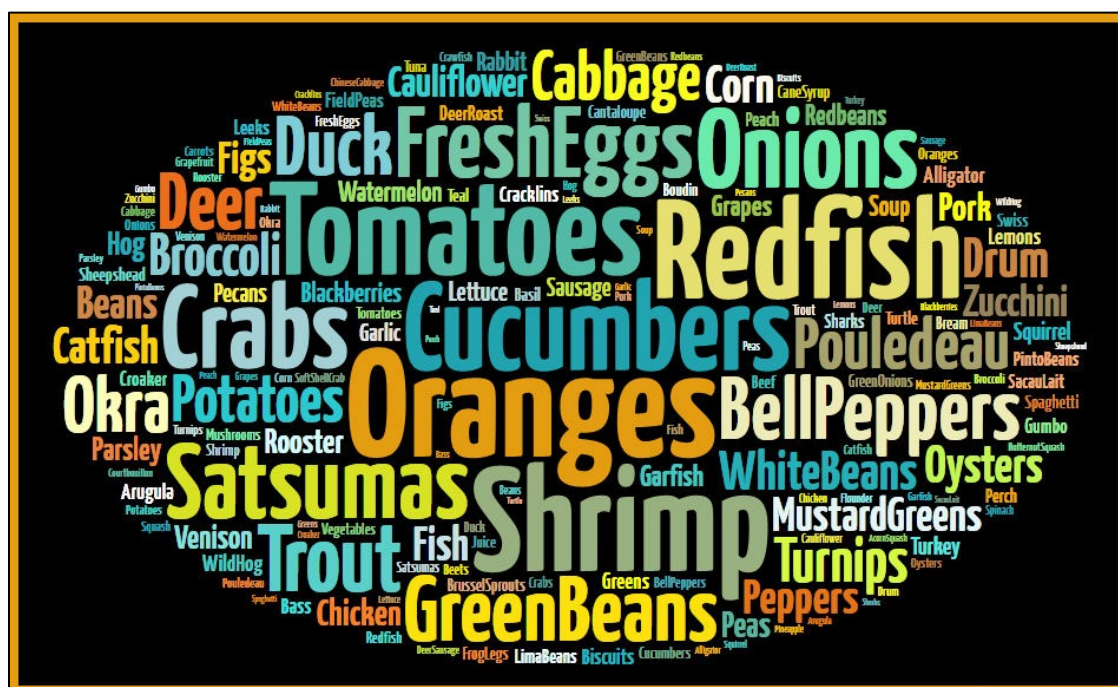


Subsistence in Coastal Louisiana

Volume 1, Appendix A: Camp Logs



Subsistence in Coastal Louisiana

Volume 1, Appendix A: Camp Logs

Authors

Helen Regis
Shana Walton

Prepared under BOEM Contract
M11AC0004
by
Helen A. Regis
Department of Anthropology and Geography
227 How-Russell-Kniffen Geoscience Complex
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

and

Shana Walton
Department of Languages and Literature
251 Peltier Hall
P.O. Box 2023
Nicholls State University
Thibodaux, LA 70310

Published by

**US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
New Orleans Office**

**New Orleans, LA
September 2022**

**CAMP LOG
BOOK 4**

**FROM 2/16/85
TO 1/18/87**

**PRODUCED THROUGH
THE AUSPICES OF**

5045

5045

CAMP LOG
BOOK 4

FEBRUARY 16, 1985

Night of SOYS Banquet. Annual SOYS Banquet very large success! Smoked duck, Chicken gumbo, potato salad, yams, shrimp dip, cheese cake cookies, pecan pie and other delicacies all enjoyed by all in attendance. Annual awards presented to:

1. Farrel Charpentier-Yeah, it's good, but it's not GoreTex Award.
2. John Pierce-Weird duck of the year award.
3. Rodney Doucet-Mr. Hospitality award.
4. Official Proclamation of Coon Assedness-
Charles "Doc" Potts

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR-1985---FARELL CHARPENTIER

APRIL 27, 1985

SOYS
INTERNATIONAL
INVITATIONAL

FIRST PLACE- 98% Farrell Charpentier
SECOND PLACE--76% John Pierce
THIRD PLACE--70% John Serigny
FOURTH PLACE--70% Karl Bouffanie
FIFTH PLACE--66% Charles "Doc" Potts
SIXTH PLACE--66% R J Plaisance
SEVENTH PLACE--52% Linton Charpentier
EIGHTH PLACE--46% Toolie Navarre
NINTH PLACE--38% Barry Breaux

APRIL 28, 1985

At camp for carpenter work on new camp. John S, Jimmy K, and Joe S.
Shrimp season fast approaching. We got the bunks done and some cleaning up. Lots of shrimp!

MAY 25, 1985

First weekend of shrimp season. At camp for weekend--Joe Serigny, John Serigny, Jimmy King and his new deckhand, Larry Fontenot. Expect John Pierce tomorrow.

Afternoon trawling. Jimmy and Larry got one drag of about an hour and got pretty near an ice chest of shrimp. The shrimp are mixed pretty well. Joe & John pulled for about 1/2 hour and got a nice mess of shrimp.

Supper was Duck & Onion and white beans. Very good! Coffee pot ready to go. The fans are going good. No price on the shrimp, though, 15 cents a lb. for 100 and over.

MAY 25, 1985

Saturday----Joe & John sold 1 barrel and 9 lbs of 77 count; they got \$76. Jimmy sent 3 ice chests home and sold a little over 100 lbs.

After a nice afternoon nap at the camp we hit the tract again. Both boats have about 1/2 barrel iced so far.

John Pierce arrived today. Fried shrimp & white beans for supper.

JUNE 1, 1985

Friday---At camp for a weekend of trawling. John & Joe S, Jimmy K. & Larry Fontenot.

Saturday---This morning's trawling was very profitable. John & Joe got 338 lbs. Jimmy sent 4 ice chests home.

This afternoon, however, was very poor in both tracts. Much less than yesterday.

JUNE 7, 1985

Friday---At camp for the weekend- John & Joe S, Jimmy K. and John P.

Afternoon trawling a dismal affair. Joe & John have about 3/4 of a champagne that they got in 2 drags of about 1 1/2 hours duration total.

Jimmy K & John P got a bit more with a good drag in Lake Lorier and a dismal one in Bayou Palourde.

Supper-Grilled Rib Eyes with Sauce a la Heinz and Patat Friet. Take that Charlotte Brown!

JUNE 8, 1985

Saturday---RAIN, GLORIOUS RAIN!!! Joe and John are having net trouble. They caught 157 lbs. Jimmy & John P caught 288 lbs and Joe is plain flustered.

Everybody else is catching stuff, but Joe isn't!!

Mr. Milton and Ms. Leona are here to get out of the weather.

It's really blowing out of the West. The breeze is a little cool. It may make things more liveable.

RAIN!! CITY!! BIG!! GRAMMA!!

Joe & John were ready to pack it in after this morning, but we've added some weight to the trawl and changed around the tickle chain and plan to stick it out.

9:00 PM (same day). Joe & John's net was working much better this afternoon. All the drags were 1/2 a basked or more.

Jimmy was a little seasick this morning so he laid off the beer this afternoon.

Tonight's supper was a sausage and crab ooh-yi-yi. (Guess what that is Charlotte.)

JUNE 16, 1985

Happy Father's day---Arrived yesterday (Saturday), John S, Joe S, Jimmy K, and John P. Hit shrimp in front tract. They're really nice.

Both boats over 200 lbs. Heading in.

Joe & John Worried about Merc.

JUNE 28, 1985

Friday Night---Here are John & Joe S. Two drags in Tract this afternoon got us about 1/2 an 80 qt. ice chest of shrimp.

We were right to worry about the Merc. It cost us a new powerhead. (about \$1,000). At least it wasn't a new engine.

Jimmy K's knee has kept him out of the action for this weekend and he says he's done for the season.

John has to study for a Computer exam on Monday. It's OK, I guess, we've done just about everything else at the camp why not study?

Supper tonight was hamburgers. Aply prepared by Joe Joe. Sorry, Charlotte! Expect Tee Gus & Milton to be out here trawling tomorrow. Hope the thunderstorms calm down some.

JUNE 29, 1985

Saturday---Joe & John sold 179 lbs. of 70-80 shrimp. Got caught in a front on the way to Leeville. By the time we got to the shed, it was time to put on the rain coats. Milton and Leona were around the camp when we got back they had goitten about a barrel. Did not see Tee-Gus.

Afternoon excursion was not a very successful one. The best drag of three was in the back tract and it was somewhat less than the 1/2 basket.

Shrimp seem nicer though, and more uniform. There are a lot of white shrimp mixed in and even they are larger in size now. The season is slowly grinding to a halt.

AUGUST 18, 1985

At camp for one day of fishing John S, Joe, Susan, Trisha & Marsha. Trisha caught all the fish.

Susan did catch 1 nice speck. Trisha caught mostly catfish, one nice croaker and one pompano.

White shrimp opens tomorrow.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1985

Here we go again! Teal season cometh. At camp with roseaux and palmettoes dangling: Jimmy King, John Serigny & Doc Potts.

Supper was sausage spaghetti & a bottle of Riunite. John did the spaghetti and Doc brought the wine. An unforgettable combination.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1985

Saturday---Tide very high in morning. About 2 feet over marsh. John & Doc forgot about the teal and tried marsh hen with no success. Wind out of ESE about 20.

Doc headed in about noon. John & Jimmy napped after building blind in John's pond. After the nap, we got Jimmy's blind started and put a few roseaux on Jimmy's old place and worked on making the old blind a two hole affair.

After the roseaux were planted, everyone (John & Jimmy) got to trawling. High line canal had a few silver eels in it but only one shrimp. The deep end of Forte Blanche had 4 nice white shrimp and a few crabs and croakers.

We tried fishing at the sunken clam shell dams with no luck.

We decided last night's sausage spaghetti was so good we had it for supper again tonight.

Outlook for hunting very dismal. Looks as though there will be fewer ducks than ever in history.

Didn't even try teal today. Too much water. Tried walking up rails and Doc Potts got one and lost another.

Plan on trying to work on getting the new camp ready for hunting season and bulk heading could be a very large job coming up.

Expect Joe Joe to come out next weekend to do a few odds & ends. Plan on trying fishing in the morning.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1985

Cloudy, showers, grey day. Very high tide, as yesterday. No hunting, no fishing, just going home at 8 AM.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1985

Arrived at camp for second week of teal season. John & Joe Serigny and much later Jimmy King & Larry Fontenot.

Sausage spaghetti for supper was okay.

Tide down to normal and temperature in high 70's day and 60's at night. Very nice weather. Hoping shrimping will be better this weekend. May even hunt Sunday.

Blind building is also on agenda. Boats looked like motorized islands on the way out yesterday they were so loaded. Also Joe will try to install new toilet for other camp. Could be a very productive weekend.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1985

Saturday morning--- John & Jimmy finished up 2 blinds and Joe & Larry caught a gallon of shrimp in the deep end of Forte Blanche. Next, we built Joe & Ed's blind and showed Larry around the blinds and a few other places.

A really beautiful day today. Temp. in mid-70's E wind about 15 mph. Very nice. Tide running normal to slightly above.

Around noon went out to get John P at Boudreaux's.

Supper tonight fried fish and white beans and rice.

ADDENDUM---Fish were biting late afternoon. We caught about 20 - 30 white trout and a few specks to go along with them and one large founder caught by Larry Fontenot.

Got John P's blind built this morning and expect to work on long paddle tomorrow.

Joe got the new toilet installed in the new camp with John P & John S's help.

Supper was a very enjoyable experience, but for some strange reason, we're running out of beer.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1985

Sunday---Long paddle blind completed-Rodney's mostly done.

Brought Jimmy K to John P's pond to survey the situation and Jimmy was rather exhilarated by our method of entry to the pond.

Joe worked on baseboards in the camp while blind building was going on.

Larry and Joe spent an unproductive morning fishing around the camp. Plan to return here next weekend to do a little painting in the new camp, and we may stab a few landscape timbers in the nonce.

OCTOBER 12, 1985

Saturday---Arrived at camp for an overnight excursion. John Serigny, Susan Serigny, Marsha & Trisha.

John changed a window pane on a window near his bunk-an interesting experience. We made a drag in the back tract and caught about 20 brazil shrimp. Then we went fishing in the Bay Du Cayman and caught about 18 fish. Mostly specs and a couple of white trout were mixed in.

Drizzle started so we retired after trying at Brady's fence. Back to the camp and John did a little plastic pipe plumbing.

John Tried to nail a few slats on the ceiling, but Trisha had started fishing and caught a white trout. Naturally Susan joined her. In between unhooking catfish from their lines and helping Trisha with a huge flounder John worked a little on the slats and cooked chicken, lima beans, & tomato sauce for supper.

We will be sleeping in the new camp tonight. The first of what we hope will be many enjoyable nights in our new facility.

Susan and Trisha caught about 15 fish from the warf-all white trout except for Trisha's flounder. Trisha's instinct is credited with trying to fish.

They caught them on shrimp on the bottom with yellow and white shad rigs.

Tide is about normal. Warm with E wind and cloudy in the evening.

NOVEMBER 16, 1985

Saturday---At camp Joe & John Serigny & Pappy Shipp. Hurricane Juan really put a hurtin' on us a few weeks ago. About 8" of water in the camp and mud galore. We lost 2 of the lower bunk mattresses in the old camp and the linoleum on the kitchen floor and the carpeting in the sleeping area. We were able to save the stuff we had stored under the sofa, but lost the paneling that was nailed there and now we have no more hidey hole.

Last weekend Joe & John cleaned up and replaced the front wharf which was lost. The other two wharfs were lost as well. We plan on replacing one of them tomorrow.

Joe & Pappy fished while John was working on repairing his blind. They caught 8 really nice specks and a couple of rat reds and Pappy caught a red that went close to 10 lbs.

Ra Ta Tat patat really went good tonight. The only bad thing was we had no rice.

Weather is warm in 80's with SW wind at about 10-15 mph.

Today we put sheathing over Juan's 2X12's in the kitchen area and the place looks really nice. Some paint will help things out a lot. At least the place is now livable.

Last weekend the fish were really here. Joe & John caught 80 specks in about 2 hours Sunday morning fishing in the marsh on Tee Gus's lease.

Last weekend we slept in the new camp and plan to do so tonight as well. The place is definately habitable. Really comfortable.

Hunting season opens next weekend, but we saw no ducks around here today. We did see 5 geese flying at a pretty good altitude though. Looked & sounded like speckle bellies.

Hurricane Kate is churning up the Atlantic Ocean E of the Bahamas.

NOVEMBER 23, 1985

Saturday afternoon---OPENING DAY OF FIRST SPLIT OF DUCK SEASON. Arrived at camp before noon today. Yes, no one hunted today from the camp. The first time I can remember in 15 years.

Joe Serigny and John Serigny at the camp alone. Worked on the bulkhead and then on the inside of the new camp. John went out to set his decoys for the hunt tomorrow. Joe decided to jump the weir in his pirogue and try fishing. He got 6 nice reds about 3 lbs each. When John returned, he set about working on the new camp's toilet drain. The gnats liked to ran him crazy, but he got everything re-hooked.(from the damage cause by the storm) We really dodged a bullet on Kate during the week. It was a blessing she hit the Florida panhandle and left us alone. John did make a run Wednesday afternoon to get the pirogues just in case anyway.

Last Sunday we discovered a dead racoon in our cistern. We dumped it and cleaned it out and now have to work on the foundation to level it off. A real mess! Today John shot a coon that had crawled into a hole in the wall on the outside of the camp above the porch. When he came out, John shot him.

We watched the LSU-Notre Dame game or at least the second half of it and LSU put it on the Irish 10-7.

We will be sleeping in the new camp tonight again. We haven't slept in the old camp since Brazil season.

Weather is very nice--highs in the high 70's lots of sun, lots of gnats. I don't know why, but this time of the year surely brings those little buggers in strong. Tide is running about even. Falling all day. Higher in the morning.

The storm chased Pappy Shipp back to Texas, but not before he caught quite a few fish. He said he's coming back in December or January.

At this writing, we're listening to Tulane play Southern Mississippi. The Pic is going strong to keep the bugs down.

NOVEMBER 24, 1985

Sunday Morning---Partly Cloudy ENE wind about 10. Threatening rain by noon.

Hunting--John Serigny 2 teal, 1 bec see. Stopped about 7:30. Joe caught 4 rat reds across dam.

A fishing excursion to Bayou Cayman got us about 10 specs and 1 more rat red.

Tide falling all morning lowest point about 6" below normal.

NOVEMBER 25, 1985

NOVEMBER 25, 1985

Arrived at camp for 2 days of fishing and hunting John, Susan, Trisha and Marsha Serigny. Also Rickey Jackson on lend-lease from his mom. Today is the day Bum Philips rode off into the sunset.

Arrived at camp around 12 noon today and Rickey immediately caught the first fish, a speck off the warf. He caught another one later.

We went fishing in the pass to the tract and caught nothing.

We tried at the fence and got nothing again. We went to the little island spot and caught 4 or 5 more specks. Marsha caught the biggest one, naturally. The rain chased us back to the camp.

We hung around here till things cleared up and went out to set decoys and do some fishing, no luck. When we got back, Rickey caught another speck. Susan & Rickey caught various assorted and sundry trash fish before dark.

McSerigny burgers for supper were OK.

NOVEMBER 26, 1985

MORNING HUNT---Rickey & John S-ZIP... Saw a few flying though. Not too many shaking around the pond. Fishing around camp. Rickey got one flounder. We stopped at the Pass & the fence, ZIP. Bay Cayman about 5 or 6 fish, small ones mostly. At Brady's fence Rickey got a little rat red.

Came back to the camp for lunch.

Very muggy and warm today. S wind 10 to 15 mph. Tide falling hard all day.

NOVEMBER 27, 1985

Wednesday morning---Morning hunt---Rickey Jackson, 3 pintails found 2. John S- ZIP. Marsha Sue caught a jelly fish on her hook.

NOVEMBER 29, 1985

Friday evening---At camp-John Serigny, Chris Bowman. Got out early enough to set decoys this afternoon and saw 3 dosgris in John's pond when we went out to set them.

Supper was an omet with potatoes & onions.

NOVEMBER 30, 1985

Saturday---Weather cloudy in morning; wind started out NE switched to E & ESE later in the day. Tide very much above normal, made sitting in the pirogue a difficult proposition.

Joe & Jimmy arrived at the camp around 10: AM. We got started soon after on the cistern foundation and got it finished and made another run on the bulkhead sill.

The afternoon was a very enjoyable leisure time excursion. Chris & John stayed on to watch TV and Joe & Jimmy went fishing.

Chris Bowman got one Dogris this morning. John S. ZIP.

Jimmy & Joe's fishing excursion got them over a dozen nice trout; they released a few more that were too small.

Expecting the first cold front in a long while tomorrow. Expect rain tomorrow morning. Today in the low 80's; sunny in afternoon. Come on winter!

DECEMBER 1, 1985

Sunday---Mild slight SE wind changing to W during morning.

Morning hunt John S- 1 teal, 1 grey, Chris Bowman- 1 grey. Joe & Jimmy caught about 10 specks on their sojourn to the back.

Next week.

DECEMBER 7, 1984

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOBBY & DEBBIE DELAUNE.

Arrived at camp around 10 PM today. John S, Joe S, & John P. A few minutes later Pappy Shipp got here fishing his way down the canal. Pappy's been here since Tuesday and has caught very few fish.

We repositioned the cistern on the foundation and braced the sides of it so it wouldn't bulge too badly.

John P & John S rebuilt John P's blind and built a warf while Pappy & Joe went fishing. They got 4 reds and 7 or 8 really nice specks.

On the way back from building John's blind about 40 or 50 dogris got up out of John S's blind.

Supper was really great left-over chili and smoked duck from John P's supper of last night.

Today was really nice. Started out about 38° and worked up to the 60's. Tomorrow warmer. Too cool for gnats tonight, but real great for humans. Should get down to the 50's tonight. Tide running slightly below normal and the day is very clear.

Pappy has returned so he could get in some fishing before Christmas holidays. LSU is putting it to East Carolina 21-6 at half. Everyone went to bed early except John S.

Oh, yes. Today was Saturday. Tomorrow-fishing.

DECEMBER 8, 1985

Sunday---Warmer-gnats!!!

Morning fishing John S & John P 9 nice specks on sparkle beetles. Pappy & Joe got their share, too.

Going in. Hope to be here Friday next week.

DECEMBER 13, 1985

Friday---Hey, I made it. Jimmy King and John S here. The only true-blue duck hunters in the area. Oh, yeah. Taffy says hi, too.

Sausage spaghetti was really good tonight. The creme filled doughnuts were good, too. A more than adequate repast.

Really cold this weekend. Expecting low thirties tomorrow and even colder on Sunday. No chance of snow, though.

DECEMBER 14, 1985

Saturday---COLD!!! Thirty-eight degrees wind from NW at 25 to 30. A real bear. John S-1 dogris, Jimmy K-3 dogs in John's pond. Tide falling hard all day. Clouds this morning gave way to clear skies. Very clear tomorrow and it'll be really nippy in the morning.

Pappy and Joe Joe arrived around 9 AM and came to the blind to check on John & Jimmy and then they went fishing with no results. Pappy's been catching a lot of fish during the week in the canals up front. Nice specks and some reds.

We expect the wind to slow some tomorrow and maybe the cold won't be as noticeable. We know it won't snow.

Bears & Jets on TV this afternoon as nap time approaches.

We also built some really nice steps on the new camp's warf before Joe left with Pappy. They're not staying out here tonight.

Afternoon nap went well. Cooking chicken with lima beans for supper. Limas courtesy of Jimmy King's garden.

After supper the temperature got down to 32 degrees at about 7:40 PM.

Jimmy K made a sojourn to the ponds to check out the situation and found nothing there.

Not too sure when I will return. Next Friday looks doubtful.

Sunday Morning John S & Jimmy K 10 ducks- 9 dogris, 1 pintail. XIV. Cold, clear, wind to NE.

