



"To Share With Others"



Outdoor Writers Association of California

April 2015  
send articles-  
info@meadefischer.com

## Big Bear welcomes OWAC in June

### Big Bear Activities for spring conference

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

#### Morning Sessions:

**Wakeboarding with Designated Watersports or Water Skiing at Holloway's Marina (7 a.m. – 10 a.m.)** Whether you choose wakeboarding or water skiing you're in for an absolute thrill on the lake because our expert wakeboard and water ski instructors are ready to show you the ropes. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned veteran these water sports are certain to give you an ear to ear smile. Wakeboarding and waterskiing starts at 7 a.m. so you can experience Big Bear Lake's glassy conditions. Wet-suit provided on request.

**Photography Tour with Big Bear Photographer Dennis Bentson (7 a.m. – 11 a.m.)**

Get your camera and tripod ready to discover Big Bear from behind the lens. Big Bear local photographer Dennis Bentson is known for his keen sensibility and artistic expression of landscapes and nature. Dennis has vast knowledge of Big Bear, and he is excited to share some insider tips to help you capture scenic wonders in and around Big Bear Valley. This activity starts at 7 a.m. (Dennis is also willing to start earlier for those photographers who want to get the ideal early-morning light).

**Guided Fly Fishing Trip (7 a.m. – 12 noon)**

Big Bear Fishing Adventures takes you a journey to the Santa Ana Riverbed,

### From the Desk of the President.

For several years Outdoor Writers Association of California members have enjoyed the services of our excellent Executive Director,



Yvonne Graham. Yvonne has performed her duties admirably over the years, giving her all and setting a very high bar, indeed.

As most of our members are aware a short while ago Yvonne decided it was time to step back and allow time to enjoy family and retirement in its fullest. Following the upcoming OWAC spring conference in Big Bear, June 15 and 16, Yvonne will be relinquishing her duties and we will all bid her a fond farewell.

But fear not, your board of directors has worked diligently to find an individual up to the task of filling the position with the same verve and commitment we have come to know in recent years.

Our search led us to several worthy candidates, both from within OWAC and outside, and our selection process was exhaustive, yet fruitful.

Effective April 1, 2015 Linda Young, a resident of Manton, California, and wife of long-time OWAC member Pat Young, will begin a period of transition into the position of Executive Director for OWAC.

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Linda has a long history of public service work and has demonstrated both her ability and willingness to do the job with a strong personal commitment. Linda is not only a highly qualified individual, but she is also one of the most likeable people you will ever meet. Soon Linda will have all of her contact info posted on the website and also be sending out an e-blast for your use going forward. Feel free to work with Linda, or any one of your Board of Directors, should you have any issues, questions, or ideas, for improvement of your OWAC organization. We welcome Linda Young as our next Executive Director and we look forward to moving OWAC to new heights of professionalism and beneficial membership for all. Welcome aboard, Linda!

**Bob Semerau**  
President, Outdoor Writers Association of California Board of Directors

which is about a 25- minute drive from Big Bear. Here you will cast fly rods to attract both rainbow and brown trout. Match the hatch with Fly Fishing Master Mike Tuttle as he shows you the best flies to catch fish in this unique fishing area. Also, we have a fun blind bogey fishing tournament taking place during the conference, so be sure to measure and record the length of your fish to qualify for some great prizes!

**Trout Fishing on a Guided Charter (7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Big Bear Lake is a first-rate trout fishery where rainbow trout thrive. In fact, the alpine lake is famous for its “pink-meat holdovers.” If you really want to get a handle on where the fish are biting take a guided fishing charter with one of Big Bear’s expert fishing guides! Whether you’re with Curt Dills of Fish Big Bear Charter Service or John Cantrell of Cantrell Guide Service you’re certain to get the inside scoop of the hot spots on the lake and the best lures to attract monster trout. Also, we have a fun blind bogey fishing tournament taking place during the conference, so be sure to measure and record the length of your fish to qualify for some great prizes!

**Bass Fishing on a Guided Charter (7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

When Big Bear hosted the OWAC conference in 2005, many OWAC members were curious about bass fishing in Big Bear. Well this time around we are ready to satisfy anglers who want to grapple with Big Bear’s feisty largemouth and smallmouth bass! Big Bear Charter Fishing will provide two bass boats to track down these hard-hitting fish that are certain to give a good fight as you reel em in! You’ll also learn about Aaron’s Big Bear Bass Tournament Championship Series. We have a fun blind bogey fishing tournament planned too, so be sure to measure and record the length of your fish to qualify for some great prizes!

**Big Bear Jeep Experience – Off-Road / Rock Crawling (7:30 a.m. – 12 noon)**

Experience the thrill of driving our Jeeps! That’s right YOU DRIVE OUR JEEPS! Follow our skilled guide on an exciting and educational Jeep excursion. Start with a warm-up session on Jacoby Canyon Rd. before moving onto Gold Mountain Trail for a rock-crawling adventure you’ll never forget. Our Jeep JK’s are trail ready and equipped with everything to handle whatever the trails throw out at them.

**Tree Rope Climbing with Action Tours (8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Get ready for completely different kind of adventure that gives you the opportunity to scale trees like a monkey! Action Tree Rope Climbing Tours (ATRCT) is the only operation in Southern California that offers authorized tree rope-climbing tours. The fun out-of-the-box tours provide

certified tour guides who lead with a safety tutorial, climbing instruction and proper climbing gear that includes tree-climbing saddles (harnesses), slings, ropes and helmets. ATRCT instructors use a double rope-climbing technique and they tie all of the appropriate knots so you can scale pine trees.

**Mountain Biking on Skyline Trail with Guide (8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Mountain bikers from around the globe come to Big Bear Valley to experience a sport created for the mountains! This world-class mountain biking region has more than one hundred miles of trails and US Forest Service roads to satisfy every type of rider. A favorite intermediate trail worth checking out is the new iconic Skyline Trail, which has become known as Big Bear’s destination trail. The Skyline Trail passes through Snow Summit Mountain Resort and meanders through the San Bernardino National Forest giving you a definitive mountain biking experience. It offers some of the most awe-inspiring views in the valley that includes the Santa Ana River Canyon ridge and Mount San Gorgonio to the south.

**Easy Access to Pacific Crest Trail – Guided Hike (8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

One of the best hiking trails in Big Bear is undoubtedly the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). There are many different areas where hikers can easily access this classic trail throughout Big Bear Valley. Hiking enthusiast Ed Caliendo will show you how to easily access the PCT from Polique Canyon Road where the PCT crosses at the crest of the ridge. The trail meanders through the forest and gives you spectacular panoramic views of Big Bear Lake. After a mile and a half the trail crests the ridge and continues on the north side. Here, views change to a spectacular overview of Holcomb Valley. As you hike along this route ponder how many backpackers have journeyed all the way to Canada on this trail. If time allows, Caliendo will take the group to another easy access point just off Highway 18 on the way to Lucerne Valley. There is a good portion of the trail that overlooks the majestic Mojave Desert.

**Bow Hunting for Carp (8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Join the crew from Big Bear Municipal Water District (BBMWD) for a bow-hunting voyage on the lake. Here you’ll hunt for carp and learn a variety of methods BBMWD is doing to maintain the population of these pesky fish, including the annual Carp Roundup Fishing Tournament and an electro fishing vessel designed to shock carp, which makes it convenient for BBMWD to gather up these irksome fish in one big swoop. Also, we have a fun blind bogey fishing tournament taking place during the conference, so be sure to measure and record the length of your

fish to qualify for some great prizes!

**Kayak Tour with Big Bear Discovery Center Naturalist (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Paddlers explore the shoreline and hidden coves that most boats cannot get to. Kayaks provide opportunities to see the lake from a distinct vantage point. Hobie Cat Kayaks will supply the kayaks for this trip, and a Big Bear Discovery Center naturalist will guide the trip to highlight flora and fauna around the lake, and other interesting tidbits that make Big Bear so unique.

