Rhoden v. Romo at American Century

By Jeff Frank, Sports Network

STATELINE – Eight-time American Century Celebrity Championship winner Rick Rhoden looks to become the first golfer to win three straight titles when he hits the links from July 16-18 in Stateline.

Rhoden, who barely defeated Dan Quinn in ’08 by one point, came right back to dominate a field of 90 golfers last year, winning by three as the 9-5 favorite. Tony Romo finished second at 3-1 odds, while Quinn hit the board once again, tying Billy Joe Tolliver for third place. Both Quinn and Tolliver went off at 5-1.

This year, Rhoden remains the 9-5 favorite, but Romo has inched slightly closer at 5-2. The Dallas quarterback, playing for just the fourth time in this tournament, has improved each and every season.



Rick Rhoden

Read the whole story

Comment period open on Lake Tahoe bike-pedestrian plan

The Draft 2010 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is available for public review by clicking here.

The public comment period ends July 26. Comments may be sent to: Karen Fink, P.O. Box 5310, Stateline, NV 89449 or email to kfink@trpa.org.

The 2010 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is an update to the 2003 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The BPP is a guide for planning, constructing, and maintaining a regional bicycle and pedestrian system. The BPP includes maps and prioritized project lists for the bicycle and pedestrian network, and lays out policies for local governing bodies and transportation agencies. The BPP serves as the Bicycle and Pedestrian element to both the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) Regional Transportation Plan (Mobility 2030) and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Transportation Plan.

Major new elements of the 2010 BPP include updates to Maps, Project Lists, and Goals and Policies. There are new sections on “Benefits of Bicycling and Walking” and “Maintenance.” All other sections have been updated to reflect current conditions.

Copies of the Draft Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan are available at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Placer County Public Library in Tahoe City, the Washoe County Public Library in Incline Village, the North Tahoe Conference Center, the El Dorado County Public Library in South Lake Tahoe, and the Douglas County Public Library in Zephyr Cove.

Digging for Washoe artifacts delays Sawmill bike path

By Kathryn Reed

Cultural resources belonging to the Washoe Indians have delayed construction of the extension of the Sawmill Bike Trail for at least one year.

The Washoe summered in Lake Tahoe and fished in the Upper Truckee River. Their presence is throughout the South Shore.



Completion of the Sawmill Bike Trail is at least two years away. Photos/Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County officials, the ones behind the trail project, are involving the Washoe in every step. They have met at the site and other places to ensure everyone's interests are addressed.

The people that make the rules don't seem to care this area has been disturbed for years, that cars drive on it every day

and snowplows regularly traverse it.

Nor do the feds care the soil is compacted and much of the area covered in asphalt. Cultural deposits will be sought about 1-foot deep.

In the odd way projects get funding, not every holder of the checkbook would have required the level of research currently being undertaken. Because it’s federal dollars funding the bulk of the project the National Environmental Policy Act must be followed. This means looking for sensitive cultural resources.

Completion of the NEPA study is also required to obtain some of the rights-of-way. Easements from California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service and private landowners will need to be secured.

“We hope to have a draft work plan to Caltrans (this) week. Then we can conduct the field work,” said Brendan Ferry, senior planner with the county’s Department of Transportation. “If something is found, it’s a whole other story. If there’s a burial ground, it’s a major issue. Hopefully, nothing is found.”

If California’s financial situation weren’t so bleak, the California Tahoe Conservancy would have paid for the two miles of trail. But the CTC’s cash flow is at a trickle and had to give up on this project.

The county is getting Federal Highway Administration money that is being passed through to Caltrans and then to the county. Caltrans is pulling cash from its Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality fund.



Cyclists currently must share the shoulderless Sawmill Road with cars.

The project, which was supposed to be done this summer, could start next summer. It will be broken into two phases. The first will go from Lake Tahoe Boulevard to Echo View Estates. The second goes from Echo View to Highway 50 to connect with the bike trail bridge that was completed last summer.

“We really want to get this project built for the community. It will be nice when we can link Meyers to the Y,” Ferry said.

