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## Cook-Off Kick-Off

# Calcutta Dinner

Chili Charity Auction & Dinner On The Lake

Get ready for the following day's Chili Cookoff with the Calcutta Dinner and Auction, which opens the 2009 Old Miners' Days celebration in Big Bear Lake on Friday evening, July 10.

Held at water's edge on beautiful Big Bear Lake at B's Backyard Bar-B-Que, this annual event is a great kickoff to the Cookoff as you bid in a live auction on the (hopefully) winning teams that will compete the following day. The person who buys the winning chili and/or salsa teams splits the pot of

dough with the winning team and the Old Miners Association!

This is an adult event that helps fund the nonprofit Association. It's a BIG party, right on the beach with a sunset show treat!

B's Backyard prepares a tempting and delicious meal, priced at just \$8-\$10. Come ready to eat, drink, bid and be merry! Afterwards there's live music inside the adjacent B's Boathouse lakeside lounge.

B's is at 350 Alden Rd., just off Big Bear Blvd. Call (909) 866-5400.



## 22nd Annual

# Chili Cook-Off

International Chili Society Sanctioned Event

Some like it hot, some like it not. Chili-lovers of both persuasions will enjoy all the tangy concoctions they can handle when Old Miners Days in Big Bear Lake presents the annual Chili Cookoff on Saturday, July 11...plus nonstop entertainment and family fun!

Held in the Bartlett Parking Lot from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Chili Cookoff is one of the most popular Old Miners events and is a rootin' tootin' good time for all. There's something for everyone with bounce houses, climbing walls and snow cones for the kids, zany events like the Whiskerino, Shoot 'n Holler, and Mr. Hot Sauce and Miss Chili Pepper competitions, live music, and approximately 50 vendors showcasing a variety of wares, many Western-themed.

At the heart of the event of course is the chili, as 40-plus cooks from all over the southwest compete for cash prizes and coveted titles—plus the chance to advance to the World Championships—in an International Chili Society-sanctioned competition. All preparation and cooking has to be done on site and entrants are given just three hours of actual cooking time starting at noon to prepare concoctions like "Hemorrhoid Heaven Chili" and "Double Flush Chili." The awards ceremony is held at 4 p.m.

New for 2009 are live western shootouts and gun spinning demonstrations performed by the Reenactment Guild of America. There's also plenty of fair food, cold beer to wash down the fiery chili, and the 60-plus specialty shops in the Village are just a hop and skip away. The fun doesn't end till dusk as the street dance winds down.

Bring the antacids and kick up the heels to live music beginning at noon. The High Desert's Southern Spirit plays its quality mix of country, rock and Southern rock. The band is popular at venues including the Cocky Bull, Cadillac Ranch, Branding Iron and was a featured performer at the Apple Valley Music Festival. Also entertaining is solist John Swisshelm, who has his own CD out.

Admission is \$6 which includes the official chili tasting kit—those with 2009 Old Miners Days badges save a buck. Call (909) 866-4607, (909) 237-4608, or visit [www.oldminers.org](http://www.oldminers.org) for contestant and vendor details and forms.



## "Stake Your Claim"

# Souvenir Buttons

"Good As Gold" For Discounts

Get your 60th anniversary commemorative Old Miners Days button for just two bucks and it'll pay for itself with discounts at 2009 events.

Each badge, designed by Chautauqua High School student Janelle Hernandez, honors Big Bear's western roots by picturing leather boot with spur, lumber and cattle, all of which boast significant historical importance in the Valley. The badge also sports

plenty of nuggets, which let bearers stake their claim to some real gold in these 'thar hills: save a buck on admission to all Old Miners events.

Also, many participating merchants offers savings to those showing Old Miners spirit. Pick yours up at fine businesses throughout Big Bear and you'll have more than just a great keepsake for the 2009 celebration.

