

# Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2015 — 1

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Mike Manning, Rick Manning, Steve Derks, Greg Davis, Steve Chambreau, Scott Ellis, and Dustin

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**Dates:** What days were you here? Saturday, May 9 thru Wednesday, May 20, 2015

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**Comments:** How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes? (Be sure to update others on any needed repairs, supplies, and food when you get home.)

We had originally planned to come up on Thursday. However, snow and rain were predicted for Thursday and Friday. We arrived around 11am on Saturday to cool but clear conditions with snow still on the ground. Greg's super work crew was already unloading the new 420 gallon water storage tank which they laboriously hauled down the trail to the spring. Shortly Steve Derks arrived with over 800 lbs of lumber and other building materials in 10 bundles, most of them 2-man size. These materials were kitted to build a replacement outhouse, a new dining table, bed frame, shelving for the cabin and shed, and a shower stall. The entire crew struggled throughout the day to haul it all into the cabin. What a stalwart and cheery group. ☺

The Cabin had again been broken into. The front door was open and the latch side of the door broken off laying against the dining table. About 10 empty food boxes (e.g. Bisquick, oatmeal, corn meal, chips, & crackers) were neatly returned to the cabinets but otherwise the cabin was in pretty good order.

Saturday had a high of 64 and an overnight low of 33. Dinner for eight hungry men was tasty barbecued steak, pilaf, salad, and fruit.

Sunday, the crew installed the tank in a shady spot below the spring. Initial filtering occurs in the reservoir. When it gets to the tank, large (>1/4 inch) items are deflected by a screen and smaller (i.e. sand) is collect in the stand pipe before entering the tank (through an insect proof screen). The top of the tank has a screened overflow outlet that allows the excess water to flush back down to the stream bed. The outlet has a gate valve that connects to the existing 3/4 poly pipe to the cabin. This is a thing-of-beauty and should be a great solution to our water problems.

The spring was running very well but the pipe was plugged in several spots and had major leaks due to animal bites in two spots. It is important that we reroute the pipe in several areas and be sure it is buried to prevent this in the future in order to conserve the water we are trying to store. Such leaks are the only reason I can think of that might still cause water shortages this summer.

Once all plugs and leaks were cleared, the pressure at the cabin was so high that leaks developed that required tightening several joints. After all was done the static pressure was measured to be 76 psi and the flow rate was 78 gal/min.

Greg's team left for home as soon as the tank was filling.

Sunday, was about 5 degrees warmer.  
Dinner was Bratwurst, Red beans n' Rice, salad

Monday, Rick completed our shiny new outhouse. The old one had been shattered last fall by a falling tree and was pretty rickety.

Mike completed the new bed frame.

Monday, the weather was just as nice as Sunday. Showers all around. What joy!

Mike is a great worker and an eager helper.

Tuesday was mostly a day of rest. Mike had two special friends show up. First was a very noisy frog which we escorted outside. However, late Tuesday, Mike noticed that a very pretty hummingbird had taken up residence on his sleeping bag. When approached the hummer puffed up and made some hissing sounds but would not move and would not let go of the blanket even after we took the blanket outside. We finally had to pry its little feet loose using a tooth pick so that we could lay it outside overnight. It was gone the next day.

Steve Derks, placed the first three of our series of Cliff Camp Geocaches.

Wednesday we closed camp and came home.

# Cliff Camp Journal Sheet    2015 — 3

**Names:** Who was in your party?    Steve Kliewer, Mikey Manning, Steve Derks,

Pam & George Havale, Judey & Scott Miller

Miles & Sharon Grant

**Dates:** What days were you here?    September 23-27, 2015

**Comments:** How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?  
(Be sure to update others on any needed repairs, supplies, and food when you get home.)

Steve Kliewer:

The Rough Fire had us very scared but it missed the Cliff Camp area. However, no where we could see showed any evidence of the fire. The air was pristine and the weather ideal.

The entire region beyond the dam was closed to all traffic. We had to stop at the Incident Control Center set up at the Dinkey Creek Mill site to get a permit. It was an enormous military style operation with 10 temporary office trailers, temporary lodging for 1200 firefighters, warehousing for food and other supplies, and many large trucks and other equipment. We were issued the permit and given warnings about venturing into apparently burned out areas because of hidden dangers. The road was closed at the north end of the dam but we were waved on through. We saw a sign at the Woodchuck trailhead just above the spillway. It notified firefighters that two structures existed about 45 min in from that point and was labeled "Cliff". At the new cabin the only evidence of a visit was a series tape flags labeled "Escape route" that marked the route from the new to the old cabin.

The water tank valve was open and the tank empty. Luckily the water jugs at the cabin were all full and more water was available at Lily Pad Campground. We missed our showers. But otherwise fun was had by all. What a great group.

Pam Havele

Beautiful blue skies and green trees were had by all. Water was scarce and had to be carried in daily. The company was fun and the food fabulous thanks to Steve K's organization and Judey M's cooking on the wonderful wood burning stove. A good time was had by all.

Miles Grant

Weather was awesome. We were able to see ISS because moon was setting just before dawn when ISS came over. I have not been here for 42 years. It was wonderful to be here again. So peaceful, so beautiful, so relaxing. I am sorry to leave, but feel wonderful and rejuvenated. For Sharon, this was her first experience hiking in and staying overnight. She loved her time here. We both especially loved sleeping under the stars. We will definitely be back again soon. Thanks to all who maintain this wonderful slice of heaven.