**Afternoon Sessions:**

**Hike the Skyline Trail with a Big Bear Discovery Center Naturalist (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

Join a Big Bear Discovery Center Naturalist on Big Bear's newest multi-use single track trail. You'll discover different facts about Big Bear's flora and fauna and other interesting tidbits as you hike on one of Big Bear's most picturesque trails.

**Pebble Plains Tour with US Forest Service Botanist to Discover Big Bear's Endemic Wildflowers (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

Big Bear is home to more than 20 endemic wildflowers not seen anywhere else in the world! This spring visitors have an opportunity to see these rare flowers up close at the Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve with guided wildflower hikes led by a US Forest Service botanist. The Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve is an open plain covered by small quartz rocks, known as pebbles, with low-growing, tufted plants rooted in the crevices. Research shows the area was once a glacier lake during the Pleistocene era 10,000 years ago, which formed the clay soil of the pebble plains. With a combination of unique soils, thousands of years of the swelling and shrinking of the soils, annual freezing conditions in the winter and isolation from other similar areas has created various floral species found nowhere else on planet Earth. The Baldwin Lake pebble plains area is so unique that it has been compared to coral reefs with more than 20 species in a square mile. Most pebble plain species are only one-inch high, best known as "belly flowers," because these plants are best appreciated close-up while lying flat on ones belly.

**Kayak Fishing Presented by Hobie Cat Kayaks (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

Hobie Cat Kayaks will have fishing kayaks available to fish for trout or bass. You'll launch from the north shore and discover the advantages of kayak fishing where other boats cannot go. There are various ways to present lures and bait from a kayak that is exciting and adventurous.

**Trout Fishing on a Guided Charter (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

Big Bear Lake is a first-rate trout fishery where rainbow trout thrive. In fact, the alpine lake is famous for its "pink-meat

holdovers." If you really want to get a handle on where the fish are biting take a guided fishing charter with one of Big Bear's expert fishing guides! Matt Keller or Aaron Armstrong are certain to give you the inside scoop of the hot spots on the lake and the best lures to attract monster trout. Also, we have a fun blind bogey fishing tournament taking place during the conference, so be sure to measure and record the length of your fish to qualify for some great prizes!

**Ziplining with Action Tours (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

An Adventure of a lifetime! Action Zipline Tours includes an off-road ride two miles deep into the forest, nine zipline runs through the treetops and a fun suspension bridge. Great fun for all, and an adrenaline rush anyone can appreciate. Flyboarding with Action Tours (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.) Get ready for some extraordinary fun as you take to the skies and fly above the lake like Ironman! This high-adrenaline activity is the latest water craze anyone 16 years or older can do. Hover like a helicopter, fly like a bird or spin like a top! Our expert guides will help you with every move.

**Geology Tour at Eye of the God in Baldwin Lake (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

The Eye of God is a large quartz rock formation found on the desert-like eastern side of the Big Bear Valley. Over 2,000 years ago, the Eye of God was a complete dome of exquisite quartz, and the Serrano Indians believed this rock was actually God's eye. They took comfort in knowing His watchful gaze looked out at them as they went about their daily lives in the valley. Today, the ancestors of the Serrano Indians still think of this place as sacred. A knowledgeable guide shows why this area is sacred, plus facts and folklore about this fascinating region.

**Gold Mining in Holcomb Valley with Big Bear Off Road Adventures and Local Prospector (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)**

Get a brief historic tour of Big Bear's gold rush of the late 1800's before meeting up with local gold prospector John Calahan who will take you on a tour of his claimed site, show you techniques used to find gold and ways to extract it. You can keep any gold you find on this tour.

**Stand up Paddleboard with Guide (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)**

Stand up paddleboarding continues to gain momentum in the world of outdoor recreation. Join paddle experts from Captain John's Fawn Harbor and Marina for a fun paddling exploration on the north end of the lake.

**Road Cycling Around the Lake with Guide (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)**

Road cycling in and around Big Bear Valley has grown quite a reputation for its diverse rides along scenic highways. One of the key attractions is a casual 17-mile journey

around Big Bear Lake. Join a guide from Big Bear Cycling Association as you're presented with lush evergreen forests, mountain vistas and clear blue skies throughout the ride.

## **Pre & Post Tours**

### **Intro to Geocaching at Big Bear Discovery Center (10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)**

Learn how to get involved in the world wide scavenger hunt know as geocaching. You will learn how to navigate online to find caches, how to use a GPS unit to locate caches, and learn about environmental ethics associated with the sport. No experience necessary, all tools provided.

Scenic Fly Over Big Bear Valley (Flight Times 9:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. – limit 2 or 3, based on weight. Please note flight times may be subject to cancel)

Helicopter Big Bear offers sightseeing flights from the vantage point of a helicopter cockpit. Witness the beauty of the San Bernardino National Mountains and Big Bear area with aerial views like no other. See countryside, landmarks, points of interest, lakes, ski areas and more.

### **Big Bear Jeep Experience – Off-Road / Rock Crawling (1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Limit 7)**

See Tuesday activities for full description.

### **Big Bear Pirate Ship (1:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.)**

Take a narrated tour aboard the 1/3 scale replica of a 16th Century Spanish Galleon. Crewed by costumed pirates, the captain and mate steer passengers to notable points of interest such as Garstin Island, Big Bear Dam, Hollywood movie sets, the Solar Observatory, key fishing spots, and celebrity homes. Full bar on board.

### **Joshua Tree National Park Tour (7 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)**

Take a journey to Joshua Tree National Park to discover this enchanting area of miles upon miles of Joshua Trees, other distinct desert flora and remarkable rock formations. Join Ranger George Land as he gives a detailed tour of what makes Joshua Tree National Park so unique, including various wildlife that lives within the parameters of Joshua Tree National Park. You'll explore the colorful history of the Park with plenty of interesting facts.

### **Pebble Plains Tour with US Forest Service Botanist (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

See Tuesday activities for full description

### **Trout Fishing at a San Bernardino County Regional Park (8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBD)**

Try your luck at a neighboring San Bernardino Regional Park lake. Whether it's Lake Gregory, Yucaipa, Glen Helen or Mojave Narrows you are certain to find an inviting fishing hole that is well stocked with trout and bass.

Action Tours Sampler – Includes Segway Tour, Tree Rope Climbing, Ziplining, and Flyboarding (9 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

Experience all of the Action Tours in one day. See Tuesday activities for full description of each.

Environmental & Reclamation Tour of Mitsubishi Cement Corporation's Cushenbury Cement Plant (9:30 a.m. – 12 noon – Also part of a combined tour)

Mitsubishi Cement Corporation's Cushenbury Cement Plant is located on the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains, about 10 miles from Big Bear. A tour of this facility starts in the limestone quarry with mining and crushing. Then there is discussion of re-vegetation of completed mine benches to return native plants and wildlife habitat. A visit to the Control Room gives an up close look at the cement kiln that contains the 2700 degree F process of converting raw materials to cement. Use of coal as the primary fuel is decreased with use of recycled tires and wood; all completely consumed with no waste. These sustainable industrial practices keep a balance with the wildlife and recreational resources of the area.

### **Calico Ghost Town Tour (1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Also part of a combined tour)**

Calico is an old West mining town that has been around since 1881 during the largest silver strike in California. With its 500 mines, Calico produced over \$20 million in silver ore over a 12-year span. When silver lost its value in the mid-1890's, Calico lost its population. The miners packed up, loaded their mules and moved away abandoning the town that once gave them a good living. It became a "ghost town." Walter Knott purchased Calico in the 1950's architecturally restoring all but the five original buildings to look as they did in the 1880's. Along with its history and attractions, Calico Ghost Town has shops, restaurants, outdoor recreation, and onsite camping.

### **Stargazing with Local Astronomer (8 p.m. Location TBD)**

Big Bear's high altitude and dark skies that are unspoiled by city lights makes it the ideal location for stargazing. Join a local Big Bear amateur astronomer and look through telescopes to discover celestial wonders in the sky.

### **Smart Phone Guided Scavenger Hunt (Anytime at your convenience-registration required)**

Combine the fun of the Amazing Race with a 1 ½ hour walking tour of Big Bear Village and beyond with a smart phone guided scavenger hunt. You'll solve clues and complete challenges while learning local history and fun facts.

