



North State **VISITORS GUIDE**

SHASTA LAKE • MT. SHASTA • BURNEY FALLS • TRINITY ALPS • LASSEN PEAK • WHISKEYTOWN • & MORE



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- ✓ Located off Interstate 5

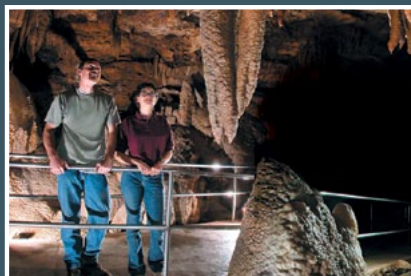
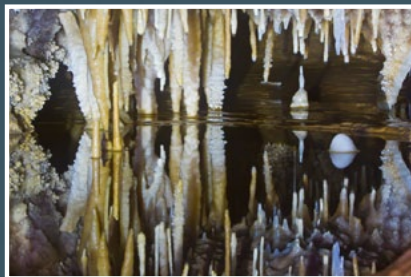
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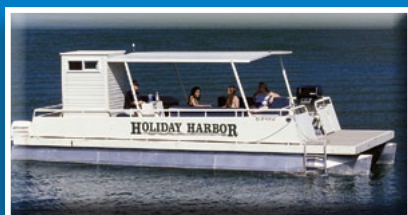


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Welcome to Shasta Lake and the North State region

The North State Visitors Guide is back again for another year and everyone is excited and can't wait to get outside and enjoy the beautiful area, especially with Shasta Lake filled to the brim to start the spring and summer season.

Among the new stories we have is the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's visit to the Redding area in September of 1963 to dedicate Whiskeytown Dam and his overnighter at Lassen Volcanic National Park (where he got away with feeding a deer). We also have our most extensive story ever on the two scenes from the classic movie *Stand By Me* which were shot in the Burney Falls area in 1985. Included are remembrances from locals that were there and original photos taken on the set.

Most of the stories inside this issue have been updated to reflect the most recent information we had before going to press. We're also online all year at northstate.news where we have a PDF you can download and save to your favorite electronic device, and where we can update any information that was in the printed edition. It has hyperlinks for both the ads and editorial.

So read on and thanks for visiting. We hope you have a safe time and enjoy your stay in the area. We ask that you please try and keep the area as clean as possible. Please remember that with whatever you have with you when you're out and about, whether it's to hike, or bike or check out the waterfalls, "If you 'Pack It In, Pack It Out.'" Everyone, including Bigfoot, would really appreciate your effort. :)

This visitors guide is published by the North State Visitors Guide c/o After Five Magazine, P.O. Box 492905, Redding, CA 96049. Phone 530.275.1716. email SLB@shasta.com. General Manager and Editor - Ron Harrington.

A PDF of the 2023-2024 North State Visitors Guide with hyperlinks is available all year at:

northstate.news

COVER PHOTOS: Shasta Lake - drone photo by Adrian Rogers; Burney Falls - photo by Michael Burke; Rafting on the Trinity River - photo by Sara Harrison of Serendipity Snapshots; Jessie Bader and her dog Rocky at Secret Falls (we can't tell you where it's located...it's a secret) - photo by Nolan Rutherford; Lassen at Sunset - photo by Michael Burke. Lake Shasta Caverns - courtesy of the Caverns.

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

PHOTO / Png Studio Photography

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

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

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

The dominant feature of the park is Lassen Peak, the largest plug dome volcano in the world and the southernmost volcano in the Cascade Range. It is home to steaming fumaroles, meadows freckled with wildflowers, clear mountain lakes, and numerous volcanoes. Starting in May 1914 and lasting until 1917, a series of minor to major eruptions occurred on Lassen. Jagged peaks tell the story of its eruptive past while hot water continues to shape the land.

Lassen Park offers opportunities to discover the wonder and mysteries of volcanoes and hot water for visitors

willing to explore the undiscovered. More than 150 miles of hiking trails provide access to a wide-variety of park features including hydrothermal areas, volcanic peaks, alpine lakes, and mountain meadows.

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

The road through the park normally doesn't open until mid-June, and, although it didn't receive as much damage as other areas, some parts of the park were affected by the Dixie Fire in 2021. Information on closures and current conditions is available to the public at [Kohm Yah-mah-nee](https://www.nps.gov/lavo)

Visitor Center, Loomis Museum and on the park website [nps.gov/lavo](https://www.nps.gov/lavo).

Not to be outdone in the volcano department, Siskiyou County is proud to offer up 14,179-foot-tall **Mt. Shasta**, the second highest peak in the Cascade Range (Mount Rainier is 249 feet higher) and the fifth highest mountain in California.

June and July are the most popular months for climbing the mountain. Reaching the peak is a strenuous

task and the assistance of a guide is strongly encouraged for novice climbers. You can still get an idea of what it's like on the Horse Camp hike (see page 19). Although not formally a park, Mt. Shasta is the centerpiece of the federally designated Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area.

To the north and east of Mt. Shasta is **Lava Beds National Monument**, a land of turmoil, both geological and historical. Over the last half-million

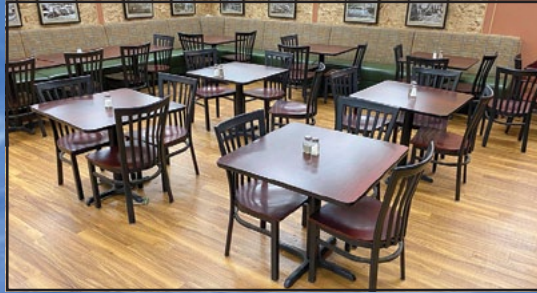


Mushpot Cave in Lava Beds National Monument. PHOTO / Wirestock

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DRONE PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

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

years, volcanic eruptions on the Medicine Lake shield volcano have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. More than 700 caves, Native American rock art sites, historic battlefields and campsites, and a high desert wilderness experience await.

The land that was later to become Lava Beds National Monument, as well as the highlands to the south and

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

A few miles south of Mt. Shasta, on the northern edge of Shasta County, is **Castle Crags State Park**. It is dominated by the namesake Castle

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



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Shasta State Historic Park is located six miles west of Redding before you get to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Crags, a dramatic rock formation in the upper Sacramento River canyon located just west of Interstate 5 south of Dunsmuir.

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

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

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PHOTO / Martina

Whiskeytown Lake's beautiful crystal-clear waters attracts a lot of water-based recreation, including boating, kayaking, pad-

dleboarding, swimming and more, as well as beach areas you don't find in other parts of the region.

a mere six miles west of Redding, tells the story of the north state gold rush. The Courthouse Museum is packed with historical exhibits and California artwork, and a row of half-ruined brick buildings reminds visitors that Shasta was the "Queen City" of the north state during the mining heyday. Generally open Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but check first by calling 530-243-8194.



PHOTO / Zack Frank

The Joss House in Weaverville, known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds.

Moving a few miles to the west, the **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area** is highlighted by Whiskeytown Lake's beautiful crystal-clear waters, which are surrounded by mountain peaks, including Shasta Baldy at 6,199 feet above sea level. Water-based activities are the primary interest of most Whiskeytown visitors which include boating, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, and fishing, as well as just relaxing on the beaches.

However, water-based recreation is only a small part of what the park has to offer. The 39,000 acres surrounding the lake hold four waterfalls, pristine mountain creeks, 70 miles of trails, and opportunities to explore the history of the California Gold Rush.

The devastating Carr fire in 2018 burned large sections of the park, as well as nearby Shasta, and recovery

efforts continue to be ongoing. However, three of the four falls in the park are open - Boulder Creek Falls, Whiskeytown Falls and Crystal Creek Falls. Only Brandy Creek Falls remains closed. For more information, the visitor center is located at the intersection of Kennedy Memorial Drive and Highway 299.

President John Kennedy dedicated Whiskeytown Dam on Sept. 28, 1963, making this the 60th anniversary of that visit. (See page 10).

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

Known as the Temple of the



Burney Falls is a 129-foot waterfall on Burney Creek that President Theodore Roosevelt reportedly called "the eighth wonder of the world."

PHOTO / Andrew Zarivny

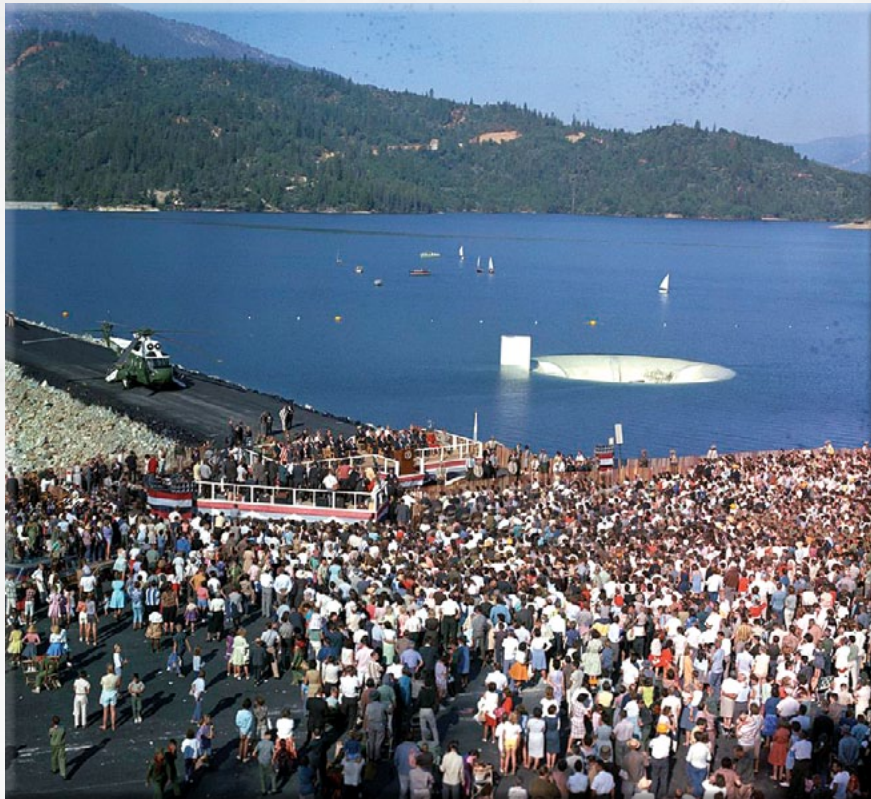
Forest Beneath the Clouds, the Joss House is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California. On display in the Taoist temple are art objects, pictures, mining tools and weapons used in the 1854 Tong War.

William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park stands as a memorial to one of the leading participants in the Bear Flag Revolt. It is located at 21659 Adobe Road in Red Bluff. The park, nestled along the banks of the Sacramento River, is a symphony of wildlife sounds and gentle winds rustling through aged oaks where you can enjoy a picnic by the river, saunter

through the historic homestead or attend an exciting living history event.

To the east of Redding, no excursion to the area would be complete without a visit to **Burney Falls**, a 129-foot waterfall on Burney Creek that President Theodore Roosevelt reportedly called "the eighth wonder of the world." The falls are located within the McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, the second oldest park in the state system.

Because of its popularity, the park is subject to closure due to limited parking. Please do not park on Highway 89 or your vehicle may be towed.



PHOTOS / Cecil Stoughton. White House Photographs.
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

President John F. Kennedy attends the dedication of the Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir in Whiskeytown. Among those pictured, above, left to right, front row, second from left: Governor of California, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown; President Kennedy and Laurence Carr. California Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson (on the right with glasses looking at Kennedy) and Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall (far right looking straight ahead). Photo on the left, some of the estimated 10,000 people on hand for the event. Also shown is the Glory Hole on the right and one of the helicopters on the left after it had landed on the 1,000 feet of asphalt on the dam that had been created earlier in the month

2023 marks 60th anniversary of President Kennedy's dedication of Whiskeytown Dam and visit to Lassen Volcanic National Park

By Aaron Williams
and Ron Harrington

On Sept. 28, 1963, President John F. Kennedy stood atop Whiskeytown Dam to dedicate it and what would eventually become the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Sixty years later, memories of that day still resonate with Shasta County residents who were there or involved with the occasion.

Though Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in May of 2023 had yet to formalize plans for a celebration marking the 60th anniversary, Scott Einberger said news of those celebrations will be made on the park's website and Facebook page.

He said the anniversary holds a special place in north state history.

"It does add extra meaning I think," said Einberger, the supervisory interpretive park ranger at Whiskeytown. "It was his last visit to California. Many locals came out to Whiskeytown Dam to get a look at the young, handsome, charismatic president."

One of those locals who was there that September day was Don Spurgeon, a then 17-year-old Central Valley High School student in what is now the city of Shasta Lake.