DECEMBER 21, 1985

Saturday---First day of Christmas Holidays. Morning hunt on the chilly side, Temp 38 degrees, but sunny & clear. Ducks all flying very high up this morning.

John S-2 pintails, 1 dogris, John P 1 dogris. When we got everything cleaned up Joe Joe arrived with some lumber he found up front on the Bay Batiste pipeline. We added a few boards to the new warf on the new camp and started on the bulkheading around the W side of the camp. It'll take some lumber, but we'll see how far we can get with the bulkheading.

Afternoon fishing excursion got 3 rat reds by John S. Joe caught nothing and John P caught rocks and fences & banks & bottoms.

DECEMBER 27, 1985

Friday---Arrived at camp for a one nighter. John & Susan Marsha & Trisha S. Tried fishing, no luck. Marsha Sue caught one nice speck at the broken dam. People there were catching them on something called a chartruese Hot Spot. Never heard of it before. We got a few oysters and set out decoys.

Trisha helped with the decoys.

Tide lower than anytime since hunting season started, but it'll be going up tomorrow as the wind in SE. Fished at the pass to the tract, but no luck.

DECEMBER 28, 1985

Saturday---Trisha & John S got up early to go duck hunting. Rain on & off today. Trisha and John S got 4 ducks in John's pong and Trisha got wet, a little. Three dogris and 1 teal this morning. Looked like good weather. The water was higher by about a foot or so. Very cloudy. SW wind very light and varying. Will probably shift to N when little front goes by. Cooler tomorrow morning.

Arrived at camp. John P & Joe Serigny. John P arrived in Jimmy's boat. John dropped off the girls at the boat launch and got Joe S.

Ducks flying big all morning. It really go our fever up so we decided to hunt this afternoon. Naturally, it seems the ducks have stopped flying. Saturday afternoon hunt. John S & Joe S 4 dogris, 4 grey ducks. John P ZIP-(didn't shoot).

Taffy earned her supper with retrieves on 2 cripples in the grass. She got both of them.

DECEMBER 29, 1985

Sunday Morning---Hunt- John S & Joe S 2 dogs, 1 teal, 1 grey. John P-ZIPPO.
Heading in.

DECEMBER 30, 1985

Monday--Arrived at camp for one night stand. John S, Ron Briscoe, Roy Autin, Mark Breaux. Weather very nice. Sunny, clear, E wind about 10. Tide below normal during the day, rising at night. Temp in the 60's during day. Cool in morning.

Mark & Magoo are hunting in Rodney's blind this afternoon.

Venison spaghetti for supper tonight.

Mark & Magoo's afternoon hunt--1 male French, 1 male Pintail.

DECEMBER 31, 1985

Tuesday--- Morning hunt- Magoo & Mark Breaux limited out (Mark 5 teal-Magoo 5 widgeon).

John S-3 ducks--1 pin, 1 zin zin, 1 dosgris.

JANUARY 3, 1986

Friday---Arrived at camp for weekend of hunting. John P, John S; no one else on deck so I guess this is it. Set decoys, but nothing 's flying anywhere. Supper is an exceptional oyster soup concocted by John S. We ate so much we were in severe pain after supper.

Noticed that someone spent a night out here. Dirty dishes and blankets out of place. Everything was still here, though except for a can of WD 40 we noticed missing. Looks like they boiled a few crabs for their supper. The new camp smelled like a boiled crab. No matter, hospitality is our middle name. Weather cool & clear with ENE wind 10-15.

JANUARY 4, 1986

Saturday---Weather changing. Rain & fog this morning. Few ducks flying at all. John S 3 dosgris, John P 2 dosgris. Came back to camp and breasted out the birds for supper.

Wind light and variable, intermittent rain at times very heavy. Fog & mist mixed in with rain. This is definately what people would call duck weather; however, there is nothing flying. Visibility down to less than 1/2 mile. At least the cistern is acquiring a load during this mess. Plan to watch football this afternoon.

The afternoon's activities were limited to a really nice afternoon nap and a couple of entertaining football games. The rain lasted all afternoon and kept us confined. Hope more ducks are flying tomorrow. Miami and Los Angeles won today.

We were able to stick a few planks for the bulkhead after the rain stopped.

Supper was a really great dosgris breast stew dreamed up by John P. Taffy liked it, too.

JANUARY 5, 1986

JANUARY 5, 1986

Weather changed radically over night; it's 38° this morning. Wind due N at about 20-- gusts higher. Tide normal or above.

Doggris flying the tracts. John S-1 dog, 1 grey, 1 pintail. John P--3 dogs.

Got really chilly before we got back from hunting. One more weekend left. Hope to return next week.

JANUARY 10, 1986

Friday---Rainy - Cool, in the 40's. At camp--John S & Jim K & Rodney & Doc Potts. Just like old times before the flood.

Hope the hunting's good tomorrow. Rodney's new boat is here, too. Expect Joe Joe tomorrow too.

JANUARY 12, 1986

Saturday---Morning hunt. Everyone got limits this morning. John & Jimmy 10 dogs XIX. Rodney & Doc Potts 10 dogs in Rodney's pond.

Cold this morning. Temp 38 degrees when we left, but the sun came up big & bright and the temperature has climbed into the mid-50's since sun up. Expecting 60's for tomorrow. Tide started out high and has worked down to about 1' below normal during the day.

Tee Gus & Shannon Jr. swung by the camp on the way in this morning. They had done well, too. Joe Joe declined to make the trip this weekend, and we wonder what's up with him. Maybe he can't take the cold.

Doc Potts had to go home so Rodney & John ran him in to Leeville while Jimmy watched the camp. We tried the Goat Island hunt club route and it seems to retain enough water to let us by even in a pretty low tide.

Planning on hunting this afternoon, but not sure where we'll hunt.

Everybody has hit the sack this afternoon except this writer who doesn't really feel sleepy.

ADDENDUM---Arrived at camp about 3:30--Tee Gus & Shannon Doucet Jr. Rodney had just left to go hunting.

Tee Gus stayed to the camp to cook supper and John, Jimmy, and Shannon Jr. went hunting. Shannon Jr. forgot his beedon and had to paddle from John P's blind to the boat to get his beedon. The only problem was his beedon was at the camp. So Jimmy loaned him a box of shells to make the hunt.

Rodney got 3 spoonies, John & Jimmy got 3 dogs, Shannon Jr. Killed time. Gus did an admirable job on the potato stew & gizzards and hearts. An exceptional meal.

END HUNTING SEASON
1985-86

REPORT ON OFF-SEASON ACTIVITIES:

4/18/86 BY: JOHN SERIGNY

SOYS BANQUET

SOYS banquet a huge success! Isn't that right Charlotte Brown?
Named Sportsman of the year for 1986--Charles "Doc" Potts.

Of course there was other foolishness abounding, but let's not discuss the gorey details. Looking forward to next year's fiasco.

SOYS INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL
1986

Also, the SOYS INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL skeet shoot was held this year at the beautiful confines of Rodney Doucet's stately abode. The results:

8th--Barry Braud. . . . 30%
7th--John Pierce. . . . 48% (84 runner-up)
6th--Billy Potts. . . . 48%
5th--Rickey Jackson . . 50%
4th--Rodney Doucet. . . 54%
3th--"Doc" Potts. . . . 62%
2nd--Farrell Charpentier. .84% (84 & 85 champ)

and 1st place with 88% John J. Serigny

The day was a very enjoyable one despite the rain which threatened to wash out the festivities. It was expecially enjoyable to this writer because of the outcome, although the help was sincerely appreciated.

MAY 10, 1986

Saturday---Came to camp to work on bulkheading. John S, Joe S, John Pierce. Nice day, sunny bright, very warm, in low 80's. We drove 15 boards, all we can carry in the boat and worked on Jimmy K's warf. Plan to return for the up-coming weekend to get more work done.

ADDENDUM---After we left the camp, we went to the weir to throw a cast net for shrimp. We tried on the right side of the weir and caught nothing there. We tried on the left side and Dad caught seven shrimp with the first cast. Then he caught 12, then more. Then he made a throw that had 28 in it.

Naturally, we started throwing in earnest. Joe, John, & John P all took their turns at the net, and when we quit there was half of a 30 qt. ice chest of nice shrimp in the boat. We also got some real humdingers of sun burns.

With all the shrimp around there probably will be no price at all for the little buggers. Well, whatever will be will be. We'll find out in a few days.

We are returning next weekend and will try the cast net again.

MAY 17, 1986

Saturday---Cloudy, Wind SE 10-15 MPH. At camp Doc & Billy Potts, John & Joe Serigny, Jimmy King. We sunk about 12 feet of creosote boards on the bulkhead and set up Jimmy K's warf and tie piling. Almost went swimming in the process, too.

Tried the cast net. No luck. Caught 2 shrimp. Going in early. Monday the season starts.

MAY 23, 1986

At camp for opening of trawling season: John & Joe Serigny, Jimmy King & Larry Fontenot & Rickey & Mr. Mitchell. Trawled in tracts in afternoon. They ain't too many, but they're small.

MAY 24, 1986

Saturday---Morning expedition on dismal side. Only 1 80qt. ice chest caught. Decided to head home and not burn more gas. Afternoon arrived at camp: Rachel, Richard & Charlotte Mitchell with Jan, Rodney & Dallas Doucet. They made an afternoon drag and got sunburned.

Heading home.

JUNE 14, 1986

Saturday---At camp John & Joe Serigny. Tried the front tract about 1 and a half gallons of shrimp and they were small too. Went to Lake Laurier and were trawling when we noticed people waving at us. We pulled about 20 minutes and had about 2 gallons of shrimp. We checked out the people and found that they were broke down. We towed their boat to the little dump on the road near Ray's camp and ran some of them to Bon Voyage Marina.

Turns out the leader of the gang was a guy named Rusty Bouquet, a New Orleans cop, no less. He gave me his phone number in NO & his work phone & said if we're ever in trouble in NO to give him a buzz. Nice guy. We tried one more drag in Lake Palourde. Less than 1 gallon. Looks really shitty. The worst in recent memory.

We'll need the fan tonight. It is really calm out here.

A big squall came through this afternoon about 2:00 PM. Those 3 guys were out by the dam in Laurier in their boat riding it out. We were at the camp nice and comfy.

It's not too hot tonight. The fan's going, but the rain all afternoon kept the place from sweltering. Supper was an especially nice repast of grilled rib eyes and patat friet. Very sumptuous indeed!

Last weekend Jimmy & John P came and milked the front tract for 2 ice chests. No one else came. The weekend before Joe & John came out and got an 80 qt and part of a 60 qt. Enough to take the cob webs out of the freezer. I really enjoy using Rodney's boat stall. Far out!

JUNE 20, 1986

At camp for weekend: John & Joe S, Jimmy & John Pierce. Friday afternoon excursion in Lake Laurier very gloomy. Joe & John in 1 and a half hours about 1/2 champagne.

It's very disheartening. John & Jimmy got many fish, but darned few shrimp.

JUNE 21, 1986

Sold after a morning of trawling in Laurier. Joe & John \$107. Jimmy K & John \$86.

Afternoon excursion in Forte Blanche by Joe & John pretty good. Loaded a 60 qt and got 1/2 a 60 qt more.

Jimmy & John P tried Bay Batiste a few shrimp-very much trash. Then they hit Laurier. Ended up with about a 48 qt all together. Squalls have abounded and the heat is really bad. Imagine trying to take a nap while the thermometer reads 90 degrees in the camp.

JUNE 28, 1986

Saturday---Arrived at camp for 1 night stand. Joe & John Serigny. Larry Fontenot & Jimmy King arrived early and trawled in various places and caught a 48 qt ice chest.

Joe & John made a drag in Forte Blanche and caught very little. Everyone got chased back to the camp by a bad-assed looking thunder storm that didn't really didn't do anything. It really looked bad for a while, though.

Steaks for supper, Charlotte.

AUGUST 17, 1986

Sunday---At camp: John S. Jimmy King and John Pierce. Arrived about 11:30 and worked on spreading dirt. Yup, that's right, dirt. About a month ago the LL&E dredge was here and did a nice job of loading our bulkhead with spoil. Today we spread the piles around to where they were really needed.

Finished our chore around 1 PM and relaxed the rest of the afternoon away. Or as best we could with the heat.

Made a little test in front tract--4 shrimp and none in the back tract.

Supper tonight is chicken in lima beans with tomato sauce. An exceptionally well-prepared repast.

We're here to try our hand at trawling for August season tomorrow morning.

AUGUST 18, 1986

Monday---Opening morning of trawling season for white shrimp.

Very dismal affair. One drag in deep end of Forte Bloanceh got a crab box & about 30 shrimp. The other end of Forte Blanche had 39 shrimp we discovered after we got the crab trap out of the wheel. Bay Laurier had 19 shrimp in about 50 minutes. Squalls abound and we're packing up to head in to the house.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1986

Sunday---At camp: John & Susan Serigny, with Trisha and Marsha Too. A little fishing expedition. Tried a drag in back track about a half hour; caught no shrimp. Tide lower than last weekend. Susan catching fish. Lots of specks. We got over 20 for sure & 1 rat red too. John caught the red.

Cooler. A front has come through believe it or not. Saints are being beaten by Falcons on radio right now. Hope to return to next weekend.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1986

Friday---Here for first weekend of Teal season. Only John S & Jimmy King. No one else was interested. What a bunch of Wussies.

Arrived at camp about 6 PM with a load and a half of roseaux & palmettoes and all kinds of other shit, excuse me, Charlotte, stuff.

No teal in Jimmy's blind or anywhere else. We plan to do a few roseaux tomorrow.

Very warm tonight. The generator is going great guns, though, and the fans feel really good.

Jambalaya for supper and Jimmy says he's really hungry. Stand back!

SEPTEMBER 20, 1986

Saturday---Very weird weather today. Squalls abounded. Very warm. Breezes peopped up from different directions according to where the squalls were coming from.

John & Jimmy hunted in the flat next to the power lines. John knocked down a teal and lost it in the grass. We saw quite a few bunches, though. A squall came through and got us soaked to the skin because neither of us had thought to bring our raincoats.

We built John's blind and the blind next to the power lines and Rodney's blind. Decided to go fishing very late. Caught 7 specks at the little Island and 2 at the fence. Came back to the camp for supper and were visited by Billy Potts.

Listening to LSU right now loosing to Miami of Ohio 14-3.

Tide very high. Wind Mostly S switching to SE at times and SW at times and much lightening and thunder and drizzle and rain.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

Friday---Arrived at camp for the second weekend of teal season: John Pierce, Jimmy King, John Serigny. Hamburgers for supper. Barbequed on the back porch on the portable grill.

The generator is going good and we're sitting here talking about taxes and various other assorted and sundry topics.

The wind is ripping out of the E. It will be really nice to sleep tonight.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1986

SEPTEMBER 27, 1986

Saturday---A good night's sleep despite some rain. John & John P went hunting and didn't fire a shot. Went to the front to get Joe at about 9:30. Built Ed's blind for John P, finished the long paddle, and built a new blind on the mud flat.

Billy Potts and a fishing buddy showed up to go fishing while we built the blind on the teal flat.

Joe Joe went fishing and caught about 15 fish. We returned to the camp to eat lunch and get a little nap and went fishing again. We got 6 more fish. John S caught 3 and Jimmy K caught 3. One of the specks Jimmy caught went 2 and a half lbs. Nice breeze from E & SE about 10-12. Hot & sunny in the 90's. Tide fluctuation better than last weekend. It must be 1 and a half feet between high & low.

Very enjoyable weekend. Last weekend John & Jimmy caught 33 specks Sunday morning.

OCTOBER 4, 1986

At camp for overnigher: John & Susan Serigny with Marsha & Trisha; Jimmy King & Ann with Amy & Anna. Very warm. Wind from S about 15, at least the breeze is nice. Tide falling all morning, but fish aren't biting well. A mid-day fishing excursion got 3 fish. Came back to camp to take naps and for the kids to swim and they really enjoyed themselves. Very clear, very hot. It could be rough sleeping here tonight.

Afternoon fishing trip was a dismal affair. Trisha got a rat red & Susan got a speck and lost a rat red next to the boat. Hamburgers for supper.

NOVEMBER 1, 1986

At camp for overnight: John S, Joe S, & Jimmy King. Arrived at 11:00 AM and set to work. Re ran the drain line for the old toilet. Fixed a shutter hinge or two and ran some clam shells. Joe & Jimmy went fishing and caught a few fish. The weather is really weird. Wind is out ENE at 10 to 15 and it's been cloudy all day. It's 65 degrees this evening and it sure is nice for sleeping. It is great to see it like this after all the warm weather we've had lately.

Supper was chicken and smoked sausage spaghetti. The fishing has been weak. Jimmy K & I were sitting on the steps and saw 8 pintails flying around. It was worth the trip just for that.

NOVEMBER 15, 1986

Saturday---Had the coldest weather of the year this week, but it's gone now that we're at the camp. Here: John, Susan, Trisha, and Marsha Sue on a fishing trip.

Put out John S's pirogue and checked on Joe's little plastic boat. A-OK. Morning started out cloudy and cool and ended up sunny & warm. We tried the marsh and got nothing and went down to the broken dams and started catching fish. We got over 20 specks there. When we came back to the camp to fix supper, Susan sat down on Rodney's chair and caught 2 specks. In the 60's tonight and 70's tomorrow. Marsha Sue's Mr. Fishworld lives on.

Supper was grilled Rib Eye Steaks. How about that, Charlotte?

Next week hunting season begins!

NOVEMBER 16, 1986

Hey, I finally remembered to make a Sunday entry. How bout that?

We got up early this morning and Trisha and Susan caught a few fish around the camp.

We went into the marsh after breakfast and caught a couple of specks at the little Island and Bay Cayman and the big pass up front. About 9:30 things shut down and we're heading in.

Marsha's Mr. Fishworld bit the bullet this morning, but she immediately got a fresh one. Mr. Fishworld II, from the minnow trap.

The sun is out and very warm. Today will be in the 70's. Tide doesn't seem to be falling as hard today.

Everyone caught fish today Marsha got 3 and Trisha got so many she stopped counting at 5. We must have close to 40 fish.

NEXT WEEKEND HUNTING!!

NOVEMBER 22, 1986

Saturday---Opening of duck season is here again. At camp for this scintillating event: John Serigny, who had to load the new stove by himself Friday afternoon) Rodney Doucet, (who wasn't there to help John load the stove Friday afternoon) Jimmy King, and John Pierce. This morning a run to Leeville netted Louis LaHare for one night over.

This morning's hunt was a rather dismal affair: John, John & Jimmy-ZIP, Rodney got one hooded merganser. John P hunted Ed's old blind. John & Jimmy hunted the new blind in the flat next to TEE Gus's fence.

Weather today on the grim side for ducks. It started off okay with clouds & E wind. The clouds burned off, though and the sun was shining before too very long. Very nice weather for people. Low 70's, but very windy from the SE right now.

We installed the new apartment stove today. Rodney got the thing on a good second hand deal from a place in Nawlins.

We also replaced some rubber hose with like new one under the camp. Everything seems to be working correctly. We still need to check if the griddle works correctly on this new one. The major factor is that we can now have bisquits for breakfast. Jimmy King is all smiles. Another good thing is that we can cook without worrying about getting blown to kingdom come.

No fishing today, friend, everybody except John S tried to take a nap. John, meanwhile painted window frames and mixed grey paint for a future date with the floor.

NOVEMBER 24, 1986

Monday---Arrived at camp about noon. John & Susan & Marsha and Trisha along with Rickey Jackson. After lunch and setting the minnow trap, Susan caught a couple of specks around the camp.

With a load of minnows John & Rickey set decoys at John's pond. Then we went fishing at the fence and Rickey caught a nice red and missed a bigger one.

The island only got us one fish and at Bay Du Cayman we ran into them and caught 22 specks, 2 more rat reds, and a nice flounder. Back at the camp we found Rodney and Jan Doucet with their boys were here.

Jan cooked Lasagna for supper. Yes, you heard right, Charlotte, Lasagna! While Jan was cooking, we had a few die-hard fishermen going after it hot & heavy. Susan caught 2 more specks and a flounder and Rickey got a keeper speck.

The weather was socked in overcast today in the low 70's with SSE wind; the tide is running above the normal setting-high in the morning and falling all day.

Rodney forgot all his clothes, but remembered to bring his wife & kids.

One of Susan's specks was a very large one and Rickey caught all the reds.

NOVEMBER 25, 1986

Tuesday---Morning very windy and rainy. High lightening abounds. We had to shut down the hunting after a few minutes and were back at the camp by 7:30. After the rain subsided, everybody got out to go fishing. So far they've caught 3 or so specks and one rat red.

Lunch is coming. Hot dogs & chili. Wind has changed around to the WSW. It's cooler.

After lunch we went down to the broken dam and caught 20 or so specks. The rain chased us back to the camp around 3:30. After some coffee, we went to Bayou Cayman, and John caught a really nice red around 5 lbs. It was bigger when he hooked it, but it got smaller when Rodney finally netted it.

Rodney caught one little speck at the little island and broke Jan's new graphite \$23 rod. The two fish were the only ones for the trip to the back. John got out of the boat at the camp and Rickey, Rodney, & Susan went to the broken dam again and caught 7 specks and another rat red.

Supper tonight was baked chicken and sweet potatoes and macaroni and cheese. (We sometimes like a little diversity in our meals, Charlotte.) We hope we get a shot at some ducks tomorrow for a change.

NOVEMBER 26, 1986

Wednesday---Morning hunt-John Serigny & Rickey Jackson ZIP in John's Pond. Rodney got 1 teal in his pond.

While hunting was going on, Susan caught 2 rat reds near the camp cut. Sunny & clear, mid 70's. Tide falling serious. WSW wind lb & variable.

Total catch for 2 days 62 specks, 8 rat reds, and 3 flounders.

NOVEMBER 28, 1986

Arrived at camp about noon. John Serigny, Jimmy King, Chris Bowman. About an hour later doc Potts showed up.

Chris Bowman decided to hunt so John & Jimmy & Doc set decoys & fished before night fell.

