



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII No.11 The Voice of the Bass Lake Community November 2020
www.basslakeaction.org

BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2020 CHRISTMAS PARTY



2020 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY DELAYED... UNTIL 2021

By John Davey

Since April of 2020, the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors has struggled with the decision regarding the annual end of the year holiday party – always the highlight of the year for Bass Lake Action Committee Members, and guests.

With no significant change in sight for the lifting of the restrictions on public gatherings, and seeking to protect party attendees, at the November 9, 2020 Board meeting, the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors voted to cancel the 2020 party that would have been held on December 14th.

The Bass Lake Action Committee Annual Meeting is still being held on December 14th, virtually, as an annual meeting is required in our non-profit corporate bylaws. The annual meeting will be conducted online via Zoom. A meeting link will be emailed to Committee Members.

The focus of the Annual meeting is the election of the 2021 Board of Directors. The Election results will take approximately 5 minutes to announce, and then allowing an extra 25 minutes for any members that wish to attend, to have a “mini” virtual celebration. The Board encourages all members to try to set aside a few minutes on December 14th between 7PM and 7:30PM to attend the meeting.

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors is also exploring the idea of a park party sometime in the late spring or summer of 2021 (public gathering restrictions permitting) – to allow Committee Members a chance to get together as the weather turns warmer.

The Board of Directors is very disappointed that the Party couldn't be held in December - but we'd like to think that we're just delaying the party until next year. We're already planning for the 2021 Christmas Party scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021! Save the Date! ~

THE TOLL ROADS OF EL DORADO COUNTY

By Kathy Prevost

While researching information for the El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee (EDHAPAC) letter to the El Dorado County Planning Commission, I found the following information which further connects our Bass Lake area to its rich history of the past. I hope you will enjoy reading this article as much as I did writing it.

“The Mormon Carson Trail, an off road/pedestrian/equestrian/bicycle trail connecting the eastern and western boundaries of the plan area would be created within the approximate alignment of the historic Clarksville toll road (in certain circumstances this alignment may coincide with the current alignment of Country Club Drive).” Bass Lake Hills Specific Plan Section 4.13, General Circulation and Trail Standards

The Highway 50 we know today was referred to as the Lake Tahoe Wagon Road and was the first state road authorized on March 26, 1895. The 58 mile road linked Newtown Road to the Nevada state line and was originally a toll road until 1886 when it was purchased by the county and deeded back to the state in 1896. It was only one of several toll roads that existed in the County including the South Fork Toll Road, Starks Grade to Ogilby Road, Newtown and Green Valley just to name a few.

Long before the gold rush, there had been growing interest in the east sparked by fur trappers and visitors with their stories about the mild climate and fertile soil. The United States Topographical Engineers which was a forerunner of the Bureau of Geological Survey, commissioned

(continued on page 2)

TOLL ROADS *(con't)*

- Captain John Charles Fremont in 1842 to explore and chart the West including routes, trails, landmarks, natural environment and the suitability of the land for settlement.

Accompanied by the famous Kit Carson as a guide, Fremont traveled to the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1844 searching for a break in the crest where they could cross the steep snow-covered peaks. In early February they accomplished this feat and the summit was later known as Carson Summit. The way across the Sierra Nevada mountains trail had been officially surveyed and mapped.

It is thought that many of the earliest trails and routes were originally made by animals and Indians who avoided the highest mountain peaks and swift river crossings.

In 1848, a group of Mormons traveled east to Salt Lake City over the summit that Captain Fremont and Kit Carson had explored earlier cutting a trail as they went. They met westbound wagons and were able to describe landmarks directing them over the trail they had just cleared which established it as the "Mother Road" of El Dorado County.

The first east-west road for wagons into Northern California was created by the opening of what came to be known as the Mormon Emigrant Trail.

