The Clinic is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., closed 12-12:30 p.m. for lunch. It is closed on weekends and holidays.

The Prather Clinic is currently the only medical facility serving the Prather, Auberry, Big Creek, Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, and Tollhouse areas. The facility provides primary medical and dental services. There are no have medical x-ray or pharmacy services on site. Most PPO insurances, in addition to Anthem & Health Net Medi-Cal plans are accepted.

Central Valley Indian Health Clinic
29323 Auberry Rd., Prather
559.855.5390
www.cvih.org



Condos



Furnished 2/2 end unit has an open floor plan, rock fireplace, large deck with peek-a-boo China Peak views. Extra window in upstairs bedroom brings in natural light. Go boating, hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking or winter days on the China Peak slopes. Washer/dryer, recessed lighting/remodeled bath. # 656243 • 62790 Skiview Ln #93, Lakeshore • $334,900



Furnished 2/2 end condo, move-in ready, newer flooring, and interior railings, upgraded tile in shower/tub, rock fireplace. Newer exterior siding, and windows. Minutes to China Peak. HOA handles water, snow removal, garbage service, cable TV, upkeep of the pool, jacuzzi, sauna, tennis courts, clubhouse, and more. # 598158 • 62792 Skiview Ln #92, Huntington Lake • $342,500



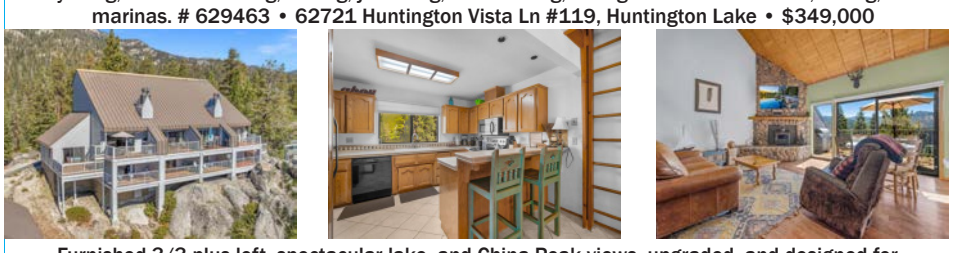
Furnished 2/2 condo, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, tennis, and pickleball courts, bocce ball area. Freshly remodeled with a well equipped kitchen, upgraded granite countertops, custom cabinetry, and newer appliances. Renovated bathrooms, spacious deck, move-in ready, newer carpet and flooring. # 636982 • 62614 Old College Ln #12, Lakeshore • $345,000



Furnished 2/2 condo, and offering pool, tennis and pickleball courts, jacuzzi, sauna and volleyball court. Updated w/modern flooring and other improvements, move-in-ready. Two spacious decks. Nearby sparkling Huntington Lake provides boating, fishing, paddleboarding and kayaking. # 649750 • 62642 Old College Ln #16, Huntington Lake • $345,000

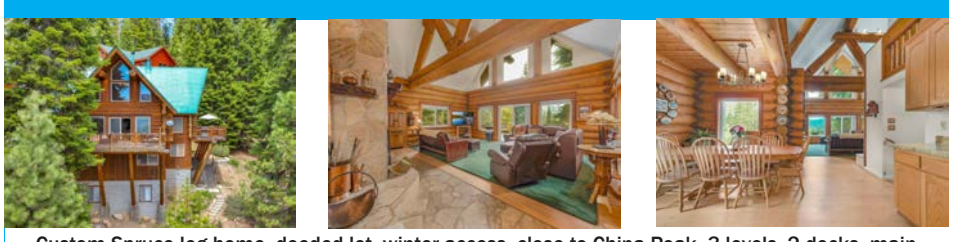


Furnished end 2/2 condo with 2 sets of bunks in 1 bedroom and cozy bedroom suite w/bath. W/D. Wood deck, updated carpet, paint, and more! Aspens outside kitchen window. Go sailing, kayaking, mountain biking, fishing, jet skiing, water skiing, hiking trails. Walk to store, dining, and marinas. # 629463 • 62721 Huntington Vista Ln #119, Huntington Lake • $349,000



Furnished 3/3 plus loft, spectacular lake, and China Peak views, upgraded, and designed for comfort. Hardwood flooring, Kohler fixtures, updated kitchen, and bathrooms. Open floor plan, and loft. HOA fee covers water, sewer, snow removal, cable t.v., road, and building maintenance, insurance for building. # 637259 • 63215 Huntington Vista Rd #80, Lakeshore • $679,000

Home With Views



Custom Spruce log home, deeded lot, winter access, close to China Peak, 3 levels, 2 decks, main level w/great room, dining, kitchen w/breakfast bar, game room w/bed, jacuzzi, laundry, and 1/2 bath. Upstairs suite w/jetted tub, shower, private loft. Lower level w/living area, wood stove, 2nd kitchen, patio w/firepit, solar. # 626526 • 63156 Regatta Vista Ln, Huntington Lake • $2,350,000

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Marcia Beach

Why Ski China Peak?

Shorter Lift Lines, Family Friendly, and Great Terrain!

Why ski China Peak? Glad you asked! The mountain is quite possibly the best kept secret in the Sierra.

It is a fact it is the only Central Sierra resort on the west slope offering terrain, acreage and elevations comparable to Tahoe ski resorts. However, you'll find fewer crowds, less waiting and a family-friendly atmosphere.



Now she says "Look what I get to do today, instead of what do I have to do today?"

While the mountain is well known to Central Valley riders, Central Coast skiers and boarders should note that it is just a four hour drive from the coast from Palo Alto to Pismo Beach. So get excited, wax your boards and make a reservation. CP is here for ya!

Let's talk about the mountain. With a base at 7,000 feet and a top of 8,700 feet, this place gets a ton of snow. It offers a drop of nearly 1,700 vertical feet, offering over 50 runs.

