

Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2016 — 1

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer

Dates: What days were you here? Thursday, May 19 thru Saturday, May 21, 2016

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.)

Good news: the cabin is standing, no one has broken in. and the spring is running full.
☺ Greg did an outstanding job of closing for the winter. Everything was protected and well organized. No snow anywhere except along the upper slopes of Hoffman Mtn (at least 2000 ft higher). Wishon reservoir was only 100 ft down. All three stream were running across the trail contributing to our waterfall which was beautiful again. Thursday was beautiful with a high of 65 deg and blue skies with a few fluffy clouds. Friday was cooler and Saturday morning was very cold. Overnight low of 28.

The bad news is that the sand trap alongside the new water tank was shattered and the water pipe was pulled apart in 3 places. I cut away the broken parts and applied a temporary fix by plugging the hole with a cup. While the spring is running so well it this will work. Just in case, I filled all of the water jugs at the cabin.

The spring is running very well. Very little sand or debris had built up, but the intake pipe was plugged. The path up to the spring needs clearance (pruning shears).

The younger and energetic crew that installed the replacement water did a great job. However, it is apparent that the older generation (myself especially) have not passed along hard-earned lessons we have learned. When the pipe is routed directly down the steepest hillside without securing or burying it and merely routing it over rock edges, a series of problems develop and generally create serious problems in the spring but sometimes in the middle of the summer as well. A great deal of tension is generated each winter in the steepest sections. This often causes separations. To avoid this the pipe should be routed across the slope where it can be anchored and buried. Burying the pipe even under a light covering of duff provides several benefits: The pipe is anchored by a yearly buildup of pine needles with its subsequent decay into duff and eventually soil; It is cushioned and protected from falling limbs and toppling snags; Animals do not bite it; and it shades the pipe preventing the water from being warmed by the Sun.

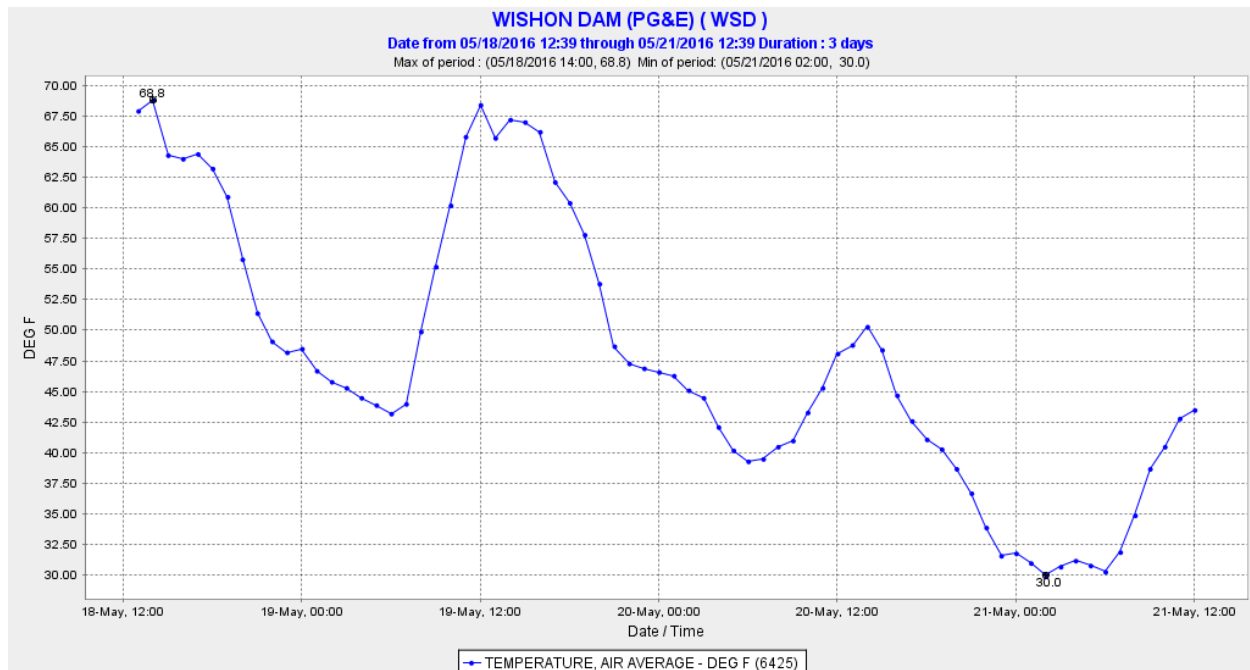
The meadow is boggy and flooded about halfway along old route through meadow. Pink "escape route flagging was added by the firefighters during the Rough Fire. The flag at the bottom of the hill just before entering the meadow is a good place to branch off from the old route to cross Fall Creek while it is still narrow and then route along the cliff side of the meadow. Here there is also another branch of the pink flags to follow.

