

CAMPING GUIDELINE

For new and non-members



GENERAL The club sponsors *excellent* river trips to the Colorado River!! Typically, there are five in the Spring and five in the Fall. “Special Event” trips requiring additional housing may occur in middle of the “ouch-hot” summer (Gila Monster Trip), or middle of the “brrr-cold” winter (Polar Bear Trip). Trip dates, along with the trip leader’s name and address are published in the monthly newsletter. To sign up for a trip, mail a check (made payable to Convair Water-ski Club) for the appropriate amount and send to the Club Treasurer for the particular river trip. Mail it as soon as possible since it is on a first come first serve. Maximum skiers per trip are 25, and may be less due to various limitations. Cancellations made less than 14 days before the trip begins are non-refundable unless someone

subsequently takes your place. The trip fees are determined by the Executive Board and published in the monthly newsletter. If you like, contact the Club Treasurer to confirm your place on the trip. If you would like to carpool or need a ride, contact the Club Treasurer who may be able to give you contact information for people in your area.

DIRECTIONS TO PICACHO STATE PARK (see map)

Take I-8 East past El Centro (a great rest stop) and continue east until you reach the Winterhaven/4th Avenue exit (do not get off at the first Winterhaven exit). It’s about 160 miles from San Diego. Make a left and go about 3/4 mile. Make a right onto S-24 (Picacho Rd) and then a left under the railroad trestle. Follow S-24 (Picacho Rd), about five miles. S-24 will make a sharp right, but Picacho Rd will continue on straight. Go straight staying on Picacho Rd for another mile where it turns into a dirt road. At this point you will go 100 ft up a small hill and make a right at the All-American Canal. Make a left over the canal, and follow the dirt road until you reach the camp grounds (about 18 miles). The first half of the road is mostly mesa and safe speeds range from 25 – 55 mile per hour depending on your vehicle and road conditions. The second half is a mixture of mesa, ridges and washes with a few dangerous sharp turns...with drop-offs. It’s a beautiful drive, but the wash-board road can be rough and safe speeds are usually between 15 and 35 miles per hour. Keep your momentum up through sandy areas. Please be careful...especially at night. At the entrance to Picacho, pick up an envelope, fill it out, put in your camping fee and place in receptacle where posted. Place the stub on your dashboard. Most either find a campsite immediately, or go to the dock to see who’s at the bon-fire, and then find a campsite. There are fewer mosquitos away from the river. Be sure to get some good sleep so you can wake up early and ski the *best water in the morning*.



SKIING AT PICACHO

The ski boats will arrive either Friday evening or early Saturday morning. If you’re at the dock when they arrive please help to empty the boats of gas cans and club equipment.

River trips begin Saturday at dawn and end Sunday about 1:00 PM. We ski dawn to dusk. When you wake, pack your vehicle with your coolers, skis, chairs, etc. and *go to the dock for the day*. Skiing is on a rotational basis; a sign-up sheet and waiver release will be posted at the dock. Write in your name in a skier column for the

next available boat, and sign a waiver release. These trips are designed for maximum skiing, fun and relaxation. River floats are a highlight (bring floating toys or just a ski vest will do). Saturday night the ski group gets together for dinner typically at the dock. Skiers provide their own meat and beverages (not necessarily in that order). The club provides a delicious salad, bread, baked potatoes with all the fixings and barbecue grills to cook on. A bonfire follows. *Please bring firewood if you can.*

On Sunday, the rangers request you vacate your campsite by Noon. If you choose to stay at the dock after 2 PM, the rangers will collect \$5.00 for day use.

WHAT TO PACK

Picacho has great campsites, but they are primitive. They have portable potties, drinking water faucets, and solar showers. *It is not the Hilton.* Use the list below to help decide what to pack to be comfortable.

1. **Tent** – unless you sleep in a van or truck, or have a mosquito net. Stake your tent down !!!
2. **Sleeping Bag** - it can get *relatively cold* at night.
3. **Air Mattress or Hiking Pad** - the ground is pretty hard.
4. **Mosquito Repellent** – Mosquitos can be thick, but fewer mosquitos as you move away from the river.
5. **Clothes and Bathing Suits/ Trunks** - sufficient for three days and two nights. Bring a warm jacket and long pants or sweats, and shoes & socks for evening as it can get cold.
6. **Personal Hygiene Items**- no electricity.
7. **Chap Stick and Sun block** – Whatever you prefer, but bring some of 30 SPF or higher.
8. **Beach Chair and Towel**: Bring a comfortable beach/park chair...picnic tables have cement seats...
9. **Flashlight** – Great for a midnight stroll to the outhouse...a must have...
10. **Hat or Visor and Sunglasses** - ...*sunglasses are a must have*...
11. **Bathing Suit, Skis, Vest, Wetsuit, Float Toys** - unless you want to ski barefoot, cold, and naked. Notify the leader if you need special equipment such as for small children, or novice skiers.
12. **Light Bed Sheet**- Sheets will keep you cool on a hot night.
13. **Spray Bottle** – To cool you off...if it gets really hot...
14. **Cooler** - Don't forget plenty of ice!! 1 block and 1 bag 1 recommended...
15. **Food** - Bring lunch, snacks and meat for dinner Saturday night.
16. **Drinks** - bring anything you wish to drink for the weekend. Orange juice is usually served in the mornings along with coffee and hot chocolate. Lots of water recommended. Some share their favorite beverages. It's a great way to meet club members...especially the leader and launchers !! *Go have some fun.*

