

# 2019 May - Journal

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

## Cliff Camp Journal Sheet

2019 — 1

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

**Dates:** What days were you here? May 23-28, 2019

### Comments:

This was a challenging but memorably beautiful experience.

### First Day:

#### Road conditions:

Snow on ground from Shaver junction on up. Dense fog near Dinkey creek. Light drizzle off and on all day.

Road was clear all the way to parking. Patchy snow, 1" or less, still on ground.

#### Trail condition -

Trail was often covered in snow from 1 to 6 inches deep often camouflaging hazardous conditions.

#### Fall Creek:

4 trees were down obstructing all three of the stream crossings. I slipped and wrenched my back while navigating these obstacles causing me to drop the bag with all of my fresh and frozen foods. It washed down the stream. I later found it wedged on a branch just above the main fall drop off.

What luck. But Oh the pain. No alternate route around this blockage was found.

3 more logs have blocked the trail between the old gate and the outhouse.

#### Water system:

No water was flowing from the spring and the tank was empty. The spring was running full and the reservoir was overflowing. Very little debris had collected. However, The siphon tube in the spring reservoir was lying down and was plugged. Clearing it restored flow all the way to the cabin

The steady state spring flow was NOT measured (~~at 0.3 gal/min or 430 gal in a 24 hour period.~~)

The water pipe seems to be intact. However, the 5/8" shutoff valve for the garden, the garden hose valve, the diverter valve at the cabin to the shower, and the sink valve were all cracked and leaking.



Beautiful. Winter Wonderland.



This is the trail leading across the three streams. The largest stream is just under the far end of the largest log. The first small stream is at the bottom center. The upper large log was the dead tree next to the rock on the far side of the largest stream. When it broke off it uprooted the smaller cedar next to it (reddish bark with many limbs). These then toppled another which in turn broke off a fourth tree.





This is a closeup of the far end of the log jam. The main stream is directly below the fir log.

**Garden:**

The garden is in sad shape. Both trees were crushed and broken, perhaps dead. The fencing around the trees was crushed and the wood stakes were snapped. The baskets protecting the strawberries were crushed but the plants beneath seemed to be thriving still. The blackberry bush was crushed but still healthy. The garden hose valve was cracked and gushing. The garden was flooded.

**Outhouse:**

Outhouse is in fine shape. 1 roll of paper, stored on the shelf, was still intact. The pit was full of water and the plywood floor is delaminating and is very squishy.

**Shower:**

The diverter valve at the cabin was cracked and the pipe was pulled loose. The chimney cap and tank lid were badly distorted. The shower structure is in fine shape except for 1 shaker peg that was broken off.

**Work done:**

The weather prevented me from clearing the trail. All I could do was keep the fire going and make forays outside to do minor maintenance around the cabin. Using the outhouse in 3" of snow was quite an experience.

The shower diverter valve and the sink valve were replaced.

### Satellite Communications:

My new Spot X satellite communicator worked great (as long as it was outside the cabin). It allow me to send and receive text messages as well as SOS for emergency rescue.

### Work Projects:

NE property marker had been stripped off tree. Probably only needs longer screws.

Roof jack was mangled again. No screws were securing the upper side of the jack. Needs to be replaced and secured better, especially along the top.



### Astronomy:

Sunrise = 5:40 am    Sunset = 8:05 pm

Moon: 20-24 days old -

Planets:    Venus in the morning. Jupiter after 11pm.

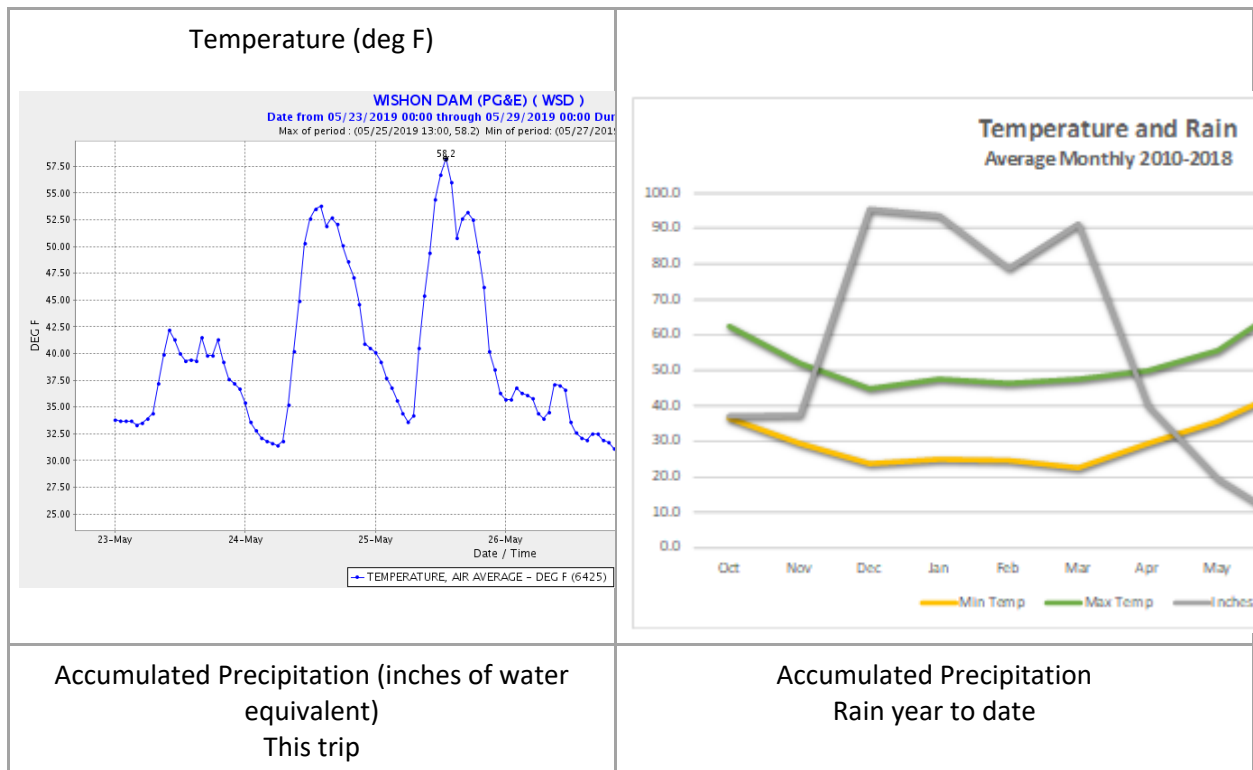
### Weather Report:

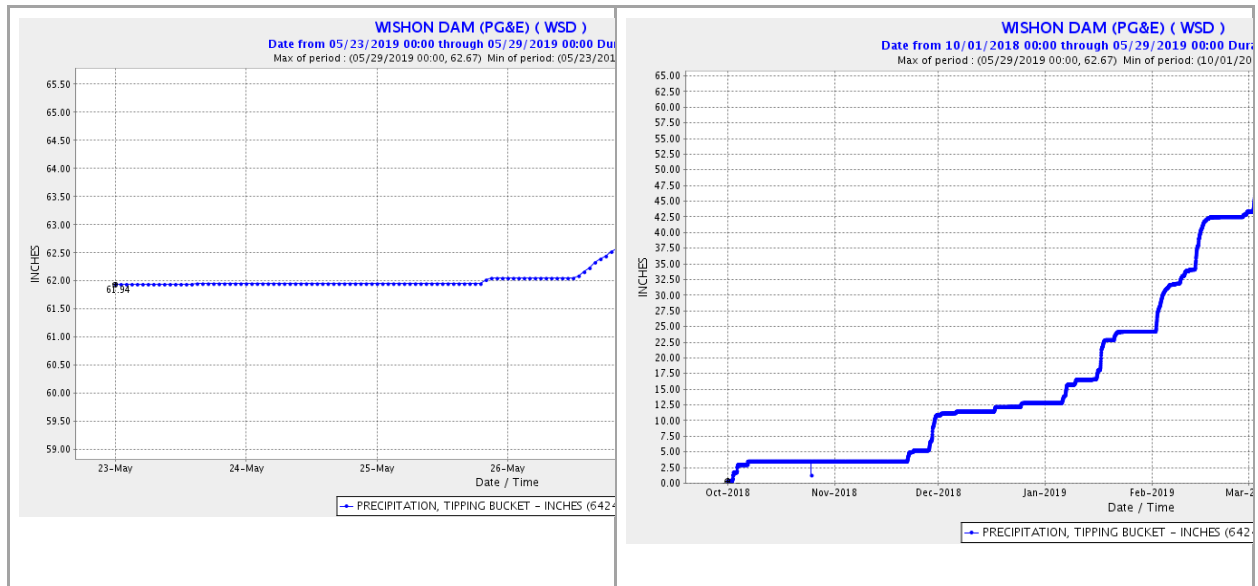
Sept	DOW	Desc	Low	High	Notes
23	Thu	Cold, drizzle, snow on ground		47	Treacherous footing on trail. 1" to 6" fluffy snow covering much of it.
24	Fri	Overcast, no rain	33	57	
25	Sat	Sunny but still very cool	36	60	Snow cover rapidly melting. Evening thunder with pea-sized hale.
26	Sun	Overcast & fog on cliffs. Very very cold all day.	36	38	Fog just above camp. Snow started to accumulate by 11am. Constant shushing sound as snow slides off roof. Very cold all day. Snow ended ~7pm with 3" on ground.

					Beautiful!
27	Mon	Clear sky, sunny Overcast by 11 Fog by 2	26	41	Sun on cabin by 7:50am. A winter wonderland! Very noisy. Soft taps, clicks, shushes, thuds, and loud bangs as snow clumps fall from trees and slide off roof. Snow is rapidly melting and showering from trees.
28	Tue	Fog overnight	32	-	Fog at cabin, Sunny at road, snow on trail Road clear.

Although no rain, precipitation occurred: hail on Saturday (0.1" water equiv) and snow on Sun (3" accumulated or 0.7" water equivalent).

The overnight lows were measured on the outside thermometer around 6 or 7am and the high around 2 or 3 pm.

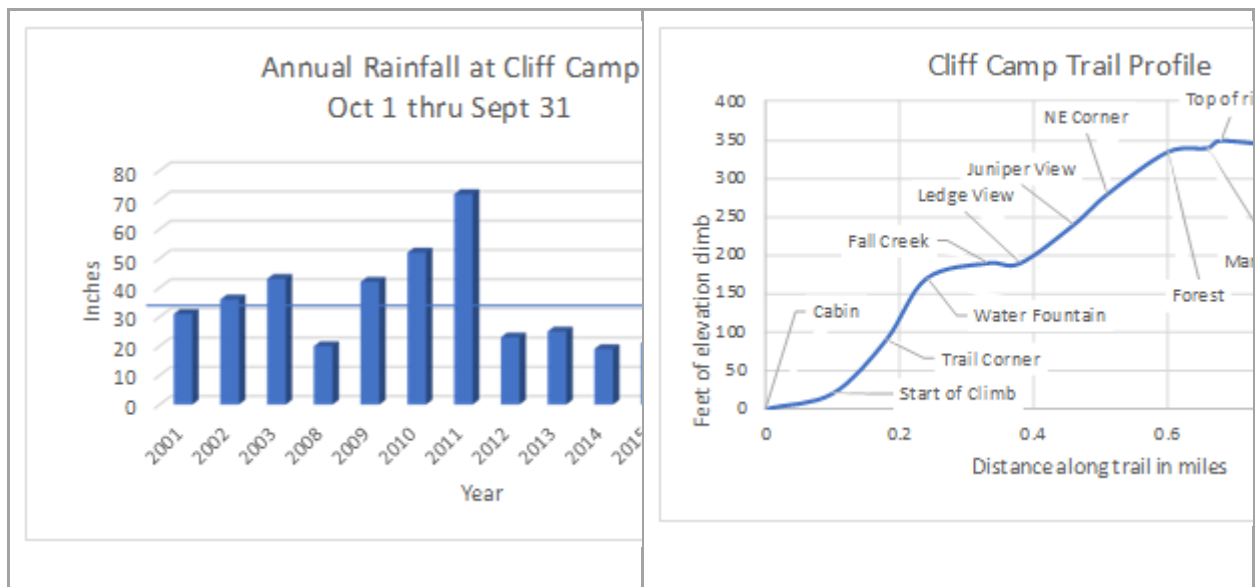




Wishon water elevation = 6450 ft or 89 ft below spillway (= 6539).

Storage = 38260 acre-feet (max = 128,300 af) = 25%.

