

Saturday is last TRTA trail work day of season

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association needs volunteers Saturday from 9am-4pm near Heavenly Mountain Resort to help reroute a portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

The work will begin at the Kingsbury South Trailhead in the Stagecoach parking area. All skill levels welcome.

Bring lunch and water, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, boots and work gloves. The TRTA will provide hard hats and trail tools.

Pizza at 4pm for the workers.

www.tahoerimtrail.org or (775) 298.0239

Tahoe mildly represented in Ski survey

By Kathryn Reed

Five California resorts ranked in the top 20 for best North American ski area by readers of *Ski* magazine.

This is the 22nd annual survey. All the info is in the October issue.

Deer Valley took top honors.

The top California resort is Squaw Valley. They call it a skiers' ski mountain with "unlimited challenges." It came in

No. 8 overall.

Next is Mammoth at No. 9, Heavenly No. 13, Northstar-at-Tahoe No. 16, and Alpine No. 30.

In specific categories Tahoe area resorts scored in:

Grooming – Northstar No. 4, Mammoth No. 6;

Terrain-variety – Squaw No. 2, Mammoth No. 4, Kirkwood, No. 19;

Value – Alpine No. 8;

Lifts – Mammoth No. 1, Squaw No. 8;

Access – Alpine No. 10;

Apres ski – Heavenly No. 3;

Off-hill activities – Heavenly No. 2;

Family programs – Northstar No. 4

Scenery – Heavenly No. 1, Squaw No. 7;

Terrain parks – Mammoth No. 1, Northstar No. 2.

Clearly the readers of *Ski* magazine are not considering Sierra-at-Tahoe, Homewood, Mount Rose or Sugar Bowl. They all deserve to have a spot in some of the above categories.

What seems more alarming is the categories the Tahoe resorts didn't score in, like weather. With more than 300 days of sunshine, how can Tahoe resorts be excluded?

Other categories where Tahoe resorts didn't measure up according to *Ski* readers are: snow, service, on-mountain food, lodging, dining, and overall satisfaction.

But then I don't know anyone who has taken one of these surveys, so how authentic are the results?

Tahoe Adventure Film Fest

The city of South Lake Tahoe and MontBleu Resort, Casino and Spa announce the return of the Tahoe Adventure Film Festival on Dec. 12.

Like no other film festival in the world, the 2009-10 TAFF's high-energy, fast-paced evening showcases the best action sports films of the year and fuels your passion for adventure. Once again, this year's festival will feature action sports photos from legendary Aurora Photos, special guest speakers, go-go dancers, DJ Kos and of course a few special surprises.

"Forget sitting around for days in tiny theaters and searching film premiers for the best action and adventure of the season," Todd Offenbacher, TAFF founder and event host, world adventurer and popular TV host for the Resort Sports Network said in a press release. "We put together a line-up of the best films of the year and showcase them in one night of energy, excitement and fun."

This year the TAFF has partnered with the Sierra Avalanche Center to host the biggest raffle in the event's history. Prizes include Lake Tahoe resort season passes, a trip with Points North Heli Adventures, a afternoon with Pacific Crest Snowcats, and enough gear and swag to stock any adventurer enthusiast's garage.

This year's event opens at 6:30pm with an action sports photography display from legendary Aurora Photos followed by the main event at 7:30pm. Tickets are available online at www.LakeTahoeFilmFestival.com or at the MontBleu Resort, Casino and Spa Box Office.

All films are available for purchase in their full format from

the filmmakers.

The Tahoe Adventure Film Festival is presented by Kirkwood Mountain Resort. Title sponsors include Charter Media, Points North Heli Adventures, Aurora Photos, RSN TV, La Sportiva, Ski Lake Tahoe. Additional sponsor support provided by Red Bull, Tahoe Daily Tribune, Tahoe 360, Lake Tahoe Entertainer, Marmot, Tahoe Arts and Mountain Culture, Tahoe Fracture and Orthopedic, MontBleu Resort Casino and Spa and the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino.

The Official TAFF After Party will directly follow the film festival at Blu.

Bodybuilding competition features 3 ripped Tahoans



Alex Huxtable

By Kathryn Reed

It's crunch time for three Lake Tahoe residents who are putting their bodies up for judgment Saturday.

