



COUNTY OF LAKE

MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ONGOING

Monday Night Blues, Upper Lake

Monday evenings, year-round

Great musicians play the blues inside the Blue Wing Saloon & Café. Guests are welcomed to have dinner at a cozy table indoors, sit down for a drink or appetizers at the handcrafted walnut bar, or appreciate the stars outside in the heated veranda. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluewingsaloon.com

Meet the Winemaker Series, Upper Lake

First Friday of the month, year-round

The Blue Wing Saloon & Café hosts the owner and/or winemaker of one of the great Lake County wineries whose vintages are featured on the wine list. Special menu items for that day are carefully paired with the featured wines. Blue Wing Saloon & Café. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluewingsaloon.com

First Friday Fling, Lakeport

First Friday of the month, year-round

Reception spotlighting artists currently showing in the gallery, with music, hors d'oeuvres, and wine sponsored by one of Lake County's wineries. Student gallery also open. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 325 N. Main Street. (707) 263-6658, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

Winemaker Dinner Series, Kelseyville

First Tuesday of the month, year-round

The Saw Shop Gallery Bistro features a local or regional wine paired with a special menu highlighting the wine. Dine al fresco on the wraparound porch or inside where walls of the circa-1902 building are festooned with local art. Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, 3825 Main Street. (707) 278-0129. www.sawshopbistro.com

Beer Masters Dinner Series, Lakeport

Second Tuesday of the month, year-round

Molly Brennans hosts a specially prepared Irish-influenced menu on the second Tuesday of every month. Each course is masterfully paired with a different beer from that evenings' featured brewery. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Advanced reservations are required. Molly Brennans, 175 N. Main St. (707) 262-1600. www.mollybrennans.com

- more -

Lake County Wine Tours, Countywide

Year-round

Guests taste award-winning wines at a variety of tasting rooms, as well as out in the vineyards amid spectacular views of Clear Lake and the surrounding countryside. Tours include comfortable seating in a 16-passenger motor coach, a knowledgeable guide, all tasting fees, and a gourmet lunch to further stimulate the palate. Reservations required. (707) 998-4471, www.lakecountywinetours.com

A Taste of Lake County Wine Tour, Countywide

Year-round

Whether you are a beginning taster or a wine connoisseur, the Taste of Lake County Wine tour is sure to please your palate. Spend a day sipping fine wines, enjoying a gourmet picnic among the vines while taking in the rustic beauty of Lake County and the classic charm of Napa Valley's less-traveled back roads. (707) 987-1920; (888) 987-AERO, www.aeroshuttleservice.com

Langtry Estate and Vineyard Tours, Middletown

Tuesday through Saturday, year-round

Guided tours of the historic vineyard travel to the higher elevation of Tephra Ridge for spectacular views of Guenoc Valley. Tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Includes picnic style lunch in the vineyard and wine tasting. \$45 per person. 21000 Butts Canyon Road. 48-hours advance reservations required. (707) 987-2385, www.langtryestate.com

Tuscan Village Music & Art Series, Lower Lake

Friday evenings, year-round

Live music by Lake County performers, great food, wine tasting, and arts and crafts. Outdoors in the orchard during summer; inside other seasons. Presented by 2Goombas Deli and Terrill Cellars. Main Street. (707) 994-3354.

Guided Bird Walks, Lakeport

Saturdays, year-round

The Lake County Land Trust hosts guided bird walks at the Rodman Slough Preserve on Saturdays. The walks, which last 90 minutes, begin at 9:00 a.m. September – May, 8:00 a.m. June – August. Free admission. 6350 Westlake Road, off Highway 29, near the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff. (707) 279-0923, (707) 994-2024, www.lakecountylandtrust.org

Tulip Hill Winery Tours, Nice

Saturdays, year-round

Guided tour of the winery's production of world-class wines offered every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free. Highway 20 at Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Lake County's Windows to the Universe, Kelseyville

Third Saturday of each month

Telescope observing and a planetarium show at the Taylor Observatory. 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. 5725 Oak Hill Lane. Suggested donation is \$3. (707) 262-3499, www.taylorobservatory.org

Concerts with Conversations, Upper Lake

Last Friday of the month, January through May

Monthly concert series January – May features live music in an intimate setting with sumptuous hors d'ourves and wine. A benefit for the Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund for the creation of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in Lakeport. An informal concert and dialogue with the artist follows wine, hearty appetizers, and coffee with dessert. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street, Reservations are suggested as seating is limited. (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Guided Bald Eagle Viewing Hikes, Cache Creek Natural Area