The Annual Rain Year is defined as Oct 1 through Sept 31.



## 2019 June - Journal

Sunday, June 30, 2019

# Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2019 — 2

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Judey & Scott Miller, and Jerry Smith

**Dates:** What days were you here? June 20 to 30, 2019

### Comments:

*Pink Penstemon & Pussy Paws*

*By Jerry Smith (Poet Laureate of San Luis Obispo)*

*Snow-weight bent trunks of trees downhill.*

*Tallest aspens I've ever seen compete for sun with cedar and ponderosa.*

*Many hands have built, secured and supplied the cabin.*

*A west wind flows up the north-fork canyon of the Kings.*

*Two does and a budding buck, black-tails and ears twitching, gingerly traipse near the garden.*

Friday, June 21: Upon reassembling the shower and attempting our first shower, it was discovered that no water actually came out of the shower head. Disassembling piece by piece confirmed that the blockage was in the galvanized pipe that had been left out all winter. Poking a flexible tube into this pipe soon brought a flood of fat (but dead) bumblebees. About 20 of them. Apparently they had taken refuge in the pipe last fall and had died over the winter.

Wednesday, June 26: Hiked down to Cliff Bridge. River is running very high. Spectacular. Brown and Rainbow caught in Cliff Creek below the Old cabin site.

Bear Sighting - near Old Cabin site. A brown yearling (~150 pounds) ambled through the forest across our path about 50 feet away.

Saturday, June 29: Worked in the garden. Weeded. Cut down dead trees. Seeded wildflowers. Fertilized.

Deer Sighting - We watched wide-eyed behind the screen doors as two does and one young buck nonchalantly wandered through camp, munching on penstemon. Beautiful.

Sunday, June 30: Packing up and moving out. Sad to leave.

Deer Sighting - two does and two tiny fawns in the forest along the trail out. Delightful.

### First Day:

Road conditions:

Road was completely clear, reservoir was near to entering spillway and overnight had risen several feet deep in spillway channel.

Trail condition:

No snow to be seen and trail was generally clear except for fallen logs



A total of 14 logs were cut to clear the trail. The stream crossing area was almost totally blocked by a 5-log jam. Two of the logs were too large to be cut and moved. The congestion of limbs and debris was removed, steps were cut, and smaller logs moved to provide walkways. It is now passable but much work remains to be done.

**Fall Creek:**

The 3 streams were running very high and were dammed by log debris. A workable route was developed. As water levels go down addition work may greatly improve this route.

**Garden:**

The garden was growing very well. However, the two apple trees were severely damaged by snow load. A new Sequoiadendron Giganteum seedling was planted near the garden. It is hoped that this tree will develop into a family heritage tree like the "Jasper Tree" at Wishon Village. Fertilizer, acidifier, drip irrigation, and a ten-foot circle of stones were added.

The planted strawberries have flowered and are setting fruit. Later visitors will hopefully get to enjoy some of these berries.

Wild strawberries are also doing very well with a few flowers showing. Fruit may appear by autumn.

The Blackberry bush is growing well but no sign of flowers or fruit yet.

Lupine and wallflower from last year are blooming. New wildflower seed was sewn.

The drip timer batteries were replaced and it was set for 30 minutes twice a day.

**Astronomy:**

Sunrise = 5:35 am Sunset = 8:20 pm

No stars until about 9:30pm

Moon: 18 to 28 days old -

Planets: Jupiter and Saturn at night, Venus in morning, Mars and Mercury rise too late to be seen in morning.

Satellites: An Iridium Flash on Friday morning, Hubble some mornings and evenings but NO ISS sightings.

**Work Projects completed:**

- Major trail clearing efforts - 14 logs, many branches and debris
- Planted a Giant Sequoia seedling.
- Hoeing and fertilizing in the garden
- Replaced freeze damaged valves and other plumbing.
- Fixed the damper on the stove. New tool for leveraging the damper slide.
- Five Binders of information about the Cabin, Natural History and Stories about the area, Old Recipes, Things to do, etc.
- Improved Solar power system and meters.
- Repaired rack for solar panel.
- Added a fan above stove to circulate warm air and dispel smoke.
- Improved shower.
- Replaced floor in outhouse (The Barb).
- Front screen door is now fitted to seal with bumper pad.

- The plank bridge installed last year across the stream in the meadow, was intact and crucial in crossing meadow. However, the trail through the meadow is overgrown and nearly impossible to follow.
- A list of Key Supplies was completed and attached to this Journal. I hope the next group will find this useful.
- A detailed Inventory of cabin and shed was also completed and is available upon request

#### Work Still needed:

- A new roof jack (for 6" stovepipe on 12/12 pitch roof) is still needed. It should include a collar to seal around stovepipe during summer and a cover to seal jack during winter. Be sure to secure the upper edge not just the lower edge.
- Trail Maintenance: The stream crossings still need a lot of work as the water levels decrease. Pruning of branches all along trail and shovel work to level or smooth the trail would help.
- Clearing and marking the trail through the meadow to the Old Cabin Site.
- The woodstove is developing large gaps around the rear of firebox and the stove pipe adapter. These are prone to severe smoking during fire starting especially if wood is burning in the rear section of the firebox. One should look for cause of these gaps and reattach or caulk. Caulking materials are in the shed on North and East walls.

I am clearly getting too old to deal with unexpected problems while opening or closing the cabin alone. I am also finding it difficult to recruit younger helpers.

Kris Oneida (Wishon store owner) had offered to help me haul in materials and clear the trail this trip. However, when I arrived he was unavailable. I found out that he, Katie, their two children, together with some of the Stambachs and Johnsons were being ferried into Crown Valley by helicopter for a two week stay at their property. It was awesome watching the helicopter passing back and forth from the heliport at the dam to Crown Valley at least 3 times. Each pass he could carry up to 5 passengers and tow a net full of gear below.

Richard Ambrosini, owner and pilot for Ambrosini Helicopters Inc (Fresno), tells me he charges \$1000 per hour and his travel time to and from Fresno as well as 2 shuttle trips from the dam helipad to our cabin would take about 1 hour.

