



SUMMIT RESTAURANT AND BAR

Phone: 530-426-3904

<http://summitrestaurantandbar.com>

email: maria_at_the_summit@yahoo.com

Established - 2001

Soda Springs, CA

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Extraordinary Donner Summit

Donner Summit or Donner Pass is extraordinarily rich and historically it is the most important location in California and perhaps the entire Western United States.

Recreational opportunities abound: rock climbing, downhill skiing, road biking, snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, lepidoptery, photography, bird watching, plein-air painting, and cross-country skiing.

The area is amazingly diverse biologically. There are over a hundred species of birds that visit Donner Summit. There are 115 species of butterflies, 16 species of amphibians, 500 species of plants, and many dozens of species of mammals. Some of those species are "special Status."

Donner Summit is the Sierra Divide and the source of three major rivers: the Truckee, the Yuba, and The American.

It is the history that really sets the area apart. Native Americans have been traversing Donner Pass and Summit Valley (Van Norden) for thousands of years. They came to spend their summers away from the Nevada heat and to trade with California Indians. In Summit Valley there are over a dozen mortar sites, some with many mortars. The Native Americans ground the mortars into the Sierra granite over many generations as they ground their seeds. There are many metates (larger grinding surfaces) scattered around as well. In one location there are also cupules (small depressions ground into the granite possibly for mystical reasons). Petroglyphs, which are thousands of years old, are in many locations.

The first wagons to reach California came through Summit Valley after the emigrants had conquered the hardest obstacle on their journey: the Sierra and Donner Pass. The first transcontinental railroad goes through Summit Valley as does the first transcontinental highway and the first transcontinental telephone line. Overhead, the first transcontinental air route crossed the Summit, the route marked by beacons on the surrounding peaks. Soda Springs Ski Hill is called Beacon Hill because a beacon was located there.

In Summit Valley there is a piece of the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. that was hidden for almost a hundred years by Lake Van Norden. There is also a beautiful remnant of the Emigrant Trail as it winds through the forest on the edge of the meadow.

Donner Summit Lodge Open Every Day

Winter Hours: Sat/Sun 8 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. MWTHF Noon-8:30 P.M.
Taco Tuesday: 4 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. The bar is open until the crowd is gone.

Short History of Donner Summit Lodge

Ever since the Dutch Flat Wagon Rd. was built in the early 1860's to service the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, there have been hostleries along the route over Donner Pass.

The first auto to cross Donner Pass crossed in 1901 and the first motorcycle in 1903. The first successful "transcontinentalists" crossed the country using Donner Pass in 1903. With the arrival of the automobile, lodges began to spring up to service automobiles and provide relief for the "autoists".

By 1913 the first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway, was in operation and auto traffic increased considerably. Small lodges and service stations were built along the route and early automobiles would have gone right past what is now Donner Summit Lodge. Once the highway was open in winter the lodges offered accommodations for snow sport enthusiasts.

In the first decades of skiing people stayed in the small lodges and the night life after skiing was vibrant. Since many of the accommodations and dining were communal, people socialized in the common areas.

Donner Summit Lodge was built in 1938 to take advantage of the growth of traffic over the, by then, year-round Highway 40. The lodge was expanded twice from the picture above, first just after World War II and then in the 1970's.

Breakfast

EGGS

Good Morning Summit Special:

two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, potatoes and toast 8.00

Choose from the following - omelets all are accompanied with potatoes & toast

Bacon, Swiss & Tomato 12.00

Chili & Cheese 11.00

Mushroom, Sausage & Cheese 10.00

Salmon, Cream Cheese & Scallions topped with Parmesan
Cheese & drizzled hollandaise 13.00

Spinach, Avocado & Pepper Jack Cheese 12.00

Joe's Special: (a San Francisco Tradition comes to the Summit)

Scrambled eggs / ground beef / garlic / spinach / mushrooms /
peppers & onions 11.00

Corned Beef & Eggs: two eggs, any style / served on top of fresh roasted
corn beef / bell peppers & potatoes 11.00

Eggs Benedict 12.00

Breakfast Burrito: flour tortilla / scrambled eggs / cheese / jalapenos /
potatoes & refried beans with your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 9.00