"It was an exciting moment to see

the president of the United States," said Spurgeon. "Most of us, at least I did, thought the sun rose and set on John F. Kennedy."

"The only thing that would've made it better is if Jackie Kennedy had been there," he added with a laugh.

Spurgeon said he was part of a Central Valley student government delegation who were selected to go to the Kennedy ceremony, but he remembers the C.V. Falcons band being invited as well.

"The day was beautiful," Spurgeon said. "It was windy and he kept brushing back his hair. We were probably 150 feet away."

"He came in on a helicopter and the whole thing lasted about two hours. His speech went over about 30-40 minutes and he talked about what the country needed to do as far as conservation."

Video of Kennedy's Whiskeytown visit is available on YouTube.

Kennedy arrived in Redding the previous evening on Air Force One and was taken to Lassen Volcanic National Park by helicopter with, among others, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, and California's Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.

According to Thomas G. Smith's book *John Kennedy, Stewart Udall, and New Frontier Conservation*, the

party arrived at the Devastated Area and rode in cars to Manzanita Lake shortly before sundown. While a park naturalist led Udall and members of the press corps on the nature trail around the lake, Kennedy retired to the Manzanita Lake Lodge manager's residence (present day Discovery Center) to rest.

The press quoted Kennedy as saying that the park superintendent had "the best job in the world" and he was photographed feeding a deer. Despite the dubious message contained in this image of the president feeding the park's wildlife, it was a golden photo opportunity for the Park Service and Lassen Volcanic in particular.

Pat Carr, whose uncle James K. Carr served as Undersecretary of the Interior to Udall in the Kennedy administration, said his uncle was instrumental in getting the dam project off the ground and ultimately getting Whiskeytown designated as a National Recreation Area.

And it was James and his brother, Laurence Carr (Pat's father), who helped pave the way for Kennedy's visit as it wasn't even a sure thing the President would make a stop at Whiskeytown as part of his five-day, 16-city Conservation and Resources Tour that September.

When considering whether to

include Whiskeytown, the advance team also looked at Shasta College's Thompson Field as a possible site given some issues with Whiskeytown, including parking (people were later bused to the event) and a problem with the ability to land helicopters at the dam.

"When they found out he was coming, they had to build out a platform and pave 1,000 feet of asphalt on the dam in order to land (the) helicopters," Carr said.

Official confirmation of the Whiskeytown visit didn't come until the middle of September.

James Carr would've been master of ceremonies for the Whiskeytown event, his nephew said, but Interior Department business had pulled him away to Europe. So in stepped Pat's father, Laurence Carr, chairman of the Shasta County Democratic Central Committee, to be master of ceremonies.

Following Kennedy's keynote address, Carr said Kennedy leaned over to his father and told him "Let's go meet the people."

"At this, he sent the Secret Service into fits," Carr said his father later told them as Kennedy immersed himself in the crowd. In hindsight, it has a chilling account given what happened in Dallas less than two months later.



Above, something only a President could get away with, Kennedy feeding a deer at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Below, President Kennedy and California Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown at Lassen Volcanic National Park's Devastated Area.

Not long after the President departed the platform and headed for his waiting helicopter, Carr said Kennedy turned, grasped his father's arm, looked him in the eye and said "I'll tell your brother you're all right."

Jim Pope, a former Shasta County Sheriff, said he wasn't fortunate enough to be at Whiskeytown Dam that day, but he got to see another view of the president when he landed at the Redding Airport.

"I was working for Anderson (Police Department) and got put on a detail at the airport with Sheriff (John) Balma," said Pope, who was 22 at the time. "He landed right on time and, unknown to us, came over to the gate, which was like a five-foot fence.

"People started jumping over the fence to meet him. There was a boy in a wheelchair and I wheeled him over to meet the president. I was very proud to be part of that security detail. He was very down to earth."

Carr said it was his uncle who was the key person in having Whiskeytown become what it is today.

"Without Uncle Jim there would be no Whiskeytown National Recreation Area," he said. "They wanted to make it a county park."

He added that despite Shasta County being a largely Democrat-dominated region at the time, the era of cooperation was very much alive.

"They made sure Clair Hill (of CH2M Hill engineering company in Redding), a staunch Republican, was involved," Carr said. "He was in the second row behind Kennedy (during the ceremony). They worked together to get things done for the north state."

Less than two months after Kennedy's visit to Whiskeytown, he was assassinated in Dallas.

To remember and honor the slain leader, locals banded together and donated funds to create a small memorial at the site where President



Kennedy had given his speech. Shasta County designated the roadway leading to Whiskeytown Dam as John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, and on Oct. 11, 1964, the President John F. Kennedy Memorial was dedicated on the side of Whiskeytown Dam.

James K. Carr, in his 1964 dedication of the memorial to honor the late President, said in his speech that "Other Septembers and Novembers will come and go. On this nearby mountain 6,000 feet high (Shasta Bally) that looks down on this lake he helped create, each fall the forested slopes will turn color and people will be reminded of his visit here, his last to California."

Einberger said President Kennedy, and especially Interior Secretary Udall, were at the forefront of the Modern Environmental Movement.

"This movement spanned the 1960s and 70s, and the 60s in particular was a beautiful period in history where there was major bipartisan support for things like expanding the National Park System, protecting land and water, and creating additional outdoor recreation opportunities for the American people," he said. "I love how at Whiskeytown Dam, President Kennedy told the audience that, 'The fact of the matter is, as a general rule, every time we bet on the future of this country, we win...Every time we develop the water resources (or) we set aside recreation areas, we can be sure they will be used.'"



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Chasing Waterfalls

Above, the granddaddy of them all, Burney Falls.

PHOTO / Michael Burke

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

By Aaron Williams

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

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

For this article, we'll start in Redding and head east on Highway 299 toward Burney. (The map on page 14 in this visitors guide might be of some help).

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

To get to **Potem Falls**, turn left off 299 at Fenders Ferry Road and follow the road almost nine miles over Pit River (you'll see the PG&E dam). Cross the bridge and park for the 0.4-mile trail to the falls. There's

a marker pointing the way. When you get there, you'll find the falls spilling into a shallow pool perfect for a dip and a picture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note: Burney Falls experiences extremely high visitation beginning in April and continuing



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Potem Falls.



PHOTO / Michael Burke



PHOTO / Pung

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

through October. On holidays and all summer weekends the park will fill to capacity and entrance into the park is subject to closure due to limited parking availability.

Also, a word of caution – don't think you can park along Highway 89 to get into the park. Your vehicle will be subject to citation and tow. If you arrive to find the entrance closed, you might want to return at a later time - typically after 4 p.m. For this article, if you get a late start in the morning, you might want to consider going in the opposite direction in the loop and head north first before finishing the day at Burney Falls and Montgomery Creek.

But if you do get in, it's obviously a tough one to leave behind so early. But, hey, we're on a mission, right?

After leaving Burney Falls, head toward McCloud on Highway 89 for the next stop on the waterfall trek - but you may want to check out at a piece of cinematic history on the way – or maybe not. Maybe you just squint and take a quick look.

Shortly after leaving Burney Falls, take a right after crossing the Lake Britton Bridge at the sign-posted Dusty Creek campground turnoff for a chance to view the ***Stand By Me* bridge**, the one made famous in the 1980s movie directed by Rob Reiner. Drive about one-quarter mile on a dirt road. To be honest, the trestle, now in disrepair, is not much to see, but it will be visible on your left.

The bridge is where the four young boys in the movie have to outrace the train and has become a local hotspot over the past three decades. If you don't want to get out of your vehicle, you can view it briefly from Highway 89 as seen in the photo above right.

You can read a four-page story on the filming of *Stand By Me* in the Burney area on page 53 of this North State Visitors Guide.

The bridge is part of the Great Shasta Rail Trail, a multi-use 80 mile trail between Burney and McCloud of which 40 miles have been completed.

However, because of high cost, GSRT does not believe the Lake Britton Trestle and the Highway 89 lake overpass will be rehabilitated within the five-year window mentioned in their Trail Concept Plan. You can read more about this and the trail in general at greatshastarailtrail.org



NSVG PHOTO

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



PHOTO / Columbia Pictures

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

The three falls - Upper, Middle and Lower - are easily accessible by car, but to truly appreciate their splendor, a trail connects all three. Starting at Lower Falls, the 0.7-mile walk past Folwer's Campground leads to Middle Falls and then climbs up to Upper Falls.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hedge Creek Falls is off Interstate 5 just north of Dunsmuir and offers an



PHOTO / Michael Burke

Above, Shackleford Falls in the Fort Jones area. Right, Kings Creek Falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park.

easy trek to the spillway where visitors can actually walk behind the water as it cascades on to rocks below.

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

Local trail officials and politicians have been working for years on

solving the access issue by meeting with railroad officials on plans to someday create an access bridge over the Sacramento River, but that still appears to be years off.

When in Dunsmuir, if you're a baseball fan, don't forget to check out the town ballfield where **Babe Ruth** once played a barnstorming game in 1924. You can read a story about it in the April 2021 issue of After Five Magazine, available online in the archives at northstate.news. Ruth purportedly hit a home run over 600 feet during the game. You can see the ballfield from Interstate 5 as you drive by the town.

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

And, of course, the itinerary can



Boulder Creek Falls is one of three of the four waterfalls in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area to reopen since the 2018 Carr fire.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

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



PHOTO / Vesna Kriznar

be modified to include other places and things of interest along the route.

Castle Craggs State Park, just south of Dunsmuir on your way back to Redding, offers not only two amazing falls in **Burstarse Falls** and **Root Creek Falls**, but some of the most breathtaking hiking in all of Northern California.

Spring and early summer are the best times to see many waterfalls in the north state, but that's especially true of **Burstarse Falls**. The 6.4-mile roundtrip hike is moderate with nearly 1,000 feet of elevation gain, but the trek is worth it. Burstarse Falls, about 80 feet high, drops straight off the granite face and splits into a magnificent spray as it hits the rocks three-fourths of the way down the falls.

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

Back in Redding, head west 6 miles or so to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area which boasts four waterfalls that would be the envy of any region across the country. However, only three of them are currently viewable.

Following the devastating Carr Fire in 2018, the park has three of their four falls open - **Boulder Creek Falls**, **Whiskeytown Falls** and **Crystal Creek Falls**. Brandy Creek Falls remains closed as of early May 2023.





PHOTO / Mike Lee

Mill Creek Falls in the South Warner Wilderness of Modoc County.

More, more, more...
 There are numerous waterfalls in the Trinity Alps as well as in Lassen Volcanic National Park, which annually opens to road traffic around June.
 In the Trinity Alps there is the remote but spectacular **Grizzly Falls**, while the **Canyon Creek Falls**, like McCloud, has an upper, middle and lower falls with the lower the most preeminent of the three.
 One of the more popular falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park is **Kings Creek Falls**. Also located in the park is **Mill Creek Falls**.
 If you're in the Fort Jones area of Siskiyou County there is **Shackleford Falls**. And if you're in the far northeastern part of the state, there is another **Mill Creek Falls** in the South Warner Wilderness of Modoc County.

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Take a Hike *in the North State*



PHOTO / Michael Burke

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

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

By John Soares

Summer is here and it's the season for getting outdoors and into the beauty of nature.

Although some popular trails have been affected by the devastating fires that have happened the past few years, there are still a prime selection of trails, some easy, some more challenging, that let you explore the wild areas of the north state.

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

The lower elevations trails (near

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

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

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

SHASTA COUNTY Anderson River Park

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

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

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

Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay, Redding

First, walk across Redding's famous landmark, the stunning Sundial Bridge, where you can stop in the center and watch the Sacramento River rushing below. Next, see plants from a variety of Mediterranean

climates across the globe in McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Top off the excursion with an easy 1.5-mile walk on the Arboretum Loop Trail.

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

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

Dry Fork Trail

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

To reach the trailhead, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake just north of Redding and go west on Shasta Dam Boulevard (also known as Hwy 151). Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, and Mt. Shasta, and then arrive at the east side of Shasta



PHOTO / John Soares

An easy mile-long paved loop travels beside the banks of the Sacramento River at Anderson River Park.



PHOTO / John Soares

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

Dam at 7.2 miles. Pass through the security checkpoint, cross the dam, and then park in the lot immediately to the right on the far side of the dam at 7.6 miles.

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

Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail and Shasta Dam

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

the informative displays in the Visitor Center if it's open).

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

To reach the parking area, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake, just north of Redding, and go west on Shasta Dam Boulevard (also known as Highway 151). Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake and Mt. Shasta, and then park in the large lot on the

east side of Shasta Dam at 7.2 miles.