The project could cost close to $3 million.

Connecting the Class 1 trail to the bridge will be an engineering feat because of the wetlands in the area and the stilt house on the corner of Sawmill Road and Highway 50.

“We will need to build a retaining wall. We can do it, but it will be expensive,” Ferry said.

He said at one time the CTC was looking at buying the corner lot. That would have made securing easements easier and possibly allowed for a different design.



A road bike rider turned from Sawmill Road onto the bridge headed toward Meyers.

“It is 8-feet-wide with shoulders, fences, drainage, culverts, rock-lined channels. The design is fairly detailed. We have the design basically done,” Ferry said. “We were ready to build it this year. We are just running into paperwork issues.”

Ferry said by late August or early September a decision should be made about starting the trail in summer 2011.

SLT Ice Arena to host competitions

A slew of events are coming to the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena.

The inaugural Skate at the Lake Figure Skating Competition is June 19-20. More than 230 Northern California skaters, ranging from 4 years old to 70 will perform.

Western States Police and Fire Games Hockey Tournament is July 26-30. This “guns and hoses” event will explore the long

standing love/hate relationship between police and firefighters as they wield sticks and blades to determine the victors/survivors.

The 8th Annual Hat Trick Summer Jamboree Hockey Tournament is Aug. 12-15.

Spectators are encouraged to attend and admission is free.

For more information, come by the arena at 1176 Rufus Allen Blvd., or call (530) 542.6262.

Guided Father’s Day hike

Father’s Day-Summer Solstice hike June 20 sponsored by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

Hike Description: After an extended winter, summer has arrived. There is much to celebrate; warmer weather, Lake Tahoe excursions, family vacations and adventures.

Hike toward Mt. Rose, stopping for lunch at Galena Falls, and then continuing to loop back to the trailhead.

Children over 10 years of age only and no dogs on this hike.

For more information or to sign-up for this hike call the TRTA office at (775) 298.0238 or email programs@tahoerimtrail.org.

Auburn recreation area threatened by funding issues

By Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee

The federal government says it can no longer afford to maintain Auburn State Recreation Area, the popular park in the footprint of the defunct Auburn dam.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been paying $2 million annually to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to operate the 30,000-acre park at the confluence of the north and middle forks of the American River.

That money has paid for ranger patrols, trail improvements and a minimal level of visitor programs for the past 33 years.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Queen and ‘Twainiacs’ come out on top



Tahoe Queen Photos/Austin Fay

By Austin Fay

Blue waters churned as throngs of people gathered along the lake to top off the South Shore Summer Series with an old-fashioned sternwheeler race. The water, however, was not so summery – the tradition of the losing captain walking the plank into the lake was nixed.

“It was a little too nippy this year,” said Capt. Jerry Summers.

The Tahoe Queen, with 168 passengers on board, won the Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race on Sunday against its rival, the M.S. Dixie II, still leading the series 8-6.

The race usually goes to the larger boat with a bigger engine, “but with a little help from Tahoe Tessie … we had her underneath the boat for the last quarter mile,” Summers said.



Capt. Jerry Summers and the Tahoe Queen.

Frosty-haired Mark Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne was on the old-style boat, giving words of encouragement and telling tall tales in his signature white suit and black bowtie.

“Truth is one of our most valuable resources, and that’s why I try to conserve it,” Layne joked.

It was a momentous weekend at Zephyr Cove for “Twainiacs,” history buffs and other riff-raff who came to celebrate the

forthcoming publication of a 100-year delayed Mark Twain autobiography with a pie-eating contest, a mock gunfight and a “Bald-Faced Liars” contest.

Austin Sass, director of marketing at Zephyr Cove Resort commented on the rarity of such an event like this in Tahoe.



A battle to the finish.

“Finding a setting where you can have a fun and intellectual event like this, it just doesn’t happen too often here in the mountains,” Sass said.

Golf tournament raises money for Cancer League

South Lake Tahoe Moose Lodge No. 1632, along with Sierra at Tahoe and Harrah’s-Harveys Lake Tahoe are sponsoring the Fifth Annual Longest Day of Golf on June 24.