Breakfast Tacos: two corn tortillas filled with eggs / cheese / tomatoes
with your choice of veggies / bacon / sausage or ham 8.00

Breakfast Sandwich: toasted ciabatta / eggs / cheese and
your choice of ham / bacon or sausage 8.00

Machaca Con Huevos: carne asada / onions / jalapenos / scrambled eggs
served with refried beans & tortillas 11.00

Huevos Rancheros: flour tortilla / beans and eggs any style
topped with jalapenos / pico de gallo / guacamole / sour cream /
cheese & our own rancho sauce 10.00

Take-out

After a full day of skiing save yourself the trouble of cooking - We
can prepare appetizers, platters, pizzas,
entrees, and full meals.

Just give us a call: 530-426-3904



The Coming of Modern Skiing

Before skiing became a popular participant sport it was mostly for spectators. People came to the slopes to watch ski races and ski jumping.

A few visionaries though, had a different idea. Skiing could become a participant sport too. They imported ski instructors from Europe, improved ski technique and instruction, improved equipment, ski lifts, and built lodges and small ski areas.

At first skiers arrived by train. There were train stations at Soda Springs and Norden here on Donner Summit. The station at Norden was actually in the snowsheds and there was a restaurant and ski rental inside.

In 1931 one of the "visionaries," Wendell Robie of the Auburn Ski Club, organized a ski jumping and slalom event. He invited the State legislature. Along with



the legislature 4,000 automobiles and their occupants crowded the highway up to Cisco Grove. That convinced the legislature that snow sports were popular and the road needed to be plowed. Highway 40 became a winter highway as well as a summer highway.

All along Old Highway 40, which runs right past the windows here, there were small "Mom and Pop" ski areas each with a rope tow or two and lodges where people could stay.

People came by the thousands to ski at the many ski areas on Donner Summit and leading up to Donner Summit.

Pictured above: the rope tow at Beacon Hill, now Soda Springs Ski Area.



Rope tows helped popularize skiing by making ascents less difficult. Above, Soda Springs Ski Area



OFF THE GRIDDLE

| | |
|---|-------|
| French Toast: fantastic multigrain bread dipped in our secret batter served with bacon or sausage | 8.00 |
| Summit Pancakes: two house made buttermilk pancakes served with your choice of bacon or sausage | 9.00 |
| Snow Park Special: we call it the works! Two piping hot pancakes / two eggs any style served with your choice of bacon or sausage | 11.00 |

A LA CARTE

| | |
|---|------|
| Biscuits & Gravy | 7.00 |
| Half Order | 5.00 |
| Two Eggs | 3.00 |
| Country Potatoes | 4.00 |
| Hot Oatmeal served with milk / brown sugar / nuts & cranberries | 6.00 |
| Bacon or Sausage | 4.00 |
| Turkey Bacon | 5.00 |
| Toast | 3.00 |
| Bagel & Cream Cheese | 4.00 |

MORNING BEVERAGE TREATS

| | |
|---|------|
| Orange Juice / Cranberry Juice or Apple Juice | 3.75 |
| Milk | 3.75 |
| Coffee / Tea or decaffe | 2.25 |
| Hot Chocolate | 3.50 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Mimosas | 7.00 |
| Champagne | 6.00 |
| Tequila Sunrise | 7.00 |
| Summit's Famous Bloody Mary | 8.00 |

All Bloody Marys are made with our own secret recipe...



As skiing became a popular participant sport Highway 40 became a parking lot for the thousands of automobiles that arrived each weekend with happy skiers. These pictures were taken outside the Soda Springs Hotel in Soda Springs.

California Fresh Grilled Items and More.....

| | |
|--|-------|
| Grilled Salmon on a ciabatta roll/ spinach/ shredded carrots and a dill aioli | 14.00 |
| Fish n Chips | 13.00 |
| Pesto Melt on a ciabatta roll/ turkey/ pepper jack cheese & pesto sauce | 13.00 |
| Seasonal veggie Delight: seasonal veggies/ avocado and your choice of cheese | 11.00 |
| French Dip created with our own brined roast beef | 11.00 |
| Steak Sandwich grilled to perfection topped with mushrooms & onions | 15.00 |
| Philly Cheese Steak grilled roast beef/ mushrooms/ bell peppers & mushrooms | 11.00 |
| Traditional Ruben served on marble rye | 12.00 |
| BLTA served with loads of bacon & Avocado served on multi-grain bread | 10.00 |
| Grilled Cheese filled with tomatoes/ avocado/ swiss & cheddar cheese | 12.00 |
| Grilled Ham n Cheese served with a spread of honey mustard and all the fixin's | 11.00 |
| Soccer Girls' Famous Chicken Cesar Wrap served in a spinach tortilla | 11.00 |
| Traditional Deli Sandwich / Ham / Turkey or Roast beef | 10.00 |

