

BEAR VALLEY TIMES

FREE

Defining Where To Eat, Stay and Play or Invest in Alpine and Calevaras Counties

BearValleyTimes.com - Issue #3 | Winter 2026 - 2027 | A Talahi Publication

Alpine and Calaveras County Highway 4 Winter Adventures



Snowmobiling Activities

Famously, Bear Valley becomes a "snowmobile town" when winter closes Hwy 4 at Ebbetts Pass. You can bring your own, rent machines or take guided one to three hour excursions toward Lake Alpine offered by local vendors. ***See Page 14***



Family Snow Play Fun

There are three Sno-Parks on Highway 4. One at the Spicer Meadow Road turnoff. Another at the end of the plowed highway near Lake Alpine. The third is Round Valley, off Highway 207 leading to the Bear Valley Ski Resort. ***See Page 8.***



Cross Country Skiing

Bear Valley is home to a high class cross country ski facility. It features a trail system with 60+ kilometers of groomed paths over 3,000 acres, with scenic meadow and nearby hills. It is for both beginning and expert skiers. ***See Page 11.***

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



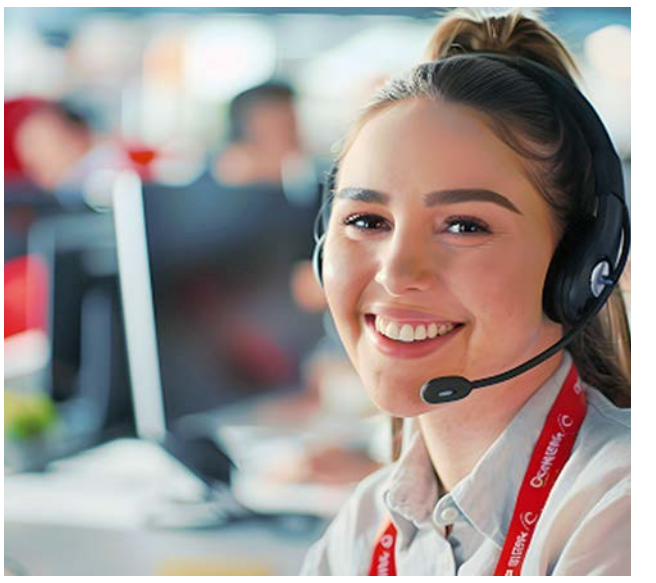
Alpine Skiing and Boarding

Learn to ski or hone your skills with 1,680 acres of terrain for all levels, 103 trails, and 10 lifts at Bear Valley Resort. The base sits at 6,600 ft and climbs to a summit of 8,500 ft, delivering a vertical drop of 1,900 ft. ***Visit BearValley.com***



Snowshoe Adventures

Perhaps you know someone that goes snowshoeing. What started as a necessary means of travel thousands of years ago has evolved into a popular alternative winter activity for recreation and fitness. Why? Well, it's fun. That's why. ***See Page 11.***



Seasonal Employment

Nearly every restaurant, lodging facility, retail shop, market, and other service oriented business is seeking new seasonal employees to help serve customers throughout the year. So reach out and find the job you want this season. ***See Page 2.***

Contribute Stuff!

Who knows the region better than the folks that live, work and play there. The ***Bear Valley Times*** staff is always looking for interesting articles and pictures.

If you would like to contribute information for future issues (Spring/Summer or Fall/Winter) or any idea that you would like to pass along, please do so.

You can find out more details inside! ***See Page 4.***

BEAR VALLEY TIMES *All the news that fits we print!*

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The Bear Valley Times is owned, published and distributed by Talahi Media Arts. It features many wonderful adventures available along Highway 4 in Alpine and Calaveras Counties. To contribute innformation, please do so at Talahi.com/upload.

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Sled Dog Trails

It is interesting to note that the Lake Alpine Sno-Park allow recreational dog sledding.

If you have a dog team, make the effort to come explore the area. Let others hear the anxious pleas of your sled dogs, chomping at the bit to get running and pull sleds around the local trail network.

For those interested in what sled dog life is all about, you can visit the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers at https://www.sndd.org/ ***See Page 10.***

Regional Businesses Look to Add Seasonal Employees

Working in the region can be very rewarding for those that love their time in the mountains.

Nearly every restaurant, lodging facility, retail shop, market and other service oriented businesses are always seeking new seasonal employees to help service customers.

Typically the age range for staff members starts at 16, with a student work permit. Lots of folks in their 70s are happily employed by regional organizations.

Snowbirds are very popular with employers since they come with their own housing! Yes, housing for seasonal work can be a problem.

Many of the jobs available don't require special skills. Others do. The most important thing for prospective employers is that you can be depended upon to show up for your shift.

These jobs can be anywhere in Calaveras County, including Angels Camp, Arnold, Avery, Bear Valley, Dorrington, and Murphys.

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

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



Most service oriented businesses in Alpine and Calaveras Counties depend upon seasonal employees to conduct their operations. Pick out one and see if their are hiring!

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

If you enjoy boarding or skiing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and hanging out with new friends, this could be a great move for you!



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Join the Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation - Support the Athletes

Founded in 2001 as the Bear Valley Race Team Foundation, Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation has evolved to support all Bear Valley's teams including All Mountain Development (Devo), Freeski, Snowboard as well as the Race team.

Working in close collaboration with Bear Valley Mountain, BVSF provides support in ways which otherwise would not be possible for the Mountain.

Located in Northern California's Sierra Nevada Mountains between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite, Bear Valley is the ideal location for kids, families and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages to build their snow sports skills while enjoying the world class beauty of the environment.

The Mission of The Bear Valley SnowSports Foundation (BVSF) is to dedicate support for Bear Valley's snow sports athletes in achieving their athletic, academic and personal goals.

The programs supported promote the development of essential skills; stimulate interest in competitive events and the positive values of sportsmanship, self-discipline, goal setting, character building and the pursuit of healthy lifetime activities.

BVSF assists Bear Valley's competitive and development teams in many ways including team communication and administrative tasks.

Coaches and support staff are select and trained to provide the best possible skills development for all athletes. Members assist coaches with training setup, safety monitoring, team communication and administrative tasks.

Through fundraising, and on mountain volunteer work, Bear Valley has the necessary parent and community support to develop highly competitive ski and snow sports teams.

Athletes are supported with communication and information resources for all teams through the TeamBV website, social media and regular email updates.

The Rasmussen Classic SL Race, the Far West USSS Central Series races and Slush Cup at Bear Valley are organized annually.

NASTAR races at Bear Valley are underwritten and organized by the group.

Coach education and participation in USSA annual Congress Assist is subsidized with training setup, safety monitoring, team communication and administrative tasks

Equipment and supplies including radio equipment, gates, timing equipment, safety gear, course wiring and other hill supplies are procured. More details at TeamBV.com.





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Snowshoeing Is a Great Way to Enjoy Winter in the Mountains

What started as a necessary means of travel thousands of years ago has evolved into a popular alternative winter activity for recreation and fitness. Why? Well, it's fun. That's why.

It's also inexpensive. You only need snowshoes, hiking boots, warm clothing, gloves, head gear and perhaps poles. That's it!

