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www.hoofers.floridatrail.org

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Newsletter of the Happy Hoofers
Chapter of the Florida Trail
Association

Happy Hoofers Hoopla

Out West, Part 2 of a 42 Day Summer 2014 Trip

By Kathy & Rene Bonvouloir

June 29, we left our camp at Dr Edmond Babler SP, Missouri at 8am. We are seeing miles and miles of cornfields and soybean. We passed into Iowa around 2pm. Entered South Dakota at 4:15pm and made it to Palisades SP at 6pm, \$26 a night. We did a hike at the park. There is a gorge and you can walk in it and also climb up some of the rock areas, very nice. During the night it started to rain so we had to get up (surprise surprise our tent has leaks) and put on the tarp.

June 30, woke up to rain and had to pack up the tent in a light rain, joy! We find ourselves driving through the Badlands. We are seeing lots of ads for Walls Drugstore, so we decide to stop by. As you can imagine it is a big tourist trap, tons of stores with a western theme. Kathy rode a jackalope and then we got out of town. Next stop Mt. Rushmore NM, \$11 to park and free to enter. The first sight was very cool. You walk into the area down the Avenue of Flags and then you see the sculpture of the 4 Presidents. There is a trail to the bottom of the monument but you are still quite a ways from them. You can watch a movie about the creation of the monument. It was nice but we felt a little disappointed that we could not get closer to it. Next stop, Crazy Horse Memorial, \$22. The memorial itself is only part way completed. The sculptor Korczak worked on the monument until his death. It is going to be huge

when it is done. We watched a performance of Tribal Dances led by Chief Jumping Buffalo and his son and grandson. This was a wonderful show. They allowed everyone to take a rock that had been chiseled off the monument. Our campground for the next 3 nights is in the Black



Hills NF, Oreville campgrounds, \$9 a night. It is very cold and windy at night.

July 1, we head out for Jewels Cave National Monument. We take the Lantern Tour, \$18. This is so cool. You go into the cave and it is pitch dark except for the lanterns you carry for light. Well worth the money. Next we go to Custer SP, \$15. We drove the wildlife route, saw deer, prairie dogs (whole town of them), and a couple dozen donkeys. We stopped at one of the ranger stations and were attacked by killer swallows. Next we had to maneuver around a herd of buffalo that acted like they owned the road. We drove on the Needles Highway (which is in park) and drove through three tunnels that are only wide enough for one car at a time. At one tunnel we came across three mountain goats.

July 2, we have two chipmunks sharing our campsite. Today we are going to hike Harney Peak in Custer SP. It's a beautiful hike 8 miles round trip and includes Little Devils Tower. On top of Harney Peak is a
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watchtower and you are able to climb it and scramble all over the peak itself. We spent about an hour exploring it. On Little Devils Tower we ran into 5 mountain goats, they were very unafraid of us. Later that day as we were leaving the park I noticed we had a hitchhiker with us. Not sure what animal it is but he is snacking on our snacks. Next stop Sturgis and the Full Throttle Saloon. We had a beer with the local bar hangout, a donkey. Also, we talked with a couple from Minnesota. After there we went to the Buffalo Chip (closed) and had dinner at the Knuckle Saloon (food average). Ran into that couple again, guess they are doing the beer tour too.

July 3, broke camp about 7:30. A deer shot across the street right in front of us, just missed hitting it. Went to the town of Deadwood and went into the saloon Diamond Lil's owned by Kevin Costner. Also, saw the non original saloon that Wild Bill Hitchcock was shot and killed in. The whole town is full of very small casinos. When I made lunch I notice that our hitchhiker had a snack on our tomato. We entered Wyoming at 10:30. Our next stop is Devils Tower NM., you can see it from many miles away before you got there, it is so big. There are two trails you can take around the Tower, of course we did both. One path takes you right around the bottom of the tower. Here you get to see many rock climbers. The other path takes a longer loop thru the fields and woods that surround the tower. At times you are walking in wild flowers that tower over you. The smells from the field are wonderful and the views of the tower are magical. We were able to get a camping spot at the Towers, Belleforte Campgrounds \$6. The campgrounds were right next to a prairie dog town and it was full of those cute little guys. Sitting around the campfire that night, clear sky, thousands of stars and the view of the tower, it was perfect.



