

## HAPPENINGS AT CAMP SHELLY CAMPGROUND

LAKE TAHOE  
SUMMER 2012



Livermore Area  
Recreation & Park District  
An independent special district  
4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

### SUMMER FUN AT CAMP SHELLY

The rangers conduct special programs and events for your enjoyment throughout the Camp Shelly season. Please ask a ranger or consult the Camp Shelly bulletin board for the events and programs being held during your stay at the campground.

**Ice Cream Socials**— Get to know your fellow campers and your Camp Shelly rangers while learning how ice cream was made the “old fashioned” way. Then you can sample some delicious, all-natural ice cream. (most Friday or Saturday nights)

**Camp Shelly/Concord Volleyball Tournament**— Come join your fellow campers as we unite to battle neighboring Camp Concord in a fun, family oriented volleyball match. We’ll hold separate matches for the kids and the adults. (most Saturday evenings from late June through early August)

**Fourth of July Celebration**— Bring the whole family as we celebrate an old-fashioned Fourth of July. Try your hand at egg tossing, bucket brigade, old-fashioned ice-cream churning, and other festive fun and games.

#### Other Events: (occasional)

**Stargazing**— We’ll take advantage of the clear Tahoe skies to view the stars and other celestial objects.

**Wildflower Wander**— Join us as we wander through the woods, searching for the beautiful and unique wildflowers of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**Campfires**— Bring along some marshmallows and join us for stories, fun, and laughter down at the campfire.



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*All programs are subject to cancellation due to weather, staff availability, or unforeseen circumstances. Some programs may be held on days different than those listed.*

**Camp Shelly Ranger Office— phone 530-541-6985**  
**Livermore Ranger Office— phone 925-960-2400**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BLACK BEARS... and raccoons, coyotes, squirrels, birds, etc.

BY RANGER PAT SOTELO

Some of the most famous residents of the Lake Tahoe area are the American black bears (*Ursus americanus*). These intelligent and curious bears come in a variety of colors, but all of them are gifted with an extraordinary sense of smell. Usually gentle in nature, these bears may become aggressive if they become habituated to humans and their food. This is usually a result of bears obtaining food or garbage left out or stored improperly by careless humans.

At Camp Shelly we strive to keep our wildlife wild, but we need your help. No one wants bears, raccoons, or coyotes rummaging through campsites at 2:00 in the morning looking for food that was left out or not properly stored.

To ensure a safe camping experience for all of us here at Camp Shelly, please follow the listed guidelines.



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- Store all food and related supplies, including ice chests, in your campsite's food storage locker. Bears recognize ice chests and cans, so they must be stored the same as food.
- Never leave camp unattended if food is not stored safely inside your storage locker.
- Store food day and night. Bears may enter the campground during the day, even if people are there.
- Be sure all food is safely stored before going to bed. Never leave food outside.
- Keep a clean camp. Be sure to have all your trash in the trash cans by 9:30 p.m., so the rangers can pick it up and dispose of it safely.
- If you have trash after the nightly garbage pick up, you may store it overnight inside your storage locker, then place it in your trash can in the morning. You may also place your garbage in one of the bear-proof trash receptacles located throughout the lower campground loop.
- Do not store any food or beverages (other than plain water) in your tent or soft-sided tent trailer. Toiletries and other scented items like bug spray and sunscreen should be kept in the food storage locker. Only non-food items like clothing and sleeping bags should be kept in your tent. Never store any type of cooking utensils in your tent, even clean ones. Food odors can remain on the utensils and can attract bears to your tent.

If you have any questions about food storage or wildlife please contact one of the rangers at Camp Shelly. With your help we can maintain a clean, safe campground for all of our visitors, while insuring a long and truly natural life for the bears and all of the wildlife in this beautiful area.

# RETURN OF THE KOKANEE

BY RANGER PAT SOTELO

At the start of August, summer has a firm grip on our psyches. The days are long and hot, and vacations to destinations near and far are eagerly anticipated. Summer fun continues unabated: the lemonade, hot dogs, swimming and splashing, goofing off and hanging out with friends. The carefree days seem like they will never end.

But as the days roll on by, a sense of change creeps into the air. The days are getting markedly shorter; the return to school looms in the minds of young people. Labor Day is just around the corner, and the days just seem to fly by.

The changes are not lost on the wild creatures. The decreasing amount of sunlight entering their eyes, the cooler temperatures, and the irresistible pull of ancient journeys affect them in ways unknowable to humans.

They are readying themselves for their adventures. Some are anticipating the final, dramatic journey that will end in a desperate frenzy of reproduction. The fall run salmon will return to the streams of their origin in order to continue their species.

These salmon are anadromous; they move from the freshwater streams of their birth to the ocean saltwater, then back to the

freshwater streams to spawn. Sockeye salmon are among this group.