Plenty of lifts get skiers around the mountain, including three moving carpets in the beginner area, as well as two quad lifts, and four triple chairs. You can even request seasonal or daily preferred parking.

One terrain park, Tollhouse - is served by Chair 4 and is the most popular. Here riders can go big without worrying about people dropping in on them. The mountain's ski able vertical rivals the Tahoe resorts like Alpine, Northstar, Sierra and Sugar Bowl.

You can give your kids some mileage for a warm up on a top-to-bottom Green run, down the 2.25 mile long Academy run. Off Academy there are multiple options for Blue runs, Black runs and some exciting tree skiing.

Now that everyone is warmed up you can try the other 44 trails that cater to every level, from novice to expert. Most trails are designed for intermediate, advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders.

What about the crowds. What crowds? CP is known for short lines and open terrain. The challenge is having enough energy or stamina to keep going all day.





Families love the vibe at China Peak! And why not? The ski resort is easy to access. It features short lift lines, no crowding, great food and drink options, plus onsite lodging.

Shuttle Service and Drop Off Zones

On weekends and holidays the complimentary shuttle service will be operating. Arriving later and parking in the far corners of the parking lot? The shuttle will pick you up and drop you off at the back bridge. Shuttles run from both back lots and the Indian Pools parking lot and drop guests off at the back bridge, a short walk to Mainstream, Chair 1, and the main ticket building.



Be sure to take advantage of the free shuttle bus service to drop off and pick up folks.

Dropping off a skier or snowboarder? There will be two new drop off zones, the front entrance and the back parking lot. Easily drop off people and gear and then either go park or head out and come back to pick everyone up later!

In addition to the parking lot shuttles CP also offers wagons available for guest usage. Wagons are located in the back parking lots and allow guests to easily transport equipment through the parking lot. Once you are finished with the wagon just drop it off at one of the designated locations. CP also offers pull sleds for use on the snow. Easily transport equipment across the snow with these sleds. Sleds are located near both bridges. No more making multiple trips for all of your kids' equipment! Simply load up all of your gear on a wagon, then when you reach the snow switch over to a pull sled

Speaking of energy, China Peak has seven facilities offering food and beverages at the resort that satisfy every hungry appetite, from pizza to fine dining. Drinks are available at Sully's, Jack's, Buckhorn, the Base Camp and JW's.

Once its time to rest. Why not stay nearby to get a jump on the day when the lifts open at 9 a.m. Lakeshore is about five minutes to the north where there are cabins and condos. Tamarack Lodge is just a few miles down Highway 168.

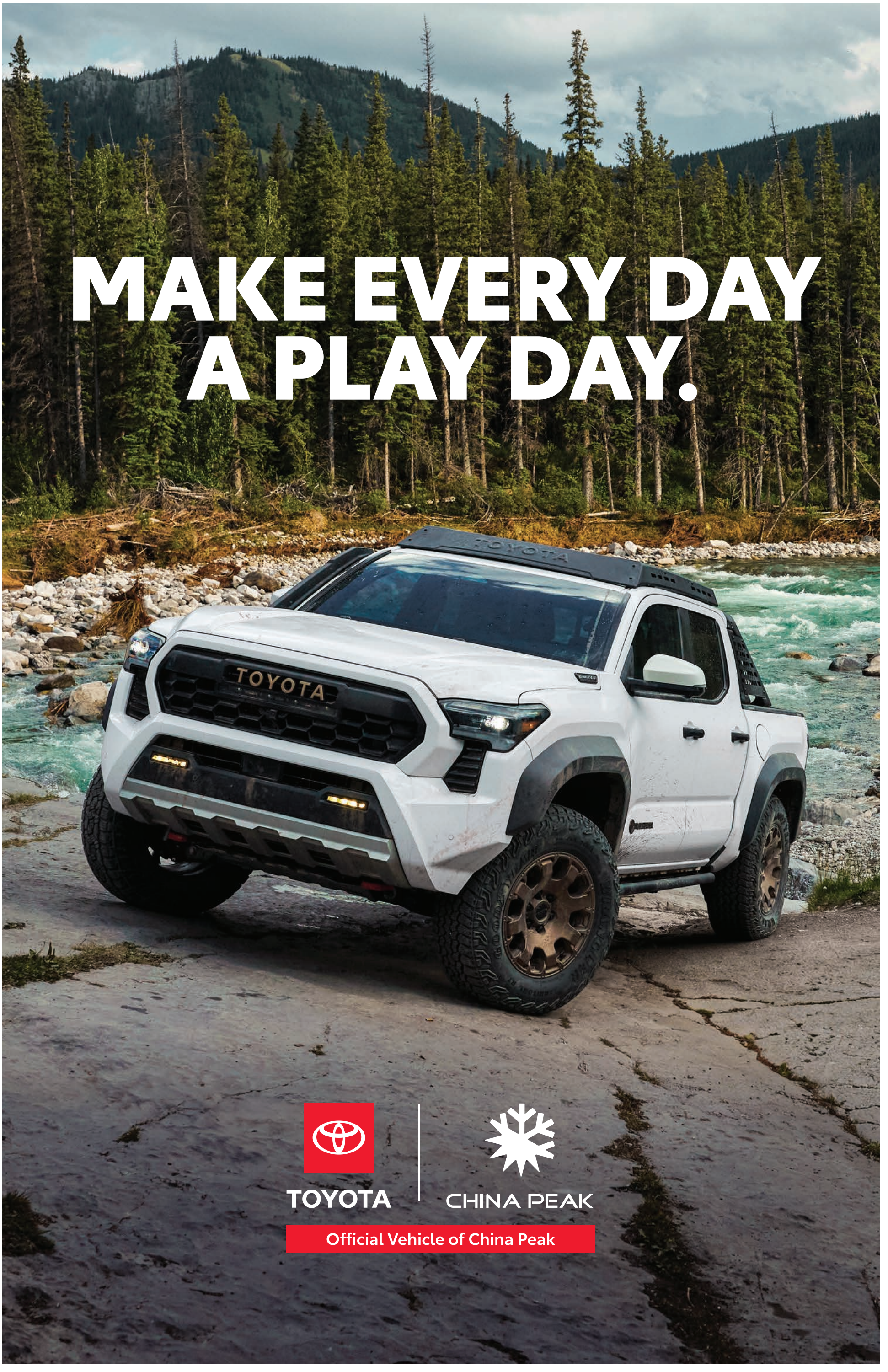
Twenty miles to the south, the Shaver Lake community offers lodging. And don't forget about staying right here. The Inn at CP is comfortable and cozy. However, dorm style rooms with a shared bathroom and shower facilities are available for the frugal. Suites options exist.

