1957 family reunion at Snug Harbor on Steamboat Slough. Sitting at the beach area Easter week end.

1957 at the beach area of Snug Harbor-Steamboat Slough

Easter week end annual reunion
TIMELINE OF HOGSBACK SHOALS TO SNUG HARBOR & RESORT DEVELOPMENT

Snug Harbor is a peninsula located off Ryer Island, on Steamboat Slough. Snug Harbor was originally part of the "Hogsback Shoals" series of small islands that are noted in books and records of Steamboat travel and shipwrecks of California's early days. Some official historic maps refer to the waterway as the Sacramento River instead of Steamboat Slough; see Historical Bancroft's map for example.

1862 Hutchings describes Hogsback Shoals
Ryer Is. Surveyed & sold

1880s Mining debris filling up navigable waterways & flooding Sacramento Valley ag. Hydraulic mining banned

1876 Contractor for state capital building buys Hogsback Shoals per recorded grant (Blake)

1890s USACE levee improvements converts Martin's Island to a peninsula by connection to Ryer Island during Steamboat Slough dredging

1930's USACE levee improvements are made in North Delta. No more flooding of Ryer or Grand Island after 1907

1945 Plans for the Central Valley Project use of "surplus" water

1949 Sunset Magazine Bay & Delta book

1977 Atwater survey confirms location of Hogsback Shoals. 1977 is the last time Steamboat Slough was fully dredged.

1984 Expansion of Marina & RV park -USACE permits (Decker)

1985 Residential Lots sold on Martin's Island & trailer park development (Martin)

1997 resort sold to Delta vacation boating family, with plans for major upgrades (Snug Harbor Resorts, LLC)

1999 CALFED use of Steamboat Slough as flow experiment site causes high water flood damage every 28 years instead of every 10 years

2000 CALFED/BCP use of Steamboat Slough as flow experiment site causes high water flood damage every 28 years instead of every 10 years

2006 DWR falsifies Ryer Island flood history in DRMS Phase 1

First project of agency that becomes USACE is to build an improvement at north end of Steamboat Slough to help steamships turn into the waterway during fast moving outflow times 1860s

After major flood, cooperative levee rebuild in North Delta. No more flooding of Ryer or Grand Island after 1907

Martin's becomes Snug Harbor resort & fishing cabins over the water called "Snuggle Inns" (Springer)

State Lands Commission study of the shipwrecks of the Sacramento River & tributaries

Note: Go to http://www.snugharbor.net/timeline.html to view interactive timeline where you can click on the words to go to links of the documents or maps described.
1937 view of the peninsula that is known as "Snug Harbor"
"Snuggle Inns" over the water 1950's

View from Steamboat Slough

Ferry between Ryer and Grand Islands on Steamboat Slough 1950's
5-31-2012 CalTrans eliminates SR 84 and 220 on the map to limit awareness of access to Ryer Island in the Delta.
February 21, 2013  CalTrans really should be ashamed of itself.  The original Real McCoy Ferry was reliable and ran for 65 years before being sold to someone who rents it out in the Mare Island area.  The new Real McCoy Ferry II is apparently not capable of handling the traffic like the older one, so it constantly breaks down.  Plus, the new ferry appears to be designed to limit access by recreational vehicles due to the "v" built right into the main deck of the ferry which can cause some long motorhomes to scrape bumpers when getting on the ferry at the Rio Vista side.  We suggest you do not plan to use the ferry unless you call the morning of the day you plan to travel on the ferry.  Note the Rio Vista ferry runs every 20 minutes starting on the hour.  The J-Mac ferry by Howard's Landing on Grand Island, which crosses Steamboat Slough to Ryer Island, runs "on demand" or when needed.  But the larger motor homes can not easily drive onto the smaller J-Mac ferry, so all large RVs should plan to use the BRIDGE route to come to Ryer Island and Snug Harbor.  We suggest you print out and use the map to the upper right when driving around the North Delta because some cell phone carriers and GPS services don't work well in the Delta.
to SR 160, east side of the Sacramento River in Walnut Grove, drive north a few hundred yards, then cross another bridge to get on the west side of the Sacramento River to continue your drive to Snug Harbor, either using the route crossing Grand Island at SR 220 or going up to Courtland Road and coming down to the Ryer Island bridge across Miner's Slough, or else going up to the Steamboat Slough bridge and turn left to go down Grand Island Road to the J-Mac Ferry (i.e. follow the signs to Grand Island Mansion and the ferry will be a few miles further down Steamboat Slough from the mansion). Your GPS will not have the current bridge maintenance schedules and detour routes, so please remember to bring out a Delta Map.