### **Visit Big Bear Alpine Zoo (Visit anytime at your convenience)**

Discover one of only two alpine zoos in the United States. The difference is Big Bear Alpine Zoo concentrates on alpine wildlife only. See our collection of over 140 animals representing 65 species. The zoo is a rehabilitation facility

## Day Hikes Around San Luis Obispo (3rd Edition)

Robert Stone

ISBN: 978-1-57342-070-9 \$21.95 480 pages 208 maps

Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Day-Hikes-Around-Luis-Obispo/dp/1573420700/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1422721281&sr=8-2&keywords=Day+Hikes+Around+San+Luis+Obispo](http://www.amazon.com/Day-Hikes-Around-Luis-Obispo/dp/1573420700/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1422721281&sr=8-2&keywords=Day+Hikes+Around+San+Luis+Obispo)

San Luis Obispo County is located where the white sand beaches of Central California merge with the dramatic Big Sur coastline. Ranging inland from the Pacific Ocean are oak-studded hills, verdant farmland, pristine mountain lakes, and the 5,000-foot Santa Lucia Range of the Los Padres National Forest. The unique geography and a temperate, year-round climate creates an outstanding hiking environment.

Day Hikes Around San Luis Obispo now includes over 150 day hikes throughout the coastal county. This greatly expanded third edition is easily the most comprehensive hiking guide in the area. The trails take the hiker along the scalloped Pacific coastline to secluded coves and tide pools, to rocky promontories along the chain of volcanic morros, through wetland sanctuaries, across massive sand dunes, and up cool interior canyons. Highlights include waterfalls, bluffs, long stretches of beach, lighthouses, lakes, rivers, swimming holes, extraordinary rock formations, and panoramic views that span from the inland mountains to the ocean. Many hikes are found in or near San Luis Obispo, although most hikes are located in undeveloped tracts of land and along 100 miles of coastline. A range of hikes is included, from easy coastal walks to high elevation climbs.

Statistics, accurate driving and hiking directions, and numerous maps make these hiking adventures stress free. Dog admission information is included as well as an index.

Companion guides include Day Hikes Around Big Sur, Day Hikes Around Monterey & Carmel, Day Hikes Around Santa Barbara, Day Hikes On the California Central Coast, and Day Hikes On the California Southern Coast.

## Day Hikes Around Los Angeles (Sixth Edition)

Robert Stone

ISBN: 978-1-57342-071-6 \$18.95 544 pages 233 maps

Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Day-Hikes-Around-Los-Angeles/dp/1573420719/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1422721207&sr=8-2&keywords=Day+Hikes+Around+Los+Angeles](http://www.amazon.com/Day-Hikes-Around-Los-Angeles/dp/1573420719/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1422721207&sr=8-2&keywords=Day+Hikes+Around+Los+Angeles)

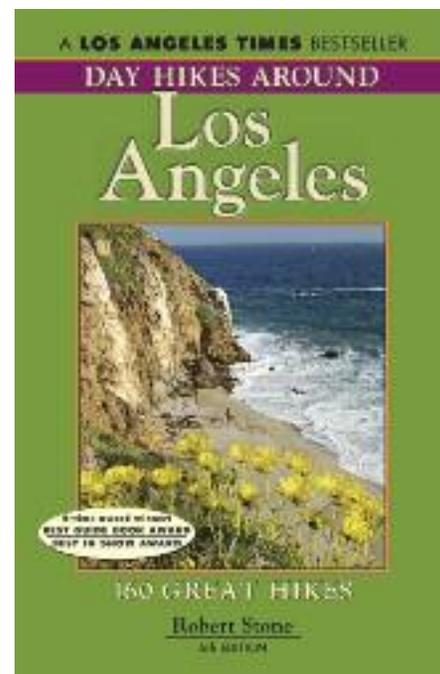
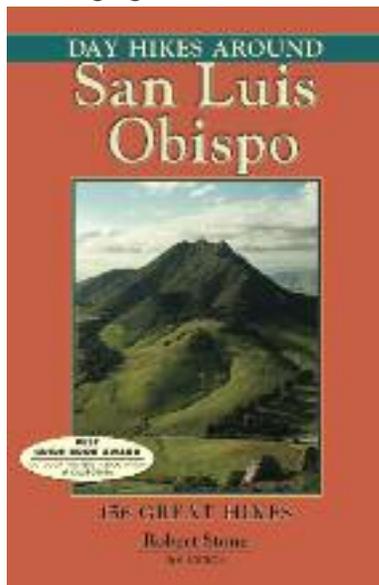
LA Times Best Seller and four-time award winner Day Hikes Around Los Angeles (now in its 6th edition) includes 160 hikes in and around a 50-mile radius of the city. Residents and adventuresome travelers will find the book essential to discovering an amazing number of hiking opportunities.

Despite the widespread presence of the Los Angeles metropolis, there exists thousands of acres of natural, undeveloped land and countless out-of-way hiking trails. Hikes range from boardwalk strolls along the ocean to shady canyon trails that lead to far-reaching overlooks. Highlights include year-round waterfalls,

wildlife preserves, lighthouses, Griffith Park (the country's largest municipal park), the famous "HOLLYWOOD" sign, quiet canyon trails, panoramic vistas of the city and coastline, the rugged terrain of the San Gabriel Mountains, and hikes along the entire length of the Santa Monica Mountains. Intriguing metropolitan walks are also included. All levels of hiking are accommodated, with an emphasis on a mid-range hikes.

Companion guides include Day Hikes Around Ventura County, Day Hikes Around Orange County, Day Hikes On the California Southern Coast, and Day Hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Robert Stone has been writer, photographer, and publisher of Day Hike Books since 1991. He is a Los Angeles Times best-selling author and an award-winning journalist of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, the Bay Area Travel Writers, and active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of



America. Robert summers in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and winters on the California Central Coast.

## The Man Who Takes Me Fishing

### Kathie Morgan

In this public place, let me wish much happiness forever to the man who takes me fishing.

Romantic? For our first Valentines Day 33 years ago, he brought me the skull of a juvenile whale he had drug up while trawling. Nothing since. Whale skulls just aren't that easy to come by. But he did make me a shrimp gun this Christmas.

I was ready to file for ... well, something, the day it dawned on me that all my rods, reels, lures and more were community property. What was I thinking!

"Over my dead body" was my reaction to most of his loving gestures, I'm sorry to say. I yelled when he installed the salt-water aquarium in our Bodega Bay home on the mudflats and rigged a pump to circulate bay water through it, but I miss it now and the lessons I learned from the fish we kept there. I yelled even louder when he brought home the Sevylor inflatable. Now I look back in awe over how he would row me for hours around our beloved ponds and even Lake Sonoma.

Eventually we moved up to the plastic Crawdad and a trolling motor, but the biggest bass we ever caught was 18-pound Bertha, which David took from Doyle Pond in the inflatable. And released there, by mistake.

All his friends were fishing the Napa River for stripers, so of course we had to try it. Rich Tieso lent us his aluminum outboard. One trip and we were hooked on the Napa, which led to our buying the Valco.

Some of the escapades were on the hair-raising side. You read here about the day we launched at Hudemann and I sat in the boat to rig up while David went to park the truck. Oops! Someone forgot to put the plug in and there I sat, sinking away.

One day on the Petaluma River we trolled electrically all the way to the bay before David decided to switch to the outboard. Which wouldn't start. Another day we worked our way up Lake Sonoma's Warm Springs Arm until we ran out of battery.

## 64 YEAR OLD MAN ATTEMPTS 40 SPORTING EVENTS IN 24 HOURS THIS IS NOT AN APRIL FOOLS JOKE



MOUNTAIN LAKE ESCAPE

Big Bear Lake, Calif. March 31, 2015 – On April 1 (April Fool's Day) 64 year-old George Crezee, a Big Bear Lake resident, will celebrate his 65th birthday two weeks early when he attempts to finish 40 sporting events/adventures covering hundreds of miles from Big Bear Lake to Newport Beach in a 24-hour span. Crezee who turns 65 on April 14, will attempt to shatter his previous record of 26 sporting events in 20 hours on his 60th birthday. This big adventure takes Crezee from the mountains to the desert and to the lakes and beaches of Southern California. His mission is to encourage people to get off the couch and get active.