The weather is beautiful! Temperature in mid to low 50's, wind from NNE at about 20 gusts higher. Cloudy with intermittent drizzle. The weather is really great. The best! We love it!

Chris Bowman got some shots at some ducks, but got nothing. John & Jimmy had no bites at all this afternoon.

When John & Jimmy returned from fishing Rodney Doucet and Farrell Charpentier were already at the camp. Looks like old home week or something.

Supper was a sumptuous repast of chicken gumbo & rice, dirty rice, brown & serve rolls and sausage spaghetti.

We stayed up until 10 PM drinking beer and talking. Jimmy did go to bed at 7:30, but he couldn't rest because Rodney was trying to steal the battery out of his lantern.

The NE wind has the tide way up over the marsh and the problem is how to keep the pirogue dry in the blind. Doc Potts had a unique solution. He put a tire in the blind and it supported his pirogue enough to allow him to hunt for an hour or so in Pierce's blind.

NOVEMBER 29, 1986

Saturday---Morning hunt-Rodney & Farrell ZIP, ditto for John & Jimmy & Chris Bowman. Doc Potts got 1 hooded merganser in John Pierce's blind.

The weather was wonderful, fantastic, superb. Of course with no ducks everybody was plumb disgusted. Rain, very light, clouds, mist, low visibility and the therperature in the low 60's. It was wonderful to be out here even though we got no ducks. Almost everybody went home today. Chris Bowman is in Tiger stadium even as we write this. Farrell & Rodney had a wedding this afternoon and Doc Potts is going out to Martin's camp for this evening.

This afternoon's weather was not conducive to fishing so Jimmy and John decided to spend the afternoon in the camp. To tell the truth, even had the sun been shining John would've spent the afternoon in the camp. John listened to the Georgia-Georgia Tech game and Alabama-Auburn and now John & Jimmy are listening to LSU-Tulane.

Jimmy spent the afternoon in the new camp-sleeping his life away. John took a nap, too!

Later John did some KP and put up Joe Joe's signs and then did some measurements on the projected shelves.

Jimmy & John are out here alone. It's very unusual. A Saturday and not a fisherman around even.

DECEMBER 19, 1986

Friday Night---At camp: John Serigny, John Pierce, & Jimmy King. Arrived fairly early and John & John made a run to check out the pirogues.

Everything looked okay. Whoever got Milton left us alone. The only thing is there aren't any ducks. We didn't see a thing.

John Pierce did an exceptional job on an Italian spaghetti sauce and the garlic bread went down really good!

DECEMBER 20, 1986

Saturday---Opening of second split saw no more success than in the first. Everyone scratched this morning, and it wasn't because of gnats. John & John were successful in knocking a duck down, but were unsuccessful in finding them.

A few more birds in the air than there were in the first split. Still there isn't much.

The day is partly cloudy, but mostly sunny; Temp started out at 47 degrees this morning, but the sun has warmed things up some. Tide is falling to below normal.

Jimmy K headed to the house after the hunt and the two Johns are all alone out here. Jan P's chili went down really good for lunch today. We're watching football now, but we may try fishing if the minnows cooperate.

DECEMBER 21, 1986

Sunday---Morning hunt: John P, 1 greenwingdrake, John S-ZIP. Both were hunting in John S's pond. They just ain't no ducks.

DECEMBER 26, 1986

Friday---Merry Christmas!! John & Jimmy arrived at camp just before noon and checked John's pond and found nothing there. Therefore, they decided to put all their money & efforts into Rodney's flat.

Before the afternoon hunt we scouted the oyster lease and got a Guy Callais size sack and a champagne or so for Joe Joe. If the tide would have been lower, we would've been able to fill our tags.

The afternoon fiasco wasn't that bad. Jimmy K got 1 drake pintail, and we saw quite a few ducks flying around. The tide is slightly below normal and the wind is from the NE at about 10 mph. Temp in the mid to low 50's, and it is very cloudy. Hardly any sun today. Even had a little spit of rain this evening as the day was coming to a close. We've had wonderful duck weather most of the season, but we've had no ducks.

DECEMBER 27, 1986

Saturday---Morning hunt is Rodney's blind Jimmy King 1 male pintail, John S ZIP. Jimmy King got the duck at 6:15 while John was out of the blind indisposed because of the huge breakfast. (eggs, sausage, and home made scratch bisquits) That's enough to indispose anyone. We spent the rest of the morning watching the guys in Jay's flat knocking down the ducks. We stuck around until about 8:45 when we saw Mark Scardino going to the camp. He had been hunting near the lake and got a couple of hooded mergansers. He's like us, just plain disgusted with the lack of ducks.

The sun was out big today. The wind was chilly, but the sun warm. You could cook on one side and be chilled on the other. The tide was about normal and coming up; must be the Easterly part of the NE wind. No way you could get anything on the lease today, just too much water.

After fried oyster sandwiches for lunch, Jimmy tried to take a nap. John got out to give him some quiet and tried fishing around the camp. He'd been fishing for about an hour, he caught a small rat red near the bulkhead on the far right hand dock. Jimmy got up to test out his new rod & reel, but had no luck. They decided to sojourn to the fance and were really lucky. They got 5 reds and one flounder. John got 2 reds and Jimmy got 3 reds and the flounder. One of the reds went 8 lbs. Jimmy got that one with his new rod & reel.

They got back to the camp and prepared for the afternoon excursion. Jimmy got his 3rd pintail of the weekend and John scratched. They changed over to John Pierce's pond for the afternoon and tomorrow morning.

Supper this Saturday night was a home made hamburger helper dish done by John. A drastic comedown from last night's rib eyes and broccoli and rice dish. The food alone this weekend has been worth the trip.

DECEMBER 28, 1986

Sunday---Morning hunt was long but unproductive. John S & Jimmy K ZIPPO. Many birds came to take a look, nothing fell. They did fire a few shots and John S got a grey duck down, but it flew across the flat before it fell and a search proved fruitless. Back to the camp to clean up & go home, will be out tomorrow.

DECEMBER 29, 1986

Monday---Arrived around noon, John S, Susan, Trisha & Marsha. When we got here, Susan immediately got to her favorite past time and she was very glad that the minnow trap had been pre-set.

Trisha immediately caught a small rat red and Marsha Sue caught one, too. In all 6 were caught. Susan, naturally, caught the rest.

When the fish slowed down, we headed to the fence and caught 3 more. John got a 6 lbder and one other small one and Susan caught one.

Trisha and John set out decoys for tomorrow morning's hunt while Susan and Marsha played feed the gnats. We came back to the camp so Marsha could feed Mr. Fishworld some Oreos.

The weather has changed from the weekend. It's still cool, but with the sun out it's warm enough to bring the gnats out. The wind is down, that's all the better for the little buggers.

The tide is falling all morning and then it gains starting in the early afternoon. It's about average or a little below.

As I write, Susan hauled in another red fish right off the bulkhead and just now another. That makes 11 today and Susan vows that the gnats won't stop her as long as we have some OFF to douse ourselves with.

DECEMBER 30, 1986

Tuesday---Colder today. The wind is really giving us the business out of the north. It's 52 degrees, but the wind makes it seem colder. The tide is falling really good this morning. John & Trisha went hunting and saw a few big ducks, but got no shots. We did get cold, though. Trisha thinks a person has to be nuts to be hunting in this stuff. I guess she's right.

While the hunters were about their business, Susan was about hers. She caught 2 rat reds before the hunters returned and got another after Ecton, the crab man, and a buddy stopped by for some coffee and a visit.

We plan to head home today and we'll be back on Friday for a hunting excursion with the gang.

JANUARY 2, 1987

Friday---Happy New Year!!! Arrived at camp for the weekend. John Serigny, John Pierce, Jimmy King, Rodney Doucet, Roger Brown and Jay Auseve.

We got here about noon and got to fishing right away. Roger Brown caught about a million sheephead, and he did manage to catch a few rat reds. Jay caught a few reds and a couple of flounders. John S caught a red fish and so did Jimmy. As a matter of fact everyone did except Rodney. All he caught was the bottom a bunch of times. Afternoon hunting in Jay's old flat caught 1 grey duck looking the wrong way when Rodney shot and the concussion caused the duck to have a coronary arrest. Muffin had to find it for him, too.

Weather is really nice, clear & sunny temp in the high 50's. Nights in low 40's. Wind has swapped around to SE and we're expecting rain tomorrow. Tide is very low, but it could be lower. Reds were caught right off the corner wharf or in the back of the camp.

Someone was at the camp between our Tuesday and today. They slept at Gus's camp and came to our camp to liberate a few candles and pans & pots and eggs and a few other things including almost 2 gallons of coleman fuel.

JANUARY 3, 1987

Saturday---Morning hunt-John S-1 greenwing, Rodney ZIP. Jimmy, Roger, & Jay went fishing at the fence this morning and caught a flounder or two, and they got a couple of reds in the cut between the camps.

Morning was cloudy and overcast with a SE wind.

Doc Potts had to run to the camp last night to pick up John Pierce on an emergency call.

After a run to Leeville to find some doughnuts and learn about Pierce, we came back to the camp. Rodney & John took care of the camp and the TV while Jimmy, Roger and Jay went to the fence for Roger to catch a few more sheephead.

We got a lot of rain this afternoon. Jimmy & John had to pump the boats around 5 PM. The wind changed over to the NW as the Bears were being beaten by the Redskins; the rain came down in buckets.

Supper was chicken & onions on rice. We're hoping for better weather on the morrow.

JANUARY 4, 1987

Sunday---Nobody hunted this morning mostly because the chicken John cooked was causing gastro intestinal distress. After breakfast (toast & butter), we watched the rain & NNW wind and decided we would pass this morning on the hunting. We gathered our equipment and headed to the house.

JANUARY 9, 1987

Friday---Arrived at camp John Serigny & Jimmy King via Charlotte Brown's house. Supper tonight was grilled sirloins and Uncle Ben's broccoli & rice au gratin. Another unsurpassed culinary excursion.

Jimmy & John are expecting Rodney, Farrel, & Dallas and Joe tomorrow. John & Jimmy set decoys this afternoon and were accosted by a bunch of greenwing teal. A couple of mallards or blacks tried to come in about dark, but we hadn't left yet and scared them away. Prospects are bright for tomorrow. Pappy Shipp is down and will visit tomorrow.

At least we weren't visited by aliens with pilfering on their minds during the week.

JANUARY 10, 1987

Saturday---Morning hunt-John Serigny, 1 grey duck hen, Jimmy King, ZIP. Joe, Pappy Shipp, and Pappy's little brother Charlie. They got 1 red fish at the fence went about 10 lb. John Tried fishing around the camp and got nothing. Joe really liked our new toaster for lunch.

About 2 PM Rodney, Farrell, and some little wussy named Dallas. Dallas was shooting everything that moved and some things that didn't move with a BB gun. Then he shot Farrell's 22 pistol. Then he shot a 22 rifle. Finally he shot his daddy's 12 ga shotgun.

This morning we were graced with Dick Ingols' presence. Also Shannon Doucet Jr. and their sidekick Ribbit. They had a ZIPPO morning too.

Dallas hit a plastic bottle over 100 times with a BB gun this afternoon while the hunters were out scratching. He did it with only 1 witness here. We smell collusion between Joe & Dallas.

This morning weather has changed drastically from yesterday. NW wind at about 20 MPH. Temp dipped to 48 in morning and up to 53 during the day. Tonight the temperature will be close to freezing only up to mid 40's tomorrow. The NW wind will be humping and getting all day tomorrow. We're worried about how low the tide will get tomorrow. Partly cloudy today with Sun off & on all day.

JANUARY 11, 1987

Sunday---Morning-No Ducks. Cold. 38 degrees, sunny NNW wind 10-15. Low, low tides. Serious! Big!!

Back next week for last one.

JANUARY 17, 1987

Friday---Arrived at camp John S & Jimmy K. We got here early enough to set decoys in Pierce's pond. Expecting Rodney & Farrel this evening.

Temperatures in the 50's with wind out of NE. Tide is up greatly over last Sunday morning. Saw no ducks in the flat and saw nothing in the pond that would lead us to believe that ducks had been there.

JANUARY 18, 1987

Saturday---Rodney & Farrel never did show up last night. We hope they had no trouble. We had no luck this morning. About 50 teal landed in the flat, but we couldn't convince them to come to our decoys. A couple of teal later came to us, but we both missed even though they came in pretty close. It kinda shows how the whole season has been going so far.

Wind is more out of the E this morning than last night. Since we see ducks going into the mud flat we feel trying it there would be worth the effort.

Oh yeah. Last night a rat ta tat patat with sausage was supper. We had omelet for lunch and it looks like sausage and lima beans and tomato sauce on spaghetti for supper.

Some light rain during the day today, nothing really rough. The wind has swapped around to the SE and is pumping pretty good about 15 to 20 MPH.

Rodney & Farrel didn't show today either. We can't help, but think that they had boat trouble and couldn't make it out. They didn't need to come out here at all because there certainly aren't any ducks to shoot. The afternoon hunt went about the same as the morning hunt, but neither John nor Jimmy got a chance at a shot. This morning John & Jimmy stayed in the blind until 10:00, at least no one can say we didn't stick it out.

This is the last weekend so really it's a little late to be optimistic.

JANUARY 18, 1987

Sunday---Okay, now I believe it. There aren't any ducks around here. We moved our decoys, or at least some of them, to Rodney's flat and tried out there to day. We got one shot at grey ducks before 9:30. We were concerned about the weather today. It looked like rain with a S wind 10 to 15 and light intermittent rain.

Tide was over the marsh. Very few ducks flying today. Well, this is it. No more hunting season. Everything ends tomorrow. We're going home today with heavy hearts over the passing of a really good friend, the 1986-87 hunting season.

We had to use insect repellent to keep ourselves in the blind this morning. The temperature was in the 60's and will get higher today. I guess it's true that if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute.

END 1986-87
HUNTING SEASON

CAMP LOG

Book IX

February 17, 1995
to
January 19, 1997

Camp Log
Book IX

February 17, 1995 To January 19, 1997

This section of the continuing saga of the camp log begins February 1995-- Our desire to continue writing our memories down is still a very strong part of our camping experience and it gives our friends something to read about in spare moments. We sometimes get really good meal ideas from these pages, too. Right, Charlotte?

Friday
2/17/95

Came out this afternoon though the weather was very stormy-- John S & Jimmy K.

Right away they checked with Rodney's Angel and he was his usual generous self and gave us a nice sack of oysters. We opened until 7 PM, and then we started cooking supper.

Grilled sirloin (Jimmy marinated them for a couple of centuries) and broccoli and rice. Yeah, might as well start off this volume of the camp log with a bang by serving a great meal.

Weather cloudy w/N wind 10-18. 50's & 60's maybe even high 40's tonight. This is real hunting weather even though we're not hunting.

Saturday Morning
2/18/95

After a wonderful breakfast of biscuits, sausage, hash browns, grits, and poached eggs, we fished bayou Cayman and caught 5 specks that were keepers. We can't seem to catch any minnows to use as bait for reds.

We're going in.

3/25/95

At camp for overnight stay--John and Joe Serigny, & Jimmy King. Joe's feeling much better these days. We're here to try to catch some fish and use Mr. Guy's rake on Rodney's angel.

The first effort today was to get minnows. We were finally successful and Joe & John tried to catch a few fish while Jimmy K cleaned mink leavings from the camp. Joe & John got 5 specks fishing all over the lease. No reds were apparent.

The weather is pretty poor. Partly Cloudy with stretches of clear & bright mixed with overcast. We expect rain tomorrow night, but today should be moisture-free. The wind is strong enough to create white caps in the tract.

Supper tonight will be spaghetti sauce with sausage. Especially since we didn't catch enough fish to fry for supper.

Afternoon--we went to visit Rodney's Angel and got a champagne, a 5 gallon bucket and a 1/2 a milk crate from him. He is an exceedingly generous fellow. The spaghetti was extraordinary.

3/26/95

After breakfast a trip to Tee Gus's new fence got us about 6 keeper rat reds. We caught over 20 too small ones and released same. One keeper speck at Bay Cayman was about all we were able to procure in the speck department. Sunny bright and windy from the SE are our conditions today. Heading in.

May 19, 1995

Arrived at camp for first day (or weekend) of trawling season. The front tract in 1/2 hour got us less than a half gallon of shrimp and Williams canal wasn't much better. We have the bottom of an ice chest to show for our 75 minutes of effort. A front came through last night. The breeze from the NW is going rally nice this evening. The temps are in the 70's inside the camp. A wonderful evening.

Supper tonight is the traditional one for trawling season. Fried garlic sausage and red beans and rice. There may be no shrimp, but at least we can eat something we enjoy.

We hope to catch enough shrimp tomorrow to call Joe Joe for a trip to Leeville.

Saturday
May 20, 1995

Well, our trawling season has needs-like a place to pull the net. Lake Laurier was poor-lots of fish and we started looking for a place in the canal to trawl. The first Saturday usually has lots of people. Today was no exception. We finally made a drag in the high line and caught a nice collection of shrimp. We stopped trawling at about 10 AM. Sent one ice chest home and sold 41 lbs. We had 11 dollars left after paying for our new load of gasoline.

After boudoin sandwiches for lunch (and they were really tasty too, Charlotte.) a 3 hour nap came in really handy.

After coffee, we pulled Bay Batiste. It was really dirty, but we had a modicum of shrimp and large brazils were present. After a drag in the high line, one in Jeff's long pull, and one in the short pull and we had a 50 qt. full and a little in another ice chest.

Supper tonight is an ooh-yi-yi w/shrimp, crabs, smoked sausage, fresh sausage, mushrooms and rotel. It's a juicy one.

Sunday
May 21, 1995

Very few shrimp this morning, a 50. a 60, and a 36 for 2 days. Warming up. Going home.

Saturday
May 27, 1995

Arrived on Saturday for trawling--John S, Joe S, Jimmy K. Did well in canals on Saturday falling tide. Two ice chests in 4 drags.

Sunday
May 28, 1995

Not so great today. A 50 qt. and a little in a 48. Heading in. Very warm.

Friday
June 2, 1995

Here for the entire weekend this time. John S & Jimmy King in John's boat. Joe will join us tomorrow. Last weekend was very beneficial. We made \$126 on Sunday. The camp sewer system is on its way.

Camp Log Book IX

Page 3.

Of course, this is a new weekend with new ground rules. We just have to see what they are as of yet.

AFTERNOON TRAWLING-- Trawling in the high line and Bay Batiste got us a 48 qt. ice chest of shrimp. Not as plentiful as last weekend this trip.

Tonight's supper is field peas in onions with fresh pork sausage (Fried of course). An excellent repast. The shrimp are nice again.

Saturday
June 3, 1995

Morning drags on the very slim side. First drag in Bay Batiste was the best one. We made 4 drags before 9 and caught another ice chest. We sold 112 lbs of shrimp and made \$86 after gasoline.

We tried to pick up Joe Joe at 11:00 but because of lack of communication it was almost 1 PM before we left the boat dock.

Afternoon naps were excellent and the ooh-yi-yi is just about ready.

Saturday afternoon trawling excursion on the very dismal side. Less than 1/2 of a 60 qt. with very small shrimp.

Supper is the only high light. The ooh-yi-yi is very tasty.

Friday
June 9, 1995

Jimmy K & John S arrived about 1:30 in Jimmy's boat. After a brief nap they trawled in Bay Batiste and made a very good drag of over a little grey basket. A drag in the highline and one in Bay Batiste again got them 2 50 qt ice chests for their effort.

Supper tonight is red beans with rice and fried fresh sausage. Our regular fare. Be sure to check these pages for tomorrow night's repast!

It's a hot one. Temps in the 90's and a low of 75 early in the morning. Jimmy's boat is running very well, thank you, after \$300 of repair work.

Saturday
June 10, 1995

Morning in Bay Batiste and the highline (2 drags each) and the short pull on Jeff's (Unfortunately, we made the turn!) Our best day yet!--246 lbs. \$246 worth of shrimp. We hope it holds up this evening like it did yesterday. It'll be a really good weekend if it does.

Very hot. Temps in the camp around 90. Even with the fans running, it's a scorcher! We'll try to get some sleep early so we can get to trawling earlier today. I hope we have enough beer. Ice in a glass melts at an alarming rate around here. It hasn't rained in over 2 weeks around here.

AFTERNOON TRAWLING-- Afternoon trawling excursion not as profitable as Friday afternoon's. Four drags (3 in Bay Batiste) got us a 50 qt. ice chest and a little more in a 60 qt. Supper tonight is sirloin steaks and french fries. We're in hog's heaven. Rodney was trawling in the high line today and got almost a 50 qt. He had Richard Mitchell with him so he could see how shrimping really works.

The septic tank fund has had a large helping hand this weekend.

Sunday
June 11, 1995

Trawling not great, but we caught our take home shrimp, later.

Friday
June 16, 1995

Arrived at camp in Jimmy's boat. John S & Jimmy K.

Jimmy's boat has undergone a week of intensive overhaul-all for naught. It leaks in so many places it would be impossible to staunch every location. After 23 year of useful service, it is about time to retire the ill Joe permanently. Jimmy is very depressed about the whole ordeal, but is ready for whatever comes next. His law school venture looms large this fall and after that-who knows- a Carolina skiff, maybe?

Anyway we know things won't be the same around here while he's away at law school.

Friday afternoon's trawling excursion was on the dismal side. Squalls kept them from leaving the camp until 4:30 and then a strong ESE wind (about 25) made working difficult. They ended up with less than a half of a 50 qt ice chest for the afternoon.

Saturday
June 17, 1995

Trawling in Bay Batiste proved rewarding. Three drags in Batiste and one in the highline and they ended up with 100 lbs of shrimp.

Spoke to Al Joseph on the way back from the shed, and it seemed that the shrimp are scarce in the canals North of lake Jesse as well.

Very windy today a large squall around noon sent fishermen running everywhere. In the afternoon a drag in Bay Batiste and one in the short pull and one in William's canal got them less than a half of the 60 qt. ice chest. Hopefully tomorrow will bring them some luck.

Supper tonight was ooh-yi-yi. Last night was field peas with hamburger meat and hamburgers on the side.