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

Burney Falls, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

Every day of every year, 100 million gallons of cold spring water plunges 129 feet to pound the broad expanse of cobalt blue at the base of Burney Falls. Walk the relatively easy 1.2-mile Falls Loop Trail to observe both the top and bottom of one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the West. This is a popular trail so you may want to plan your visit for weekdays and early mornings.

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

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

Lassen Peak, Lassen Volcanic National Park

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

on the challenging 2.5-mile climb. It's 2000 feet of elevation gain, but the wide trail ascends at a steady rate. Be in good shape and bring warm clothes, food, and plenty of water.

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

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

SISKIYOU COUNTY

Spring Hill Trail, Mt. Shasta

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

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

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

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

Lake Siskiyou Trail, Mt. Shasta

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

The complete trail forms a 7.6-



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mile loop around the lake, but the south-shore segment is best. From the parking area, walk toward the lake and turn left on either the first or second trail (they join after 0.4 mile). Wander westerly past coves and vistas for 1.5 miles until you reach the edge of Lake Siskiyou Resort.

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

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

Horse Camp on Mt. Shasta

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



PHOTO / John Soares

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

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

More information: Mount Shasta

Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. No dogs allowed.

Seven Lakes Basin gap, west of Mt. Shasta

Want to walk on the famous Pacific Crest Trail? Then do the moderate 2.4-mile hike along the PCT to the gap above Seven Lakes Basin. As

you move along the high-mountain ridge, you'll alternately gaze west at the rocky peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, and east at the broad bulk of snow-capped Mt. Shasta. The hike ends at the gap above Seven Lakes Basin, where you'll see several lakes below, plus Castle Crag to the east and distant Lassen Peak far to the southeast.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 751 (Edgewood), get to the west side of the freeway, and turn right. Drive .3 mile and then turn left onto Stewart Springs Road. Go 4.0 miles on Stewart Springs Road and then climb right up paved Road 17 (Parks Creek Road) for another 9.3 miles to the large trailhead on the left at Parks Creek Saddle.

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

Greenhorn Park, Yreka

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

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

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

TRINITY COUNTY

Pacific Crest Trail from Scott Mountain Summit

This is the easiest way to hike into the northern portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The route begins from the west side of Highway 3 at Scott



PHOTO / John Soares

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

Mountain Summit and travels near the border of Trinity and Siskiyou counties as it climbs southwesterly on the PCT (even though it's the direction headed north to the Canadian border).

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

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

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

TEHAMA COUNTY

Iron Canyon and Jed's Overlook

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

Go left at a trail fork 200 yards from the parking area and then walk

1.5 level miles to Jed's Overlook. This site commemorates the American explorer Jedediah Smith, who passed through here in 1828.

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

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

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

LASSEN COUNTY

Bizz Johnson Trail

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

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

Find the Devil's Corral trail-access point on the south side of Highway 36 about 14 miles east of Westwood and 7 miles west of Susanville. If you want to start from the Susanville end of the

trail, take Highway 36 to Susanville and head south on Weatherlow Street, which eventually becomes Richmond Road. Follow Richmond Road to the trail-access point at the historic Susanville railroad depot.

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

BUTTE COUNTY

Upper Bidwell Park Trails

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

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

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

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

About John Soares

John lives just north of Mount Shasta, near the town of Weed, and grew up around Redding. He is the author of *Day Hiking: Mount Shasta,*



Lassen & Trinity Alps Regions and *100 Classic Hikes: Northern California*, fourth edition, which covers all the best trails in the north state. He's also the author of *Hike the Parks: Redwood National & State Parks*, and *Urban Trails Sacramento*. You can get details on all of his books and his updated blog at NorthernCaliforniaHikingTrails.com.

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A few Pacific Crest Trail access points in the area to take a photo and tell everyone you hiked it - or at least stood on it



Cheryl Strayed made the Pacific Crest Trail a little bit more famous following the release of her 2013 best selling book “Wild,” later made into a movie starring Reese Witherspoon. Visitors interested in retracing a few of her steps and getting a look at the trail can choose from various access points in the north state, some easier than others, said Ian Nelson, regional representative in Northern California and Southern Oregon for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). Directions listed were found from USFS, PCTA and other sources on the Internet. There are additional access points in the hiking article by John Soares on page 17. For more information on the PCT, including interactive PCT maps, visit the PCTA website at pcta.org.

SHASTA COUNTY - BURNEY and LASSEN PARK AREA

Hat Creek Rim Scenic Viewpoint Overlook, three miles east of the junction of Highways 89 and 44 near Old Station, where you can admire the dramatic geology of the Hat Creek Valley. It was one of Strayed’s most memorable points on the PCT.



PHOTO / Carl Lyles

From the PCTA website: Strayed called the PCT on the Hat Creek Rim “A legendary stretch on a trail of legends.” Having neglected to bring enough water for 100-degree temperatures and extremely dry terrain, she became dangerously dehydrated and overheated. “I knew this was the most serious situation I’d been in so far on the trail,” she wrote, “more threatening than the marauding bull, more harrowing than the snow. I needed water. I needed it soon. I needed it now.”

But despite her dire situation, she found solace in her surroundings. “I was a big fat idiot,” Strayed wrote, “yes, one who might die of dehydration and heat exhaustion, but at least I was in a beautiful place – a place I’d come to love, in spite and because of its hardships – and I’d gotten myself into this place on my own two feet.”

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, off of Highway 89, about six miles north of Burney, also is an easy access point.

“Burney Falls is a pretty neat place to check out in general (as is the) trail through the park,” Nelson said. The PCT sign there (shown on the right) will let you know you’re 1,418 miles from Mexico, and 1,232 miles from Canada.



PHOTO / John Soares

Crystal Lake Hatchery

Located in Cassel (left). Head east on Highway 299 at the stop light or intersection of Highways 89 and 299. Go approximately 2 miles and turn right onto Cassel Road. Turn left at Baum Lake Road. Watch for the signs.



NSVG PHOTO / Craig Harrington

SISKIYOU COUNTY - McCloud

Just outside of McCloud you can go to the **Cabin Creek trailhead**, where the trail runs concurrently with the PCT for a short distance. From Highway 89 in McCloud at the service station, head west toward the McCloud Reservoir. Continue south on this road for 6.1 miles. Just past a camping and RV park named “Friday’s Retreat,” turn right. This is a dirt road with a sign saying “Rough Road,” but the US Forest Service said this is easily passable with a highway vehicle. Continue on this road for 3.1 miles. At this point, you will cross over a concrete bridge. The parking lot and trailhead are on the left immediately after you cross the bridge.

Castle Crag area

Another popular spot with easy access is the Soda Creek trailhead where the PCT crosses through Castle Crag State Park in Castella just south of Dunsmuir off of Interstate 5. Nelson encourages people to park and access the PCT at Castle Crag State Park.

Mt. Shasta / Weed area

Farther north on Parks Creek Road, the PCT can be accessed at the **Parks Creek trailhead** and visitors can enjoy a three-mile hike to the Deadfall Lakes basin or continue up to the summit of Mt. Eddy. For directions, see the hiking article by John Soares that begins on page 17.

Gumboot Saddle about 15 miles west of Mount Shasta, paved road access, trailhead for Seven Lakes Basin hike above Mt. Shasta. Another with a description in the hiking article by John Soares beginning on page 17.

Etna - Marble Mountain Wilderness

Etna Summit about 10 miles west of Etna, paved road access. Take Highway 3 through the Scott Valley to the Etna turnoff, which is 26.5 miles from the junction of Highway 3 and I-5 in Yreka and 12.7 miles from Callahan. Drive a half mile down Collier Way to downtown Etna, turn right on Main Street. Then drive 10.5 curvy and paved miles on Sawyers Bar Road to Etna Summit. If you’ll be hiking on the PCT, park in the large lot on the left.



PHOTO / B. Clay Shannon

Trinity Alps area

Scott Mountain Summit on Highway 3 between Callahan and Trinity Center. PCT crosses Highway 3 at the very top of Scott Summit, and continues west just north of Scott Mountain Campground. Yet another one to see and read about in the hiking article by John Soares on page 17.



Take me to the river



NSVG PHOTO / Ron Harrington

Rafting is something you don't want to miss out on

By Aaron Williams

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

The tagline in 1986's *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is a perfect example of why Tony Delke loves rafting down the Trinity River.

"Driving Highway 299 to the coast

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

"When you're rafting there's so much more that you see. Things slow down and you get a different perspective."

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

This year's flows down the Trinity should hit their peak for fun, including family fun, right about the time school lets out for the summer.

The bountiful winter's snowpack and the set release from Trinity Lake should be optimal for a fun and

entertaining float down the river, said Dana Steinhauser of Trinity River Rafting.

"Family fun is right around the corner," she said.

Her husband Dave adds: "We're going to have reliable releases, but we're also going to have a comfortable addition with the snow melt that should probably last all summer."

Both said after low water years and fires over the past several years, they're looking forward to focusing on the excitement you can only get shooting down the river.

"The water will warm up enough for people to come out and enjoy the day and the sensation of going down Hell Hole," Dana Steinhauser said.



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Trinity River Rafting, which lost its building on the north side of Highway 299 in the Monument Fire in 2021, is operating on the south side of the highway right next to the river. Dana Steinhauer said it's impressive how Mother Nature seems to heal over time.

"We have a quarter-mile view up the river and it's spectacular," she said. "The area is so beautiful. It's restoring itself and they did a nice job (with tree removal). Everything bloomed in May and the wildlife is back and thriving."

They said after early season releases, the water clarity is returning and the rapids are providing more exciting rafting trips.

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

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

In the Junction City to Willow Creek area they include Trinity River Rafting, Bigfoot Rafting (which has a stay and raft package with their Steelhead Cottages) and Six Rivers Rafting, while closer to Redding, Old Bridge Rafting is based in Lewiston where they also offer fishing trips. Some also offer rafting trips on other rivers in the north state, including the Klamath.

They expertly man the raft, teaching the fine art of paddling, while also educating visitors about the wildlife and ecology of the canyon. If you want to take your own kayak down the river, they and the other businesses offer shuttle services as well.

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

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

But he added that there's enough

excitement on the river to get your heart racing.

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

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

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

A float down the Trinity always is a delight for the wildlife - river otters, flocks of ducks and Osprey and bald eagles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Rafting in Redding and Siskiyou County

Additional rafting is available in the north state. In Redding, Headwater Adventure Company on Park Marina Drive next to the Sacramento River has rafting, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. North Country Raft Rentals also continues to offer raft rental trips on the Sacramento River.

In Siskiyou County there are a few rafting companies that offer trips on the Klamath River.

For more information, including reservations and age restrictions, check the websites and social media of the various rafting businesses.



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Visitors can expect to see amazing waterfalls and wildflowers in Trinity Alps this summer, author says

The Canyon Creek Lakes taken while hiking down from Lost Lake.

PHOTO / Ryan McGaughey

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

They cover 821 square miles and feature 550 miles of maintained trails, including a 17-mile stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail, and offer something for everyone. Most of the trailheads are accessible from Highway 299, Highway 3 and Forest Highway 93.

And while the Trinity Alps offer a chance to escape, this summer remains a bit of an unknown following a crazy winter that hammered Northern California with storm after storm. That big winter piggybacks on no fewer than 10 fires that burned countless acres in the unspoiled wilderness west of Redding and south of the Oregon border the previous year.

The good news with all the snow is that it ought to hold the fire season at bay, at least for a while, said Tim Sims, an author who wrote *My Trinities: Playing in Northern California's most spectacular wilderness*.

Sims said some trails will be impacted by the high snow totals, but there are so many benefits to the robust winter season.

"For the first time in a long time we should see some amazing waterfalls. That's one of the huge selling points in the Trinity Alps," he said. "It should be good hiking and there should be some amazing wildflowers. They have some of the most diverse wildflowers on the planet."

John Soares, another author who has written extensively about Northern California hiking and has written for the North State Visitors Guide (see page 17) said monitoring the trails impacted by the fire through

either social media or apps like AllTrails is a good way to stay up-to-date on conditions.

"If someone's done a trail, they're likely to write about it (and their experience)," he said.

Many of the trails off Coffee Creek were impacted by the Monument Fire in 2021, but Amanda Barragar, a former Wilderness Patrol worker with the U.S. Forest Service who co-directs Ascend Wilderness Experience, cautions that with some trails closed they impact others as the Trinity Alps have seen exponential growth usage over the past few years.

"Some of the hidden gems are not so hidden anymore," she said. "Anyone who hikes in the Trinities knows that."

She said the increased use has led to the requirement of bear canisters in the Canyon Creek area, something that's never happened before.

"I've seen some trails with upwards of 200 cars parked and I think 'Where are they all going?'" she said, adding if you see a bunch of cars lined up then think about going to the next trailhead.