"I want to motivate people to get off the couch and go," said George Crezee. "I use this one day to show that if a 65 year old guy can do this, certainly anyone can get off the couch and do something, even if it's just walking the dog."

Crezee will begin with an array of winter sports at Snow Summit Ski Resort in Big Bear Lake. Water sports will follow in the cold waters of Big Bear Lake. He will participate in various motor sports in the High Desert, San Bernardino and Riverside and will head to Newport Beach and

David pulled the outboard cord and it flew right off. We (yes, me too!) had to row into the wind all the way back to the public launch ramp.

The man who takes me fishing makes sure I have the gear I need. I'm the one with the expensive outfits while he makes do with the butt from one two-piece rod and the top half from another. He lets me wear his long johns in cold weather, and the only reason he gets mad when I hook myself is that he doesn't like to see me hurting.

When we slip in behind the destroyer to cast to shore, he'll tell me a story from his past. Maybe it's about fishing her- ring with Davy Crockett in San Francisco Bay, or trammel netting with Ranch, or tuna fishing with Tom and selling their catch at the dock. When we traveled to the OWAC conference in September, I heard his tales about shrimping with Big Ed out of Brookings Harbor.

For all these years, David has been my protector and best friend, the man who takes me fishing. Thanks, Honey!

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Costa Mesa for many more sports. Then it's back to San Bernardino Valley College for track & field and then he finishes at 24-Hour Fitness in Ontario. Please see schedule below...

George hopes to motivate people to get outside and enjoy what's in their own backyard. If at 65 George can do all these activities, others can surely do just one of them and get on the road to a healthier lifestyle. To learn more about George Crezee including videos and photos visit his website at [www.GetOffTheCouchAndGo.com](http://www.GetOffTheCouchAndGo.com). 65-Year Old Inspires Others to Get Outdoors

### George Crezee's Outdoor Adventure Schedule Wednesday, April 1, 2015:

3:00 am – 6:45 am: Snowshoe (to mid-mountain), climbing skis (to top), terrain park, telemark ski, skate ski, cross country ski, snow board, giant slalom ski, slalom ski at Snow Summit Mountain Resort in Big Bear Lake

7:00 am – 9:10 am: Half pipe, inner

Cont. on pg. 4

tube, jeep rock crawl, dual sport motorcycle in Big Bear Valley

9:20 am – 11:40 am: Stand up paddleboard, knee board, wakeboard, wake surf, jet ski, WaveRunner, slalom ski, speed ski, hot boat in Big Bear Lake

12:15 pm – 2:10 pm: Off road car, ¼ midget dirt track car, dirt kart, BMX bike at various locations in the High Desert

2:55 pm – 3:25 pm: Stock car (maybe) at the Orange Show in San Bernardino

3:40 pm – 5:00 pm: Rally cross, super moto, kart, pocket bike, time attack at Riverside-Adams Motorsports Park

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm: Motocross, quad, side by side at Riverside – Milestone Motocross Park

7:00 pm – 8:15 pm: Surf, body surf, kayak, inline skate, slack line at Newport Beach

8:30 pm – 10:15 pm: indoor climbing at Rockreaction Climbing Center and mountain bike, road bike at Costa Mesa Skate Park,

11:15 pm – 12:45 am: Track and field: 1500, 400, 100, hurdles, shot put, discus, javelin, high jump, long jump, pole vault at San Bernardino Valley College

1:00 am – 3:00 am: Cross fit, Zumba, basketball, racquetball, volleyball, swimming (free style, back stroke, breast stroke, and butterfly) at Ontario 24 Hour Fitness

3:01 am – CELEBRATE!!!!

“I can wait another day, but I’ll be another day older. So why wait!” added Crezee. “There are no excuses. Do something, and get outside!!”

[www.GetOffTheCouchAndGo.com](http://www.GetOffTheCouchAndGo.com)  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u1hx0n04uzvmy8a/AADE7qcxPJni2PnxvT\\_81r3Pa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u1hx0n04uzvmy8a/AADE7qcxPJni2PnxvT_81r3Pa?dl=0)

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**Dan McKernan Director of Marketing and Public Relations Big Bear Visitors Bureau 909.866.6190 Ext. 235 Cellular: 951.283.9442 Email: dmckernan@bigbear.com**

## SALTWATER FLY FISHING THE BAJA WAY

BD Outdoors

**GARY GRAHAM**

During the 16th century Spanish Explorers depicted Baja as an island. Of course that concept has long since been dispelled, but in many ways Baja still seems more like an island than a peninsula. Surrounded on three sides by saltwater, it offers over 2,000 miles of coastline for the adventurous flyfisher. From jagged rocky coast to white sandy beaches, lagoons and estuaries thrown in, Baja has it all. There is even a trout stream hiding in the hills of Baja Norte that was stocked over ninety-three years ago, and a hidden freshwater reservoir on the outskirts of La Paz in Baja Sur.

Baja has become one of the premier fly-fishing destinations. Regardless of skill level -- beginner or seasoned pro -- there are few places remaining in the world that provide such a variety of challenges.

People like Harry Kime, Jerry Klink, Tom Miller, Nick Curcione, Trey Combs, Terry and Wendy Gunn, Ken Hanley, Ed Jaworowski, Bob Popovics and Lani Waller paved the way for the fly industry in Baja. Baja Big Fish Company, Baja on the Fly, Baja Anglers, Baja Flyfishing, Reel Baja, Pursuit Anglers, Scorpion Sportfishing, Lance Peterson and many others continue to promote saltwater flyfishing. In almost every major sportfishing center you now can find someone anxious to accommodate fly-fishing needs ... boats, captains, guides. Baja has become flyrod friendly!

As a teenager in Southern California, I read newspaper stories of large fish and catches that were big enough to kindle my teenage fantasies of wide-open fishing in Baja. However, I had to be satisfied with fishing the local kelp beds and offshore in Southern California.

Finally, in 1969 with my eight-year-old son Greg in tow, I flew to Ed Tabor's "Flying Sportsmen Lodge" in Loreto. From that moment on, there was no looking back! Yellowtail, dorado and roosterfish fed what was to become an insatiable quest for the next fish in the next spot.

It didn't matter whether I fished from shore or boat; Baja had it all.

Since then I've discovered the many other virtues of Baja ... the people, the land, the culture and the history all have added to my love of the country.

My fishing evolved from conventional to light tackle, then to ultra-light tackle. Always eager to learn a new method of fishing, I joined the Tuna Club of Avalon in order to be part of an old, established organization and to learn how to fish with antique knuckle-buster reels filled with linen line. So it should come as no surprise that I couldn't resist the challenge of saltwater fly-fishing.

Spoiler alert: Fly-fishing Baja saltwater became such a fascination that I started "Baja on the Fly," a fly-fishing guide/outfitter service, twenty-five years ago.

That out of the way -- let's be clear; I'm not a zealot who believes that newcomers to the sport must take an oath declaring that they will forsake all other methods of fishing.

The information below is written to provide interested anglers with the basics on how to get started fly-fishing in saltwater, specifically in Baja.

A few of the purported 800 species to be found in Baja's Sea of Cortez that have been taken on fly are: Marlin, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, dorado, wahoo, skipjack, yellowtail, sierra, jack crevalle, amberjacks, roosterfish, cabrilla, pompano, ladyfish, grouper, white seabass, snook and bonefish.

Sportsmen the world over have come to recognize the importance of catch and release and Baja is no different. Most species can be returned to the water with no apparent harm as proven with Gray Taxidermy's interactive roosterfish tagging pro-

gram, Gray Fishing Research, Inc. The Roosterfish Foundation is another tag and release program. Certainly billfish, roosterfish and jacks, all of which have very little food value, should always be released if possible, with a potential world record being the exception. However, if you wish to occasionally take a fish for the table, dorado, wahoo, sierra, tuna, etc., this will not harm the resource.