The Inn now offers huge savings on midweek packages including rooms and lift tickets, which you can see at skichinapeak.com. Kids five and under ski for free.

The staff is friendly and enthusiastic about assisting their guests. Also, CP is one of the only mountain resorts in the nation to allow on-site RV parking. Details at SkiChinaPeak.com or (559) 233-2500.



As you work your way around the China Peak Ski Resort, you will see smiling faces and happy friends as well as family members enjoying themselves on the slopes and facilities.


MAKE EVERY DAY
A PLAY DAY.
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TOYOTA
TOYOTA
CHINA PEAK
Official Vehicle of China Peak

Safety Tips for Home Owners and Vacationers Using Propane

Winter always brings the opportunity for lots of outdoor recreational activities as the annual snowfall blankets the terrain.

While snow provides for skiing, boarding and other snow play, it can create problems and safety issues for those that use propane.

"Of particular interest in winter to a service business like ours," said Danny Martinez, Mountain Flame Propane, "is how to help properly educate customers regarding the use of propane during the winter season."



It is very important to keep your propane tank available for service or emergencies.

Here are some important suggestions Martinez has, particularly for mountain residents or those with second homes in the region as well as those who might be renting cabins.

1. Check levels. Arrange for tank to be filled once it is around 20%. This ensures you have enough to last you through the storm.

2. Make sure you have marked the location of propane tank. This will help avoid having the tank damaged as you or someone else is clearing snow with a plow or shovels. It will also let your delivery driver know exactly where the tank is.

3. Clear the snow away from the tank, as well as any lines or valves. It's a good idea to clear snow away from any exterior roof or side vents that are used to expel carbon monoxide from your propane appliances.

4. Make sure that you maintain a clear pathway to the tank.

5. To alert you to possible leaks, propane gas contains an additive that gives the naturally odorless gas a pungent, unpleasant smell. Make sure you know what propane gas smells like.

If you smell this gas at any time, put out all open flames. Do not turn on any appliances, lights, or phones. Turn off your main gas line immediately. Open windows to allow for ventilation. Evacuate the area.

Finally, never use a stove or bring a gas grill indoors for space heating. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for that purpose. Without proper ventilation, deadly carbon monoxide (CO_2) fumes produced can build up.

The symptoms of CO_2 poisoning are similar to the flu. Nausea, vomiting, confusion, sore muscles, headache, dizziness, light headedness, loss of balance, etc.

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(559) 855-6770
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For a Real Winter Adventure Soak in a Sierra Hot Spring

For an extreme snowmobile adventure, plan a trek to the Old Pedro Hot Tub, in the Sierra Forest. This makes for one of the most scenic backcountry winter adventures in the High Sierra.

Since the Kaiser Pass Road is closed in winter, it becomes a premier groomed snowmobile trail. Typically this journey will begin at either the Huntington Lake or Eastwood Sno-Park off Highway 168. In all, the round-trip journey takes about five hours, including time for



The Kaiser Pass Road is groomed and open in the winter for backcountry rides.

a lunch break after a relaxing soak.

You can bring your machine or make arrangements to rent one from Shaver Lake Power Center. Doxa Outdoors in Fresno, offers a tour. Details at doxaoutdoors.com.

After crossing over the South Fork of the San Joaquin River bridge, you will park your sled. Then you take a short hike across a log bridge and up an easy climb to the opposite side of the river.

And there it is, Old Pedro, consisting of two concrete tubs that were built long ago in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It maintains a temperature between 104°F and 112°F. Relaxing in this tub surrounded by the Sierra snow presents an amazing contrast to the summer experience.

There are several other hot springs nearby. Since the Mono Hot Springs Resort is completely closed at this time, you will need to pack in water, food, and emergency supplies.

Due to extreme weather conditions you need to dress warmly. Underneath you snowmobile gear, you should wear synthetic or wool based layers to keep warm. It is a smart idea to wear a beanie to keep body heat in as you soak.

Cold winter air can trick your senses, making a pool feel colder or hotter than it actually is. Stick to 15-20 minute intervals. Prolonged exposure to high heat lowers your blood pressure and induces dizziness, making the exit into freezing air incredibly dangerous.

Bring a towel for quick drying.



This couple is soaking, surrounded by a pile of winter clothes that kept them from freezing, as they roared along ton the over the Kaiser Pass Road on snowmobiles to Old Pedro.

Wear sturdy sandals or water shoes on the potentially slick, icy rocks around the pool edge.

You must always check backcountry weather forecasts before setting out. They can change quick-



It is good to cover your head while soaking to keep in body heat in the cold environment.

ly. Try to verify snow depths and avalanche risks from the Prather Ranger Station or the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center prior to your trip.

Many have said visiting natural hot springs in the snow is an incredible experience, but the freezing air and wet conditions require strict preparation. Prioritizing moisture management, trail traction, and post-soak transition gear is crucial to prevent rapid body cooling and hypothermia. Remember, you are a long way from any rescue efforts!

To ensure your gear stays dry and your body stays warm, organize your backpack with these specialized winter items.