All sandwiches come with your choice of soup/ salad or fries!!

| | |
|---|------|
| Sub Beer Fries/ Sweet Potato Fries or Onion Rings for | 3.00 |
| Add Avocado to any sandwich for | 2.00 |

We purchase all of our breads from a local bread company containing no preservatives or additives, it's a little more work on our part but well worth the flavor! Enjoy...

Pizza

Create your own 14" pizza by choosing any three toppings: pepperoni / italian sausage / ham / onions / bell peppers / olives / mushrooms / tomatoes / artichoke hearts / jalapenos or pineapple

| | |
|--|-------|
| | 16.00 |
| For chicken add 3.00 | |
| 14" Cheese Pizza | 12.00 |
| 14" One Topping Pizza | 14.00 |
| 14" Hawaiian Pizza w/ ham & pineapple | 15.00 |
| 14" BBQ Chicken Pizza w/ red onions / bacon / tomatoes & chicken | 17.00 |
| 14" Veggie Pizza w/ spinach / mushrooms / artichoke hearts / tomatoes & olives | 16.00 |

PASTA

| | |
|--|-------|
| Cheese Ravioli topped with our marinara sauce | 12.00 |
| Penne Pasta served with chicken & a chimichurri cream sauce | 13.00 |
| Fettuccini Pasta served with pesto/ artichoke hearts / zucchini & sun dried tomatoes | 11.00 |

Add soup or salad for 4.00



www.sugarbowl.com



Royal Gorge

www.royalgorge.com

Royal Gorge is not just for Skiers.

Royal Gorge is not just for cross country skiing. There are tracks on which you can snowshoe. Those trails are marked both on the trails and on the Royal Gorge map.

Royal Gorge Loves Dogs Too

You can take your dogs on some Royal Gorge trails. On the east end of Van Norden Meadow there is a trail called, "Snoop's Loop" on which dog-loving cross country skiers can bring their dogs. You can also bring your dogs on the trail that runs along the north side of the meadow. Those trails have signs allowing dogs.

And in the Summer

The Donner Summit Community will be developing mountain biking and hiking trails on the Royal Gorge properties. Be sure to check out the summer Summit activities: www.royalgorge.com



The Summit's Famous Burgers

"Voted best Burgers in Tahoe"

| | |
|---|-------|
| Bacon Cheese burger | 11.00 |
| Chili Burger served open face with our award winning chili and the works | 14.00 |
| Western Burger topped with BBQ sauce, bacon, cheddar cheese & onion rings | 13.00 |
| Blue Cheese Burger topped with sautéed mushrooms & melted bleu cheese | 12.00 |
| California Burger topped with spinach, shredded carrots, avocado & cheese | 12.00 |
| Patty Melt grilled marble rye, sautéed onions, and swiss cheese | 12.00 |
| Teriyaki Chicken Burger with melted swiss cheese | 11.00 |