Mid-January through mid-February

Bureau of Land Management natural resource specialist will lead guided four-mile hikes. Enjoy the scenes of Cache Creek canyon where eagles, tule elk, osprey, and other wildlife may be seen. The first mile consists of a 600 foot climb. All participants should wear sturdy hiking boots and dress for cold weather. Bring water, lunch and binoculars. Reservations required. (707) 468-4000, www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ukiah/cacheecreek.html

Historic Family Ranch Day Trip, Clearlake Oaks

April through October, by reservation only

Guests' journey begins with a 90-minute narrated mule-drawn wagon ride that meanders through a valley rich with history, wildlife, and magnificent wildflowers during the spring. The ride ends with an authentic chuckwagon barbecue, complete with Dutch oven cobbler and complimentary Lake County wine. Eleven Roses Ranch. (707) 998-4471, www.elevenrosesranch.com

Tulip Hill Winery Concert in the Garden, Nice

May through September, one Saturday per month

Monthly summer event series outdoors in the garden at Tulip Hill Winery. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy music in the garden, wine is available for purchase. Small fee. 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Kelseyville Certified Farmers' Market, Kelseyville

Saturdays, May through October

Local farmers offer their finest, freshest produce, eggs, baked goods, and cheese. Live music, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Steele Wines, 4350 Thomas Drive. (707) 263-4211, www.lakecountymarket.org

Bird and Nature Walks, Kelseyville

Second and Fourth Saturdays, May through August

Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association offers alternating bird and nature walks on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from May through August. Meet at the Visitor Center ramp at 8:30 a.m. Clear Lake State Park, 5300 Soda Bay Road. Free park entrance for walks. (707)279-2267.

Summer Concerts in Library Park, Lakeport

Mid-June through Mid-August

Pack your picnic supper and head to the park to hear top-notch musical acts perform in the gazebo. Every Friday evening from June through August. Sponsored by KXBX 98.3 FM and other local businesses. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Library Park. Free admission. (707) 263-6113

EcoArts: Coyote Film Festival, Middletown

Monthly, June through September

Presentations by local, regional, and national independent filmmakers. Admission fee. Screening locations vary. (707) 928-0323, www.coyotefilmfestival.org

EcoArts: Lake County Sculpture Walk, Middletown

June through mid-October

Stroll along the center trail of the 107-acre nature preserve to view the yearly installation of sculptures "in dialogue with nature," by award-winning artists as well as local schools and community groups. Sensible shoes and water are recommended. Park open dawn until dusk. Middletown Trailside Nature Preserve County Park, 21435 Dry Creek Cutoff and Highway 175. Free to the public. (707) 928-0323, www.coyotefilmfestival.org

Concert in the Vineyard Series, Kelseyville

Saturdays, June through October, 2009

The Moore Family Winery hosts a concert in the vineyard series. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Bring a blanket or a low-back lounge chair. Wine and food available for purchase. 11990 Bottle Rock Road. (707) 738-0507, www.moorefamilywinery.com

Teddy Bear Reunion, Upper Lake

Thanksgiving through New Year's Day

A Lake County tradition for almost 30 years, teddy bears of all types and eras fill the downtown shop windows throughout the holiday season. Sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council. Main Street. (707) 275-2309.

HEADLINE CONCERTS

Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa, Kelseyville

Lake County's largest full-service destination resort hosts top-name entertainers year-round in both The Konocti Field Amphitheatre, a 5,000-seat outdoor lakeside amphitheater, and The Joe Mazzola Classic Concert Showroom, an intimate 1,000-seat dinner theater. 8727 Soda Bay Road. (800) 660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com

Robinson Rancheria Resort & Casino, Nice

Lake County's largest casino features 600 video slots and several table games, a 600-seat bingo hall, 48-room hotel, state-of-the-art conference center and banquet facility, a full-service restaurant and 24-hour snack shack, sports bar featuring a video wall with high-definition TV screens and more, and a showroom where well-known artists frequent the stage. 1545 E. Highway 20. (800) 809-3636, www.robinsonrancheria.com

JANUARY

Ice Bowl Disc Golf, Lakeport

January 31, 2009

Singles tournament. Presented by Disc Golf World News and sponsored by Highland Springs Basket Cases. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Canned food drive and benefit for Lake County Community Action Agency's food cupboard held the last Saturday in January each year. Highland Springs Disc Golf Course, 3600 E. Highland Springs Road. \$15 entry fee. Rain or shine. (707) 263-3210.

