

# MiWuk run helps special needs camp

I spent a summer in MiWuk when my high school class volunteered at a Christian Berets camp for a week to perform various cleanup and grounds-keeping tasks. As we enjoyed our time there and learned more about the Whispering Pines conference center, I felt inspired to apply for a counselor position and returned later to spend a summer with people who would challenge the way I acted and the way I viewed my own life.

The summer camps, which lasted one week each, didn't serve as entertainment for kids. Founded in 1970, Christian Berets functions as a nondenominational, nonprofit ministry to people with special needs. According to volunteer Murlyn Enlow, who also serves as race director for the upcoming Mi-Wuk You R-U-N fundraiser, few nonprofits focused on serving the disabled when Don Crooker founded the camp. The actual Sierra location was established in 1971 and the camp has continued to grow since then.

"Many campers come from economically challenged families and

## Mi-Wuk You R-U-N

**WHEN:** 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; walk/run starts at 9 a.m. with Special Needs walk at 10:30 a.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** Whispering Pines, 24884 Highway 108, MiWuk Village

**COST:** \$15 for 1 mile, \$25 for 5 mile, free for half-mile special needs race

**MORE INFO:** 602-4861

care facilities," Enlow said. "Some have been neglected by family and friends. Often this is the only chance they will get to experience what

'real' camp is like and hear the gospel at the same time. Christian Berets is proud to promote physical wellness, foster social interaction and teach wholesome values to each guest. This is an opportunity to help touch these people with kindness and caring."

The Mi-Wuk You R-U-N event takes place for the first time on Saturday at the Christian Berets Camp that's now known as Whispering Pines.

"Chairman of the Board of Directors Tom Crooker had a vision of a fun run that would be a combination of an enjoyable day at the camp and an opportunity to raise funds for the organization," Enlow said. "I had participated in various races and was willing to direct the fundraising event with the teamwork of Coleen Paulsen, Mark Crooker, Jessica Mazza (who coined the catchy name for the event) and Emily Copland."

A mile-long family run and walk with a registration fee of \$15 begins at 9 a.m. The 5-mile trail run also begins at 9 a.m.; its registra-

## Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



tion fee is \$25. A free half-mile special needs race starts at 10:30 a.m. Other events throughout the day include breakfast snacks, a barbecue at 11 a.m. (free to registered participants), a bounce house, face painting, snacks, balloons and games. Food combos will cost \$4 to \$6 for those not registered in the event, and continental breakfast snacks will be available for purchase from 7:30 to 10 a.m.

For more information, call Enlow at 602-4861. Registration and event information is also available at christianberets.org.

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at [hwheeler@sierralodestar.com](mailto:hwheeler@sierralodestar.com) and [mtaylor@sierralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sierralodestar.com).



William Heinselmann

## Solid Gold Fishing

On April 28 I got married. My lovely bride's name is Erica. For the first time since our recent marriage, she and I had a day of fishing out on New Melones Reservoir. Being a fisherman and wanting her with me as much as possible, I could only hope to have her enjoy fishing even half as much as I do.

The day was important to me. The only fishing Erica had done before this was bank fishing in the sloughs of the Delta for bluegill, one of her favorite fish to eat. I needed to show my sweetheart a good time and I was hoping the fish would cooperate to help achieve that goal. I put the top up on the boat (the high was forecast to be 90 degrees) and we were on the water by 6 a.m.

After leaving the Glory Hole launch, we headed toward the spillway. There weren't many boats on the water at that early hour so I knew we would have to find the fish on our own. Remember that a group of boats usually means the anglers have found the bite.

## We didn't try a wedding ring spinner

The New Melones Dam area is always good for a fish or two. I increased our speed and didn't stop until we reached the water between the dam and spillway.

We trolled at about 2 mph and I prepped two poles for kokanee fishing. Erica had a one-day license that was good for one pole, and I have a seasonal two-pole license. For this reason, I set up four rods the night before to have an extra-rod just in case one of our setups went awry. My plan was to drop the lure on Erica's rod with one downrigger on the port side and stack the other two rods with my second downrigger on the starboard side. We were both using 7-foot soft-action rods, Apex and Assassin lures behind Sling Blades and Sep's dodgers, and we tipped each hook with two kernels of garlic-and-ginger-scented shoepeg corn. Soon we had all three setups in the water about 40 to 50 feet back running at 25, 35 and 45 feet deep.

My heart was really into this trip and after only 10 minutes of no strikes, I began to adjust the depths on the electric downriggers. Then my dream came true for Erica; fish No. 1 sent a signal to her pole, which was running a pink Assassin lure. Since this style of fishing was

all new to my wife, I removed her pole from the holder, gave it a quick yank to release it from the downrigger clip and then handed the pole to her to reel and enjoy the fun of the fight. Soon the fish was in netting range and I made sure of my aim as I lifted a bright silver kokanee into the boat. Erica was all smiles at this point and I could see her increased interest in our Mother Lode fishing.

Another half-hour went by and there were no more takers on our

lures. We noticed four other boats working the area toward the dam. It only took 10 minutes before the Assassin lure got a smashing strike that was hard enough to cause a release from the clip. I yelled, "Fish on" and handed the pole to my wife. Erica began reeling and I could hear the reel's drag system releasing line once in a while. Her only response to the fight was, "This fish is heavy!" I could only

*Continued on next page*



William Heinselmann

Trollers work the New Melones Dam to find the fish.

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