# Scientists zapping Lake Tahoe aquatic life

**By Kevin Oliver, KCRA-TV**

It’s shocking research on invasive species, literally.

Researchers and scientists spent this past week on Lake Tahoe zapping fish with electricity as they try to survey the number of non-native fish and stop their spread.

The researchers used modified vessels called E-boats, equipped with electrified probes that stun anything that swims within 10 feet of them.

Researchers then scoop up the stunned fish as they float to the surface.



Researchers regularly survey fish using a specialized boat with electrical probes extending from it. Photo/Kevin Oliver/KCRZ

Invasive fish are pulled from the water, put into storage tanks and hauled off to be examined and disposed of.

Researchers used five boats simultaneously to conduct what

they called a “blitz” in order to get as accurate a count as possible of how many invasive fish are in various areas of the Tahoe Keys in a three-day period.

Biologists use the figures to compare data in an attempt to see what kind of an effect invasive species are having on the lake.

Part of the study will look at whether they can break the spawning cycle and reduce the number of non-native fish by pulling them from the water before they fertilize their eggs.

The same researchers found large goldfish during past expeditions. Three more goldfish were found earlier in the week.

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# Truckee group putting on guided hikes

**By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee**

Truckee’s Mountain Area Preservation organization is inviting the public to join its members on three guided hikes this summer – June 15, July 12 and Aug. 11.

The three- to five-hour hikes will explore some of the areas the group has helped preserve in the Truckee area.

The hikes are free for members. Non-members are asked to make a small donation of any amount, “which makes them a member,” said Alexis Ollar, Mountain Area Preservation’s executive director.

The grass-roots, nonprofit environmental organization formed in 1987 and has since worked with land trusts and others to keep many scenic meadows, valleys and ridges from development and accessible for the public.

The June 15 hike, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, will be to Lower Sagehen Creek.

A six-mile walk on flat terrain suitable for beginners, it will include woods and wildflower meadows near Sagehen Reservoir.

A moderate-level hike to Frog Lake Cliffs, near Castle Peak, will be from 9am to 2pm July 12.

It includes some steep forested climbs, wildflower meadows and panoramic views.

The last hike, an eight-mile moderate trek on Royal Gorge land, will be from 9am to 2pm Aug. 11.

The hike will involve a steep downslope to a small river crossing and a trek along the side of Palisade Peak.

Views will include Point Mariah and Devil’s Peak and spectacular overlooks of Royal Gorge land and the American River.

Hikers should bring water, lunch, hats and sunscreen.

To sign up for a hike, call (530) 582.6751 or email alexis@mapf.org.

More information on the hikes and parking directions are online.

# Important to make sure animals aren’t overheated

June is getting off to one of its hottest starts in a long while and Washoe County Regional Animal Services is using the rising temperatures to raise awareness that leaving a pet in an enclosed vehicle, even for a short time, can be a deadly mistake.

Temperatures inside a closed automobile can easily rise to 20 degrees or warmer than outside temperatures. This could prove deadly to a pet.

Nevada Revised Statute 574.195 is aimed at the prevention of cruelty to animals and makes it illegal for a person to “allow a cat or dog to remain unattended in a parked or standing motor vehicle during a period of extreme heat or cold or in any other manner that endangers the health or safety of the cat or dog.”

The law also allows that designated responders “may use any force that is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances” to remove an unattended and endangered dog or cat from the vehicle.

When it gets to the point where an animal’s well-being is threatened, Animal Control Officers will take the necessary steps, as obligated by the law, to save the endangered animal by removing it from the vehicle. Even if the officer needs to break a window to do it.

The public is encouraged to report distressed animals locked in hot cars immediately by calling (775) 322.3647.

# CHP helicopter reunites family separated hiking near Truckee

**By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee**

A CHP helicopter crew made quick work in finding a lost grandmother in the woods of Placer County on Tuesday.

