

Ruby Horsethief Sept 25-26, 2021 (the 2 day weekenders)

Compiled by Gay Lynn Olsen

For something a little different, the trip notes are in the format of limericks and a countdown 😊

First, some limericks from our poet in residence, Miry:

There once was a trip for our club
That had the most delectable grub
Because of our leader,
A stalwart named Pieter,
It came off with nary a flub!

And

Rather than getting irritated from my dozens of canoe/kayak questions, Miry used it to fuel her poetic powers 😊:

There once was a girl from Nebraska
Who set for herself a taska
“In which can I pack?
More? Canoe or kayak?
I dunno but I’ll ask ya!”

And Karen joined the limerick challenge:

We had eagles and 30 horned sheep
Plus herons and fish that would leap
3 climbers by lamp light
Scaled cliffs until midnight
And meteors o’er Milky Way did streak

And now, a numerical accounting:

A **bazillion** (yes, we counted) stars in the sky

2600ish CFS, making the section at black rocks mellow

130ish decibels of muffler-less motorcycle at 1:30 am heard in James Robb Fruita park for those camped there the night before. That was after the exuberant music heard until midnight from a nearby venue. (earplugs recommended for future trips). Maybe James Robb Island park is quieter? (and Karen also heard one another campground north of Fruita which she’d like to try)

85 degrees on Saturday. Glorious!

9:30 pm passing time of the train (in pitch black, saw only 2 lit up cars at the front and 2 at the rear, with ¼ mile of darkness between. Debate ensued—were there indeed cars spanning the ¼ mile in between). Dubbed the “Peace Train”. **6** campers attempted to come up with lyrics to Peace Train. **0** succeeded (and thankfully no one desecrated the dark night by pulling out a phone to check)

9 intrepid paddlers (Pieter, Sally, Rob, Scott, Karen, Miry, Gay Lynn, Pam, Wendy)

\$8.20 the cost of the trip per person (assuming you’ve paid ACA dues). Much bantering occurred with Pieter about this outrageous sum—comments like “we thought for \$8.20 you’d serenade us with song from one of the canyon amphitheaters”.

\$1.64 = The whopping tip Pieter would have earned as 20% of above cost.

Multiple fun stories told under the night sky—one featuring spelunkers discovering 6 foot high rock straws in a cave. Another featured a flat tire and an encounter with Shirley MacLaine.

8 inches—the depth one could sink in the oozy mud muck at our campsite launch

8 am was a good time to meet at Loma launch site; by 9 it was packed with rafters. Good call, Pieter!

3 bald eagles

3 tandem canoes

3 solo canoes

3 neighboring camp climbers really did scale the 500' tall cliff behind us by headlamp; they must have set their anchors during their late afternoon climb; Scott wished we had a photo to prove it

2 the number of nights at Mee Canyon campsite suggested for future trips, to allow for hiking the gorgeous canyon (except for those of us who need to fit the trip into a weekend!)

1 canyon wall beautifully lit up by the train at night

1 paddler emerged from the mouth of a shark (see photo proof!)

1 beaver smacked its tail to keep us away

Zero capsized boats.

Zero leftovers from Karen's amazing appetizers: garden beets topped with blue cheese drizzle and caprese (fresh garden tomatoes with basil, mozzarella and a balsamic glaze). Yay, Karen!

A number we'd rather forget: extra hours spent on I-70 returning (5 mph starting at Dillon for a long way, and similar through parts of Glenwood Canyon).

Priceless: stunning nature, wonderful companions, beautiful weather...All in all: **food for the soul!**

With gratitude to everyone who over the years has made the canoe club what it is—trip leaders, presidents, organizers, rendez-vous food contest organizers, boat masters and everyone who has stepped up. Joining this club has enriched my life and our lives so much.

THANK YOU!



Wading juusstt past the sinking slime at Mee Canyon





Plenty of room to land at Mee Canyon campsite....



Sally emerging from the shark



The water at black rocks was pretty tame at this cfs.