6-16-2012. Caltrans plans to close the Isleton Bridge around 6-18-2012 AFTER the Cajun Festival, so you can still use that bridge to get to Isleton. Note that as of a few days ago, online the CalTrans website says the bridge is already closed! Note again...CalTrans changed its mind and is keeping the bridge open until further notice—good plan!

PLEASE, please remember to print out our map of the Delta, Delta Map since CalTrans has been opening and closing roads and bridges, and placing detour signs in such a way that most travelers might get a bit confused regarding which way to go. For example, note the detour arrows located at a main intersection in Walnut Grove, supposedly directing travelers how to avoid whatever bridge or road is closed this week.

Which way would you turn?

images2012/caltrans/RMC_Car_Count.pdf images2012/caltrans/RMC_log.pdf some stats from Caltrans

May 31, 2012 From about May 27 to June 2nd, CALTRANS is intentionally limiting access to the North Delta area, including or especially Ryer Island. Click on the map to see the closed bridges and roadways with limited access or delays, with printscreen from the descriptions from the CalTrans website. May 30, 31 and June 1st there are supposed to be many politicians and influential people in the Delta or a Discover the Delta event, and for some on-the-ground Delta tours by Delta residents. So why did CalTrans pick now to close bridges and repair roads? Perhaps there will be some "unannounced" state and federal politicians in the Delta to view SR 160 with all Delta traffic being diverted to 160 to further validate making it a "scenic highway"? Or is there a very big Delta construction or conveyance project that will happen in the next few days?

images2012/caltrans/Map_for_Por verfüg v2.pdf
images2012/caltrans/Detour MapJune2012.pdf

On top of it all, if you review the maps of the area from CalTrans, you will see the many different ways CalTrans makes it appear that there is no access to Ryer Island, or no road to reach Snug Harbor. Yes, we do complain to CalTrans, but each time we do, yet another misleading map comes out, and another road gets scheduled for "repairs" which results in limiting access or discouraging travel to Ryer Island.....WHY?
CALTRANS Updates for 2015
For 2013 and earlier CalTrans notices, go to the previous ferry & CALTRANS updates

As of 5-18-17 both ferries are running again. However, We advise all visitors with RVs to plan to use the bridge route to Ryer Island and Snug Harbor. When on the road, you might want to look at http://DeltaCalifornia.com which has been revised to show static maps of the roads of the Delta, as online mapping software and in-car GPS get very confused in the Delta and tend to send travelers the long way around or to the entirely wrong city. You can also go to http://dot.ca.gov and go to the "quickmap" and click on the options for showing if roads are closed or if there is slowed traffic. You can even click on the option to see the CalTrans highway cams. Look for the Hwy 12 cam near Isleton if you want to see local Delta weather! Map and directions to Snug Harbor when on the road: http://delcalifornia.com/delta-maps/snug-harbor-ryer-island-delta-ferries or http://www.snugharbor.net/images-2013/maps/directionsto_snugharbor1.jpg

1-12-17 BOTH ferries are not running, because there is too much floating debris in the rivers. The flows are high too. In 2006 the old Rio Vista Ferry did not have a problem with running during even higher flows. One of the differences this time may be the fact Prospect Island has been flooded for "restoration" and that may have added more logs and trees into Cache Slough, or the hydraulic pattern many have changed in an unexpected way. In any case, both ferries are down so you need to use the Miner Slough bridge to get to Ryer Island and Snug Harbor.

Real McCoy Ferry II has been having hydraulics issues and has sometimes been down for a few days at a time. It is important if you plan to use that ferry to call and confirm with CalTrans, or else email reservations@snugharbor.net to request confirmation if ferry is running ... or not. Note that only CalTrans can provide the most up-to-date information on this ferry.

Both ferries seem to be running on their schedules. EXCEPT that one night in late April, around 10 PM, CalTrans closed both ferries, and people trying to come to Ryer Island were not allowed to use the bridge. People waited at the bridge until 2:00 am as two guys in "CalTrans clothing" blocked bridge use. Once people could cross the bridge again, it was clear there was no road work being done. We have filed a Freedom Of Information Act to request the purpose of the closure, and to ask for advance notice of such apparently planned closures. Update: CalTrans says it was not CalTrans who was blocking access to the Miner’s Slough bridge for up to 4 hours in the middle of the night. Issue has been escalated to county security officials as it is illegal for persons to impersonate CalTrans employees and block traffic.