Spring and fall in Baja Sur are very pleasant, with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. However, temperatures may reach 110 degrees during the summer. Humidity can be a factor during the late summer months. September is the time to watch for "Chubascos" (Hurricane's).

During winter months, (November 15th - April 1st) the entire coast of the Sea of Cortez can be subject to North Winds and depending on the intensity, the winds may affect your plans.

Baja is desert country and has all of the critters you would expect! Rattlesnakes and sea snakes are the only poisonous snakes in the region and are seldom seen. However, if fishing in remote areas, a "Snake Bite Kit" is not a bad idea.

Scorpions are fairly common. Their sting is similar to a bee sting. Bees, wasps, mosquitoes and no-see'ums also may be encountered.

Occasionally found on Baja beaches, jellyfish are to be watched for while in the water. Jellyfish seem to come and go with the warm currents and sometimes they may be found dead on the beach at the high tide line. Though dead, they can still sting.

And while not in all areas, stingrays can be a nuisance. When wading where stingrays are common, walk in a shuffling manner to scare them away. All of the above stings can be treated with either Benedryl Spray, gel and/or tablet.

Baja beaches can be sand, rock, gravel or just plain dirt. For my purposes, shore fishing will also include kick-boats or float tubes.

Inshore is considered to be from the first color change to the drop off or next color change.

Blue water or offshore is sometimes referred to as deep sea fishing, distinguished by the discernible color change caused by the deeper bottom.

- For the beach, a 9ft.-8wt. rod is adequate.
- Inshore, a 10wt. rod will satisfy most conditions, unless you have found fish above 20 pounds. Then you will definitely want to go with a 12-wt.
- Offshore for larger dorado, tuna and wahoo, use the 12-wt. For billfish and tuna bring the 14-wt.

Regardless of the size of the rod, it should be designed specifically for saltwater use. Three or four piece rods are recommended because of travel considerations.

- Choose a reel that approximates the rod weight. (Not all manufactures designate sizes to match the weight.)
- Use only reels that will hold 200- to 250-yards of 30-pound braid backing\* on the beach and 30-pound Dacron inshore.
- Bluewater reels should hold a minimum of 400-yards of 30-pound Dacron backing.
- All reels should have a disk drag system that is designed for saltwater use. Extra spools are a good way to have different line systems stored and ready for use.

\*Flyfishing tackle is designed to use the drag of the thicker Dacron to tire the fish. However, when fishing from shore the advantage goes to braid because of its thinner diameter allowing much more line on a smaller spool.

Intermediate or seamless shooting head lines, should be your choice for Baja. These lines work well in all applications ranging from beach to bluewater. Floating lines may come in handy in some applications. Fishing poppers as well as fishing over rock reefs being two examples. For backing use a high-visibility Dacron line in either 20-pound or 30-pound test or braid in an easy-to-see color. Remember, in Baja your backing will be used frequently. Make sure it is not old and weak! Ta-

pered leaders are not necessary. Use a good quality fluorocarbon leader material about 6 feet in length.

Waterproof gear bag with rod tubes built in are handy when traveling. Try to find one that is small enough to carry on the plane. When fishing the shore, footwear can be critical! Sandals, tennis shoes, flats booties or pull-on boots used for diving are ideal. Another piece of equipment is a stripping basket preferred by many. These come in different configurations from plastic trashcan to specially designed baskets.

In addition, a good hook sharpening file, saltwater pliers, clippers, forceps, small scale, fluorocarbon tippet material in sizes from 12-pound to 20-pound, fluorocarbon shock tippet in 40-, 60-, or 80-pound and wire for the toothy ones, spool with extra backing, camera, film, batteries, sun block, and Polaroid glasses.

• Make sure your gear is rigged and ready when you board the boat or go to the beach to fish or invariably you will find yourself trying to get your rod out of the rod tube and rigged while looking at breaking fish.

• Clean your tackle with fresh water at the end of each day.

• Use a two-handed retrieve when stripping your line in, and do not strike fish with rod tip.

• Always crimp the barbs down on your hooks.

• Make sure you sharpen your hooks frequently.

• Try to use a fly that approximates the length of the bait the fish are feeding on.

• Always watch your fly all the way to the end of your retrieve. Many times a fish will follow the fly until it is removed from the water without striking. When you see this occur, quickly execute a short roll cast to put the fly back in play.

• Do not use leaders longer than 6-foot. When not fishing, hook fly on foot of stripping guide and loop leader around the reel in order to be ready to cast in a hurry, if necessary.

- Practice tying knots until you can tie them in the dark.
- Remember to change backing frequently.

Baja offers a unique setting, which allows you to improve your skills. Whether a novice or a seasoned pro, this is the place to practice and improve. You will have opportunities to cast to and catch fish, regardless of your casting skills.

Beware ... this aspect of sportfishing really has three components. Some get hung up on the fly-tying aspect and spend hours in front of a vise trying to create the perfect fly to catch the fish they are targeting.

Others get caught up in casting, practicing at local casting ponds, lakes, beaches or even the street in front of their home focusing on the technique to improve accuracy and distance much like a golfer and their swing.

The third component is the most important – the catching of the fish! Frankly many make the mistake of becoming so consumed with the first two components of building their skills that they miss out on the most fun part.

For the casting, a good place to start would be "The Cast" by Ed Jaworowski or "Longer Fly Casting" by Lefty Kreh.

For fly-tying try "PopFleyes" by Bob Popovics or "Innovative Saltwater Flies" by Bob Veverka

For more about the catching, watch our reports Baja Bytes Reports and as the marlin, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, dorado, wahoo, skipjack, yellowtail, sierra, jack crevalle, amberjacks, roosterfish, cabrilla, pompano, ladyfish, grouper, white seabass, snook and bonefish show up in the waters off Baja.

As the fish are seasonal, for the most part, you can plan your fishing trips around the time of year your bucket list of species generally arrive in Baja waters.

We will explore the tricks and techniques to help you catch them on the fly in future articles...

Next Article: Q and A with CDFW February 23 >>

## BIG BEAR LAKE IS NOW OPEN FOR 2015 SEASON

### Boating and Fishing Season Gets Underway with Marinas and Public Launch Ramps Opening for the 2015 Season, plus About 1 Million Trout Planted

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif./ April 1, 2015 – Today, Big Bear Municipal Water District (BBMWD) opened The Carol Morrison East Launch Ramp for the 2015 season. The public boat launch ramp, which has been closed for the winter gives boat owners the opportunity to launch onto the lake for boating and fishing. This is especially good news for anglers that prefer trolling over shoreline fishing. In addition to the public launch ramp opening five Big Bear Lake marinas are now open for the 2015 season. On May 8 the Duane Boyer West Launch Ramp will open for the season offering even more public access to the lake. Both boat launch ramps are located on the north shore. The West Launch ramp will stay open through October 5, 2015, and the East Launch Ramp will remain open through November 30, 2015.

#### 1 MILLION TROUT PLANTED IN BIG BEAR LAKE

To celebrate Big Bear Lake's opening day BBMWD planted approximately 1 million fingerling trout into the lake. This is great news for anglers because it should help increase the population for years to come.

"This plant marks the most trout this lake has ever seen," said Mike Stephenson, General Manager, Big Bear Municipal Water District. "These six to eight-inch trout will grow fast, and within 3 months these trout will be six to 12 inches."

In addition to the fresh load of 1 million fingerling trout, BBMWD plans to plant two more truckloads of 250,000 larger trout that are approximately 10 to 12 inches. This plant is expected to happen within the next two weeks. Big Bear Lake is a first-rate trout fishery where rainbow trout thrive. In fact, the alpine lake is famous for its "pink-meat holdovers." In addition to the great trout action, Big Bear Lake has both largemouth and small mouth bass, making it a popular fishing retreat for bass anglers. Other varieties of fish include catfish, crappie, pumpkinseed and bluegill.

