

Lake Berryessa to Napa Loop

By Ron Petrich

One of my favorite drives has been and will continue to be through the hills west of Vacaville, up past Lake Berryessa and back to the valley. This route is the basis for most of my impromptu Sunday morning runs, as well as our annual Super Bowl Sunday run. Many others use it as the start of trips to the coast.

The basic loop starts in Winters (west of Davis on I505). We meet at the Chevron station there. State route (SR) 128 starts here. We follow SR128 west past the lake to the point where SR121 begins with a left fork in the road. We take SR121 up and over the hilltop where it brings us into Napa near Silverado Country Club. Keep to the right past the stop sign, and take the right onto the Silverado Trail. About 5 miles north is the Soda Canyon Store. They have great coffee, pastries and sandwiches. After a pit/refreshment stop here, continue north on the Silverado Trail for an additional 10 miles or so, where SR128 again crosses the Trail (just after the Mumm Winery). Take a right on SR128, and follow it east past Lake Hennessy and all the way back to Winters.

The entire loop is about 90 miles. Enjoy it early in the summer and beat much of the boat and camper traffic. Watch for fog at the top of the hill on SR121 in the winter, and for debris on the road near Lake Berryessa.