#### Weather Report:

The overnight low is measured on the outside thermometer around 6 am and the high around 2 pm. June	DOW	Desc	Low	High	Notes
20	Thu	Clear			75
21	Fri	Afternoon Clouds		47	76
22	Sat	"		45	70
23	Sun	Clear		46	74
24	Mon	Clear		49	76
25	Tue	Clear		50	72

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#### **Weather Report:**

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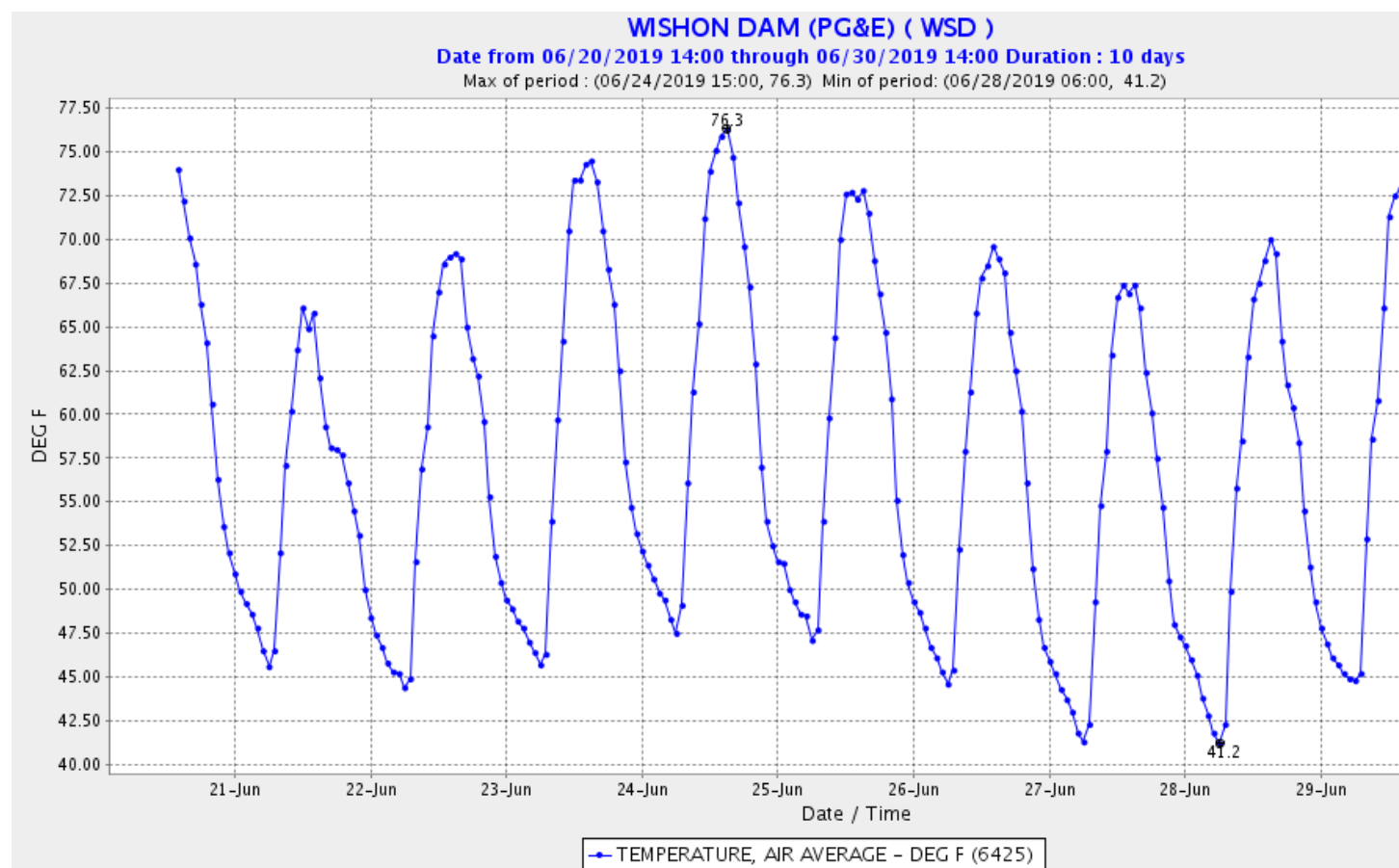
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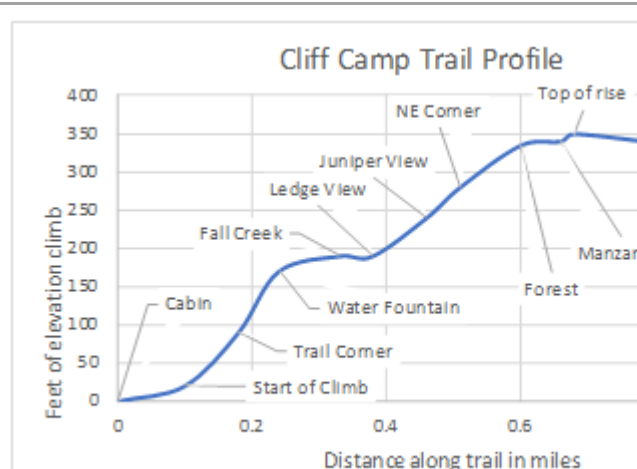
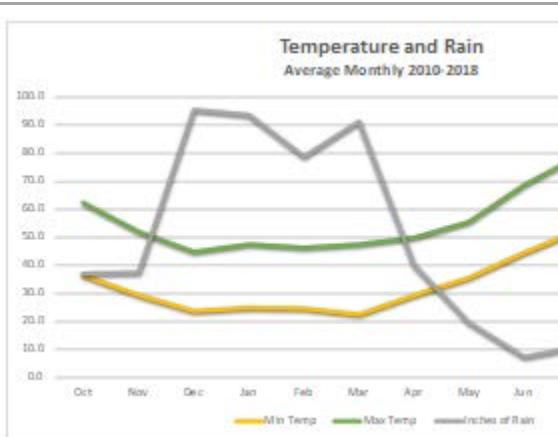


26	Wed	Clear	46	70	
27	Thur	Afternoon Clouds	42	66	
28	Fri	Clear	42	70	
29	Sat	Clear	46	70	
30	Sun	Clear	45	-	

No rain at any time. Only clear blue skies with occasional cirrus and cumulus clouds.

One Thursday, we spotted a dramatic “Sun Dog” aka “Mock Sun”. This was a bright iridescent spot in a cirrus cloud about 30 degrees horizontally from the Sun.