Everything they eat matters. Everything they do in the next four days is related to this competition.

Chris Minnes, Cassandra Chandler and Alex Huxtable are going to Hayward to compete in the NPC San Francisco Bodybuilding, Figure & Bikini Championships.

“The last week is really the hardest week,” Minnes, 31, said Monday.

This is because the first part of the week is spent loading up on salt and water with zero carbohydrates. Later in the week he will do the opposite — he’ll get rid of the salt, the body will drain itself of water and he’ll be power eating the carbs to suck up that water.

All of this is so he can do his best at his first competition. Minnes, who runs 968 Park Hotel, has won power-lifting competitions, but this is different. He will be judged completely on his physique and not his strength.

“It’s definitely a lot more challenging,” Minnes said of the training involved for Saturday’s event. “I’m eating perfectly; not a drop of alcohol, not a gram of sugar.”

It’s been three years since Chandler competed in a figure show. Now that the Incline Village resident has turned 45, she is in the master’s division.

“It’s to show women my age if they train hard you can compete,” Chandler said.

It helps that she works at Push Fitness as a trainer. In fact, all three competitors train at Push. Huxtable, 20, lives in South Lake and works at Embassy Suites.

For this event Chandler didn’t go on an extreme diet, but she kept an eye on what she ingested, and did cardio workouts almost every day in addition to her regular workouts.

“They are looking at how things are proportioned, overall appearance. They want a feminine, athletic look,” Chandler said of the judges.

Runners lace-up to run in snow

By Brenda Knox



Sunday morning's heavy snow and below freezing temperatures did not keep more than 200 enthusiastic runners away from the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Kokanee 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon Trail Runs.

As volunteers and runners started arriving, the thermometer showed a mere 24 degrees. This is a run dominated by South Shore runners. A few inches of snow never deters the hearty souls of the Lake Tahoe area.



The Tahoe Mountain Milers and Sagebrush Stompers running clubs have put on this event for 20 years, but never with snow until Sunday.

The first overall finisher for the 5K run was Harley Norton with a time of 20:57 and for the women, Laurel Weil with a time of 24:43.

The first overall finishers for the 10K run for the women was Maureen Sheehan, with a time of 47:49:44; and for the men, Ryan Elliott finished at 47:03:15.



Runners in the 20th Annual Kokanee races did not let snow stop them.

Photos/Brenda Knox

Finishing first in the Half Marathon were Chris Badolato for the men with a time of 1:34:36.52 and Amy Bottenberg for the women with a time of 1:44:23.36.

Despite the subfreezing temps, runners seemed to fly over the snowy trails and past the aid station at Fallen Leaf Lake Dam.

The top three finishers in each age division, male and female, received a bottle of wine (if of legal drinking age) and a unique handcrafted award in the design of a Kokanee salmon. Top-three finishers in each age division are listed below.

Thank you to all the volunteers and congratulations to all the finishers who came out to participate on this snowy morning in Tahoe.

Proceeds from the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Kokanee Runs benefit the Tahoe Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports U.S. Forest Service environmental education programs

at Lake Tahoe.

The next event sponsored by the Tahoe Mountain Milers and Sagebrush Stompers will be the Annual Turkey Trot at Bijou Community Park on Nov. 21. For more information, visit <http://www.tahoemtnmilers.org/>.

5K Top 3 Finishers (Female)

Age: 0-10

1. Blanca Sosa
2. Katie Fischer

Age: 11-15

1. Emily Stimac
2. Kerry Norton
3. Desi McCully

Age: 20-29

1. Laurel Weil
2. Rosana Ramirez
3. Kayla Francis

Age: 30-39

1. Briana Sullivan
2. Katie McRae
3. Jennifer Roman

Age: 40-49

1. Cynthia Novak

2. Claire Boyle

3. Elizabeth Bredall

Age: 50-59

1. Trish Hall

2. Peg Hellman

3. Carla Martin

Age: 60-69

1. Linda Roman

2. Cheryl VanFleet

3. Christina Schlosser

5K Top 3 Finishers (Male)