Use two separate plastic or dry bags. Keep one to store your dry clothes while you soak. Use the second bag to isolate your soaking wet swim wear and towels afterward Geothermal soaking rapidly dehydrates your body, but you might not notice how much you are sweating.

Pack cold water in an insulated bottle so it doesn't freeze, or bring hot tea in a thermos to warm up your core.

Alert the Prather Ranger Station, Lakeshore Resort, China Peak Landing and friends to your trip.

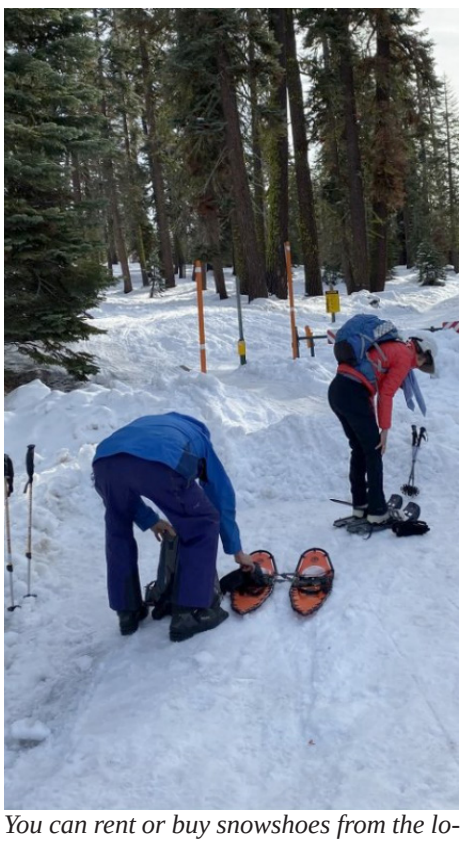
Never go alone!





Not A Skier, But Enjoy Winter in the Mountains, Go Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing offers participants a low-impact, aerobic exercise that helps you stay in shape during the winter. It's versatile. You can get an easy workout or be aggressive. Plus, your dog can follow along.



You can rent or buy snowshoes from the local Shaver Lake Sports store on the way up!

Trail etiquette is important. You will often be sharing the trail with cross-country skiers. Try to make your own trail whenever possible, staying out of the tracks these skiers have worked so hard to set. Skiers have the right-of-way on trail systems. This is obvious, since it's easier for you to step off the trail safely than it is for a cross country skier to stop or go around. Always be polite to the folks you meet along the trail.

Your stance should be wider than normal when you're on snowshoes in order to keep you from stepping on the insides of your frames.

Consequently, you may feel your hips and groin muscles ache after the first few times out. If possible, walk in the steps made by the person in front of you.

Pay attention to your physical condition, the environment and gear. Stick to established trails at first.

Local SnoPark cross-country ski trails allow snowshoer to share. That way, you're never too far from others, and you're not likely to encounter avalanche hazards. Do not snowshoe alone.

Be aware of winter hazards like creek crossings, changes in weather along with tree or rock wells. If you plan to venture away from a patrolled ski area, be sure you and your companions are prepared.

Carry a regional topographic map a compass and an altimeter or a GPS to help you navigate. Know how to use them. The winter backcountry is not the best place to learn. Before heading out, leave your trip plans with a responsible person and let them know whom to contact in case you don't return on time.



Snowshoeing has gained popularity with modern lightweight and user-friendly equipment. Try the cross country ski trails for snowshoers that go out of the Tamarack SnoPark.

Know the signs of hypothermia so you can recognize them in members of your party. Stay hydrated by drinking water to keep your muscles functioning and helping your body fend off hypothermia.

Keep your water from freezing. Use an insulating cover for water bottles. Hot drinks in vacuum bottles keep you hydrated and warm.

There are regional sporting good outlets that rent and sell snowshoes. They include REI in Fresno and Shaver Lake Sports in Shaver Lake.

All will fit you with a pair that is appropriate for you. You don't need special shoes for snowshoeing, just waterproof hiking boots.

Learning to snowshoe is easy. In five minutes you'll be having a good time. But, you're not going to be able to go as far as you can walk.

So if you are used to walking five miles on a hike during the summer, you are probably going to go about two and a half miles in that same amount of time.

The size of snowshoes are dependent on how much a person weighs. The heavier a person is the larger snowshoes they'll need to keep them from sinking into the snow.

The sales staff at the store from which you bought or rented them will make sure you have the right ones for your height and weight.



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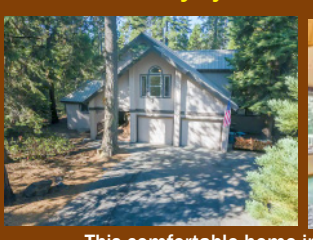
41781 Tollhouse Rd, Shaver Lake

DeBenedetto's Moose Haven at Shaver Lake

16 guests · 5 bedrooms · 9 beds · 2.5 baths

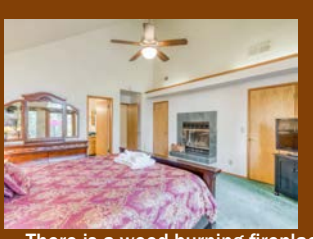
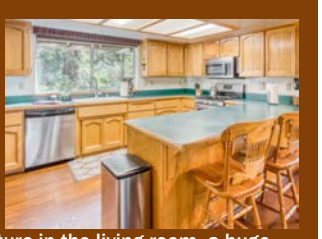
Make Your Reservation at Airbnb.com/h/moosehaven

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

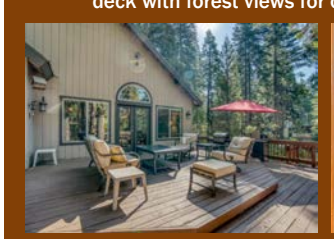
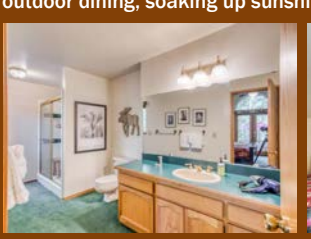
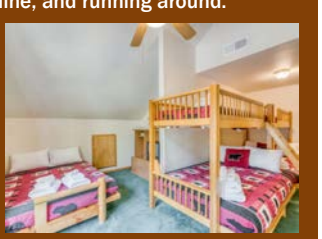




This comfortable home in the Granite Ridge Subdivision near Shaver Lake offers modern amenities and plenty of space for a large group or multiple families.