How do you get started? It's easy. As the saying goes, "If you can walk, you can snowshoe."

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



Enjoy the backcountry on snowshoes, but it is a good idea to always be a part of a group.

Trail etiquette is important. You will often be sharing the trail with cross-country skiers. Try to make your own trail whenever possible, staying out of the tracks these skiers have worked so hard to set.

Skiers have the right-of-way on trail systems. This is obvious, since it's easier for you to step off the trail safely than it is for a cross country skier to stop or go around. Always be polite to the folks you meet along the trail.

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

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

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

The local Sno-Park areas have cross-country ski trails that those snowshoeing can share. That way, you're never too far from others, and you're not likely to encounter avalanche hazards. Do not snowshoe alone.

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

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



Snowshoeing has gained popularity with modern lightweight and user-friendly equipment. Try the cross country ski trails for snowshoers provided by Bear Valley Adventures.

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

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

There are regional sporting good outlets that rent and sell snowshoes. They include Bear Valley Adventure Co., Ebbetts Pass Sports, and Sierra Nevada Adventure Co.

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

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

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

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

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

Watch the Gleam in Your Kid's Eye While You Teach Them to Build a Snowman

Plan winter adventures to include the whole family. Find different things to try.

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

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

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

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



To make a snowman, start by rolling up balls of the cold stuff that will be the body.

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

Roll up your snowman by packing a snowball with your hands for the bottom section. Continue adding to it and make it into a round shape. Wear warm, waterproof gloves to protect your hands from handling cold snow.

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

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

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

Place two sticks for the snowman's arms. If you want, put a shirt or coat around the snowman's body.

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



Just watching the look on your kids while building a snowman is a very warm feeling and will a lasting impression. At left is a brief description on "How to Build a Snowman".

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

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

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

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

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

The subject matter can cover nearly anything pertaining to the outdoor world of winter sports in Alpine and Calaveras Counties big backyard. First person stories are of particular interest.

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

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

You can contact Ed Delaney at ads@bearvalleytimes.com for further details or if you have questions regarding the ***Bear Valley Times***.

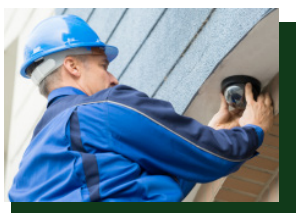
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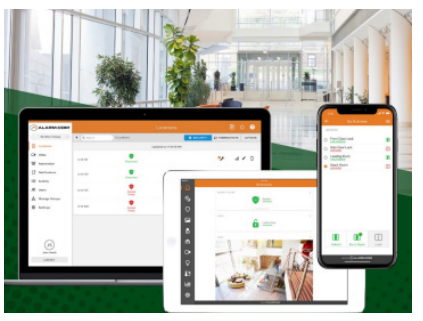


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The Bear Valley Racing program features something for all age groups. They have wonderful sponsors and a lots of volunteers. You can help with a donation at TeamBV.com.

Building Champions On and Off the Slopes:

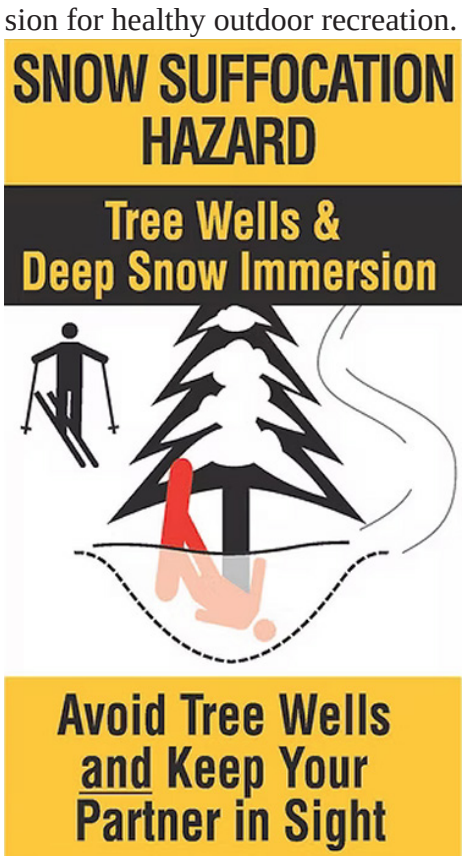
Why Your Family Belongs on the Bear Valley's Youth Teams

Nestled along beautiful Highway 4 in Northern California's Sierra Nevada, Bear Valley offers more than just scenic views and world-class terrain—it offers a vibrant, supportive community where young athletes thrive.

Whether your young skier is taking their first turns through a race course or looking to master the whole mountain, joining a youth team at Bear Valley is one of the most rewarding steps a family can take.

More Than Just Skiing: Developing Lifelong Skills

Participating in youth snow sports goes far beyond shaving seconds off a run. It builds foundational life skills—sportsmanship, goal setting, focus, self-discipline, and resilience—while fostering a deep passion for healthy outdoor recreation.



Bear Valley offers team pathways tailored to all interests and skill level:

- **All Mountain Development (Devo):** Perfect for developing strong foundational technique across diverse terrain.
- **Race Team:** Tailored for athletes who love speed, technical precision, and competitive spirit.
- **Freeski & Snowboard Teams:** Ideal for riders looking to master freeride terrain, park features, and dynamic mountain riding.

Get Your Start with NASTAR Racing

Not sure if competitive ski racing is the right fit? NASTAR (National Standard Race) offers the perfect entry point.

Managed and underwritten by the Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation (BVSF), NASTAR gives skiers of all ages and abilities a fun, accessible way to test their speed against a standardized handicap system. It's a fantastic weekend activity for the whole family and a great low-pressure preview of what ski racing is all about.

A Community Effort: The Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation

Behind every successful athlete is a dedicated network of support.

Founded in 2001, the non-profit Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation (BVSF) works in close partnership with Bear Valley Mountain Resort to support team programs and keep them among the most affordable in the Sierras.

While the resort hires coaches and directs program operations, volunteers and members step in to handle race timing, safety gear procurement, event hosting (like the annual Rasmussen Classic and Slush Cup), coach education subsidies, and equipment support for adaptive programs.

By keeping operational overhead low through community fundraising and parent volunteer efforts, BVSF helps ensure that snow sports competition remains accessible to as many young athletes as possible.

Join the Bear Valley Team Family Today

If you've been looking for a way to accelerate your child's skiing or riding while joining a welcoming, passionate mountain community, now is the time to jump in.

Learn more about team registration: Visit BearValley.com/teams-nastar

For more information about Bear Valley Snowsports Foundation: Visit TeamBV.com

Careful Planning Leads to Safety When It Comes to Winter Travel

What's in your trunk? Well, when you're planning a trip into the mountains during the winter months, there are some things that should be in everyone's trunk!

Naturally you need to carry chains with you when you drive to the mountains during the winter months. Actually, California requires that you do!

Aside from keeping your vehicle in good condition, you need properly inflated tires with good tread and a full fuel tank.

The image to the right shows you all the items that might help keep you safe if your break down or if the weather turns really ugly.