Age: 0-10

1. Connor McRae

2. JD Buchholz

3. Tobin McRae

Age: 11-15

1. Harley Norton

2. Mark Bredall

3. John Bredall

Age: 20-29

1. Scott Blomquist

2. Tayler Haught

3. Kyle Francis

Age: 30-39

1. Rick Roman

2. Chad Andres

Age: 40-49

1. Paul Noah

2. Lars Macleod

3. Dave Eveland

Age: 50-59

1. David Hellman

2. Lewis Martin

3. Dennis Furr

Age: 60-69

1. Richard Roman

10K Top 3 Finishers (Female)

Age: 20-29

1. Rebecca Eckland

2. Amy Kight

3. Sarah Syed

Age: 30-39

1. Kristi Bray

2. Heather Morgan

3. Angie Arcadia

Age: 40-49

1. Maureen Sheehan

2. Lynni Weibezahl

3. Marlaina Smith

Age: 50-59

1. Sharlee Cotter

2. Judy Guinn

3. Jo Kilpatrick

Age: 60-69

1. Nancy Peppin

2. Fran Gayer

10K Top 3 Finishers (Male)

Age: 30-39

1. Ryan Elliott

2. Seth Albert

3. Changfan Liu

Age: 40-49

1. Dennis DeLange

2. Michael Cantor

3. Brian Coonradt

Age: 50-59

1. Doug Cichowicz
2. Rick Conti
3. Dave Martini

Age: 60-69

1. John Campbell
2. Chad Arnold
3. Newel Knight

Age: 70+

1. Monte Coffman

Half Marathon Top 3 Finishers (Female)

Age: 20-29

1. Kate Oâ€™Driscoll
2. Kelly Huck
3. Sarah Garcia

Age: 30-39

1. Amy Bottenberg
2. Sarah McMahan
3. Erika Mathews

Age: 40-49

1. Julie Young
2. Bridget Matos
3. Rita Frank

Age: 50-59

1. Meredith Mills
2. Jennifer Singh
3. Ann Boeser

Age: 60-69

1. Carole Nageotte

Half Marathon Top 3 Finishers (Male)

Age: 20-29

1. Brandan Fletcher
2. Sean Cronin
3. Lane Martin

Age: 30-39

1. Chris Badolato
2. Piers Stockwell
3. Dusty Lachapelle

Age: 40-49

1. Keith Barker
2. B. Bottenberg
3. Jeff Murphy

Age: 50-59

1. Tom Eckert
2. Chuck Martin

3. Adolfo Maestas

Age: 60-69

1. Bill Land

2. Frank Kight

3. Bill Prowse

Brenda Knox is an outdoor enthusiast who lives in South Lake Tahoe.

Novice Harley rider overcomes jitters in the mountains



Riding through the Eastern Sierra.

Photo/Barbara Knox

By Brenda Knox

EASTERN SIERRA NEVADA – As we came to the sign that said five miles to go, I just kept thinking “keep it steady, we’re almost there.”

I never felt so much relief as when we exited. The rain had let up a bit as we got off the highway.

I took the lead since I knew where the Westin was. My dad and Roni later told me they thought we were never going to actually get to the hotel, since it's about another three miles before you are actually in the town of Mammoth.

We had made it and now we had one of those stories. You know the kind that every time you're with the people who went through it with you, you say "remember the time?"

Getting started

Lake Tahoe has been my recreational base for many years. It's where I like to spend my time biking, hiking, skiing and kayaking. Early this summer it became our jumping off point for our new hobby – riding our Harleys.

We'd planned the trip with my parents in the beginning of the summer. We were excited to hit the road for our first motorcycle road trip. My parents are in their late 60s and just started riding again in 2008 after a long hiatus.

My dad is an expert at handling his 2008 Screaming Eagle Anniversary Edition Ultra Glide. He's been riding motorcycles since he was a teenager and introduced me to dirt bike riding when I was a teenager. He also was a motorcycle cop for several years.

My dad had coached Roni and me all summer. We put in some miles on our Harleys to get comfortable on the road. Our bikes are 2008 and 2009 Harley Sportsters 1200Cs. Roni's has the upgraded Screaming Eagle package, which means her pipes are louder than mine. Both are black with upgraded pegs, handgrips, windshields and engine guards.