But Barragar, who was born in Trinity County, loves the area and encourages those wanting to experience what she's known all her life to plan for early summer hiking due to the fire conditions that have, sadly, become commonplace in the modern West.

A Trinity Alps Wilderness Permit and a California campfire permit are required for camping in the

Trinities. Both are free and available through the Forest Service. Call 530-623-2121 for details.

Sims said there are some "big-ticket items" like Canyon Creek and Granite Lakes that are well-known and will attract crowds, but there remain places where you really can go and not see anyone.

"If you go in the middle of the week, you won't see many people," he said.

One thing he added to be cautious of as spring morphs into summer is water crossings as the snow melt can affect those significantly. And he said some places will likely be frozen well into summer.

"Grizzly Lake should be frozen until well into July, and the same with Caribou (Lake). It's 7,000 feet," he said, adding other lower elevation lakes will thaw sooner.

Love of the Alps goes back over a hundred years for one family

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

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

The Trinity Alps (named for the granite spires and peaks on the eastern side that reach as high as 9,000 feet) has been officially designated as a 525,627-acre wilderness area for some 37 years, but their presence has been felt for millions of years.

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

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

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

"My grandparents, Leonard



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

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

Noted rock climber’s passion began in the Alps

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

“Before I got into rock climbing, the only thing I wanted to do was go backpacking,” Reynolds said in a previous NSVG story from Yosemite National Park, where he lived and was pursuing his rock-climbing passion, a field where he’s well known.

Reynolds’ first venture into the Alps was led by Ascend Wilderness Experience, the nonprofit organization that takes youth on five-day backpacking trips into the Alps to develop personal and social development and an appreciation for the natural environment.

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake,



PHOTO / Jeff Goulden

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

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

For families willing to push it a little farther, Shimmy Lake is another 3.3 miles and promises a fair bit of solitude without the requirement of a long hike. Barragar also likes Tangle Blue Lake, an easy 7.6-mile roundtrip day hike or backpack trip.

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

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

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

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

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

However...

While planning a trip, it’s wise to check with the Forest Service or the Trinity Alps Facebook group to see if the trail you’d like to visit has been impacted.

In addition, black bears are

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

As for Morris, the Trinities continue to take up a big part of his world. He’s still filled with memories of backpacking trips with friends and family, “being able to look back and reflect on spending very quiet evenings around a campfire by alpine lakes as osprey fished—just being in the magnificent theater of nature.”

Local towns near The Alps

Once out of the Alps, there are the gold rush towns of Weaverville, Lewiston and more to visit and shop, with various events scheduled throughout the summer. In Weaverville, that includes a big Fourth of July celebration like many other small communities in the north state have, including Burney and Mt. Shasta.

Farther west in Trinity County is the wet and wild fun of river rafting.

For more information, visit weavervilleca.org or visittrinity.com.

By Aaron Williams with additional contributions by Jon Lewis and Ron Harrington

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Shasta Caverns offers a glimpse into another world and another time

By Aaron Williams

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

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

Open since 1964, visitors begin their roughly two hour tour by being ferried across beautiful Shasta Lake, an all-too-quick 10-minute, but awesome boat ride that gives locals and visitors alike the chance to see the water from a new and unique perspective. A bonus is the chance to catch some of the area's wildlife up-close and personal. Deer, bobcats, bears, osprey and bald eagles all call Shasta Lake home.

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

A quick shuttle ride 800 feet up the mountain leads visitors to the entrance of the caverns, "discovered" by an exploring party composed of workers from the Baird Fish Hatchery, now submerged beneath the waters of the lake. The expedition was led by James A. Richardson, and they came across the entrance to the cave in 1874. (The local Wintu population, however, likely knew about them earlier).

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

From there, the well-informed tour guide leads you through a series of rooms in the caverns adeptly explaining what you're seeing and answering the age-old question of the difference between a stalactite and stalagmite.

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

The caverns once sat at the bottom of a Jurassic era ocean and grew out

The Cathedral Room at Shasta Caverns.

PHOTO / Lake Shasta Caverns



PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

Entrance to Lake Shasta Caverns with a picnic area.

of crack in the rocks. Dripping water seeps minerals through the rock and sloooooowly forms the massive stalactites, stalagmites and stone draperies and flowstone deposits. Visitors can see formations that look like bacon, an ancient Wintu guide, Santa Claus, a saber-toothed tiger and a T Rex. Did we mention bacon?

Shasta Caverns is more than just a tourist attraction. They have been working with the scientific community for years, helping support climatology studies through Vanderbilt University in Kentucky, and geology studies

through Texas State University, said Dave Mundt, Shasta Caverns historian and cave side manager.

"And we're involved in the local caving community, where our historical and scientific research at the Caverns has allowed us to be a valuable resource to local cavers as well as our guests," Mundt said.

The Caverns is a member of several organizations, he added, including the National Cave Association, National Cave and Karst Institute, and International Show Cave Association.

Shasta Caverns is located about 17 miles north of Redding, just off Interstate 5. Take exit 695 to Shasta Caverns Road. Follow for 1.5 miles to their parking lot with free parking. Please note that their lot allows for large vehicles, including RVs, but be aware that the road leading to the caverns is narrow and winding, which may make it difficult to navigate your vehicle.

Dinner Cruise sets sail

Shasta Caverns also offers the Lake Shasta Dinner Cruises. The

two-hour journey is perfect for special occasions, group outings or just because.

Reservations are required and a myriad of frequently asked questions can be answered at lakeshastasinnercruises.com.

More information

For the most current information on the Caverns, including hours of operation, admission prices, and an FAQ, visit lakeshastacaverns.com or call 1-800-795-2283 or 530-238-2341.



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- ◇ Central Valley High School 9-12
- ◇ Mountain Lakes High School 9-12



Shasta Lake



PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

Shasta Lake in mid-May in the area most people are familiar with even if they've never been out of their cars to check it out. The Pit

River Bridge (officially the VFW Memorial Bridge) where people drive over Shasta Lake heading north and south on Interstate 5.

Heavy winter rain pays dividends as lake fills up for a summer of fun in the sun

By Aaron Williams

The scene is postcard perfect: You've beached your houseboat in a cove on Shasta Lake. The air is warm, but comfortable. Family and friends gather on the shore for dinner as the sunset glows with brilliant reds, oranges and pinks to the west, enjoying the last little bit of daylight. Soon the night will paint the sky black and dot it with a million stars.

Welcome to Shasta Lake – the quintessential summer hangout for visitors and locals alike.

And Hallelujah! After a few years of historic low lake levels, the robust winter that peppered the north state with one atmospheric river after another will pay dividends with what

should be a banner year on the lake.

"It's looking like a fantastic summer," said Matt Doyle, general manager of Lake Shasta Caverns and a member of the Shasta Lake Business Owners Association. "And (the Bureau of Reclamation) is doing such a low draw-down that it looks like we'll go into 2024 with a good start, too."

With more than 365 miles of shoreline spread across 30,000 acres, Shasta Lake offers it all.

In mid-May of this year, the lake was full, offering what promises to be a booming summer season for marinas, boat rentals and other businesses.

Doyle said his Lake Shasta Dinner Cruises are starting to get booked up

and he's felt a buzz from the high-water levels.

"People are hopping on the bandwagon and booking early," he said. "A lot of marinas are booking out."

"It's been a number of years since the lake's been this high. It kind of feels like the late '80s and early '90s."

He said preliminary numbers from the Bureau of Reclamation show lake levels on July 1 being down 12 feet, then 26 feet down on Aug. 1 and only 47 feet down by Oct. 1.

"We are going to have a lot of water," he said.

And that makes for great conditions to rent a houseboat, plan a fishing trip or just get out on the water.

"In the past few years there's been

lots of vegetation growth on the banks that will now be underwater creating a great habitat for the fish," Doyle said.

There are six boat launches on Shasta Lake – Bailey Cove, Centumudi, Jones Valley, Packers Bay, Antlers and Hirz Bay – which are perfect starting points in search of the lake's many submerged creatures, including bass, catfish and even crappie as the employees at Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake can tell you.

But it's not just the fish who are benefitting from the lake's rise. In early May, he said they've already spotted 70 bald eagles around Shasta Caverns and the wildlife is active, although you might not see as much as when the water levels are lower.

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“Before, you could see them making their way to and from the water,” he said. “Now, they can just dip their head into the water from the tree line.”

Wildlife is abundant at Shasta Lake. Bears, mountain lions, river otters, eagles, osprey and deer can all be found around the lake.

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

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

Doyle said that perhaps the only issue with higher lake levels is that parking can sometimes get scarce at the marinas, but that once you’re out on the water, “you’re going to disappear.”

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

The dam is the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project – as well as the largest man-made reservoir in California – which serves to deliver water south to the rich agriculture fields in central and southern California and helps make the state the world’s sixth leading economy. See the story on Shasta Dam on page 44 of this Visitors Guide.

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

Lakehead, along Interstate 5, sits at the north end of the lake and

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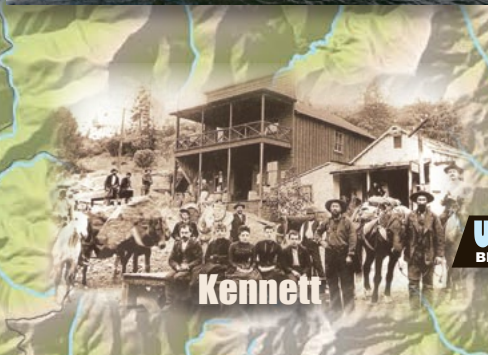
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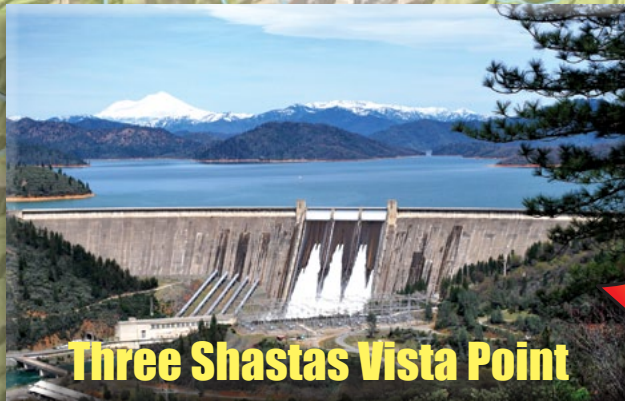


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PHOTO / Michael Burke

generally sees the Sacramento flow past during non-drought years like this one. Antlers and Sugarloaf marinas are on the Sacramento arm.

Along the McCloud arm are Holiday Harbor Marina and access to Lake Shasta Caverns, a truly magical trip inside the granite mountains across the river. A trip inside the caverns offers visitors a geological time-travel experience of stalactites and stalagmites. See the story on Shasta Caverns on page 28 of this Visitors Guide.

“Each arm offers different amenities, different feels to it,” Doyle said.

Early in the season when the lake is at its fullest, there are features that are more easily accessible, such as waterfalls and campgrounds.

From Little Backbone Creek’s smooth rock waterslide on the west side of the lake to Potem Falls on the far eastern part, all it takes is a

little local knowledge and a spirit of adventure to get there.

The waterslide is best visited when the lake levels are high, but use caution as the 20-minute hike is said to be slippery.

Potem Falls, a must-see in the Waterfalls Tour in this Visitors Guide (page 12), is a large waterfall located in the deep recesses of the Pit River arm. Visitors can drive to the falls via Fender’s Ferry Road and then hike about a half mile. But on full lake years, boaters can also reach the falls by boat.

Doyle said one of the perks of the lake being full is it makes hikes to places like Potem Falls and the rockslide area easier to access from the lake.

“As a matter of fact, I’ve never driven there, it’s always been by boat,” he said.

Bear Creek Falls is a better option for those looking for an easier



adventure. It is located in a canyon about a mile south of Potem Falls on the Pit River arm. Though they can’t be seen from the lake, when the lake is high it is a short hike of maybe a few hundred yards.

Waters Gulch Falls is probably one of the easier waterfalls to find and easy to get to depending on trail access. It is a series of small cascading falls that feed into a stream that empties on the Sacramento River arm east of Slaughterhouse Island.

A map of the lake where some of the places are located, such as Potem Falls, Shasta Caverns and Little Backbone Creek, can be viewed on pages 32-33 (the middle section) of this Visitors Guide.

For the latest information, visit the Shasta-Trinity National Forest website at fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/ home or call the Shasta Lake Ranger Station at 530-275-1587.

Underwater ghost towns

Interested in history of Shasta Lake, which was created as part of the construction of Shasta Dam?

Most tend to think of Shasta Lake as a recreation haven and boaters paradise. But there’s a whole lot of history beneath the surface of the 30,000-acre reservoir.

