

DELTA LAKE CAMPING WEEKEND WRAP-UP

~ Toni Hardy and Bill Hengstler

What a great time we had camping at Delta Lake State Park this year!

On August 19th, 26 Huggers pitched their tents and set about to have a fun time swimming, biking, kayaking and generally enjoying what turned out to be a great weekend weather-wise. Setup for our seasoned campers was a breeze, save for a very "tricky" canopy that refused to be pitched until a multitude of Huggers came to its aid. And the question of the weekend: "How many Huggers DOES it take to pitch a canopy?" We know it takes 2 1/2 hours, right? LOL. I think the award (if there was one) for the most elaborate and in some ways elegant site goes to our still newlyweds Jody and Ken. And oh what a beautiful sight, a full-sized turkey basting over an open spit, under the careful supervision of

their "camp mascot", Martini! I want to thank all the guys who helped everyone out with their ingenuity and brawn during setup. And let's not forget two very ingenious ladies, Wendy and Cheri, who helped me and Barb with our "broken" tent...and all who helped other campers by offering items that were forgotten at home :)

Friday was a very windy day on the water so many in the group decided to bike ride around the Lake. Thanks to Dick Teeter for the biking route maps. Some of us waited out the winds and put in after lunch for a paddle across the lake. We swam and picnicked at a great spot, an inlet in the great shale cliffs surrounding the southeast shore of the Lake. There we held a practice round with our bilge pumps, in readiness for our Great PaddlePower End of Season party on September 11th.

Thanks to Alice Pidgeon, we celebrated Ginny Miers' retirement at our Wine and Cheese party on Friday night, a la Hawaiian leis and smores.

Bill Hengstler outdid himself with the wine, beer and Happy Hour snacks. The following morning we were treated to a Blueberry Pancake breakfast, thanks to Ken McLean and Bill for manning the grills, until all 26 of us were completely stuffed. We needed to work it off so we found a spot to rent kayaks on the Lake, (thanks to those who helped with the transport). Late Saturday morning 21 Huggers paddled the Northeast end of Delta Lake, moseying in and out of the trees that were submerged in the high waters, a la shades of "Deliverance". Fortunately our paddle ended more happily with all paddlers arriving back at the main campsite to prepare for dinners and an evening around the campfire.

A visit and stern warning after "quiet hours" from the Park Ranger ensured that our Huggers Camping Weekend was a success!

Yes, camping has its ups and downs and a Huggers Camp Out is no exception...Sunday morning saw us "taking down" in the rain followed by a warm breakfast at the Rome, NY Denny's. All Huggers arrived safely home despite the torrent of rain we left behind and for once the first sunshine of the day was seen while exiting the Thruway in Rochester!!!

Bill and I want to thank everyone for making this year's camping trip a wonderful time...we ate, drank, paddled, biked, hiked, joked, sang,



capsized (oops), fell (no major injury except pride), shared, borrowed, ssh'd each other and LAUGHED!
What more could you want from a Huggers event? You were all a great group and Bill and I hope you will
all camp with us again next year!