Dorothy Klishevich and her two grandsons, ages 12 and 13 years old, went hiking Tuesday in Lake Valley, about 20 miles west of Truckee. She parked her picku at the trailhead and the three began their hike through the mountainous area of small lakes, granite boulders and trees.

The boys got out ahead of Klishevich, eventually becoming separated from their grandmother, according to a California Highway Patrol press release. The woman used her cell phone to call 911 to report she was lost and could not find the children, the CHP said.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department at 4:12pm requested help from the CHP helicopter crew. Pilot Mark Uhlenburg and flight officer-paramedic David White took off from the Auburn Airport and arrived at Lake Valley in 25 minutes.

The officers used the helicopter's loudspeaker to call for the grandmother, instructing her to call 911. Klishevich heard their request and called 911 again.

With the help of a Placer County sheriff's dispatcher, the helicopter crew found her next to a small lake. The helicopter landed on a granite slab and hiked a quarter mile to

Klishevich.

She and a dog named Pluto that she had brought with her on the eventful hike were airlifted to a landing area on the west side of the Lake Valley Reservoir. She was turned over there to Placer County sheriff's Sgt. Bill Walton.

The helicopter crew learned that the boys had found their way back to their grandmother's pickup and were waiting for her to return. The group was reunited and went on their way, according to the CHP.

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# Phelps signs on to stroke golf ball at ACC

**By Peter Schmuck, Baltimore Sun**

Baltimore's homegrown all-time Olympic hero was willing to serve his golf apprenticeship in front of a cable television audience as part of the Golf Channel series "The Haney Project." Now, Michael Phelps is ready to take his new avocation to another level.

Phelps has signed on to play in front of a national broadcast television audience in the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship July 21-26 at the Edgewood Tahoe in Stateline. His commitment to play in the event was confirmed Tuesday morning by a tournament official and acknowledged on a conference call involving swing coach Hank Haney later in the day, but the official announcement will not be made until next week.

It's not the U.S. Open, but it's a real tournament featuring a

number of terrific celebrity golfers, some good enough to play on the PGA Senior Tour. It’s also the event that made the horrible swing of basketball great Charles Barkley so infamous that Haney tried to fix it on the same show that recently showcased Phelps and his budding interest in golf.



Michael Phelps will make his debut at the ACC in Lake Tahoe in July. Photo/Channel Guide

Obviously, Phelps isn’t afraid to face his new sports challenges in front of the world. He showed up at Orioles spring training in February with Haney in tow to take batting practice with his hometown baseball team. He got off to a rocky start in his first few rounds, but eventually made some good contact and got some praise from manager Buck Showalter and Adam Jones.

Haney isn’t making any bold predictions about how Phelps might do on such a big stage less than a year after turning his attention from swimming to golf, but he said that Phelps has been a joy to coach.

“It’s obviously an advantage to coach anybody that’s used to having coaching,” Haney said on a conference call. “This year on my show with Michael Phelps, it was great because he’s been coached his whole career by Bob Bowman, who is obviously one of the greatest swimming coaches ever. Michael is so used to taking instruction and being coached that it’s a big

advantage. And great athletes are easier to coach, there's no doubt about that. Charles [Barkley] might be the exception. He's a little tough, but when it's all said and done he's one of my favorite people in the world, so I love him and I love helping him."

It'll be interesting to see just how far he has come with his golf swing. He certainly didn't win more Olympic gold medals than anyone in history by not preparing well, so it's probably fair to assume that he'll hunker down over the next few weeks getting ready to take on the likes of Michael Jordan, comedian Larry the Cable Guy and former Ravens quarterback Trent Dilfer in an event that is at times a serious competition and at other times – usually involving Barkley – a theater of the absurd.

"Michael is obviously incredibly competitive," Haney said. "I mean, he's the greatest Olympian ever. I've seen him when he's in competition, even when it's just having a friendly bet with some friends. He can really turn it up, so I expect that he will give his best, but having said that, a year ago he was pretty much a beginning golfer.