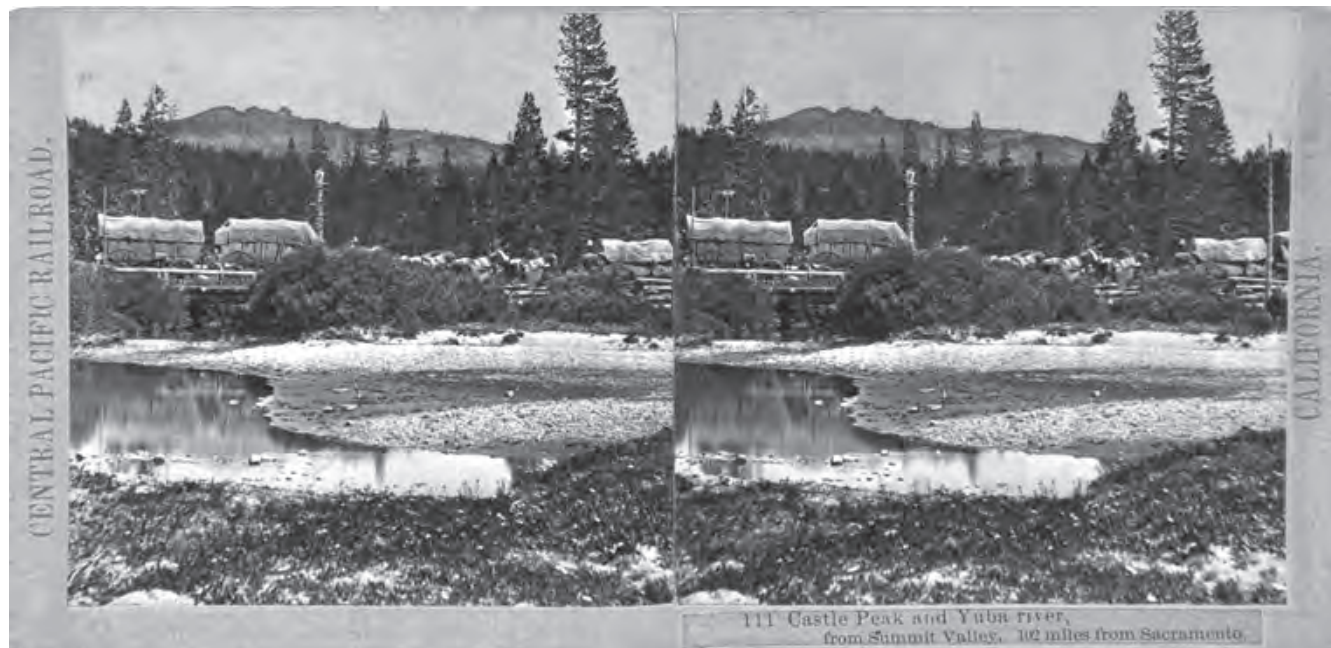
All burgers come with our house made fries!
See below for customizing options...

Go for our original and create your own customized burger...

| | |
|---|-------|
| Half-Pound Sirloin Burger, Chicken or Veggie Burger served with fries | 10.00 |
|---|-------|

Customizing is our specialty: choose from cheddar, pepper jack, swiss or provolone cheese, bacon, avocado, mushrooms, or caramelized onions all items range between 1.25 to 1.95 - go for it!

| | |
|---|------|
| Customize your side as well: sub your fries for sweet potato fries, beer fries or onion rings | 3.00 |
| or sub a salad | 3.00 |



Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Rd.

The first wagon trains took a detour before they reached the site of this restaurant. They went across Summit Valley and then up Soda Springs Rd. to what is now Serene Lakes before heading downhill to California.

With the coming of the railroad though, a major wagon route came right past here. It was the Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Rd. It was built by the railroad from 1862 to 1864 and was used as a toll road for freighters and a supply road for the railroad.

As the railroad building progressed across the Sierra "end of track" moved uphill. Wherever end of track was a town would grow up and there would be stage and freight service for the rest of the trip over the Sierra. Small hotels were built all along the route, including a couple on Donner Summit.

The railroad marketed the new road as a big improvement over the Placerville Rd. over the Sierra and the road saw very heavy usage. In 1867 58 train car loads of freight a day were unloaded at Cisco onto freight wagons to travel over the Summit pm tje Dutch Flat Rd.t.

By the time the railroad was complete almost all freight switched to the railroad. The Dutch Flat Rd. fell into disuse and the hotels were abandoned.

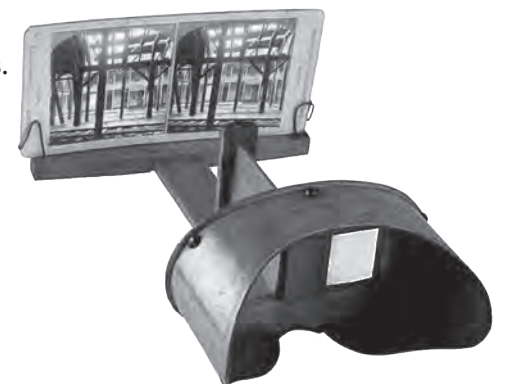
Stampeding Oxen, Blindfolded Mules

There were some interesting sights on the road. For example, the locomotive Sacramento was hauled on wagons from Gold Run to the Summit to work as donkey engine over the central shaft of the summit Tunnel #6 in 1867.