Fishermen looking for boat rentals are amply served by five marinas that offer fishing and pontoon boats. Some marinas offer fishing licenses and tackle for purchase. Licensed fishing guides offer a more in-depth fishing experience for trollers and downriggers. The lake is also accessible from all shoreline vantage points for easy fishing from shore.

Big Bear Lake will once again honor the Department of Fish & Wildlife's Free Fishing Days this year on Saturday, July 4 and Saturday, September 5. A fishing license is not required to fish the lake on these dates. Big Bear Lake is one of few lakes in Southern California to offer this unique bonus for boaters and fishermen.

To find out more about Big Bear Lake fishing, boat rentals, free fishing days, and lodging, or to request a Big Bear Lake Visitors Guide, visit [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com) or call 800-424-4232.



# REDLANDS BICYCLE CLASSIC TIME TRIAL SETS THE TONE FOR AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATE



Two Pro-Cycling Races a Month Apart Proves Big Bear's Prowess for the Sport

Big Bear Lake, Calif. March 12, 2015 – This year, Big Bear Lake hosts the Amgen Tour of California Stage 6 Time Trial that takes place May 15, 2015. This marks the third time in five years Big Bear Lake is a host city for Amgen Tour of California, which is considered the largest and most prestigious road cycling race in the USA. Redlands Bicycle Classic, another premier-domestic race on the USA Cycling National Racing Calendar, has once again included Big Bear as one of its five stages for the third year in a row. Big Bear is set to host the Redlands Bicycle Classic Stage 2 Time Trial Thursday, April 9, 2015. These two elite professional road cycling events held in Big Bear, which are just one month apart, demonstrates Big Bear is well-received by the industry as a premier cycling destination.

“Having Amgen Tour of California and the Redlands Classic both stage races in Big Bear, in the same year, shows we're well-respected in the cycling community,” said Big Bear Cycling President Craig Smith. “These professional races help raise awareness and give Big Bear the recognition it deserves.”

The Stage 2 Time Trials in Big Bear, referred to as the Race of Truth, is an out and back course on the north shore. The 7.8 miles course starts and ends west of Stanfield Cutoff near the East Launch Ramp. The course leads racers into the town of Fawnskin, which is the turnaround point for racers to sprint back to the finish line. The course is challenging because of the demanding high-altitude environment.



One of the key reasons why Redlands Bicycle Classic as well as Amgen Tour of California stage races in Big Bear is to give the riders a change of scenery with a beautiful alpine lake and mountain vistas in the background. The community of Big Bear is thrilled to once again show the cycling world that the mountain resort is a premier cycling destination, and continues its quest as a cycling powerhouse for Southern California. For best viewing locations and other spectator information visit [www.redlandsclassic.com](http://www.redlandsclassic.com) or [www.bigbeartimetrial.com](http://www.bigbeartimetrial.com).

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## ELITE WOMEN'S TEAMS AND ROUTE CONFIRMED FOR 2015 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

The World's Top Professional Women Cyclists Compete in an Unprecedented Three-day Stage Race and Invitational Time Trial in Big Bear Lake

Big Bear Lake, Calif./February 15, 2015 – Fourteen of the top women's cycling teams from around the world are confirmed to lead off the 10th edition of the Amgen Tour of California with three days and 158 miles of stage racing May 8-10 and an invitational Time Trial on May 15 in Big Bear Lake. The four days of women's competition will be staged in conjunction with the men's eight-day race.

Powerhouse teams such as Velocio-SRAM (formerly Team Specialized-lululemon), which ranked second in the world last season, and Alé-Cipollini boast rosters with some of the most decorated women in the sport will compete in what many experts believe will be the best women's cycling event ever to take place on U.S. soil. Several of the teams expected to put forward top contenders for the overall win are also mounting counterparts in the men's race, including Optum p/b Kelly Benefit Strategies, BMW p/b Happy Tooth Dental (under the same management as Team SmartStop) and UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team.

“After finishing in third place at La Course at Le Tour de France last year, I'm energized by the increased dedication to women's professional cycling by the biggest professional cycling race in North America,” said Leah Kirchmann, Optum p/b Kelly Benefit Strategies and Canadian National Champion. “The course looks amazing and I can't wait to be a part of the Amgen Tour of California.”

The full list of teams that will race May 8-10 includes:

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Alé-Cipollini  
BMW p/b Happy Tooth Dental  
Canada National Team  
Colavita|Bianchi p/b Fine Cooking  
Grassi Pro Cycling Team Mexico  
Itau Shimano Ladies Power Team  
Optum p/b Kelly Benefit Strategies  
Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International  
Pepper Palace Pro Cycling p/b The  
Happy Tooth  
Team TIBCO-SVB  
Twenty16 p/b Sho-Air  
UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team  
Velocio-SRAM  
Xirayas de San Luis

Full rosters will be available in May for the first of its kind three-day stage race as well as the Invitational Time Trial event.

“Cycling attracts extraordinary athletes, and we’re thrilled to provide the women with a bigger platform this year as we continue to expand our commitment to women’s professional cycling,” said Kristin Bachochin Klein, executive director of the Amgen Tour of California and senior vice president of AEG Sports. “We look forward to our fans experiencing the best teams in the world racing in California in May.”

The Union Cycliste International (UCI)-sanctioned women’s stage race will travel through South Lake Tahoe on a scenic but challenging course filled with climbs May 8-9 before concluding with an exciting and fast-paced circuit race in Sacramento May 10, the same day and location where the men’s race begins hours later. For the fifth year running, the world’s top-ranked time trialists are also being invited to race against the clock during a UCI-sanctioned women’s Invitational Time Trial preceding the men’s Time Trial (Stage 6) May 15 in Big Bear Lake.

Empowered with SRAM, one of the Founding Partners of the Amgen Tour of California Women’s Time Trial, the four day women’s cycling event serves as a chance for female cyclists to display the powerful and exciting racing they are known for around the world.

“We are once again excited to further the growth of women’s cycling and particularly the all new women’s Amgen Tour of California stage race,” said SRAM Vice President of Marketing David Zimberoff. “As a global bicycle component manufacturer, a portion of our message is empowerment, and giving women more opportunity to showcase their talent is the perfect expression of that.”

“We are excited for a race of this magnitude to continue to expand its commitment to women’s racing. It’s great for the riders, the fans and the sport overall,” said Kristy Scrymgeour, Velocio-SRAM team manager. “It’ll be a strong line up, so we’re looking forward to some great racing.”

Lexus will serve as a premier partner of the Amgen Tour of California women’s stage race and award the winner of the stage race with a two-year Lexus NX luxury compact crossover lease. The bold NX offers a utility-focused alternative to a sport sedan.

Fans won’t want to miss a second of the action during the 2015 Amgen Tour of California women’s stage race and Invitational Time Trial (route and start times are subject to change):

Three-Day Stage Race Empowered with SRAM

### **Stage 1, Presented by SRAM**

Friday, May 8 – Lake Tahoe Road Race  
Start/Finish Location: Heavenly Mountain Resort

Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Stage Length: 74 miles

The first ever Amgen Tour of California women’s UCI stage race will kick off in spectacular fashion. The 74-mile stage starts and ends at the Heavenly Mountain Resort high above South Lake Tahoe. This is a reenactment of the most gorgeous race that never was – in 2011 the men were supposed to race the scenic loop around Lake Tahoe until a freak May snow storm caused a cancellation. Just as well that this beautiful course was saved for its debut as part of the tenth anniversary edition Amgen Tour of California, and the first three-day women’s stage race of its kind. The

counter-clockwise loop around the perimeter of Lake Tahoe provides a bit of everything a race should have: twisting descents, fast straights, two challenging Queen of the Mountains (QOMs) and stunning views. The day will end with the brutal climb up the 15 percent grades of Keller Street back to Heavenly. This opening stage will produce a worthy winner from the international field.

### **Stage 2, Presented by Amgen**

Saturday, May 9 – South Lake Tahoe Circuit Race

Start/Finish Location: Heavenly Mountain Resort

Start Time: 10:30 a.m.

