

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2012 - 1

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Carol Schmidt & Dennis Young

Dates: What days were you here? Thursday, May 31, 2012 to Saturday, June 9, 2012

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

Carol Schmidt:

This was my second trip to Cliff Camp. We went last year at about the same time. This time was a very different experience for me. Last year was hard because of some chronic pain and extra weight I was carrying. This year I felt great! We did three round trips in and out. The men did some trail work so it was easier each time. We rented a boat one day for a tour of Wishon. One day we went for a drive out Blackrock Road – that was a LITTLE scary in parts but such beautiful views. We also hiked to the old cabin and the swinging bridge one day. We saw a lot of wild flowers, trout in the stream, deer and birds. Without Steve's wife Judy there I was a little nervous about cooking on that stove but I think I did OK. It was fun! I joked about my new identity – Frontier Woman Carol. It always amazes me to watch Steve bake in that oven. We barbequed and had a camp fire. Love those marshmallows! We had one day that was cold and rainy but most days were beautiful. Cliff Camp is a treasure so it is a real privilege to be able to experience it.

Steve Kliewer:

Thursday, 5/31: we arrived at the cabin after a 6 hr drive and a 1 hr 20 min hike. The streams are running well but not high nor difficult to cross. The spring is running well but not full of debris. However, the hose was broken in three places and a maze of fallen logs has made access to the spring very difficult. Surprise: a snag had fallen across the trail near where the hose drains over the rock. The weather is warm but pleasant even during the night. Mosquitos are in force but not exceptional. The Chinese spacecraft, Tiangong I, made a beautiful arc across the sky at 9:14pm passing between the closely spaced Moon and Saturn. Saturn is high in the sky to the south and just above Spica. Mars is about 60 deg west of Saturn and higher in the sky. Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter are lost in the Sun's glare. The Sun rises at 5:48am and sets at 8:12pm.

Friday, 6/1: we cleared the snag and debris from the trail, getting some useful firewood. We hiked back up to the car to get a second load. Along the way, we cleared much of the trail.

Saturday, 6/2: we had a luxurious shower and enjoyed life.

Sunday, 6/3: we hiked back up to the car and cleared the rest of the trail. We rented a boat and circumnavigated Wishon reservoir. What a beautiful day. On the way back we got our final load. Included were new bed slats, wedges, axe, and bird feeders.

Monday, 6/4: was cinnamon roll day! They came out beautiful, warm, and delicious in time for lunch. We used the chain saw to cut firewood and took another luxurious shower. The weather is changing. Clouds packed in and by 2 pm it was a solid dark stratus layer. Good afternoon and evening rain with thunder. Cold! Full moon tonight.

Tuesday, 6/5:

Cold and cloudy all day. Cut stove wood and got warm. Bushwacked and explored the meadow for a route through to the old cabin. The boggy area is smaller and easier to traverse. We cleared a path. Clouds completely obscured the historic Transit of Venus and the special ISS flyby where it flew directly over us! (Projected for 10:12pm and very bright at -3.4.)

Wednesday, 6/6:

Finally it is starting to warm up again.

We are running out of ice for our cocktail hour each day so up to the store again. We decide to explore the old Black Rock road and start off at Lily Pad campground, past a picturesque pond, over some spectacular but very rough road, fording Long Meadow creek, and back via Sawmill Flat Road and rejoin the main McKinley Grove road at the end of the straightaway.

The rest of this frabjous day we read books, played pinochle, and enjoyed life.

ISS flyby directly over us again! (9:48pm at -3.1 and a second pass at 10:55pm and magnitude of -0.5.) It was awe inspiring!

Thursday, 6/7:

Nice warm, crystal clear day. We hike down to the Swinging Bridge and have a picnic. What a glorious day. The Crown Valley trail hasn't been maintained in many years but is still in pretty good shape. The old cabin just like usual. The spring is terribly overgrown.

Friday, 6/8:

Another great day in paradise! We rebuild the "Springhouse" (i.e. the rocks under the overflow hose).

Another great shower: the firebox and heat exchange are slow but work great. Allow about 3 hr of continuous fire to heat the 20 gal water tank to a hot but still comfortable temperature. At least three showers can easily be accommodated on one tank without invoking stringent "wet-soap-rinse" rules.

Uncomfortable-when-wet breezes rise around noon until about 2 pm. Three pm appears to be the perfect time for a shower.

Saturday, 6/9:

The end of a fabulous trip. We are sad to go and already looking forward to next time.

On the drive home we visit Courtright Reservoir. It is a spectacular drive and vista from the dam. What a great way to end this trip.

An Inventory was completed this trip and posted. It includes suggested things to bring in as well as a list of overstocked items and a list of equipment.