For lunch today they had boudoin and some more of the field peas. Boudoin is pretty good stuff!

Weather is weird for Louisiana this time of year. We had lows in the 60's & 80's for highs all week with humidities very low. Beautiful weather; now the E wind is really howling and tides are very high-almost like teal season!

Saturday
September 2, 1995

Well, it looks as if Jimmy King won't be at LSU all fall anyway. Tried a drag in Bay Batiste and got 1 shrimp. We cooked red beans with fried sausage for supper.

It has been the hottest August anyone can remember around here. This afternoon when we arrived, the temperature in the camp got up to about 102 degrees. We started airing out and we saw a front coming in from the west.

It almost blew us off the front porch, but no rain came with it. After it calmed down a bit, we went trawling. It stayed pretty windy all night.

Sunday
September 3, 1995

Rain before daylight. A Guldroz kid came to save himself at the camp. Lightning was very prevalent.

Our fishing was delayed. The fence got us nothing.

We caught specks at Mom's, Bay Cayman, Dad's and headed in. Total fish: 10 specks, 4 white trout, 1 red fish.

Saturday
September 9, 1995

Got to the camp late after the jamboree. Set the minnow trap and got junk gathered. Made a drag in William's canal and got 1 white shrimp. We did catch a crab trap with about 12 sleeper crabs. We harvested claws and put them back in their element.

We had a few minnows and are trying to catch a few more for tomorrow. Looks good with many fish moving. Who knows.

Oh, I forgot, Charlotte. Tonight's supper is hamburger steaks with french fries.

It's been hot but a dry heat. It's in the low 90's and we're really sweltering, but nothing like it has been. Tide very high with little fluctuation--ESE breeze.

Friday
September 15, 1995

Arrived at camp in the afternoon for the first weekend of teal season--Joe Serigny, John Serigny, and Jimmy King. Jimmy's boat was loaded to the gills with roseaux and palmettoes.

Unloading the boat took a serious amount of time. Roseaux were dropped at the blind and Joe Joe went fishing at the little island and caught a nice speck. No bites at the big pass.

Tomorrow is the first day of teal season. We should have good fishing this weekend.

Supper tonight was fresh sausage cooked in tomato sauce with mushrooms. We ate those on po boy buns with french fries. It is very warm tonight a nice east wind is blowing, but the new camp is blocking our flow. It's around 85 degrees inside the camp.

Saturday
September 16, 1995

First day of teal season. Very hot. John & Jimmy tried the new mud flat for hunting teal and saw a few but a fisherman came in the mud flat at about 7:15 and they decided to leave. Joe tried fishing but had very little success.

Temps in the low 90's today. Very hot for hunting season. Joe & John went onto Gus's lease and ended up with 1 keeper speck for their efforts.

We will suffer again today in the heat.

Last night we had a very unrestful time of it.

After naps were done, John & Joe headed to Gus's lease for a quick hit. They got 2 keepers. Joe went to the little island and caught an 18 inch red fish. Dad says he won't suffer from the heat again before it gets cool.

Friday
September 22, 1995

Well, the real news is a cold front has come through, and this weekend we won't need the generator for anything but lights.

Cloudy, N wind above 20 mph. Temps in the 60's. Tomorrow will be cooler and with the wind we'll need some long sleeves for our teal hunt tomorrow.

At the camp tonight is John S & Jimmy K. Joe Joe didn't come with us, but the reason he said he wouldn't come was that it might get too cold.

John wanted to attach his new windshield this weekend, but he forgot it was at Joe's shop and not in Leeville.

With all this North wind we may be able to catch a few shrimp this weekend. We'll see.

✓
Saturday
September 23, 1995

Morning hunt John & Jimmy hunted the little flat near Rodney's flat. There were birds flying near all morning, but their shots were taken at passing teal. With a 20 mph wind, their passing was extremely quick.

John S was 0 for 4 shots, and Jimmy was 0 for 2 shots.

There were minnows, but 1 red fish was all they were able to catch that they could keep on their trip to Tee Gus's.

After bologna & salami sandwiches for lunch, naps were the next activity.

Oh, Charlotte, lest we forget, last night we had chicken & lima beans and tonight we're building the amazing bean soup.

Wind from N all day above 20 mph. Cloudy until about 10:30 then clouding over at 3 PM or so again. Maybe the front is retreating. We hope it doesn't because it was seriously fine around here. Last night the temp was around 65 or so and today it has climbed into the high 70's.

After naps had been done, the fishing excursion consisted of Jimmy King going over the weir in a pirogue to fish the cuts in the first bay. He got one speck and one red for his efforts.

Tomorrow may be better.

The prevailing wind has switched to E. It's not nearly so windy as it was this morning. Maybe the fishing will improve.

Trawling may be on the agenda tomorrow as well. We'll definitely see what's happening.

Sunday
September 24, 1995

No teal; sunny, warm, ENE wind. One red, 2 specks--heading home.

Saturday
October 14, 1995

John Jimmy at camp for overnight fishing excursion. Arrived in rain this morning as cold front pushed through our part of the world. Thank goodness, too. That'll keep Roxy down around Tampico.

We fished as the rain continued before lunch today and caught 10 keepers. We hope it doesn't turn off too cold so the fish will be active again tomorrow.

The tide was 6 inches above the marsh today and the reds were nowhere to be found. We'll stay up a while tonight because our naps this afternoon were lengthy.

Supper tonight was white beans (new crop and they were very good) and rice with sausage. The meal was very good, and after our boudin sandwiches for lunch, we are very full.

Cloudy all day after the rain stopped. N wind is whipping at about 25+.

Before bed time, we worked on lanterns most of the evening.

Sunday
October 15, 1995

Fishing slow today. Total for 2 days 22 keepers or thereabouts. Heading in.

Saturday
October 21, 1995

At camp-Rodney and his crew (Dallas, Jeff Dartez, & Wes). John S & Jimmy King & Joe Serigny.

We started on the destruction of Uncle Gus's camp. The roof; rafters and inside walls are gone. The outside walls don't have very much holding them up at the present.

Very beautiful day today-Very cool this morning. Beautiful day. Warm sun-cool ENE breeze. Tide gaining in the morning and loosing in the afternoon. We worked til about 3 afternoon. Mid-40's this afternoon may be a repeat for the morning.

We've had very little rain so far this fall and we've been lucky with hurricanes too. (Sebastian formed today-Atlantic)

We had no lunch today. Worked instead. We hauled rocks and ladders

Rodney brought a load of center matched lumber in to Dad's and tomorrow we'll bring Jimmy's boat full of stuff out there. (to Leeville that is.) We had a ton of coon crap all over the place from Uncle Gus's camp.

Joe & Wes fished at the fence and caught only 2 sub-sized reds. Wes hooked a speck from Jimmy's boat, but couldn't land it. Joe journeyed out to the little fence on Tee Gus's. He's using a spoon on the return trip. Well hunting season begins in a little less than a month. We're looking for it.

Sunday
October 22, 1995

The results of the primary election are unknown as of yet. We only know we have very few fish--three to be exact.

Camp work very big success. Heading in.

Saturday
November 11, 1995

It's Veterans Day! Arrived at camp after Uncle Kirby's funeral. John & Joe Serigny and Jimmy King in his brand new boat.

The Carolina Skiff is a killer cute outfit. Almost killer expensive too. I'll let you ask Jimmy how expensive it is.

We got here in only enough time to start supper. Lima beans & chicken in tomato sauce.

Coldest weather of the fall so far. Expect 40's in the morning. Too bad it isn't hunting season yet.

Next weekend is the one. For sure!

Sunday
November 12, 1995

Sunny, clear, chilly, 40's in morning 70's in the sun, but the wind is really tough. Eleven specks today. Really nice fish. Heading in.

Friday
November 17, 1995

Arrived at camp late on Friday afternoon for a full weekend of duck hunting at least we hope it will be a full one.

We're staring down the barrels of the best hunting season in years. We actually saw birds last weekend, and tomorrow, with all the shooting goin on, we hope they'll be moving.

Supper tonight was on the light side. Fresh garlic sausage smothered in RoTel & tomato sauce on po boy buns. Very good, but we were very hungry. We had a Duet's custard pie for dessert.

Today was warm with the highs in the 70's. East wind at 10 to 15 will mean lots of water tomorrow. Decoys are set for the morrow. Joe will go fishing and try out Jimmy's new boat.

Saturday
November 18, 1995
FIRST DAY OF DUCK SEASON

Okay, we believe it! There are more ducks this year. John 4 grey ducks, 1 mottled duck. Jimmy King 1 pintail and 2 greys. We had fun and missed a lot.

Wind from the North at 10 or so and rain came down during the night and most of the day. Between the rain the birds were moving.

We shot about 3 boxes of shells to collect those birds so we had to adjust.

The pintail that Jimmy King got we had to find in another pond after the hunt.

Joe Joe fished most of the morning and caught 1 speck. After cleaning ducks and working on the walkway to the fishing warf, white beans and sausage was lunch today.

After lunch, Jimmy slept and John and Joe went fishing in Jimmy's new boat. We fished at a lot of places but caught fish at Mom's spot and Anne's spot mostly. We caught one red fish at Bay Cayman. We have about 30 specks and 4 or 5 keeper reds.

As I write this Joe is catching specks from the warf. He's caught a couple of keepers so far.

Supper tonight will be the same white beans with a roast (sirloin tip). WE KNOW HOW TO RELAX!

Jimmy didn't come fishing, but now he's gone to Tee Gus's little fence with a few minnows and will try his hand at it.

Sunday
November 19, 1995

Morning hunt ZIP for a few tries. Eleven specks. Total specks for 2 days 50 and add 7 reds. Heading in.

Monday
November 20, 1995

Arrived at camp about 2 PM. John & Susan Serigny in John's boat. Jimmy, Ann, & Anna King in "the Tub." The Pierce boys were here already and the process of setting up everything took until 3 PM or thereabouts.

John S & Jimmy K took Susan, Anne & Anna fishing and they caught a couple of keeper reds. Susan caught a couple of sheephead and rat reds around the camp before they left.

Well, with 9 people out here it was a large-scale supper--Hamburgers and french fries.

We called it a night early.

Weather was mild. Slight breeze from ENE at about 10. Low 60's at night.

Tuesday
November 21, 1995

Morning hunt on the promising side. John S & Jimmy K 2 wigeon-John P & Justing Brown 3 greys and 1 spoonbill.

A front came through during the night and gave us a more Northerly wind this morning. The weather is clear and cloudless today. What a wonderful day to be here. It's really beautiful.

After cleaning ducks John S brought Susan, Anne & Anna & Shaun fishing. The little island had enough specks to hold our interest for a while. Susan even caught a little rat red that was a keeper.

We have been seeing ducks all around us today. We're contented.

Wednesday
November 22, 1995

Morning hunt on the slow side John P & Patrick 1 grey duck. John S, Jimmy K & Justin Brown ZIP.

ADDENDUM TO TUESDAY-Justin Brown hunted with John P and got his first bird. He was officially blooded for his effort.

A fishing trip after hunting got a few specks at Bay Cayman. Lunch was fried fish & oysters with fries.

After lunch Johns S & P with Shaun, Justin, Patrick & Anna made a trip to Leeville in Jimmy K's new boat. All the kids got to drive on the way home.

After a couple of short naps, John S brought Ann K, Susan S, & Justin & Patrick fishing. They went to the little island and caught 1 speck. They ran around to Bay Cayman and caught about 15 or specks and 2 keeper reds. Everyone caught fish. I'm reminded that we did catch a red fish at Bay Cayman this morning. Supper tonight was sausage & ground meat spaghetti. Pierce did a great job preparing it again.

Today's weather was gorgeous! Sunny clear. Low 70's for a high. This morning was in the 50's. Wind started out from the N & changed to the E during the day. Very nice tide is falling during the night and rising all day.

Tonight we put the turkey on the smoker (don't worry, Charlotte, Justin is safe- this is another turkey.) and get it ready for the big dinner tomorrow.

Thursday
November 23, 1995
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Morning hunt very gnatty! John P 1 grey duck. John S 1 wigeon, 1 grey, Jimmy King 1 spoonie.

Morning fishing around the camp is getting steady on reds & sheephead.

The turkey is on the slow cooker and a golden brown color. Lunch is on its way.

Overcast beginning to work in on us. Front is approaching. Probably rain this afternoon.

Marsha and Trisha arrived and Trisha is having a red dog as we speak.

Lunch is on the way.

Smoked turkey, sweet potato casserole, dirty rice, cranberry sauce brown & smerve buns and little drowned cats for dessert.

After lunch John S brought Anne, Anna, Marsha & Susan fishing. John P had Justin, Patrick & Shaun fishing in his boat. The ladies proved to be better fisherman and caught a large number of sizeable reds and specks.

John P had had enough with 3 hours in the boat with those boys so John led him back to the camp.

John then took Susan and Anne fishing again and they sat at Bay Cayman and caught reds and specks. The biggest red about a 6 lber and Anne had a really nice speck.

Supper tonight was a repeat of lunch.

Today had beauty written all over it. It was blowing from the S all day. The fish were active, but it was spotty. The spots that were good were very good.

Friday
November 24, 1995

Front came through during the night. In the 50's. A beautiful morning for Duck hunting. John P & Justin Brown 2 spoonies, 1 grey duck. John S & Jimmy King 3 spoonies, 2 mottled ducks, 1 merganser. We're going in with big loads in the boats.

kSaturday
November 25, 1995

Arrived at camp for overnight stay: John S & Wes Doucet in John's boat. About a half hour later Rodney showed up from a trip to snake's house to get his motorized pirogue.

Wes immediately started catching sheephead and Rodney caught a few undersized reds as well.

Setting decoys took precedent early in the afternoon, but while John was setting decoys, Wes was catching specks. They went to the island spot and caught another keeper. After everyone got back to the camp, They all went fishing at Bay Cayman.

Oh, by the way, Jeff Dartez and Dallas Doucet were with Rodney on his run. The fishing excursion to Bay Cayman got us about 10 keeper reds and 5 or 6 keeper specks added to that; the boys had caught a few sheephead of an adequate size and put them in the ice chest along with the others.

Sunday November 26, 1995

A decent ending to the first split. John S, Wes & Rodney Doucet 2 grey ducks in John S's pond.

Dallas & Jeff Dartex got 1 hooded merganser in John P's blind up front. They said they could've gotten more.

We're heading in and the first split of duck season was very good to us. We've taken 23 ducks and enough fish to keep everyone happy. It's been great! We hope it continues.

Friday December 15, 1995

Okay, we're here for the opening of the second split. Jimmy King, John Serigny. Arrived in late afternoon.

Weather is terrible for ducks. SE wind 10-12. Muggy. Fog in the mornings. Feels like you're in a sauna all day long.

Fishing could be good. The weather is right for it. Supper was macaroni and cheese (We can't tell how old the macaroni was.) with rice cooked in beef broth. Jimmy had some steaks he said were rib eyes, but I have my doubts. They had been marinated, however, and they were very tasty if not tender enough to pass for rib eyes.

Tomorrow will tell the tale for us. We haven't seen very many birds flying around, so we aren't sure what tomorrow will bring.

High's in the 80's (this is not December, is it?) Lows in the 60's. The weather guys keep talking about a front coming through, but it seems that the fronts never really make it. They get stalled or travel north of us without getting all the way to us.

Saturday December 16, 1995

First day of second split was a real bust. Fog didn't clear until almost 9 AM. There were no birds moving at all. John did manage to nail one unlucky marsh hen.

We discovered that the cistern has a deceased coon in it. Well, it was about time to replace the cistern anyway. John & Jimmy emptied the thing and slid it off the foundation. By this time it was about 10:30. Fishing fired up, and we caught a few keeper specks on the little island spot. The big pass to the tract was dry. Bay Cayman got us a couple of keeper reds and we went to Mon's spot and ran into the reds big time. By 2 PM we had 10 reds and about 20 specks. One of the specks was over 17 inches long. A real monster.

Saturday
December 16, 1995
CONTINUED

As this is written, white beans are on the fire. Fried sausage will go with it. We'll have to go to Leeville tomorrow for more ice. Some December, huh?

After supper Jimmy & John saw to their respective tackle boxes. Looks as if the prognosticators are calling for rain for tomorrow. We'll meet Susan at Leeville around 11 AM to let her take some fish off our hands. We also have to get ice.

Very warm and very muggy is the weather out here. The tide was gaining all day.

***** TA DA TA DA *****

WELL, FRIENDS, IT APPEARS OUR HERO, DEMOCRAT MAN HAS FINALLY MET HIS MATCH. AS WE OPEN OUR SCENERIO, PAIGE, ALONE AND HELPLESS, SITS BY THE BEDSIDE OF OUR FALLEN HERO.

A DOCTOR WALKS IN TO CHECK THE MONITORS AND PACE-MAKERS AND RESPIRATORS THAT HAVE BECOME THE ONLY LIFELINE OF A ONCE-STRONG SUPER HERO.

"HELLO. PAIGE," GREETES THE DOCTOR. PAIGE, HALF SLUMBERING, MUMBLES HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DOCTOR'S PRESENCE AND ASKS, "CAN HE LAST MUCH LONGER, DOCTOR?"

"I'M AFRAID NOT," IS THE DOCTOR'S MOURNFUL REPLY. "I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE BECOME SO ILL SO RAPIDLY WITH ABSOLUTELY NO SYMPTOMS."

"OH, THERE WERE SYMPTOMS ALL RIGHT," CORRECTED PAIGE. "THE TERRIBLE DEFEAT IN THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, THE USE OF A VETO TO STOP THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS'S GUTTING OF LIBERAL PROGRAMS. EACH ONE A NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF MY DEAREST FRIEND."

"YOU HAVE BEEN HERE SO LONG, PAIGE," SAID THE DOCTOR CONCERNEDLY. "YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL-GET AWAY FROM THIS DEN OF CONTAGION AND UNTIMELY DEATH."

"I," EXCLAIMED PAIGE, "WILL NEVER LEAVE THE SIDE OF THE GREATEST OF LIBERAL-HEROES! I WILL REMAIN UNTIL THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE SUCKED THE LAST DROP OF BREATH FROM HIS COLD BODY!"

"BUT SO MUCH IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD," RETORTED THE DOCTOR.

"LIKE WHAT?" QUERIED PAIGE.

"WELL, THE CONGRESS HAS SHUT DOWN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGAIN BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO COMPROMISE WITH THE PRESIDENT OVER THE BUDGET."

AS THE DOCTOR ENDED HIS LAST WORD, THE HEART MONITOR ATTACHED TO OUR HERO BEGAN TO BEEP MORE STRONGLY.

PAIGE, ASTOUNDED, TURNED TO THE DOCTOR AND SAID, "HOLY DECREASED FUNDING! TELL ME MORE, DOCTOR!"

"WELL, IT SEEMS," ADDED THE DOCTOR, "THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SEEM TO BLAME THE HANGUP ON THE REPUBLICANS AND THEY AREN'T VERY HAPPY ABOUT PROPOSED CUTS IN MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY."

WITH THAT, DEMOCRAT MAN'S RESPIRATOR POPPED FROM ITS CONNECTIONS AND OUR HERO SUCKED IN BREATH ON HIS OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS.

"HOLY PUBLIC OPINION PENDULUM SWING!" SCREAMED PAIGE. "MORE, DOCTOR, MORE!"

"WELL, UNH," STAMMERED THE DOCTOR AMAZED BY OUR HERO'S SUDDEN RETURN TO ACTIVITY.

"WELL, AMERICAN TROOPS ARE SPEARHEADING A JOINT OPERATION TO ENFORCE THE PEACE IN BOSNIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT BROKERED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION. IT SEEMS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT OVER PROTESTS BY THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY."

AS THE DOCTOR ENDED HIS STATEMENT, DEMOCRAT MAN AWOKE, PULLED THE CONFINING INSTRUMENT TELEMETRY FROM HIS NOW STRONG, HEALTHY, AND VIBRANT BODY AND TURNED TO PAIGE AND UTTERED, "WELL, PAIGE, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE WHEN THE LOVEABLE BILLY CLINTON NEEDS OUR HELP TO LAUNCH HIS RE-ELECTION BID. LET'S GET GOING."

"HOLY SARAJEVO!" EXCLAIMED PAIGE AS HE RACED TO KEEP UP WITH DEMOCRAT MAN LEAVING THE SLACK-JAWED DOCTOR STARING IN DISBELIEF AFTER THEM.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT EPISODE:
"AN ENDURING PEACE IN THE BALKANS"
OR
"BILLY DOES THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE"

Sunday
December 17, 1995

Morning hunt much brighter than yesterday's. John S & Jimmy King 2 grey ducks. They had a couple of other chances but scratched on a solo pintail and didn't get a shot on another group of birds. At least today we see a few.

We met Susan at Leeville during the day and gave her an icechest pretty full of fish. (16 specks and 10 reds) Today we caught 5 or so reds and about 10 specks, but the weather really had us on the ropes.

Very windy from the ESE and turning to the SSE during the day. The trip to Leeville was bouncy, but Jimmy's new boat handled the weather with no problems.

Sunny most of the day, but very cloudy with showers in the afternoon. The weather was very bad north of the lake today. Tornadoes got a few homes and lots of trees and powerlines down. We expect really rough weather tomorrow.

Monday
December 18, 1995

Cloudy, windy from SSE. Rain during the night. John S 4 spoonies, Jimmy K 2 wigeon. We'll be back Thursday.

Thursday
December 21, 1995

Arrived at camp around 2 PM. John S & Jimmy K. Very different weather tonight from last weekend. Temp in the low 40's & high 30's (38 on the porch) Tide very low on the trip in. Goat Island was a regular mine field today.

After having coffee, we decided to head to Rodney's angel to beg some oysters. He was generous to us, as he was last year, and we were able to get a champagne, a little grey basket and a milk crate full. We opened for quite a while, though John S was not feeling very well.

After supper John S stayed up sewing a sling for the heavy duck gun until 9:15. Jimmy was asleep very early.

Friday
December 19, 1995

Morning hunt on the enjoyable side, even though the weather wasn't. Very cold (in the high 30's) with a NE wind about 15. Oh, by the way it was raining. Nothing very hard, but steady enough to get you wet.