It is important for you to stay with your vehicle if you get stuck in the snow. It provides temporary shelter, helps to keep you warm and dry. Remaining with your vehicle helps make it easier for rescuers to locate you in bad weather.

Don't try to walk for help in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost. The outdoor elements can lead to hypothermia. Don't over exert yourself trying to push or dig a vehicle out of the snow.

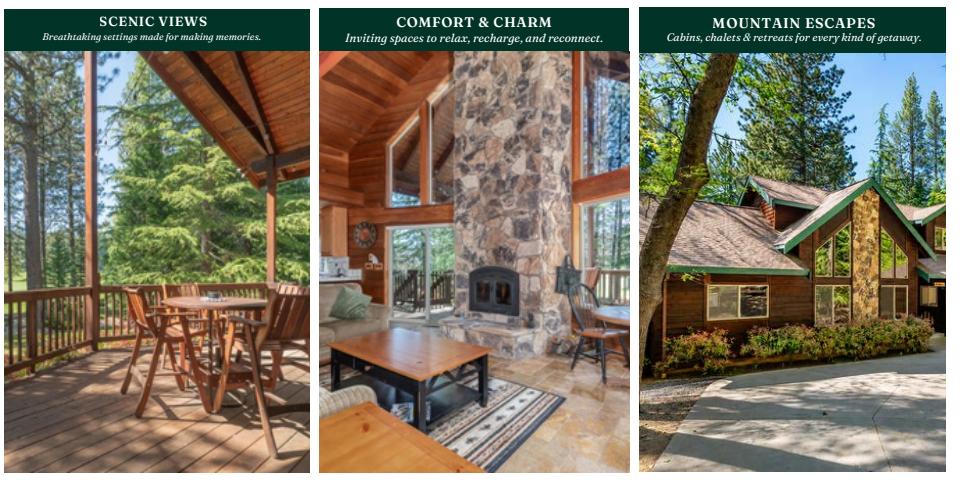
Tie a brightly colored cloth to your vehicle antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress.

But hey, no worries. You have prepared yourself for any extra adventures. So hit the slopes and enjoy yourself!



It is a good idea to carry the above items in your vehicle for any winter emergencies.

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Protecting Your Furry Friend on Outdoor Winter Adventures

If you have a furry friend or two, chances are you like taking them wherever you go. This is especially true with those who enjoy general snow play, cross country skiing or snowshoe hikes.

Outdoor dogs are not picky about where you take them. But cold temperatures and snowy conditions introduce new concerns.

Dr. Bill Rosolowsky, a retired veterinarian, knows a lot about canine care. For 33 years he worked in the field. Here he shares tips to help you make sure your dog's prepared for winter days.

First, assess your dog's overall health. Paw care is indeed a key concern, but the paws are connected to the rest of the dog.

So, first consider whether your dog is healthy enough for a winter adventure.

In general, "arctic" breeds, such as huskies, Samoyeds and malamutes, do well in winter. They have a thick fur, an undercoat cover, thick fat deposits under their paw pads and robust circulatory systems. Other breeds have these characteristics, but to a lesser degree.

If your dog is out in the snow and the outer coat collects only snow, but not any ice, it's a sign that it's reasonably well adapted to winter.

If you see a lot of ice forming, that's a sign that you need to take extra precautions to keep your dog warm.

Because ice and cold can be especially hard on paws, you do want to pay special attention to them. Inspect your dog's pads, just as you would before a summer hike.

Examine the paw pads closely to ensure there are no injuries that your planned outing might aggravate.

Try winter dog booties. You can find dog winter boots, too, that are fleece lined for warmth.

If you get a pair, make sure they fit properly. Take time to acclimate your dog to wearing them. It's also important to recheck and readjust the fit after 15 minutes or so of wear.

Break in new booties by working them with your hands first. Then put them on your dog so it can move incrementally from having them on briefly, to short sessions in the house, to walks of increasing distances.

Use dog paw wax: Sled-dog owners will tell you that a great way to prevent ice balls from forming on dog paws is to prevent snow from adhering to them in the first place.

Once snow accumulates, the dog's body heat can melt and then



A dog's paws are in need of protection when spending a lot of time on the snow.

refreeze it into clumps of ice. Rubbing your dog's paws with some type of "musher's wax" helps keep snow from sticking to its paws in the first place. These paw waxes are also formulated to be nontoxic should a dog lick the wax off.

Should you trim paw hair? If your dog breed is well adapted to snow and cold, then there's no need to trim paw hair because ice buildup is less of an issue.

Waxing, though, is still wise. If your dog is prone to ice accumulation on its fur, then trimming paw hair is prudent—and then waxing is a must because having snow collect on the stubble can lead to ice accumulation close to the skin.

Trim your dog's nails: It's always wise to keep your dog's nails neatly trimmed: A broken nail can sometimes bleed, a complication you don't want in winter (or summer).

In addition, long nails can splay toes farther apart when a dog walks, which open up tender spaces between toes to snow and ice accumulation.



It is fantastic to share all types of adventures with your furry friends year around in a variety of outdoor recreational activities. Just make sure they are ready for the activity.

A dog's body prioritizes core warmth over extremity warmth, so steps that maintain a healthy level of overall warmth will also aid the paws' cause. Not surprisingly, the same things you do to keep yourself warm on winter outings will also help your dog

Dress your dog warmly. Your dog's fur and undercoat serve as a nice base layer. If the temperature is sufficiently cold, consider adding a sweater as an outer layer,.

Feed your dog high-calorie food: Dogs metabolize food to stay warm,



Periodically check your pet's paws for ice or frost. This helps protect them in the winter.

so they need to ingest more calories and carbohydrates in winter. Make sure that any new food is tested out at home to be sure your dog tolerates it well.

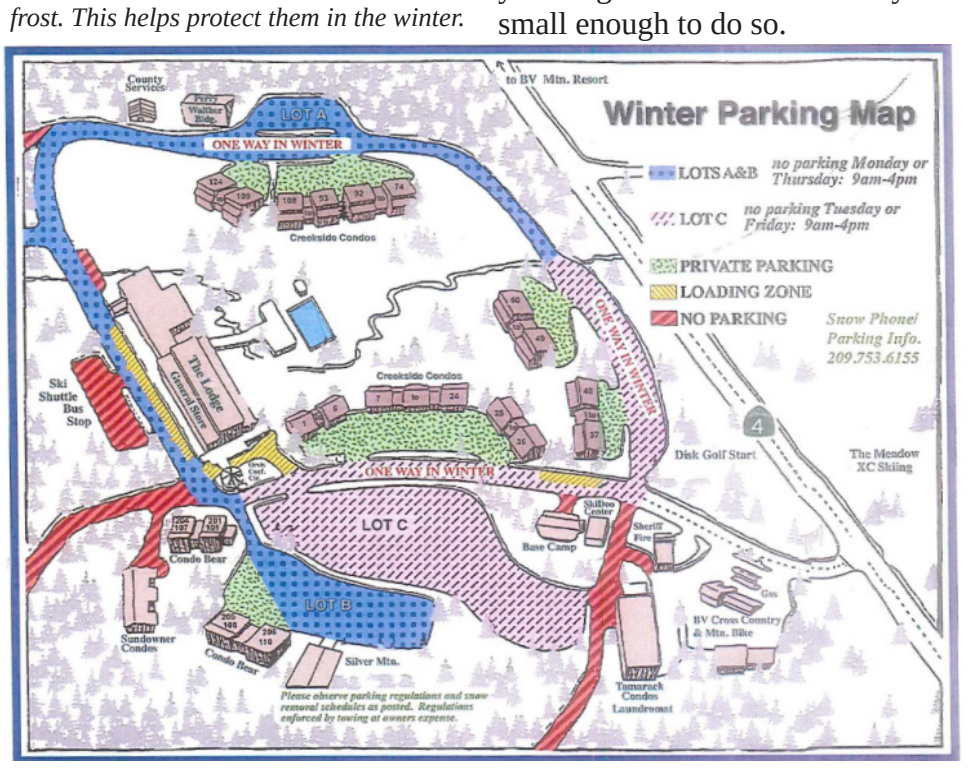
Give your dog extra water: Cold air is dry air and a dog's panting expels water with each breath. So be sure to give your canine companion plenty of water on your excursions.

