

Sky-high views, BBQ at Snow Summit



Enjoy panoramic lake and mountain views, then lunch on the Scenic Skychair

At 8,200 feet, the barbecue at Snow Summit's View Haus is head and shoulders above the rest—literally.

No doubt it's the most fun to get to as well. Leave the car behind for this one; enjoying a relaxing lunch at the top of your world is a tranquility-filled 20-minute Scenic Skychair ride to the top of the mountain. Along the way, there's breathtaking views of full-again Big Bear Lake and town below, and the higher you go the more views unfold, of adjacent mountain peaks and distant desert, as the chair glides gracefully through the trees.

View Haus doesn't serve up just barbecue for lunch either; the views that go along with it are better than dessert. Let the eyes wander across the Santa Ana river canyon to the snow-covered San Geronio Wilderness dozens of unobstructed miles away. The magnificent mountain of the same name dominates the distant horizon at 11,502 ft., making it the highest point in Southern California.

Soak up the rays, views and maybe some suds on the spacious deck. Try your luck at horseshoes on what has to be the highest pit in Southern California—the only one that's lift served too. Hot off the grill are tasty burgers, hot dogs and chicken sandwiches, with a variety of beer, wine and cocktails available.

And how many lunches let you work off your meal? Kids love to wander around at the top and climb rocks or chase lizards, and the walk down the ski runs is fun too. Or ride the Skychair back down.

At \$10 for a roundtrip ride—or \$7 one-way for those who want to hike back down—the Scenic Skychair is one of the more inexpensive ways to see Big Bear, from high above it. Having a sky-high lunch is an out-of-this-world bonus.

Scenic Skychair is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday-Friday 9-4 through Labor Day. Then it's weekends only till the start of winter.

Call Snow Summit at 866-5766.

Old Miners Days on the 'button'...

Continued from page 7

throwing, chain sawing, tug of war, tomahawk throw, nail drive and log rolling and sawing. There's even kid contests, like nail driving and seed spitting. It's all great family fun that's free with a badge, \$5 without, under 12 free.

Also on July 26 is the frivolous and zany **Doo Dah Parade** in downtown Fawnskin. Off-the-wall, sassy and irreverent, the free Doo Dah Parade begins at 10 a.m. Don't be surprised to see men dressed as nuns, toilet paper floats, the "Dairy Queens" and other hysterical entrants. Then there's Habitat for Humanity's "Stud Finders." Enjoy barbershop by Bear Valley Dandies quartet and Renaissance Faire costumed performers.

Immediately following is the Fawnskin Festival. Apple Pie, Precious Pet and Horseshoe Contests are all on tap along

with several kids races and games. The Moose Lodge serves up hamburgers and hot dogs and there's live entertainment and vendor booths. For information call 878-4220 or 866-3114.

On July 26 at 7 p.m., the historical reenactment **History Alive Chautauqua** returns at Summit Christian Church, presented by The Friends of the Library. Dr. Daniel Lewis, Cal Poly Pomona history professor, portrays Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who represented the Mexican government prior to 1849 as its military and civil authority in Northern California. Admission is free and afterwards refreshments are served at the library across the street.

Additional Old Miners events include the August 2 **Horseshoe Pitching Contest** lakeside at B's Backyard and the free **Children's Events and Jr. Rodeo** in Sugarloaf Park, which features old-fashioned contests like watermelon eating, sack racing and balloon toss.

Old Miners concludes with the 59th annual parade down the boulevard August 3 at noon, paying tribute to three fallen American heroes killed in Iraq, including Big Bear's Jared Landaker. Breathtaking military flyover, marching bands, equestrian units, drill teams and floats from around the Southland participate in Big Bear's largest attended event of the year.

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