"He played six times after the Olympics and shot between 98 and 117. Now, the last time we played he shot 85, but that wasn't at the American Century Championship. … It wasn't in front of all the people and with the television cameras on, so I don't expect that he's going to win the tournament, but I think he's going to hit a lot of good shots and he's going to show some improvement and I think everybody's going to enjoy having him play in the tournament."

Phelps was not available for comment, but will likely take part in next week's official media announcement.

# Learn about road bike riding from U.S. coach

Whether you’re an experienced road cyclist or new to the sport, get your cycling season started off right with professional USA Cycling coach Ellen Sherrill on June 5 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Road Cycling 101 & 102 courses are designed to strengthen one’s overall cycling ability and knowledge. Road Cycling 102 covers more complex group ride dynamics, and more advanced concepts in climbing, descending, cornering, and cycling training. All skill levels are welcome.

Cost is $15 per clinic (cash or check only).

Riders meet outside Barton Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine (2170 South Ave. South Lake Tahoe) at Barton Memorial Hospital. All riders must have a road bike, helmet, proper attire and water.

To register, call (530) 543.5896

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# 3 chances for youth to fly free in Truckee-Tahoe

The Truckee-Tahoe Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association will be hosting three Young Eagles events this summer.

Their monthly pancake breakfast in conjunction with Young Eagles Flights is June 8 at Truckee-Tahoe Airport between

7:30-10an. Children ages 8-17 who attend with their parents have the opportunity to fly free Saturday morning.

Additional dates for Young Eagles flights are:

July 7 at the Truckee-Tahoe Airport. Registration for this event takes place on July 6 at the Truckee Air Fair. All participants for this event must register in advance.

Aug. 25th at Lake Tahoe Airport. Registration for this event takes place on Aug. 24 at the Lake in the Sky Airshow. All participants for this event must register in advance.

The EAA Young Eagles program was launched in 1992 to give interested young people an opportunity to experience flight in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

For additional information, contact Michael Golden at Mooney217RN@yahoo.com.

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# Mt. Rose moving forward with expansion plans

The U.S. Forest Service wants to know what the public thinks of Mount Rose Ski Area’s plans to expand.

The project area is located on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and private land.

The Forest Service is proposing to authorize a special use permit boundary adjustment for 112 acres on NFS lands to create the Atoma lift and trail “pod” to the north of the Mt.

Rose Highway.



An artist’s rendering of what the skier bridge over Mount Rose Highway might look like.

The proposed action includes the following components:

• Construction of a skier bridge across the Mt. Rose Highway (connecting the current ski area to the new ski terrain)

• Construction of 11 new ski trails in the Atoma pod, including snowmaking and grooming

• Installation of a new chairlift to serve the Atoma pod

• Removal of the existing Atoma building and parking lot

• Construction of a snowmaking water impoundment at the westernmost portion of the existing special use permit boundary near the “Around the World” trail

• Creation of a non-significant Forest Plan Amendment to limit any further commercial development on the lands acquired by the Forest Service through the 1994 Galena Resort Land Exchange.

The full scoping notice and map packet for this project can be downloaded here.

There will be two open houses regarding the project:

• June 18 Winters Creek Lodge, 4-6pm, 21333 Highway 878, Reno.

• June 19 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisors Office, 4-6pm, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks.

For more information, contact Linda Crawley at (775) 355.5377 or lcrawley@fs.fed.us. Comments will be taken until the end of June.

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# One man’s story about surviving a bear attack

**By Dave Garshelis, Outdoor**

Fatal black bear attacks on people are extremely rare. There are 700,000 to 900,000 black bears living in North America, and in recent years, they’ve killed an average of two people a year. And despite popular perception, most black bears that kill people aren’t mothers protecting their cubs, but adult males hunting in stealth. A 2011 study of bear deaths from 1900 to 2009 showed that male bears committed 92 percent of the attacks. More than 80 percent of those attacks were predatory – in other words, a bear trying to make a human into a meal. Joe Azougar almost became one of these deaths when a 316-pound male black bear locked onto him as prey at his cabin in Ontario. This is his story.