Lukewarm water works better, too, because your dog doesn't need to expend calories to warm it up.

Keep your dog moving and out of the wind during breaks. Activity generates heat, so a moving dog is generally a warmer dog.

Watch for signs of hypothermia in dogs. Listlessness, curling up, reluctance to move and shivering are all signs that your dog is struggling.

When you see these, it's time to head back to a warm place. Small dogs are more susceptible to the effects of cold, so you should carry your dog back to warmth if they are small enough to do so.



Bear Valley Community Winter Tips for Parking to Keep Vehicles Safe

This information is provided by the Bear Valley Residents Incorporated for guidance in regards to parking in the winter for locals and visitors alike.

To facilitate plowing of the village parking lots, vehicles must be moved from designated areas on weekdays.

Refer to the Winter Parking Map to see which areas are "No Parking" for which times.

Other parking tips:

Parking "move days" may not be enforced if there's nothing to plow. Call 753-6155 for a recorded message letting you know whether to move your car.

Never assume; even if it hasn't snowed, maintenance people may need to move berms or do other routine maintenance.

Listen to date of last message; if message is not up to date then best to move your car.

Weekends and holidays may be crowded. Park close together and don't waste space.

Large snow plowing equipment needs lots of space to turn. Make sure you do not park beyond the signed end of a row. If you do so, you may get clipped, and it will be your fault.

Trailers, RVs, buses, and any extra long vehicles should park in "A" lot or on Creekside Drive past the library.

A vehicle that sticks out farther than other cars in a row disrupts plowing.

Moving your car often during a big storm is easier than letting lots of snow pile up and freeze. And a deeply buried car may become invisible to a snowplow.

Unfortunately, in the winter of 1969 in Bear Valley a loader picked up a buried Volkswagen and dumped it on top of another buried car without ever knowing there were cars under there.

On the schematic are marked the move days and times for each area. For example, Lot A move days are Monday and Thursday, 9am to 4pm; don't park there then.

You usually, but not always, do not need to move your car over the Christmas holiday season.

If you need further details available on the web at https://bvri.org/community-policies/cars-and-snowmobiles.

Winter Family Fun - Enjoy the Three Sno-Parks Along Highway 4

Ebbetts Pass Snow Play areas can be found up and down Highway 4. Young and old alike enjoy the sport of playing in the snow, whether it is careening in a saucer down a banked mountain course, making snow angles in fresh powder, or crafting a giant snowman.

For many who have rented cabins above the snow line, the best place to frolic in the snow is right outside your back door. For those who drive up from below, however, finding a safe place for children to play can sometimes require a short drive.

Sno-Parks are parking areas maintained in the winter to allow people to park safely and pursue winter activities such as cross-county skiing or snowmobiling. They have pit toilets available.

There are three Sno-Parks on Highway 4. One at the Spicer Meadow Road turnoff. Another at the end of the plowed highway near Lake Alpine. The third is Round Valley, off Highway 207 leading to the Bear Valley Ski Resort.

Sno-Parks have two big advantages over other spots along the highway - toilets and parking.

The Spicer Sno-Park is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow play. It is a favorite for families to build snowmen and have snowball fights.

It features snowmobile trails to Union and Utica Reservoirs, Summit and Elephant Rock Lakes, and the Spicer Reservoir Power House.

Experienced riders may go on the ungroomed route along Slick Rock Road to access Lake Alpine. Pick up a Over Snow Vehicle Use Map at the Calaveras Ranger Station.

The facilities at the Round Valley Sno-Park are the newest. Snowmobiling is not allowed at Round Valley. A nearby slope is popular for saucers, tubes, and similar sliding activities. It is a favorite for families who want to play in the snow and for cross-country skiers.

Lake Alpine Sno-Park is located at the winter closure gate on Highway 4. It is a favorite for cross-county skiing, dog sledding, snow play and snowmobiling. From there the Bear Valley Access trail runs 1.5 miles from the Lake Alpine Sno-Park to Bear Valley Village.

During the winter months, Highway 4 is groomed for snowmobile use from the closure gate 2.5 miles east of Bear Valley to the top of Ebbetts Pass (approximately 15 miles) and to Highland Lakes.

This trail has numerous segments, appropriate for different skill levels from novice to expert. As the trail climbs towards the pass, the views are spectacular.



Winter visitors to the Ebbetts Pass Corridor can take advantage of three Sno-Parks at which they can enjoy outdoor adventures like snow play, cross country skiing and more.

Opportunities exist for expert riders to continue riding on the ungroomed portion of the Highway on the east side of Ebbetts Pass.

(Note: The groomed portion of Highway 4 is a multi-user trail, and is heavily used by Nordic skiers as well as snowmobilers, particularly in the Lake Alpine region.)

It is against the law to park on highway interchanges. Parking illegally along the highway, not in a designated slot, and without a permit. This is dangerous, as your vehicle may be hit by snowplow equipment.

A day ($15) or season ($40) permit is required for every vehicle parked at a Sno-Park from November 1 through May 30. The permit must be displayed on the left side of the vehicle dashboard, where it can be seen clearly from the outside of the vehicle. Those not in compliance may be cited.

Sierra Nevada Adventure - 2293 Hwy 4 in Arnold (209-795-9310).

Ebbetts Pass Sporting Goods: 925 Hwy 4 in Arnold (209-795-1686).

Bear Valley Adventure - 1 Bear Valley Rd., Bear Valley (209-753-2834).

Overnight parking, including in-vehicle camping, is allowed except where noted at Sno-Park sites.

When overnight parking is allowed, tent camping or sleeping outside a vehicle in the parking area is prohibited at all Sno-Park sites.

Vehicles parked overnight need to be staked at all four corners with 1×2-inch by 8-foot poles to prevent accidental damage by snow removal equipment.