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

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

Kids of All Ages Need to Make Wintery Snow Angels

After the first dusting of snow it's mandatory that you put your snow gear on and run outside and make a snow angel! For good luck you must do this first before building a snowman or a snowball.

To make the perfect snow angel you need fresh snow that's deep enough so you won't see the ground behind it and the top should be powder. Once you are outside and find a spot fit for a snow angel, how do you enter?

You must fight your instinct and bring your legs together in the air before you hit the ground. When you land, your body should look like the letter T.

This is so that when you expand and contract your legs in the snow, a wall of it does not form between your legs as it would have had you landed in a star shape. The robes of your angel will look flowing and majestic.

Once you are done expanding and contracting your arms and legs, you can get up within the angel you have created, then jump away from it again so that you don't leave footprints too near to it. With your snow angel complete, you can now admire it or even make another one.

Then keep your arms as straight as you can and swing them almost to the top of your head and then almost straight at your sides. You only need to do this a couple times.

Carefully stand up as to not disturb the snow next to you and then sit back and enjoy the perfect snow angel you've created.

The laughter, the teamwork, and the shared joy of crafting the perfect snow angel stand as a testament to the simple pleasures winter offers. Remember, even the coldest season can be filled with warmth and connection when spent with loved ones.

Let your snow angel serve as a reminder of the beauty and wonder of winter. Embrace the spirit of adventure and creativity that it ignites within us.

Whether you're building a snowman, having a snowball fight, or simply enjoying a peaceful walk in the snow, each moment spent outdoors creates memories that will warm your hearts long after the snow has melted away.

So, bundle up, step out into the crisp winter air, and embrace the magic of the season.

Let the joy of family, the power of imagination, and the thrill of adventure guide you on your winter journey. Create lasting memories that will forever remind you that the greatest treasures are found not in the warmth of the sun, but in the warmth of shared experiences with the ones you love.



A fun family adventure involves teaching your kids how to make Snow Angels. All you need is some fresh powder snow, and a slight bit of coordination to stick your landing!

Project Plans Update Announced for Shaver Lake Recreational Trail

The Shaver Lake Recreational Trail (SLRT) is a community-led effort to create a connected network of safe, accessible paved trails and parks throughout Shaver Lake.

The proposed Class I trails would connect neighborhoods, local businesses, the lake, campgrounds, trailheads, and other community destinations—making it easier to walk, bike, and enjoy Shaver Lake without relying on a vehicle.

The committee hired Galloway, a design pre-construction engineering firm, to begin designing Segment 1 (Ken's Market to the Museum), and for Segment 3 (development of a 50-acre park behind the Post Office).

Once a cost estimate for Segment 1 is established, fundraising efforts (Brick Sales) will most likely begin this spring or summer.

Once funding is secured for that section, and plans are approved, construction should start.

A State Parks Program (SPP) grant is being written, (due in December), to enable future development of the Park in years ahead.

This is very much a "Community Park". Input on what the nature park should entail is desired. Visit GoShaver.org/slrt, to find a survey to fill out and help produce a park from community thoughts made by those who will be using it.



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Fresno Ski Club Traveling to Snowmass, CO for 2026/2027

It is a little-known fact that the Fresno Ski Club is one of the oldest ski clubs in the United States. The group was founded in 1934 and incorporated in 1937.

The Fresno Ski Club has earned an excellent reputation for offering outstanding domestic and international ski ventures for their members through the decades.

For the 2027 ski season, members of the club will be traveling to the fantastic skiing destination of Aspen/Snowmass, CO in January, followed by the annual trip to Mammoth Mountain, CA in March.

And, as they have for many years, the Club will be hosting its ever-popular monthly Fun Days at their home resort, China Peak.

The Club is an extremely friendly group. Throughout its history, the Club has been a great venue for people meeting people with similar interests, resulting in long lasting friendships. No one ever skis alone.

Whether you are an experienced and avid skier, or returning to the sport years later, the Club is comprised of all skill levels of skiers and snowboarders.

The group ranges from beginner and novices to the highly skilled. There is no need for anyone to be shy, even if you have forgotten how to snowplow. Members are always willing to be a ski buddy for you so you can observe or emulate, an experience from which you will ultimately find improves your skills and safety on the slopes.

It's not all about skiing. When the snow melts the Fresno Ski Club members are active off the slopes as well, offering social get-togethers at private home and restaurant venues, day hikes, golf outings, lakeside picnics, community outreach and philanthropic activities, fellowship and more.

Affiliated with Far West Ski Association, Fresno Ski Club members have access to additional economical ski, scuba and sight-seeing trips to world-wide destination resorts.

Visit the club's current website at www.fresnoskiclub.com, or find us on Facebook. The Fresno Ski Club welcomes you!



Members of the Fresno Ski Club enjoy a day of skiing at The Matterhorn, Zermatt Switzerland, in February. 2024. Come join the organization and enjoy great outings like this.



Gift Cards Available Online and at the Peak

China Peak gift cards are excellent gifts for skier or snowboarder friends and family. They are perfect for the holidays, birthdays and anniversaries or for someone who wants to learn to ski or snowboard.

Cards of $25, $50, $100 and $200 or more are valid for all services including lodging, season passes, lift tickets, food and beverage and sport shop merchandise.

Go online to SkiChinaPeak.com. Allow 5-7 days for delivery, or contact Guest Services at (559) 233-2500, extension 5100.