I never took to the street as a teenager, so riding this cruiser is a new and challenging experience. Roni was also

exposed to motorcycles and dirt bike riding as a teenager, and she spent a few years on a street bike in her 20s.

When we completed the motorcycle class in March to get our licenses, it was the first time either one of us had been on a motorcycle in 30 years. Needless to say, weâ€™re hooked and weâ€™re looking forward to this adventure.

Ready to ride

We packed up our bikes and headed out on an August Saturday about 9am under fairly cloudy skies from the usually sunny Lake Tahoe. Mistakenly we decided not to take our leather jackets, figuring we could layer appropriately with our mesh. How cold could it possibly get? Well, it was cold.

We stopped for breakfast in Markleeville. I love that ride with its beautiful, sweeping curves, though Iâ€™m always keeping an eye out for wild turkeys along Highway 89 into Markleeville.

The Wolf Creek caf  served up excellent ham and eggs for breakfast. After eating and warming up we headed over Monitor Pass to Highway 395. Monitor has many curves, making you feel like you are riding to the top of the world.

The clouds continued to gather as we weaved down 395. Itâ€™s a beautiful ride through a canyon with the Walker River on the left.

A few drops of rain fell on us, but nothing serious. We stopped in Bridgeport to gas up, stretch our legs and take a restroom break. We also spent a significant amount of time wondering about the ominous clouds gathering over the Sierra.

The plan was to take the June Lake scenic route if the weather held.

The ride from Bridgeport to the June Lakes Loop includes a sweeping downhill that feels like you will end up in Mono

Lake. It's beautiful beyond words and pictures.

The wind picked up. My dad left us in the dust. His bike weighs about 1,000-plus pounds fully loaded and the wind does not affect him as much.

We decided to take the June Lake Loop. The sun was shining and it took us out of the more forceful wind of Highway 395. The loop is a gorgeous 14-mile stretch of two-lane road that takes you around Grant, Silver and June lakes.

Imagine steep granite walls to your right and the lakes on the left, mixed with beautiful pine trees and aspens. This was a great little side trip. Did I mention a bright sunny spot?

Mother Nature rules

We got back to Highway 395 heading south to Mammoth Lakes, with only 15 miles left. As we pull onto 395, three large bolts of lightning strike out to the southwest, the direction we are heading.

I remain optimistic for a couple of miles as I can see bright sunny holes in the clouds; it's the dark, rainy ones that I'm in denial about. Unfortunately, we were traveling faster than the storm and with 10 miles until the Mammoth turnoff, the skies opened up and we were in a driving rainstorm.

Being new riders, this was a nightmare for Roni and me. It was so bad, we could not see through our windshields. My face shield was completely covered with raindrops. I had on my fingerless gloves and the rain was pelting my exposed fingers felt like a really bad acupuncture session.

I know the best thing to do is to keep it steady, no sudden movements, no heavy shifting or breaking, and stay away from the painted lines on the highway. Knowing all this actually caused me to feel like I was cemented to the motorcycle, paralyzed in the exact position I was when it started pouring.

This would not have been bad, except I could not see and needed to do something.

I slowly pried my left hand from around my grip and opened my face shield. Ah, yes, I can see (sort of) now.

Out of the rain

We rode up, looking like a bunch of drowned rats. Thankfully, they let us temporarily park the motorcycles under the entrance to get out of the rain. I could only laugh hysterically in relief.

Hot showers and baths all around and we felt like new people. We walked to dinner, and ate at the Base Camp Caf . As usual for the Sierra, the weather improved tremendously, skies cleared. It felt good to stretch our legs.

At the Base Camp Caf  we sat outside and enjoyed a really good dinner. My parents had the French onion soup, touted as "made from scratch" on the menu and it was indeed yummy; a good portion with lots of cheese. My mom supplemented her soup with half a Mammoth veggie sandwich. It was at least 4-inches tall, full of fresh tasty peppers, cucumbers, sprouts, onion, tomatoes and lettuce. My dad ordered the special, the Rueben sandwich. It looked fantastic although I did not get a chance to taste it, but dad enjoyed it. Roni had the kosher chili dog and I had a bowl of the three bean and turkey chili; both tasty and hot after that cold rainy ride.