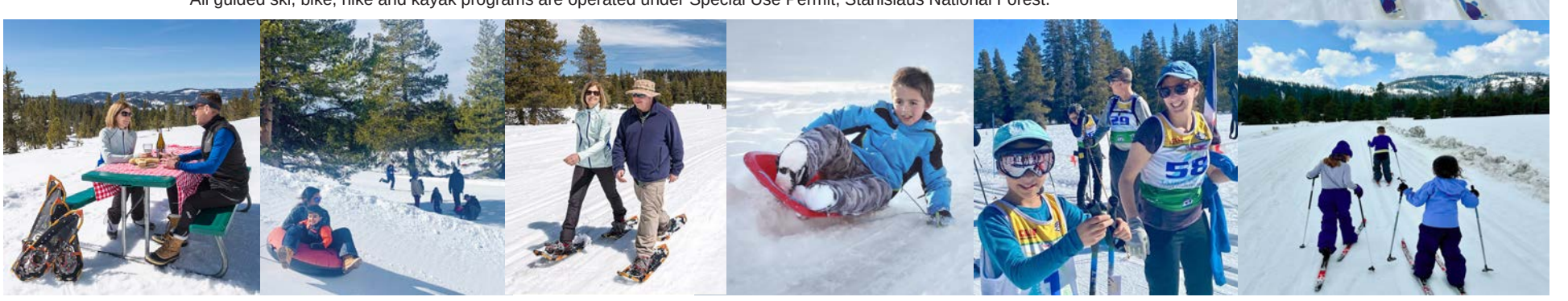
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www.BVAdventures.com
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How to Use Your Snow Chains or Cables for Safe Winter Travel



The excitement of heading to the mountains and a day of skiing or boarding can be a distraction to driving safely on ice and snow. Carry your chains and use them as required.

Snow chains, also known as tire chains or cables, are required for safety when snow or ice conditions cause slippery highways.

From November 1 to April 1 in California, all vehicles are required to carry tire chains, or cables, when they enter a chain control area, even if it isn't snowing at the moment.

California's winter weather is inconsistent, with wet and dry years. In general, it snows during the winter in the mountains.

Chain installation

You must stop and put on chains when highway signs indicate chains are required. You can be cited by the California Highway Patrol and fined if you don't. You will usually have about a mile between "Chains Required" signs and the checkpoint to install your chains.

When you put on chains, wait until you can pull completely off the roadway to the right. Do not stop in a traffic lane where you will endanger yourself and block traffic. The speed limit when chains are required is 25 or 30 miles an hour.

When removing chains, drive beyond the signs reading "End of Chain Control" to a pull-off area where you can safely remove them.

Chain Requirement Levels

When chain controls are established, signs will be posted along the road indicating the type of requirement. There are Three Levels of Chain Requirements in California:

The full, search-able version of the California Vehicle Code is available at: Leginfo, the website for California Legislative Information.

Requirement One (R1): Chains, traction devices or snow tires are required on drive axles of all vehicles except four wheel/ all wheel drive vehicles.

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



Carry a pad or tarp to put under your legs when installing chains or cables to stay dry.

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

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

Unless it starts to snow, no one is likely to stop you and search your vehicle to see if you have chains with you. During a snowstorm, Caltrans or the CHP may close the roads to all motorists who don't have chains on their tires. And in the rare instance that you got in without chains and snow starts when you didn't expect it, you might get a traffic ticket, and/ or your vehicle could be towed out of the snow area at your expense.

Few car rental companies allow you to use chains or cables. If they do they will hold you responsible for any damage they cause, so you will need to check with yours to be sure.

To find out if you have snow tires on your vehicle look on the wall of the tire for the letters MS, M/S, M+S or the words MUD AND SNOW - or an icon of a mountain with a snowflake. If any of those are present, you may be able to drive without chains in R-1 and R-2 conditions.

You can buy chains at auto parts stores, tire companies and sporting goods stores. A set will cost $40 or more. When you buy your chains or cables, ask someone to show you how to put them on. Then try it yourself.

Please Follow These Important Winter Safety Tips Regarding Proper Propane Storage and Utilization

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

1. Check your levels. Especially before a storm, it is important to know how much propane is left in your tank. It is best to arrange for a tank to be filled once it is around the 20% mark. This way you can ensure you have enough to last you through the storm.

2. Make sure you have marked the location of your propane tank with a flag, stake, or pole. The marker should be higher than the typical snowfall for the area. This will help avoid having the tank damaged as you or someone else is clearing snow with a plow or shovels. 3. Clear the snow away from the tank, as well as any lines or valves. It's a good idea to clear snow away from any exterior roof or side vents that are used to expel carbon monoxide from your propane appliances. You don't want carbon monoxide leaking into your home. Heavy piled ice and snow can also pose a risk of causing damage to the tank and its components. It's a good idea to keep the tank cleared in general. Use a broom or brush to gently remove snow, as a shovel may damage the tank.

4. Make sure that you maintain a clear pathway to the tank. If the delivery truck normally parks in your driveway, make sure that is clear as well. If the tank is not accessible your propane cannot be delivered on time, if at all. This could create a need for an emergency refill call, which can cost you extra fees.

5. To alert you to possible leaks, propane gas contains an additive that gives the naturally odorless gas a pungent, unpleasant smell, sometimes described as rotten eggs or a decaying animal. Make sure everyone in your household knows what propane gas smells like.

Finally, never use a stove or bring a gas grill indoors for space heating. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for that purpose. Never store, place, or use a propane cylinder indoors or in enclosed areas. Never use outdoor propane-powered appliances indoors or in enclosed areas. Without proper ventilation, deadly carbon monoxide (CO_2) fumes produced can build up. Carbon Monoxide is a tasteless, odorless gas. Detection in a home environment is nearly impossible by humans.



Keep a pathway open from your propane tank to the driveway or residence walkway.

The symptoms of CO_2 poisoning are similar to the flu. Nausea, vomiting, confusion, sore muscles, headache, dizziness, light headedness, loss of balance, etc. Often, people who experience these symptoms simply go to bed thinking they are coming down with a cold. Some never wake up.









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Many long hours, under less than ideal conditions, are logged by both the dedicated Caltrans and CHP members. Keep them safe. Slow down in winter's snowy conditions.

Caltrans' 10 Crew Keeps Travelers Safe on Highway 4

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

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

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

An important group in the Caltrans Crew 10 are responsible for Highway 4 and Highway 49. Their job is really critical in the winter months. The crew covers over 50 lane miles on State Route 4 between Angels Camp and Bear Valley. They can easily tell you where each large boulder, sharp turn and roadway oddity is. For many on this crew, this familiar stretch of road is home.

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

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

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

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

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

As the sun rises and crowds descend upon the area, the crew will spend a portion of their day partnering with California Highway Patrol to enforce chain control at varying locations.



Powerful message for drivers along California highways from family members of workers. Please slow down on the winter highway and make sure the Caltrans crew stays safe.

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

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

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

If you happen to head up to the Ebbets Pass region for a leisurely weekend, don't forget to show your appreciation to the crew.

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

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

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

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

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

Locally, sled dogs are allowed on trails out of the Lake Alpine Sno-Park. So, if you have a team bring them up here this winter. Show off your teams ability.

Give some lucky group the thrill of their life with a ride behind your noisy comrades!

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

It could be held any weekend in February and March.

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



Sled dog racing is a winter sport with a large number of teams belonging to several Sled Dog Organizations. Go to the Lake Alpine Sno-Parks, which are open to this activity.