John S & Jimmy managed to get 3 grey and 2 pintails. They missed on one pair of greys. When they returned about 10 AM, John Pierce and Shaun were here.

After cleaning ducks, chicken noodle soup went down well.

After naps another trip to Rodney's angel got us another good champagne of oysters. It was a lot colder today, though.

Supper was Duck gumbo with oysters, and smoked sausage. It was deee-licious!
Pierce sure can cook!
Christmas is coming!

Saturday
December 23, 1995

Very cold this morning. Thirty degrees when we left. N wind about 10.
John S & Jimmy K 2 blacks and they lost a pair of mallards and a grey duck. Very disappointing-going in for Christmas festivities. Pierce didn't hunt.

Wednesday
December 27, 1995

Arrived at camp for a couple of days-John and Susan S with Jimmy, Anne, & Anna King.
Susan began catching sheephead as soon as the boat was unloaded. She inadvertently also caught an 18 inch red fish. So much for relaxing.

About 2 PM we headed out to the little island, and we caught a number of red fish. Susan caught her five and so did Anne, but a couple of Jimmy's rigs ended up hanging on the fence. Anna shot at marsh hens but got none.

Thursday
December 28, 1995

Very cold today. Alberta clipper arrived during the night and turned the wind around to the NE at about 15 or so.

Morning hunt-Jimmy K 2 mallards drake and hen. John S didn't hit anything.

When they arrived from the hunt, the ladies had just gotten up. Susan was still in her PJ's. After duck cleaning Susan & Anna caught sheephead until lunch. (Oyster soup & cheese toast.) John took Susan, Anne & Anna to the fence at Tee Gus's and then to Mom's spot. We've completely filled our limit on red fish (25). We have a 60 qt. ice chest of sheephead (that's all John'll let Susan keep.) So Susan & Anne are very upset they can't fish any more. (Anna caught 8 fish-she made me write that!) Supper is white beans and rice and 7 steaks smothered in onions.

Friday
January 5, 1996

Happy New Year! (all be it a bit belatedly). Arrived at camp around 4 PM. John S, Jimmy K & John Pierce with Shaun Pierce tagging along.

We go the camp set up and went out to check on Rodney's Angel. He was extremely generous because of the low tide and we ended up getting over 2 champagnes of oysters from him. He said no problem as many as we want!

Pierce cooked supper (A really tasty spaghetti with ground meat & smoked sausage.)

Weather is very sublime today. Temps in the 60's now 70's during the day. Supposed to be very cold on the morrow to Sunday. I'll tell you about it when it gets here.

Saturday
January 6, 1996

Morning hunt on the dismal side John P & Shaun 1 dosgrls. John S & Jimmy K did not shoot.

We opened the rest of the oysters that Rodney's Angel gave us. While we were waiting, Shaun was catching sheephead using his nanny Susan's techniques.

Around noon Jimmy K, John S & Shaun went to Mom's spot and caught Red fish out the wazoo. Eighteen keepers and 1 drum fish over 18 inches long. We've cleaned a few for supper (oh, yeah, we caught 2 specks as well.) and supper tonight is fried fish and oysters with red beans and rice.

Pittsburg is beating Buffalo on the radio right now and the cold front is still trying to make its way to us. It's very cloudy and has been raining since about 10 AM. The wind has just switched around to the West so maybe the bad weather prediction is really going to come true. Pittsburg goes to the AFC champs 40-21.

All the oysters and the fish for supper are cleaned, and we're ready for the beans, which are already done, so I'm going to bed. (nap)

Sunday January 7, 1996

Too cold to hunt today. Wind from NW 20 +; temp on the porch is 31 degrees; ice in the pirogues. We're going home.

Friday January 19, 1996

Well, here we are for our last exultation of the 95-96 season.

Jimmy King and John S here though the tide is low and Jimmy K had to change his battery to get his boat started.

It will be very cold tonight and in the morning, but the wind is nil and it won't be very tough going. There are a few divers around and we've scouted; Rodney's old flat seems to be the spot. We hope we can get into there tomorrow.

Saturday January 20, 1996

Morning hunt slim, but successful. John S, 1 grey duck, Jimmy King, 1 hooded merganser. We hunted with the netting in the corner of Rodney's flat. There are birds moving every where. You can hear mallards, greys and dogsies are all over.

After cleaning ducks we headed out to fish. We tried all the reliable places with not so much as a bite. We came back to the camp and got ourselves a beer and headed to the little island. We caught our limit in red fish in about 15 minutes. A very nice one is about 5 lbs or larger. (Why not exaggerate?)

Jimmy King naps while John S writes this tome and cooks tonight's supper.

Oh, by the way, Mary (or is it Charlotte who's looking for recipies these days?) supper was a pot of white beans and rice and a snow goose smothered in mushrooms and onions. The goose is very late of Crowley, La. Maybe Gueydan-Anyway- It was one of the 8 geese damaged when John S & Jimmy K hunted in David Boudreaux's "East with the Geese" blind. They carried out 6 birds and lost a speck and a blue. A very enjoyable trip for the two afore-mentioned nlmrods.

one further observation on today's hunt. It's the first time since 1988 that we've been here on the third weekend in January. This year's liberal bag limit and season length is a welcome change from the short seasons of the last 7 years. I had predicted a 5 year turn around-so much for my expertise.

Sunday
January 21, 1996

The last day of our season today. John & Jimmy hunted behind the camp in the teal flat and got one grey duck. Fifty-four birds fell to our guns this year. Many birds are around and it looks good for next year already. Going home.

Saturday
February 24, 1996

Arrived in early morning. John S, Jimmy K, Joe Serigny in two boats for work. We brought the new cistern with us. It took us about an hour to get it installed. We worked on Tee Gus's camp and pulled 10 more boards out by 2 PM. After naps, we visited Rodney's Angel and got a couple of extra sacks of oysters. We opened them and they are ready for the trip home.

Sunday
February 25, 1996

Leisurely Sunday morning around here. Breakfast, a little finishing work on the cistern, and pick up our boards and head home.

Saturday
March 2, 1996

John & his school kids spent a tiring morning putting up woodduck boxes and walking and shooting skeet.

After lunch (Pierce was the hot dog chef by the way) John Jimmy & Joe headed out to check on the camp and start work on getting the sewage treatment tank in place. Digging ended about 1 1/2 hr. before dark so we could visit Rodney's angel. We got a good sack and a half from Rodney. He's so generous.

Supper was an oyster jambalya--no tomato sauce for us, please. Very good.
Bed time was about 8 PM. Everyone needed the rest.

Sunday
March 3, 1996

Digging, packing, heading home. Our new cistern seems to have a large number of leaks associated with its construction. That's what happens when you use 2 nd hand lumber. We'll Try to make this one work before we undertake another.

OFF SEASON ENTRY
MARCH 16, 1996

SOYS banquet a success once again. Sportsman of the year for 1996- Rick Fernandez. Various other awards were given. Shaun Pierce got one for fishing and Justin Brown got one for hunting. That seems sort of backwards to most of us.

Monday
April 1, 1996

We left Leeville this morning with the tank under tow. It took us about an hour and a half to get out here. The canal between city of New Orleans and Coles Crevee was the worst part of the trip. We squeezed through the shortcut and got to the camp with only one boat pushing the tank after having two at work for most of the trip.

John & Shaun Pierce were here with John & Joe Serigny. Jimmy King and Barry Braud were here too. Barry choose a beautiful day to make his first rip to the camp. Temps top the 60 degree mark, and it is windy at about 25 or so from the NNW. The coolness makes it really nice to be here.

We floated the tank out and pumped water into it before 11:30 and brought John P & Joe Joe in to Leeville. Shaun, Barry, John S & Jimmy K are staying out to try fishing this afternoon and tomorrow. So far Shaun hasn't gotten anything, but he's a weenie so what do you expect? So are you, Parrain. (I guess Shaun must've written that last sentence; I'm sure I didn't. JS)

Tuesday
April 2, 1996

Morning fishing slim-2 keeper specks. 1 by Shaun P and 1 by Barry Braud. Barry caught a couple of small reds that we threw back. Weather very nice. Total 4 specks for the weekend. Los 70's-Low 40's at night.

Saturday
April 20, 1996

Arrived at camp mid-morning- John S & Joe S-No one else can get free from their responsibilities. We're here to be plumbers. I believe we've finished though. The sewerage tank is brim full. We hope the thing hangs around a while. While we were at it, we also plumbed water to the toilet in the new camp and the hand bowl there as well. We worked until 5 PM with a short stop for lunch and a short run to Leeville to pick up some fixtures we forgot. Everything is secured and glued. The wind is from the SE, and it is blowing pretty hard. Sunny-but hazy today. Tomorrow in the mid 80's (accoring to WTIX). It seems like early summer is here. Warm windy. Tide above normal. We also worked on jacking up the middle span of the camp. It seems to have helped. We have to do that to the back span as well to get the back door to open easily. After we finished the plumbing, Joe and John headed to Tee Gus's to fish. John caught a speck right away at the little island and Joe caught a couple of keepers at Pappy Shipp's spot. One is a really nice one. We caught and released about 5 or 6 other fish, and ended up with 3 keepers.

It's fairly cool and nice in the camp tonight. It's about 74 in the camp right now. Joe Joe has collapsed and is asleep already.

Supper tonight was ground meat with onions & field peas over rice. Joe said it was great. We'll fish some tomorrow before heading home.

The people who know say the trawling season will very poor. We hope they have misspoken. It seems that when something gives us joy, like cold weather for hunting, it also brings despair for other things we enjoy doing. I guess you have to take the good with the bad.

Saturday
April 27, 1996

Came for the day. John S & Joe S. Tide low. We were surprised. Trying to catch minnows, but not being very successful.

The tide is low enough to keep the fish in shallow water.

Unfortunately, the gnats are very bad this morning, and we hope the breeze picks up so we can fish without too much discomfort.

Summer is much upon us. The humidity is here. This summer is breathing down our necks.

Friday
June 14, 1996

Trawling season started on May 29 (What a May season!) We came trawling on the first weekend to bring Rickey Mitchell, Charlotte, Rachel and Richard, and we caught pretty good. The first drag in the high line had almost 3 champagnes in it. We were floored! We trawled 2 afternoons and caught 6 ice chests of shrimp.

We returned the next weekend on Sunday afternoon and caught 3 ice chests and on Wednesday afternoon. John S brought 2 of his teacher friends, and they caught 3 and a half ice chests.

Today is Friday, Joe S, John S & Jimmy started trawling at 1 PM and they have 4 ice chests caught so far.

Supper tonight was fried garlic sausage with field peas & garlic sausage in the field peas. Very enjoyable, but the heat is killing us! We're trying to make it until Monday so we can put some money aside for a new roof on the ladies camp.

We'll be up early tomorrow.

Saturday
June 15, 1996

I was right. It is very hot. We sold 430 lbs and our net after fuel was \$306, that's three hundred and six dollars, WOOO, Nelly! We'll try it again this afternoon, but first we rest. We're really stinky too.

Afternoon trawling not as good as yesterday, but we still have 3 ice chests full in preparation for tomorrow.

It's still very warm and the supper tonight was Oooh YI YI. Very tasty.

Sunday
June 16, 1996

Happy Father's Day, everyone. We trawled in the tracts mostly today, and we sold 385 lbs of 70-80. The price went up so today our gross was \$345. Our net was \$301. Our total of \$607 in two days is some kind of record. We're \$10 short of \$700 gross in 2 days. We're staying one more day if everything stays right.

Monday
June 17, 1996

Hot! Trawled in tracts, 4 ice chests to sell 1 to bring home. Sold 285 lbs--296. They were 60-70 and \$1.05 a lb.

Saturday
June 22, 1996

An interesting week. At least a very hectic one. Zone meeting, Gormet night for LIONS club, and State convention meeting all in a row.

At camp, John & Joe S-Jimmy K's not here because he's trying to get his boat ready to trawl. Joe & John trawled from 12 noon to 6 PM and have 3 full ice chests to show for it. We shut it down early because the tide dropped and ran us out of the little bays. The big boats are still skinning William's canal. A skimmer was in the back tract all day today.

John was here on Thursday. He brought Chuck Smith and his daughter Ashley trawling, and they got a couple of drags completed and caught a 48 qt. ice chest full.

We'll sell tomorrow and head home. It's been a really good season so far.

Sunday
June 23, 1996

Very tired. Four ice chests of shrimp to sell and 1 for home.

Wednesday
June 26, 1996

Yesterday Trisha was 21. This afternoon John S, Jimmy K, Anna Berry, and Desl Sanders came trawling in Jimmy's newly outfitted boat. It trawls very well, but the tent sucks, big time. Three drags in the collective tracts and we had 3 ice chests pretty filled. Desl is the daughter of Jerry Sanders, who is Ed Sanders's son.

Friday
June 28, 1996

This may be the last weekend to trawl. The word is it'll end on the 3rd. No confirmation yet. At the camp--John S & Joe S. Jimmy K is supposed to be coming. He was to leave his house at 12. That's what time Joe & John got here. They trawled until 1:30 and the squalls chased them back to the camp. Jimmy isn't here yet and it's 3 PM. We hope he's okay. The wipers on his truck weren't working so it could be that the rain held him up on the road.

The rain isn't so bad, but the lightning is the real kicker. Hopefully Jimmy has used his head and waited for the rain to subside. Our only problem is we have no empty ice chests.

Jimmy showed at around 3:30. Rain on the way slowed his trip. By 7:30 we have 2 and a half ice chests caught.

Saturday
June 29, 1996

We sold \$340 worth of shrimp today, but a big E wind kept the tracts dry this afternoon. Only 2 ice chests today for 5 hours of trawling.

Sunday
July 21, 1996

At camp fishing-In Joey's new boat-Trisha (in shitty mood--as usual) Joey Doucet (captain), John & Susan Serligny (guides). Fished marsh. Very little success. Susan caught 2 keeper red fish. 1 at Bay Cayman and 1 at camp. Two undersized specks and a flounder and an undersized redfish were released summarily. Very hot. 90's. SE breeze 8-12. Joey's engine is being depainted as we speak.

Saturday
August 3, 1996

At camp to stay over a night--John S & Jimmy K.

Very hot these days. Temps in mid 90's. It is breezy out here, though. Minnow traps are set and with any luck we'll be able to catch a few before tomorrow.

We dragged a few bags of rocks after us and tomorrow we will pull a few boards from Uncle Gus's camp. Maybe the last set.

New roof is coming up for the camps.

After a 2 hour nap in the afternoon, John & Jimmy headed out fishing. Tide had been fallin all day. One keeper speck was all they caught.

Supper tonight was T-Bone steaks and broccoli and rice.

Very warm, but no rain today--at least here. It poured in Larose.

Oh, year. John's boat is running very poorly. It seems the carberators are not doing very well. It could be a trip to Houma again.

Saturday
August 17, 1996

Happy Birthday, Joseph. Arrived at camp in AM. John S & Jimmy K. Hauled rocks again. Hot. Rain clouds abound, but they never made it to us. Nevermind the cistern is working sort of and it's full.

Afternoon fishing 1 red & 1 speck that were keepers.

Supper tonight is lima beans/ tomato sauce/ chicken.

Jimmy's new fan is a real champ. This puppy is all you need to cool off the camp. So another school year begins. We're already looking forward to teal season-Sept 21>

John's boat is once again running well. A few gallons of carberator cleaner was all it needed.

Sunday
August 18, 1996

Well, we may not get to fish today. Rain before dawn and lightening and thunder are raining down on us from every quarter. We'll see.

Sunday
September 8, 1996

Teal season will be here in 2 weeks, but it's still summer here. Eighty's during the day w/ very little wind. Jimmy K is water skiing and John S will try fishing. Looks bleak.

Saturday
September 14, 1996

At camp for blind building excursion-John S, Joe S, & Jimmy King. Roseaux were planted near John's blind in the pond this morning. The blind is very well-covered. Palmettoes were in there too.

A front sort of approached today and the weather is drier, but clouds have persisted all day. Wind from NE then E and as this is written, SE. Tide will gain hughemongously tonight.

We got a few little busters from the crab man for minnow bait and we boiled a few. They were very tasty. Supper tonight is pork fricassee with lima beans.

The supper was excellent. Before supper and after naps were done, John and Joe tried trawling the high line and the short pull up front. About a half gallon of 15-20 whites was all they were able to get. Teal season is upon us and then we have to look at the roof situation. Changing the roof of the new camp is a definite necessity. The old camp is something we'll have to look at.

We'll be heading in early tomorrow. Shrimping isn't good enough yet, and we didn't bring a fishing pole so we'll eat a leisurely breakfast and head to the house.

John's boat has been doing well of late. It seems STP carberator cleaner is rally a miracle worker. The last few weeks it has run very well.

Leaving early will also help us avoid the rain that should be starting in the afternoon tomorrow. We'll be back next weekend.

Friday September 20, 1996

Arrived at camp in major rain storm. John S with Jimmy K. We're here for teal hunting. Jimmy had to stop to the hospital to have an ultrasound of his femural artery done. It seems his life-style is in for serious re-adjustment due to a couple of blockages in his left thigh. Smoking and all of our rich foods are out of the scene for at least the foreseeable suture. This weekend, though, we live high wide and handsome. Tonight was chicken and limas with tomato sauce on rice. Mary King's favorite dish. We're looking for teal tomorrow, but we're not very optomistic. We have our shotguns, though, and are glad for the chance to carry them about and revert to our ancestral roots.

Famous quote of the day goes to Jimmy K who when asked by John S if the camping trip were still on repiled, "Carpe Diem!" Robin Williams would have been very proud.

Saturday September 21, 1996

Morning hunt of the brief side. John S, 1 shot, 1 teal. The rain & lightning chased us out before John could smoke one cigar. We also saw another bunch of birds go by as we were leaving. The teal John shot was a blue wing. A young bird. This morning's breakfast was the usual camp fare. Fried eggs, hash browns, grits, blsqults & sausage, coffee & apple juice were here too.

Jimmy and John have been discussing what Jimmy won't be able to eat anymore, so this weekend we'll eat what we want or at least what we can and just hope for better on the morrow.

Rain all morning. Mostly light sutff after the storms of this morning. About 2 PM it stopped. John & Jimmy headed out trawling. Bay Batiste was poor less than a gallon. In the short pull they hit it and ended up with a gallon of small shrimp and a few biggies to show for the afternoon. It's ooh-yi-yi time tonight. Tennessee lost to Florida today. Tonight we'll see how LSU can do against Auburn.

Supper was very good. We roasted the little blue wing that John nailed this morning. He was excellent! We hunt again tomorrow.

Saturday
September 28, 1996

Arrived at camp at 11:30 AM. Joe Serigny and John Serigny. Jimmy K's angioplasty kept him home this weekend. We came out Saturday because the weather was really rainy and sucky this morning. A cold front has come through. We don't see teal though. We trawled a while this evening and caught a couple of gallon bags of shrimp in Bay Batiste and Jeff's short pull. We tried William's canal, but it was very poor. We tried fishing for a few moments at the fence, but no luck.

Supper tonight is field peas & rice with friend turkey smoked sausage. It's really nice in the camp this evening. It seems fall has finally arrived.

John S will try teal in the morning. Temps in the 60's tonight. We won't have to run the generator tonight.

Sunday
September 29, 1996

Last day of teal hunting a sparkling high point. John S 1 teal hunting near Rodney's flat. Sparkling clear now, but earlier clouds were in evidence enough to delay sunrise. We won't trawl today because the wind is really tough. Blowing from NNE pretty heavy 15-20 or thereabouts. Enough to make the trip back an interesting one.

Friday
October 18, 1996

Arrived at camp for the weekend. John S & Jimmy K here. Tomorrow Joey Doucet & Joe Joe will arrive in either Joey's boat or John will go to Leeville to get them.

We're planing on changing the roof on the women's sleeping quarters tomorrow. The tin and materials are here. Jimmy's boat does a great job of carrying them out here. A front came through this afternoon and that will keep Lilly in the Atlantic. We'll be in the low 50's in the morning. Looks like Atlanta & NY Yankees in the World Series. Now, if the Saints can keep their 2 game winning streak going, we're on our way.

Saturday
October 19, 1996

Today, a shining success and towering monument to the work ethic. John & Jimmy started pulling nails at 6:45. The most of the tin was off by the time John had retrieved Joe S & Joey D at Leeville. Tin removal was finished by 9 AM and new tin runners were placed between the older ones before 10 AM. Tin was cut and both sides of the camp and the caps were installed before 1 PM. Record time. Joey D proved to be an able ground man. He passed tin and handed dropped tools until culmination of the activity. We weren't about to let him handle dangerous machinery. John S knows his record with boats so you can see the level of concern.

Joe & Joey were returned to Leeville on or about 2 PM and John & Jimmy relaxed until 4:30.

Afternoon fishing took 1 speck and 1 white trout. We only fished about an hour and a half.

Lunch was white beans with fried pork sausage. (So much for diets.) Supper was white beans with fried seasoned ground meet. Chiasson meat market in Golden Meadow does seasoned ground meat very well.

We do have some work to to tonight, but it mostly revolves around fishing. (New line on Jimmy's reel---etc.) so bed time may get here early this evening.

The new camp is ship shape roof-wise. The old camp heeds help in that department. That may arrive this spring.

Saturday
October 26, 1996

At camp to repair storm damage to the duck blind. The worst thing was all the dead animals on the blind. Muskrats everywhere, and a dead nutria was there to keep them company. Yesterday we cut roseaux at Uncle Sonny and no one brought a truck. By the time we had retrieved John's truck we just barely saved the roseaux from interlopers.

John also worked on the roof a little. Jimmy used a ladder to spread mud around a lot. We'll fish this afternoon.

LSU beat Miss. State 28-17 this afternoon this afternoon. The girls must be stylin. Weather really sucks today. SE breeze. Muggy & Humid. High tides. And it's almost November. Afternoon fishing on the bright side. Two keeper reds and some others that were too small. One huge speck and a couple of others and a couple of white trout. These are summer fish.

