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Powell Time

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Floating Mobility



Special Interest Articles:

- Family Ties
- Riders on the Storm
- BFF

On the lake the wave runner is the best way to get somewhere fast and easy. The boats take time to board and dock while the jet ski's are ready to go instantly and with more flexibility. Most of the house boats you see have a couple of wave runners in tow and some even have 4 on ramps in the back.

The lake is hundreds of miles long with individual canyons and bays stretching 10 miles off the main lake. It is the wave runners that get into all these fingers of water and lets one explore the hidden treasures that abound in such an awesome playground. You take your houseboat to an area of the lake you

like and make camp and then use the jet skis to get a closer look.

The first evening John and I took the wave runners to Last Chance Canyon and the water was like glass as the sun was setting to our backs and the moon rising in our faces. Skimming over the water at 40mph with the towering sandstone walls of the lakeshore zipping by making one wonder what was real in this surreal moment. As we jammed across Last Chance the two wave runners separated until we were miles apart headed in the same direction. Keeping visual contact you start to realize if something goes wrong you're probably not going

to be found until the next day, it is just too big of a lake. The water under you can run as deep as 700 feet with sheer drop offs right on the shoreline and sandstone towers rising 2000 feet above the water which give the lake a 3 dimensional feel.

On the 3rd day we went 20 miles up the lake from camp to Mountain Sheep canyon and took the boats as far as they would go. Once it became too narrow then we proceeding on the wave runners exploring the canyon with as little as 6 inches of clearance, cool.



Family Ties



Mr. and Mrs. John Danielson sharing a moment less the kids.

When we decided to join the Danielson's for a trip to Lake Powell, Utah we were not sure of what to expect. Everyone has a different idea of what camping is all about and many of us have childhood experiences of camping through storms or sleeping on an ant farm.

Luckily for us the

Danielson gang proved to be the most gracious of hosts and welcomed us into their annual get together on the beautiful lake. They all pull together to have terrific meals every lunch and dinner and play games every night. It is a lot of team work around camp and everyone pitches in which made it a very enjoyable experience.

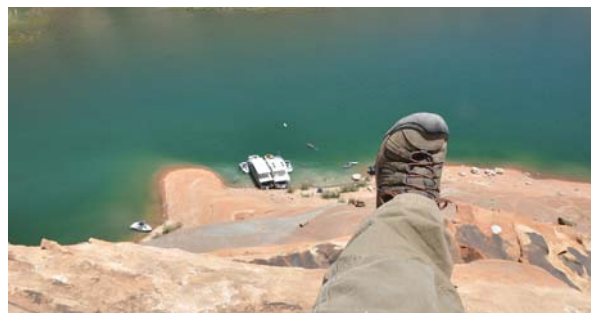
They really went out of the way to make us feel like family and that was cool.

One of the most fun things we did was load up all the boats and wave runners to make a group trip up the lake to Dangling Rope marina and then over to Mountain Sheep Canyon where we cruise through narrow passages in the boats.



The Camp

One of the days we were there I hiking up the cliffs and took this photo of our wonderful campsite



located in Padre Bay. It does not look that impressive from way up but we had quite a nice

camp. All together we were a group of 32 people comprising some 4 boats, 2 wave runners, 2 house boats, 2 kayaks, 2 tents and 4 dogs.

The houseboat were beached right up onto the sandstone shore and tied off to large boulders with the smaller ski boats anchored to the house boats.

Riders on the Storm



In the mornings when the lake is calm and the waters are – as they say – glassy you will find the diehard wake boarders. Like snow skiers leaving early so they can get that first run of untouched powder the wake boards look for smooth water.

The rig of choice is a \$50,000 or more boat that has a lot of horsepower, even more watts of stereo and ballast adjustments to give the perfect ride. All the boats have a rack on top that performs a couple of tasks one being an anchor for the tow rope and also a place to store your boards and hang your speakers.

So now that you have the equipment you need a driver, spotter and of course the boarder. One you get up the goal is to cut back and forth across the wake of the boat and try to catch air. This is an art perfected with lots of

practice and even more crashes.

The latest craze when we went out is a short surfboard that the riders gets up on and is pulled by a very short rope. Once up to speed the rider slips into the wake and rides it like a wave.



When all the planets align the rider can let go of the rope and keep riding the wake of the boat without the tow rope, easier said than done.

But for this group of people that we ventured out with regular stuff was not enough, no. They had to bring out the Air Chair a dangerous contraption that is basically a chair attached to a hydrofoil. And the fun kept on coming with the tubes and a devices called Go Nuclear which spun a rider around in a cone skipping across the water at more than 30 miles per hour – fun.



“Cruising in style on the Air Chair.”

Best of Times



"Leave us alone so we can color, mommy."

Nothing is more fun than hanging out with your friends 24/7 with nothing to do but play. For Maddie the trip to Lake Powell was all about hanging out with some friends and learning about life around camp. The worst part of the trip would have been the 4 hour drive to Lake Powell from Phoenix.

After boarding the house boat and setting sail we traveled up the lake 20 miles and shut down to wait for the other boats. This was a good time to test out the water slide on the back of the boat that drops you 6 feet into the lake. After about 200 slides we continued another 2 miles to where

the camp was and anchored the boat.

The next day Maddie learned how to tube, tried to wake board and went kayaking along the shore. I think the most fun was with 2 tubes behind the ski boat sliding into each

other while hanging on for your life.

At the end of the trip with all the kids exhausted and sun ridden the drive home was peaceful as everyone slept in the car dreaming of the fun they all had at Lake Powell.



Tranquility

As darkness falls over the lake calmness floats in with the wind and the

water at peace. The sounds of speed boats, Jet Ski's and screaming

kids go away as the echo of the wildness takes control. But all the creatures of the night only have from dusk 'til dawn until "gentlemen start your engines" and the lake becomes a boater's playground.

On this particular night the moon raised up over the sandstone mesa like a distant sun. The reflection of moonlight on the water is one of the most tranquil sights in the world.