While this was still a very difficult route, it continued to be used by many travelers going west while some searched for an easier route over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A shorter route (Johnson's Cut Off) down the American River Watershed which eliminated about 30 miles of travel opened in 1849 which was credited to John Calhoun Johnson.

Since neither the state nor the counties were appropriating funds for road maintenance, they were in very poor condition and the upkeep was designated to Road Commissioners of each district. They were given the authority to require each able-bodied person to work his share or be fined but many of the roads were still impassable.

A more viable solution was to allow individuals or companies to charge traveler's fees for using certain parts of the road since they were then responsible for the construction and upkeep of the road. This proved to be a good solution and some of these roads were later taken over by the county including Johnson's Cut Off which became a public road by 1853.

While it was costly to build and maintain the toll roads, individuals and private companies competed for the right to operate and maintain them throughout the area. The money spent was quickly recouped and some way stations might bring in as much as \$1,000 in tolls in a day. Inns and Road houses were built nearly every mile along every road and with the Teamsters, many Inn keepers

and toll road operators earned their living from the roads in El Dorado County.

A whole network of roads existed in the county allowing traveler's any number of combinations of road networks. The Placerville - Carson Valley Road had many springs which necessitated a 5 inch thick plank road and was leased by the Pioneer Stageline in 1863 who put down the planking. In 1860, stage fares from Placerville to Genoa were \$30 and it would cost you \$375 to travel to St. Joseph, Missouri.

Many of these old roads or road beds can still be seen and in some cases they approximate the present route of Highway 50. One of them called the South Fork Toll Road was purchased for \$1,650 by John Pearson. Beginning west of Sportsman's, it ran west in front of Sportsman's and the old 13 Mile House and then along the south side of South Fork Hill past Fresh Pond House, the Pacific House and more stations on the South Fork of the American River.

It then crossed the river along the north side to about 1/4 of a mile west of Dick's Station (Kyburz). This was very near to the present-day route of Highway 50.

Declared a public road in 1888, Stark's Road in Pleasant Valley ran between Diamond Springs and the west end of Ogilby Road. Except for widening, very few improvements have been made to the road through the years.

Yankee Jim's Turnpike from the American River Canyon to just this side of Auburn was built in 1852 as a wagon road. It was later called The Old Stagecoach Road and is a hiking and mountain bike trail in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

The toll bridge no longer exists but remains of it can still be seen along the banks of the North Fork.



Old Bass Lake Road in EDH, just west of the current Bass Lake Road
image credit - Google Maps

The tolls for the bridge ranged from 6 cents for a cow to 50 cents for a horse and a wagon was as much as one dollar.

Closer to home, the Giles Toll Road was constructed in the late 1850s and still exists although it is on private property. It has been on display at Clarksville Day celebrations in the last few years. While its location is only known to local history buffs, the original 160 year old stone work remains in great shape.

Built by John Tong in 1857, the Tong Toll Road covered a stretch of the Clarksville Grade bypassing the rutted public road. It had a toll station in Clarksville and was well maintained, very profitable and well traveled.

The Mormon Tavern built in 1848 was the earliest settlement in the area. It was in the vicinity of what is now considered the Silva Valley Parkway interchange and was at the foot of the first steep grade into the Sierra foothills from Sacramento. It lent its name to the steep grade and to the toll road which is also known as the Old Bass Lake Road.

There were approximately a dozen or more toll roads which paralleled the public road and were gentler in grade as well as being better maintained.

The Central Pacific Railroad completion over Donner Summit in 1869, brought the end for the toll road owners, teamsters and innkeepers of El Dorado County and the roads began to deteriorate from lack of care. The privately owned roads ultimately became public in 1889.

To follow the Old Emigrant Road and the Mormon Carson Emigrant Trail:

"Old Emigrant Road entered the California Territory from Utah Territory at Genoa in Carson Valley, Nevada. The road went south of Silver Lake to Sly Park 14 miles east of Placerville, and on to Diamond Springs, Shingle Springs, Clarksville and White Rock into Sacramento County."

