

Angel's

Be Alive!



Angel Gomez,
Director of
Member
Services

Lake

Hello again!

This month we visit Lake Arrowhead. Nestled in the mountains of the San Bernardino National Forest, Lake Arrowhead, also known as "The Alps of Southern California," is a cozy mountain resort paradise featuring numerous outdoor recreational activities, stunning year-round scenery and wildlife, and a natural peacefulness that has lured people to these mountains for centuries for relaxation and a romantic getaway from Los Angeles.

History

In 1891, three businessmen from Ohio decided to build a lake in Little Bear Valley. They planned to supply water to the San Bernardino Valley. After buying the land, they obtained water rights and formed the Arrowhead Reservoir Company. They began building a dam in 1893. It was to be a semi-hydraulic fill dam, and would be 200 feet high, 720 feet long, and 1,100 feet thick at the base, with 60 miles of tunnels for moving water when completed.

Trees and bushes were cleared from Little Bear Valley, which would be the bottom of the new lake. By 1905, the core wall of the dam was 43 feet high, but bringing equipment up the mountain and moving the earth and materials was a huge job. Two narrow-gauge locomotives were used. The first, a little engine from San Francisco, named "Black Annie," proved to be the real workhorse of the dam construction. The little locomotive backed dump cars to the steam shovel for filling, and then hauled them out to be emptied.

The reservoir slowly began to fill up with water that had made its way down the creeks and little canyons around the valley.

In 1905, the idea of using the lake's water for power caused the project to be changed to a new operation called the Arrowhead Reservoir and Power Company. They continued work on the dam and tunnels.

This made the farmers and ranchers in the desert angry. They depended on water from the mountains. They sued the company and won their case. In 1912, the state passed laws preventing the company from selling the water, except for domestic use, or using it to make electricity. Even though the lake was still filling up, they quit the reservoir project.

In 1920 a group from Los Angeles, the Arrowhead Lake Company, bought the lake and surrounding land. They changed the name to Lake Arrowhead and began to develop the area as a tourist resort. They improved roads, water and sewer systems, built three hotels, a golf course and a shopping village with a theater, restaurant, gift shops and beach area. The remaining land was subdivided for private homes and cabins. The area soon began to grow and prosper. Being so close to Hollywood was convenient to film producers, and the area became popular for making movies. Many celebrities stayed in the resorts and even bought homes. During the war years, Lake Arrowhead was a popular recreational area for servicemen.

In 1946 the lake and surrounding land was sold to the Los Angeles Turf Club. They donated large tracts of land to a variety of churches and organizations, including giving the North Shore Tavern to the University of



Angel Jr. and Kathy at Lake Gregory,
enjoying some exercise.

The view from the shore trail.



California, and land and money to the Sisters of St. Joseph for building a hospital. The remaining land became known as Arrowhead Woods.

In 1960, the lake was sold to the Lake Arrowhead Development Co., which later became part of the Boise Cascade Co. The land was further subdivided and improved, and the golf course was renovated and enlarged to 18 holes.

After the Sylmar earthquake in 1971, the state required studies of all dams in California. It was determined that the Arrowhead dam would not be safe in a 6.5 earthquake, so a bond was passed to build a new dam just downstream. In 1974 the new dam was completed, creating Papoose Lake. Soon afterwards, property own-

ers in Arrowhead Woods bought Lake Arrowhead from Boise Cascade.

In 1978, developers bought the old village. The buildings needed many repairs. The new owners let the fire department burn the buildings as a training exercise, and rebuilt the village with modern shops and a marina.

The Lake and Trail

We traveled to Lake Arrowhead, and let me tell you it was amazing! The trip from near Los Angeles to Lake Arrowhead was only about an hour and 20 minutes. The views on the way there were just fantastic. We stayed in the Lake Arrowhead Resort; this place is an oasis! The resort is right on the lake; they have a spa, a beach, nearby trails and let's not forget the heated pool and two small Jacuzzis.

Along the way to Lake Arrowhead, you will see signs to Lake Gregory.

This lake is about 10 minutes before you arrive on Lake Arrowhead.

I recommend you swing by and enjoy the lake; there are many things to do there. They have paddle boats, big three-wheeler bikes and a slide.

After, checking in we walked around a bit and then asked about Lake Gregory. We traveled back to Lake Gregory (about 10 minutes), took some big three-wheelers and paddled around the lake for about an hour.