Accumulated Precipitation since Oct 1, 2018 = 62.7"

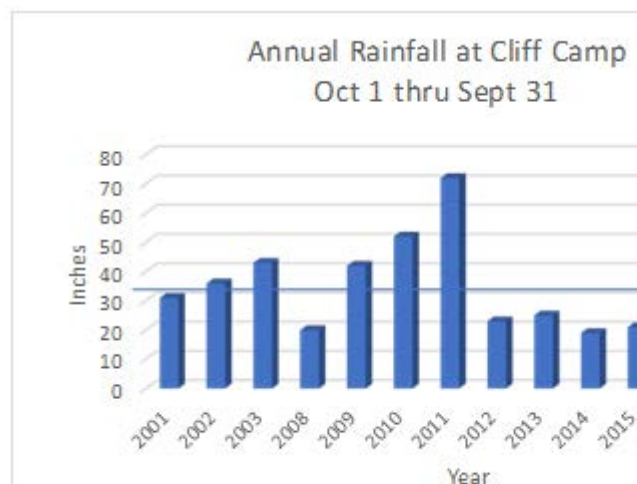
The Annual Rain Year is defined as Oct 1 through Sept 31.

Wishon water elevation = 6550 ft = 5 ft below maximum.

(Spillway min: 6539 ft, Reservoir min = 6290 ft, max = 6555 ft)

Storage = 125,000 acre-feet (max = 128,300 af) = 97 %.

The reservoir levels rapidly rose to within 5 ft of the parapet. The river release through the bottom of the dam was at maximum. Still no water was released from the spillway. The gorge at Cliff Bridge was full, turbulent, and dramatic.



## Key Supplies List

Location	Key Supply Item	Unit	Qty
East Cab	Pancake mix	lb	6
	Syrup	oz	70
	Oatmeal	lb	2
	Ketchup	oz	10
	Mustard	oz	3
	Mayonnaise	oz	30
NE Cab	Coffee, ground	lb	5

	Tea	bag	10
	Mocha mix	serving	20
	Hot chocolate	serving	16
	Cooking Oil	oz	10
	Salt	oz	12
	Pepper	oz	0
Drawers	Sugar, granulated	lb	2
	Sugar, brown	lb	2
	Dry Milk	qt	8
	Bisquick	lb	1
Shelves	Soup	can	9
	Vegetables	can	6
	Fruit	can	6
Under Sink	Dish Detergent	oz	20
	dCon mouse bait	block	3
Shed	Charcoal briquets	lb	0
	Chain saw gas	gal	0
	Chain lubricant	qt	2
	Toilet Paper	roll	12
	Paper Towels	roll	2

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# 2019 Aug- Journal

Friday, August 23, 2019

## Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2019 — 3

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer; Cooper, Adrienne, Veronica, & Conrad Collins; Megan & Adam Neale; Phil Collins, Jim Ambrose; Carol Sacco, & Steve Chambreau

**Dates:** What days were you here? Aug 16-24, 2019

### Comments:

Thursday: Cooper, Adrienne, Veronica, and Conrad, with their friends Megan & Adam; joined Steve.

Friday: Phil and Jim joined us

Saturday: Carol Joined us and Megan & Adam departed

Sunday: Steve C. arrived

Monday: Steve K., Coop, Adrienne, Veronica, Conrad, and Steve C. departed.

Leaving Phil and Jim until Saturday.

I had not seen Phil and Coop for many years and don't believe I have previously met the rest. Still, they all quickly felt like family. All were very open, welcoming, and generous. As a bonus, it became apparent that we all shared a pretty liberal ethos and an ecological awareness.

Coop is an energetic helper full of jokes and puns. He learned a lot about the chainsaw and did most of the work on the stream crossing this trip.

Adrienne was delightful to watch as she quietly but very effectively planned and managed all of the meals and bedding. She reminds me strongly of Betty. Less assertive but just as effective.

Veronica has a quiet intelligence. She was willing to examine the binders of Camp Information, graciously appreciate my effort, and then helpfully identify missing, redundant, and conflicting information.

Conrad was so energetic that after stacking rounds, splitting wood, and installing the new roof jack, he still needed to climb seemingly impossible rock faces. His quadcopter gave us an extraordinary view of the cabin.

Megan and Adam were delightful to talk with especially about teaching. Megan is now the principal at her school.

Phil looks much as I remember him. We had many discussions about growing up at Cliff Camp. Jim and I had a lot of good discussions and were able to find and mark both of the early cabin sites (cabins 1 & 2). These existed and were lost before the "Old Cabin" and now the "New Cabin" were built.

Carol was a delight to talk with. I had hoped to see Steve Sacco as well.

Steve Chambreau was fun (he makes a mean chili) and he was instrumental in repairing the stove. He found and tightened many gaps that were causing smoking and loss of draft.

We had some excellent dinners outside in the shade. Each breakfast and dinner was a production with enticing food, great variety and plenty of it.

Campfires were greatly enhanced with Conrad's superb guitar music, together with Steve C's violin and harmonicas. This coupled with Coop & Carol singing and the rest of us humming along where we could, made for some beautiful memories.



CW: Jim, Coop, Adrienne, Veronica, Megan, Adam, Conrad, & Phil.

### First Day:

Road conditions:

Road was clear

Trail condition:

The trail is mostly cleared and well used. The 13 logs that fallen blocking the trail this spring have been cleared with the exception of one large fir log at Fall creek. A notch was cut in the log and a "bridge" of 3 small logs was added to cross the main stream.

Fall Creek:

Only the main stream is still flowing.

Water Supply:

The tank was empty with no water flowing into it from the spring. The siphon in the spring reservoir was plugged again. Clearing this plug restored a flow into the tank of 1/2 gal per minute. Flow at the cabin was full. However, the tank remained empty throughout our stay indicating the possibility of a leak in the pipe to the cabin somewhere.



**Garden:**

The garden was dry but was mostly recovered after water was restored. The strawberry and blackberry plants were still healthy but showed no signs of fruit. The two apple trees were sprouting new growth but mainly from the root stock and not the grafted fruiting stock. They will need to be replaced. The Sequoia seedling was healthy and unaffected. Testing indicates that the soil is still somewhat depleted in nutrients with a pH of exactly neutral (7.0). Although, the acidification of the soil around the Sequoia has made it slightly acid (6.5) as desired.

**Astronomy:**

Sunrise = 6:13 am    Sunset = 7:46 pm

No stars until about 8 pm

Moon: 16 to 22 days old - Waning Gibbous - giving us a very dark early evening but full moon later.