Supper tonight is field peas & rice with roasted pork chops. We may put a little onion in our chops, too. Ceste la guere!

Sunday
October 27, 1996

Morning fishing enjoyable. Total for 2 days 27 trout (some specks some white) and 6 reds. Many more caught, but they were too small.

Warm (mid 80's) E wind 15-20. High tide.

Tuesday
November 5, 1996

Out here for election day. Susan & John Serigny, Jimmy, Anne & Anna King. Fished all morning for 3 fish. Going home to vote.

November 8, 9, 10

Arrived Friday leaving Sunday-John S & Jimmy K. Fished, drove pilings and tiled floor. Eight specks, 2 reds and 1 flounder. Cool weather, low tides. The next time we come back we'll be hunting.

November 22, 1996

Arrived at camp for first weekend of duck hunting-John & Shaun Pierce arrived at camp at about 2:30 or so. John S & Jimmy arrived about an hour later.

A front came through this morning and ENE wind is pretty steady. It'll be pretty cool tomorrow; the only problem is it'll be clear. Sunday will be cloudier, but it will be warmer. I guess, you never get exactly what you need. It's really too bad you can't get what you want either.

Supper tonight was a JP spaghetti. Fresh sausage and ground meat. It were good, as Jimmy says.

November 23, 1996

Morning hunt okay. John S & Jimmy King 5 dosgris, 3 spoonies, and one grey duck for many chances. John P & Shaun got 2 spoonies, 2 dosgris and 1 greenwing teal.

After duck cleaning and repairing the damage from wind on the roof of the new cam, we got a little of Uncle Raymond's boudoin & Turkey Chili with beans for lunch.

Fishing is coming on.

Shaun P & John S caught 13 specks today. One John caught was especially nice. It must be over 3 lbs.

November 24, 1996

Morning hunt on the slim side. John S & Jimmy K 3 grey ducks. John & Shaun P- ZIP. Warm, muggy ESE wind shipping up to 15. Tide gaining. Heading home. Temps in high 70's.

November 25, 1996

Arrived at camp before noon: John P, Shaun, and Patrick (oh, I forgot, Barf, too!) Later: John & Susan S, Jimmy, Anne & Anna King.

Susan immediately caught 4 red fish. (She made me write this), but they were all soo small and were returned post haste to their watery environs.

Later a trip to Bay Cayman by John Anne & Susan got no bites.

The weather is really different. WNW wind at 20 or so. Temps in 40's. Coldest weather of the season so far. Tide falling drastically. We may have to walk home. Many people will be coming and going this week. We'll try to keep track of their arrivals & departures. Oh yeah, John P left already-(Patrick & Barf, too.) They were too weenie to stay.

Tuesday

November 26, 1996

Morning hunt--Anna King knocked down one duck and Shaun Pierce had to finish him off. So one collective bird from the group. It was a dosgris. Pretty fair for a first effort. We had a pair of greys follow in to the decoys, but Shaun didn't get a shot at em.

When we returned, John took Anne & Susan fishing at the fence and got 3 reds and a dozen or so of the striped Roger Brown fish. Jimmy King cooked white beans for lunch and did a fine job with them. They were very tasty. Next on the agenda was re-installing the TV antenna from Jimmy K's house. It seems to help the little TV very much.

It is very cold today and belies the temperature reading. The N Wind is really what makes it so cold. Temps in the very low 50's.

Anne King returned to civilization to go get Amy in Baton Rouge. Jimmy K & Anna K & Shaun P went for the boat ride. John is busy and Susan is sleeping in the new camp.

Tide has been falling since we arrived. It seems to be pretty low now. We wonder how low it will get before this weekend.

Wednesday

November 27, 1996

Morning hunt of the cold side.--45 degrees this morning w/ 10+ NNE wind. Partly cloudy in early morning getting cloudier later. We had ducks to keep us warm. John S, Jimmy K, & Shaun P got 14 this morning (9 dosgris, 2 mottled ducks, 2 greys and 1 teal). Anna slept in this morning and deferred her hunting until tomorrow.

Susan has been whiling away her time catching sheephead near Jimmy's warf a few smaller than necessary reds were her victims and they were returned to their watery domain.

Lunch was fried fish & bean soup. After repast Shaun, Anna, Susan & John went fishing at Gus's fence. Anna caught a black drum and Susan caught a keeper red fish. We came back to the camp and napped.

The sun came out for a couple of nano seconds today. The first time since we have been here for the holidays. Supper tonight is smoked sausage spaghetti.

Thursday
November 28, 1996

Happy Thnakesgiving!!! Morning hunt--John S, Shaun P, Anna & Jimmy King in John's pond 3 dosgris and 2 teal. Warming up nicely. High today near 60 finally we have sun for a change.

In the afternoon a fishing trip to Bay Cayman got 5 red fish (most by Marsha Sue) and 7 specks.

Today Joey Doucet, Trisha & Marsha Serigny & Dallas & Wes Doucet arrived in Joey's Bay boat. They followed John S back from Leeville where he picked up Anne & Amy King fresh from Baton Rouge. They got here before lunch and the dinner list was

King: Anna, Amy, Jimmy & James

Serigny: Marsha, Trisha, Susan & John

Doucet: Wes, Dallas, & Joey

Pierce: Shaun

Menu: Turkey, yams, rice dressing, cherry pie, & little drowned cats

After lunch and piroguing, The King gang departed for civilization.

Friday
November 29, 1996

Morning hunt--John S, Joey & Wes Doucet 2 greys, 2 dosgris. Dallas & Shaun Pierce in John P's blind- 1 spoonie a 1 dosgris.

John S, Marsha & Susan went home today and later in the day Rodney, Jan & Joseph Doucet arrived.

Weather is becoming summer-like again. Wind has switched to eh E & SE and temps are up into the 60's.

Supper tonight was hot dogs & chili.

Saturday
November 30, 1996

Morning hunt on the bright side, Rodney, Joey & Wes Doucet 9 birds-all dosgris, Dallas & Shaun P 2 greys and 2 dosgris.

Joey, Trisha, & Shaun are going home in Joey's boat today.

Weather is getting gringy. Front due through tonight. Tomorrow may be a good day. Blowing 10+ from SE.

Before lunch, John S, Rodney & Joseph Doucet went fishing at Bay Caymon and caught a dozen or so specks. When they returned to the camp, Rodney Jan & Joseph Doucet went home.

The remaining souls- John S, Wes & Dallas Doucet went fishing at about 3:30. Wes caught a red fish at Bay Caymon & Dallas caught some reds & specks at Mom's spot. They were back at the camp at about 5 PM with 5 reds and a dozen or so specks even though Wes tried to intentionally miss fish. John fussed at him a lot, but he persisted in screwing up repeatedly.

Supper tonight was left over hot dogs & Chili. Boy, Jimmy King sure can cook chili. Oh yeah, Rodney had to come out in Jimmy's boat because he had high speed Jet clogging in his engine.

Our hunting and fishing have been very good this week. We've taken 56 birds thus far with 1 more hunt left in this split.

Sunday Morning
December 1, 1996

Morning hunt John S, Dallas & Wes Doucet in John's pond- 1 dosgris & 2 teal. Wes missed a lot. The others did too, but Wes missed most.

Front came through during the night. West wind today at about 20. Cloudy. Beautiful ducking day. Fifty-nine birds first split total. Pretty cool.

Friday
December 6, 1996

At camp for youth hunt. John & Patrick P- John S & Wes Doucet. Weather is sucky. Humid-lows in the 60's. Cloudy threatening rain. Tomorrow is the state's first ever youth duck hunt. John S & P aren't shooting tomorrow. Only the boys will be shooting so their expertise will be severely tested. A front will be going through tomorrow. We may get rain in the morning. WNW wind later.

Supper tonight was barbequed burgers. (Pierce sure can cook!) Macaroni & cheese on the side went well. After a little fishing tackle fixing, the evening degenerated into oldies & UNO.

Saturday
December 6, 1996

YOUTH HUNT-- Wes 2 dogsgris, Patrick 1 hooded merganser.

Friday
December 13, 1996

Out here for the opening of second split of hunting season. Early in the day Ronnie LeHoyen & his stepson Roy arrived with Rodney in Rodney's boat. It's still not running right. They caught a couple of reds at the fence early. John & Shaun Pierce arrived next and John S & Wes Doucet got here later. Supper was a John P vegetable spaghetti excellent. Warm in the low 60's at night. Warmer in the morning. Tide average with a very good tidal fluctuation.

Saturday
December 14, 1996

Morning hunt--John S, Wes & Roy 3 greys and 1 spoonle. Rodney & Ronnie ZIP. John & Shaun P 1 grey. After hunting & cleaning ducks John took Rodnsy, Ray & Ronnie fishing 15 specks were the result. Supper was duck gumbo with oysters & fresh venison sausage and smoked sausage. Pierce is an excellent cook.

Sunday
December 15, 1996

Morning hunt dismal- John P & Patrick 2 dogsgris- John S, Wes & Shaun ZIP, Ronnie & Roy ZIP. Joey came out and brought his nieces ashley & Amy & his brother-in-law Joe. He also carried Dallas & Rodney out with him.

The girls were catching fishing at Jimmy K's warf. Reds & Sheephead.

John took them fishing on Gus's and they caught 4 specks. They returned to the camp and caught fish again at the warf.

Friday
December 20, 1996

Arrived at camp at about 4 PM--John S, Jimmy K, John, Shaun & Patrick Pierce. Supper tonight is smoked sausage ra ta tat patat. (It's been a long time since I've written that.)

Cold weather this week 2 nights of hard freezes, and it will be cold tomorrow. Moderating temps are on the way, however.

Saturday
December 21, 1996

Morning hunt on the grim side. John S 1 male pintail--Jimmy missed the hen. Pierce bouys got ZIP for a few tries. Temps in the 40's this morning. E wind at about 15. Sunny, clear. This is not real good weather for hunting. It's kinda nice for the hunters, though.

Vegetable soup & cheese sandwiches for lunch!

After naps, an excursion to Rodney's Angel got us 2 champagnes of oysters. Supper was white beans & rice with fried oysters and pot-fried shrimp. Excellent! Cigar aficionado magazine was well received tonight.

No fishing today- the minnows were non-existent.

Sunday
December 22, 1996

Morning hunt better than yesterday. John P.-5 doggris (the other Pierce boys stayed to the camp and listened to the radio. Boy, were they disappointed.) John S & Jimmy K-2 spoonies and 1 doggris.

Cleaning is in progress.

After lunch and naps oyster opening once again resumed. Almost a whole gallon from one bushel. Very good furnishing.

Listening to Packers Vs Vikings on radio. Saints won yesterday and accoring to what we heard on the radio today it seems that Terry Bradshaw will become the Saints coach. We're not sure it may be a joke. Packers 38-10 over Vikings.

Afternoon fishing excursion (we finally caught minnows) to Bay Cayman, Mom's spot and Dad's spot & Anne's spot got us 4 red fish and 1 speck. John caught a red fish that weighed 13 lbs at Bay Cayman. The others were smaller. Supper tonight is T Bones & potatoes au-gratin.

The Pierce boys went home this morning and Jimmy & John are living the high life again. Will spend one more day and head in for the Christmas festivities.

Monday
December 23, 1996

Morning hunt ZIP- John S & Jimmy King. No chances. Muggy, warm SE breeze. We'll try fishing. Total fish for 2 days 10 reds & 3 specks; heading home.

Friday
December 27, 1996

Arrived at camp in more rain than we've seen in a long time. Cistern is half full after the last 24 hours. Jimmy's boat is not running very well, and John had to tow one of the crabmen a ways until someone else going in could take over.

Weather really sucks. Low 60's at night and 70's during the day. Just right for fog & gnats. Fishing is very good. Suzan, & Jackie accompanied by Joe caught 15 reds in about 40 minutes at Gus's

fence. That was on Christmas Eve morning. We didn't fish today- though we were here early- because of our depression over Jimmy's boat.

Supper tonight is fresh pork sausage spaghetti. We're having it over cheese tortellini. So much for low fat cooking.

Saturday
December 28, 1996

Morning hunt-FOG. It didn't lift until 10 AM. We were able to scratch down 2 doggrs during the worst of it. We started to leave at 10 and naturally, 7 grey ducks buzzed us as we were leaving.

We hunted in Dad's old pond near the power line. The doggrs like our camo netting. We hope the fog stays away tomorrow.

Warm with SE breeze 10+. Gnats were there. In the mid 70's during the day.

Fishing excursion from 11 AM to 3 PM- 9 reds 1 black drum. The specks aren't interested. Lots of people fishing today. Regular boat parade around here.

Supper tonight is roast duck and white beans and rice. Last night tortellini was okay, but I like regular pasta better. Jimmy's Lambrusco is disappearing at an alarming rate.

Fog appeared again at about 4:30 PM. At 6:15 Leeville is visible and so is Fourchon, but Grand Isle is socked in.

Sunday
December 29, 1996

Well, we're not very sure of hunting today, but the culprit is not fog, but rain and lightning. Looks bad.

LATER IN THE MORNING-- Hunted in the broken marsh between Rodney & Jay's flat. A variety of birds came, but we only stopped 2 doggrs. Rain was constant. Wet bunch of hunters by 9 AM. The lightning wasn't bad. Birds flew well. Rain continues as we pack.

Friday
January 3, 1997

Happy New Year! last weekend of Christmas Holidays. Arrived at camp about noonish--John & Shaun P & John Serigny.

Changes since last weekend include Jimmy K's motor not doing very well. It had major coronary problems. Bearing, piston & connecting rod caused its demise. Jimmy has kept his attitude up beat and invested in a new engine, a Tohatsu this time. He should be arriving soon. He picked up the machine in Houma at 10:30 this morning. It's now 1:30, and he has not arrived as of yet. The coffee is on for his expected arrival.

Jimmy K got here with his new Tofu before 2:15. John had to show a couple of fishermen the route through Goat Island. Jimmy is still on the break in period of his engine.

An afternoon excursion with the afore-mentioned Tofu produced 1 keeper speck.

Saturday
January 4, 1997

Morning hunt started cloudy, but ended with lots of sun. Windy from SW. Low tide. John & Shaun P-- 1 spoonie, 1 teal (GW), 1 grey duck. John S & Jimmy K 1 grey & 1 teal (GW).

After cleaning ducks, John S, Shaun P & Jimmy K ran to Leeville to put some time to the new engine. The first hour is history.

Pierce is preparing duck gumbo as we write this.

Sunday
January 5, 1997

Morning hunt on the dreary side. John S & Jimmy K 2 pintails (John really shot both of them.) John P & Shaun ZIP-(no shots). Weather is the same sucky scenario as yesterday. Tide is low during the hunt and gaining all afternoon. Temps in high 70's. Partly cloudy. This is not ducking weather.

Friday
January 17, 1997

Arrived at camp after a 2 week absence- John S & Jimmy K. Jimmy's new boat is running well. John's isn't. Dirty carberators it seems.

Very cold this weekend. Hard freeze tomorrow morning a lighter freeze due Sunday morning.

John & Jimmy took the weekend off last weekend after a goose trip to Crowley. They got 7 -(4 specks, 2 blues and a snow).

This afternoon is cloudy and cold. Temp around 40 maybe 38 degrees. The wind has moderated and it won't be that windy. We've got the cold weather gear ready.

We saw a number of birds on the way in. Dosgris are here. We saw greys too. Hopefully they'll be here tomorrow.

Supper is chicken w/lines.

Saturday
January 18, 1997

Morning hunt fighting with low tides. We managed to hunt the broken marsh next to Rodney's old place and we scratched down 1 grey and 1 dosgris. Saw many pintails but couldn't get them to come near.

We went in to vote & returned. The tides were extremely low so we decided to visit Rodney's Angel and he obliged us with 2 full champagnes of oysters. We'll talk to him about another champagne tomorrow.

Jimmy & John opened after supper (corn soup & fried oyster po boys)(The Franzia white Zinfindel was pretty good too) and shut it down about 8 PM with a half a champagne left to go. 40's tonight. This morning was about 30 degrees with very little wind. We are trying a new place tomorrow.

Sunday
January 19, 1997

Last day of the duck season. John & Jimmy got 3 teal in the front of the mud flat this morning. Rock going there & back. Push poles were used & broken (John) getting out. After cleaning ducks and pirogues and John's boat (which looked like a pig's sty), we checked with Rodney's Angel again and picked up 2 champagnes of oysters in about 40 minutes. The tides are really low today. The wind changed around to the W during the morning, and it's still blowing as we speak.

Jimmy is cooking fricasse for supper. Our naps this afternoon went longer than we had intentioned so supper may be late.

Temps in the 30's this morning, but they're moderating for sure. This afternoon was the high 50's. Tomorrow we'll leave very early so I may not get a chance to write another journal entry.

I guess it would be appropriate, I guess, to end this entry and this book now.

It's been a really good 2 years passed. Shrimping was super and hunting was exceptional this year. We killed 94 ducks at the camp this year (96 counting teal season) and caught enough shrimp to put a new roof on the camp. Now if we can keep from washing away we'll be all right. We're ready for another year of challenges.

CAMP LOG BOOK X



Camp expeditions, hunting,
fishing, trawling trips and
general Tom Foolery.

**Beginning January 29, 1997
and Ending February 17, 1999**

Camp Log Book X

CAMP LOG BOOK X

1/29/97 TO 2/15/99

January 29, 1997

Thus begins the next scribbling of the continuing saga of the camp log books. Seems we've been doing this a long, long time.

The first entry is dated 6/24/76. So we've been writing these escapades, victories, and chance encounters *for over 20 years now*.

The desire to continue to record these memoirs continues to be one of the consistencies of our camp experience. Although 1 person is directly responsible for the vast majority of the entries, other writers have on occasion deigned to write down a trip or an event they felt was particularly significant or memorable. It is obvious that most everyone believes these pages to be- to a certain extent- a necessary undertaking.

Hunting season has just ended and everyone is taking the requisite rest of a couple of weekends of off-season detachment. Mardi Gras is approaching and sticking close to home is more important at the present.

SOYS won't be here until March so we may be able to go to the camp before then.

March 8, 1997

At camp for a morning fishing excursion-John S & Susan S. Susan is trying to catch a sheepshead while John makes coffee. The camp seems to have survived the lay off very well. Just one broken shutter and the cistern is very full of water.

We'll try the marsh today.

April 19, 1997

At camp for a couple of days. John S & Jimmy K for overnight and Joey Doucet for the day.

First project of the day was putting roof coating on the ladies' camp. That took until 11:30. We had started painting at about 10 AM. Joey's running his boat for the first time in a couple of weeks. Jimmy's Tohatsu is percolating pretty well.

This afternoon John & Joey will fish and Jimmy will sleep. Why does that sound familiar?

We'll have to do more than one coat on the roof though. Two gallons will do the trick for the coat we need and them some.

Painting continued until 12 PM. Then Chili W/beans & corn chips for lunch.

John & Joey went fishing after lunch while Jimmy K guarded the camp.

John & Joey fished until about 3:30. They caught probably a dozen or so specks and a couple of catfish. The only thing that was big enough to keep was one speck. Maybe tomorrow John & Jimmy can snag a couple more. Joey headed in about 4 PM. John went to sleep about then and Jimmy got up from his nap about an hour later.

John slept until 7 PM and supper preparations continued until almost 9 PM. Wow! Eating supper at 9—that's some record. Oh, supper was chicken & Lima beans in tomato sauce—pretty standard camp fare.

An unusual occurrence this evening. At about 8 PM two boats came by the camp. One was running a generator. They've been out in the marsh on the east side of the canal. It seems they're fishing because they keep moving around a lot. The moon is full tonight so they may be doing well. We can't see what the other boat is doing, however. We're wondering if both boats are suing the light. The generator is going all the time. They have quite a light rack on the front of the boat.

Tomorrow, we'll fish more and put another coat of paint on the roof.

Camp Log Book X

Page 2

May 17, 1997

At camp for painting of roof again—Joe & John S. We had come out here last weekend and the rain delayed our departure a whole lot. We made it out in the afternoon. And then discovered that John had bought some patching stuff instead of the regular paint.

Well, we thinned it and painted it on, but it turned out yellow instead of white. So here we are again with a gallon of each. We mixed them and painted again, and it seemed to work very well. We have a lot left. We'll paint some more later in the summer.

May 23, 1997

Arrived at camp for first weekend of trawling season—John S & Joe S. First drag in front tract had a lot of fish. We drug Williams canal twice and have a 54 qt full and some more in a 60 qt.

The shrimp are exceedingly small, though. We're not sure if we want to bring any of this stuff home-or if we do only enough so we don't get aggravated peeling it.

Supper tonight is fried sausage sandwiches. Jimmy K isn't here so an Epicurean feast it ain't. We did have some oatmeal creme cakes for dessert though. I'll bet Jimmy would be jealous.

May 30, 1997

Arrived at camp for an overnighiter—John Serigny & Joe Serigny. Trawled from 3 to 7:15 and have 1 60 qt., 1 48qt., and three fourths of a 56 qt. The shrimp are still small, but there are a few of them here. Last weekend we sold 168 lbs. and had \$144. This weekend we'll do better because the price is up again.

We hooked near Pierce's cut in Fl;our Avon's pond and loaded the net up with mud, but 1 drag in the in the high line and one in Bay Batiste really made the afternoon. The Bay Batiste drag had to be dipped. Dad & I couldn't get it into the boat. Joe Joe had chest pains from straining so John took over for the rest of the dipping. We had a champagne basket full level no holes showing. We brought home part of a 36 qt. ice chest last weekend, and until they get larger, we'll use that doctrine.

Supper tonight is field peas in ground meat-or is it vice versa?

School year 96-97 ended today. Jimmy K's on his way to Chattanooga tomorrow. Happy trails!

June 13, 1997

Friday

Superstition abounds! Here this weekend—John Serigny & Jimmy King & no one else. Joe decided to stay home because he can't rest well at the camp.

Last weekend we didn't stay at the camp, but Joe & John did trawl and sold 2 ice chests and brought one home.

The second weekend of the season we sold 369 lbs of shrimp. That was a real killer.