FEBRUARY

St. Valentine's Day High Tea

February 2 – 14, Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays

A traditional English High Tea with Devonshire cream, tarts, chocolate, and tiny sandwiches. Lakeport English Inn, 675 N. Main Street. Reservations strongly recommended. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

Valentine's Eve Winemaker Dinner, Cobb

February 13, 2009

Each course of this sumptuous dinner is paired with a different award-winning Wildhurst wine, which follows a wine tasting reception. Held at Rob Roy Golf Club in Cobb. Reservations required. (800) 595-WINE, www.wildhurst.com

Wine & Chocolate, Lakeport

February 14, 2009

Third-annual benefit for programs and activities of the Lake Family Resource Center. Taste ultra-premium Lake County wines – everything from pear champagne to award-winning Syrah and Port – and luscious chocolates masterfully paired by Sommelier Stephanie Cruz-Green, who will lead workshops on wine sensory and pairing food with wine. The event also will feature music, a silent auction, and wine store. Tickets: \$35 advance; \$40 at door. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Mt. Konocti Growers, 2550 Big Valley Road. (707) 262-1611, (888) 775-8336.

Winter Music Festival, Lakeport

February 28 and March 1, 2009

The 16th-annual Winter Music Festival showcases the talent of local musicians and performers. Sponsored by and a benefit for the Lake County Arts Council. Saturday performance: 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2:00 p.m. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 S. Main Street. Tickets: \$15. (707) 263-0577, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

MARCH

Wine Tasting and Art Show, Clearlake

March 7, 2009

Seventeenth-annual event featuring wine by local vintners, exhibitions by local artists, and live music. Sponsored by the Park Study Club; a benefit for the club's scholarship fund. \$20 per ticket. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Best Western El Grande Inn, 15135 Lakeshore Drive. (707) 995-9316.

Holder Ford Team Tournament, Lakeport

March 14 – 15, 2009

Considered by some sportsmen to be the most popular event on Clear Lake, this annual event in its twenty-second year has a laid-back atmosphere that draws pro and amateur teams alike. A barbecue dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Lake County Fairgrounds. The teams especially appreciate the 100 percent payback in prizes on the entry fees for the event. Sponsored by Holder Ford and the Lakeport Regional Chamber of Commerce. (707) 263-5603, www.lakeportchamber.com

Festival of Tulips, Nice

March 28 – 29, 2009

Fifth-annual event will feature wine, food, and entertainment set amid Tulip Hill Winery's gardens blooming with 50,000 tulips imported from Holland. Admission includes a Tulip Hill wine glass for unlimited tastings, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres from several upscale Lake County restaurants, live music, winery tours, barbecue and dessert, and demonstrations. Winery tours will be given and guests will get a chance to explore the crush pad, cellar, and bottling room as the tour guide explains the winemaking process. A raffle will be held each day for a gift basket of Tulip Hill wine and other Lake County products. Tulip Hill Winery, 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

APRIL

Historic Family Ranch Day Trip: The Wildflower Tour, Clearlake Oaks

April 1 – 30, 2009 by reservation only

Wildflowers are the highlight of April's daytrips as guests experience a 90-minute narrated mule-drawn wagon ride that meanders through a valley rich with history, wildlife, and other flora and ends with an authentic chuckwagon barbecue, complete with Dutch oven cobbler and complimentary Lake County wine. Eleven Roses Ranch. (707) 998-4471, www.elevenrosesranch.com

Girls Just Wanna Have Wine, Kelseyville

April 3, 2009

A fun event to celebrate women, Wildhurst Vineyards invites sisters, friends, mothers, and aunts to join one another for an evening of wine tasting and celebration. Appetizers will be served; small fee. Wildhurst Vineyards, 3855 Main Street. (707) 279-4302, (800) 595-WINE, or www.wildhurst.com

Blue Lakes Trout Derby, Blue Lakes

April 25 – 26, 2009

This derby is sponsored by the Blue Lakes Association and local merchants and businesses donate prizes. Now in its twenty-second year, proceeds from the event go to support volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and other Blue Lakes community projects. Held Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with weigh-ins each day at the Narrows Resort. Entry fees are \$8 per person; \$4 for those under 16. The top prize is \$150, second place is \$75, and third place is \$50. Every child wins a prize. The derby is open to the public and hosted by the Narrows Lodge Resort, 5690 Blue Lakes Road. (707) 275-2718, www.thenarrowsresort.com