*On the Saturday before Mother’s Day, I went out to my porch around 9:45am to watch geese fly away from a nearby field. I sat in a chair about 10 feet from my door, drinking a cup of coffee with one hand and petting my German shepherd, Ace, with the other. My brother had given me the 6-month-old dog a few days before. We immediately bonded. He was so intelligent. I*

*could tell him to sit and go inside my house for a half hour, and he would stay in the same place.*

*Around 10am, I heard this vibration, this thunder, nearby. I thought it was one of my animals. I turned to my right and there was a black bear running at me, drooling.*

*Ace jumped up in the air a few feet in front of me. The animals flew into this ball of howling and biting. I frantically ran inside the house and locked the door. The dog just kept pushing the bear away from the door. He knew he was protecting me.*

*A physical shock took over my body and my mind. I couldn't remember the emergency number, so I called my friend, who called 911. I called another neighbor to see if he could come help, but had to leave a message. I called his daughter and said, "Be safe, there's a bear out there that's big." After about a minute, I looked outside my main window and saw the bear dragging the lifeless body of Ace into the bushes.*

*A minute later, the bear ran straight to the back window and smashed it with one swing. I tried making myself bigger. I banged pots and pans to scare him off. It did nothing. The bear had determination on his face.*

*The back window is roughly 5 feet off the ground and small, a couple feet by a couple feet. The bear growled and put his head through the window frame, then his paws, then his whole body in a big round ball of fur. Steam drifted out of his mouth. I was 3 feet away from his face.*

*My cabin is small, 8 feet wide by 16 feet long. With my furniture and desk, it's more like 5 by 5 feet. I imagined him ripping me up inside my house. I thought, There's no way I'll make it in here.*

*I decided to make a run for the road, which was roughly 50 feet or so away. I thought I might have a chance there because*

*the neighbors might show or the cops might come with guns. When I turned around, he was running after me in a straight line.*

*I made it to the road, but nobody was there. He ran in a circle around me, came at my right side, and threw one powerful shot to my right shoulder with his paw. I'm a big boy, 5-feet-11-inches and 240 pounds, but I landed in the ditch. All I remember is my face hitting the dirt.*

*He jumped on my back and started scalping me with his front teeth. I can't describe that pain. At first, I wanted him to sink his canines in for a quick death, but then I screamed, "God protect me." I asked God not to have my family find me on Mother's Day in pieces in the bushes.*

*The bear ripped my skin to the back of my skull. My entire scalp just came off. Then he turned his mouth sideways and started chipping into my skull. I heard his teeth clicking into the bone. I saw pieces of flesh falling.*

*I felt his head go back. I turned to look and he was licking his teeth. I jammed my thumb into his eye, which gave me a couple of seconds to feel for the flesh of my head with my other hand. It felt so soft, I thought it was my brain. I pulled it back over my head and pressed down hard.*

*I covered my head like a bomb might drop from the sky, which exposed my shoulder. He just started ripping at my shoulder. I tried to reach back with my other hand and grab his face, but you can't really fight a beast like that. It was like I was tickling him.*

*The main thing was, I didn't want the bear to turn me over. I knew one bite into my organs—liver, heart, kidneys—and I would have been gone. The bear ripped my trapezius muscles. He tore my shirt off and clawed at the sides of my torso. When he started biting my side, I grabbed some dirt and rocks and threw them at him. He didn't stop. He just kept biting and*

*pulling.*

*He started to drag me out of the ditch and towards some bushes. That's when I thought it was all over. I am going to be bear meat. While he was dragging me, my senses changed. I noticed white snowflakes falling. Everything became silent. Everything seemed so calm. I stopped fighting.*

*At some point, I turned my head and saw tires. I looked up and saw two angels. I think they were in a silver van. One of them was honking the horn, but I couldn't hear it. The bear ran away. One woman covered her mouth in shock, like, "Oh my God." They were talking, but all I heard was me saying, "Please, help me. Please, help me."*

