

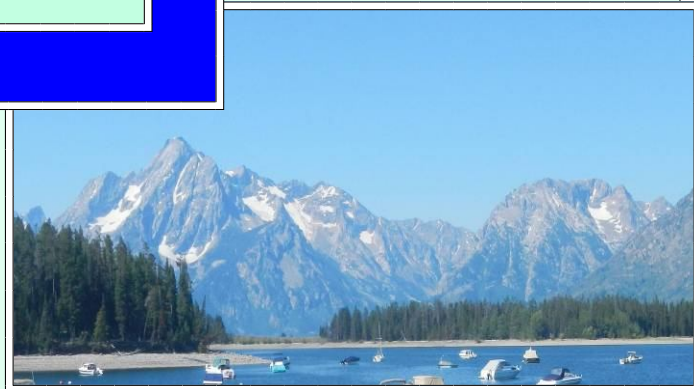


**SHOSHONE LAKE,  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

**JULY 20 TO 26, 2013**

By Bernie Dahlen

On the 20th of July, a Saturday afternoon, eight intrepid kayakers (Bernie Dahlen, Dick Dieckman, Jud Hurd, Al Lovas, George Ottenhoff and leaders Marlene Pakish and Julie Reckart) from RMSKCC met at the Grant Village Rangers Station [A] in Yellowstone National Park for our pre-departure orientation briefing, boat inspection and safety film. All of this was in preparation for a six-day, self-contained kayak camping trip on Shoshone Lake. Three of us had camped Shoshone Lake before, six of us had kayak camped Yellowstone Lake together in 2010 and two members of the group had experience kayaking camping in Alaska and elsewhere.



After the briefing we met for dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday morning, with our task masters Marlene and Julie cracking the whip, we launched from the south end of Lewis Lake [B] just a few minutes after ten. We reached the Lewis Channel [C] in about an hour, and the Shoshone Outlet [D] by 2 PM, after dragging our boats about a mile of the way up the three mile channel. Another mile and a quarter on Shoshone Lake brought us to our assigned camp site at Moose Creek [E] .

On Monday, we pushed off about 9 AM, paddled westward to the narrows and crossed to the north side of the lake and then northeast along the coast to North Grizzly Beach [F] where we set up camp for the next two nights. Exploring was the order of the day, each and every day, after establishing our camps.



Walking the kayaks up the channel from Lewis Lake to Shoshone Lake



Monday was no exception. Several of us paddled up around the north end of the lake before returning straight across in a fairly brisk headwind.

On Tuesday we didn't have to move camp so we had the whole day to look around. Four of us thought we would hike up to Pocket Lake [G]. We couldn't find the trail but we had maps and two GPSs so how could we go wrong? Several miles and two hours later we pow-wowed and decided if we couldn't find the lake in the next 30 minutes we'd slink back to camp, tails between our legs.

Well, providence intervened and voilà, Pocket Lake appeared, although well below the ridgeline on which we were standing. After scrambling down the hill, fishing rods came out

and all was well again in the land of Yellowstone. The hike back to our boats took less than an hour. The day ended with this beautiful sunset.

Wednesday was another pack-up and move day—the shortest move of the week at just over two miles so we reached Windy Point [H] by 9:45. Sight-seeing and fishing rounded out the day. Thursday we were on the water at the ordained time, 9 AM, and on our way to our last camp, Hillside [I] which is located at the southern most point on the lake. I was particularly excited because Hillside is just a couple of miles from a geyser basin [J].



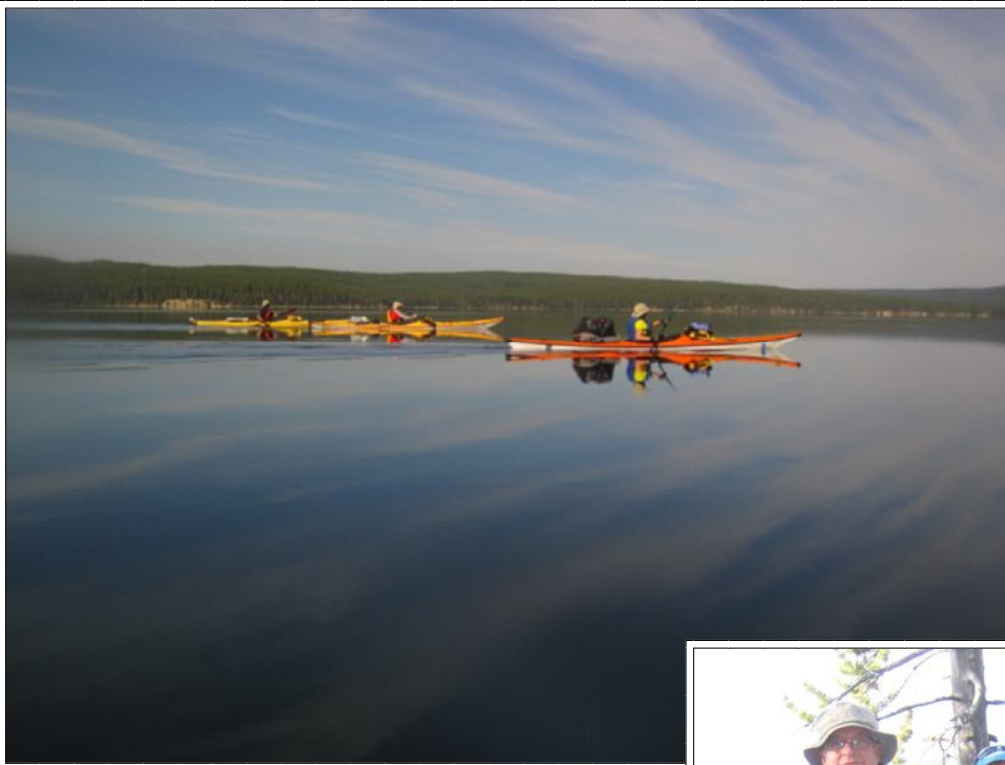
So after setting up camp people headed over there in groups of twos and threes. It's not that this geological hotspot is any better than others in the park, it's just that being in the back country it gets few visitors so there are no fences or warning signs, etc. One is free to move about as he wishes. For me this meant a dip in the warm water of the adjacent stream.