Names: Who was in your party?

DIRECTOR STEVE, THE PLAYBOY BUNNY,
Steve Kliever, Carol Schmidt & Dennis YoungPADRE BROOKLYN

Dates: What days were you here?

MAY 31, TO JUNE 9

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

WEATHER WAS DELIGHTFUL - SAYS MISS PLAYBOY BUNNY TO HER HUBBY PADRE BROOKLYN (THE IRISH WRITER). SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO TREK IN ONCE & DO ROUND TRIPS TWICE, BY JUNE 3. SHE ORGANIZES, COOKS, HELPS THE GUYS CLEAR THE TRAIL IN & OUT AND MAKES GREAT GIN & TONIC'S FOR ALL. WE HAVE HAD DISSERTATIONS FOR ALL WILDLIFE, GEOLOGY, TREELIFE & TREEDATH FROM (DIRECTOR) RANGER STEVE. PADRE BROOKLYN (DENNIS) DOES HIS MORNING TAICHI, JUST BEFORE MAKING HIS WORLD FAMOUS (!) FRENCH TOAST FOR ALL AND TAKING PHOTOS OF EVERYTHING THAT MOVES AS WELL AS EVERYTHING THAT DOES NOT. RANGER STEVE PILOTS US ALL AROUND THE LAKE AS MISS PLAYBOY BUNNY (CAROL) DIRECTS US TO AND FROM IN HER OWN ORGANIZED MANNER. A JOLLY THREESOME, TELLING STORIES, JOKES, TALES AND LAUGHING A LOT, ENJOYING NATURE EXCEPT FOR THE GNATS AND MOSQUITOS, COOKING UP A STORM AND NOT BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR ANOTHER SIX DAYS.

Yahoo!!!

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2012 - ~~12~~ 2

Greg Davis;

Names: Who was in your party? Phil, Coop, Adrienne, Veronica⁽¹⁴⁾ and Conrad⁽¹⁰⁾ Collins,

Hope Cattitta⁽⁷⁾, Nicola Broughton⁽¹⁴⁾, Josh Gainer, Jenny Wadell + Cade Wadell⁽³⁾ - Gainer⁽³⁾

Dates: What days were you here?

Saturday, July 14th

- Sunday, July 15th (Greg)

Thursday, the 19th

(everyone minus the Collins)

- Saturday, July 21st (Coop, Adrienne, Veronica + Conrad)

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

① Another great trip to the cabin. Smaller group than we've been used to in recent years, but what we lacked in numbers we more than made up for in "intimacy" + good laughs."

Weather was tough to beat: started unseasonably cool (high of 93° in Fresno!), then one day of monsoonal light rain (a "female" rain as the Navajo would say), then ridging high pressure and bluebird days.

A Low Water year! Wishon Resv. was about as low as we've seen it.

Very few mosquitos - almost none - and the meadow was dry, a nice treat after two very wet years in a row. Rancheria Crk. was the perfect

height + temp for swimming, and good to find some nice sized

brown trout there too. (N. Fk. was low and fishing as good as ever.)

Spring was low but still flowing; better after moss clog at source cleared.

We were happy to see all the work Bill Easley (Jr.) + gang had done: relocated outhouse (we couldn't figure out what "THE BARB" meant),

huge pile of firewood, trail maintenance, etc. That motivated us to make a new step for the back door, nail down the north side of Cabin roof, fell a tree for more firewood, etc.

...
Saw a lone bear cub (!) on road down into Rancheria campground. More birds than usual, it seemed. Maybe the

feeders someone left here are working. ... Resident osprey population below bridge pool is alive + well, more chicks in nest.

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2012

~~2~~ 2

(cont.)

Names: Who was in your party? _____

COLLINS - JULY 14-21 (Continued)

Dates: What days were you here? _____

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

(2)

"Saw one rattlesnake; it was actually IN the meadow, a few feet from the exit on the far end - so beware of Snake-in-the-grass!

Culinary highlight was probably the Elk Burgers Josh + Jenn brought: Idaho elk shot by Josh's dad. Maui Beef short ribs from Trader Joe's ("Uncle Joe's") did not suck either.

Good to see Hopie (8) and Cade (4) taking to Cliff Camp so well. We celebrated their birthdays up here, along with Jenn's 35th. Cade's first Bocce Ball round, and he tallied a fine score! Cade's dad, Josh, took the 2012 Bocce Title.

Nice to have Nicola here, Veronica's friend and a Cliff Camp newbie. She swam the bridge pool for roughly 25 minutes straight - a new record?

Another splendid week in Gawwud's Country!

Cheers. - Coop