

ORVW at Kimball Creek

July 7-10, 2017

By Marjo Sankey

After nearly 150 days of rain in Oregon this year, perhaps you can begin to imagine the joy we ORVW women felt upon arrival to Kimball Creek RV Park on the Rogue River. Sun and a BIG WELCOME from our hosts Ginger Jennings and Shelly Skelton greeted each of us. Most of our sites looked out over the river where osprey darted into the waters to gather food for their squawking young who waited not too patiently in their nest for dinner. The turkey vultures and gulls squabbled over the fish remains left by fisherman. The beautiful clear water of the Rogue River was a constant reminder of the beauty of this great park.



Our days were spent lounging with our large circle of friends. Patti Knight gave rides on her Spyder (three wheel motorcycle). Some folks traveled into Gold Beach for fish and chips. Some of us took photos of the deer who ambled through the park without regard to our presence. We played ladderball during the day and played cards at night.

Ginger recommended the boat trip on Jerry's Rogue River Tours that would stop at our boat ramp and take us up river for a 4-hour scenic trip. Many of us ventured out to experience the wilderness and the beauty of the day. Our guides were very knowledgeable. We learned many interesting facts, including the year that the river rose above the new bridge in the 1964 flood. The cold spell which began in October had frozen the soil and unusually heavy snow followed. When the Pineapple Express brought warm temperatures and heavy rains, it was said that some places got the equivalent of a year's rain in just a few days. Looking up at the Lobster Creek Bridge from our boat made the flood come alive in our imaginations. We were delighted with the sightings of deer, osprey, eagles, and folks rafting the river. The guides would spin the boats 360° which did get us quite wet. This was great fun and made us laugh out loud. This writer got pretty quick at lifting the blanket up over her head, but still got wet. Michelle Pelkey booked the 80-mile whitewater excursion for the next day. As she told us about it, several women who





had taken the 64-mile trip decided to venture along with her. The whitewater excursion was a completely different trip...much faster, more spinning, and bouncing off the whitewaters which definitely made this a wild and fun ride. Thanks Michelle for giving us the nudge we needed!

Ginger had visions of a big fire at the firepit near the river and Shelly helped make it happen. They provided the hot dogs and all the fixings for a weenie roast. We gathered to eat, roast marshmallows, and later sang songs led by the makeshift band of Paulette Beliveau, Pam Richardson, June Willoughby, Jeanette Haller, Michelle Pelkey, and MeeMee Davenport. Guitars, ukuleles, and percussion instruments played as the campfire roared. This was a perfect end to a perfect weekend!