Some sockeye salmon have been introduced to lakes here in California, including Lake Shasta and Lake Tahoe. These landlocked sockeye never make it to the ocean, and they are known as kokanee salmon.

Their landlocked status has had significant effects on the size and behavior of the kokanee. Sockeye (and their genetic equal kokanee) are filter feeders, dining chiefly on zooplankton. But the anadromous sockeye finds plenty of food in the Pacific Ocean, while the landlocked kokanee, confined to the cold mountain waters of Lake Tahoe, enjoys a meager zooplankton supply in comparison.

As a result, a mature kokanee may reach about 20 inches long and a little over 3 pounds, while a sockeye reaches 25 to 31 inches in length and anywhere from 9 to 15 pounds in weight. The benefit of an oceangoing lifestyle becomes apparent when you compare the sizes of these genetically identical fish.

Unfortunately, the introduced kokanee salmon have had a negative impact on other lake fish species. Since kokanee feed on zooplankton throughout their lives, they significantly reduce the food supply for the young of other lake fish species who depend



# CAMP SHELLY THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS



LARPD and the entire Camp Shelly staff would like to thank the incredible volunteers who have donated their time and expertise to support Camp Shelly. Their volunteer marketing group, formed just a little over two years ago, has promoted Camp Shelly at numerous community events.

In addition, this group has created a new brochure promoting Camp Shelly as a fun, safe, family-oriented campground. This brochure features several families sharing their experiences and memories of this unique campground.

The group's hard work has not gone unnoticed. In 2011, the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts honored the Camp Shelly volunteers by presenting them with an Award of Distinction for Outstanding Group. Their hard work has resulted in a significant increase in awareness of and attendance at Camp Shelly.

You can learn more about the campground and the volunteers by visiting the Happy Shelly Campers Facebook page. Here you can share experiences about the campground and get updates on Camp Shelly and the amazing volunteers.

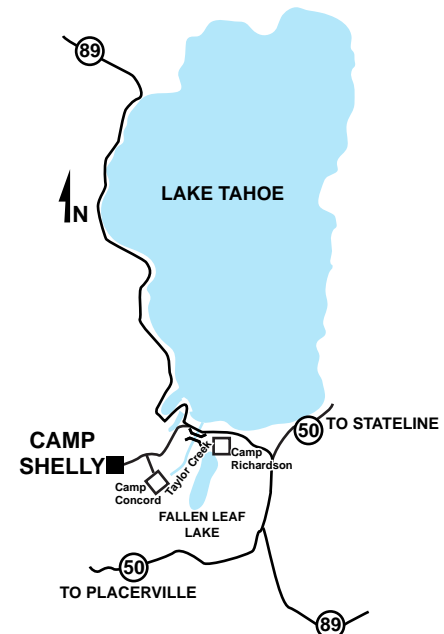
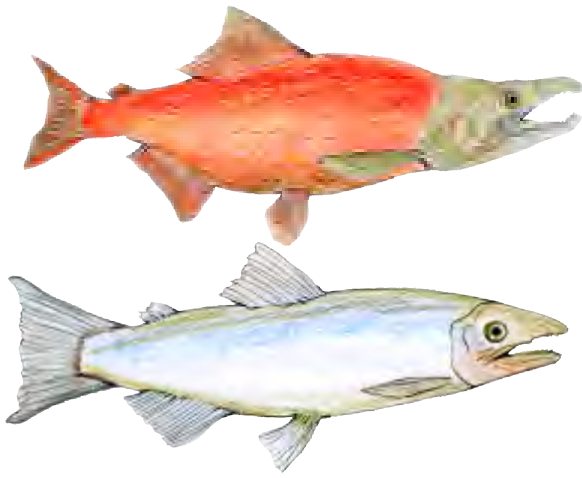


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*Oncorhynchus nerka var. Kokanee*

## RETURN OF THE KOKANEE (continued)

on the zooplankton to grow and mature. For kokanee salmon, Lake Tahoe has become their “ocean.” In the fall the mature salmon leave the lake and head up the tributary creeks (most famously Taylor Creek) to prepare their redds, a slight depression swept out by their tails in the gravel creekbed. About 800 eggs are laid by the female and then fertilized by the male.

The parents, their bodies deteriorating, then die, the nutrients in their bodies returning to the creek of their birth. The eggs hatch in late winter or early spring, and a few weeks later the tiny young salmon (called alevins) follow the stream back into the lake.

The kokanee of Lake Tahoe put on quite a show every year in early October as they return to Taylor Creek to spawn. The U.S. Forest Service hosts an annual kokanee salmon festival every year at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center just outside of the town of South Lake Tahoe and not too far from Camp Shelly.

Unfortunately the campground is closed at that time, so you'll have to make other lodging arrangements. If you do come up to see the salmon, be sure to bring your camera.

The contrast between the red, spawning salmon in Taylor Creek and the golden, autumn-hued aspens on the creek bank is a sight worth a journey back up to the mountains.