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Bear Valley Adventure Company

Multiple Outdoor Winter Sports Activities Good for Your Health

Contributed by Bayleigh Bisner

Cross County Skiing

When people think of cross-country skiing, they probably think of the Olympics and athletes in skin-tight clothing. While it seems like a sport only those with incredible cardiovascular health can participate in, the sport can also be a leisurely activity for the average person.

What began as a form of transportation thousands of years ago it has developed into a sport. Unlike alpine skiing, cross-country has no ski lifts. The terrain is relatively flat.

For someone new to the world of winter sports, cross-country can be appealing because of the lower risk of a major injury, and with the right guidance, it can be easy to learn.

"I started cross-country skiing as a way to get out and experience the forest and unique mountain terrain in the winter," says Mattly Trent, Outdoor Operations Manager.



An average person can have a really good workout on a good pair of cross country skis.

BVAC offers over 35 groomed ski trails, half of which are suitable for first-timers and beginners. In fact, most people who visit have never skied before or have skied very little, and they end up having a great time.

BVAC offers lesson packages for those wanting some guidance for their first experience or for those looking to improve their skills. Instructors ensure that people become confident on their skis and can tackle any terrain they encounter on the trails.

"My suggestion would be to certainly take a beginner lesson, as it sets a good foundation and helps create less frustration during the initial learning phase," Trent says.

BVAC also encourages children of any age to try cross-country skiing. Through multi-session programs like Trail Blazers, children gain foundational skills and a lifelong passion for winter sports.

Cross-country skiing is a highly aerobic sport. You're essentially walking or jogging, on skis. No lifts take you uphill, so you're doing the work yourself. Since it's a low impact activity, it's easier on the joints.

Balance is improved and all major muscle groups are being worked. Even mental health and stress levels can be improved from spending time outdoors.

"It's good for the body and mind," continues Trent. Overall, it's one of the best activities you can do for your health.

Lightweight base layers will help wick moisture away while keeping you warm, and light vests, hats, and gloves are typically enough for a couple hours of skiing.

Rent a ski set-up from BVAC and hit the trails! If you like it, their store is equipped with cross-country skis, boots, and poles for sale. Employees are eager to get you equipped for your winter adventures.

Tubing/Sledding

As the snow begins to fall, people get the itch to step into their ski boots and hit the slopes. But for some, a simple activity that's accessible for the whole family can be more practical and fun.

If you've driven up Highway 4 to get to the downhill ski resort or to the town of Bear Valley, you've probably noticed a lot of people in the meadow across from the entrance to town.

The meadow, managed by BVAC, has multiple tubing and sledding hills accessible every day from 9 am to 4 pm (weather permitting).

The tubing and sledding hills offer different experiences for different ages. Tubing hills are gentler slopes, great for younger children or for those that don't want to start their adventure by walking up big hills. The sledding hills are larger, and offer a thrilling experience for older kids.



Folks can have a really fun experience by taking a tube or sled ride down a snowy slope.

Adults are welcome to tube and sled as well, and they typically have just as much fun as the kids. Not sure which activity you'd like to do? BVAC staff will let you start your 2-hour rental with tubing, and you can switch to sledding at any time.

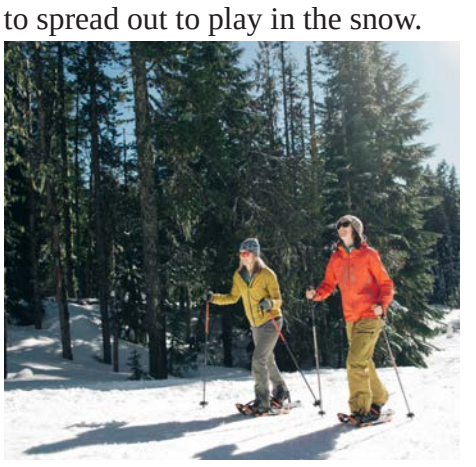
Once your rental period is over, you can walk out to the snow-bound Meadow Cafe and enjoy a warm lunch and some hot cocoa.

BVAC isn't the only place to have fun in the snow. Within 5 miles of Bear Valley are three different SNO-Parks, each equipped with a parking lot and toilets: Round Valley, Lake Alpine, and Spicer.

Round Valley features steep hills, which are best for groups having their own sleds, wanting a fast ride. Spicer can be busier since it's the first SNO-Park available coming up Highway 4. It has a large parking lot and there's lots of space for people to spread out to play in the snow.



The Bear Valley Adventure Company offers a variety of outdoor winter sport activities for all ages. Try your hand at cross country skiing, snowshoeing and go tubing or sleeding.



Snowshoes are really good for getting a healthy hour or so of exercise in the winter.

Lake Alpine offers the most opportunity for winter recreation. Just past the parking lot the Highway is closed in the winter, but the snow on the road is groomed for about 14 miles to Highland Lakes Road. Skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers, and snow players have endless opportunity for fun at this SNO-Park.

Keep in mind parking permits are required at SNO-Parks from November 1 to May 30. Permits are available online, but must be printed in order for it to be valid. Permits can be purchased along the Highway 4 corridor, including at BVAC.

Snowshoeing

Bear Valley, at 7,100 feet, gets an average of 35 feet of snow. The highway closes just past the ski resort. Hiking trails become inaccessible for months. If you want to enjoy nature and get some exercise, but don't want to ski, snowshoeing is the perfect alternative.

The whole origin story of snowshoeing is unknown. Most agree snowshoes were first used around 4,000 BC. Many cultures across the globe have used snowshoes. Shape and design depends on the terrain and environments they were used in.

Snowshoes spread weight across a larger surface area, reducing the chances of sinking and making traveling on the snow much more efficient.

The Washoe Tribe, whose ancestral lands are in the Sierra and around Lake Tahoe, used snowshoes to travel in the winter.

Snowshoeing options are endless at BVAC, which offers over 60 kilometers of groomed trails, along quaking aspens, mixed conifer forests, and the Dardanelles. All trails can be as strenuous as hiking trails. You can make you own adventures by connecting multiple routes.

Some trails even have warming huts, which offer a cozy respite out of the cold weather.

BVAC offers a self-guided natural history tour along the trails. This tour discusses several topics, such as animals in the area, hydrology, and geology, trees, Indigenous tribes, as well as early explorers.

Snowshoers are permitted to enjoy the scenery both on and off the trails at BVAC, but should always be prepared for their trek. Snowshoers should dress appropriately for the weather, wear waterproof boots, bring layers, plenty of water, snacks, and sun protection.

Lake Alpine SNO-Park is also a great place to park and get out on snowshoes. Highway 4 is groomed for over 10 miles one way, and the views of the lake and other High Sierra scenery is outstanding.

Overall, getting out on snowshoes in the winter offers a unique perspective of landscapes we're familiar with in other seasons, and it's a fun, relatively inexpensive activity that's suitable for any age



When you venture out into the snow during the winter it is good idea to take a friend.

