

July 2021



Dear Members,

It's been 15 months of Zoom virtual events. Now, thanks to the vaccinations against the COVID-19 virus, we are able to restart the Belgian Club of Northern California gatherings where we left off in early 2020.

As we mentioned earlier this year, we were hoping to meet again in July. And, YES, it is happening!!! So happy to invite you to BCNC *in-person* BBQ Picnic Celebration of the Belgian National Holiday!



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**Belgian Independence Day Celebration**  
**Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley**  
**Sunday July 25, 12:00 - 4 pm**

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**Time:** Sunday July 25th, 12:00 - 4 pm.

**Location:** Tilden Regional Park, Lake Anza Road, Berkeley, **Buckeye Picnic Area.**

This is a short walking distance from the end of the parking of the Merry-Go-Round. This is a very kid-friendly area with a lot of activities. We recommend you to come earlier or stay later so you could also enjoy Little Farm, Botanic Garden or Steam Train. You can find more information at [www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden).

**Address:** Tilden Regional Park  
2501 Grizzly Peak Blvd  
Berkeley, CA, US 94563

**Directions:**

From Highway 24, take the Fish Ranch Road exit. Up Fish Ranch Road, right on Grizzly Peak Blvd, right on S. Park Drive, then left on Wildcat Canyon Road. Continue for 0.9 miles, then veer right on Central Park Drive. Continue 0.3 miles; turn right onto Lake Anza Road, Buckeye will be on your left.

From Interstate 80, take the Buchanan Street exit. Continue east along Buchanan Street, in 0.4 miles veer right, Buchanan becomes Marin Avenue. At the traffic circle turn onto Los Angeles Avenue, heading uphill. Left on Spruce Street. At the top of Spruce, continue straight across the Grizzly Peak Blvd intersection, then make an immediate left onto Canon Drive. Continue to the bottom of Canon, turn right onto Central Park Drive. Continue 0.7 miles; turn left onto Lake Anza Road, Buckeye will be on your left after the Merry-Go- Round parking exit.

**BBQ:** BCNC will provide meat, fish, sides, dessert and non-alcoholic drinks.

**Cost:** The lunch is \$35 per adult, and \$10 for kids under 13 y.o. This is a Members-only event. Your 2020 membership is still valid for 2021. To become a member, please sign up at our website [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com).

**What to bring:** a blanket if you want to have a picnic on the grass, camping chairs, sunscreen and your own plates, utensils and cups to keep our ecological footprint down. Also, we will only provide simple beverages; so bring your own favorite (Belgian) beer or wine if you wish!

**Register by July 21th:** sign up on our website at [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com) or email Marcia at [marcia@bcnc.com](mailto:marcia@bcnc.com). The preferred way of payment is with Paypal or credit card while you're signing up on our website. Alternatively, you can send a check to our treasurer: Fabienne Sowa, 2820 Willow Creek Trail, Cool, CA 95614.

For questions, please email Marcia at [marcia@bcnc.com](mailto:marcia@bcnc.com)

And back by popular demand, we'll have our river rafting trip again!

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## White Water Rafting Sunday, August 15 South Fork of the American River [lower section], Coloma

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The South Fork of the American River runs through the beautiful Gold Discovery Country, east of Sacramento. Though the rapids have overwhelming names like "Troublemaker" and "Satan's Cesspool", they are not too intimidating themselves. Exciting enough to get your heart pumping, they are still reasonable enough for kids as young as eight years old to enjoy. Most consist of large waves or swift bends in the river. And all of them are followed by calm pools, which makes it easy to regroup and get prepared for the next thrill ride.

The South Fork allows lots of time for joviality with your friends and family. Water fights are legendary on the South Fork. And if it's always been your dream to swim in a river, you'll have time for that too.

We will be using paddle rafts (as in the picture from our trip a couple of years ago) where each guest and the professional guide have a paddle and navigate the river, working as a coordinated team.

**Cost:** \$120 per person for BCNC members. Lunch and drinks are included. Note that we did

reserve 2 boats (16 people) 1-1/2 years ago at a discounted price, but had to cancel last year due to Covid-19. Luckily the organization honored our tickets! FYI: Current price is \$177/person. BCNC Membership has its advantages.