Swamped below the surface, in depths approaching 400 feet, are a handful of towns lost to the progress of building Shasta Dam in the 1930s and ‘40s.

In addition to the communities of Kennett, Copper City, Elmore, Baird, Etter, Pitt and Winthrop are sacred Winnemum Wintu Tribe sites all but lost by the flooding of 47 square miles behind the dam.

“I don’t think they realize, especially the visitors, before the dam was built a thriving community lived there,” said Darlene Brown of

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Kennett

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

“Around the turn of the century, this was a big mining area,” Brown said. “Now, you have a tourist who might be water skiing on water where there once was a city.”

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

The town boasted two large copper mines that dotted the surrounding foothills.

The nearness of the railroad also boosted Kennett’s stature, as business travelers, tradesmen, railroad workers and miners inevitably passed through the town just north of



PHOTOS / Courtesy Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

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

what would become Redding.

The Diamond Saloon was said to be the fanciest place between Portland and San Francisco, distilling and bottling its own whiskey. The bar was said to be 150-feet long and

scantly clad women catered to thirsty miners.

The end of World War I forced the price of metal to plummet, along with the prosperity of Kennett as the largest mine closed in 1923.

The downturn proved beneficial for the federal government, which had begun to scout sites for a dam.

According to Jane Schuldberg’s book *Kennett*, there is no record of any public hearings to ask Kennett residents their opinion. The diminished population of the town was likely considered too insignificant to matter. Most people sold their land to the government willingly, while some waited until the waters began to rise before abandoning their homes.

Kennett was completely submerged by 1944, one year before the completion of the dam.

Copper City

It was first known as the Pittsburgh Mining District, later as Brownsville, even later as Williams, and lastly as Copper City, according to the late Shasta County historian Dottie Smith. Its name was derived from the “Original Williams and Kellinger Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company.”

Copper City, on the Squaw Creek arm of what’s now Shasta Lake, followed a boom-and-bust cycle as gold, then copper was discovered in the area in the late 1800s.

The town officially died in the early 1900s when the Bully Hill smelter closed.



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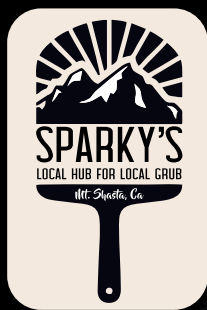
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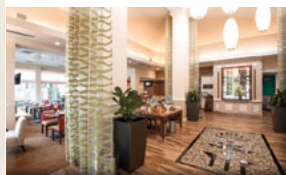
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Grandeur of Shasta Dam evident after reflecting on scale and significance

The grandeur of Shasta Dam can dim just a bit when you live in the north state a long time.

Yeah, it's the crown jewel of the Central Valley Water Project. Sure, it's the second largest concrete dam in the United States. It generates electricity. Got it. What's the lake level again?

But the grandeur returns after a person views it up close and stops for a moment to truly reflect on the significance and scale of Shasta Dam. Along with Hoover Dam, it changed the entire face of the Western United States. California became the breadbasket for the country largely because of the water storage of Shasta Lake.

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

But this concrete gravity dam was built for reasons other than helping provide recreational opportunities. Its two main purposes are flood control and water storage. Without the dam the Sacramento River would be prone to flooding during winter; in the summer, communities south of the dam would be prone to drought-like conditions.

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

The dam is an astonishing 883 feet thick at its base and as tall as a 60-story skyscraper. It weighs (get this) 30 billion pounds, or 15 million tons.

Gravel that was used to make concrete traveled along a 9.6-mile conveyor belt to reach the dam site. The starting point for that conveyor belt is where Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding stands today.

One could compare the accomplishment of Shasta Dam to the great Egyptian pyramids, except the pyramids don't provide flood control, supply water for the world's fifth largest economy, create a massive recreational reservoir and generate enough power to light 700,000 dwellings.

The dam is designed to withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake, but one gets the feeling it would take a lot more



PHOTO / Bureau of Reclamation

than that to alter the thing.

It's nothing short of astonishing what 4,700 workers accomplished over a seven-year period from 1938 to 1945.

But not everyone got a job back then.

Woody was here

"I landed in Redding early one morning on a long freight train full of wore-out people," wrote Woody Guthrie's in his autobiography, *Bound For Glory*.



A full chapter in the book - titled "The Telegram that Never Came" - details the traveling troubadour's brief stay in the area in June of 1938.

He was just shy of 26 when he visited Redding and had yet to achieve any level of fame, let alone establish himself as one of the most remembered artists of The Great Depression era.

He came to Redding because it was a "boomtown" of the moment, where thousands of workers came - some with whole families in tow - looking for jobs building what Guthrie called "Kenneth Dam." This was actually Kennett Dam, the original name for what would become known as Shasta Dam.

Guthrie described arriving in Redding on "a blistering hot day" to find the town "a wild ant den" of bustling humanity, where more than 8,000 itinerant workers - largely Dust Bowl refugees - had arrived hoping to fill only 2,500 available jobs. Apparently Guthrie wasn't one of them. No records have been found to indicate he worked at the dam and he made no mention of it in his writings.

There is, however, a persistent urban legend that Guthrie penned "This Land is Your Land" locally. The song, by

official accounts, was actually written in New York in February of 1940, and first recorded in 1944. It's unclear how long he was in the Redding area - he never really says - but it was likely just a matter of days. It is apparent, though, that his experiences in Redding and time spent in California served as inspiration for some of the song's verses, both those that extoll the beauty of America and those that are critical of the way poor people were treated.

In fact, the chapter immediately following the Redding chapter begins, "I set my hat on the back of my head and walked out west from Redding through the Redwood Forest forests along the coast ..."

These same Redwoods, and California itself, figure prominently in "This Land."

One other notable thing Guthrie mentioned about Redding was the same thing all summer time visitors can't help but notice - the heat.

"When the night comes down, everything got a little stiller, and you could walk around from one bunch of people to the other and talk about the weather," he wrote. "Although the weather wasn't such an ace-high subject to talk about, because around Redding for nine months hand running the weather don't change (it's hot and dry, hot and dry, and tomorrow it's still going to be hot and dry), you can hear little bunches of folks getting acquainted with each other, saying, 'Really hot, ain't it.' 'Yeah, dry too.' 'Mighty dry.'"

Walking Tours Available

Tours that take you down inside the dam and the powerplant have been on hold even before Covid-19 became an issue. The elevator that transported visitors to the base has been under repair for some time and no firm date

for a return of those tours had been announced as of early May of this year.

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

Inside the Visitor Center you will find photographs and displays that depict the building of the dam, including one on Frank Crowe, a civil engineer, who is credited with building not only Shasta Dam but several others as well, including Hoover Dam. You'll also be offered a chance to watch a 21-minute documentary that is shown on a regular schedule that explains how the dam was built. That video, "Shasta Dam: California's Empire Builder," can also be viewed on YouTube. A full-length DVD version of the video is available for sale at the Visitor Center gift shop.

Hours and information

According to the Shasta Dam website, Visitor Center hours from May 7 through Sept. 4 are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday through Tuesday (closed Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Call 530-247-8555 or visit www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html for more information.

Winnemem Wintu Tribe

The Winnemem Wintu Tribe has been opposed to the building of Shasta Dam since the very beginning when their homes were flooded out along the McCloud River, as were those of the people living in such towns as Kennett, in order to make way for the dam and reservoir.

Despite the ongoing conflict, the Wintu Tribe recently signed a historic agreement with state and federal officials to have a say when making decisions on returning winter-run chinook salmon into the McCloud River.

You can find more information on the Winnemem Wintu Tribe online. They also have a museum located in the city of Shasta Lake at 4755 Shasta Dam Blvd. Phone: 530-605-1725 Website: wintutribe.com

This article included previous NSVG stories by Ken Smith (on Woody Guthrie), Jim Dyar, and information provided by Tami Corn (recently retired) and Amy Holland for the Bureau of Reclamation. Photograph of Woody Guthrie by Al Aumuller and is courtesy of the Woody Guthrie Archives.



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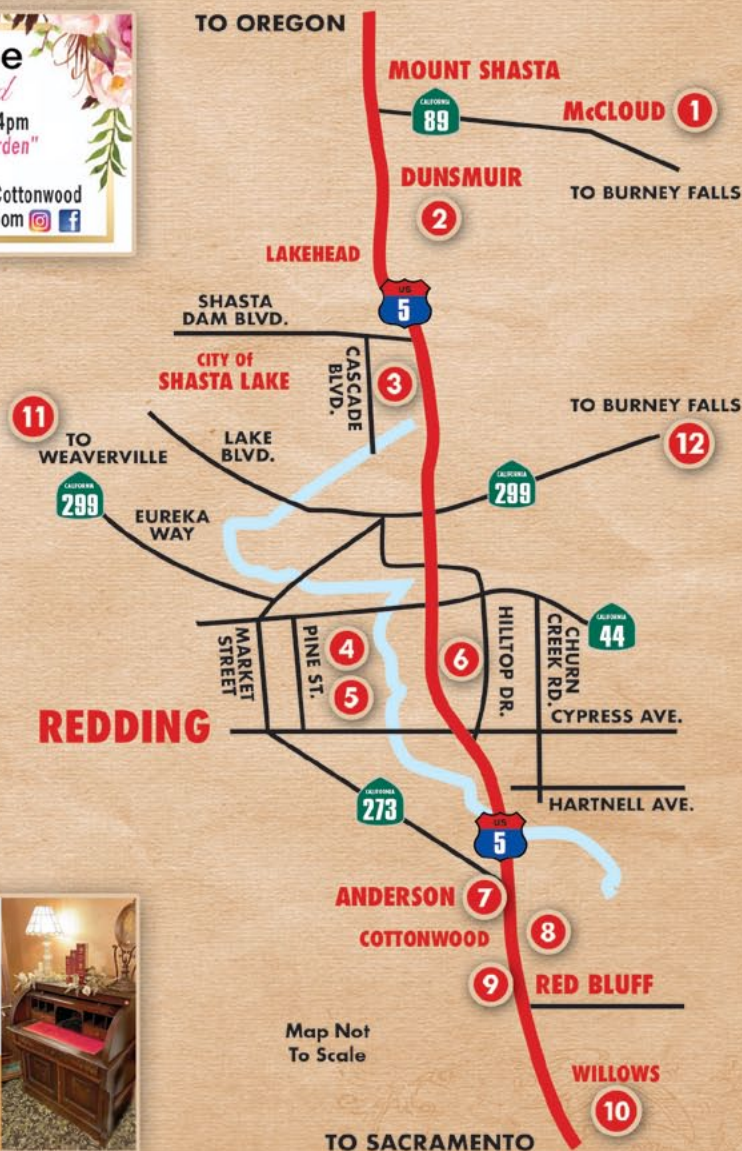


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By Sandy Rich

In true Northern California, you can ride through mountains, plains, wildflowers, tunnels and tall trees.

So why take your bike on vacation? Plain and simple, you need to bring your bike to experience all that the north state has to offer.

Here's the lowdown on biking in the north state by county.

SHASTA COUNTY Redding

The Sacramento River Trail is a gem for the greater Redding area. Quoting Americantrails.org: "The Sacramento River Trail is viewed by the public as an essential part of what makes Redding a real community. The trail is a vital infrastructure component that contributes to the multi-modal transportation system, it is a valuable recreation amenity, and it helps establish a sense of place."

Because of this, the city in recent years has seen an influx of tourism dollars directly related to cycling due to a number of governmental agencies and private entities working together. The collaboration between Bureau of Land Management (BLM), The McConnell Foundation, Trail Labs Co, Redding Trail Alliance (RTA), City of Redding Transportation Department and CalTrans has been the driving force in putting Redding and surrounding areas on the cycling and mountain biking map.

One major project is the **Deisthorst to Downtown (D2D) River Trail** extension that has delivered a safer way to travel from the River Trail up into the heart of downtown Redding. The section of Riverside Drive that passes under the train trestle has become a safer way to cross over to the west side of Court Street (Benton Drive) and continue on the river trail. This area brings trail traffic right up into downtown and very near the Shasta Bike Depot.

With a planned opening for the spring of 2023, the Shasta Bike Depot, located at 1313 California St., will offer a secure bike garage, a bike friendly cafe, a downtown e-bikeshare program, visitor services, guided e-bike tours of the Sacramento River Trail, information exchange, social hub, youth programs, e-bike charging station and limited repair services.

This non-profit wants to increase cycling, offer more transportation choices and reduce auto emissions.



It also will be a unique option to experience the area if you did not bring your bike on vacation.