Planets:    Jupiter and Saturn at night, Venus, Mars and Mercury are too close to Sun to be seen.

Satellites: Several Hubble and other bright satellites but NO Iridium Flashes or ISS sightings.

**Work Projects completed:**

- Major work on the log jumble at the Fall Creek crossing has greatly improved it.
- Installing the new roof jack was a bigger project than any of us expected. However, it is now complete, strong, and waterproof. Work on the stove has closed several gaps and greatly improved the draft and reduced smoking.

**Work Still needed:**

- Find the suspected leak in the water pipe.
- Secure the water inlet assembly on the side of the cabin.
- Replace property corner markers

**Weather Report:**

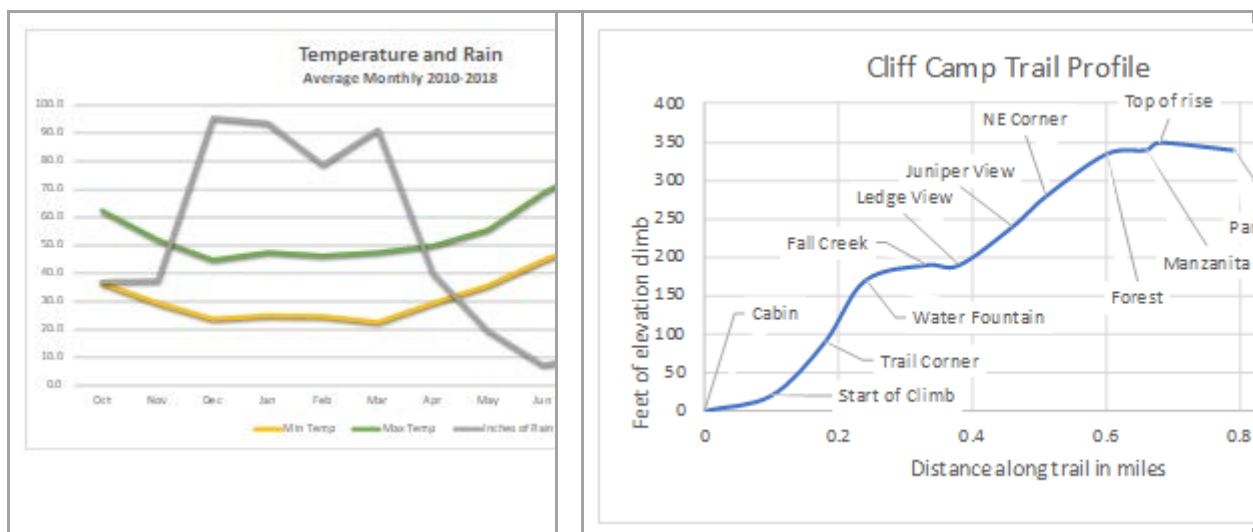
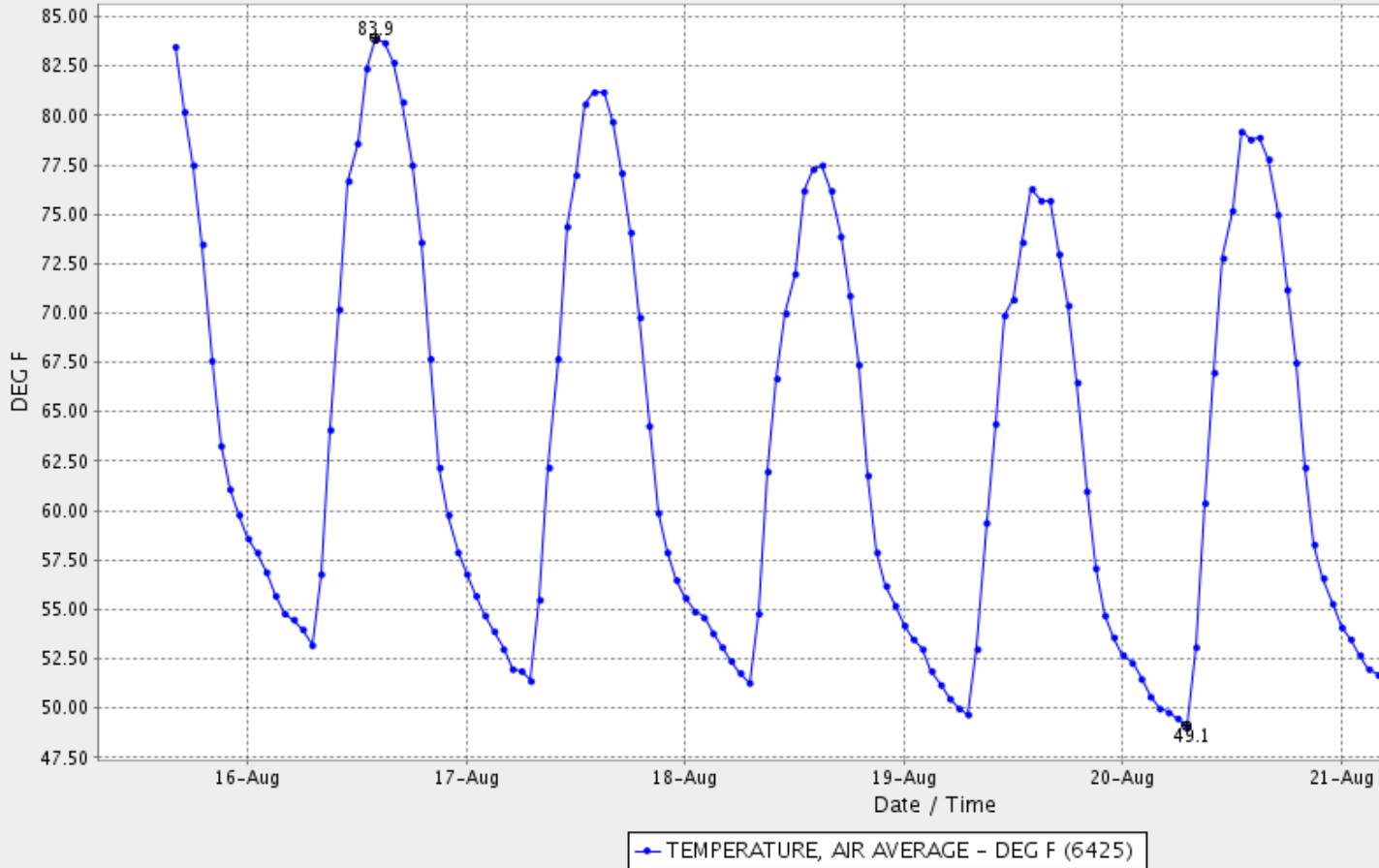
The overnight low is measured on the outside thermometer around 6 am and the high around 2 pm.

