

North Forty
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Well, have you noticed the lake level rising? I know, it's barely noticeable but it is rising. We've had some rain and the rivers are flowing. I hope we get some more rain soon. In the mean time, I am getting reports that there are fish to be caught. Reports from Dragonfly Outfitters in Weaverville are good. Bass are being caught in 10 to 15 feet of water. The trout are also biting.

Launching a boat is a little tricky in Trinity Center but it can be done. (If you haven't heard, there will be no marina at Trinity Center this year.) The roadbed at Minersville is also a good option for launching. Keep in mind, there is no dock at either location. As soon as I get my boat back from the shop, I hope to be able to give you some reports from personal experience.

Trinity Center Booster Club's St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser was quite the success! The turn out was incredible, and once again, the support from the community was amazing. You are such a supportive community; we couldn't do it without you! A big thank you to all the parents who worked so hard to support their child's 2009 trip to San Francisco, you were a great crew! They were out of food by 7:00! They did 85 dinners in less than 2 hours.

The slave auction was also a big hit. The kids each wore signs that described the kind of work they could do and presented themselves on a pedestal to start off the bid. A real auctioneer, Jack Jackson, was kind enough to donate his time to the fundraiser and do his amazing auctioneering just like you see in the movies. He was great and we'd like to thank him as well. The proceeds from the auction were exceptional. The Pot of Gold Raffle and grasshopper pie sales were also a big hit. All in all it was an incredibly amazing evening and so much fun! Special thanks go out to the following people, who donated their time and efforts to make it all possible; Linda Solven, Rick and Pat Gifford and the Sasquatch, Veronica Stewart, Donna Rankin and Jay Bunce.

This is a good time to remember our local merchants. With last year's low lake level and smoky skies, business was way down for all our locals. This year isn't shaping up to be any better given the extremely low lake. I'd challenge you all to spend some of your grocery and dining dollars at one of our local establishments. Many of us are blessed with steady income regardless of the local conditions. Let's share some of that with our neighbors. Stop by your local business and spend a few dollars rather than make that 50 plus mile round trip to Weaverville for a few groceries. Have lunch locally and top off that tank here for the good of our local economy. If we don't support our local merchants, there may soon be no local merchants to support.