"This is the Mormon Carson Emigrant Trail and can be driven via Highway 88 near Genoa through Hope Valley (Junction Highway 89) past Silver Lake to Mormon Emigrant Trail Road at Iron Mountain Ski Resort turnoff and on to Sly Park and Sly Park Road to Pleasant Valley Road to the town of El Dorado, and the junction with Highway 49 South."~

References:

Updated SilvaValley Parkway Interchange Cultural Resources- El Dorado County, Early Routes and Roads: Pollock Pines Epic -<https://www.thepollockpinesepic.com/title/early-routes-and-roads/>



SEEKING B.L.A.C. MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BASS LAKE BULLETIN

SILVER SPRINGS PARKWAY - BASS LAKE ROAD - MADERA WAY CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BLAC MEMBER TASHA BOUTSELIS CAMACHO

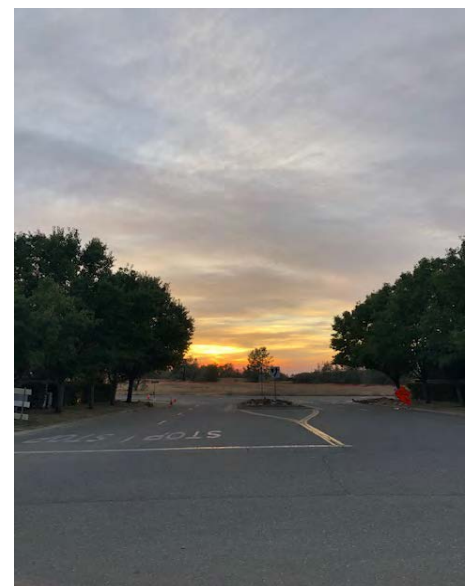
By John Davey

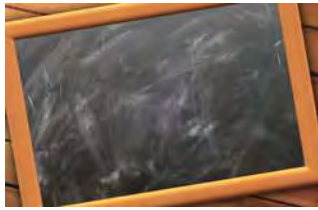
Since 2003, the Bass Lake Bulletin has been a collaborative effort among Bass Lake Action Committee Members, to inform the Bass Lake Community. However, in the past ten years or so, it really has been crafted by a small handful of Bass Lake Action Committee members. During the November 9, 2020 Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors meeting, a discussion was held about finding ways to allow more Members to contribute to the Bulletin, so that it remains a voice of many Bass Lake Members, and not just the same voices monthly.

The Bass Lake Action Committee would like to offer the opportunity for Committee Members to provide some content for the Bulletin. These could be short or longer form articles, photos, anything that Committee Members would like to share. We'd ask that the topics pertain the to the Bass Lake Area, and that we stay away from National, and State politics, and no items for sale .

So if you have news about local events, or photos that you'd like to share with Committee Members and Bass Lake Area Neighbors, send us a message to basslakebulletin@gmail.com. Articles and photos will receive full accreditation, but may be subject to editing to fit formatting and space available in each Bass Lake Bulletin. Content should be submitted by the 12th of each month, as the goal is to publish the Bulletin by the 15th - depending on holidays, and to follow quarterly Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors meetings.

We can't wait to see what Committee Members would like to share! ~





From The BLAC Board President's Letter November 2020

Fall is a time filled with tradition as we leave the long hot summer behind us and it is the second most popular season of the year behind spring.

This year the words from Nat King Cole's 1955 recording of the "The falling leaves drift by the window, the Autumn leaves of red and gold" has been resonating with me as the days quickly become shorter and Thanksgiving, winter and the Christmas holidays are not far behind.

Autumnal Equinox 2020 in the northern hemisphere arrived on Tuesday, September 22nd and happens when the sun is exactly above the equator and day and night is of equal length. This year's Autumnal Equinox was on one of the earliest dates it can fall with the latest being September 24th.