The cost to rent these was about \$3. Kids and adults really enjoy this, and I have to say you will be tired after an hour of paddling, but that will last only a few minutes, and you will recover. Your memories will last forever.

The resort also has a big water slide, and that looked pretty fun, too. If you hang around the lake, you will also be next to the Lake Arrowhead Village, where you will find small shops, a supermarket, an arcade and a McDonald's restaurant overseeing the lake. There's a pretty nice view from there too.

Lake Arrowhead Resort offers storytelling about animals in the area on Fridays and Saturdays. While you listen to the stories, you can make s'mores.

The two women who gave the presentation told us about the trail that basically takes you almost all the way around the lake. Just ask the front desk for the code.

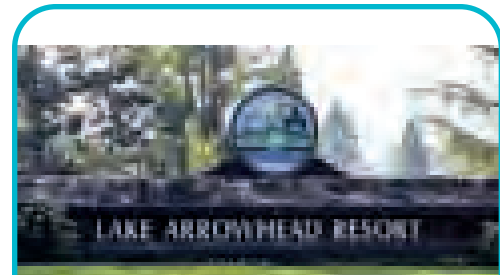
The trail takes you on a relaxing tour of the lake, and

My family, the beautiful lake and
gorgeous mountains surrounding us.



Lake Arrowhead Village

Arrowhead



Highlights:

- DAYS OF SUNSHINE:** 310
- SIZE:** 782 acres
- DEPTH:** 185 feet
- ELEVATION:** 5,108 feet

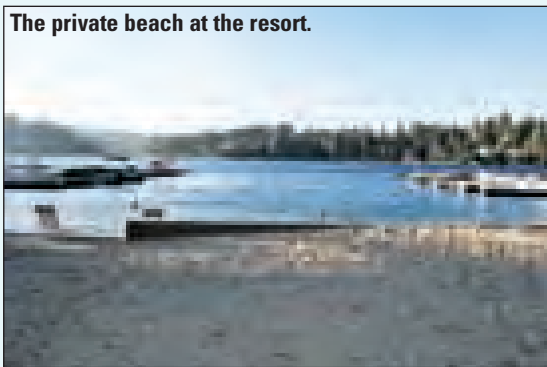
Directions:

- From Los Angeles:
- Take the I-10 east
 - Merge onto I-605 north
 - Take CA-210 until you reach the CA-18/Waterman Ave, Exit 76
 - Turn left at the CA-173 west
 - Go toward Lake Arrowhead Village
 - The resort is to the right of the village

Angel on the trail and a view of the lake behind him.



The private beach at the resort.



Aden and one of his new friends, the squirrel.



Aden and I sitting outside, enjoying our partial view of the lake.

you will see many beautiful homes and boats along with special views along the way.

Before I forget, the village has a shorefront area where you can shop, and eat at a restaurant with a beautiful lake view. I also saw a tour boat that takes you around the lake. The cost is minimal, less that \$10. I would bet you could get a lot of great shots from that tour.

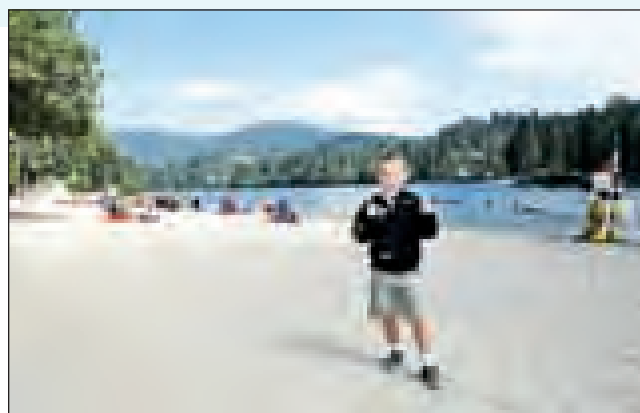
We like this place so much (and it is really convenient) that we already made reservations for this winter. Prices are on Lake Arrowhead Resort's Website.

We stayed in a room with a partial view, it was cheaper that way. I am always, looking to save a buck!

I hope you can take a few days or even one day to go up to Lake Arrowhead and enjoy the beautiful landscapes. I promise you will feel relaxed and really enjoy yourself. Don't forget to pack plenty of water and snacks, and maybe spend a little time just walking and enjoying the scenery.

