



COUNTY OF LAKE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2008

SPOTLIGHT ON HOLIDAY AND WINTER EVENTS IN LAKE COUNTY, CA
NOVEMBER 2008 – FEBRUARY 2009

LAKE COUNTY, CA – The friendly, country atmosphere in Lake County grows even cozier as winter approaches and family and friends gather to celebrate the holiday season. It's what makes annual events feel more authentic here. Even the season's blustery chill is warmed by the strong sense of community as main streets bustle with locals and visitors strolling shops and craft fairs and gathering for holiday light parades and tree lightings.

ONGOING

Teddy Bear Reunion, Upper Lake

Thanksgiving through January 2

A Lake County tradition for nearly 30 years, holiday magic is everywhere as the entire town of Upper Lake is decorated with teddy bears throughout the holiday season. Sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council. A benefit for the Holiday Light Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting. Downtown shops on Main Street. (707) 275-2309.

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'oeuvres and wine. A benefit for the Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund for the creation of a state-of-

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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

Meet the Winemaker Series, Upper Lake

First Thursday 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. Free wine tasting is available to all patrons as they enter the restaurant and specials for that day are carefully paired with the featured wines. Blue Wing Saloon & Café. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233. www.bluewingsaloon.com

Winemaker Dinner Series, Kelseyville

Second 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 the featured brewery. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Advance reservations are required. Molly Brennans, 175 N. Main St. (707) 262-1600.

www.mollybrennans.com

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. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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

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

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

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

Wine Tasting Vineyard Tour, Clearlake Oaks

Saturdays and Sundays, year-round

Guided shuttle tour of a 700-acre hillside vineyard. Tour includes three different viewing locations with selected wine tasting at each stop. Saturdays and Sundays 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. \$25 per person/ \$40 per person with lunch. Shannon Ridge Tasting Room, 12599 Highway 20. Reservations required. (707) 998-9656, www.shannonridge.com

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

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. Presented by 2Goombas Deli and Terrill Cellars. Main Street. (707) 994-3354, www.terrillcellars.com

NOVEMBER 2008

Clear Lake Performing Arts 30th Anniversary Celebration, Lakeport

November 16, 2008

The Lake County Symphony Orchestra performs. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. Special music and no-host dinner after concert, \$25 per person for dinner. Admission to concert is \$20 for general public; \$15 for members. Children 18 and under are free. Clear Lake High School, 350 Lange Street. (707) 279-0877, www.clearlakeperformingarts.org

Dickens Christmas Market, Lakeport

November 29, 2008

Downtown Lakeport is transformed into an old English village for a day full of festivities — costume-clad characters from the 1800s stroll Main Street and welcome guests to browse the shops and enjoy the food and vendor booths. Eventgoers are encouraged to arrive dressed for the occasion in period costumes and enter the costume contest for a chance at cash prizes. The Christmas lighted parade begins at 6:00

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p.m. The annual Christmas tree lighting follows the parade at Museum Park. 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

DECEMBER 2008

Middletown Tree Lighting Ceremony, *Middletown*

December 5, 2008

The 18th 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.

Christmas in the Country, *Kelseyville*

December 5, 2008

Old-fashioned country Christmas featuring a parade of lights and downtown merchants' open house. Eventgoers are invited to enjoy hot cider, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and other hors d'oeuvres with Kelseyville merchants, as well as a lighted parade, a visit from Santa Claus, and a tree lighting at the firehouse. A chowder and chili dinner, provided by the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church, will be held in conjunction with the event. Rides in a lighted, mule-drawn holiday carriage. Sponsored by Kelseyville Business Association. 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Main Street. (707) 349-6633, www.visitkelseyville.com

Cinderella, *Lakeport*

December 5 – 7 and 12 – 14, 2008

Mendocino College, in partnership with the Lake County Theater Company and the Soper-Reese Community Theatre, presents the new and hilarious musical comedy, "Cinderella," at the newly renovated Soper-Reese Community Theatre in Lakeport. Reserved seating tickets, \$20, will be available at the theater box office, 275 S. Main Street. General admission tickets, \$15, available at area retail stores. (707) 263-0577, www.soperreesetheatre.com