Real McCoy II ferry was down for more than 2 months. It started running again on 2/9/2016 and broke again by 2/10/2016.
As of Feb 19 it is running again. Who ever designed and approved this ferry should be REALLY ashamed of themselves! It breaks down so much!
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Rio Vista/Real McCoy II ferry continues to break down whenever so we’ve been given notice by CalTrans that the ferry will not be working until sometime in February 2016. J-Mac Ferry is running though. There was a meeting in Rio Vista on 11/18 about proposed Miner’s Slough bridge replacement but you would think CalTrans would FIRST show that there is actually a working ferry for the Rio Vista to Ryer Island connection.

The bridge plans say the access road on SR 84 will be a one way road... for THREE years starting in 2018! They need three years and up to $27 million to rehab an existing small bridge or build a new one? They can build the Golden Gate Bridge in 4 years, the first and second Bay Bridges in 3 years and they need 3 years for a 130 foot bridge across Miner’s Slough? Right. What is really happening is that there will be some sort of conveyance construction or major fracking in the area and CalTrans is trying to discourage locals from seeing what is going on. Modus operandi for CalTrans.

Currently both ferries to Ryer Island are running. Please remember that anyone coming to Snug Harbor in a motorhome, pull trailer or 5th wheel needs to use the BRIDGE route to Ryer Island—State Route 84 from Sacramento or Jefferson Blvd to Courtland Road to Ryer Road to the Miner’s Slough bridge onto Ryer Island. CalTrans sent out notice of "bridge painting work" on 3 Mile Slough bridge at State Route 160 so traffic will be alternating one-way for an indeterminate amount of time. Note it is in the area where USBR proposed a gate and fish barrier across 3 Mile Slough as well. You might want to plan to avoid SR 160 from the Antioch Bridge to Highway 12, if at all possible for the next few weeks.

CalTrans decided to shut down the Real McCoy Ferry basically for the month of August. Call them for details. No question about it, CalTrans is doing their ultimate best to discourage vacation travel in the Delta, so people won’t notice all the frackin’ trucks and water conveyance construction activities going on.

CalTrans is doing all sorts of projects in the Delta along Highway 12 between Highway 5 and the Mokelumne River bridge... slowly. CalTrans has been blocking traffic or slowing it down for several months. We suggest you AVOID using Hwy 12 between Highway 5 and the Mokelumne River Bridge.

Easy route to Snug Harbor: For people in RVs coming to Snug Harbor, plan to use State Route 84 (Jefferson Blvd) to Courtland Road on the WEST side of the Sacramento River, then follow Courtland Road to Ryer Road, and cross the bridge onto Ryer Island. Turn LEFT to go to Snug Harbor. Don’t count on your phone or GPS in the Delta region. Currently Google maps confuse the location of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River so if they can’t get the river names right you can bet the road names will most likely be wrong. Add to that CalTrans taking down the large route crossings and bridge names... One bit of good news is that the J-Mac Ferry is up and running again so it is quicker to get to Walnut Grove for shopping and restaurants again.

CalTrans sent around notice that a new paving job will start on Hwy 12 west of Hwy 5 to the Mokelumne River Bridge, causing slower traffic as there will be 1-way escorted lanes. In typical fashion for CalTrans, they picked the busy recreation season to do work that could have been done in winter when they had blocked off traffic for the changes to Mokelumne River bridge. In any case, we suggest you use the Walnut Grove/Thornton exit instead of Hwy 12 if coming up Hwy 5. To see and print out alternate routes for travel in the North Delta go to maps page. When on the road http://www.dot.ca.gov has a quick reference map that shows you the locations where there is work or a closed road or slowed traffic.

CalTrans timed the "repairs" of the J-Mac Ferry for this spring, and the ferry should be back in operation before 4th of July weekend. CalTrans has given no reason for the extension of the repairs on the J-Mac. For Snug Harbor customers, the Rio Vista Ferry over to Ryer Island runs every 20 minutes but it will NOT take RVs unless very small. Trucks pulling boat trailers are OK but only if you have a bar on your boat trailer protecting your boat propeller as the ferry landing is steep at low tides. For people coming to Snug Harbor in and RV, please plan to use the BRIDGE route to Ryer Island. It is not worth risking your RV bumper to get on the ferry, so plan to drive down to using Jefferson Blvd in West Sacramento, or else from 160/12 area follow the Delta Map.