The next highly anticipated project is the **Redding Bike Park** which has been in the works for several years. Plans show a pump track, flow and jump area, a skills trail, event zone, rhythm line, elevated start zone and an expansion area for future development.

"This project has been on the community wish list for a long time, and is finally going to be a reality," according to RTA. "A joint project between the city of Redding as part of the Caldwell Park revitalization and Redding Trail Alliance, this Bike Park is going to contribute to the growing destination tourism and economic benefits that come with it.

"Residents and visitors will be able to develop skills and abilities in a safe, social environment and it will be an amazing venue for related outdoor events and programs. RTA is taking on the funding and build of the paved pump track and skills loop that will border the park."

The **Caldwell Junior Bike Park**, also an RTA project, is proof that pump tracks are in demand. This new bike park area will be another jewel along the Sacramento River Trail.

Let's ride...

A favorite mountain bike trail network is Swasey Recreation Area, located on BLM land just west of Redding. This area has received the most attention from RTA.

Most of Swasey is great for beginner to intermediate riders. Gradual climbs up hills and fun, flowy descents make this a great place to ride.

The intermediate and expert trails are steep up and steep down. A solid workout ride would be up the Wintu Trail or Escalator and then enjoy the downhill that you earned. Take a picture of the trail guide at the trailhead if you didn't pick up a map at one of the local bike shops. Please be prepared for a great and safe time by bringing enough water, snacks and a first aid kit. Also, there are rattlesnakes, so use caution at creek crossing and watch where you step.

The winter has been hard on some of the trails and RTA has ongoing work days at Swasey and other trail areas. Please see their social media to help navigate around the trail work and repair.

If you have younger kids, go to Caldwell Junior Bike Park for junior sized thrills or try out the new Learner's Loop, also an RTA project

at Swasey designed to help with the fundamentals of bike handling.

For a paved experience with no cars, check out the Sacramento River Trail starting at Turtle Bay. It is paved all the way to Shasta Dam and has stunning views.

For younger kids, please use the south side once you are past Diesthorst Bridge. It is much flatter and has nice views of Keswick Dam.

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

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

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

FIND IT ONLINE

Local Trail Info

trailforks.com

shastalivingstreets.org

Trail Design and Build

traillabs.com

Trail Build and Maintenance

reddingtrailalliance.org

Shasta Wheelmen

Shastawheelmen.org



Burney/Fall River Mills

If you want to get away from the road, the **Great Shasta Rail Trail** (GSRT) is an ongoing project with 40 of the eventual 80 miles of trail open for riding in eastern Shasta County.

Being built on the former cinder rail bed for the train that connected Burney and McCloud in Siskiyou County, you can ride to the bridge made famous in the movie "Stand By Me." Trails are both paved and gravel and the website is listed below for more detailed information.

There are many century rides throughout our state, but if you ask locals, they all mention the annual

Fall River Century in eastern Shasta County, scheduled to be held in 2023 on July 15. Overwhelming reasons for its popularity are the aid stations, the food and the scenery.

The story of the early beginnings is posted on their website. They drew about 120 riders their first year in 1995. With those humble beginnings, they have raised over \$150,000 for local charities over the last 25 years.

FIND IT ONLINE

Fall River Century

fallrivercentury.com

Has ride date, history, route sheets, and registration form for the bike ride/fundraiser

Great Shasta Rail Trail

greatshastarailtrail.org for trail maps and updated info.

Burney-Fall River Bicycle Association

cycleburneyfallriver.com

SISKIYOU COUNTY

Mt. Shasta

Mt. Shasta is home to several groups dedicated to trail building. There are the Mount Shasta Trail Association (MSTA), the Siskiyou Outdoor Alliance, the Siskiyou Mountain Club and the Mt.



Shasta Mountain Bike Association (MTSMB).

The most recent big trail building push has been work on the **Conceptual Trails Plan** to build 100 miles of new trail within 10 years.

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

For an easy and flat ride, try the Lake Siskiyou Loop trail that circumnavigates the lake with stunning views and shaded areas perfect for children and kids of all ages. Go on trailforks.com for detailed trail maps of the Gateway Trails.

When speaking with Payton Birch, director of operations support for Shasta Gravity Adventures, he said "mountain biking in Mount Shasta is taking on new levels as trails for all ages and abilities have been implemented in the area.

"The new Ten Gallon Trail system features fun, fast and technical riding with multiple routes down. This system caters to beginners on Cub Creek and experienced riders on the Bear Springs section. And more trails - 22 miles in total - are in the works"

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

Yreka and Etna

The last major stop before you get to Oregon is Yreka, a great place to ride with road, mountain and gravel routes.

For the gravel grinders, "Siskiyou County is the best destination in California with over 10,000 miles of dirt roads," according to Cycle Siskiyou, the organization working to increase cycling tourism. "Greenhorn Park is one of the most beautiful and well used recreation areas in all of Siskiyou County. The newly signed trails offer hours of great mountain bike riding."

Just a little drive south into the hills, you can visit Etna. In the summer, it will be cooler than the valley rides, plus there is camping and lodging near longer stretches with less traffic for your road rides.

FIND IT ONLINE

Trail maps and other links

mountshastatrailassociation.org

siskiyououtdooralliance.org

cyclesiskiyou.com

siskiyoumountainclub.org/

signatureroutes

mtsmba.org

shastagravityadventures.com

trailforks.com

traillabsco.com

TRINITY COUNTY

Weaverville

As you head west out of Redding on Highway 299, you will eventually drive through the historic California Gold Rush town of Weaverville. Although you can find much to do in Weaverville with its many shops and restaurants, there are a number of ways to get out into the hills with trailheads nearby.

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

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

They host the annual LaGrange Classic, a mountain bike race held every June (June 3 this year), on the Weaver Basin Trail System.

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

Bradbury said many of their backcountry roads are used by road bikers.

“Highway 3 is a favorite from the south end of Trinity County to the north end at Scott’s Mountain,” he said. “The Weaver Basin Trail System is constantly used by families and kids for walking, biking and equestrian riders. The Pump Track is a favorite of kids and adults. This

spring will see the addition of the Skills Track for those who want to sharpen their abilities for more technical mountain biking.”

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

They now have a pump track in Lowden Park with future features planned.

FIND IT ONLINE
trinitytrailalliance.com

LASSEN COUNTY
Susanville

The Susanville area has undergone dynamic growth in recent years. While road biking is popular in Lassen County, Matt McLain, interagency trail coordinator for Lassen County, said many of the distance cyclists have transitioned to gravel grinding.

“The ease of access to miles of unpaved county and forest service roads adjacent to our city center offer

a relatively traffic-free opportunity to explore the county in a more natural setting,” McLain said.

Susanville Area Bicycle Association (SABA) has hosted many events and rides in the Suasnvile area, often at the Susanville Ranch Park, which has become not only a jewel for local citizens but also a draw to visiting mountain bike enthusiasts.

“I constantly speak to visitors from surrounding communities and long-distance travelers enjoying our local trails,” McClain said. “Most riders opt to ride the mountain bike centric inspired ‘upper park.’

“The most popular ride is climbing Heart Attack Hill to Easy Up to Rocky Top then descending the flowy bermed out Best Trail Ever before descending Heart Attack back to their vehicle at Base Camp.

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

McLain also said his favorite thing about cycling is enjoying the outdoors with friends while getting some exercise and interacting with the local trail community.

“Whether that’s getting my adrenalin fill hitting the miles of town-adjacent single track or jumping on the Bizz Johnson Rail Trail to ride up to our favorite swimming spot, our region offers miles of easily accessible trails for all skill levels creating a variety of opportunities to get out and explore the abundant natural and open space of Lassen County,” he said.

FIND IT ONLINE
Susanville Ranch Park
susanvilleranchpark.com
Mountain Trails
blm.gov/visit/bald-mountain-trails
Bizz Johnson & Southside Trail
blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson

As you can see, there are many opportunities to ride all over the north state. For the best and latest trail information, visit local bike shops in each area. They ride the trails and have the latest information and knowledge of trail conditions. You may even get the lowdown on new trails.

You are also asked to please ride with respect for the trail and other riders. Pack out your trash and be prepared for a great time.



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More north state attractions and points of interest

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

Here are some other regional attractions or interesting stops to make if you have some time during your trip, grouped by county.

Shasta County

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

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

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

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

Boomtown Museum in the city of Shasta Lake features artifacts from the building of Shasta Dam/



NSVG PHOTO / Katie Harrington

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

Boomtown, Kennett and other towns under Shasta Lake as well as exhibits on veterans, pioneer tools, Native American baskets and more. Operated by the Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society, it's located at 1525 Median Ave., Shasta Lake, one

block off Highway 151/Shasta Dam Boulevard. For more information, shastalakehistorical.org or call 530-275-3995

While you're in the city, you also might want to check out the **9-11 Memorial** that features a piece of the World Trade Center in front of the Shasta Lake Fire Protection District, 4126 Ashby Court (corner of Ashby Road and Highway 151/Shasta Dam Boulevard). A remembrance ceremony is held annually on Sept. 11.

French Gulch is a fun spot to get an idea what gold mining was like back in the day. Founded by French miners in 1849, French Gulch at one point featured four saloons, two hotels, a post office, two stores and an assayer's office.

Subway Cave, located 15 miles north of Lassen Park, offers another glimpse into the volcanic world. It's a self-guided tour of a lava tube that's about a third of a mile in length. Hard

hats are not required, but sturdy shoes and a flashlight are. A coat may come in handy since the cave stays at a cool 46 degrees year-round.

Trinity County

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

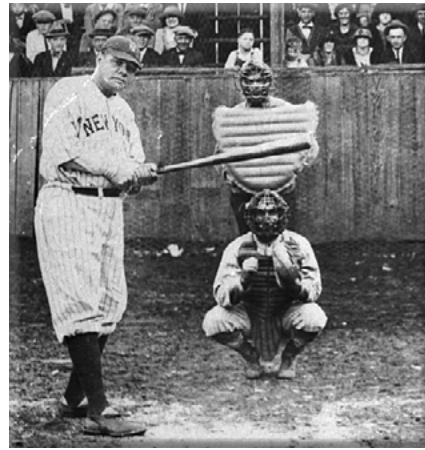
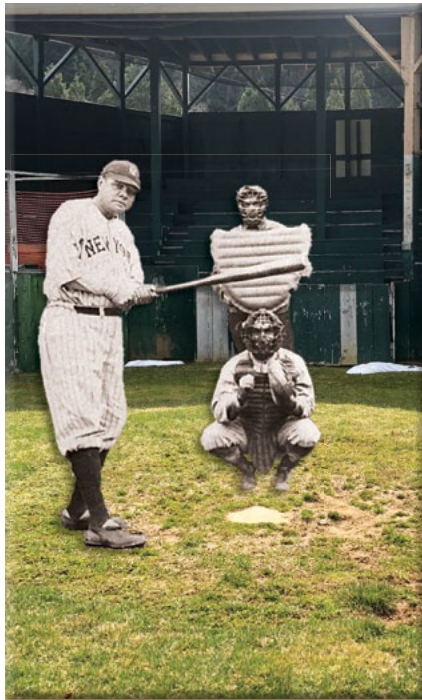
NOTE: All areas in the north state have musuems. Search online by county and you'll find many in Shasta, Trinity, Siskiyou, Lassen, Tehama, Butte, Modoc and more.

Siskiyou County

Although it pales in comparison to neighboring Mt. Shasta, **Black Butte** is still an impressive member of the volcano club. Rising up just east of Interstate 5, the collection of



The Cascade Theatre in downtown Redding.



Above, a photo of Babe Ruth playing in a barnstorming tour in 1924 in Dunsmuir. Left, a composite of that photo with the stands still looking remarkably similar to 1924. You can see the ballfield from Interstate 5. Dunsmuir High School's baseball and football teams still play there.

lava domes reaches an elevation of 6,325 feet. A 2.5-mile trail leads to the summit and rewards hikers with spectacular views of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Eddy and the Klamath Range.

The city of **Dunsmuir** and the town of **McCloud** are both worth some investigation. Steeped in railroad lore and filled with interesting shops, Dunsmuir also has a botanical garden in the city park, which includes the ballpark where Babe Ruth played during a barnstorming tour in 1924. See a past story in After Five Magazine about that visit at northstate.news, After Five Archives, April 2021.

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

Are you one of those who like to visit the final resting places of well known or historical figures? Among them in this part of the state is the grave of **Charles**



NSVG PHOTO / Ron Harrington

August "Swede" Risberg, shortstop of the Chicago White Sox, who was among those banned from baseball following the infamous 1919 World Series, an event that was made

famous in the book and movie "Eight Men Out." Risberg, who moved to the Mount Shasta area in the early 1930s and owned a tavern, is buried at Mount Shasta Memorial Park toward the back of the cemetery. The memorial park is also the final resting place of actress **Brandis Kemp** ("Fridays," "AfterMASH").

