

Hayduke Trail Notes
March – May, 2009
OutsideForever.com ~ Dave Snowberg and Michelle Dodd

Section 2 – Notes from 3rd week of March, 2009

- It's now not possible to make the turn at mile 2.7 because of private property signage, so either try to get water from or stay at Adventure Lodge B&B or continue to about mile 5 and follow the wash down to the Colorado river.
- The spring at 19.1 should not be counted on as it was just a small dank pothole. The spring 2.5 miles lower was dry and no longer piped. The spring at Lockhart drainage ended up having plenty of water, it was trickling down the creek bed where the road crossed it, though if it is drier you may have to walk off the road to the source.
- At the pour-off into Rustler Canyon, work around the left side and look for a cairn. You climb down with good hand and foot holds a few feet here at the crack. Then walk down the shale and sandstone to the bottom.
- Indian Creek has plenty of water and looks reliable. Nice camp spot on slickrock by the creek a hundred yards up the creek.
- There was water in the canyon after lower jump. At mile 45.6 when turning up Little Spring Canyon, stay up on the ledge for a while. Drop down into the canyon at a snag (dead tree) marked with a cairn. There's a big pour-off at about mile 46 to navigate, go up around the left.
- Squaw Flat campground in Canyonlands fills by 10:30 starting mid-March, so leave the route early and head to the Needles Outpost (don't go cross-country because the cryptobiotic soil). Get your re-supply there and move to Squaw Flat the next morning if you're taking a rest day and you'll be closer to the route.

Section 3 – Notes from 4th week of March, 2009

- We saw a pothole of water at the top of Butler Wash, which may last a few weeks. We also found water in the spring at mile 24.7 piped into a tub with lots of cattails growing in it.
- The water holes mentioned in the book just before mile 29 should not be counted on. What once were water holes "guarded by a pair of duck" is now a completely cow-trashed mud pit.
- We found Ryan Choi's notes on this section to be really helpful.
- The Sundance Trail has been re-routed up on top where it crosses the dirt road. The book has you going straight and now the trail goes left and follows the road. We took the old route since Dave has been on it before, but the cairns have been removed, and where it goes over large sections of slickrock you'll just have to head in the right direction. It's probably best now to follow the newly routed trail, but we estimate it adds 2-3 extra miles based on the topo, though it is dirt road so should be easy miles.

Section 5 – Notes from 1st week of April 2009

- Crescent Creek had plenty of water flowing.
- If weather is bad, take the south road by going left at mile 10.6, then after a couple of miles turn right at Copper Ridge junction to go up a ridge. After about a mile turn left at a junction and traverse from there. You rejoin the route at the ridge with the radio tower. There was intermittent trickle along Sweetwater Creek. There is a spring at 23.7 but it was very alkaline and gave us intestinal distress (!)
- At miles 33.4 and 33.6 the directions in the book are wrong (opposite), but the map is right so follow that. There is a solar tank with ok green water at mile 31.5 that looks dependable.
- At mile 41.6 we found what Ryan Choi called "manky but drinkable" water pooled at the spring and it was fine once we filtered it through a bandana and treated it. Clearer water is .2 mile further but looked more alkaline.

Section 6 – Notes from 1st week of April, 2009

- There was a trickle of water in Halls Canyon from a side canyon before the Red Slide (though there was recent rain here). Also found a small pothole of water just before joining Middle Moody, and a tiny intermittent trickle later.

Section 7 – Notes from 2nd week of April, 2009

- The picture of Navajo Canyon on page 139: the canyon is on the far side of the hills shown. You can either climb over for a shortcut or walk further down the wash to get around them. There was a small pothole with good water at mile 29.5 (after recent rains) that you could probably count on if you've had recent rains.
- The water tank a mile off-route from mile 78 was dry, though may get turned on later in the season.

Section 8 – Notes from 3rd week of April, 2009

- Snake Canyon coming into the Paria had a small clear trickling stream and an OK camp spot.

Section 9 – Notes from the 4th week of April, 2009

- This early in the year it's easy to find water on the Under the Rim trail because there is still runoff from snow. Many of the drainages had water. Year-round sources on the trailhead sign were Right Fork of Yellow Creek, Yellow Creek, and Sheep Creek Campsite.
- If the Under the Rim Trail gets too snowy or stormy near the end like it did for us, head up to Rainbow Point at 9100 feet and skip the last bit of the Under the Rim Trail, instead dropping down more quickly on the Riggs Spring Trail—it

gets you out of the wind much faster. There's a good spring at the point where Riggs Spring loop trail drops sharply off the rim at Yovimpa Pass. Riggs Spring on route was flowing and appears to be reliable.

