

Trip 41 Monday ? Thursday April 26 ? 29, 2010

Who: Munchkin, Chunkie, Rooster, Radar

Site: Alpha

Menu: Steaks, fish, shrimp and more from Radar's store closing. Also, full breakfasts including bisquits & gravy.

Wx: Cool and cloudy Monday. Warming with sunshine & full moon Tue-/Thu. Lows upper 30s, highs in upper 70s.

Highlights:

Rooster:

Monday the crew met at Dexter at 9am and stocked the chuckwagon for the trip. The caravan arrived at Camp Alpha just after noon. After a quick wood run we had Bratwursts grilled on campfire for supper. We had two chainsaws, but no gas can. We managed a good load of wood regardless. Chunkie forgot the poles and hardware for his tent, so he bunked in the tent with Munchkin who became ill during the night and left for home before daylight. Don't know if there is any connection there.

Tuesday the three remaining gangsters made a wood run and took a bicycle ride. First trip for Rooster's new cruiser three speed bike. Weather stayed cool and damp until about 3pm. We drove up to the lookout to call and check on Munchkin who was still not feeling well, but resting at home. Chunkie called home and found out one of his grand daughters and also, his mother in-law were both in the hospital. We returned to camp and Chunkie loaded up and went home, also. Radar and Rooster had steak, shrimp, mushrooms and salad for supper and turned in fairly early after watching a spectacular moon rise.

Wednesday the two remaining campers had a big breakfast and organized camp. We then made a road trip to Johnson's Shut In's to see the changes after reopening from the Taum Sauk reservoir collapse. We walked the hiking trail and boardwalk and drove through the new camping area. On the return trip we circled through Sutton's Bluff and stopped and unloaded the bikes from the van and took a bike ride before returning to camp. When we got to camp we had visitors. A childhood friend of Rooster's, Jesse Rayfield, who now lives in Hawaii, along with his pal from Kentucky, John, were sitting in camp waiting for us to return. Jesse had camped with Rooster and family on Black River back in the eighties. Jess and John joined us for fish, shrimp, and salad at supper and left before dark. Radar and Rooster had a mixed drink or two and turned in about midnight.

Thursday morning we had snack cakes for breakfast and took our time packing up the camp. We pulled out for home late morning and stopped for a picnic lunch at the roadside park near Ellington. We had an uneventful trip on home.

Radar:

On arrival at Mark Twain Forest turn off Monday we found that the skyline road was being resurfaced all the way to the Sutton's Bluff turn off. Illness and sickness in family left Rooster and I to fend for ourselves Tuesday night through Thursday.

Nice trip to Johnson Shut In's on Wed and verified that they are still closed to campers. Had visitors; Rooster's friend from Hawaii and his buddy. They joined us for a fish fry for supper. Had to scrounge for ready sized firewood because I forgot to bring chain saw fuel. Another bike ride ended the evening.