Anita Loos, author of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and a well-known figure in early Hollywood, was born in Sisson (now Mount Shasta) and is buried in Etna Cemetery. See a story about her life in a past issue of After Five Magazine at northstate.news, After Five Archives, October 2020.



Tehama County

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

Visit **Gaumer's Mineral and Mining Museum**, on Belle Mill Road, for a display of beautiful gems and rare mineral specimens. Includes a fluorescent rock room. Admission is free.

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

GAUMER'S



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Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina.

PHOTO / Michael Burke

The tiny community of Vina is home to the **Abbey of New Clairvaux**, a Trappist monastery and vineyard that is worth a visit. They're scheduled to bring their wine to Shasta County this year with the opening of a wine tasting room in downtown Redding

at the Market Street Center Building, located at 1551 Market St.

Lassen County

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



Ash Creek Wildlife Area

NSVG PHOTO / Craig Harrington

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

Butte County

Bidwell Mansion State Historic

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

The Bidwells were married April 16, 1868 in Washington, D.C. with then President Andrew Johnson and



Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico stands as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell.

future President Ulysses S. Grant among the guests. Upon arrival in Chico, the Bidwells used the Mansion extensively for entertainment of friends. Some of their guests at Bidwell Mansion included President Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman, Susan B. Anthony, Governor Stanford and John Muir.

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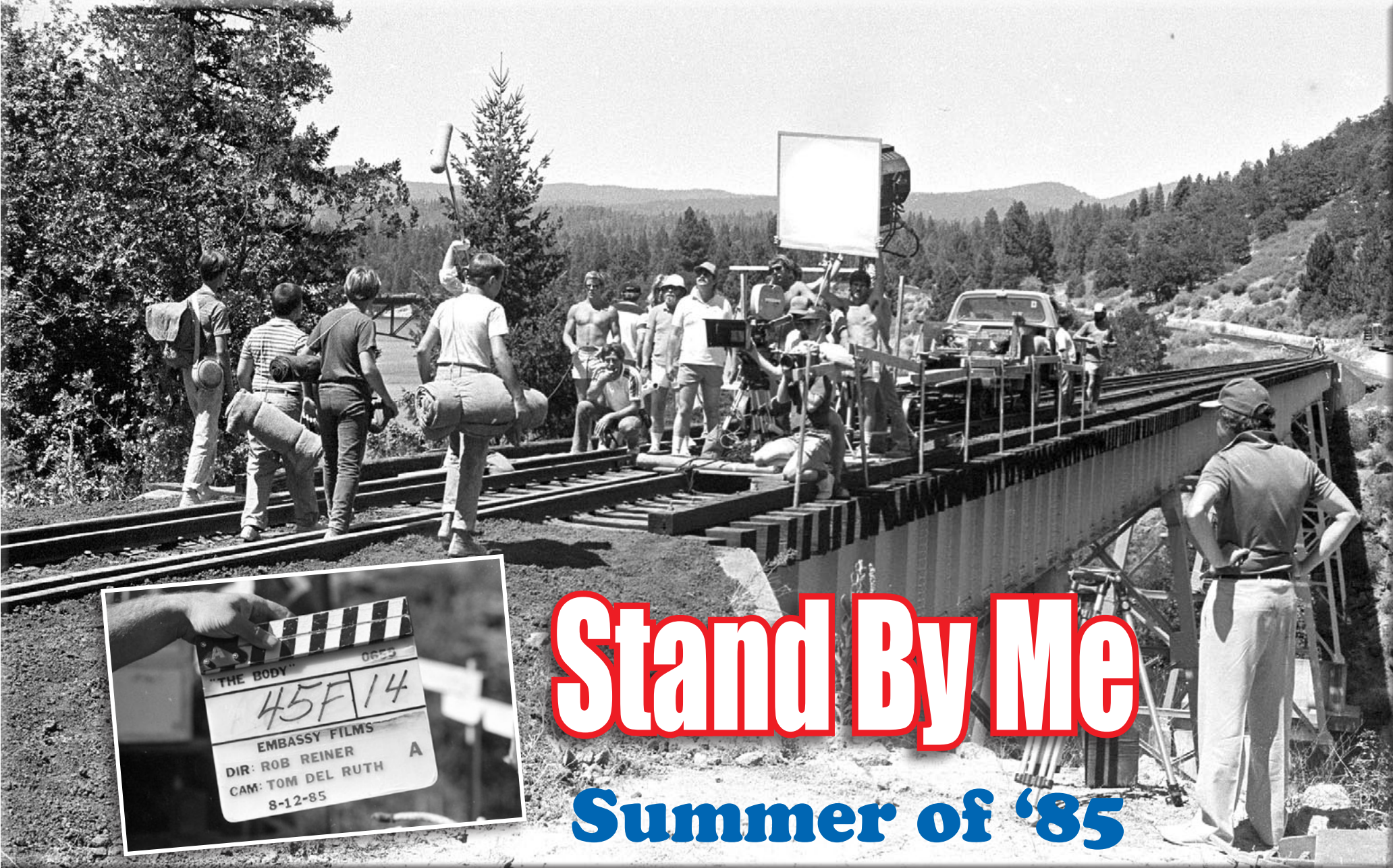
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Stand By Me

Summer of '85

Above, Rob Reiner directing his young actors during the memorable train trestle bridge scene over Lake Britton in the movie *Stand By Me*. At the time of filming it was still called *The Body* (inset) based on Stephen King's novella. **B&W PHOTOS** / Craig Harrington, Intermountain News **COLOR PHOTOS** / Columbia Pictures

38 years ago when Hollywood came to Burney to film two scenes of a classic



Near the train trestle bridge over Lake Britton, left to right: actors River Phoenix, Corey Feldman, Jerry O'Connell and Wil Wheaton.

Note: Original article printed in the July 2020 issue of After Five Magazine.

By Aaron Williams
and Ron Harrington

Thirty-eight years ago, in the summer of '85, four boys set out on an adventure to find a dead body. Their path would eventually take them into the north state to Hat Creek and Lake Britton where Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, Jerry O'Connell and Corey Feldman starred under the direction of Rob Reiner in the movie adaption of Stephen King's novella *The Body*.

Fans around the world come to know it better as *Stand By Me*, which was released in 1986.

The story focuses on a set of four friends who explore the area

near the imaginary town of Castle Rock in search of a dead body in the summer of 1959. Narrated by Richard Dreyfuss, the story weaves the four in and out of danger while forging those unmistakable bonds of childhood friendship.

And while much of the area surrounding "Castle Rock" was filmed in central Oregon, two notable scenes were filmed in the Burney area over about a week's time: the infamous trestle bridge scene where O'Connell and Wheaton narrowly avoid getting crushed by the train, and perhaps one that is not as well known among fans of the movie - inside the store following the junkyard escape.

Don Kerns, the retired fire chief of Mountain Gate, located north of Redding, had a first-hand seat for the filming in the summer of 1985. Kerns,



PHOTO / Columbia Pictures

Wil Wheaton and veteran character actor Bruce Kirby in the store scene from the film *Stand By Me*. While film of the exterior of the store, Quidaciolu's, was shot in Junction City, Oregon,

but the interior of the scene was filmed at the Maahcoatche Store in Hat Creek near Burney and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

then-owner of the Maahcoatche Store in Hat Creek and the community's volunteer fire chief, said the film's location scout came into the store looking for a place to shoot one scene.

"I had an old antique meat display case that I'd resurrected," Kerns recalled. "They came in and painted the walls an awful yellow. I had to take everything off my shelves and they stocked it with products from that era."

Kerns said he was paid about \$1,000 per day for the production.

"It was a big deal," he said. "They were at my place for a full two days. They set up overnight and then filmed the next two days."

The exterior of the store – Quidaciolu's – was actually filmed in Junction City, Oregon, and no longer stands. But the scene inside the store was filmed at Kerns' Hat Creek store. It's the part where Wheaton's character, Gordy, goes to buy Cokes, hamburger and buns as the clerk, played by veteran character actor Bruce Kirby, asks about Gordy's deceased brother while he scoops the meat from Kerns' case.

"They came in and painted the walls an awful yellow....It was a big deal. They were at my place for a full two days... It was surprising they had all those people there for two days for about three minutes in the film."

**- DON KERNS
Who in 1985 owned the
Maahcoatche Store in
Hat Creek, which was used to
film the store scene
for the movie *Stand By Me***

"It was surprising they had all those people there for two days for about three minutes in the film," Kerns said.

He added that one of the young actors would grab sodas and candy from the other part of the store as a production aide would come by and pay for what was taken.

"I'll tell you, that River Phoenix was a little terror," Kerns said.

Although it's not known for certain, the Maahcoatche Store

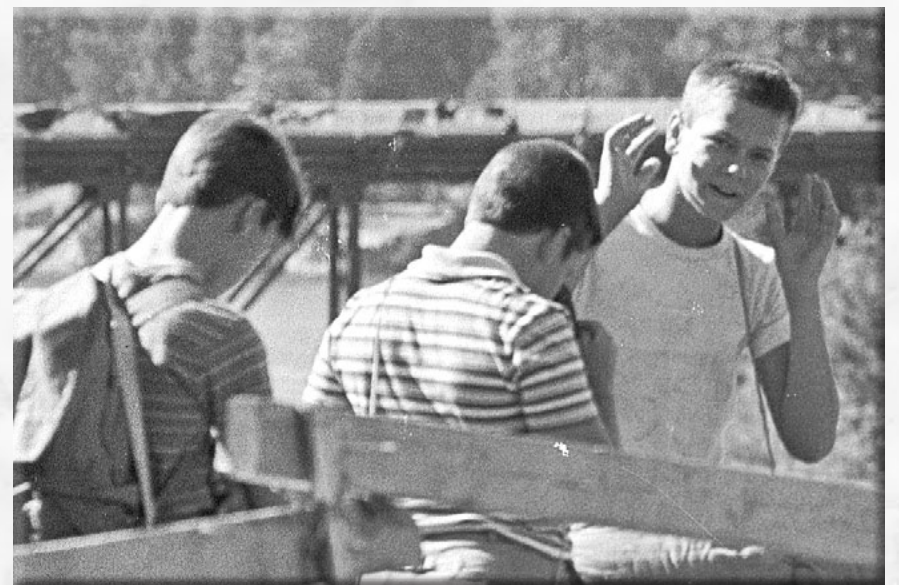


PHOTO / Craig Harrington, Intermountain News

The late River Phoenix appearing to mug for the camera. Don Kerns, who owned Maahcoatche Store in Hat Creek at the time, called Phoenix "a little terror."

may have doubled for the short scene very early in the film where Gordy buys the True Police Cases magazine in a store. It's a few close-up shots, including one of an old cash register that Kerns said looked

just like the one he had in his store.

Craig Harrington, publisher of The Intermountain News and After Five Magazine, was allowed on the set to take photos of the train trestle scene, some of which are shown



PHOTO / Craig Harrington, Intermountain News

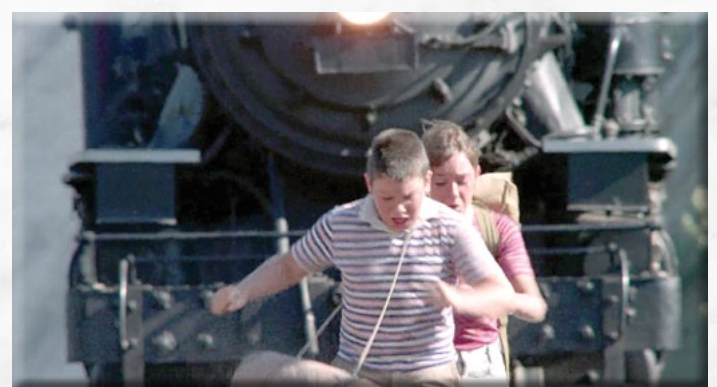
on these pages and which were published in The Intermountain News in the summer of 1985. He was also outside Maahcoatche Store when the store scene was being filmed.

"No one, not even the audio guy, was allowed in the store while they were filming," Harrington said, adding that the only other local person who was at the film set that day at the Maacooatche Store was Clint Eastwood's film editor, Ferris Webster, who was living in Hat Creek at the time.

Webster's career as a film editor began in the early 1940s and continued through the early 1980s for such films as "The Magnificent Seven," "The Great Escape" and the original "Manchurian Candidate." He also edited a number of Eastwood's films, including "High Plains Drifter," "Magnum Force," "The Gauntlet," "Escape From Alcatraz," and "Firefox."