Oh, and I can't forget the local micro brew served at the Base Camp Caf . I had the Amber Ale and Roni had the Hefeweizen; both excellent. After dinner, my dad and I walked the mile back to the Westin, and Roni and my mom took the free Mammoth shuttle.

After dinner, we were obsessed about the weather for Sunday. All Saturday eve, we watched the news, the Weather Channel, and I repeatedly checked my iPhone for the latest weather. Our

plan was to go to Yosemite Village on Sunday, about 100 miles from Mammoth Lake.

Back in the saddle

None of us was up for a repeat rainstorm. We finally decided to go to bed and weâ€™d see how things looked in the morning. Morning dawned with clear blue skies, and we headed off to Yosemite. Temperature was about 50 degrees and was not expected to be much above 60 for the day, so we bundled up under our light mesh jackets.

After a delicious breakfast of bagels, oatmeal and fresh fruit in the hotel at the Whitebark, we rode off about 9am, back north along 395 to the Highway 120 (Tioga Pass) turnoff. Before heading up the pass we stopped at the Mobile Gas Station where the famous Whoa Nellie Deli is located at the bottom of Tioga Pass. We did not eat here as we had just had breakfast, but Iâ€™ve been here a couple of times in the summer and highly recommend the fish tacos.

After getting fuel, taking a restroom break, and adding another layer of clothing, we fired up the bikes and headed out.

Tioga Pass is the most beautiful and dramatic entrance into Yosemite. Itâ€™s also an incredible climb – climbing up what feels like the side of a cliff. At least going up we are riding on the inside, not on the non-guard rail outside (that would be at the end of the day); 12 miles up and weâ€™re at the entrance to Yosemite.

My parents buy a lifetime pass for \$10, which also gets in four motorcycles.

I think one of the best ways to see Yosemite is by motorcycle. You become a part of the vastness, the beauty, you feel small in a way that is only accomplished when you are exposed to the elements.

Earlier in the summer I enjoyed the drive through Yosemite a couple of times in my SUV, but it is so much better on the motorcycle. We cruised through Tuolumne Meadows and then stopped at Tenaya Lake to stretch our legs and take pictures.

We watched the climbers go up the rock faces; all exclaiming that it's something we never want to do.

As we headed out along 120 toward Yosemite Village, Half Dome came into view. We decided not to stop at Olmstead Point as we still had a ways to go to the village.

It was imperative to keep my eyes on the road during this section, but I could not get enough of Half Dome and the surrounding peaks of Yosemite. Thank goodness the terrain becomes a little more mundane along Highway 120 after that and I was able to just ride and concentrate on all the curves.

At this point I need to mention that I was the slow poke. My dad being a very experienced rider just sailed around all the curves. I was more tentative and just could not seem to find my groove, especially around the right-handed corners. But I persevered and rode on, probably driving Roni crazy, as she was riding behind me. Although Roni seems to abhor our recreational activities that require us to perform under our own power, she rides her iron horse with a confidence and agility that I envy.

The final 15 miles into Yosemite are steep, full of curves and spectacular views. At the top before the big descent is also where the recent fire burned up to the road. The smell of smoke is prevalent and invasive. It felt like a punch in the gut and brought back memories of South Lake Tahoe's Angora Fire of 2007.

We waved to a crew of firefighters still tending to some of the hotspots.

Down we went in to the valley. I took the 25mph speed signs at

face value; although my dad insists you can go at least 40-45 around those curves. I obviously saw more of the gorgeous scenery than he did.

There is a tunnel that is quite long on this stretch of road. It was a little scary. The motorcycle headlight does not throw off a huge amount of light. With my full helmet and sunglasses on, I could barely see as I went through the middle of the tunnel. I just kept looking toward that small bit of light at the end hoping the tunnel did not have any of those 25mph curves.

Out on the other side we continued to descend into Yosemite Valley.

