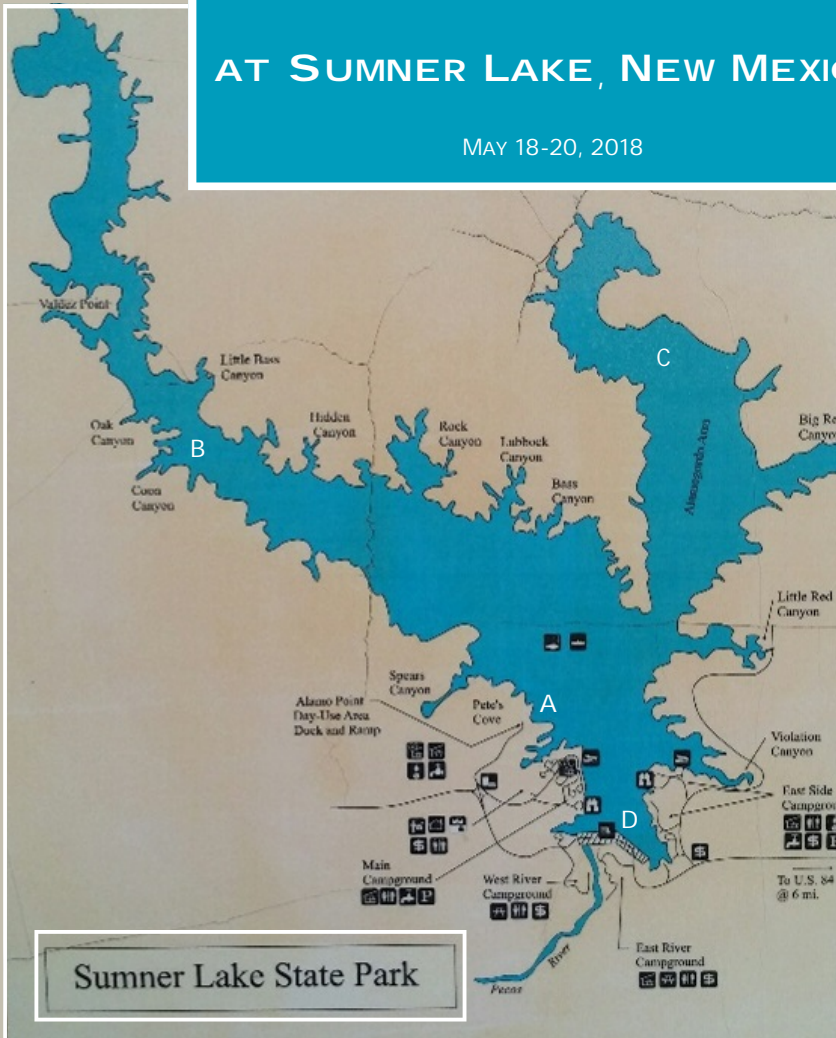


HOUSE PARTY AT SUMNER LAKE, NEW MEXICO

MAY 18-20, 2018



RMSKC members were offered the use of a cabin near Sumner Lake State Park's Alamo Point Day Use Area [A]. Five club paddlers (Marsha Dougherty, Sue Hughes, Brian Hunter, Jud Hurd and Ann Marie Odasz) decided to drive down for a long weekend of exploring the area.

The yard had space to spread out and pitch tents but "the ground was lumpy, the native grass was clumpy, and the golf ball size stones were bumpy" so the guys put cots on the porch and the women slept inside or in their cars.

On Friday, May 18, they paddled up the Pecos River northwest to about [B] and back. The excitement for the day was Brian's rescue of a juvenile osprey.

He said, "It was windy, with wind waves and I saw something rolling over in the water like a log. When I got closer I

realized it was a bird. It tried to crawl up on my back deck so I backed up and pulled it onto my spray skirt. Thankfully, it was calm and didn't try to tear me to pieces.



Maybe the bird got rolled by a wind wave, or maybe it had tried to catch a fish that was bigger than it could handle and got dragged under

"When I got to shore I wrapped my spray skirt around it so it couldn't see, carried it to land and let it go.

"I was worried that maybe it had a hurt leg, but it stood up and seemed to be fine. So I tried to smooth the feathers on its back that had gotten ruffled, but it was NOT having any of that! Then I knew the bird was going to be OK."



Brian carrying the bird to shore wrapped up like a hooded falcon



Brian and Marsha
on a sand bar up the Pecos River arm on Day 1

When they got home they enjoyed Jud's lasagna and a huge salad that Ann Marie made.

The next day they paddled up the Alamo Gordo arm [C]. On the way back they saw a coachwhip swimming in front of them. Dinner was ham, a sweet potato casserole and another good salad.



The last day they went around to the dam [D] by the state park campgrounds, north to Violation Canyon and Little Red Canyon, and then across the lake to the put-in.

They saw a fellow who was struggling to get back on his sit-on-top; he seemed surprised when they said that they practiced reentries all the time. That evening Brian grilled brats and hot links, and served baked beans spiffed up by bacon he had smoked himself, which was amazing.

Everyone had a fine time and they are planning on making a trip to New Mexico an annual outing.



Paddle Report by Sue Hughes; photos from Jud Hurd

View from the cabin