

## 2 p.m., sunset cruises on *Queen*

With 70,000-plus acre feet or over 22,820,000,000 gallons, Big Bear Lake holds enough water to satisfy the needs of one million people...for a whole year!

The first landing on the lake, Gray's, opened in the summer of 1917 and was once owned by Roy Rogers and Dale

### Browne concert at Nigel event

Music by recording artist Severin Browne—Jackson Browne's brother—food, raffles and more are on tap when Holloway's Marina hosts a fundraiser for Nigel Holland on September 25 at 3 p.m.

Check out the new Wakeboard Cable Park at Holloway's Marina (story page 4). There's plenty of great food from El Jacalito and members of a top Beatles tribute band will perform too.

Browne of course is the highlight. He's stepped out of his famous brother's shadow—though he still lists Jackson as one of his musical influences—by recording his own albums, including the most recent *This Twisted Road*. It features tunes that reflect life's journey, ranging from love ("Water"), growth ("My Midlife Crisis") and contemplation ("Do You Think I'll Go to Heaven") to life in Los Angeles ("Angelyne").

Eight-year-old Nigel was diagnosed with brain cancer two years ago and has undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Proceeds from the event will go to his care. Tickets are \$20. Call (909) 866-5706.

Evans in the 1950's. Too bad it has since closed, though its longtime shack is still seeing use at the new Wakeboard Cable Park at Holloway's Marina.

When you've been driving tour boats on Big Bear Lake almost as long as you could drive a car, you're bound to pick up tasty morsels of information along the way. So it's not surprising that captain Chris Bellows passes on an encyclopedia's worth of facts and figures to guests during daily tours aboard the *Big Bear Queen*, because after running these trips for over 20 years in the Valley, he's heard and seen it all.

Chris' dad Dave skippered *Big Bear Queen* tours before passing away several years ago, and son is continuing the tradition, departing daily from Big Bear Marina... must run in the family! But one thing Chris does not spread is gossip or conjecture. "If I don't know it personally to be true, then I won't use the information on my tour," he said. Much of the lore he spreads has been witnessed first hand by himself or his father.

Guests are served up a wealth of information on each 90-minute tour, which sails at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.—and the 2 p.m. trip is the only one on the lake guaranteed to sail no matter how many passengers are on board...even if it's just you!

See the lakefront homes of celebrities, including the summer residence of Noel Blanc, as Bellows brings the boat right up to his dock and Noel often comes out on the porch to greet guests. With the voice



See the sights and sites with the lake's most experienced skipper on *Queen* tours

of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck or one of the other legendary Warner Bros. cartoon characters. His late father Mel was the master of those voices and many more, and now Noel continues the tradition.

Also see the largest home on the water—a magnificent 14,000 sq. ft. estate with six bedrooms, seven baths—and hear about lake record fish stories that are more than just tall tales. Then taste the lake air, and all the senses are satiated. *Big Bear Queen*, bright flags flying and red paddlewheel shining, is an open air boat, so refreshing lake breezes are constant companions, though there's protection from the chill too.

As *Big Bear Queen* glides through the water guests are only a few feet above it, and views from lake level spread out in every direction. The North Shore's Forest Service-lease cabins—there's some on the

south shore too, tucked away in seclusion—come into sight during the excursion, along with the original damkeeper's house where the original *Frankenstein* movie was filmed, plus great vistas of both ski resorts, and much more.

Daily tours continue through the end of October, but the *Queen's* popular sunset cruises conclude Labor Day weekend. Saturdays all summer long, enjoy a romantic cruise during the best time of day on Big Bear Lake—sunset, as the sky lights dim in a spectacular Technicolor show before the stars above take over. Last sunset cruise is Saturday, September 4.

*Big Bear Queen* tours remain one of Big Bear's better bargains, with fares just \$18, \$16 seniors, \$12 ages 12 and under, under 4 free.

Call Big Bear Marina at 866-3218.

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