

Trip to Western States - 2008

by Sylvia R. Gallagher

Part 3

8:45 p.m. Sunday, May 4, 2008

Fool Hollow Lake State Recreation Area, near Show Low, AZ

After washing Toby and shopping this morning in Safford, we drove the 150 miles or so to the Show Low area, stopping for lunch in Globe. The last part of the drive was quite scenic and also quite precipitous—lots of ups and downs, especially the descent to the Salt River gorge and return to the uplands. The change in elevation must be several thousand feet, but unfortunately the road has no elevation signs. The grades were 6% or less, so we really had no problem, but Jim had to do a lot of shifting and it wasn't a fast or easy drive. We were glad to get here around 3:00.

Due to road construction on the road from the highway to the park, which incidentally was incredibly rough for a mile or so, some of the signage to the campground we chose was missing. We drove way past a turn we should have taken. We inquired of various people where the campground was and were told we had passed it, but no one seemed to know exactly where the road was. They kept telling us it was just a block or so back—or ahead after we turned around—but when we looked at those roads, they were either narrow dirt ones or had “dead end” signs on them. We always hesitate to turn down those roads for fear we won't be able to turn the trailer around at the end. We must have asked at least six people. Finally we got close enough that, when we asked a homeowner who was working in his yard, he said it was the next street.

The place is very nice and very large. The sites are mostly EWS; it's very unusual to have a sewer hookup in a public campground. The campground was built in 1994, so perhaps that's the reason. We have a nice site (#14 in the Redhead loop; all three loops are named for ducks; other features are named for other kinds of birds) with a lot of rocks and also lots of juniper and Ponderosa pine trees. It's farther from its neighbors than most. Lots of the sites are nice and long, and most were occupied, but we really like the one we have. Three Cassin's Kingbirds were quarreling for quite a long time after we got here, but I didn't try to record them—too much wind.

The park brochure explains where the recreation area got its name: “The tiny town of Adair has long since been covered over by the [150-acre] lake, but it was Thomas Jefferson Adair who was responsible for the name Fool Hollow. In 1885, Adair moved into the area with the intention of farming. The locals joked that only a fool would try and farm the place. The name stuck!”

8:00 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2008

Fool Hollow Lake State Recreation Area, near Show Low, AZ

This morning Toby and I took a long walk on the delightful shoreline trail beside