For Winter Travelers, China Peak Landing Is Open Weekends for Your Convenience

Whenever you travel deep into the Sierra Nevada during the snowy season it is good to go with a full tank of gas, plenty of water, warm clothing, snacks and some blankets

Winter visitors to Huntington Lake can rely on vehicle fuel and the store at the China Peak Landing being open on weekends from Friday to Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm.

Hot coffee or chocolate, food, snacks and beverages, as well as basic snow accessories like beanies, mittens, scarfs, etc. are available along with snow chains and snow park permits. (559) 893-3234



The fuel services and general store at China Peak Landing will be open on weekends.



Eastern Fresno County Winter Event Venues Available to You



There are several idea locations at Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake that accommodate events any time during the year. Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall facilities are available.

If a special event is on your radar, look no further than Huntington and Shaver Lake, where the fall, winter and spring seasons offer a special Sierra experience all their own.

A variety of venues are available for anniversaries, birthdays, retirement parties, weddings or other activity.

Huntington Lake has China Peak Mountain Resort and Lakeshore Resort, to accommodate such events.

The community of Shaver Lake offers three main locations: the Museum of the Sierra, the Shaver Lake Community Center, and the Shaver Lake Village Hotel.

As with any major event, adequate lodging for your special occasion is also available at Huntington and Shaver Lakes.

The following breaks down the venues, giving a basic idea of offerings and contact details for each.

China Peak Mountain Resort

Enjoy the cool mountain breeze with weddings at China Peak. The most popular reception location is The Deck, where you'll dine and dance under the stars and the twinkle lights on the deck of JW's restaurant.

Additional reception locations are available such as The Dome, an indoor location inside of Mainstream.

China Peak Weddings are fully staffed and catered. We provide appetizers, a full dinner service, and champagne toasts. A full bar is available and can be tailored to your needs.

A full wait staff is provided to ensure the highest quality service. Guests are responsible for their own desserts, decor, and other vendors such as DJs and photographers.

The Inn at China Peak is available for wedding lodging accommodations. A bridal suite and groom's room are provided for the bridal parties to prepare.

Weddings are available to be booked year round for the months of June through October. Email weddings@skichinapeak.com, call (559)960-5014, or visit chinapeakweddings.com to learn more.

Lakeshore Resort

With nearly 30 years of experience in planning weddings and receptions, they have a dedicated team of professionals who will assist you in turning your dream into a reality.

Picture yourself exchanging vows in the at a lakeside wedding, with a gentle breeze blowing across the rocky point. How about in a wooded area surrounded by towering pines or imagine an event in a meadow or inside the Lodge Hall.

Management takes pride in catering to the unique needs of each guest, ensuring that every wedding is tailored to their specific requirements. Call them at (559) 893-3193 or visit them at LakeshoreResort.com.

Museum of the Sierra

Their event facilities offer a place to hold training, team building or seminars with a max indoor capacity of 120. Rentals include big-screen projectors, sound system as well as tables and chairs.

They are just inside the entrance to Camp Edison at 42642 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake. Call them at (559) 841-4478, their email address is cshs@sierrahistorical.org. You can visit their website at museumofthesierra.org/facility-rentals.

Shaver Lake Community Center

The Shaver Lake Community Center is a favorite venue to locals and visitors alike. It offers a blend of genuine mountain charm and modern conveniences.

If you're interested in booking the center, go to GoShaver.org and fill out their form, Once they receive it, someone will contact you and let you know if it's a good fit and get you started with the next steps for securing your reservation.

The Center does not own the baseball field or the parking lot. Any usage of the field or parking lot (other than parking) must be approved by Southern California Edison (SCE). It is the lessee's responsibility to secure this approval. SCE contact information can be provided by request.

Food Trucks are not allowed on the Center property. They are located at 41344 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake. For questions please contact Lynn at slccscheduling@goshaver.org.

Shaver Lake Village Hotel

Shaver Lake Village Hotel has long been a local mainstay for community and memorable events. They have several options for hosting your event, both indoors or outdoors for between 101-150 guests.

Their amphitheater is the perfect backdrop for any ceremony or group event, or choose from more private spaces located throughout the property.

We understand how meaningful your event or wedding may be, so we work tirelessly with you to ensure all the details are perfect. Contact us with the booking form below to start planning your best day ever.

More details at theserenite.com/shaver-lake-village-hotel/weddings.html or (559) 559)841-8289.



Nestled in the pines near Tamarack Creek, just off Highway 168, offers visitors warm and inviting accommodations at surprisingly affordable rates.

China Peak , Huntington Lake, Kaiser Wilderness and Shaver Lake all just minutes away

(559) 893-3244

TheTamarackLodge.com
55380 Flintridge Rd., Lakeshore, California

Be Aware of Your Footprint While You Are Vacationing

Hitting the road for a winter outing is a favorite passtime for families and friends. In doing this, folks pack the must haves for the trip: food, water, extra clothing, blankets, sports equipment, maps, electronics, and so forth.

Items usually overlooked in the mad dash to hit the road are trash and recycle bags as well as doggy bags.

Reasons to recycle and not litter:

1. Protects Wildlife: Using recycled materials reduces damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.

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

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

4. Reduces waste: The average American discards seven pounds of garbage every day.

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



Take responsibility for properly disposing of all trash when you are venturing outdoors.

So next time you travel whether you are enjoying the beautiful lake, heading to the ski resort, or just recreating for the day please help us keep our local mountains clean and safe.

Steve Elming Leaves Powerful Legacy in Shaver Community

Steve Elming had a great run!

He touched the lives of many in this community with his generosity, hard work, vision, and willingness to help others.

As with the rest of the Elming family, he was deeply committed to keeping the logging heritage and history of the community alive.

Albert Steven Elming is the son of Albert and Betty Elming, born in Fresno on June 28, 1954. Sadly, he



Steve Elming was a respected business leader, sportsman, and loving family man.

passed away August 19, 2026.