Tahoe Paradise Golf Course has committed to helping this community fundraiser by donating their course for the entire day. Golfers will start at sunup and play as many holes as they can before sundown.

Last year, the golfers played 119 holes and raised more

$10,000 for the South Tahoe Cancer League. Every dollar raised stays in town to provide financial assistance to local cancer patients.

For the past several years, Tahoe Valley teacher Greg Kuntz and his students have raised more than $700 for this charity. They've already raised close to $400 this year.

If you know anyone who has cancer, or has survived cancer, or if you just care about local cancer patients, consider pledging on a per hole basis or a flat dollar amount – even if it's just $1 – every dollar counts. Send tax-deductible donations to either Angie Keil or Greg Kuntz at SLT Moose Lodge No. 1632, 961 Eloise Ave., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Free birding, wildflower hike put on by TRTA

Experience summer birding and wildflowers on a free guided hike June 26 and July 3.

Hike Description: The Tahoe Institute for Natural Science, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and the Lahontan Audubon Society are sponsoring this easy hike through verdant meadows. Enjoy a profusion of birds and wildflowers as the group searches for such species as Mountain Bluebird, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Pine Grosbeak in Tahoe's flower-covered alpine meadows.

Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent and plan to finish before lunch.

Free, but reservations are required.

Meet at Page Meadows in Tahoe City at 7:30am.

For more information or to sign-up, call (775) 298.0238 or email Kirk Hardie krhardie@yahoo.com.

Watery, snowy trail make it impossible to find destination

By Kathryn Reed

Snowshoes would have been more useful than hiking boots. Poles really would have been welcome. A trail would have been the best thing to have.

Such are the hazards of hiking in spring in Lake Tahoe. Two weeks ago a jaunt to Lily Lake was interrupted by gobs of snow. So much snow we didn't really know where we were. We knew we were along the Glen Alpine Creek, but that was about it.



Water covers much of the Glen Alpine area. Photos/Kathryn

Reed

A couple with their three dogs was going to backpack over Memorial Day weekend. They didn't really know where they were either as they searched for a safe place to cross the raging water.

I'm not sure there was a safe place. And with the snow melting rapidly, people in the know are not advising crossing streams, rivers and creeks.

Some guys coming out of Desolation Wilderness with fishing poles said they couldn't make it to the lake – there are several from this trailhead – because of all the snow.

So much for thinking this was going to be one of those lower elevation hikes where snow wouldn't be a problem. Despite the balmy weather of the past few days, this trail that leads to Gilmore and Grass lakes as well at Mount Tallac may not be in much better shape.

An abundance of water made following the trail difficult without waders in late May. Skirting the side and going off trail made it navigable. It's bound to be more flooded now.

The initial marshy area that is a meadow most seasons has a robust eco-system. Geese swim between the blades of grass. Swallows zoom by. The ribbit of frogs sing out, but none is visible.

With all this standing water, mosquito season is bound to be a doozie. Bug repellant will be needed for future hikes now that the temperatures are staying above freezing.

The old buildings of Glen Alpine are worth a visit and an easy trek from the parking lot on the far side of the store at Fallen Leaf Lake. Normally water gurgles from Soda Spring, the one place where it's safe to drink the water.

On this day standing water is everywhere.

Not much farther up and we hit snow. No problem, lots of tracks to follow. But then the tracks go where I know the trail really doesn’t go, but I don’t want to break trail. We become lemmings.

An expanse of granite unfolds before us. Ah, that famous Sierra silver. Boulders beacon us to sit in the sun and have a bite to eat.

Onward we forge. I’m sure the lake is not far away. It probably wasn’t. But the tracks we chose to follow didn’t take us there. Eventually, we knew it was time to turn around.

Despite intentions to backtrack, we instead did a bit of a circuitous route through the snow.

I’ll save Glen Alpine for a summer or fall hike in the future.

ngg_shortcode_0_placeholder