PHOTOS / Columbia Pictures



Top, director Rob Reiner, right, and actors (left to right) Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix and Jerry O'Connell walk back to shoot another take at the train trestle bridge over Lake Britton. Above left and above, stills from the scene with O'Connell and Wheaton where special effects were used. In the 15th anniversary DVD release of the film, Reiner said that it was one of the only scenes he every storyboarded. Left, a helicopter shot of the train trestle.

The bridge & store in recent years



PHOTO / Stephen Moehle

"It was interesting that while they were shooting inside the store, we were outside and Ferris would share with me saying how 'Clint would never shoot it that way,'" Harrington said. "I'm not sure exactly what he was referring to, whether it had to do with the directing, audio work, instructing the actors, something else, or just the overall production."

In the end, Kerns said the production team paid him extra to remove all the stuff they'd brought in as props and money to repaint the store's interior.

"It took forever to paint it back and I hate to paint," he joked.

As for the famous train scene, what used to be a quiet tucked away location has now become fairly well known after the North State Visitors Guide and The Intermountain News began running photos and stories some 25 or 30 years ago on Burney's connection to the movie.

Filmed on the McCloud River Railroad, the 80-foot tall trestle is located above Lake Britton and the scene is one of the more dramatic in the movie. It features all four boys running from the train, with Wheaton and O'Connell falling behind as Wheaton tries to help O'Connell get up and get moving as the fast-approaching train gets closer and closer to them.

But through movie magic, it was never really that close, if the train was even there at all. For parts of

the scene, Reiner used short female stunt doubles with their hair cut short. In other parts with the actors, they used a 600mm long-focus lens to compress the image.

In addition, there were shots of the boys running as if there was a train behind them when, in fact, there wasn't. A front projection special effect was used. This proved to be a problem for Reiner, who had to manufacture a little drama to extract some genuine fear from his young actors in the scene.

"Rob didn't think we were scared enough and I remember it's the one time Rob raised his voice," Wheaton recalled in a special documentary feature from the *Stand By Me* 15th anniversary DVD.

Reiner said in the DVD the train was so far behind them there was never any real danger that anything would happen to the young boys.

"When I had a close up of them running I wanted them to be terrified and crying and all this...and they weren't doing it," Reiner said. "We had a dolly track set up where the dolly grips were pulling this camera along the tracks to keep up with them running and it was hard. One after the other. Finally, I said to them 'if you two (O'Connell and Wheaton) aren't going to be frightened...these men are tired. They don't want to push this camera anymore and the reason they have to keep doing it is because of you; you're not doing'..."



PHOTO / Craig Harrington, Intermountain News
Director Rob Reiner on the Lake Britton set for *Stand By Me*.

and I started yelling at them 'If you're not going to cry because you're worried that that train is coming after you, then you better start crying because I'm going to come after you.' They started crying and I said 'Roll the camera' and they started running, and they started crying."

And the rest is cinematic history. "Man, looking back, how brilliant was Rob Reiner?" O'Connell said.

"Look at that performance he got out of me. That's not me acting when that train is chasing me, that's Rob Reiner. That's all Rob Reiner."

The film crew also apparently lost a camera during the trestle scene.

"I was there when the camera that was set up on the tracks to record the train crossing the trestle was inadvertently struck by the train when it didn't stop in time," Harrington said. "I believe it was on the third take and so they had to go with what had already been shot."



The Maahcoatche Store in Hat Creek (above) shown when it was for sale in 2019. As of May of this year, it's still for sale. When it was open, the second story of the store was rented out as living quarters. The train trestle bridge (left) is one of two Rail Trail bridges at Lake Britton that the Great Shasta Rail Trail (GSRT) Association is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to restore. GSRT is converting the former 80-mile McCloud Railway between McCloud, Hambone and Burney to a public trail for biking, running, walking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing and equestrian use. So far, 40 of the 80 miles are open. However, due to the high cost, GSRT does not believe the Lake Britton Trestle and the Highway 89 lake overpass will be rehabilitated within the five-year window stated in their Trail Concept Plan. You can read more about this at greatshastarailtrail.org

I was told it was a special camera, one of only two or three in the world, and was broken in the collision. I don't know if it was later repaired and usable again, but never again on that film."

Third scene cut

Harrington said there was actually a third scene filmed in Burney that was apparently cut from the film.

"I remember a scene that took place inside a kitchen where movie crews remodeled the homeowner's kitchen," he said. "Even though the scene was edited out, the homeowner said she didn't care as she got a remodeled kitchen for free."

Aerosmith's music video for "Livin' On The Edge"

A section of the same McCloud Railway line was later featured in the 1993 music video for Aerosmith's "Livin' on the Edge."

In the scene, guitarist Joe Perry plays a solo in front of an oncoming train (filmed using the front projection special effect), before stepping off the tracks at the last second. The bridge across Lake Britton and the McCloud Railway train are featured for 39 seconds starting at 2:19 from the beginning of the video. You can find it on YouTube.

The popular video for the song earned the band a Viewer's Choice award at the 1993 MTV Video Music Awards.



A full Shasta Lake is a whole new environment for fish to explore

Shasta Lake is full of water. Time for the fish to check it out.

"It's a whole new lake that fish are getting to explore. It's new territory to them and they're roaming" Andrew Ramos, a seven-year employee at Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake said in mid-May of this year.

So how has the fishing been in Shasta Lake for anglers during mid-spring of 2023?

"Fishing is good on the lake as far as the bass side of things go," Ramos said.

New spawning grounds in May mean people have to search for them, but when they find them it's good, Ramos said. Coves and long extended points are good spots, he added.

For bass, try Senkos and similar plastic worms, top-water baits like the Zara Spook and tubes like the Gitzit and Strike King. Also spinnerbaits and whopper ploppers. For the rainbows, it's hard to go wrong with tossing out a nightcrawler or some Powerbait.

The cooler surface water should last into late June or later, and during that time trout are busy feeding. But due to the high lake level to start off the tourist season they're already further down than low lake level years, roaming around 40 to 50 feet below the surface. And that's where they're likely to stay. Anglers will most likely need a downrigger to get their lures and blades down that far.

During the dog days of summer, the warmer water slows down the bass bite so the best bet is to fish during the late evening, using jigs,

spinnerbaits and top-water baits.

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

From a boat, you can use super flukes (soft rubber fish-like "twitch" baits), brush hogs (which resemble little aquatic creatures) and senkos (weighted plastic worms).

Have a family and want some easy access places to fish for you and the kids? Ramos suggested Fisherman's Point near Shasta Dam and Centimudi Boat Ramp; Lakeshore Drive in Lakehead where there are "lots of bank fishing access points," he said; and Salt Creek, Bailey Cove and Packer's Bay.

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

Whiskeytown Lake, west of Redding, is also a good place to find bass, kokanee, salmon and catfish.

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

Elsewhere in the north state, the **Pit and McCloud rivers** are popular in **eastern Shasta County**, along with **Hat Creek and the Fall River**.

The **Trinity River** is widely known for its steelhead runs while **Trinity and**

Lewiston lakes provide opportunities for trout and bass.

So you're visiting and want to fish? If you're here July 1 or Sept. 2 (both on a Saturday) you can do it for free on the two Free Fishing Days in 2023.

Otherwise short term fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents in 2023 are \$19.18 for

one-day, \$29.42 for two days, and for nonresidents only they can get a 10-day license for \$58.58. Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake, Lakeshore Villa Grocery in Lakehead and other businesses have licenses for sale.

For more information, visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at: wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing

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Golf enthusiasts can find a number of courses in the north state area



By Aaron Williams

Golf has grown in popularity over the past decade and there are plenty of options in the north state. Within an hour or so drive of Redding, you can play more than a dozen courses that get you outdoors and test your mettle. From interesting nine-hole courses to resort tracks, there's something for everyone.

Mount Shasta Resort

There might not be a tougher test than this 18-hole gem tucked into the woods in the shadows of Mt. Shasta. Some holes call for putting the driver away and crafting thoughtful shot-making.

Noted hole: The par-4 third is a risk-reward hole that's close enough to reach from the tee, but OB left, a steep hill that can eat your ball right and bunkers short make most opt to play it safe. 1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd. outside of Mount Shasta; 530-926-3030. mountshastaresort.com

Trinity Alps Golf Club

A great escape from the valley heat, this delightful 9-hole course in Weaverville is an easy hour or so drive from Redding and offers views of the Trinity Alps. Noted hole: The par-4 third. Not overly long but fraught with peril. 130 Golf Course Drive, Weaverville; 530-623-6209. trinityalpsgolfandrestaurant.com

The Links at Rolling Hills

An 18-hole John Daly signature links course that is located at Rolling Hills Casino in Corning. This course rewards accuracy while allowing for plenty of chances to score. The native grasses can kill a round if you spray, as they tend to gobble golf balls. Noted hole: Par-5 15th. A great tee shot offers a shortcut to reach the green in two. 2657 Everett Freeman Way in Corning; 530-528-4600. rollinghillscasino.com

Lake Shastina Golf Resort

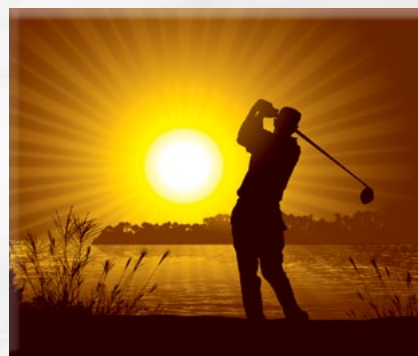
The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course is one the best-kept secrets in the north state. It features a challenging 18-hole course and a fun nine-hole Scottish links track. 5925 Country Club Drive off Highway 97 outside Weed; 530-938-3205. lakeshastinagolf.com

McCloud Golf Club

A picturesque nine-hole course in the old mill town to the west of Mount Shasta is a great place to spend an afternoon. Great view of Mt. Shasta. 1001 Squaw Valley Road; 530-964-2535. mccloudgolfclub.com

Fall River Golf & Country Club

This Intermountain-area course is another gem worth the trip from Redding, roughly 80 minutes to the east. You get holes in pine and juniper forests as well as the feel of



being in the high desert. The course was a favorite of Bing Crosby's when Der Bingle held court at the nearby Rising River Ranch. The sometimes-daunting par-3 eighth hole is called Bing's Bluff. 42889 Highway 299E; 530-336-5555. fallrivergolf.com

Grape Ranch Golf Course

This nine-hole course keeps getting better with its new owners. They offer daily play and fun events for golfers of all abilities. 22499 Golftime Road in Palo Cedro; 530-547-3012. graperanchgolfclub.com

The Golf Club Tierra Oaks

The Grape Ranch owners bought this 18-hole championship-caliber golf course. It's one of the most challenging rounds in the north state and they're offering more amenities to its members. 19700 La Crescenta Drive; 530-275-0795. tierraOaksgolfclub.com

Gold Hills Golf Club

There might not be a tougher test of golf around. Long and accurate is a good way to go low at Gold Hills, located in north Redding. 1950 Gold Hills Drive, Redding; 530-246-7867. goldhillsgolf.com

Lake Redding Golf Course

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

Allen's Golf Course

A family-friendly, tree-filled nine-hole course nestled into river bottom land in south Redding. 2780 Sacramento Drive; 530-241-5055. allensgolfcourse.com

Churn Creek Golf Course

A nine-holer that takes you through the Churn Creek Bottom area of Redding. Also offers disc golf on the course. Call for more information. 7335 Churn Creek Road; 530-222-6353. churncreekgolf.com

Anderson Tucker Oaks

A forgiving nine-hole course that's long enough to be challenging. 6241 Churn Creek Road; 530-365-3350.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHERN OREGON MAP

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Hwy 299 (east and west) from Eureka to Weaverville through Redding to Burney Falls and on to Alturas.

Hwy 89 (north to south) Mount Shasta to Burney Falls and on to Lassen Volcanic National Park and Susanville.

Hwy 44 (east and west) Redding through Shingletown to Lassen Volcanic National Park and on to Susanville.



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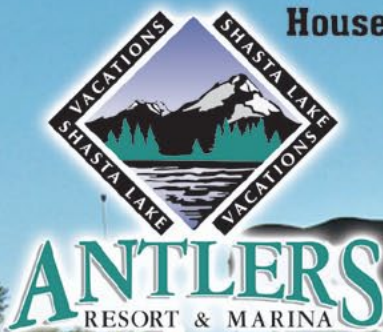


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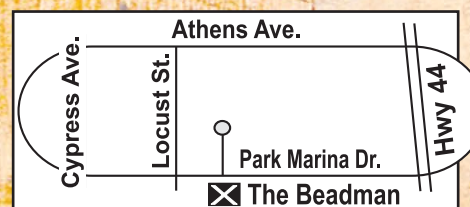


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