NEEDED—ENCLOSED 6'X10'
TRAILER

IF you know of someone with a gently used enclosed 6'x10' trailer with a back door that drops down to drive the mower up into it, please contact David Denham. We need a trailer to store and haul our mower and maintenance equipment for trail maintenance. David can be reached at 305-667-8643.

Chair's Corner

April 2015

Summer is quickly coming to South Florida, temperatures are rising already. Our activities are winding down, but have not stopped completely. Please check the calendar for the remaining activities. Watch Facebook for added or spur of the moment opportunities.

We've enjoyed a good hiking season, lots of you joined us for day hikes and overnight trips. Our section hike from I75 up to John Stretch Park was a terrific success. Some days had over 20 hikers. Seven people completed the whole 63 miles! If we didn't have a trip to someplace you would like to go, email Esther Muram or myself and suggest a place you would like us to go to or an activity you would like us to do. We will find an activity leader to check it out and add it to our plans for next season, if possible.

The annual membership drive is coming April 9 through June 4. The chapter recruiting the most new members wins a \$100 home depot card. All new members will receive a free tick card as a thank you for joining. Tell your friends and neighbors about Florida Trail, get them to join us. It's healthy to get out in the fresh air and walk, it helps clear your mind from all the chaos of your daily life. You might get to see a deer, otter, alligator, bobcat, panther or a bear if you are lucky!

We have a program at the April 9 meeting on hiking at night that should be interesting, please join us at Fern Forest. For our May meeting we will have a member appreciation night. I want to thank our officers, committee chairs, and activity leaders for all their hard work this past season. After a short celebration, we'll have time to get to know each other better over some terrific refreshments. We will not have meetings in June, July, or August. We will have a few sporadic activities, watch Facebook or your email for announcements. Meetings will begin again in September.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. If you visit a park or take a hike someplace, think about writing an article or giving a program about it to the rest of us. We all love taking vicarious trips through another person's eyes.

See you out there

Lynn Thompson
Chair Happy Hoofers

Upcoming Hikes, Meetings and Other Events, 2015

4/9/15

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

Chapter Meeting

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954 850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net

4/10-12/15

State Conference in Leesburg

For more information: floridatrail.org

4/18/15

Day hike 8 miles from MM 51 at the Interceptor Canal at Big Cypress National Preserve

For more information: David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@consultant.com, Dick Ward 954-523-8897 wrdick@aol.com

4/19/15

Paddle and snorkel at John Pennekamp State Park

For more information: Kathy Bonvouloir 954-234-5657 threebones@aol.com Mike Thomson 954-850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net Esther Muram 954 658-8386 ltailusa@gmail.com

5/2/15

Bird watching at Wakodahatchee Wetlands and visit The Girl's Strawberry U-Pick

For more information: Esther Muram 954 658-8386 ltailusa@gmail.com

5/14/15

7:30PM, Fern Forest Nature Center

Chapter Meeting

201 Lyons Rd. South, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954 850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net

5/16/15

Day Hike south from county line gate to pipeline, lunch at Last Resort, exit at Loonyville gate

For more information: David Denham 305-667-8643 ddenham@consultant.com, Dick Ward 954-523-8897 wrdick@aol.com

5/17/15

Tour Bonnet House followed by pot luck at Birch State Park

For more information: Lynn Thompson 954 850-3668 ma12thom@bellsouth.net

Or Mary Halferty 954-522-3265 mhalferty@outlook.com

Visit the Happy Hoofers activities page for further updates at:
<http://hoofers.floridatrail.org/activites.htm>

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Our Facebook group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/login.php?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F67137159048%2F>