Stage Length: 50 miles

Sure to be a crowd favorite, this circuit features great spectating opportunities with chances to see the women race by up to three times per lap. Heavenly Mountain Resort again hosts the start and finish for Stage 2, but with a different approach. This 25-mile circuit will be tackled twice, but instead of scenic lake views, the women will head into the tall trees of the Lake Tahoe forests. After a quick descent from Heavenly, they will ride off to the beautiful canyons of state Route 89, but the return trip may not provide for sightseeing. The second half of the course features the switchback QOM of Apache Avenue followed quickly by the climb back up to Heavenly on Ski Run Boulevard to the finish line, and the end of two very challenging days in Lake Tahoe.

**Stage 3, Presented by Visit California**  
Sunday, May 10 – Sacramento Circuit Race

Start/Finish Location: State Capitol Building, L Street & 11th Street

Start Time: 11:15 a.m.

Stage Length: 34 Miles

After two days favoring the climbers, Stage 3 is designed to let the sprinters come out to play. This flat and fast two-mile circuit has been used as a men’s finish circuit on multiple occasions, including this year. The climbers and their teams will have to hold onto

Cont. on pg. 9

the sprinters as they fight for the stage win and the many time bonuses that could vault them up the overall standings. The L Street finish line in the shadows of the California State Capitol building has played host to some of the greatest sprinters of the last 10 years, including Mark Cavendish, Mario Cipollini and Carmen Small who won the 2014 stage of the women's circuit race.

Another crowd favorite, this day will give spectators the rare treat of seeing two international fields compete on the same circuit within hours. The women will blaze around the circuit between 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m., after which the overall race winner will be decided. Fans can then enjoy the Amgen Tour of California Lifestyle Festival until the men rip into town just after 2 p.m. to finish their first day of racing. What more could a cycling fan want?

### **Stage 6, Presented by Lexus**

Women's Invitational Time Trial, Empowered with SRAM

Friday, May 15 – Big Bear Lake Individual Time Trial

Start Location: Village Drive & Pine Knot Avenue

Finish Location: Pine Knot Marina

Start Time: 11:00 a.m.

Stage Length: 15 miles

This is very flat and fast course. At 6,752 feet and featuring one of the most beautiful lakes in all of California, the course begins in the heart of the Village in Big Bear Lake with 20 of the best women time trialists in the world competing prior to the men's Stage 6. The first three miles of the route wind through a residential area along the south shore of the lake. Taking the Stanfield Cutoff across the lake, the course turns left and continues on Highway 38 to the town of Fawnskin. As the route turns back to the City of Big Bear Lake, expect large crowds in Fawnskin to cheer the riders coming and going. The return back into Big Bear Lake will essentially follow the same route.

As the route makes a right onto Big Bear Boulevard, with just 0.6 miles left, the riders will make a right onto Pine Knot Avenue for the final sprint to the finish line and onto a 1,000-foot jetty greeted by thousands of cheering fans. Cyclists are presented to a one-of-a-kind waterfront finish with spectacular panoramic views of Big Bear Lake.

For further information about the Amgen Tour of California and to experience the race like never before with VIP Access, please visit [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

### **About the Amgen Tour of California**

The Amgen Tour of California is a Tour de France-style cycling road race created and presented by AEG that challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course that traverses hundreds of miles of California's iconic highways, byways and coastlines each spring. The teams chosen to participate have included Olympic medalists, Tour de France contenders and World Champions. Amgen Tour of California is listed on the international professional cycling calendar (2 HC, meaning "beyond category"), awarding important, world-ranking points to the top finishers. More information is available at [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

This year, the men's course will traverse more than 700 miles and wind through 13 host cities, including Sacramento, Nevada City, Lodi, San Jose, Pismo Beach, Avila Beach, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita, Big Bear Lake, Ontario, Mt. Baldy, L.A. LIVE (Downtown Los Angeles) and Pasadena. The women's three-day stage race will travel more than 150 miles through South Lake Tahoe and Sacramento, followed by a 15-mile Invitational Time Trial in Big Bear Lake.

SRAM is a global manufacturer of high performance bicycle components, founded 1987 in Chicago, Illinois. To learn more, please visit [www.SRAM.com](http://www.SRAM.com) or Facebook/SRAMUSA.

## **Press Releases**

[www.asafishing.org](http://www.asafishing.org)

### **FishAmerica Foundation Joins Ranks of AmazonSmile Non-Profit Organizations**

The foundation's new website features communities-in-action projects Alexandria VA- April 9, 2015 – This month, the FishAmerica Foundation, the sportfishing industry's fisheries conservation and habitat restoration foundation, launched a brand-new version of its website, [www.FishAmerica.org](http://www.FishAmerica.org). The new site features extensive content highlighting the foundation's community-based, nationwide partnerships that seek to improve habitat for a multitude of fish species.

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### **Cornell Labs**

Time Spent Outdoors Boosts Conservation Action

New study reveals strong link between wildlife recreation and conservation

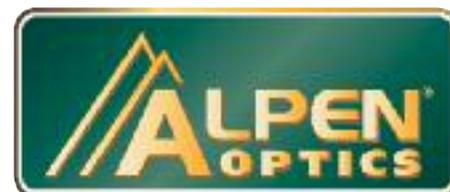
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu>

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### **Fish won't be able to resist Bass Pro Shops new XPS Swimming Minnow**

If fish weren't already in water, they would drool at the sight of Bass Pro Shops® XPS® Swimming Minnow. This new soft plastic bait practically screams "easy meal" to predatory fish and should be in your arsenal on your next fishing trip.

<http://www.basspro.com/Bass-Pro-Shops-XPS-Swimming-Minnow-Rigged/product/1408290631375/>



## PLANO'S ELITE KVD SIGNATURE SERIES BAG PUTS EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

<http://thebasscast.com/2015/04/planos-elite-kvd-signature-series-bag-puts-everything-in-its-place/>

### The AFTCO Caster performance long sleeve fishing sun shirt is the ultimate in protection from the harmful effects of the sun's UV rays.

The 100% polyester long sleeve breathable stretch fabric is QuickDry, and blocks more 98% of UV rays. The Caster is fishing sun protection shirt for men features a custom AFTCO Camo print, with fish logo on chest.

#### FEATURES

- 100% Polyester
- Moisture wicking fabric keeps you calm, comfortable, and dry
- Blocks 98% of UV Rays
- AFTCO Fish logo on chest
- Sublimated AFTCO Camo print
- Thumb holes to protect hands

## The Avid Angler's Wonder Rod

### St. Croix's Avid X earns seasoned veteran status in the year of its birth.

<http://stcroixrods.com/resources/news-center/the-avid-anglers-wonder-rod>

## Hobie® Announces 5th Annual Hobie Fishing World Championship

<http://www.hobiefishingworlds.com>

<http://2014.hobiefishingworlds.com/>

### Or watch the video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gp5EXrzPXL0>



## Gulf States Unveil Solution to Red Snapper Management Sportfishing and boating community welcomes state-based management approach

Washington, D.C. – March 13, 2015 – In a move long-awaited by the recreational fishing and boating community, the directors of the state fish and wildlife agencies from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas announced an agreement for state-based management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, which in recent years has experienced increasing privatization of this public resource and decreasing recreational fishing opportunities. The announcement was greeted with strong enthusiasm from the recreational fishing and boating community, which has supported greater state control of Gulf red snapper.

“Throughout the country, states have proven to be highly successful at fish and wildlife management in a way that conserves natural resources while allowing for reasonable public access,” said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Coastal Conservation. “The Gulf states are among the nation’s leaders in marine fisheries management, which is why we have continued to look to them as the vehicle for managing Gulf red snapper going forward to get us out of the current mess created by federal mismanagement.”

Gulf of Mexico red snapper is presently managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, under the National Marine Fisheries Service. The states’ agreement, which is predicated on transferring management authority away from the Council, describes the key elements of a plan in which the Gulf states would coordinate management of red snapper throughout the Gulf of Mexico through the proposed Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority.