*I later found out that every year for Mother's Day, they camp near my property. That morning, they had gone out to get Coke. When they drove back, they thought they saw a bear eating garbage – its head going in and out of trash. Since they were staying nearby, they pulled up for a closer look.*

*When the bear ran away, they quickly threw me in the back and drove off. One woman held my hand. She kept talking.*

*"You're going to be OK."*

*I kept asking for water. I've never felt such thirst, like I was in the Sahara desert. I didn't care about the pain, just this thirst. It drove me mental.*

*"We're getting close. There are the cops."*

*I would have been dead by the time the cops got there.*

*At the hospital, the doctor put his hand on my chest. I asked for something for the pain, then started cursing and screaming. He kept saying, "You're going to be OK. There's nothing wrong with your brain. You're going to go in the operating room. You're going to be fine."*

*Next thing I know, I hear, "Take him into X-ray." Then I went unconscious.*

*When I woke, the nurse went step-by-step over the injuries. They put in over 300 stitches. The staff said I was a very lucky man, that when accidents like this happen, usually the last word used is funeral.*

**Expert analysis:**

It is not clear whether the large male bear that attacked Joe had initially been attracted to the area by some other food source, like garbage, but it is clear that this attack was of predatory intent. Predatory attacks by black bears are extremely rare, given the number of times people and bears encounter each other. The usual recommendation of slowly walking away, or "playing dead" if a bear actually knocks you down, is effective when a bear views you as a threat, but it does not apply for a bear that has a mindset to eat you.

In an attack like this, a person should try to fight back with anything available, or kill the bear if possible. Maybe Joe would have fared better had he grabbed a large knife from his cabin, but his decision to immediately flee was justified to the extent that he had no way of knowing whether the bear would come after him, or would stay and snack on food inside the cabin. He certainly would have been killed and consumed had the bear not been scared off by the vehicle.

*Dave Garshelis is a black bear biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.*

# Bijou golf – more about fun than competition

**By Kathryn Reed**

“I don’t golf, but I have golfed” is how I describe my experience with that little white ball and those odd looking clubs.

It had been at least a dozen years since I swung a club other than at putt, putt golf.



Brooke Laine putts while her son, Nik Olivares, holds the flag. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Nik and Kevin play two or three times a week at Bijou Golf Course. They are in their early 20s. Brooke plays randomly. She and I are in our late 40s. It wasn’t too embarrassing, but there was the constant question from Brooke – “Where is the flag?” My continual response was – “It didn’t matter.”

Nik tells us to sweep the grass with the club. He tells us a lot of things that at least I’m not able to implement.

When pink balls can’t be found in the rough, others bounce off fences and some are thrown farther than they are hit, well, the score isn’t perfectly kept.

On this par 32 course, the guys were in the 40s and the gals in the 50s. I did get a legitimate par (3) on hole 8.

According to Greg Ross, South Lake Tahoe parks manager, about half the people playing the course are seniors, tourists dominate in the summer and locals make up the majority in the shoulder seasons.



Kathryn Reed receives instruction from Nik Olivares. Photo/Brooke Laine

"We definitely have a niche in the market," Ross told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Even though he said the number of golfers declined in the last handful of years, he said the downward adjustment in prices and the early opening this year have been good for Bijou.

The week before Memorial Day the grounds are less than perfect, though. Hole 9 is getting a new tee, which may change it from a par 4 to a par 3. The hole for No. 3 is on the fairway as crews work on the green. Some of the ground is bare in spots. The back holes are definitely in the best condition.



Kevin Lecuro sinks a putt.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Despite the pristine conditions of some other courses, Bijou is very much a typical municipal golf course. And like most courses, the setting is beautiful. Snow is still visible on Freel and Jobs peaks. Looking back from No. 6 Mount Tallac distinctly stands out.

It’s a different type of walk in the woods.

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**Notes:**

• Rates, times and other info about Bijou Golf Course are online.

• Phone number – (530) 542.6097

• Address – 3464 Fairway Drive, South Lake Tahoe.