

# LEWIS & SHOSHONE

By Ed Berg

Saturday, Day 1: Drive to Lewis Lake Campground from Dubois. Stayed in Dubois at the Stone House, which must be one of the world's best B&B's. Hosts Hank and Grace provide wonderful company, good beds, great breakfasts, and if you're lucky, beer wine and peanuts at sunset.

Driving up to Lewis Lake thru the Grand Tetons Park is interesting. The dominant sound in this our nation's first and rarest jewel of a park is not the sound of birdsong, wind or waves. It's the blatting roar of Harley Davidson motorcycles. The riders like to refer to the noise as "rolling thunder". For the rest of us, it's more like rolling flatulence. What a WEIRD way to enhance your sense of manliness. Purchased power between your legs and under your butt.

Paula and I had picked out 2 campsites and registered for back-country campsites for the 8 of us, and picked up boat permits for 4 of us, by 11:00am. Barb and Terry arrived after awhile, then Dan and Sheryl, and finally, but right on time, Judy and Claire.

Sunday, Day 2: Got up, ate at the Lakeside Restaurant, returned and

packed the boats, and launched at 11:00 am. Paddled 3 miles across Lewis Lake with an easy tailwind. Paddled at a meandering, enjoyable pace up the slow-water portion of Lewis Creek, then got out and drug the boats the remaining 1 1/2 miles to the Shoshone outlet. The water was cool, but it's tiring nevertheless: upriver, calf-to-waist deep at times. We rested and had lunch at 2:00 pm, then got into the boats for the now windy, choppy, 3-mile upwind paddle across Shoshone Lake to the first campsite. The 12" to 18" chop didn't seem to be a problem for anyone. By the time we got the campsite, the weather was preparing to rain, but it allowed us to set up camp before any rain actually fell. This 8S7 campsite might be the best one on Shoshone: on the windward shore for the prevailing southwesterly breezes, so there are less mosquitoes; and the views are beautiful.

The rainy weather through supper, the night and the next day let us goof off with no paddling for as much time as anyone wanted. Following Dan's suggestion, we stayed an extra night at the site, and no one came to claim it...most people just hole up during rain, I guess. All the next day we just ate, slept, read poetry, plunked on a guitar, and generally goofed off. Some folks went paddling during a lull in the rain. Totally recreational.

Monday, Day 3: Morning dawned

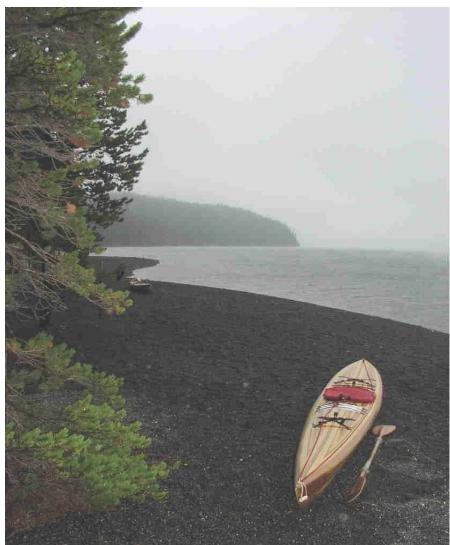


The drag up Lewis Creek.

(Photo by Terry Smith)

with backlit mist flowing off the forested slopes onto the mirrored lake surface. Leisurely breakfast was followed by leisurely packing and leisurely paddling on calm water to the next campsite about 2 miles west along the north shoreline. After we set up camp, most of us paddled the 3 miles southwest to the geyser basin. More on this later. After we got back, we (expectably by now) goofed off, napped, ate supper, and slept well. For anyone who had to get up during the wee (pee) hours, Mars was a brilliant pale red light in the south sky.

Tuesday, Day 4: After breakfast all of us paddled down to the gey-



Our 8S7 Campsite.

(Photo by Ed Berg)



Dan doing his goof off impression.

(Photo by Ed Berg)

Lewis & Shoshone continued

ser basin. This is absolutely the only way to see these fumaroles, pot-boilers, WEIRD rock formations, and hot ground and warm water that are the unique features of the Yellowstone Park region. You can walk wherever you want, but some common sense is appropriate: the idea of breaking through a thin mineral crust into boiling water inspires caution in the most curious.

We took it easy the rest of the day, getting ready for the long paddle back out.

Wednesday, Day 4: Arise, eat breakfast, pack and get on the water by 9:00 am. Judy got us to think together for a moment on the ending of this delightful trip. But the end really isn't in sight until you beach your boat back at Lewis Lake. There is first a calm-water paddle across Shoshone Lake, then as the breeze starts building at 10:00 you start more earnest strokes. The wade down-river is much less strenuous than upriver, but when you get to Lewis Lake, the wind is typically up to 20 mph and the chop is up to 2 feet. We spread out a little more than was comfortable for me, but Sheryl has this thing of HURLING her boat into the wind when she gets nervous...and since she nearly had an



The Geyser Basin  
(Photo by Terry Smith)

upset, she was flying! Paula was able to keep up with her, I fell back with Judy and Claire, but I doubt that if anyone actually capsized, it would be more than 5 minutes before others would be on hand to rescue.

This is a good reason to do the trip in late summer. Earlier in the year in cold water, the trip would have definitely been more formidable: no more risk of severe winds, but much more serious consequences for capsizes.

After we all split up and went our separate ways, Paula and I drove to Dubois to check up on our favorite B&B. We got there in time to inveigle our way into Grace and Hank's supper, and had a fine time telling stories

and laughing until bedtime. These people definitely do NOT operate the B&B on a profitable basis. There's just too much good stuff to be shared.

My thoughts about next year's trip: do two nights in one campsite on Shoshone Lake, paddle out and drive down to Signal Mountain on the south end of Jackson Lake and take one night at a public campsite there, then paddle out to the backside of Jackson Lake to take two nights at another site. It's an easy paddle and great 8-mile hike to Jenny Lake for the interim day. And I'll bone up on the geology better than I had this year. There are more unique, exceptional features in this area than in nearly anyplace on earth, and I've been to a quite a few of them.



The Geyser  
(Photo by Barb Smith)

## NEW Paddle America Program

All members will now be required to join the American Canoe Association under their Paddle America program. Here is how it works. The new ACA membership is in addition to the current club dues. ACA dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for family membership. Your ACA membership will provide you and the club's officers and volunteers with liability coverage up to 5 million dollars per event and 1 million for personal injury per person. In addition, the ACA membership gives you issues of Paddler Magazine and the American Canoeist newsletter and access to other sanctioned ACA paddling events across the country. See the ACA website ([acanet.org](http://acanet.org)) for further

details. The ACA will begin collecting both RMSKC and ACA dues for 2004 very shortly. You will receive a renewal request in the mail. Your benefits will start as soon as you join - they cover the remainder of this year and all of next. You will receive 4 renewal notices through March before you are dropped from the membership rolls.

ACA members can participate in all club events at no added cost. Non-members will be subject to a \$5 ACA per event membership fee and after 2 events will be required to join the ACA as a full member.

Any questions please call Larry at (303) 988 4822.