Aug	DOW	Desc	Low	High	Notes
15	Thu	Clear, blue sky	-	84	
16	Fri		53	84	
17	Sat		51	81	
18	Sun		51	78	
19	Mon		50	76	
20	Tue		49	79	
21	Wed		50	80	
22	Thur		50	78	
23	Fri				
24	Sat				

# WISHON DAM (PG&E) ( WSD )

Date from 08/15/2019 15:59 through 08/22/2019 15:59 Duration : 7 days

Max of period : (08/16/2019 14:00, 83.9) Min of period : (08/20/2019 07:00, 49.1)



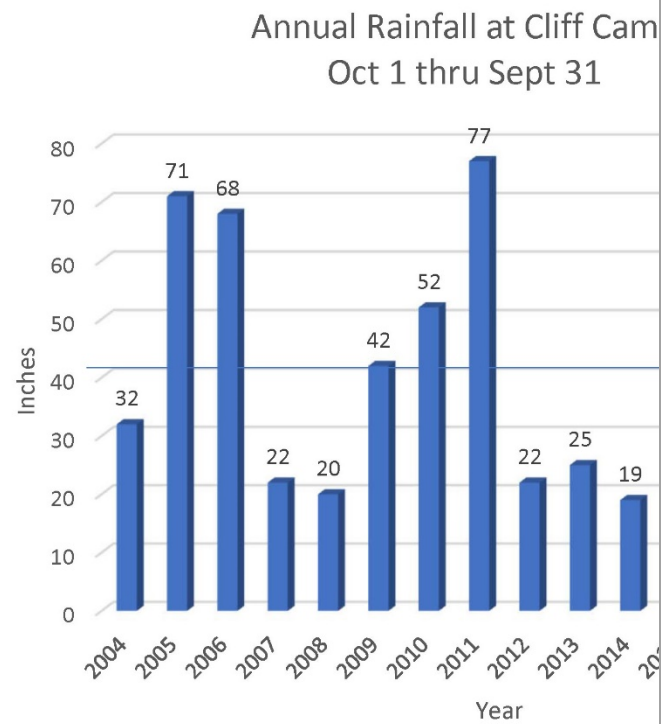
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= 64"

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below spillway.

(Spillway min: 6539 ft, Reservoir min = 6290 ft, max = 6555  
ft)

Storage = 107511 acre-feet (max = 128,300 af) =  
84 %.



2019 Sept - Journal

Thursday, September 26, 2019

## Cliff Camp Journal Sheet

2019 — 4

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer

Dates: What days were you here? Sept 19-24, 2019

### Comments:

Beautiful: After a light rain (with some hail) on the first day, all of the other days were crystal clear with a gentle sky-blue near the horizon to a deep cerulean-blue near the zenith.

The cabin is now closed and secured for the winter. The roof jack looks to be very secure and is sealed with an insert.

The Yellow Jacket Trap worked dramatically. The trap was full to the brim with hundreds of dead wasps.

In response to a question Jim Ambrose asked me:

John B Kliewer, died July 25, 1997. His ashes were spread at Cliff Camp.

John was survived by his daughter Kay (KayKay) Shelton, his son Richard (Dick), and grandson Jeff.

A brass plate, measuring 5" x 5", is mounted on the south side of the pine tree between the campfire and the shower.

It reads:

"John B Kliewer

1912 - 1997

Kind

Considerate

Generous"

These three words were John's oft repeated mantra. Although often impatient and short with people, we came to know that he was also kind, considerate, and generous in his own way.

John operated Camp Ducey at Dinkey Creek (1937-48) during the heyday of the Byles and Jamison Lumber Mill operation. He was a general contractor in Clovis and the prime architect and builder of the current Cliff Camp cabin (#4).

The water storage tank was empty. No water was flowing into it from the spring. The spring was full and overflowing. The siphon was not blocked. However, the pipe was blocked from the spring to the tank in two places. Both blockages were where the gray insert-type connectors had been added recently. To my knowledge, the newer "Blu-Lock" connectors have never had blockages and if inserted correctly (1 full inch) they are stronger than the pipe itself.

The tank is now full and overflowing. The flow rate into the tank is now 5 gal/min.

### **First Day:**

Road conditions:

Road was clear. No one was around on Thursday. However, on Saturday, traffic was heavy, all possible campsites were used and Deer hunters were everywhere.

Trail condition:

The trail was clear and well used.

Fall Creek:

Only the main stream is still flowing and the fall is still visible from the cabin.

Water Supply:

The tank was empty with no water flowing into it from the spring. The pipe was plugged in two places.

### **Garden:**

The garden was dry. The strawberry and blackberry plants were not healthy and show deer damage. The two apple trees were sprouting new growth but mainly from the root stock and not the grafted fruiting stock. They will need to be replaced. The Sequoia seedling was healthy and unaffected. Testing indicates that the soil is still somewhat depleted in nutrients with a pH of exactly neutral (7.0). Although, the acidification of the soil around the Sequoia has made it slightly acid (6.5) as desired.

### **Astronomy:**

The moon was in last quarter. The Milky Way was brilliant. Jupiter and Saturn were prime.

The International Space Station (ISS) sailed right overhead making very bright (mag -4) passes on 4 consecutive evenings.

### **Work Projects completed:**

- Cleared & marked trail through meadow. Reinforced plank bridges.
- The garden was thoroughly watered and fertilized.
- The entire garden was hoed and weeded.
- Pine needles were spread over each tree, strawberry and blackberry plant to a depth of 6".
- Three metal posts and one wood stake are laid out for next year to provide a secure deer enclosure for the two new trees.
- The water inlet assembly (north side of cabin) was reconstructed and protected from snow load
- The shed was cleaned out and reorganized.

### **Work Still needed:**

Replace property corner markers

Plant new trees and protect from deer.