He grew up in the family's Alder Springs home. His love of the outdoors, sports, and other adventure began there. He attended Sierra High School, graduating in 1971.

At the age of 20, Elming set out on a worldwide adventure. During this time he lived a life of adventures and exploration like no other.

Elming loved to share those experiences with family, friends, and anyone willing to listen. He was a wealth of information about the Eastern Fresno County mountain history and recreation including, hiking, snow and water skiing, camping, boating, and fishing.

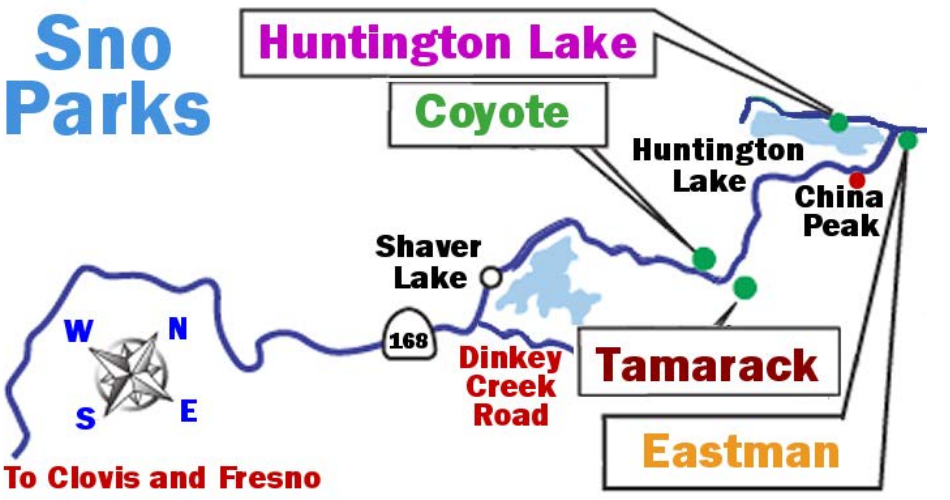
His Shaver Lake restaurant The Trading Post has a reputation for fine dining. Elming acquired his extensive culinary training from some of the world's finest chefs, working alongside them on yachts during his world travels.

Elming's love of sailing brought him to his August Pearl adventures. He offered Shared Expense Travel Adventures with his Watersports Safaris, sailing to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Cuba.

Steve is survived by his wife, Rochelle Sargentini; his two children, Sophia Elming and Saylen Elming; his sister, Pamela Barton; his brother, Timothy Elming; and his two grandchildren, Genneva Sandrini and Banks Elming.

Perhaps the most fitting accomplishment is his creation of the Rocky Hill Park & Putt facility near his Sawmill Restaurant.

After all, who else around here would think to add a miniature golf course for the community?



Take Advantage of Five Local SnoPark in Local Mountains

Using the Fresno Yosemite Airport, you can access the Sierra National Fresno County SnoPark on Highway 168, about 60 miles away.

For an inexpensive outdoor adventure, you can hardly beat playing at the Sno-Parks along Hwy 168 between Shaver and Huntington Lakes. Look for the SnoPark signs.

These parks provide access to snow-plowed parking lots, play areas and restroom facilities. Bring toilet paper. Sometimes the bathrooms run out. Handi-wipes are, well, handy too!

Bring a plastic bag for something Fido might leave in the forest. Be a good neighbor by packing out whatever you packed in. Always carry a shovel, blankets, water, flashlight and tire chains.

Use common sense, wear proper clothing. Respect the terrain and weather. All affect your safety. Call (800) 427-7623 for a CalTrans highway conditions.

Now back to the inexpensive part! SnoPark use requires a permit from November 1 to May 30. The fee is $15 per car, per day or you can buy an annual $40 pass.

All passes can be purchased at Ohv.Parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30735 or at several stores in Shaver and at Huntington Lakes including Cressman's, Shaver Lake Sports, and China Peak Landing

If you arrive later in the day and parking is hard to find, do not make the mistake of parking on Highway 168 over the white line. Don't double park anywhere.

This creates unsafe conditions and the CHP officers and Fresno County Sheriffs will ticket and/or have your vehicle towed for reasons of safety.

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Woodward Park

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55083 Point Rd. Big Creek • Visit Us at BigCreekGeneralStore.com

Man's Best Friend Crucial in SCE Big Creek Hydro Project

Canines have proven to be man's best friend. Tamed wolves were bred for a variety of tasks. They first served as guards to sound an alert if something strange approached.

Soon they were hunting companions, flushing out, attacking, and picking up game. People in harsh subarctic areas trained them for transportation. Sled pulled by dogs was an efficient way to move food and supplies when frozen waterways could not be used for travel.

In the 1920s, Southern California Edison was constructing the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project. Hundreds of men worked on this massive construction effort year round.

High elevation elements kept them snowed in at remote camps near Florence Lake and other sites for up to nine months a year.

Communications, mail, supplies, vital medicine and other gear needed had to move over 20 plus miles of hazardous snow drifts.

Ingersoll-Rand Company, who facilitated heavy winter transport during the construction of the massive project, pointed out no machine could handle this. Someone in jest suggested they get a sled dog team to do it. The idea gained traction and went north to recruit an Alaskan "sourdough" musher.

They found one. Jerry Dwyer, was a quiet, legendary musher with over 20 years on the Yukon's frozen trails. Described as a hard as nails little Alaskan, he rarely spoke about himself, thus the nickname "Silent Jerry." But he spoke passionately about his seven sled dogs.

His favorite, Babe, a powerful lead dog, was three-quarter Wolf. He was a big, surly brute who would bite any hand that fed him, except Dwyer's. Patsy was part Alaskan Malamute and Gordon Setter. Dooley was a Malamute and Shepherd cross. The powerhouse, Riley, was half Wolf and half St. Bernard. The remaining three were Barney, Whiskey and Trim were part Staghound and Airedale.