This will require dropping a tree or two or detouring to some nearby large logs that have already fallen. This would require a fair amount of work clearing and carving steps into the logs as these are very brushy and big. In any case the old route as well as the new route require shearing away multitudinous small aspen bushes and limbs that now clog the meadow and the bordering tamarack forest.

The Sierra forest is terribly stressed by this long drought. At least 10 to 20% of the forest from Shaver on up are brown (dead or dying). Everywhere, dead branches and toppled trees clutter the forest, add to the huge forest fire potential.

The Rough Fire burned to within 2 miles south of Cliff Camp. At least half of the forest on Sugarpine Hill is now brown or black. Following the road south from our parking lot, as soon as it branches toward Rancheria creek, scorched and burned trees are all along the downslope side of the road. The road is still closed "Due to the Fire" at the Crown Valley trailhead. Most of the trees along the road were only scorched up to 10 ft. Lower branches are browned but most of these trees were only stressed not burned. All of the chaparral (bushes such as deer brush and gooseberry) were burned away along with needles and duff). However, in several areas, the fire "crowned" and large sections of trees were totally burned.

Many of the trails and routes around Cliff Camp are blocked with logs. Several nearby snags are just waiting to fall. Many of the trees around camp are now brown.



I arrived at the cabin by 2pm on Thursday, May 19 and left by 9 am on Saturday, May 21

High of 68, low of 40, high of 50, low of 30.
No rain but increasing cloudiness on Saturday.

Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2016 — 2

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Steve Derks, Obie with his son Jack Obrien, Peter with his sons Quin and PJ.

Dates: What days were you here? Thursday, June 9 thru Sunday, June 19, 2016

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.)

The weather has been awesome. Highs of low 70's, lows in the mid 40's.
The spring is running very well. The meadow is boggy but passable. The mosquitos are minimal.

We had heavy rain on Saturday evening (0.7 inches overnight). Otherwise blue skies.
No one broke in this spring - good work on the doors. However, the screen door was shattered (bears, intruder, or wind?)

Bears have been active in our area again. Bear scat is often seen nearby. Logs have been torn into for grubs. The outhouse was damaged by a large animal. Two panels were ripped off and the cans of bug spray and deodorant were bitten into.

Wishon reservoir was nearly full at 120,000 af and a water elev of 6540 (only 15 feet below the crest maximum of 6555 ft. The dam height of 265 ft means an empty reservoir has an elevation of 6290 ft. In March it was at its lowest for the year of 40,000 af and an elevation of 6440 (115 feet down). In June it rapidly rose from 45,000 to 120,000 af.

The beauty and peace, as always, are outstanding.

Having gotten my heart rhythm back in shape, I was finally able to finish some tasks left over from last year:

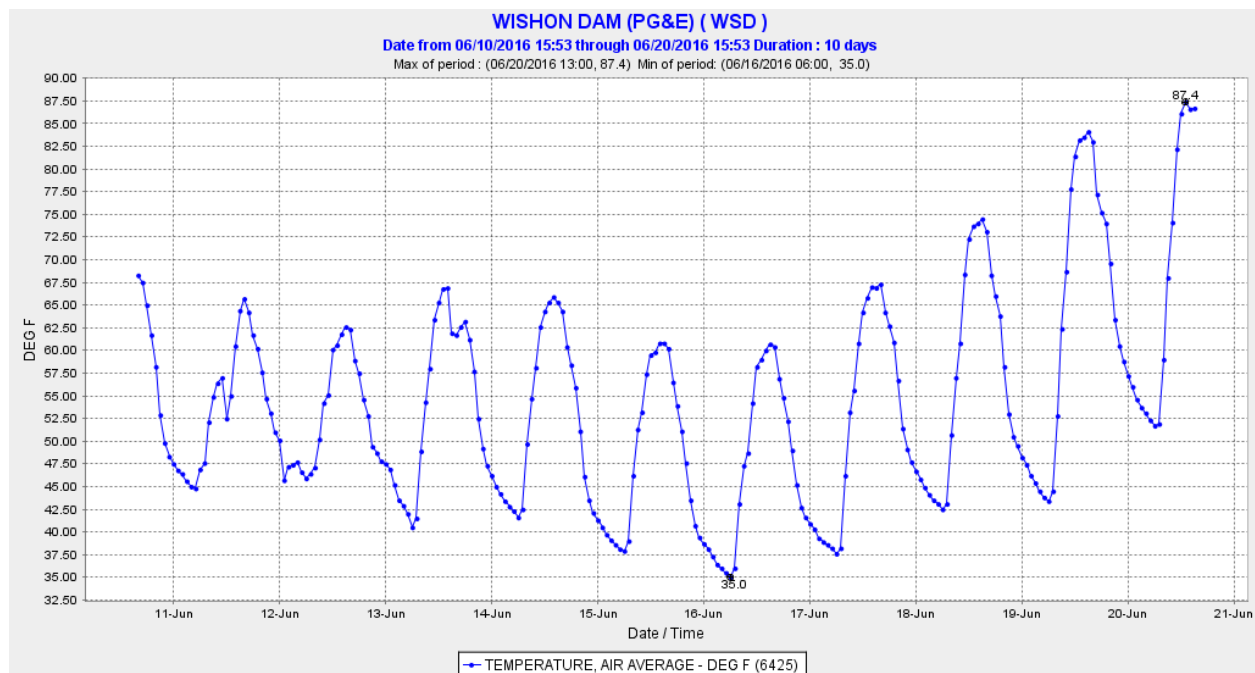
- We now have a great shower stall with new flooring and repaired steps.
- The chainsaw has been fully serviced and has a new chain and bar installed.
(The old bar and two interchangeable chains are hanging in the shed.)
- Logs along the trail have now been cleared.
- The shed has been organized and many old, broken, or dried out items have been removed. The tools, fittings, and other materials have been grouped and labeled. The items remaining to be hauled out are stacked in front of the rock next to the shed. I suggest the items behind the shed should be considered for discard as well.
- I tried not to disturb items belonging to any of the Collins. You might review those to see if any should be discarded.
- I did not review any of the bedding. It is my belief that much of it can and should be discarded. With the exception of a pillow, I do not lay claim to anything stored in either of the bedding chests.
- The inlet and outlet to the water tank have been repaired.

- A new stove wood crib has been constructed and much firewood chopped and ready to use.
- The temporary property corner markers have been replaced with permanent markers
- Four geocaches have been emplaced. Check them out with the GPS units in the marked box on the shelf.
- Leather Craft kit is stocked and on the shelf.
- Visited and located Wes Eversol's camp. It was on the verge of burning with the Rough fire last year. One of the cabins was crushed.

Shower notes:

Try to get the temperature of the shower water between 90 and 110 deg F. Use the dial thermometer in the kitchen drawer.

A scale reading in gallons is marked on the inside of the shower tank. The flow through the shower head is 1.2 gallons per minute. One can easily have a good shower with as little as 5 gallons and luxuriate with 10 gallons. This means that a full tank (28 gallons) is enough for 3 to 5 persons.



Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2016 - 2

Names: Who was in your party? Peter, Quin & PJ Danciar

Dates: What days were you here? June 11-15

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.)

- weather was good but it rained one night
- I saw few animals but heard lots of birds
- not any terribly funny moments or any problems
- I enjoyed fixing the screen door and building the wood rack

Thank you for such a nice time!

thanks-
Quin Danciar

thank you for tellen
us about Plants and Min-
erals. Patterson

We enjoyed the company and fine dining! How nice
to have a wood stove, privy and hot shower.
Thankyou for making us feel welcome and sharing
the natural and human history of the area.
How exciting it was to find obsidian shards from a
time gone by. Thanks,

Peter Danciar

Cliff Camp Journal Sheet, 2016 - 2

Names: Who was in your party? Jack O'Brien & Christopher 'OBIE' O'Brien

Dates: What days were you here? June 10, 11, 12 2016

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.)

My trip to cliff camp was very fun and I enjoyed it very much! The only thing that I didn't really like was when we were sleeping and it started to rain so we had to move inside. I didn't really like this because I wanted to sleep under the stars but that's okay. I also really enjoyed being able to build the fires and chop some wood, which in my opinion is fun and tiring! I loved all the food & all the great adventures we had! I wish we could have stayed longer!...