Heron Festival, Clear Lake State Park, Kelseyville

April 25 – 26, 2009

This fun, family-oriented weekend features pontoon boat tours, birding and nature walks, nature talks and exhibits, and children's activities. The Spring Wildflower Brunch will be held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Reservations are requested. Ninety-minute pontoon boat bird-watching excursions will be held between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Reservations are required. The Clear Lake State Park Visitor Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday with interpretive displays of Lake County's natural and cultural resources. Speaker presentations, slide shows, and videos on local birds and wildlife will be held at the Visitor Center Auditorium. Presented by the Redbud Audubon Society and the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association. Park admission is free all weekend. 5300 Soda Bay Road. (800) LAKESIDE, www.heronfestival.org

MAY

Mother's Day High Tea, Lakeport

May 3, 4, 7, 10, and 11, 2009

Traditional English afternoon high tea with a "Miniature Quilts" show and prizes for best Mother's Day corsage. Enjoy scones, Devonshire cream, tiny sandwiches, tarts, and cakes. Pre-order a gift for mom, \$15.50. Served at noon and at 2:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$22.50 per person. The Lakeport English Inn, 675 North Main Street. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

Lakeport Yacht Club Spring Regatta 2009, Lakeport

May 15 – 17, 2009

A weekend of sailing, including three sailboat races on Saturday and two on Sunday. Friday night begins with a welcome dinner of spaghetti at 6:30 p.m. prepared by the Lakeport Yacht Club. Cost is \$10 per person. Races begin at 12 noon Saturday and Sunday. Following the races Saturday night, there will be a tri-tip dinner at 6:30 p.m., also served by the Lakeport Yacht Club. Cost for the tri-tip dinner is \$15 per person. An awards banquet will be held Sunday afternoon following the races. Registration is \$25 per entry. All other clubs from the region, including those in Lake, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties, are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Lakeport Yacht Club. North boat ramp, 15 Fifth Street. (707) 739-7285.

Catfish Derby, Clearlake Oaks

May 15 – 17, 2009

"The largest catfish derby west of the Mississippi" and a benefit for community projects, the 26th-annual Catfish Derby features both an Adult Derby, with a grand prize of a new boat, motor, and trailer, plus cash prizes; and a Kids Derby for those 16 years old and younger, with the winner receiving a four-wheel ATV. The event will be held from noon Friday through noon Sunday. Early registration will be from noon to 11:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, for \$40. Registration also will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, for \$45. No registrations will be accepted after 11:00 p.m. Friday. Registration is \$10 for kids. Barbecues, which are included with registration, will be held both Saturday and Sunday, with a Saturday breakfast planned. Sunday will feature live music. Sponsored by the Clearlake Oaks/Glenhaven Business Association. 12655 East Highway 20. (707) 998-3795, www.clearlakeoaks.org

Lake County Passion Play, Lakeport

May 16 – 17, 2009

This annual outdoor play re-enacting the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ is now in its twenty-eighth year. No entrance fee; spectators are asked to bring their own chairs. Beltramo Ranch, 7010 Westlake Road. (707) 279-0349, www.lakecountypassionplay.org

Memorial Day Parade & Celebration, Lakeport

May 23, 2009

Annual community celebration, featuring an arts and crafts show and Memorial Day Parade. Main Street. (707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

Lower Lake Memorial Day Parade and Barbecue, Lower Lake

May 24, 2009

Annual horse parade, pet parade, awards and prizes, live music and dancing, artists and crafters. Barbecue from noon to 3:00 p.m. Horse rides by Wiloth Equine Therapy, "Horses Helping Children". Sponsored by Lower Lake Community Action Group. Benefit for Lower Lake High School and community. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Russell Rustici Park. 16375 Second Street. Admission is free. (707) 995-2515.

Wood & Glory X, Lakeport

May 30, 2009

Annual event featuring more than 60 classic wooden boats on Clear Lake. Photography is encouraged and guests vote on their favorite boat, thereby entering a drawing for a commemorative Wood & Glory poster. Sponsored by the Lakeport Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Antique Classic Boat Society. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Docks at Library Park. Admission is free; fee for barbecue. (707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

Car Roundup, Lakeport

May 30, 2009

Eighteenth-annual car show with food, entertainment, vendors, music, and awards. Sponsored by the Lake County No Name Car Club. Benefit for local charities. Registration is from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Awards ceremony is from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Park Street, Library Park. Third Street boat ramp. (707) 262-1508.

JUNE

Wild West Day, Upper Lake

June 6, 2009

Sixteenth-annual Western-themed street festival with Old West skits, a parade, pancake breakfast, tri-tip barbecue, wagon rides, and country music. Contests for best beard, bonnet, and costume. Sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council for community projects and the Northshore Fire Protection District. 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Main Street. Admission is free. (707) 275-2000.