Replace all pipe inserts with Blu-lock connectors

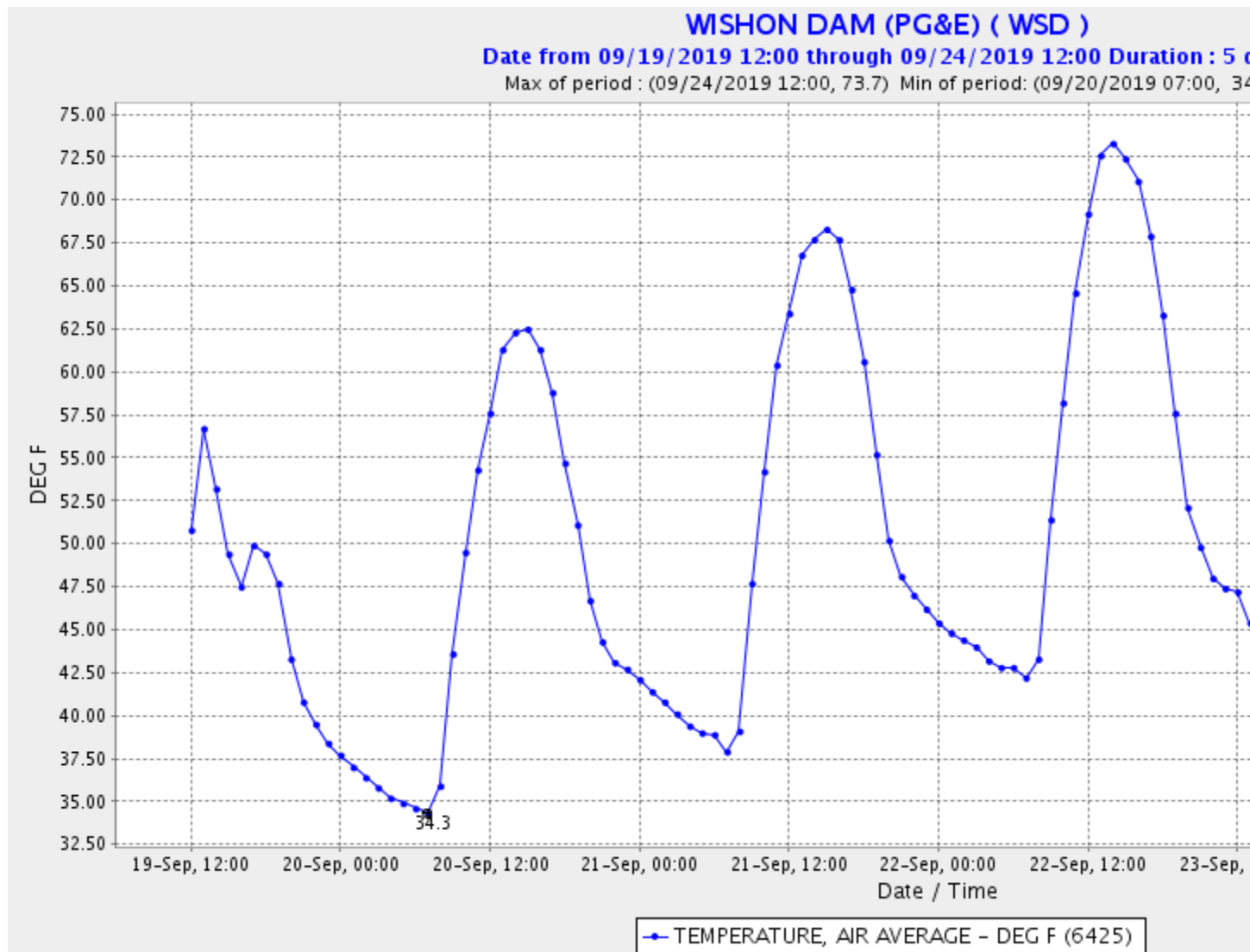
### **Weather Report:**

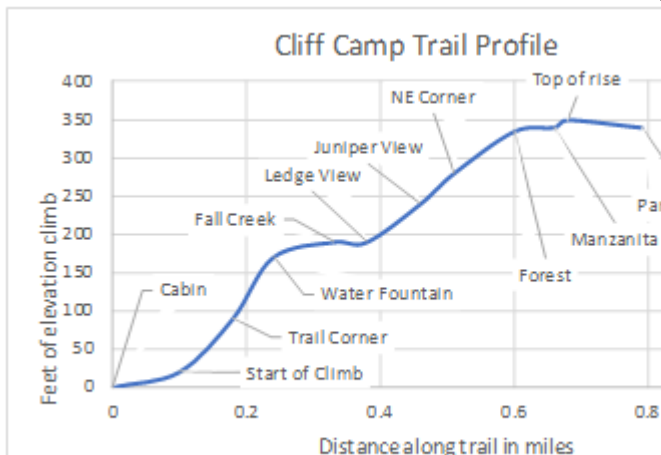
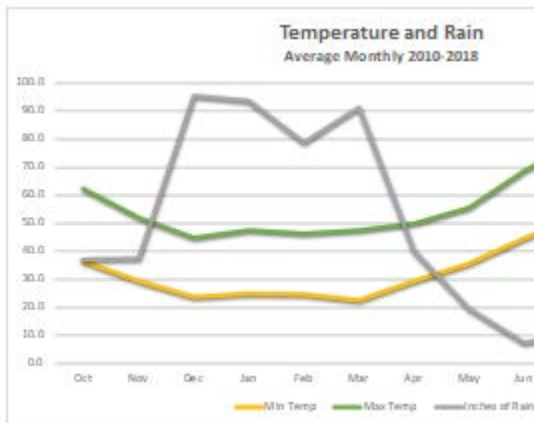
The overnight low is measured on the outside thermometer around 6 am and the high around 2 pm.

Sept	DOW	Desc	Low	High	Notes
19	Thu	Light rain/hail	-	52	Overcast, 0.06" rain
20	Fri	Clear	35	62	Cerulean Blue



21	Sat	Clear	40	66	Cerulean Blue
22	Sun	Clear	43	72	Cerulean Blue
23	Mon	Clear	44	68	Scattered clouds
24	Tue	Clear	45	-	





Accumulated Precipitation since Oct 1, 2018  
= 64"

The Annual Rain Year is defined as Oct 1  
through Sept 31.

Wishon water elevation = 6528 ft = 11 ft  
below spillway.

(Spillway min: 6539 ft, Reservoir min = 6290 ft, max = 6555  
ft)

Storage = 107511 acre-feet (max = 128,300 af) =  
84 %.