So far today in 3 drags we have a full 48 filled and shrimp in a second ice chest. Someone was trawling in Williams canal this afternoon so we couldn't start here, but we did okay in the high line and Batiste. Sunday is Father's day and will be home for that.

Oh, by the way supper tonight is field peas & rice & fried sausage.

The weather has warmed up; it's in the mid-90's and we've been lucky because this is the first week we've had 90's so far this summer.

Jimmy's new fan is a killer. It makes it really had to write this log with the pages flapping around all over the place.

August 2, 1997

Saturday

Arrived at camp very early in the morning. John Serigny & Jimmy K. Joe Joe is in the hospital on convalescence from his colon cancer surgery.

Camp Log Book X

Page 3

We started out early, but Jimmy's circular saw had some mechanical problems. John had to call Susan and *wake her up* at 8:30 in the morning on a Saturday to get her to bring him a saw from John's house.

It was about 10:30 when John returned and Jimmy had already pulled the nails from all the porch tin. John nailed the new one, and it was through by noon. After sandwiches, a brief nap is in order. This afternoon we fish.

July 19 Danny Passed through here, but all we lost through the event was the kitchen window shutter and a section of gutter. Those things are going to be fixed soon enough. Roof work is high on the priority list these days. The old camp needs it badly.

Joe Joe is progressing well in the hospital. He's been in 13 days now and they're trying to get his coumadin levels down before he leaves. He & Harry McGaw will be fast friends. His illness had not progressed to critical stage although, no thanks to Dr. George.

Supper tonight was Field peas and rice with seasoned ground meat hamburger steaks. The field peas were excellent. The hamburger meat could've used some enhancement.

John spent the afternoon working on the holes in the roof on the north side of the old camp. They're just about done. Some roofing cement tomorrow will finish the job. We may be able to wait until spring now to recover the roof.

Saints are beating the Tennessee Oilers 14-6 as this is being written. Pre-season is underway and Ditka's boys are looking very professional for a change.

September 6, 1997

Arrived at camp after LIONS jamboree—John Serigny, Jimmy K. Immediately checked on blind structure and determined needs for repair of same.

The cistern has given up the ghost and we have no flushing water. So what's new? A NEW CISTERN IS THE ANSWER. We'll head in early tomorrow for Shaun's confirmation and Anna's tryout for MAGIC=.

September 12, 1997

Friday

They're back!! Arrived for a working weekend. John S & Jim K in their boats. They have lumber and nails & electrical tools galore. We plan to work. We need the mind-numbing-tunneled-visioned physical labor to get rid of the past week.

We'll rework our blind and try to save the cistern. It may be throwing good money after Bad, but we have to try.

It is very warm out here today. It's about 90 degrees inside the camp when we arrived.

Jimmy K is facing another stint placement. Like a trooper, he hasn't yet caved in to despair. Pastries are his answer to ill health.

Jimmy is trying to find a new mixer for vodka. John's sticking to beer. Supper tonight is field peas with ground meat (one pot meal) and rice. We will be eating well this month. Diets be damned. We even have boudin for breakfast.

September 13, 1997

Saturday

John & Jimmy repaired the blind this morning and finished at about 9:30. They got most of what they wanted to get accomplished done and rested for a half hour before heading out to Leeville for ice and gasoline. They returned by eleven, but on the way Jimmy's wallet fell overboard and sank. They searched valiantly, but the briney deep claimed another victim.

Upon returning, John started nailing the cistern. Four and a half hours later they had the cistern back up on the foundation. We're ready for rain. The tank seems much more rigid. Hopefully it'll serve us better than it did before. We certainly suffered to get it working. Jimmy was covered from

Camp Log Book X

Page 4

head to foot with tar and had to bathe in gasoline and lighter fluid to get rid of it all. John hit his thumb with the hammer & had to soak it in ice to be able to use his left hand again. They both got sunburned. Jimmy wasn't wearing a shirt and John wasn't wearing a hat. An afternoon nap was much deserved. John found his thumb prevented much slumber.

A little afternoon TV was on tap after naps and then supper production ensued. Tonight is sausage spaghetti. Fishing wasn't able to squeeze its way onto the agenda.

It came a deluge at 3 AM this morning and as this is written lightening abounds, so we are hoping to get some water in our cistern tonight and more during the week.

September 19, 1997

Friday

Opening weekend of teal season. Here to celebrate—Jimmy King & John Serigny. We'll hunt in the morning, but prospects are not bright. Very few birds are around here. Perhaps we can harvest a rail or two.

Tonight's supper was supposed to be chicken & lima beans, but John lost the chicken somewhere. So tonight is ham sandwiches and red beans and rice. We'll survive. Tomorrow we work on blinds, and maybe fish a little. We'll try to report the results.

September 20, 1997

Saturday

First morning of teal season was a scratch affair. John shot at one marsh hen, but he didn't get it. We saw blacks and a couple of teal, but didn't get to salute them. Maybe tomorrow will be better.

The blind work finished at about 10:30, and John & Jimmy headed to the lake to scout some. Nothing impressive though.

The area we're hunting in is really nice. Only time will tell if it's productive.

Oh, I forgot. We scouted last Sunday morning and found some newly formed crevees near Lake Palourde on the right. It's sort of between Jay's flat and Williams Canal. Sandwiches are the order of the day for lunch. Naps are coming up. Fishing later.

Afternoon fishing excursion got one speck by John and Jimmy missed a red fish at the boat. Tennessee is losing to Florida at this writing. No teal moving yet; let's hope the hunting gets better next week.

Supper tonight is a kitchen sink spaghetti. *Ah hah, Charlotte.* I know you're asking "What's a kitchen sink spaghetti?" Well, we put everything but the kitchen sink in it. There's smoked and fresh sausage, ground meat-seasoned of course-breakfast sausage, garlic and onion powder, parsley flakes, and lots of fresh onions—5 big ones. Umm umm, good!

September 21, 1997

Sunday

Morning hunt ZIPPO again. HOT—MUGGY. Saw many birds flying. Hopes for next weekend. Heading in.

September 26, 1997

Friday

At camp for second weekend of teal season. Definitely a different time of year this weekend. This is fall. NNE wind above 10, temps in low 80's and 60's at night. Really nice.

Supper tonight is Ribeyes (big ones) and Rice-a-roni broccoli w/cheese. We can enjoy this stuff. It was payday today.

Camp Log Book X

September 27, 1997

Saturday

Morning hunt—ZIP. Didn't see as many birds as we saw last Sunday. We tried Rodney's flat today and tomorrow we'll try Jay's flat. We also scouted Rodney's angel in Rodney's flat and marked it for future posterity. We do have minnows though, and fishing is on the agenda. We do have a few minor projects to handle today, but that can be done later. Our cistern seems to be holding for now so we have high hopes for the coming season. Today is really beautiful 70's and in the camp 66. Very comfortable. Coffee and a good cigar (Don Seville) is very relaxing.

Our fishing trip netted us one red and one white trout. Other fish were caught, but none were keepable size. Supper tonight is chicken and lima beans that we were supposed to have last week until John forgot the chicken. A very nice day today. Slight cloud cover this afternoon mild, low humidity.

September 28, 1997

Sunday

Last day of teal season as uneventful at all the other—ZIP in the flat of Jay. Fishing afterwards: 1 red, 1 speck, 1 flounder. Going home.

October 10, 1997

Friday

Arrived at camp—John Serigny, Jimmy King. Wind from E has tide extremely high. City of New Orleans was very interesting. Water level just below the wharf at sunset. Someone has spent the night here but since they didn't steal very much, we're not too excited. Supper tonight is field peas w/seasoned ground meat.

Stringing fishing lines is the main order of business this evening. Jimmy has a ton of new line. Every rod & reel is filled with newby line.

October 11, 1997

Saturday

After breakfast, a trawling excursion in bay Batiste got us near a half of a 48 qt. Ice chest of shrimp. We next ran to Leeville for women folks. Susan Serigny, Anne King and Anna King. The parking lot of the boat stalls is full of water. John had to carry Susan Piggyback. Anna took a picture.

Susan & Anne caught white trout at the camp till noon. A 3 hour fishing trip got a number of keepers. John caught 2 redfish- one about 6 lbs. Anna caught many trout, but spent most of her time tanning on the front of the boat. Anne and Susan caught fish too. Everyone had an enjoyable time. Susan said she could've caught a few more and she would have been much happier. Tulane is beating Louisville as we write this tome. Jimmy K napped while everyone was fishing.

October 17, 1997

Friday

Arrived at camp for overnight stay—John Serigny, Joe S. & Jimmy K. It's good to have Joe Joe here for overnight again. After we got here, John & Jimmy worked on the gutters and Joe Joe went fishing. He caught 2 nice specks. Supper tonight is Chicken fricassee W/lima beans. Tomorrow we work on the blind and trawl and fish.

Camp Log Book X

Page 6

October 18, 1997

Saturday

We worked on the blind and trawled—5 shrimp. The ones that were here last weekend are gone. We fished Tee Gus's and caught 5 reds (4 by Jimmy). Joe caught a few trout. The main thing is John caught nothing.

Stayed until well past noon. Going in.

November 14, 1997

Friday

Arrived at camp for opening of hunting season. Everyone says they have lots of ducks. We've not seen any yet. Weather is mild at the present time. West breeze died about dark thirty. Here for the opening- John Serigny and his soon-to-be son-in-law, Joey Doucet. We arrived about 4 and set decoys right away.

Supper tonight was WalMart fried chicken with pasta & cold slaw. Jimmy would've died for sure. At last, we have water in the cistern. We had a solid day of rain and it did our water collection system good. John plumbed a valve on the water system to the new camp. That'll keep the water loss factor down. We're listening to SL on the radio. They're playing in the playoffs as a wild-card team, and this is the first round. We don't plan to fish, but you never really know how things will turn out.

The flapper valve on the toilet has been replaced. South Lafourche is winning 7-0 at almost half time.

November 15, 1997

Saturday

Opening morning pretty okay. Eight greys and 2 dosgrs for John S & Joey D. They lost 1 grey duck in the grass. The morning was sunny & mild. The wind had shifted to the N and picked up all morning. Right now (11:30 AM) we've got cloudy conditions and increasing NNW wind to at least 15 mph. Heading in because Trisha told Joey he has to. Later.

November 21, 1997

Friday

Arrived at camp—John S & Jimmy King in both boats. We're off for the Thanksgiving holidays and will be out here during the week. We'll be staying till Monday, and we'll be joined by John P and his crew tomorrow. The weather is warmer this weekend, and we're expecting a front to come through tomorrow during the hunt. Hopefully, they'll be a few birds moving around.

Supper tonight was steaks and broccoli & rice. We're definitely living high on the hog.

November 22, 1997

Saturday

Morning hunt on the okay side. John & Jimmy—2 greys, 1 teal, 1 spoonie. The weather was atrocious. Warm, muggy, S breeze very light. Gnats galore. We took as much as we could until 8:30 and, of course, when we tried to leave, ducks were eating us up. We cleaned ducks and tried to get away from gnats most of the day. Rain off and on during the late morning. It cleared off around noon and John P with Shaun, Patrick, & Barf showed up shortly after. (That's BarT, you ninny!)

John & Jimmy went fishing at the little island and John caught 3 keeper specks and 3 that weren't. We caught a few undersized reds at the fence and headed back to the camp. Patrick, John & Shaun caught red sheepshead and cleaned them for supper. Oh, by the way, we had roasted duck,

Camp Log Book X

white beans, and fried fish. It was excellent. No LSU football tonight so we're listening to oldies at the present time. We'll be here for 2 more days, and are really enjoying it at the present. Afternoon brought pretty steady drizzle and every once in a while it stepped up to deluge 4.01.

November 23, 1997

Sunday

Morning hunt was on the bright side. John S & Jimmy K got 2 greys and 2 dosgris. They also lost one other grey duck they knocked down early.

The Pierce boys got 1 spoonie and 1 dosgris. After duck cleaning, the boys took off exploring and after some bean soup the elderly slept. The Saints lost to Atlanta 20-3, and Mike Ditka said he has had enough. John, Shaun, & Patrick went fishing and caught 5 specks and Patrick caught a really nice red fish at Anne's spot. Supper tonight is Pork & Beef fricasse w/lima beans. The passage of a front has made things much nicer today with ENE wind 10-15 mph kept the gnats down and the mild temps were really nice-- sixties during the day and cooler tonight.

November 24, 1997

Monday

Morning hunt was on the slim side. John & Jimmy 1 teal (John) and Pierce (hunting alone because the weenie boys weren't up to waking up early this morning) got 1 pintail. We're heading home today so cleaning the camp is in progress now.

November 25, 1997

Tuesday

Arrived at camp for the Thanksgiving week sojourn. It is very cool today. It is windy from the E. We'll be having very warm turkey day, however. We hope the gnats won't have their way with us. Susan & John went fishing on Tee Gus's and caught 6 specks. A few undersized ones were released to grow larger. Actually, John caught the fish and Susan was very despondent about the whole sordid affair. She did catch the only red fish; though, it was too small to keep and a couple of undersized specks to boot. Most of the crew will be arriving at various times during the week—mostly Thanksgiving day.

November 26, 1997

Wednesday

Morning hunt got us 1 rail only. Gnats chased us out at 8:15. Afternoon fishing was a little better. John put a coat of paint on the porch roof before the fishing trip. We got back about 1:30 and ate lunch and tried to take a nap, but the gnats were too plentiful for us. John got up when the wind picked up from the SW and painted the roof once more.

Susan wasn't feeling well after supper (white beans and fried fish) and had a bladder infection. Jimmy had some Bactrum and she was feeling better after taking some, but she didn't feel really well enough to sleep steady until later in the evening.

November 27, 1997

Thursday

Morning hunt was very dismal. John & Jimmy shot at one grey duck and they both missed big time. At around 9 AM John ran in to Leeville and picked up Marsha S, Anne K, & Anna K. Upon arriving they immediately went fishing and only caught 1 keeper. The usual Thanksgiving fare is being prepared as this is written.

Camp Log Book X

Page 8

November 28, 1997

Friday

The morning hunt brought John & Jimmy 4 greys-their only chance. A good breeze from the E starting at about 9 AM is blowing now. After duck plucking, John, Anne, Susan, & Marsha went fishing and caught 6 or 7 keeper at the little island and a couple of other places.

Heading home.

November 29, 1997

Saturday afternoon

We arrived at the camp at about 2 PM--John Serigny, Joe Serigny, Suzan Serigny, & Jackie. Suzan & Jackie are here for fishing. John went out to set decoys and caught one speck. Joe & the ladies caught 2 specks. One was about a 3 lbs. It is very muggy today. Rain until about 1:45. Very little breeze. It is cloudy and foggy at about sunset. John will hunt tomorrow.

November 30, 1997

Sunday

Morning hunt got John 0 ducks for one chance at 4 grey ducks. That was the only opportunity. Joe, Suzan & Jackie tried fishing the marsh with very little success (only 2 specks). The west wind is ripping from the frontal passage last night. It is sunny, clear, and cool. Nice weather, but not for hunting.

We won't be here next weekend due to impending nuptials.

December 12, 1997

Friday

Well, it's Trisha Doucet now. I really still haven't been hit with the reality of it all yet. We arrived at camp today about 4 PM- John S & Jimmy King in both boats. Opening of second split is tomorrow. This week (December 8-12) was the closed part of the split. We hope there are a few more birds this trip. We haven't seen a whole bunch though. Rodney's angel contributed to our welfare this afternoon, but it was very cold and we had to leave before he gave us too much. We'll see him tomorrow. We're sure he'll be generous.

It is very cold today--40's on the low and high side. A NNW wind is moving at about 20. Here's the kicker-rain almost all day on and off. This is really duck weather. Hopes are high for tomorrow, but they always are regardless of recent history.

December 13, 1997

Saturday

Well, we wanted cold weather, and boy, did we get it. Temperature was 37 degrees this morning and the wind was really whipping as well. John and Jimmy got 4 dogs and 1 spoonie this morning; they hunted until 9:30. They were also able to harvest 2 rails. Rodney's oysters were opened before noon. Soup & grilled cheese for lunch and naps ensued.

After naps, Rodney gave us another bushel of oysters. A very generous fellow is Rodney. Supper is field peas w/ground meat & sausage filling. Also 3 rails (John shot another one around the camp this afternoon) and a spoonie to add a little bulk. The birds will be cooked in lots of onions.

We had to turn off the heater in here; it was way too warm. It's still 40 degrees outside though. We may play around with Rodney's oysters after supper.

Camp Log Book X

December 14, 1997

Sunday

Morning hunt was very slow. No shots on ducks. John got 1 rail though. Scratch that, Jimmy shot it with John's gun. Left with tide very low on trip home.

December 19, 1997

Friday

We arrived at camp for the weekend. John S & John P in their boats. Pierce's rice-burning bastard is running better this trip than last. The carburetor is the problem, though. The tide is still very low. We came in around Lake Jesse and through the cuts along the dead end canal.

After unloading the boat we got a few oysters from Rodney's on his Bay Batiste location. The tide is gaining steadily, though and this weekend is the other end of the spectrum from last weekend. We have 60's in the evening, and 70's during the day. This weekend John remembered his sleeping bag. Of course, this weekend he won't need it.

Supper tonight was a Walmart special—Honey herb chicken (a whole one). We even had WalMart sides--Some Mescatolli pasta and Cole slaw. Jimmy would not approve.

John Pierce is not doing well this evening. He damaged his knee on the way to Leeville when his pirogue tried to leave the boat while under way on the highway. He's been popping ibuprofen all evening.

December 20, 1997

Saturday

The morning hunt was John Serigny only. Pierce's knee kept him to the camp. John got ZIP. No shots on ducks. He did miss a rail, though.

Pierce opened oysters while John S was hunting. We have chili & chips w/ sandwiches for lunch and we're waiting for Jimmy King to get here. John S called him at 6 AM this morning, but he was still abed. Late night at the wedding kept him sleeping later than usual this morning. The tide is a little higher than yesterday, but still on the low side. Even AJ Leblanc is running around in a mud boat. We may be able to get more oysters this evening if we get to it early enough. We see a few birds moving around so there is some optimism for the rest of the second split which opens today.

Afternoon entry. An excursion for oysters from Rodney. He gave us 2 bushels. Supper tonight was duck gumbo with a side of goose choo ru. An excellent repast for the camp it was. Jimmy King arrived at about 11:30 AM. He insisted that this long entry be made. The gumbo contained oysters, dosgris (6 of them), venison sausage, smoked sausage, and fresh pork sausage. It was enjoyed w/gusto (that's not a drink, Charlotte).

December 12, 1997

Sunday

Jimmy King & John Serigny in the broken marsh near Rodney's flat—2 dogs, 1 spoonie and 1 rail. Jimmy had to shoot an otter to get the spoonie which was a cripple away from it.

December 26, 1997

Friday

Happy birthday, Jimmy King. We arrived at camp at about 1 PM--John Serigny & Jimmy King. We unloaded the boats and fooled around a little with some Baron Rouge fishermen who had some water pump problems and headed in to Leeville to get Suzan, Jackie, and Joe Joe. After getting back and getting them lined out, John & Jimmy ran the marsh buggy tract and checked the rockro near Jay's and will hunt there tomorrow.

Camp Log Book X

Page 10

Joe & Suzan & Jackie went fishing at the little fence and got a few undersized fish that were returned immediately to grow up. A few sheepshead were skulking around too. Supper tonight was white beans & rice w/fresh sausage. Wind was from NE all day. Rain started after nightfall and wind swapped to more NNW. Will be really blowing tomorrow. Expecting light freezes for Sunday and Monday.

December 27, 1997

Saturday

Very windy from the NNW today. Tide falling very hard John & Jimmy hunted in a new spot near Jay's flat. It is actually closer to Lake Palourde than Jay's. We left the boat in the marsh buggy track and paddled across the rackro to then pull the pirogue about 40 yards across the marsh to get into some very shallow crevees. They did okay-2 gray ducks and 2 male pintails-but they worked for it.

After duck plucking, Jackie and Suzan fished near Jimmy's wharf and caught lots of sheepshead and one keeper red fish. The sun came out and things warmed up dome. Joe got some oysters from Rodney's Angel and Jimmy and John got some from Rodney's at the clam shell dam on Bay Batiste. The tide is mean low again and John & Jimmy aren't sure where they'll hunt tomorrow if at all. There were ducks this morning at Jay's and Rodney's so they'll try in one of those spots tomorrow.

Supper tonight was fried fish and oysters w/field peas.

December 28, 1997

Sunday

Morning hunt for John & Jimmy 3 gray ducks & 1 lost bird. They hunted in Jay & Donald's old flat and the birds were landing away from them. They have plans for next week though. Very much work getting in and out. Low tide, granmaw. John Serigny is very sick with fever & cold and John & Jimmy will go in today. Warmer today because the sun is out and the wind has slacked off to next to nothing. An easy trip in is on the agenda.

Camp Log Book X

Page 11

January 2, 1998

Friday

Happy New Year!!! Arrived at camp early (11 AM) John Serigny and Jimmy King. About 3:30 John P, Shaun, and Patrick arrived. Wind is from ESE tide is gradually rising. It is warm (in the low 70's) and windy (10-15) and very muggy. At about 4 PM we checked on Rodney & he gave us about 3 champagnes of oysters. He is very generous. Supper is fresh sausage spaghetti. Pierce did an excellent job.

January 3, 1998

Saturday

The morning hunt got John & Jimmy 9 gray ducks in Donald's old flat. The Pierce boys got 1 gray duck in their blind. John & Jimmy knocked down 3 other birds (IV) that they lost. After cleaning ducks & oysters and short naps, John S & Shaun P headed fishing. They caught 1 keeper speck and 1 red fish for the 2 hour effort. Supper tonight is oyster jambalaya and roast duck.

It was even warmer today. Sunny clear- ESE wind 10-15.

January 9, 1998

Friday

The season is winding down. Here for one of the last weekends of the season--John & Joe Serigny and Jimmy King. They arrived in two boats. It's cool in the 50's and the tide is a little below normal, the wind will be switching around to the SE tomorrow. Hopefully the birds will still be here tomorrow.