Kulture Shock Car Show, Lakeport

June 20, 2009

Fourth-annual car show presented by Los Diablos Car Club. "No billet" show for 1964 and older traditional 50s and 60s-style hot rods, customs, gassers and classics. Motorcycles include original, traditional 50s and 60s chopper and bobber styles. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Trophies for Best Hot Rods, Best Customs, and Best of Show will be awarded at 3:00 p.m. Live rock-a-billy and classic rock-n-roll bands all day, beer, great food, vendors, pin-strippers, raffle, trophy award presentations.. Admission: \$5 for spectators. See website for vehicle registration form and entry fee. (707) 263-3283, www.kultureshockcarshow.com

Middletown Days, Middletown

June 20 – 21, 2009

Annual Western-themed event the third weekend of June featuring a ranch rodeo, live music, craft and food booths, children's activities, and more. Saturday begins with a parade and ends with a dance. Sunday will feature the gymkhana. Middletown Central Park, Central Park Road. (707) 994-1954.

Lake County Home Winemakers Festival, Kelseyville

June 27, 2009

Seventh-annual festival for tasting the winemaking efforts of more than 40 Northern California amateurs, as well as those from leading Lake County commercial wineries; tasters vote on their favorites. Live music will set the mood and plentiful food from local purveyors will be available. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts; also sponsored by the Kelseyville Business Association. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Main Street. Tasting is \$15 per person and includes a commemorative wine glass and a chance to vote on the winners. (707) 277-7076, www.clearlakeperformingarts.org

VW Show and Shine, Lakeport

June 27, 2009

Annual Vintage Volkswagen car show with children's activities, raffles, vendors, games, awards, and a caravan to the drive-in at sunset. Entry fee to show. Swappers free, but space is limited. Sponsored by the Silver Circle Chapter of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of America and other VW businesses. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Library Park, 222 Park Street. Free admission. (408) 368-6529, www.vwlakecounty.com

JUNE – JULY

Independence Day Fireworks, Countywide

June 27 – July 4, 2009

Lake County is home to numerous fireworks shows during the Fourth of July holiday, many of which dazzle the skies over Clear Lake, illuminating the water's surface. The city of Lakeport hosts its Independence Day fireworks show following a lighted boat parade. Other fireworks shows include the city of Clearlake fireworks display, the Maxine Sherman Annual Fireworks show in Clearlake Oaks, the Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa fireworks display that follows a concert, and more. (800) LAKESIDE, www.lakecounty.com

Clearlake International Worm Races, Clearlake

July 4, 2009

Internationally recognized worm race competition that has summoned competitors ranging from children to senators and congressmen. This 39th-annual event has attracted the attention of Animal Planet, NBC, and Bay Area Backroads. Held in conjunction with the City of Clearlake Independence Day Festivities. Austin Park, 14077 Lakeshore Drive. (707) 994-3600.

JULY

Lake County Rodeo, Lakeport

July 10 – 11, 2009

This year marks the 80th-annual Lake County Rodeo, featuring CCPRA-sanctioned professional rodeo, steer wrestling, bull riding, bareback riding, team roping, barrel racing, mutton bustin', cow chip bingo, and more, plus barbecue, vendors, horse and a dance Saturday night. Sponsored by the Lake County Rodeo Association. Admission fee. 7:00 p.m. Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin Street. (707) 263-1845, www.lakecountyrodeo.com

Horse Parade, Lakeport

July 11, 2009

As part of the Lake County Rodeo, this parade begins and ends at the fairgrounds, but clip-clops through downtown Lakeport. A parade of horses, burros, goats, and other four-legged animals begins at 4:30 p.m., some pulling carriages. Parade viewing in Lakeport is free. (707) 995-2515.

Cobb Mountain Jazz & Blues Festival, Cobb

July 18, 2009

Sixth-annual jazz and blues music festival, plus arts and crafts vendors, food, beer, and wine. Sponsored by the Cobb Merchants Association. Benefit for a local charity. 11:00 a.m. to sunset; gates open at 10:00 a.m. Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park and Camp Resort, 14117 Bottle Rock Road. (707) 928-0390, www.cobbmountainmusicfestival.com

Lake County Wine Adventure, Countywide

July 25 – 26, 2009

Fifth-annual adventure gives guests a chance to explore "The Undiscovered Wine Country" of California's Lake County. Eventgoers can sample award-winning Lake County wines from more than 20 participating wineries plus mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres during this two-day event, which is held at wineries and tasting rooms throughout Lake County. Many locations offer barrel tastings, entertainment, and winery tours. After visiting participating wineries, wine "tourists" will become eligible for a raffle drawing. Purchase of two-day Adventure Ticket includes tasting at participating wineries and a logo wine glass. (800) 595-WINE (9463). www.lakecountywineries.org