"Missouri Bill" hitched 10 yoke of oxen (20 oxen) to his logging wagon which had two foot wide wheels so it would not sink into the mud. The huge wagon load was such a scary sight to oncoming traffic that it caused a one stampede and "raised hell on the trail." "There was trouble every day" and "stage horses would balk at the sight of her." Eventually oncoming teamsters blindfolded their mules so they would not run off when they saw the engine coming. It took six weeks for the locomotive to come from Sacramento to Donner Summit.

Later in 1867, during the winter, a whole locomotive, forty miles of track, and parts for railroad cars were taken over the Summit on the road - in the middle of winter. Oxen wore "shoes" so they would not sink too far into the snow.

You had to be tough to live in those days.



In the old days when there were not televisions, video game consoles, MP3 players, etc. people got enjoyment by passing around stereopticon viewers like the one above. The double pictures, like the one to the left and the one in the viewer here, were 3D!

With these viewers people could experience the wonders of the world before the internet. The slide in the stereopticon above shows a view through the snowsheds to the front door of the old Summit Hotel which sat at the Summit on the railroad route.

Dinner

Scott's Famous Teriyaki Chicken
Tender breast of chicken simmered in Scott's teriyaki sauce accompanied by rice 16.00

Chicken Florentine
Seasoned chicken breast topped with a spinach & fresh vegetables sautéed / house red sauce / melted mozzarella accompanied by pasta 17.00

Marinated Grilled Shrimp served over a Beurre Blanc pasta 17.00

Grilled Steak Selection
Ask your server about our hand-cut steak selection Market Price

Grilled Seafood Selection
Ask your server about our fresh seafood availability Market Price

Eggplant Parmesan
Encrusted in herbed breadcrumbs topped with mozzarella cheese and a house red sauce accompanied by pasta 16.00

All dinner entrées come with a seasonal vegetables and your choice of soup or salad...

Thirst Quenchers:

Coffee, Tea & Decafe 2.25

Pepsi, Diet, Sierra Mist, Root Beer, Lemonade and Ice Tea 2.25

Juices 3.75

Milk 3.75

From the Bar

Ask to see our Specialty Drinks Menu, which includes our Wine List

Coors, Coors Light, Bud, Bud Light, Miller Light 3.50

Choose from our wide selection of Premium Drafts 4.50

We also have a full bar so let your imagination go wild....

Don't forget to try "Our Famous Bloody Mary" you don't want to miss it! 8.00

The First Ski Lifts

In the old days avid skiers would make only a few runs to the top of a hill in a day. They could only make as many runs as they had energy to climb the hills.

Ski promoters knew that in order for skiing to become popular there had to be a better way of getting skiers to the top so they could ski down.

There were many experiments and eventually ski areas settled on rope tows initially powered by automobile engines. For example, Johnny Ellis had three rope tows as Lake Mary and what is now Donner Ski Ranch, one powered by a Model A automobile.

Other things were tried though on the way to rope tows. One as the Up Ski or Boat Tow. Dennis Jones built on at Beacon Hill (now Soda Springs Ski Area). It consisted of two sleds, one of which you can see below.



Skiers would removed their skis and sit down facing backwards and be pulled up the hill. As one sled ascended the other descended.

It was not convenient for skiers and did not survive. One last piece still sits at Cisco Grove on the hillside overlooking the freeway (below).

The Auburn Ski Club had a boat sled at Cisco Grove. Some time in the 1930's it was abandoned in favor of a rope tow and one of the sleds still sits on the mountain above the freeway as you can see here. Rope tows eventually gave way to chair lifts. The first chair lift in California was built at Sugar Bowl. It was a single seater. Those singled seaters gave way to doubles and finally, to high speed quads and even bigger lifts.



Children's Menu Available on Request

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