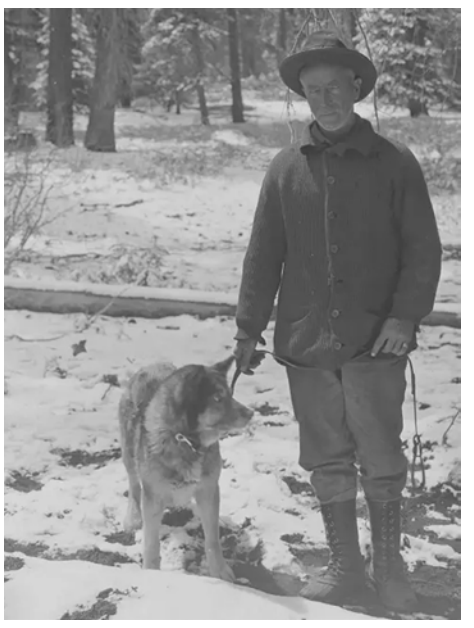
The team went into service in December, 1920, between Camp 60, at the upper end of Huntington Lake, where it was based, and Camp 61, beyond Kaiser Pass. The schedule consisted of a trip over the Pass one day and back the next.

From 1920 to 1927, Dwyer and his team braved harsh winters, mushing over 20 to 40 miles a day from the Huntington Lake post office over the grueling 9,300-foot Kaiser Pass to the isolated camps.

Trails were marked before the first snow with short, wood blocks painted red, nailed on trees 15 feet above the ground, and spaced about 100 yards apart. If there were no trees, a sapling was cut and set in a mound of rocks along the roadside.

Dwyer gave his team careful attention. He cared for them as if they were his kids. The dogs were fond of fish, especially salmon. They had to be tied and kept enough apart to prevent fighting one another.

Under extreme conditions along the trail, snow would ball-up on the dog's feet. Dwyer made leather shoes to protect their paws. They hated them! Each time the shoes were put on, they would jump around and bark for awhile.



Dwyer and his favorite sled dog, Babe, get ready for one of the daily runs in the 1920s.

Dwyer suffered a terrible loss in September 1922, when Babe died. He described the incident in a note to his friend Edith Reddinger.

"Losing Babe hurt more than I thought possible. For a number of years past I have thought that nothing mattered, but I was mistaken. I consoled myself with the knowledge that I was always good to Babe, and I believe it is better to have her die than to have me leave her. She did not suffer, and died in the arms of the one she loved best in all the world, game to the last. Her last effort was to snuggle up in my arms."



Early fall around 1921, Dwyer's original seven dog team takes a rest from one of their conditioning runs. Babe, Patsy, Dooley, Riley, Barney, Whiskey and Trim became famous.



Dwyer guides his sled behind his powerful dog team as a man ahead is helping to break the snow on the trail. His participation was very instrumental in the Big Creek Project.

Patty, became the lead of the six surviving members, she was a most likable and friendly companion.

As sled loads increased, help was needed So seven camp mongrels were pressed into service. Although the mongrels had never been harnessed, they worked out just fine. On their first trip, the two teams met on Kaiser Pass.

Trouble was anticipated, so the two teams were kept at a distance as they passed. The Alaskan dogs gave a few glances off to the side, as if to say, 'Huh, where did you guys come from?'

The mongrel team, pitched a fit, growling, snarling, barking, and the hair on their backs stood up straight. But both teams kept moving. The mongrel team acted this way each time the other was encountered.

Despite blizzards and extreme sub-zero temperatures, Dwyer and his dogs maintained a reputation for never failing to reach their goal.

Frequently, after a blizzard, a trail in deep snow had to be broken. This was done by having men walk ahead of the dogs. There were always men traveling back and forth.

They kept the morale up of over 500 isolated men drilling through the mountains working in the isolated conditions.

As you reach the Kaiser Pass Summit, you can see a sign noting where Dryer buried three of this team: Babe, Whiskey and Trim.

When he left Huntington Lake, in 1927, he told his friend, Edith Redinger, he was leaving, most likely because she showed interest in what he and his dogs accomplished. He promised her a card from time to time, but there would never be any return address on it. She did receive letters. The last one, in 1931, was postmarked Seattle. Nothing further is known as to what happened to him after that date.

In honor of Jerry Dwyer there have been sled dog competitions at Huntington Lake. Historically, these events attracted about three dozen dog teams from all over California to compete.

Regional sled dog clubs established formal sprint and mid-distance races along the snow-blocked roads and fire trails, often starting near historic Lakeshore Resort.



Above is Riley, the powerful half wolf and half St. Bernard sled dog with his master.

The Huntington Lake SnoPark (open November 1 to May 30) explicitly allows and provides trail access for personal dog-sledding, on the cross country, snowshoeing and snowmobile trail network.

Maybe a local club or organization will step up and see about sponsoring such an annual event! It could be a great fundraising activity and is sure to be widely attended!

Poem by G. F. Rinehart
Editor of the 'Covina Citizen

On the topmost reach of the Kaiser Crest where the clouds commune and weep,
In a granite tomb 'til the crack of doom, Babe lies in her last long sleep.
Though born to the law of the tooth and fang in the land of Alaskan Snow,
Of the Savage pack that follows the track in blood-lust for its foe.
The Wolf-Dog shatters genetic law that each seeks kith or clan,
For the Wolf-Dog mind will forsake its kind to become the friend of Man.
At the word of command from her Friend and Pal Past pinnacle, spire and dome,
Through the blizzard's blast she was sure and fast to mush with the mail from home.
For thirty miles to the snow bound lake she was always willing to go,
On a dangerous trail, with the daily mail to the men marooned in snow.
When the Tourist conquers the tortuous steeps with the Kaiser Pass as his goal,
He will pause and rest on the wind-swept Crest where lies this Dog with a soul.


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