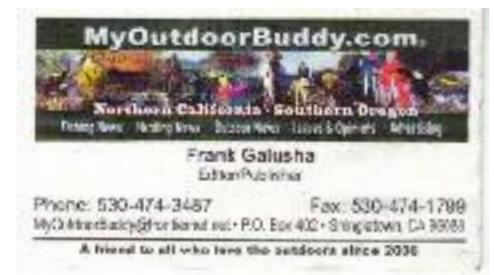
“Coordinated management among the states is the only solution to an un-

accountable federal system of fisheries management,” said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation President Jeff Crane. “Faced with an untenable situation, the states have risen to the challenge and collectively identified a clear path to a more balanced fishery.”

Under this management structure, each state would have authority to manage red snapper out to 200 miles off its coastline. Each state would be responsible for developing and implementing a red snapper management plan for its waters, which would be approved by the rest of the states.

“We have long pushed for the states to take over Gulf red snapper, but until now, we haven’t had a detailed plan for what state-based management would look like,” said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. “Under this approach, we are confident that management outcomes will begin to align with the health of the resource and anglers’ access to it.”

“Gulf red snapper is incredibly important to the economy of coastal communities throughout the Gulf of Mexico region, and attracts anglers from all across the country,” said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. “It’s abundantly clear that the states are best equipped to manage this valuable fishery. It’s time we give them that opportunity.”



## Tom Wilmer's new videos

Below are Video and audio links to my Nebraska Crane Migration/Prairie Chicken mating dance journey--along with things to do and see in the region around Kearney and Grand Island

<http://youtu.be/gaPgpMZzfT8>

### CRANE MIGRATION

[http://youtu.be/\\_Se5fP\\_vpNA](http://youtu.be/_Se5fP_vpNA)

Prairie Chicken Mating Dance

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/GrandIslandNPR.ORGpod.mp3>

<http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3488006>

<http://www.thomascwilmer.com/grand-island-nebraska-culture-history-and-outdoor-activities/>

[http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/CRANE\\_TRUST.NPR.ORGpod.mp3](http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/CRANE_TRUST.NPR.ORGpod.mp3)

<http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3483929>

<http://www.thomascwilmer.com/the-crane-trust-protecting-habitat/>

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/KEARNEY.JASNOCH.NPR.ORGpod.mp3>

<http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3482888>

<http://www.thomascwilmer.com/kearney-nebraskas-sandhill-cranes-history/>

[http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/AUDUBON\\_ROWENPR.ORGpod.mp3](http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/AUDUBON_ROWENPR.ORGpod.mp3)

<http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3474746>

<http://www.thomascwilmer.com/nebraskas-great-sandhill-crane-migration/>

[http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/PrairieChicken\\_NPR.ORGpod.mp3](http://traffic.libsyn.com/kcbx/PrairieChicken_NPR.ORGpod.mp3)

<http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3466868>

<http://www.thomascwilmer.com/nebraskas-prairie-chicken-dance-tours/>

**ALSO DID you see the way cool WWI Naval Training exercises in Morro Bay Harbor:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW39Qj3wm\\_s&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW39Qj3wm_s&feature=youtu.be)



## Sample the PCT at Big Bear Lake

Meade Fischer

From *California Explorer*

The Annual Day Zero Pacific Crest Trail Kick Off, a massive event near San Diego in late April, is a gathering of people determined to hike the PCT from the Mexican to the Canadian border. This year, an estimated 1100 people signed up for this hike, and probably not much more than 10% will finish, but my hat is off to anyone who puts a dent in this 2,300 plus mile hike. More specifically, my hat's off to those who make it to Big Bear, somewhere near 150 miles. However, some serious hikers, those who don't want to walk with 1100 strangers, leave a few days earlier.

It was some of those serious, early birds that I ran into on a stretch of the PCT near Big Bear Lake in early May, hardy people who have committed to five months of walking and a half dozen pair of boots. I can't claim to be one of those with a backpack and a focus on the Canadian border. I was, however, taking a scenic hike along a short stretch. Our hike leader, Dan McKernan of the Big Bear Visitor's bureau drove us a couple miles up Polique Rd, off of North Shore Drive to give several journalists a sample, a teaser of the wonderful hiking opportunities in the area.

On that day, we hiked not much more than four miles, but what a scenic hike it was. Heading northwest on the trail, we soon found ourselves above the shimmering, blue lake, Mount San Geronio, at 11,500 feet, the highest peak in Southern California, rising up across the valley. The lake and snow-capped mountains were visible for most of the hike. Along the way we learned how to tell a Ponderosa Pine from a Jeffery Pine, by their cones: Prickly Ponderosa, gentle Jeffery. Rubbing our hands up the cone told us immediately which it was. We also smelled the bark, as Ponderosa has a faintly vanilla odor. We also learned that the north side of the lake, while forested, was drier, with sparser vegetation, than the south, it

being in the rain shadow.

Even though it has been a dry spring, there were a few wildflowers out, mostly Blue Lupine, Wallflowers and Indian Paint Brush. At around 7,600 feet, spring comes late on this stretch of trail, so more flowers will bloom in June. There were many birds calling from the pines, but none that would stand still long enough to be identified. Lizards scurried across the trail, and we even caught a Western Skink, a lizard with

a blazing blue tail, and one who didn't like being caught, as it bit Dan on the finger.

This particular section of trail rises gently until it gradually ascends to a ridgeline, which affords a view down to the, flat, green Holcomb Valley, easily recognized as



the opening scene of the old TV show Bonanza and the setting for the film "Paint Your Wagon," among others. This valley is also the home of many active gold mining claims, which I visited later that day. It was interesting to be able to look down at the two valleys, both impressive in their own way, at the same time. Also, from the trail head, it would be an easy two mile hike further on Polique Road to Holcomb Valley.

We encountered several PCT backpackers along the way, several of whom said they deliberately got a head start on the annual herd. One middle-aged man said he was only going to Tahoe, as he had to finish another trail in the Rocky Mountains and then take on some trail in Arizona. His plan was to hike 3,000 miles this year, which is almost ten times as far as I plan to hike. Most of these folk expect to be at the Canadian border by mid to late September.

We also stopped to admire a massive, old Juniper, one that begged to be climbed, with limbs seductively close together. It turns out that the miners from the nineteenth century used the berries to make bathtub gin, something to ease the pain of digging all day for a couple bucks worth of gold.

From the trailhead, the other direction drops down to other views of the Holcomb Valley and after a about three miles crosses the Van Dusan Canyon Road, the main route into Holcomb Valley. For the day hiker, the stretch through Big Bear is an accessible part of the PCT, as there are several access points, allowing a hiker to sample sections of the trail without a full backpack.

For the backpacker, Big Bear is also hiker-friendly. People routinely give these folks a lift into town where they descend on the restaurants with buffets and spend the night in the local hostel, a welcome respite from sleeping on the hard ground. In fact, at the place where the trail crosses Van Dusan Canyon, there were several groups along the road, waiting for a lift to town.

Another access point, and a very different section of trail, is right on Highway 18, about two miles east of Baldwin Lake, which is dry most of the time. The trail crossing is at the top of the grade, just before the road winds steeply down to the Lucerne Valley. There's a very big turnout on the south side of the road, with room to park many cars. The trail leads up from the parking area, but rather than the forest a few miles west, this is high desert, with fewer, smaller trees,

brush and rock outcroppings. From the junction at Van Dusan Canyon to Hwy 18 is about seven or eight miles of trail, along the ridge above Baldwin Lake.

At first this high desert section of trail is very rocky, but than it smoothes out as it climbs around some rock outcroppings. After about a half mile, the trail tops out and starts to drop again and turn toward the San Gorgonio Wilderness. At that point, I walked a few feet off the trail to the right where I could look down at Baldwin Lake and also to a small, populated valley to the south. Then I saw what looked like a path up the other side, so I hiked a hundred or so yards up to the top. From there I could see down into the wide Lucerne Valley and the bare, rocky hills beyond.

The Big Bear Discovery Center on North Shore Drive will give you a local trail map, and there are four places where you can park and access the trail.

If you go, plan to stay a few days. The Quail Cove Lakeside Lodge in Fawnskin and Cabins 4 Less in Big Bear Lake offer great accommodations at a reasonable price, and the area has some wonderful restaurants.

