

Big Valley Rancheria's Tule Boat Festival



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Our Tule Boat Festival began in the Summer of 2001 from the desire of one of our Tribal Elders, Nelson Hopper, to teach the Big Valley Community the art of making the traditional Pomo tule boat.

The festival has undergone many changes over the years to become a fun filled 3-day event that has an annual unifying theme and logo. Our 2018 theme was "Protecting our Tules and our Culture" so we planted tules along the shoreline during the festival. We have had various demonstrations over the years such as edible aquifers, tule dolls making, basket weaving, soap root identification, and our Pomo language presentation. We also invite Tribal Dancer Groups to the festival, and each day we are blessed with their dances. Approximately 325 people attended the Tule Boat Festival daily, and we have boat teams from the local area and far away as Buena Vista.

On the first day the teams focus on collecting enough Tules to build a boat. We serve lunch and an early dinner each day.

On the second day the teams put the boat together. Both children and adults build the boats, and the Tribe provides an instructor to assist with the boat building. Everyone gets a chance to shop at the many vendors that are there all 3 days. We have all type of vendors ranging from EPA information and demonstrations, Native American jewelry and art, and all types of food. The Tribe works to make the festival a zero-waste event, using reusable or compostable supplies during the meals, and composting all food scraps.

On the third day the teams race the tule boats that they made. It is a fun and exciting day to watch the many people that have come together from near and far to race their boats.

Big Valley Rancheria's Annual Tule Boat Festival gives people the opportunity to learn the skills of traditional tule boat making, and to come together to enjoy a fun educational event.





Big Valley Rancheria's Tule Boat Festival Theme and Logos

2001: Nelson Hopper Introduction to the Tule Boat

2002: 1st Annual

2003: 2nd Annual Tule Boat Workshop

2004: 3rd Annual Tule Boat Workshop

2005: 4th Annual Big Valley Rancheria's Tule Boat Festival

2006: 5th Annual – “Honoring our Elders”

2007: 6th Annual – “Protecting the Environment for our Children”

2008: 7th Annual – “Traditional Environmental Knowledge”

2009: 8th Annual – “Protecting the Tules”

2010: 9th Annual – “Protecting the Chi/Hitch”

2011: 10th Annual – “Bringing People Together”

2012: 11th Annual – “All the People”

2013: 12th Annual – “Honoring our Women”

2014: 13th Annual – “Culture is Healing”

2015: 14th Annual – “Protecting our Sacred Waters”

2016: 15th Annual -- “Tribal Response to Climate Change”

2017: 16th Annual – “Carrying Our Past Towards the future”


2018: 17th Annual – “Protecting our Tules and Culture”




**Big Valley Rancheria's
3rd Annual
Tule Boat Workshop
July 28th – July 30th, 2004**

Schedule
WEDNESDAY JULY 28TH 10am-3pm
 Collect Tules; Barbeque lunch; Native crafts booths
THURSDAY JULY 29TH 10am-3pm
 Make Tule Boats; Barbeque lunch; Native crafts booths
FRIDAY JULY 30TH 10am-3pm
 Races at noon followed by barbeque lunch; Native crafts booths; Tribal and Environmental Booths

If you are interested in selling or displaying your Native Crafts or helping with the Tule Boat Workshop, please contact Sarah at the EPA office 263-3924 x3028



**Big Valley Rancheria's
Tule Boat Festival
July 27th-29th, 2005**

Schedule

- July 27th 10am to 3pm —
Gather tules, BBQ lunch, Native crafts booths
- July 28th 10am to 3pm —
Tule boatmaking, BBQ lunch, Native crafts booths
- July 29th 10am to 3pm —
Tule Boat team/ individual races followed by BBQ lunch and awards, Native crafts, Tribal and Environmental Booths. **Races at 12 noon!**

If you are interested in selling or displaying your Native crafts, giving a presentation /demonstration or helping with the Tule Boat Workshop, please contact Sarah at the Big Valley EPA office 263-3924.

Honoring Our Elders



**Big Valley Rancheria's
5th Annual Tule Boat Festival
July 19th-21st, 2006**

Schedule

- July 19th 10am to 3pm —
Gather tules, BBQ lunch, environmental outreach activities, Lake County Pomo Dancers at 1pm
- July 20th 10am to 4pm —
Tule boatmaking, BBQ lunch, basketry demonstration, environmental outreach, stick games demonstration by Coyote Valley at 2:30
- July 21st 10am to 3pm —
Tule Boat team/ individual races followed by BBQ lunch and awards. **Races at 12 noon!**

If you are interested in selling or displaying your Native crafts, giving a presentation /demonstration or helping with the Tule Boat Workshop, please contact Sarah at the Big Valley EPA office 263-3924.