— Jack O'Brien

THIS IS OBIE. I'VE NEVER BEEN TO CLIFF CAMP & SO HAPPY TO FINALLY VISIT. STEVE WAS THE AWESOME HOST. HE HAD THE CAMP OPENED & PREPARED. I'M AMAZED AT THE AMENITIES ARE SURPRISING! STOVES, RUNNING WATER, WE HELP STEVE REBUILD THE SHOWER STRUCTURE & WERE ABLE TO TAKE HOT SHOWERS IN NATURE! WE TOOK A COUPLE SCOUTING HIKES WHICH WERE FUN, & FOUND SEVERAL BEAR POOL PILES! STEVE'S STORIES & CABIN HISTORY WERE GREAT! I REALLY ENJOY CAMP COOKING! LONDON BEAN STEAKS & POTATOES, STEAK & EGGS FOR BREAKFAST, LAMB BURGERS AND THE OUTSIDE BBQ. SLEEPING OUTSIDE UNDER THE STARS WAS TOO COOL! THE SECOND NIGHT A LIGHTNING RAIN STORM HIT US & SENT US RUNNING IN THE CABIN TO STAY DRY. GOOD TIMES! THANK YOU STEVE!

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Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2016 - Sept 1-5

Names: Who was in your party? Ryan + Charlie Easley with
Kevin, Brandy, Anthony + Ginger Wilds

Dates: What days were you here? Thursday - Mon for Easley - Sat Mon for
Wilds

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.)

Weather is beautiful - just fall enough
yellow jackets not so good, nesting in
outhouse, making going potty a game of
Russian Roulette! Plus Brandy accidentally
stepped in a nest of wasps in the meadow
receiving four stings.

Found a little frog keeping house in the
kitchen. House Frog henceforth named Herbert.
He may jump out at you, but he is really
quite nice.

Went to have lunch @ the river and
saw an Eagle - twice! So awesome.

Woke to frost the last morning - brrr
Overall great time with family!
So good to be back -

2016 Sept - Journal

Sunday, August 28, 2016

1:43 PM

Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2016 — 4

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Judey & Scott Miller

Dates: What days were you here? Thursday, September 22 thru Monday, 9/26/2016

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.)

I arrived about 2pm. It was beautiful: blue skies with scudding white clouds. However, it was cool: around 55. The clerk at the store said it had suddenly cooled and rained lightly the night before.

The reservoir was not very low. No streams were flowing along the trail. The spring was not flowing at all but the tank appeared to be full. (The outlet valve was thankfully closed.)

It quickly cooled and breezes pick up. Overnight the low was an extremely chilly 28.

Each day and especially each night thereafter warmed steadily. The new shower is great. The new grill works like a champ even though we only needed a small portion of it.

Judey Miller, invoking the spirit of Betty Collins, baked a beautiful batch of cinnamon rolls and we thought we were in heaven. Both Judey and I learned many skills of cooking (particularly on a wood stove) from our Aunt Betty. It brought back many happy memories.

We plugged all visible holes in the roof using silicone sealant.

We hiked over to the knoll to find the "Granite Door" that Jim Ambrose described. The pipe was right where he said it was (my GPS disagreed by no more than 12 feet). However, we were not sure we found the "Granite Door". Nearby we found a narrow and steep defile between two granite benches. While the sides were nearly vertical one side was only waist high. Yet this appears to be the only nearby way down to the plateau below. We wonder if we found the described route to Hell Hole.

The fall is a beautiful time to visit. The temperatures are usually very pleasant. The mosquitos are gone. There is a quiet and peace that is very relaxing. Of course the yellow-jacket wasps (*vespidae vespula*) are plentiful in the fall and especially this year.

Several previous visitors had suggested that wasps might have nested in the "Barb". I checked carefully and sprayed but could not find any nests in the Barb or nearby.

While they are alarming (in such a vulnerable condition), they don't appear to be any more plentiful in the outhouse than they are near the cabin. These wasps usually nest in a ground burrow. They do not

usually sting unless provoked. They are usually looking for food (especially meat). Be sure you don't trap one in your clothing or bite on a sandwich that one has landed on.

Closing up:

I put the cables in and tightened them. I closed the water valve at the cabin inlet and at the water tank outlet. However, I was unable to disconnect the water pipe at the tank outlet union.

Wishon Reservoir Storage report:

On 9/22/16:

Storage = 78,404 af = 66% of capacity

Height = 6495 ft = -60 ft from crest.

On 9/26/16:

The height had dropped another 13 ft at a rate of 740af/ft to 58% of capacity.

Weather Report:

It had suddenly cooled and rained (~15min) the day before we arrived (Wednesday, 9/21/2016). No other rain has occurred even by Oct 7.

0.51" on Jun 12,

0.02" on Aug 2, and

0.04" on Sept 21. That is all this entire summer.

However, 34 inches have fallen at Wishon since last Oct, mostly in Dec and March.