After finding parking, we ordered lunch at the outside grill, the food was fresh, pretty good and quite fast. I enjoyed the sweet potato fries served with my veggie burger. We had wanted to go to the Ahwahnee, but it was crowded and we could not find parking. The temperature was warm and mild on the valley floor, we were able to shed our multiple layers, and jackets during lunch. Shirtsleeves would have been my preferred outfit all weekend, but it was not to be.

After lunch, we decided we better head back to Mammoth, we had a 100-mile return trip and it was getting late. You don't necessarily get to places fast on the motorcycle, but it sure is scenic and fun. We geared up – multiple layers, multiple gloves for me, and off we rode, up out of the valley into the cool temperatures of Tuolumne Meadows. We took our last break of the day here.

We boosted our energy level by sharing a couple of bags of peanut M&M's between the four of us. I was glad for the restroom break before the ride down Tioga Pass. I had been a little apprehensive about that all day. My riding had improved on the way out of Yosemite Valley and across 120 I was getting more comfortable in the curves and increasing my speed, and

actually enjoying it, which is the reason you ride in the first place.

Headed home

As Tioga Pass loomed ahead, we saddled up and drove out of Yosemite. If you have never driven in and out of Yosemite via Tioga Pass, you are truly missing some of the most spectacular scenery Yosemite has to offer. It is my preferred way to access the park. I anticipate its opening each year. That having been said, I was also terrified of riding my motorcycle down the pass; I had driven down it in my SUV three times earlier this year, but still my blood ran colder than the outside temps at the thought of descending the pass on my Harley.

But what goes up must come down and so it was to be.

Roni usually rides behind me and she will attest that I did well coming down until I got to the spot where it looks like the road just runs off the cliff. You look out and it looks like a serpent and I thought I might just slither off its back. I slowed way down. Roni put on her flashers so the cars behind her would slow down.

But I made it through, took a deep breath, up shifted two gears and rode the rest of the way down at the speed limit. Now I want to do it again.

The ride into Mammoth was thankfully dry and uneventful. We rolled into the Westin about 5:30pm, satisfied with a great day of superb riding and stunning vistas.

Monday we left Mammoth about 9am and had an uneventful, lovely ride back up Highway 395 into Tahoe. After four days and 660 miles on the motorcycle odometers I was still ready to ride the next day.

We had an enjoyable trip and being able to share the

experience with my parents made it even more special. It is nice to see them living life to the fullest. We have another two or three trips planned before it's time to hang up the motorcycle helmet for the season, and pull out the ski helmet.

Brenda Knox is a biker chick who lives in South Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe-Reno may benefit from Chicago's failed Olympic bid

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Sun

Representatives of the Reno-Tahoe Winter Sports Coalition hope to learn within weeks how Chicago's failed bid for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games would affect efforts to attract the Winter Olympics to Nevada and California.

Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki, chairman of the coalition, said it's too early to tell how (Friday's) decision to award the 2016 Games to Rio de Janeiro would play out locally.

[Read whole story](#)

Skiing readers rank resorts



By Kathryn Reed

Besides the chill in the air, the obvious sign ski season is

around the corner is the arrival of snow sports magazines in mailboxes.

Skiing magazine's October issue has the readers' choice awards. Lake Tahoe doesn't dominate the results, but some of the numerous resorts in and around the basin are mentioned.

Squaw Valley ranks No. 4 for best steeps. It took first for its KT-22 chairlift in the best lift to lap all day category.

"If it's too stormy to open the upper mountain, there's a good chance that only KT and Red Dog chairs will be running," the magazine says. "No problem. You can spend all day lapping the 1,800-vertical-foot KT-22 and you won't get bored. After all, the lift got its name when it took Squaw pioneer Sandy Poulsen 22 kick turns to get down the run's north-facing steeps in 1948."

Squaw definitely has personality. It received honorable mention in *Skiing* for most condescending locals. Jackson Hole took top honors in this category.

Mount Rose took the most underrated mountain title. Alpine Meadows took an honorable mention.

Heavenly Mountain Resort is No. 3 for best trees. Last season the resort opened terrain to make it a bit easier to navigate the trees by thinning some slopes.

Mammoth and Northstar-at-Tahoe made the best park list. Mammoth came in second behind Breckenridge, while Northstar placed sixth.