(*You are invited to become a shareholder in the Bear Valley Adventure Company Co-op (BVAC). A $2,500 share provides the right to vote, receive member benefits, and have a say in future plans.*

Benefits include a 10% rebate on store purchases and rentals; $0.20 per gallon discount on gas; discounted rates on cross-country season pass purchases; and an additional 10% discount on special ordered bikes, kayaks and SUPS. More details at bvmcoop.com/join.)

Calaveras County Sheriff's Team for Search and Rescue



Several members of the Calaveras Search and Rescue team are preparing to conduct a search in the Stanislaus National Forest. Show your support and join them as a volunteer.

Mission Statement
"To aid the lost, injured, and imperiled"

The Calaveras County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) Team was unofficially formed by groups of volunteers throughout the county in the 1970s. Beginning in the 1980s the team was incorporated into the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office.

Since then, the CCSAR team members have donated thousands of service hours participating in Search and Rescue Operations.

They have provided aid to persons injured or lost in the Calaveras County wilderness as well as mutual aid to the other 57 counties in California under the direction of the California Office of Emergency Services (OES).

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

These skills facilitate their ability to respond to a variety of urban and wilderness emergencies.

They train constantly, as these skills perish with time. They earn nothing, expect nothing, and are grateful for searches that end well, although they know that does not always happen.

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

In addition to SAR missions and monthly training, members also donate hundreds of service hours to other non-profit organizations in the area and sponsor events to promote safety in the outdoors.

Information on Joining the Team

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

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

This is 100% commitment to the folks in the community. Members will be on call 24/7/365. They won't get paid a cent and must love this work.

The men and women of this group are the elite. They become friends for life. ***They are a TEAM.***

As a volunteer-run organization, the Calaveras County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) team is always recruiting for new members! There is always a need for a variety of skill sets. You just have to be committed to the CCSAR team mission.

If you have something to give, great, they need you! Just apply. Download and fill out the document, "Volunteer Application" at calaverassar.org/volunteer. Follow their directions from that point.

Help them save lives! Make a donation today. With your contributions they can improve training and upgrade equipment, as they strive to maintain the highest level of preparedness for every rescue emergency that they encounter.

Sometimes it is just the slightest edge in the field that makes the life saving difference. We want that edge.

Make a donation online at calaverassar.org/donations. All donations are tax deductible.

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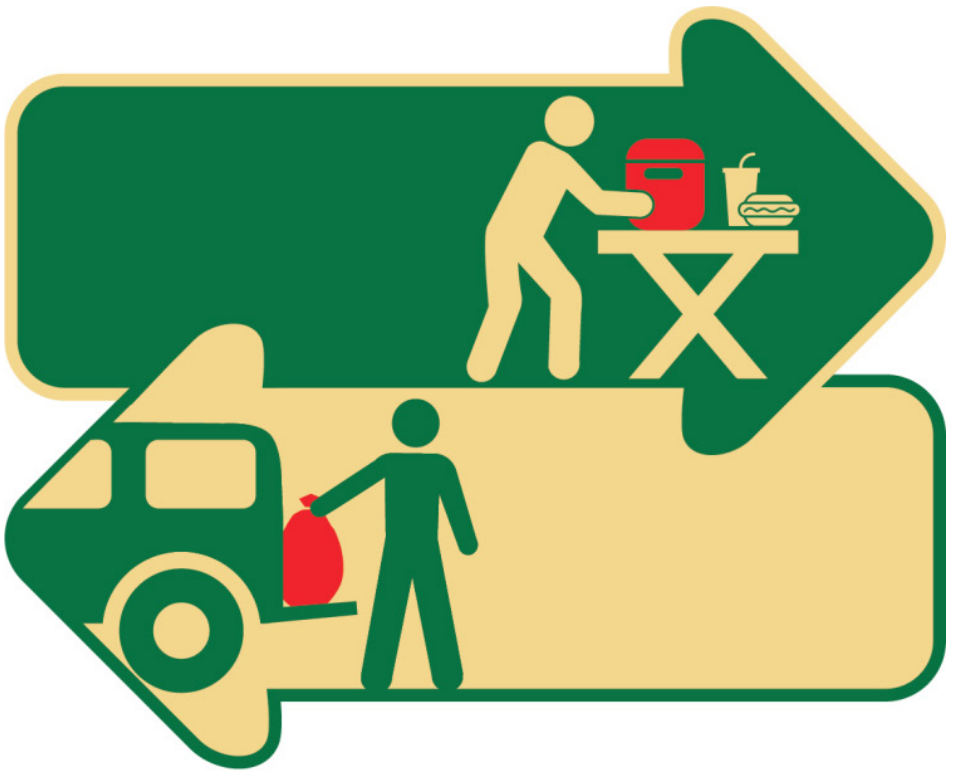


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What Can You Expect With the Regional Cell Phone and WiFi Service Availability

The Alpine and Calaveras County mountains in the Stanislaus National Forest are not known to be real cell phone or Internet friendly.

Your kids will hate the fact they cannot easily recharge their phones, check messages or otherwise keep in constant contact with their friends. As adults that will probably bug you too! However, it may be nice to be unavailable to those back at the office!



Smart phones seldom work very well in the backcountry region of Calaveras County.

Yeah, that can be a really good thing. Meanwhile, use this time to help educate everyone in your party, the young and old alike, regarding the great outdoors and what it has to offer!

After a day whizzing down the slopes, cross country skiing, shoeshoeing, riding your snowmobiles or other outdoor adventure, have your kids express how they feel about what they learned from the day's experience.

When you are packing for your trip, make sure to include a big box of crayons, a few colored pencils, a pair of scissors and a large blank pad for each of the kids. You might find that the kids in your will come out and you will enjoy having these items for the adults as well!

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

Thus, they have an educational experience with art and writing that end up being a form of story telling.

Who knows. Perhaps a budding graphic artist, journalist or designer will be born!



You most likely will not be able to get cell service while spending time on the slopes!



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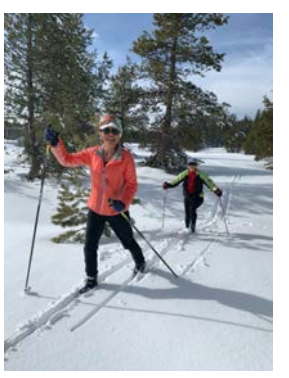
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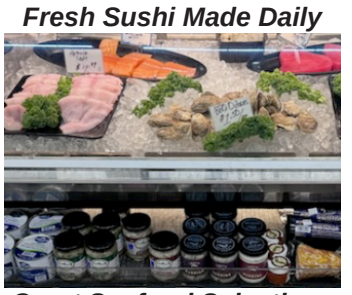


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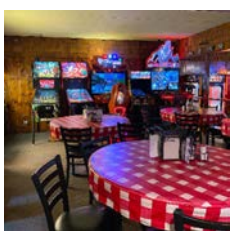
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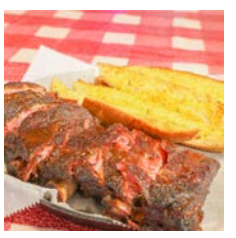
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Ride a Fat Mountain Bike This Season on the Sno-Park Trails

Cross country skiers, people on snowshoes and those riding snowmobiles are seeing more bicyclists on the snowy trails.