AUGUST

Quilt and Textile Exhibition, Lower Lake

August 1 – 31, 2009

Sixteenth-annual show features work by the members of the Clear Lake Quilters Guild, renowned weaver Sheila O'Hara and her students, and members of the Sheep Thrills Spinning and Weaving Guild. Public viewing during regular museum hours, Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hosted by the Lower Lake Historic School Preservation Committee. Lower Lake Historic Schoolhouse Museum, 16435 Main Street. Admission is free. (707) 995-3565.

Taste of Lakeport, Lakeport

August 28, 2009

Twelfth-annual winetasting event featuring food, wine tasting, live music, and dancing. Businesses in downtown Lakeport stay open late for the event, which also features hors d'oeuvres at the many tasting stations, as well as live music and dancing. Purchase of a tasting ticket includes a commemorative wine glass and a chance to win raffle prizes donated by the local businesses. Presented by Lakeport Main Street Association; a benefit for the revitalization of downtown Lakeport. Main Street. 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (707) 263-3418.

The Pepsi Celebrity Golf Shootout, Kelseyville

August 28 – 29, 2009

Thirteenth-annual golf tournament in which amateurs pair up with 20 former professional football greats. Friday's activities include a pool party and luau, live music, and pairing of celebrities with their amateur at-large foursome. Saturday starts with a Celebrity Sunrise Champagne Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Teams meet at 7:30 a.m. on the Buckingham Golf Course, 2855 Eastlake Drive in Kelseyville; tee time is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Spectators can watch celebrities up close from the gallery. Awards show and concert after shootout. Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa, 8727 Soda Bay Road. (800) 660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

Lake County Summerfest, Countywide

August 28 – September 6, 2009

End-of-summer celebration with countywide community festivals, art events, arts, crafts, entertainment, indoor and outdoor concerts, street dances, theater productions, wine tasting, farmers' markets, food, a celebrity golf

tournament, car show, motorcycle rally, and the Lake County Fair. Concert, tournament, and bike rally event details: (800) 660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com; general information: (800) LAKESIDE, www.lakecounty.com

SEPTEMBER

X.S. Weekend and Takin' It to the Streets Road Rally, Kelseyville

September 4 – 6, 2009

The grand finale weekend of the Lake County Summerfest is an insane combination of extreme sports, the thirteenth-annual motorcycle road rally poker run around Clear Lake, and good old-fashioned rock-and-roll. X.S. Weekend features extreme pro motocross, daredevil jet ski stunt shows, hardcore ski diving and more, plus vendor booths, fashion model competitions, national headline entertainment and night club bands, capped off with a fireworks display on Sunday. Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa, 8727 Soda Bay Road. Reservations recommended. (800) 660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com.

Lake County Fair, Lakeport

September 3 – 7, 2009

The Lake County Fair traditionally occurs Labor Day weekend each year at the fairgrounds in Lakeport. The fair is one of Lake County's most popular summertime events enjoyed by more than 37,000 people each year. Live entertainment, exhibits, carnival rides, food, livestock, and fun for the whole family. Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin Street. (707) 263-6181, www.lakecountyfair.com

Old Time Bluegrass Festival, Lower Lake

September 12, 2009

Fourth-annual event features bluegrass performances plus demonstrations and vendors selling old-time handmade crafts, Art in the Barn, food, beer and wine gardens with Lake County wines, children's activities, and musician workshops. Sponsored by the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association and the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce; benefit for science, history, and performing arts programs for local schools. Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, 8853 Highway 53 at Anderson Ranch Parkway. (707) 994-0958, www.andersonmarsh.org

Lake County Wine Auction, Kelseyville

September 19, 2009

Tenth-annual wine auction and black-tie gala is a must-attend event that benefits local organizations and programs that support the arts, health, and community. Local and regional wineries provide ample wine-tasting opportunities while local purveyors serve gourmet foods. Guests can enjoy live music by local bands all amid the buzz of a silent auction and the energy and excitement of a live auction and the opportunity to enjoy other special events scheduled throughout the weekend. Sponsored by the Lake County Wine Alliance. 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Buckingham Golf and Country Club, 2855 Eastlake Drive. Cost is \$100 per person. (707) 278-0129. www.winealliance.org