This year Winter Solstice will occur on Monday, December 21st and it is usually on the 21st or 22nd of December which is the shortest day of the year. On that day, the Earth's axis rotates leaving the North Pole at its farthest possible tilt from the Sun resulting in the reduced hours of daylight. As the days get shorter this is one day we can really look forward to!

Many people love fall for the warm feelings that it evokes, sweaters, fall baking, fires in the fireplace, smells and the brilliant color of the trees. We really love the pleasant temperatures and dramatic sunsets.

But for you it might be pumpkin spice lattes or maybe the turkey cooking in the oven?

Bass Lake North Project

The El Dorado County Planning Commission reviewed the Bass Lake North project this past week at their Thursday, November 12th meeting.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION LOCAL CANDIDATE RESULTS

By John Davey

Election results await final certification from El Dorado County Elections Department.

The current tallies as of Friday November 13th:

CA 1st Senate District

Brian Dahle 59.7%
Pamela Swartz 40.3%

CA Assembly 6th District

Kevin Kiley 58.9%
Jackie Smith 41.1%

El Dorado County Supervisor District 1

John Hidahl 60.91%
Ron Briggs 23.10%

El Dorado County Supervisor District 2 George

George Turnboo 44.80%
Ken Pimlott 43.88%

El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors (Top 2 elected)

Ben Paulsen 20.95%
Noelle Mattock 21.47%
Sita Burgess 19.06%
Dan Sozzi 5.84%

El Dorado Irrigation District Division 5 Director (El Dorado Hills)

Alan Day - unopposed

El Dorado Hills County Water/Fire Board of Directors 4 year term (Top 2 elected)

John Giraudo - unopposed
Bobbi Bennett - unopposed

El Dorado Hills County Water/Fire Board of Directors - Unexpired Short Term

Charles Jim Hartley 58.63%
Gatha I Willyard 17.69%

Los Rios Community College District Trustee Area 3 Governing Board Member 4 year term

John Knight 31.16%
Susan Didriksen 19.41%
Chris Yatooma 22.52%

El Dorado Union High School District, Governing Board Member Four Year Term - Top 2 elected

David J Del Rio unopposed
Lori M Veerkamp unopposed

El Dorado Union High School District, Governing Board Member Two Year Term - Top 2 elected

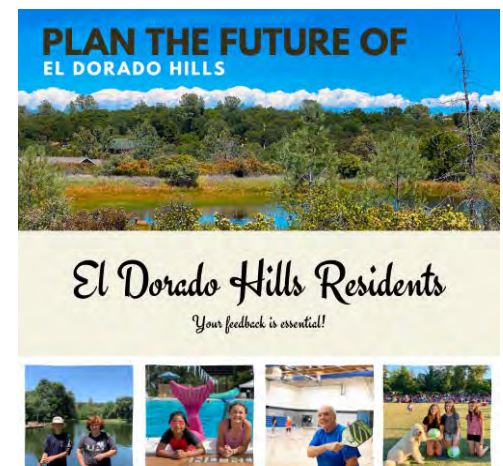
Jessica Rodgers unopposed

Rescue Union School District Governing Board Member - Top 2 elected

Rebecca Weinstein-Hamilton 7.15%
Jenny Robles 5.46%
Dan Anzini 9.53%
Taggart "Tagg" F Neal 17.02%
Sheila Fruge 6.90%
Michael R Gordon 15.49%

EI DORADO HILLS CSD PARKS & RECREATION 2021 MASTER PLAN UPDATE SURVEY UNDERWAY

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District is conducting a community-wide interactive survey to learn about what residents and families would like to see over the next five years as the District undertakes its 2021 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan update. Take the time to provide some feedback about the parks and trails features you and your family use in El Dorado Hills, along with what features you would like to see more of.