- As Ryan Choi noted, you can continue SE on the road at mile 23.4 instead of turning, then take a left at the fork in one mile—this is what we did. We found a stock tank full of good water on top of this divide. We found good water at 27.9 where Bullrush Gorge turns to Bullrush Hollow. At 32.8 follow the two-track instead of the wash bottom, then at about 33.5 you'll find a cabin on the right side of the road at the base of the white cliffs at Calf Pasture Point, it had a full stock tank and flowing pipe. At around 43.5 turn left at a corral to go up a steep road to an unnamed spring at the end of the road, about a quarter mile. This is north of Kitchen Corral Spring shown on the topo map.
- There was no water in Buckskin Gulch as mentioned in the book.

Section 10 – Notes from 4th week of April, 2009

- The AZ trail gets lost in a large burn area for a few miles so just follow the park road. We got back on after camping by Crane Lake.

Section 11 – Notes from 1st week of May, 2009

- Concerning all Grand Canyon mileage: when we compared the mileage in the book to the Grand Canyon trail descriptions that came with our permit, the actual mileage is 10-25% more than what the book says. This may be true for many of the actual trail sections of the Hayduke (as opposed to wash-bottom sections or other parts that don't have switchbacks). Just be prepared for additional rugged mileage on top of what is in the book when planning.
- We found no water between Sourdough Well and Nankoweap Creek.
- There is a beautiful camp spot about 1/3 mile down river from the LCR – look for a flat spot guarded by big boulders and a couple of trees for shade just below the Beamer Trail. You'll have access to a calm eddy in the Colorado.
- The Beamer and Escalante trails are very rugged and slow going—just don't expect them to be like the more popular trails in the Grand Canyon.
- In addition to what the book says, there is also easy river access at mile 36.9 at the mouth of the Escalante River.
- There was no water from mile 39.7 until Hance Creek at 45.4, which was a good trickle.

Section 12 – Notes from 1st and 2nd week of May, 2009

- We found water at: Cottonwood Creek (m. 1.7), a spring (about m. 5.5), Grapevine (m. 6.6), and Lonetree (m. 14.9).
- There was no water from Lonetree Canyon to the top of the Kaibab trail going off-route for re-supply.
- There is good drinking water from a spigot at Cottonwood campground.
- Bright Angel Creek had plenty of water flowing.
- To get to the water at Roaring Springs you must hike down a steep trail (m. 31.2)
- There's a brand new faucet and drinking fountain installed on the trail at mile 33.6.

Section 13 – Notes from 3rd week of May, 2009

- The spring at m. 3.2 had water
- There was a good flow in Milk Creek at m. 7.8
- There was water at m. 14.3 at Kanabownits Spring
- River crossings and tough terrain make for slow miles along Tapeats Creek. Water was knee deep and very swift. Faster or deeper water would be too dangerous to cross.
- From Deer Creek to the mouth of Kanab Creek the boulder hopping is difficult, slow, and hot, but there is easy access to the Colorado to get wet and cool down.
- Between m. 42.8 – 44.3, stay down at river level to pass the first sandstone cliff, then follow the cairned route and good trail above the second one.
- There is good water up Kanab Creek to 1 mile north of Showerbath Spring.
- At m. 63.5 there is water 100 feet up the canyon on the left. However, the water is behind a big boulder you'd have to climb (a chalkstone).
- There is a one-mile stretch of water one mile above Chamberlain Canyon in Kanab Creek and it looks to be pretty reliable from the vegetation and fish near/in the creek.
- A sign posted at Willow Spring cautioned that the water was not for human consumption. We did not need to use any since Ryan Choi wrote that it was radioactive and highly alkali.
- Hack reservoir at the end of section 13 had plenty of (dank-looking) water. Access looked easiest on the north side.
- Yellowstone spring had water. Don't linger here because there were many no-see-ums (worst of the trip).

Section 14 – Notes from 4th week of May, 2009

- After leaving Short Creek it is dry to the East Fork of the Virgin River.
- When traveling east from Shunes Hollow, be careful of ATV trails (not on map) that may appear to be the one indicated on the Hayduke Trail. Double check the topo map, as the correct road on-route going NE is on a ridge and there were wilderness study area markers along the East side of this correct road.