Clear Lake Splash-In and Seaplane Festival, Lakeport

September 25 – 27, 2009

Annual event featuring all types of seaplanes, including Grummans, Republics, Lakes, Cessnas, Pipers, and DeHavillands, plus exhibits, film, presentations and seminars, seaplane rides and instruction, spot landing and water bombing contests, vendors, raffle drawings, and dinner Saturday night. In its 29th year, the weekend-long event begins at noon Friday and lasts through Sunday. A Saturday festival takes place in Library Park, featuring vendor booths, food and beverages, and arts and crafts. Seminars and presentations at Natural High School, 810 North Main Street. (877) 828-2286, www.clearlakesplashin.com, www.lakeporchamber.com

Kelseyville Pear Festival, Kelseyville

September 26, 2009

Seventeenth-annual festival celebrates Lake County's agricultural heritage with a showcase "Pear Pavilion" that features pear tastings, cooking demonstrations, pear-packing contests, historical photos, agricultural memorabilia,

storytelling, fresh pears, pear products, and pear-inspired gift items. This fun-filled festival includes a quilt show, fine arts exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, farm animals, parade, children's activities, musicians, cloggers, dancers, and even an antique tractor and farm equipment display. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parade begins at 9:30 a.m. Main Street. (707) 279-9022, www.kelseyvillepearfestival.com

OCTOBER

Corn Maze & Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off, Lakeport

Month of October

Get lost in the spookiest corn maze in the county! The Sutton Family Farm hosts a night-time haunted corn maze (open during the day, too) in the month of October. Antique tractor show and Giant Pumpkin weigh-off competition. Sutton Family Farm, 2405 Scotts Valley Road. (707) 263-6277

The Konocti Challenge, Lakeport

October 3, 2009

Eighteenth-annual bicycle ride set in beautiful Lake County that features three challenging courses: a 30-mile course that winds through the resort and vineyard sections of north Lakeport; a 65-mile adventure course along the lakeshore; and the endurance-testing 100-mile course around the lake; plus an 18-mile family fun ride. A project of the Rotary Club of Lakeport, the course includes rest stops offering snacks and drinks, including the Lakeport Yacht Club, where riders begin and end the ride. Thirty-mile riders and family fun riders leave between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; the 65- and 100-mile riders leave between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Barbecue follows. Lakeport Yacht Club, 15 Fifth Street. www.konoctichallenge.com

Falling Leaves Quilt Show, Lakeport

October 3 – 4, 2009

Judged, open-entry show of 200-plus quilts with a featured quilt artist. Vendor mall with quilt fabric, books, patterns, notions, and more. Country store, opportunity quilts, challenge and round-robin exhibits, door prizes, silent auction, demonstrations, and food. Sponsored by the Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$2 for children under 12. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin Street, Lakeport. (707) 262-1201.

Steele Wines Harvest Festival, Kelseyville

October 10 – 11, 2009

Thirteenth-annual festival famous for its grape-stomping competition for kids and adults, as well as its Vineyard Run for Literacy — a certified 5K/10K run and 5K walk amid autumn-colored vineyards and orchards. Various musicians will perform live both days. Visitors also will get to taste the wines of Steele's extensive collection and enjoy the 4-H Club's barbecue, as well as a myriad of vendor booths with plentiful food, fine art, arts and crafts, and other unique souvenirs and gifts. A kids' corner will feature a storyteller and face painting. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Vineyard Run for Literacy will be held Sunday. Steele Wines, 4350 Thomas Drive. (707) 279-9475, www.steelewines.com

NOVEMBER

Dickens' Christmas Market, Lakeport

November 28, 2009

Annual Christmas event transforms Lakeport into an old English village, complete with costume-clad characters, food booths, and entertainment, as well as an all-day Christmas Market from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Lighted parade begins at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas tree lighting follows at 6:30 p.m. Main Street. (707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

Victorian Christmas Faire & High Tea, Lakeport

November 1 – December 16, 2009

Seventh-annual Christmas Faire with handmade candy canes, dolls, candles, French soaps, tea pots, carolers, holiday decorations and more for sale. Hot tea for all visitors. 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tea servers in full Victorian costume serve traditional English High Tea with Devonshire cream, tarts and tiny sandwiches at noon and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the faire. Faire admission is free; fee for high tea. Reservations strongly recommended. Lakeport English Inn, 675 N. Main Street. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