Take the Interactive Survey HERE:

<http://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-2021-master-plan>

President's Letter - (con't)

- An article regarding this request by the Bass Lake North developer is in our February Bass Lake Bulletin and may be found in the President's Letter at:

<http://basslakeaction.org/images/bulletins/2020/02.pdf>

The developer had requested consideration to amend the Bass Lake North Conditions of Approval # 66 to reduce the Park and Ride from 100 spaces to 50 spaces because of the cost burden. The lot would also include 10 parking spaces for the bike and pedestrians trails in the Bass Lake Hills Specific Plan.

The EDH Area Planning Advisory Committee (EDHAPAC) submitted a very detailed letter to the Planning Commission supporting the need for the 100 space parking lot to be built.

EDHAPAC President John Davey was able to follow the meeting and comment via Zoom. He reported that after three and a half hours, the Planning Commission voted 3-2 to deny the request to modify the Conditions of Approval #66 with ayes from Commissioner Vegna, Williams and Ross and no's from Commissioner Miller and Hanson.

During the hearing the developer, Norm Brown, stated that if his request was denied by the Planning Commission, he would file an appeal to the current Board of Supervisors.

La Nina Year This Winter?

Every few years the variations in the ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific cause a La Nina condition to occur with strong winds blowing warm water at the ocean surface from South America across the Pacific Ocean towards Indonesia. The cold water rises to the surface as the warm water moves west which typically brings storms that move from the north to the south.

A La Nina year can boost the odds for increased storm activity with higher than normal precipitation for the northern third of the West.

The National Weather Service in

(Continued on page 6)

2021 BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION GOES ELECTRONIC

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors election for the following year had typically been conducted at the year-end annual meeting and Holiday Party. Because the of the public gathering restrictions still in place, the Board of Directors Election cannot be conducted in the usual fashion.

As a remedy, the 2020 Board of Directors voted at the November 9, 2020 Board Meeting to conduct the 2021 Board of Directors election electronically.

Each Committee Member will receive an email notification with instructions for how the electronic election will be conducted. The election period will open on December 1, 2020, and will end Monday December 14, 2020

All votes must be submitted by 5 PM on Monday December 14, 2020. Results will be announced at the virtual Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors Annual meeting scheduled for 7:00PM on Monday December 14, 2020. Members will receive an email with the link to the virtual meeting.

For 2021 each current Bass Lake Action Committee Director has offered to continue their duties in the coming year. The 2021 Directors Ballot Slate is:

President:
Kathy Prevost

Vice President:
John Davey

Treasurer:
Wil Brunet

Secretary:
Jan Buxton

Director At Large:
Ron Cassity

There will also be an opportunity for members to write in a candidate name for each of the Director positions.

Additionally, the Board of Directors is looking to obtain more member involvement in subcommittees, and working groups.

Beginning in January 2021, Committee Members will receive email invitations for participation in various subcommittee and working groups.

As an example, the Traffic Safety Committee is down one member, so Committee Members can expect to see a message looking for volunteers to work on the Traffic Safety Committee in 2021.

A few other subcommittee and working groups:

- Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) Subcommittee
- Parks and Recreation Subcommittee
- Propane Subcommittee

The Bass Lake Action Committee is looking forward to increased member participation regarding local issues in 2021.



Bass Lake Action Committee 2021 Board of Directors Sample Electronic Ballot

President's Letter - (con't)

- Sacramento believes that we have a typical La Nina weather pattern underway and it is expected to last through January 2021. This means there is an equal chance of having a slightly drier or slightly wetter than normal winter season.

The Old Farmer's Almanac for 2020 -21 expects that it will be a fairly dry winter with colder than normal temperatures and less snow than usual. However, the Farmer's Almanac predicted that Tahoe would have wet snow around November 8th to the 11th and more snow by Thanksgiving. They are calling this year the "winter of the great divide".

The Climate Prediction Center for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reflects increased chances for below-normal precipitation for parts of the southern and central third of the western continental US. A large amount of California is expected to have a drought.

So it is truly a roll of the dice!!