So don't be overly surprised this winter to see a fat bike rider cruise by you on a wintery day.

Mountain bike enthusiasts are no longer forced to pack away their rides and wait for the snow to melt. More and more cyclists are gearing up with fat tire mountain bikes.



More mountain bikers are taking to snowy mountain trails to get their regular exercise.

So what's a "Fat Bike"? They are defined as mountain bikes sporting tires with a width of 3.5 to 4.8 inches.

Even with fat tires to help the bikes float on the snow surface riding in winter still has its own set of challenges. For starters, it doesn't take much warming for the snow to soften and make pedaling a challenge, particularly for beginners who aren't used to lowering tire pressure for extra traction. And stopping in deep snow can come with another problem. If the snow is soft it's easy to posthole a leg which can result in a tumble.

Snow riding also means riding in cold weather which necessitates layers of clothes. And once the rider gets moving he or she needs



Winter trails await those wanting to get some winter activity while mountain biking.

to manage the outerwear to avoid overheating which can lead to sweat soaked clothes and a sudden chill.

Aspiring winter riders need to consider safety. Mountain bikers heading out in the winter need to be especially prepared for the conditions.

In general, not only is there less daylight and higher cold weather risks, there tend to be fewer people in the backcountry in the winter which increases the isolation factor.

You're just more exposed, you are out on your own. You are in the wilderness and far away from safety.



Lay Down and Spread Your Wings to Create Snow Angels

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Always Be Aware of Your Footprint While Vacationing in the Sierra

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

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

Reasons to recycle and not litter:

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

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

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

4. Reduces waste: The average American discards seven pounds of garbage every day. Most of this goes into landfills.

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

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

Tell Your Kids "If You Get Lost" Hug a Tree! It Isn't Just for Kids - It Works

The Stanislaus National Forest is a wonderful place to visit, explore and recreate. Sometimes the more daring and curious among us seek adventures that lead to unwanted results for all concerned.

So, for as much fun as the great outdoors can be, parents, grandparents and group leaders should all take a moment before heading out.

Consider the risks that may be taken. Have a plan for what to do in certain situations, after all, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" as the old saying goes.

There is no shortage of books that have been written on wilderness preparation and survival. Now let's just take a minute to think about how prepared kids may be, or may not be, in the event they get separated from the family or group.

One of the best answers comes from the "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" philosophy. This came about through The National Association for Search and Rescue group.

It promotes a fantastic program that actually works, known as "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" or simply "Hug-a-Tree".

This program was developed in 1981 by Ab Taylor. He was an expert man tracker who served with the U.S. Border Patrol for more than three decades.

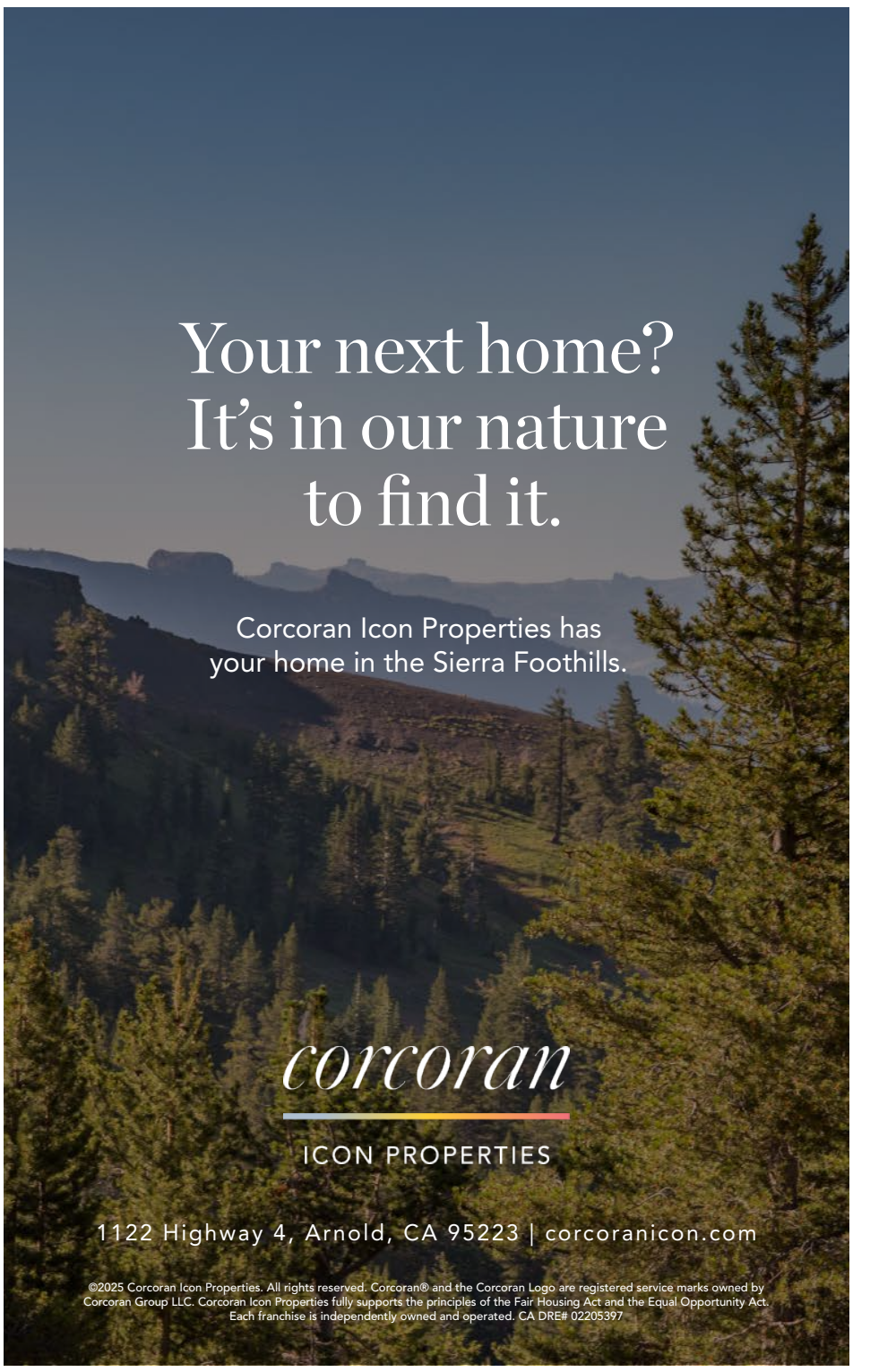
The program is simple by design and intended to help children remember what to do if they become lost or separated. But by no means is this plan for kids though, it can work equally well for big kids too!

Seven steps to important process:

1. Hug a Tree once you are lost.
2. Carry a trash bag and whistle.
3. My parents won't be angry at me.
4. Make Yourself Big.
5. There are no animals out there that can hurt you in this country.
6. Friends will be looking for you.
7. Take an imprint of your child's footprint prior to hiking.

The goal is to have fun. Enjoy the great outdoors. Do it with the minimal amount of risk. Preparation and planning go a long way to a fantastic memory making trip!

For more details about the "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" program, visit website at: http://www.nasar.org/education/hug-a-tree.



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