**Registration and Payment online only.** Please go to our website [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com) and select the River Rafting event. You can pay by Paypal or credit card. Please allow for a couple of days for us to let you know if there is still space available. If we're full and you have paid already, you will be refunded.

**Deadline to register:** you can register until the week before the event but there is a high risk that our 16 places will fill up fast. Once we're full, we might not be able to make more reservations as the river is usually fully booked as this is prime season for rafting. So, we encourage you to sign up early. And if we do succeed in adding reservations, it will be at the higher price.

**Where:** All Outdoors River Rafting  
1026 Lotus Road, Lotus, CA 95651

This is very close to the Marshall Gold Discovery Park in Coloma.

Traveling east from the Bay Area and from Sacramento on Hwy 50:

Take the North Shingle Rd/Mother Lode Dr. Exit # 37 (also called Ponderosa Rd), just after Cameron Park. Turn left over the freeway and take the first right onto North Shingle Rd (after 4.5 miles it becomes Lotus Rd). Travel 10.5 miles until you get to the first stop sign at Bassi Rd.

To get to the All-Outdoors River Center continue straight on Lotus Rd. after the stop sign at Bassi Rd. The entrance to our River Center is the second driveway on the left after the River Store. The entrance is marked by a wooden sign and a metal sculpture of a school of fish. Park in the parking area and sign in at the All-Outdoors check-in area under the large oak tree.

We meet at this location at 11:15 am. Please be on time! Count on a 3 hour drive from San Francisco and the South Bay, a bit less from the East Bay.

**Logistics:** for more information regarding the rafting, the location and what to bring, go to <http://aorafting.com/river/south-fork-american/trip-details.htm>

### **What's Included**

- Professional Guide, instruction, and equipment
- Delicious fresh lunch
- River shuttle by bus to and from the meeting place

### **What to Bring**

- Personal Medicine
- Change of clothing for ride home
- Waterproof sunblock, sunglasses with strap, hat, visor (optional)

### **What to Wear**

- Swimsuit, quick drying shorts to wear over swimsuit is recommended for more comfort
- Athletic shoes that are lace-up, no slip-ons or thongs (no Teva type sandals)
- Long-sleeve shirt and pants for added sun protection and/or extra layering (optional)

While on the river, you need little other than your river attire. There is limited space available in a water-resistant bag for additional items, such as rain gear or medication, that you might need during the day (no towels, please). This bag is usually available only during the lunch stop and at camp.

### **Optional Camping/Lodging**

For those people that want it, you can drive up the day before and camp or stay in a hotel close to the meeting point. There's lots of stuff to do as we're right in the middle of the Marshall Gold Discovery Park and the nice little town of Placerville is only 20 minutes away.

For more information, please contact Dirk at [dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:dirk@bcnc.com)

### **Announcements & Events:**

- **Wolff Winery** in San Luis Obispo: plan for a fall weekend joint gathering for the Belgian Clubs of Northern and Southern California at the Wolff Winery. More info coming soon.
- **Oysters on the Beach** at Point Reyes is scheduled for early October.

### **NOTES:**

- During the 15+ months of the COVID-19 pandemic, we changed the way we were meeting by going virtual. This demanded a new type of organization. We want to thank all who participated in these Zoom sharing experiences: the panelists, the moderators, the participants, and all those who referred us to panelists.
- About the last virtual on June "8th at 8", we want to thank Nicolas Servais of Brussels Bistro, Roger DeClercq of Sonoma Gourmet, our president Pierre Smit for his Rice Tart Recipe and our moderator Fabienne Sowa-Dobkowski. We received many compliments for a most enjoyable evening. We like to invite you to bring one or more of your home-made Rice Tarts to share at our Independence Day Picnic on July 25.
- The Belgian Club of Northern California is looking for the following:
  - Join our BCNC Board: with your ideas and organization, you can help making BCNC a fun and enjoyable club where everyone participates;
  - Do you know how to design a website? Our website has been crashing too often. It is very old and outdated. We need your help to build a new website;
 Please contact [Dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:Dirk@bcnc.com) or [Pierre@bcnc.com](mailto:Pierre@bcnc.com).

See you soon!

The Board