Class Action Lawsuits

In the May 2020 Bass Lake Bulletin, we mentioned that a lawsuit had been filed by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra against Vitol, Incorporated and SK Energy Americas, Inc., accusing the firms of illegally driving up gasoline prices through a complex scheme that cost motorists in California millions of dollars.

Several additional Class Action suits have also been filed claiming that the companies used sham transactions to trade among themselves to create artificial spikes in the gasoline spot market from which they shared the profits generated through a disguised arrangement.

One of them is from a California trucking company who is suing the 3 oil trading companies, Vitol, SK Energy and SK Trading International. The lawsuit alleges violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act and California's Cartwright act as well as abuses of the States unfair competition law.

The lawsuit class includes anyone that purchased gasoline from a retailer in California from February 18, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

California Home Sales

With the continuing low interest rates and low inventory, houses continue to sell quickly in El Dorado County. In October, the 325 home sales were 28% above October of 2019 and the median selling price was 8% higher according to Ken Calhoon of the Home Source magazine in the Mountain Democrat.

Almost two-thirds of the sales were listed less than 30 days and a majority sold for more than the asking price, many with multiple offers. According to the California Association of Realtors the median price for an existing single-family home reached \$712,430 in September 2020.

The California Association of Realtors is forecasting that the California housing market will continue to rebound in 2021 because of the low mortgage rates and strong demand. They report that the continued economic uncertainty and unemployment concerns with a lack of homes on the market will keep the rebound in check for the state.

We wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday,

Kathy Prevost
President
Bass Lake Action Committee

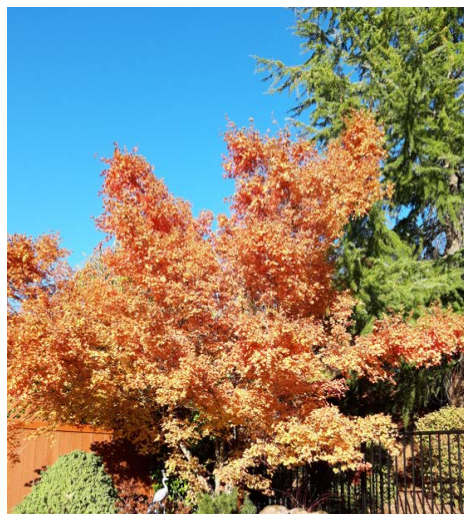


image credit: Kathy Prevost

GIVE THANKS
for each new morning
with its light
for rest and shelter
of the night
for health and food
And for every thing
Thy goodness brings
Ralph Waldo Emerson

BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE HOLDS NOV 9, 2020 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCES DECEMBER 14, 2020 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND ELECTION

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors conducted the last quarterly Board of Directors meeting of 2020 virtually on Monday November 9, 2020. At the meeting, the Board of Directors voted to cancel the 2020 Holiday party, due to the continuing limitation on Public Gatherings in California. The Board also established an electronic voting solution for the election of the 2021 Board of Directors.

Due to the ongoing restrictions from the State of California regarding public gatherings, the December 14th Bass Lake Action Committee Annual Board meeting will be held virtually, online, beginning at 7PM, through 7:30PM.

All Bass Lake Action Committee Members are invited to attend, and members will receive an email invitation that will include the Zoom Link and instructions for attending the meeting in December.

The December 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda will be focused on the BLAC Board of Directors Candidate slate for 2021. Following the election results, Members are invited to socialize in the virtual meeting as the Committee closes out 2020.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice-President John Davey at 530-676-2657, or email basslakemembers@gmail.com. Residents can also visit our online membership form at <http://basslakeaction.net/members> ~



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Editor Emeritus John Thomson Ph.D.

Editors: Bass Lake Action Committee Board Of Directors

President Kathy Prevost | Vice President John Davey | Treasurer Wil Brunet | Secretary Jan Buxton | Director At Large Ron Cassidy

blacinfo@aol.com - 530-676-2657

For additional information contact: Vice President John Davey 916-752-8183