Getting on the water early has some wonderful benefits (I don't care what you say, nine o'clock is early). The breezes never came up before 10 so the water was glassy smooth and reflected beautifully the sky and clouds as well as the boaters. Each paddle stroke created observable ripples and swirls, and in the clear water one could see fish many feet below.



On Friday, our last day, most of the group wanted to get an extra early start so they could get all the way back to the Denver area that evening.

Thus five members of the group departed at 7:20 while the last three of us didn't get going until 9:40. It was our longest day covering more than 12 miles and we did it in about five hours including breaks.

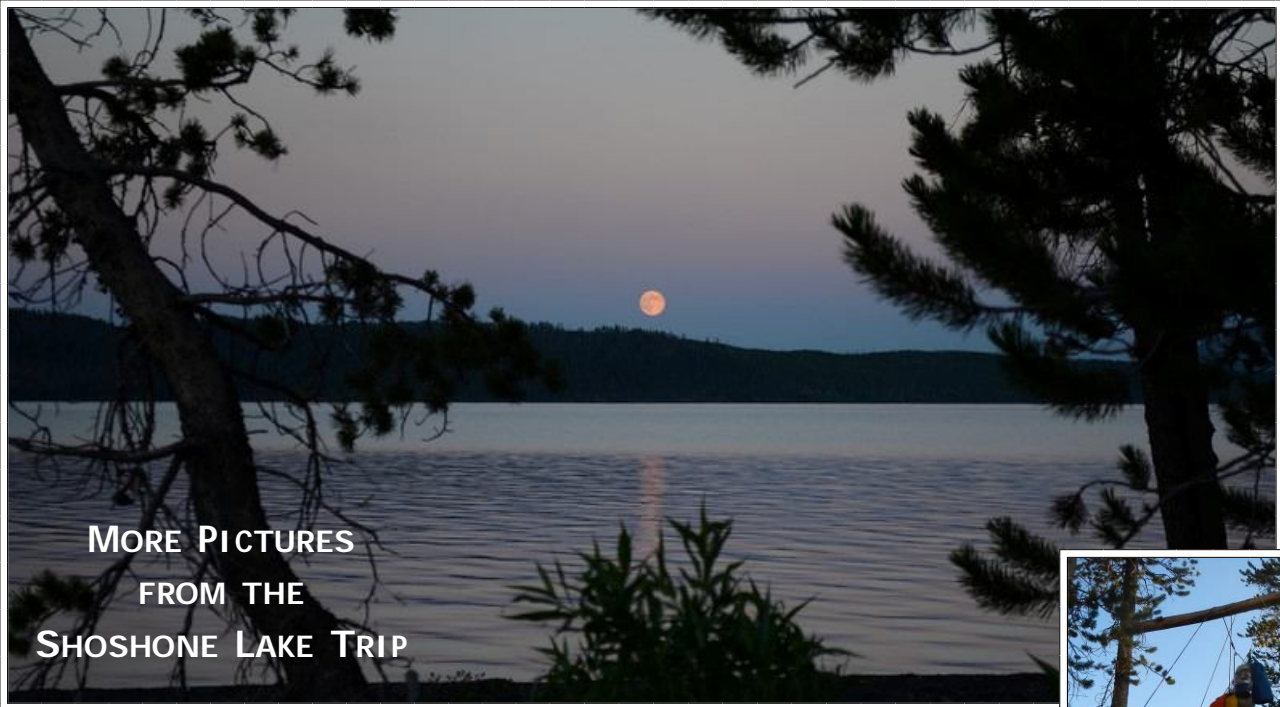


See more pictures on the following page. Many more, a slide show and maps with each day's exact route are available at <http://berniedahlen.smugmug.com> and on the RMSKC's YahooGroup website

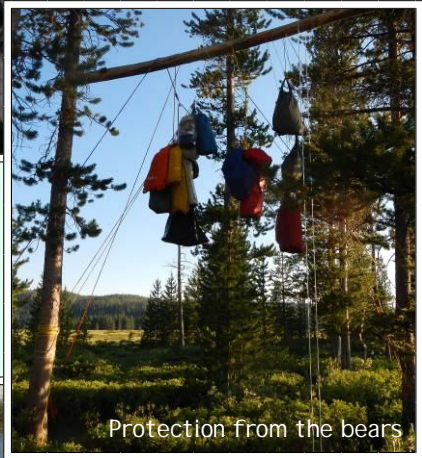
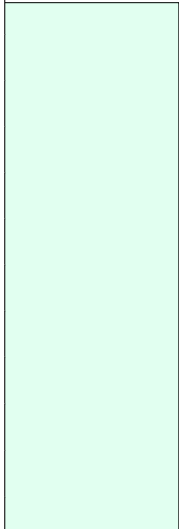


Back: Jud, Marlene, Dick, George  
Front: Julie, Bernie with Wilson, Larry and Al





**MORE PICTURES  
FROM THE  
SHOSHONE LAKE TRIP**



Protection from the bears



Hotspots in the Shoshone Geyser Basin



Most photos on this page by Jud Hurd; pictures in the article by Bernie Dahlen



The author