If you also take your family or friends, I would love to see your pictures. So send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com.

**As always,
be safe and Be Alive!
— Angel**

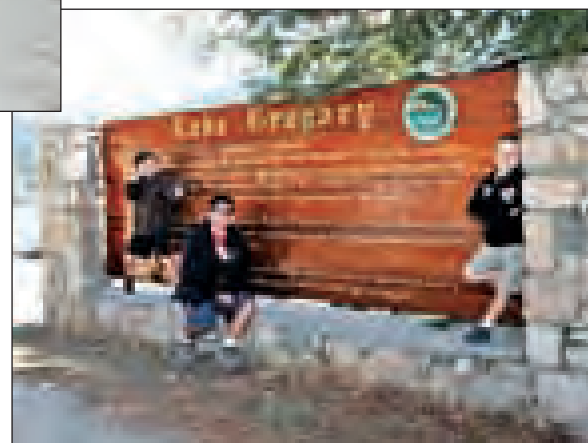
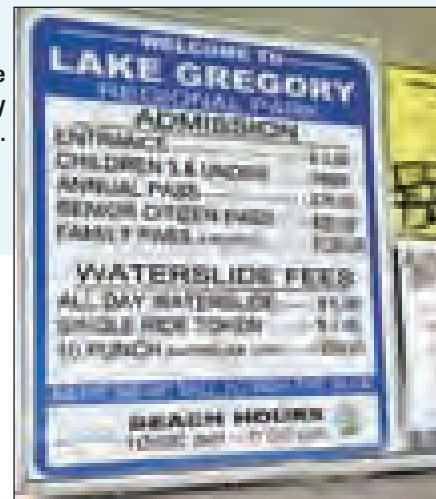


Aden and Lake Gregory.

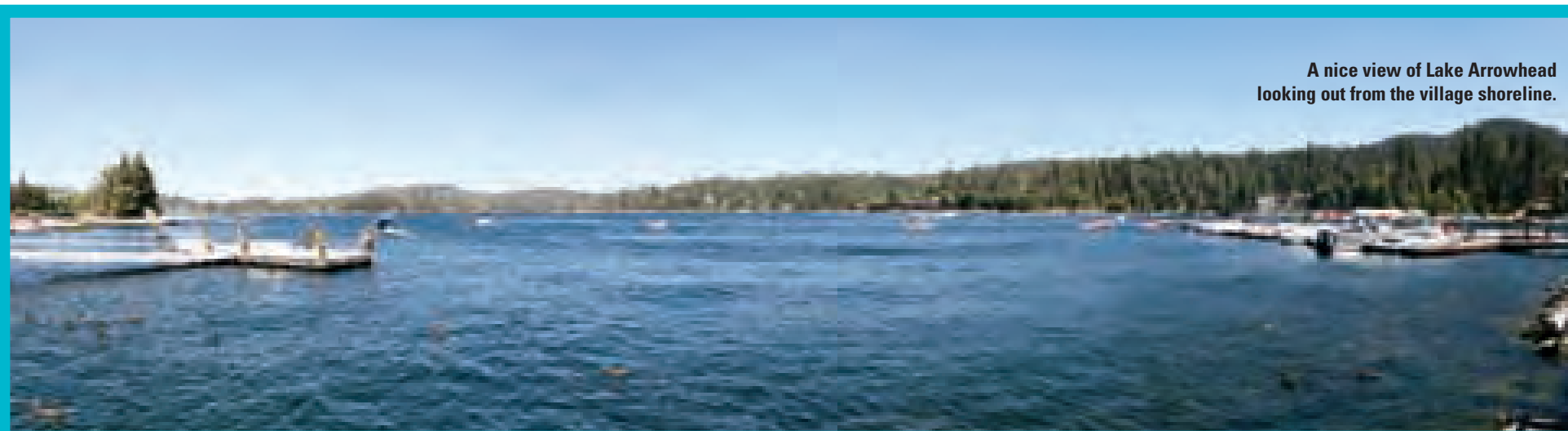


Angel enjoys a s'more without the marshmallow.

The Lake Gregory entrance.



Angel Jr., Aden and me at the Lake Gregory sign.



A nice view of Lake Arrowhead looking out from the village shoreline.