Tule Boat Festival

6th Annual



July 18-20, 2007

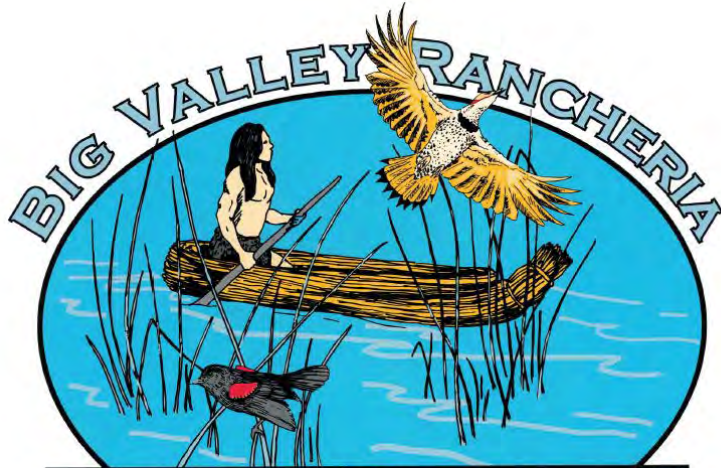
Big Valley Rancheria

BIG VALLEY RANCHERIA



2008

TULE BOAT FESTIVAL

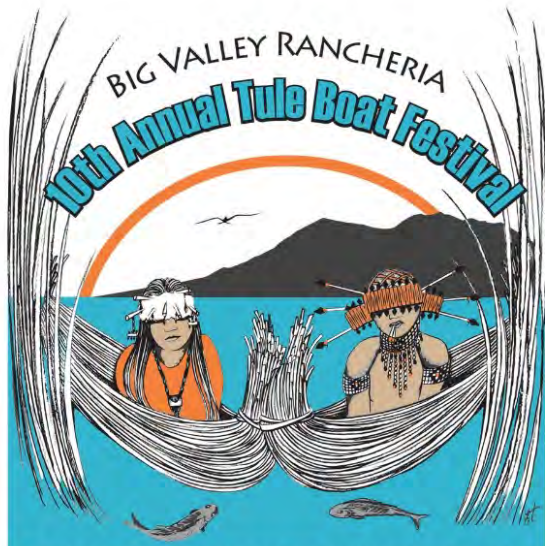


2009 **8TH ANNUAL** 2009
TULE BOAT FESTIVAL

9th Annual Tule Boat Festival



Big Valley Rancheria - July 2010



BIG VALLEY RANCHERIA - JULY 14 -16, 2011

Big Valley Rancheria's 11th Annual Tule Boat Festival

Thursday July 26- Saturday July 28, 2012



July 26th 10am-3pm: Cutting of the tules at Clear Lake State Park. All teams must attend Opening Ceremonies which will be held that day.

July 27th 10am-3pm: Building of the traditional tule boat will take place at Big Valley Rancheria's Point (Mission Rancheria Road, Lakeport).

July 28th Lunch at 2:00pm, with tule boat races immediately after. Followed by dancing, raffle and awards ceremony.

To register your teams, get an application for a vendor booth, donate or participate in any way, please contact Sarah Ryan at 707-263-5277 x or email gryan@big-valley.net

HONORING OUR WOMEN BIG VALLEY RANCHERIA



2013 TULE BOAT FESTIVAL
BIG VALLEY RANCHERIA - CA

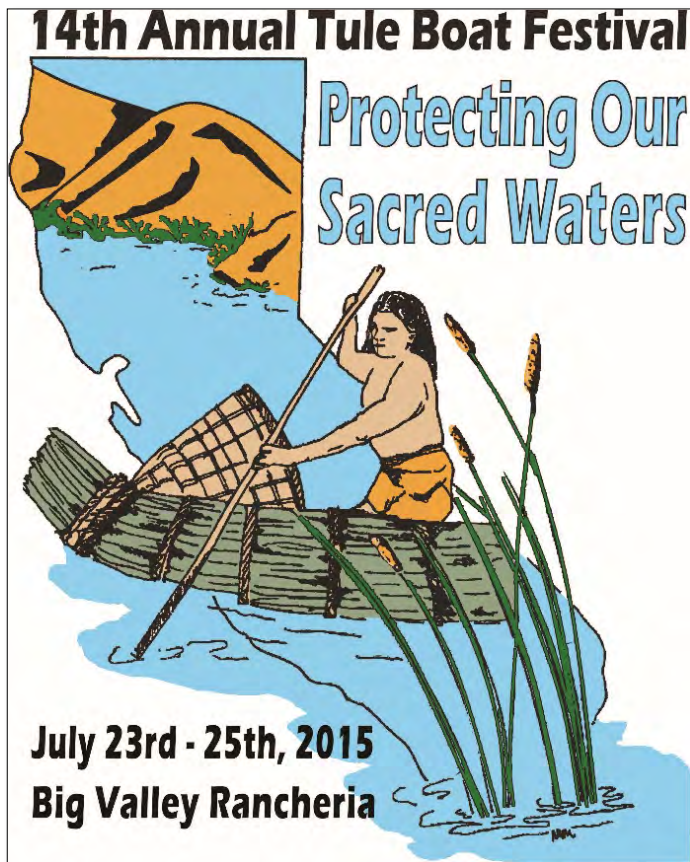
Thursday July 25, 2013 at Clear Lake State Park. 10am-3pm. Collection of the tules. We will be located at Group Camp A. Entrance fees to the park are \$8 per car. Teams should register when they arrive and must be present for Opening Ceremony at 10:30am. Lunch at noon.

Friday July 26, 2013 at Big Valley Rancheria on Mission Rancheria Road at the point. 10am-3pm. Building of the tule boats on BBQ lunch at noon.

Saturday July 27, 2013 on Mission Rancheria Road. 1pm-8pm. Lunch at 1pm with races immediately following. Award Ceremony following races. Followed by light meal and dancing, Festival ends at 8pm.

If you want to register your team or have a vendor/demonstration booth, please contact Gina Gomez at 263-5277 x101 or ggomez@big-valley.net





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Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians



Thank you for supporting the Annual Tule Boat Festival!
For more information, contact Big Valley EPA