

MARIN CANOE & KAYAK CLUB

“Ca-NEWS!”



Spring, 2021

Trip Report (5/23/21) by David Fitzgerald:

It's been a long time between trips but last Sunday we finally got back on the water and had a beautiful and fun day. I think we had 17 people; maybe a couple more.

The weather was really great, just the right temperature and not much wind at all. There were quite a few other boaters showing up about the same time as our group so it was a little crowded but we got on the water without any problem and headed up toward Putah Creek.

We were able to get quite a ways before the current became too strong - not as far as you can sometimes. Then reversing our course we headed toward the dam. We were disappointed that the side channel, which is especially beautiful, is closed off with big rocks.

There was a wild fire in the area which apparently has caused a safety hazard from falling tree limbs. But we paddled down to the dam and at least some people saw a family of river otters, plus wood peckers, mergansers, Canada geese, and other birds. One person reported seeing a leach swimming in the water.

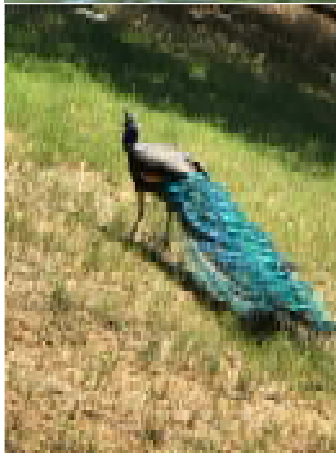
When we got back to the put-in and got our gear loaded in the cars we all gathered at a picnic area. Miguel had smoked a pork shoulder and we had delicious pulled pork sandwiches accompanied by a dazzling array of potluck items. We had a useful discussion about the club and getting an event calendar going again.

The best part was seeing so many great friends - we had a wonderful time.

Hope to see more of you soon.

(most photos are by Alan Dunham)

This was the start of the Sunday paddle.



(photo by Coyote)

On Sunday we were surrounded by peacocks at the picnic area. Some had babies. They were introduced decades ago to Lake Solano Park to control rattlesnakes since they are known to kill snakes.

They have not done their job apparently. About 30 of them make their home there. In case you wanted to know, male peacocks are called peacocks; females are called peahens. Both together are peafowl and the babies are peachicks!



We had our picnic potluck. Our Club President Justin Morse and our group decreed this gathering was indeed our official annual meeting, although our Justin said we will have another meeting later in the year.



Adventure on the water!

On Sunday one member of our group had a special adventure. He was paddling solo in a small canoe.

He decided to reach out and tug on the canoe with his friends in it as a little prank. But he reached too far the poor little canoe tipped over! He struggled to swim --not easy with wet walking shoes on! Then, he realized he could stand up... the water wasn't deep.

Unable to empty the water from the canoe, he walked towards the shore, sinking deep into the muddy bottom with each step. On the shore, while trying to navigate the poison oak bushes, he emptied the water-filled canoe. His pack was filled with water, and the poor peanut butter sandwiches were soggy wet.

However with good attitude and a smile, with soggy clothes, he embarked again and resumed paddling.

Beware of tippy canoes and playing pranks on your friends! Ha ha. At least we weren't in Tomales Bay or a cold swift river!