

# POTPOURRI



58 volunteers saw 6-8 eagles in January!

## Count bald eagles on Forest Service outing

Fall in love with America's national symbol by volunteering for the Forest Service's third scheduled bald eagle count, set for Saturday, February 11.

Participants scan the skies for bald eagles for one hour from 9-10 a.m. and then tabulate the results to determine how many eagles are in Big Bear. January's count saw 58 volunteers tallying between six and eight eagles—the birds were moving around quite a bit, according to the Forest Service, making it difficult to get an accurate tally. Two to three adults and 4-5 juveniles were sighted.

Also overcast skies at some locations and cold temperatures probably kept the numbers down. January's average through the count's 30-plus years is 15, lowering to 13 in February.

The lower numbers are probably due to the lake being frozen over earlier in the season and sections still remain under ice at press time. When the lake is frozen, coots and ducks, the main prey of bald eagles, do not stay in the area, so when there's fewer ducks, it logically follows that there's fewer eagles.

Development around the lake and increased traffic have also been cited as reasons for the decline. Indeed observers



haven't recorded eagle counts in double digits on any outings in several years, even as bald eagle populations make a significant recovery nationwide, with their status delisted from endangered to threatened.

Bald eagles fly south for the winter looking for open waters stocked with food, as rivers and lakes to the north freeze over. The lakes of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains are part of the Pacific Migratory Flyway, a migration freeway for millions of ducks. The March average lowers to 10, as eagles begin to migrate back

north to their summer homes in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Alberta, Canada. In recent years a pair of bald eagles, George and Gracie, has bucked the trend in Big Bear and stayed behind, as has another pair at nearby Lake Hemet, which successfully produced several eaglets.

Bring binoculars and dress warmly, and meet at Discovery Center by 8:30 a.m. to find out which locations to scout. The season's final count is slated for March 10.

Even if you're not here for a count, you can still spy an eagle. Look high up the tallest trees around the lakeshore. Or, if the lake is partially frozen, look for eagles perched on the ice near small groups of ducks using open pockets of water. Also the Discovery Center has a scope trained on resident birds.

To volunteer for the bald eagle count call (909) 382-2790 or 866-3437.

## Game-on lakeside at B's Boathouse, Cowboy, elsewhere

### Super Bowl parties on tap with prizes

See the Super Bowl at several super parties on Sunday, February 5.

Lakeside at **B's Backyard Bar-B-Que** and adjacent Boathouse Lounge six television screens will show all the action as the New York Giants take on the New England Patriots with 3 p.m. kickoff. There's dollar tacos, sliders and hot dogs, raffle prizes throughout the game, and as always at B's those amazing wraparound lake views. For those who would rather dine or have children with them during the game, there's the huge 10 ft. big screen next door at the lakeside restaurant. B's is at 350 Alden Rd. Call (909) 866-5400.

See the big game lifesize on the enormous 112" HD screen plus 50" and 42" TVs in the saloon at **Cowboy Express Steakhouse**. Plus all drinks, appetizers and beers are 20% off from kickoff till game's end and there's raffles. After the final whistle Cowboy Steakhouse is giving away

a 40" LED television...get your entry in during the game. Cowboy Steakhouse is at 40433 Lakeview Dr.; (909) 866-1486.

Big Bear-brewed beer will be flowing at **Big Bear Mountain Brewery** all game long. There's lots of munchies and hot dog specials plus suds including the popular Red Ant Hill ale and no cover. The brewery is at 40260 Big Bear Blvd.; (909) 866-BEER.

Head to the East Valley for a super bash at **Diamond Lil's Saloon** on the second floor at Big Bear Airport. Get a taste of what's expected to come to Big Bear with a free buffet spread catered by Mill Creek Cattle Co. plus there's drink specials and raffles. Diamond Lil's is at 501 Valley Blvd. in Big Bear City; (909) 585-2005.

**Nottingham's** at Robin Hood Resort is showing the Super Bowl upstairs in the tavern on multiple TVs including its giant 10-footer. There's \$2 domestic drafts, \$6 domestic pitchers, happy hour specials, prizes and pools with proceeds benefitting local charities. Corner of Big Bear Blvd. and Bartlett, call (909) 866-4644.

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