Heavenly came in fifth for best nightlight, but considering most skiers at Kirkwood and Sierra-at-Tahoe stay on the South Shore it seems logical they should share in this designation – unless their riders are more serious about the mountain and care less about partying than Heavenly's guests.

Squaw ranks 10th in this category.

Will Giants veterans play Celebrity Golf one day?



Tim Lincecum
pitches
Thursday,
while Rich
Aurilia plays
first for the
Giants.
Photo/Kathryn
Reed

By Kathryn Reed

SAN FRANCISCO – Nostalgia filled AT&T ballpark Thursday afternoon as the San Francisco Giants wrapped up their last home game with a 7-3 win over the Diamondbacks.

The Rockies won too – they’ll be headed to the playoffs, while the Giants have spring training to look forward to when the season ends Sunday.

Yesterday it was Rich Aurilia who received the most applause – not for what he did this particular day, but for his career as a Giant. This is likely the 38-year-old’s last

season.

He is the only player on the team who was on the 2002 World Series squad. (Ironically, catcher Bengie Molina was on the winning Anaheim Angels at the time.)

Aurilia has always been one of my favorite Giants. He started in 1995 at shortstop. He left after the 2003 season, returning in 2007. His second stint saw him more in a backup role and often at first base.

It's hard to watch players age, lose a step, swing a bat a little slower. Through it all Aurilia showed class. He's one of those players you'd want your son or daughter to emulate " someone who demonstrates sportsmanship, someone never associated with steroids despite playing on the same team as the king of the steroid scandal.

I've been part of a season ticket group since the giants moved to their current ballpark in 2000. I was there for one of the World Series games seven years ago. I never get tired of going to this ballpark, watching the orange and black.

I remember one of Randy Johnson's first games in the National League. It looked like the pitcher had never swung a bat before. I was glad he was on the opposing team.

He didn't have to swing yesterday. All the 300-game winner had to do was get three outs in the top of the ninth. No problem. Not bad for a 46-year-old who just came off the disabled list. As a Giant this season, I was rooting for him as he hurled pitches against his former teammates.

This might be his last season, too.

Fans appropriately gave standing ovations to these two veterans, while at the same time giving just credit to winning pitcher Tim Lincecum whose stats are worthy of another Cy Young.

Perhaps as the veterans leave the sport of baseball, theyâ€™ll take up golf and one-day play the American Century Celebrity Golf Tournament at Edgewood Tahoe in Stateline.

Rallying Tahoeans to fight climate change

Grass roots groups from around the world are planning the International Day of Climate Action this October. In response to this movement, the Environment Team of the Parasol Community Collaboration is planning to sponsor a local public event in Kings Beach on Oct. 18.

The goal of the Day of Climate Action is to mobilize citizens around the world to make their voices heard regarding the need for tough action on climate change. The event is timed to send a clear message to world leaders before they convene to finalize the new United Nations Climate Change Treaty in Copenhagen this December.

The rationale for the event is described on the website, 350.org. The site explains that the target for the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the earthâ€™s atmosphere should be set at 350 parts per million. The present level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is 389 parts per million (ppm).

The proposed target of 350 was suggested by prominent NASA scientist, James Hansen, in his December 2008 article, "Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?" In the abstract for this scientific article, he states, "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that

CO2 will need to be reduced from its current 389 ppm to at most 350 ppm, but likely less than that.â€

Heather Segale, of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, stated that the event in Kings Beach on Oct. 18, â€Will be an opportunity to learn more about climate change and to make a statement to world leaders about the need to act quickly to prevent severe human and environmental consequences.â€

Organizers plan to photograph participants holding a banner with a statement of local support for tougher atmospheric standards. The photograph will be taken following the close of the Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference (<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/conference>) at the North Tahoe Event Center. Participants are asked to gather at 2pm, at the event center.

This is a chance for residents of Lake Tahoe to show their support for an equitable global climate treaty that lowers carbon dioxide below 350 parts per million. Similar photos from hundreds of demonstrations worldwide will be published prior to the Copenhagen Conference.

To join the organizers, contact Jill Falman at (775) 881.7566 or jcfalman@ucdavis.edu. To organize an event in your community and to learn more, visit www.350.org.