Christmas Light Parade, *Upper Lake*

December 6, 2008

Fifteenth-annual tree lighting presentation, plus holiday light parade at 7:00 p.m., photos with Santa, caroling, a 4-H barbecue, and refreshments. Sponsored by Westamerica Bank and the Upper Lake

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Community Council. Benefit for the Upper Lake Auxiliary Fire Department Toy Drive. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Main Street. Free admission. (707) 275-8170.

Clearlake's Downtown Christmas Parade of Lights, *Clearlake*

December 6, 2008

Themed floats wind their way through downtown Clearlake, lighting up the winter night. This year's theme, "Christmas Carols Come Alive," is sure to guarantee a festive family 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 6, 2008

Tenth-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

Lake County Country Christmas Craft Faire & Pet Expo, *Lakeport*

December 6 – 7, 2008

A holiday tradition, this event features only the highest quality crafts by crafters from all over California. This year's event also will include a pet expo, and eventgoers are encouraged to bring their pets and visit the pet vendors in Fritch Hall. Sponsored by Lake County Animal Services. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin Street. Admission is free. All proceeds benefit homeless animals in Lake County. (707) 367-0270.

Holiday in the Pines, *Cobb*

December 6 – 7, 2008

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.

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Renaissance Christmas Pageant & Feast, Middletown

December 5 – 7 and 12 – 14, 2008

Fifteenth-annual pageant features a three-course sit-down dinner around which a lively costumed drama unfolds. Delicious food, gorgeous costumes and sets, a cappella Renaissance and traditional Christmas music, and entertainment, as well as dances and games. The audience is part of this theater-in-the-round experience, and costumes are encouraged (but not required). Produced by the Middletown Community United Methodist Church and Community Players. Advance tickets are \$40 per person until November 1; \$45 per person thereafter. Free and low-cost sneak-previews also are scheduled. “Greystone Castle,” 15388 Armstrong Street, off Washington Street, one block east of Highway 29. (707) 987-9333.

Christmas Bird Count, Countywide

December 20, 2008

Lake County is known for its incredible birding opportunities, and the annual Christmas bird count gives nature enthusiasts the opportunity to take part in the Audubon Society’s longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas bird count, which happens across the western hemisphere.

www.redbudaudubon.org

Christmas Celebration Concert, Lakeport

December 21, 2008

Performance by the Lake County Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. 3:00 p.m. Clear Lake High School, 350 Lange Street. Admission is \$20 for general public; \$15 for members. (707) 279-0877, *www.clearlakeperformingarts.org*

New Year’s Eve Spectacular, Kelseyville

December 31, 2008

Nineteenth-annual event features four different parties, each with a different type of music—an orchestra, rock band, blues band, and country music band. All-inclusive packages feature an “All You Can Eat” Baron and Seafood Buffet, cocktails, champagne, and party favors. 9:00 p.m. Topped off by the annual New Year’s Day “All That Jazz” Champagne Brunch. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Konocti Harbor Resort and Spa, 8727 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville. (707) 279-4281, 800-660-LAKE, *www.konoctiharbor.com*

JANUARY 2009

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 of January each year. Highland Springs Disc Golf Course, 3600 E. Highland Springs Road. \$15 entry fee. Rain or shine. (707) 263-3210.

FEBRUARY 2009

Wine & Chocolate, Lakeport

February 14, 2009

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. Support Lake Family Resource Center programs and activities while enjoying wine, chocolate, music, wine-related workshops, and a silent auction. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Mt. Konocti Growers, 2550 Big Valley Road. Admission is \$35 per person in advance; \$40 at the door. (707) 262-1611.

Winter Music Festival, Lakeport

February 28 – 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

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.