DECEMBER

Christmas in the Country, Kelseyville

December 4, 2009

Old-fashioned country Christmas featuring a merchants' open house and parade of lights. Eventgoers are invited to enjoy hot cider, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and other hors d'oeuvres with downtown merchants, as well as a lighted parade, pictures with Santa Claus, and a tree lighting at the firehouse. A chowder and chili dinner, provided by the Presbyterian Church, will be held in conjunction with the event. Sponsored by Kelseyville Business Association. 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Main Street. Admission is free. (707) 279-8559, www.visitkelseyville.com

Holiday Light Parade and Tree Lighting, Upper Lake

December 5, 2009

Annual holiday celebration in historic downtown Upper Lake. Tree lighting presentation, holiday light parade at 7:00 p.m., caroling, 4-H barbecue, and refreshments. Santa arrives to take Christmas wishes and photos. Sponsored by Westamerica Bank and the Upper Lake Community Council. Benefit for the Upper Lake Auxiliary Fire Department Toy Drive. Free admission. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Main Street. (707) 275-8170.

Middletown Tree Lighting Ceremony, Middletown

December 4, 2009

The 19th-annual tree lighting ceremony also includes caroling, dancers, photos taken with Santa, crafts, and face painting. The event will take place at the Middletown Central Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will feature the 4-H community Christmas choir. (707) 987-3373.

Renaissance Christmas Pageant and Feast, Middletown

December 4 – 6 and 11 – 13, 2009

Sixteenth-annual pageant features a three-course sit-down dinner around which a lively costume drama unfolds. Delicious food, gorgeous costumes and sets, a cappella Renaissance and traditional Christmas songs, and entertainment, as well as dances and games in which all guests – known for the night as “nobles” – are encouraged to join. Produced by the Middletown Community United Methodist Church and Community Players. Advance tickets are \$40 per person until November 1; \$45 per person thereafter. “Greystone Castle,” 15388 Armstrong Street, off Washington Street, one block east of Highway 29. (707) 987-9333.

Clearlake's Downtown Christmas Parade of Lights, Clearlake

December 5, 2009

Themed floats wind their way through downtown Clearlake, lighting up the winter night at this festive family-friendly event. Parade begins at Redbud Park at 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce. (707) 994-3600, www.clearlakechamber.com

Holiday Tree Lighting, Hidden Valley Lake

December 5, 2009

Eleventh-annual celebration featuring pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, musical entertainment, horse-drawn trolley rides, face painting, refreshments, and fireworks. Sponsored by the Hidden Valley Lake Association. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:00 p.m. Greenview Restaurant, 19210 Hartmann Road. Free admission. (707) 987-3138, www.hvla.com

Holiday in the Pines, Cobb

December 5 – 6, 2009

Sixth-annual event featuring unique works of art and arts and crafts for sale, plus live music, photo ops with Santa, and a chance to win a raffle prize of original artwork donated by a Cobb Mountain artist. Sponsored by Cobb Mountain Artists. Benefit for the Cobb Mountain Elementary School Art Program. Entrance donation is \$1, children 15 and under free. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Little Red Schoolhouse, 15780 Bottle Rock Road. (707) 928-6461, (707) 928-4201.

Avenue of Lights, Lakeport

December 9 – 13 and 16 – 20, 2009

Animated displays consisting of over 40,000 lights will light the 1,000-foot long roadway through the fairgrounds. Tune in to a low-power FM station for continuous holiday music during the half-hour tour. Refreshments available for purchase. Sponsored by Lake County Fairgrounds. Benefit for non-profit organizations. 401 Martin Street. Admission fee per car. (707) 263-6181, www.lakecountyfair.com

New Year's Eve Spectacular, Kelseyville

December 31, 2009

Twentieth-annual event, featuring four bands of different genres and one giant party. Admission to parties begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa, 8727 Soda Bay Road. Packages available. (800) 660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com

OTHER LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

Blue Wing Blues Festival, Upper Lake

July

Third-annual four-day blues festival in which acclaimed musicians take turns each night on the hotel veranda, performing for a full crowd in a garden setting where a barbecue dinner is served. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Lucy Grape Stomp, Middletown

September or October

Celebrate the grape harvest with a good old-fashioned grape stomp. The fun-filled day, which occurs on a Saturday concurrently with the harvest in September or October, includes a Lucille Ball look-alike contest, a grape stomp contest, and a barbecue lunch. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Langtry Estate and Vineyards, 21000 Butts Canyon Road. (707) 987-2385, www.langtryestate.com

Christmas Concert, Lakeport

December

Performance by the Lake County Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. Admission is \$20 for general public; \$15 for members. 3:00 p.m. (707) 279-0877, www.clearlakeperformingarts.com

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, headliner concerts, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com