ADDENDUM FROM:

January 4, 1998 —————

Sunday

John S hunted alone in Jay's flat. Jimmy's arm was hurting so he didn't go. Pierce hunted on his own too. His boys couldn't make the wake-up call. John Serigny got 2 male pintails and 3 gray ducks. John P got 5 dogs. Pierce stopped because he thought he had limited out. We're heading home after duck plucking.

January 10, 1998

Saturday

Morning hunt on the slim side. John & Jimmy got 1 gray duck in Jay's flat. There are many ducks around, but they aren't coming in to us. Joe fished oysters from Rodney while John & Jimmy were hunting. Rodney is very generous to us these days. After duck cleaning, Joe got another bushel full of oysters from Rodney. After naps were over, John & Jimmy got 2 bushels of oysters from him. That's 5 bushels of oysters from him. That's 5 in one day. Of course, the tides are low and Rodney has lots of oysters laying around. Supper tonight is chicken & lima beans in tomato sauce. Excellent!

A beautiful day today. It was an excellent day for fishing. Joe & a visitor from Baton Rouge caught red fish for about 2 hours 1 after another most of the afternoon while John & Jimmy were snoring. Hopefully tomorrow's hunt will be better. Wind is from ESE light; it's sunny, clear, cool and in the 60's all day, 50's tonight.

January 11, 1998

Sunday

This morning's hunt was nice: 5 gray ducks in Jay's flat Sunny E wind at 15 + and about 60 degrees. The tide is not as low as yesterday. We're heading in.

January 16, 1998

Friday

We arrived at camp about 4:30—John Serigny and Jimmy King—both of these nimrods late of Crowley and David Boudreaux's goose operation. They had a fantastic hunt in the East with the Geese blind. They bagged 6 speckled bellies and 3 snows and 1 blue.

Camp Log Book X

Page 12

John & Jimmy checked out the possibilities this afternoon and it looks like Jay's flat tomorrow for sure. The ducks are in there big time. After the last two weekends it would seem they'd get wise, but it seems that they really like that place this year. So star trekking they go.

A little front has pushed the rain out of the local vicinity and with a full cistern things are looking pretty good for flushing. The weather is cool tonight (mid 40's) but it'll be getting warmer tomorrow & Sunday. Monday is Martin Luther King day and we have a day off so we'll be celebrating by staying out till Monday morning. This is the lastest weekend and; therefore, our season is going down in the books as pretty good for big ducks. Three male pintails and tons of gray ducks have fallen to our guns this year and we've enjoyed ourselves very much. We're only glad that ducks are easier to clean than geese are.

January 17, 1998

Saturday

Our morning hunt was a zippo affair. Jay's flat had a few birds, but they wouldn't come in to the set up. These guys are really gun shy about the whole deal. No wind and sunny skies didn't help much either. Our low tides continue. It is very grim. Rodney's Angel did meet us on the way in and gave us a big champagne of oysters. We're planing an oyster jambalaya for tomorrow night. We may try a different place to hunt tomorrow. We'll see how things go with the tide today. We're chili-ing this noon and tonight'll be pork chop spaghetti.

*****Appres nap**** John & Jimmy napped until about 3 PM. After coffee & cinnamon rolls a quick trip to Rodney's Angel's last dam brought us 2 champagnes of very nice single shelled oysters. The extremely low tide helped us to get some of Rodney's best and he was happy to share. These babies are real keepers. Rodney is so generous.

Supper was delayed because of the oysters' coming out party. About 8 PM we sat down to a brown oyster jambalaya that was exquisite. Jimmy K really out did himself tonight. We're not sure where we're hunting tomorrow and when you see our supper you'll understand why we don't really care. A late night this evening (almost 9 PM before bed time)

January 18, 1998

Sunday

Morning hunt ZIPPO. The gray ducks want Jay's flat and we tried the broken marsh near Rodney's. The fog didn't help matters any. After hunting we made a swing near Jay's and about 100 birds got up from in there. We decided our last hurrah would have to be in Jay's flat this afternoon. No Rodney's Angel today, we missed his route and are happy that we won't have to stay up opening his gifts tonight.

We napped briefly and were out again at 3 PM in Jay's flat. The ducks were there, but they are extremely educated and avoid decoys like the plague. We got to shoot, but had nothing to show for our efforts. We had to battle extremely low tides to get out of there.

Very muggy tonight, but a front should pass tonight and dry things out for tomorrow. Supper tonight is pork chop spaghetti with a few extra ingredients (seasoned ground meat, smoked sausage). A very tasty dish. We've had more than our share of aches and pains (Pierce's knee, Jimmy's shoulder, John's back), but we have continued to enjoy ourselves every time here.

This year's total kill is 67 birds. A few less in the quantity category but considerably more in the quality area. We've nailed a few more gray ducks than usual--fewer Dosgris, which probably explains the short count. We even have tallied 3 pintails for the season. Not even Trisha's marriage could stop the progress of our reveries. So we close the pages on another chapter of hunting season (33 so far). We hope to have as many more.

February 4, 1998

Arrived at camp at mid-morning—John Serigny & Jimmy King. We caught sheephead & undersized reds till noon. Afternoon naps ended at 3:30.

We saw two people stranded high & dry near the camp. After a ride to try rescue, we decided we couldn't get to them and called the sheriff.

An airboat was dispatched. While we waited for water patrol, we visited Rodney's Angel and were blessed with 3 champagnes of oysters. We couldn't open them that night so they were put by until morning. Our work is done now and we're heading in w/8 sheephead and our oyster gifts. (Sunday, February 5, 1998)

Camp Log Book X

April 5, 1998

Arrived at camp at some ungodly hour (about 7:30 AM). Susan, John, Trisha and Joey. We fished at the usual places until 12 PM. Then we headed back in. Mom, Dad and Joey caught a few specks, but only Dad had a keeper-ONE keeper. The only excitement of the day occurred at the boat launch first thing. Mom was arranging an ice chest to sit on when Joey got in the boat. Joey grabbed the ice chest Mom was about to sit on while she was in the process of sitting. Trisha screamed, John yelled, "Susan, don't sit!" But, alas, it was all in vain. She sat anyway and landed smack-dab on her butt on the floor of the boat. ****Guest writer—Trisha Serigny Doucet**

**Mom in this case is Susan & Dad is John S.

April 9, 1998

We arrived at the camp yesterday (April 8, 1998) at about 3 PM. Susan, John, Marsha, and Pepper came in one boat, and Trisha and Joey Doucet arrived in Jimmy K's boat as well. Joey and John worked on pulling in the wharf with a come-a-long hoping to prevent the inevitable fall of the wharf into the canal. After that, Marsha, Susan and John went fishing. They caught 3 specks: 2 for John, 1 for Marsha. Joey took off into the marsh to fish on foot. He caught a leg cramp. Trisha stayed at the camp and caught a nap. Pepper stood watch over the camp while this was going on. She probably caught a nap, too. Supper was roast beef po-boys.

This morning, John Serigny went in to Leeville to get Joe Serigny at the boat launch. Then Joey, John, and Joe put a new roof on the camp. Fishing comes later. ****Guest documentation done by Trisha Serigny Doucet**** Susan caught 1 big red fish, and everyone left at 2 PM.

April 18, 1998

Shaun, Patrick, Lane, TC, and Miles are here. Came skiing. Later.

May 23, 1998

Saturday

Trawling expedition. Only Joe and John S on this trip. We arrived at about 1 PM today. We were here Thursday to see what the shrimping looked like. (It opened Monday May 18, 1998). Thursday we caught 3 ice chests in 4 one half-hour drags. Sizes were mixed.

Today we tried the back tract and had a champagne and a half in the first 45 minute drag. Second drag we pulled an hour and had over 2 champagnes. I've never seen so many shrimp in the trough. The last drag was 45 minutes and we had a champagne and a half. We had to head to Leeville to sell some so we could have room for shrimp tomorrow. We did make a 40 minute drag after going to Leeville and we caught a half champagne then. Supper was fried fresh sausage sandwiches with Zaps sizzling steak chips too.

The weather is okay. It's Breezy from the SSW. Daytime temps in the low 90's. No rain since April. May has not had a drop land yet. The roof's in good shape and the cistern's ready to go; all we need now is some rain.

June 3, 1998

Wednesday

Another school year passed and our youngsters are smarter than we left them, I'm sure. A number of them will be doing their thing again in the same classrooms next year. Trawling continues to be very good. Last Saturday Joe & John caught a 48 qt ice chest of keepers and sold 245 lbs. The price is not very good, but the shrimp are very nice and getting bigger every week.

Today Jimmy K and John trawled the tracts and have about 100 lbs to show for their afternoon with a 48 qt ice chest of keepers. We will catch more in the morning.

Camp Log Book X

Page 14

June 7, 1998

Sunday

We arrived about noon. John S & Joe S with Jimmy King's boat, but no Jimmy King. Drags in the back tract, Pothole, 2 in Bay Batiste and a 30-minute drag in Williams Canal. We have over 5 ice chests caught. One of those is a 48 qt. almost full of keepers. We should have over 250 lbs. right now.

We're staying the night because a cold front came through and changed the SW wind around to the NE and dropped the temperatures. It should be near 60 tonight. We trawled through the hottest part of the day w/no tent. A few gnats, but really very little can aggravate us today with the shrimp we caught. We won't need the generator tonight. We'll sleep in the new camp and let the breeze cool us. I hope we won't be searching for blankets in the middle of the night.

This will be John's last trawling for 2 weekends. He & Susan are going to Hilton Head & the Biltmore for the next 10 days. We'll be back before the season ends, though. Luckily, the freezers are well-stocked. The shrimp are some of the nicest we've put by in a couple of years. I may have to call Chuck Smith when I return. The tide is falling all night. Full moon has kept us company all night. Breezes let us sleep w/o the generator. It was 68 this morning. The breeze makes it feel cooler than that. Last Wed. & Thurs. John & Jimmy sold 300 lbs and brought home each a 48 qt. of keepers. The keepers run larger than 40-50. The stuff we're selling is 70-80. That's well over 400 lbs of shrimp for a 1 day excursion. There is still no price. The 70-80's are going for 65 cents a lb.

August 23, 1998

Sunday

We've been here a few times since last entry, but not long enough to write. Here today is John S, Joe S, and Jimmy King. We trawled 2 drags a total of an hour and caught maybe 12 shrimp. We fished and caught nothing. We explored our hearts out. We found very nice stuff. Heading in.

October 23, 1998

Friday

Okay, so it's been a really long time since we've been here, but it isn't because we didn't try to get here. The hurricanes have sort of prevented it. Teal season came and went, and we weren't able to get out here at all. Then between stuff to do on weekends and Jimmy's bad back we weren't able to get to cut roseau and palmettos until this weekend. Tomorrow we build the duck blind for the upcoming season that opens in 3 weeks.

Here tonight is John & Joe Serigny and Jimmy King & Joey Doucet. We've already caught one speck. Supper tonight is chicken & lima beans. It's nice & cool out here. In the 40's tomorrow morning. Another new thing is the fact that we couldn't carry everything out here at one time. We have to go back to Leeville tomorrow to get the rest of the gear.

October 24, 1998

Saturday

Today a lot of work was accomplished. An early morning run to Leeville got the other equipment needed for the blind building. John, Jimmy and Joey went out and built the big blind. Actually John & Jimmy did the blind building and Joe drank all the beer and handled the supervising chores. It's funny how people named Joe always get that job. Jimmy had a particularly tough time and actually went swimming for a short stint when he mis-stepped. His claims that the water was extremely cold fell on deaf ears. John found out how cold it was a little later when he stepped over his hip boots. John didn't scream like Jimmy did, though. Joey perceived Jimmy vocalizations as mildly excessive.

Eventually they finished, and when they returned, they found that John Pierce had arrived. Pierce is the construction foreman and after lunch (white beans with roasted duck & poule deaux), and after a fishing trip by Joey, John P and Joe Joe, and a nice nap for John & Jimmy, the new wharf construction got underway. Four 4X4's were placed in appropriate positions for the wharf building program. Joe Joe & Joey went fishing again and everyone else stayed to the camp and drank coffee with Bailey's in it. Supper was fried fish with the remainder of the fowl from lunch. Jimmy fried the fish.

Camp Log Book X

Page 15

Warmer tonight with a slightly lighter wind than we had yesterday. Tonight'll only be in the 50's. Tomorrow will be warming up. Hurricane Mitch is kicking up the gulf right now--well, really the Caribbean. We hope for the best for us.

October 31, 1998

Saturday

Happy Halloween! At the camp for a one night stand—Joe Joe, John S, and Jimmy King. We have installed a new North side door. A gift from Phil. It's been languishing around John's house for a few years. Of course, a new frame and studs were required. That took until noon. John S got the first 3 boards for his wharf going. The supports are leveled off and the boards are in place. John & Jimmy also put 5 more bundles of roseaux on their blind. Just in the nick of time too because duck season is only 2 weekends away. A very full day of work was completed today. Joe did find time to fish. He caught about a dozen trout. They were everywhere. They're not biting very hard, but they are widespread. The mullets are schooling, and the specks are chasing after them. Last weekend on Sunday morning John S, John P, and Joey D caught 12 specks and white trout fishing on Sunday morning. Supper tonight was red beans with barbecue pork and sausage. Pierce's little barbecue pit did okay. We are very pleased that the day saw much work completed. We're finally getting the place into shape. There is still a lot of work to do yet. Roof and camp painting and the new front wharf. The back porch needs repair, and the front porch on the new camp is going south too. We're also trying to secure rocks to sink behind the bulkheads for saving the island-or near island- that the camp is on.

Pierce may be here next week. His construction expertise is always welcomed. We still have a little work to do on the North facing door. That'll be secured next week.

November 7, 1998

Saturday

Arrived at camp with a large load of equipment and junk. John P got here first a little before John S & Jimmy K. Joe S is also here and as an added extra we have Bobby Delaune and Adam Paul Delaune. Adam Paul was put to fishing as soon as bait could be acquired. John P had received some freshly caught shrimp from Mike Collins on his way to the camp. John S & P began working on the wharf & porch and Joe began working on the North side door. The porch foundation work was done before noon. The door work drugged on until much later. John P put coats of paint on the door inside and John S caulked as many holes as he could find.

Meanwhile Adam Paul was catching sheepshead out the wazoo. A 48 qt. ice chest was full by the time he got bored. A trip into the marsh got us 1 red fish that Adam Paul landed. We got back around 3:30 and Adam Paul and Joe Joe headed out to fish and Adam Paul drove the boat around the tract. The new deck is ready for boards and looks really OK. Our widow maker is on its last legs. A welding job is in order for the future. A new deck on the west side is also in the offing. Last weekend John S & Joe caught 20 trout and 1 red fish. We're staying until tomorrow to fish again and next weekend is the opening of duck season. Oh yeah, Bart is here and schmoozing with everyone the camp.

November 13, 1998

Friday

Arrived at camp for the opening of duck season. Here we are again! John S, Joe S, and Jimmy K are here, and we have boards for the deck and steps up from the wharf. Our pile driver has been repaired and is ready for the next construction phase. We dumped the boats of gear at the camp and John & Jimmy put decoys out for the morning's festivities. The weather really sucks for duck hunting. A southerly breeze is blowing warmly. The high today was 70. We expect mid 60's in the morning. We're supposed to get rain some time tomorrow. It may be later in the evening. Sunday should be an okay day—a little cooler, but clear. Tides are falling all day and gaining all night. Jimmy & John saw a few flocks of birds as they were setting decoys this afternoon.

Tonight's supper was ohh yi yi. Very well done- a community effort by John S & Joe Joe. Gnats have made their appearance already. Much like every mild hunting season, we get the gnatsies in a hurry. Shaw leads SL 13-0 at half.

Camp Log Book X

November 14, 1998

Saturday

The first day of duck season was kinda okay. John & Jimmy got 6 ducks: 3 teal, 2 dosgris & 1 spoonie. The weather was summer-like this morning—in the 70's with a SE breeze. The gnats were there, but the cigars kept them at bay. After duck plucking, the porch and steps to same were completed. We love it! The squalls came through about noonish and ruined our morning fishing expedition. Joe Joe had caught 6 fish while the hunting was in progress. The rains gave us an opportunity to rest & relax until about 3 PM. John painted a bit upon arising. Pierce had done just about everything he needed to last weekend. The roller on the W side of the camp was working, but John needs a ladder to get anything serious going. Joe Joe went fishing again this evening. Three trout were the result.

Supper tonight was duck & oyster gumbo. Jimmy also made a wonderful potato salad to go along with it. The wind switched around to the SW this afternoon. The front hasn't come through as of yet, but we expect it before morning. We saw many bunches of birds today, but they were all moving to the South with no notice of our 118 decoys.

Tennessee beat Arkansas in a hell of a ball game this afternoon. In the Persian Gulf Saddam is still trying to make all the calls in the standoff with the US fleet. The Arturo Fuente that Ron Briscoe gave me tastes wonderful at the present time.

November 15, 1998

Sunday

This morning's hunt—John S and Jimmy K got 9 birds altogether: 1 mallard, 2 teal, 2 dosgris, 2 spoonies, and 2 grays. Joe caught 3 reds & 4 or 5 nice speck. We're heading home.

November 20, 1998

Friday

Arrived at camp for the second weekend of hunting season. First arrival was John Pierce at around noon or so. Pierce got his blind ready for tomorrow's activities. John S was next to arrive, but by the time John S had gotten here John P had taken his nap and was chase lounging on the new deck. Joe S & Jimmy K arrived after they returned to Leeville for the screen door that had been left leaning near the launch. A front supposedly came through this afternoon, but it will take a while to cool off here. It hasn't taken effect as of yet. Temps have been downright balmy all day. Really, all week. Hopefully, we won't have to fight the gnats tomorrow. Supper was pork ribs smothered in peppers, onions, & celery. Very tasty, and stick to your ribs good, too. Carl Arredondo predicts clouds & wind for tomorrow. We hope he's right!

November 21, 1998

Saturday

Morning hunt*****--NO WAY a day could be better for hunting. Cloudy on the start and rain coming in about 8:30. The wind is whipping up to around 25 or so. The rain has persisted all afternoon. John P on his pond 1 widgeon & 1 bec see. John S & Jimmy K **LIMITED OUT**. They got twelve birds: 7 gray ducks, 4 dosgris & 1 red head. (The red head is the first for the camp.)

We spent most of the rainy afternoon working on the North side door. The screen is finally secured. Cracks have been caulked and wind is light through the seems. Painting will have to wait for some time in the future as the rain persist. Boats will have to be pumped tonight. This afternoon fishing has been sparse due to the extended rain event. The NE rain & wind has kept the tide up most of the day.

November 22, 1998

Sunday

Weather has left us. It turned sunny and bright by 9 AM. The ENE wind is still blowing at 15 to 25. John & Jimmy hunted in the big blind and got 1 widgeon, & 1 dosgris. Pierce got 1 dosgris. We're heading home.

Camp Log Book X

November 23, 1998

Monday

We arrived at camp around 11 AM—John & Susan Serigny, Jimmy, Anne, & Anna King, Josh & Ron Briscoe, Wes Doucet, and Brandon Barrilleaux (Anna's squeeze). Much gear and supplies were off-loaded for the week-long stay. Fishing commenced immediately, but the gnats kept ambition low. A late afternoon trip by John, Susan & Anne got about 20 specks. Supper was sausage spaghetti. Excellent!!

November 24, 1998

Tuesday

Morning hunt—John S, Josh B, & Jimmy K got 1 gray duck. They had chances at a group of 3 and 2 other singletons, but missed their chances. Brandon & Wes got 1 spoonie in Pierce's blind and missed many times.

After a too short duck plucking session, John, Anne, Ron, Josh, & Susan went fishing in Ron's boat. No keepable fish were caught. Ron & Josh were escorted home by John & Jimmy, and when they returned, naps were taken. Anna, Brandon & Wes caught over a bushel of oysters, but they were very skinny. We'll fatten them up for later. Gnats were very prolific and made afternoon fishing unpleasant, though tolerable. Supper tonight is white beans and fried speckled trout. So you see we did catch a few fish.

November 25, 1998

Wednesday

Our morning hunt on the slim side: 3 gray ducks came all morning and 2 stayed. John & Jimmy wiped Brandon & Wes's eye today. Of course, with all the gnats this morning; having their eyes wiped is probably something they would've wished for. The boys ZIPPED. Fishing got about 12 fish for the last trip of the morning. Wes caught 3 really big specks. Brandon, Wes, Anne & Anna went home today so that Brandon could go hunting in Arkansas. As they left, Marsha Serigny arrived. After naps, John, Susan & Marsha went fishing and caught the afternoon limit of 4 fish. Supper tonight was barbecued burgers and French fries. After Supper, Marsha learned about hearts and played admirably. The weather was insufferable with light winds and mild temperatures. Pretty good for fishing if you can overlook the gnats.

November 26, 1998

Thursday

This morning's hunt was the worst yet. Of course, John & Jimmy got 2 grays, but the gnats and mosquitoes were next to insufferable; Worse than yesterday. They returned at 8:30 or so and started preparations for Thanksgiving lunch.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

BY THE WAY.. Ms. Te Te did the turkey. Anne & Jimmy got Lou to do cornbread dressing and broccoli & rice. Susan made her famous yams, pineapple, raisin, pistachio, and marshmallow casserole. All in all it was a very satisfying repast. Naps were interrupted at 2 PM for the afternoon fishing excursion. John, Marsha, Anne, & Susan ran into the specks near Bay Cayman and caught a nice bunch of about 20 or so. Susan caught 1 fish that was over 18 inches long. She also caught a red fish. It was the first keeper for the trip. Supper is lunch leftovers. We had plenty of those.

November 27, 1998

Friday

In the morning hunt John S and Jimmy K got 3 gray ducks. It was warm and calm with gnats. We're going fishing and then home. It's been great.

December 4, 1998

Friday

We're here for the last weekend of the first split of duck season. John Pierce and Jimmy King arrived late afternoon in time for rain.

Camp Log Book X

December 5, 1998

Saturday

John Serigny and Joe Joe arrived at about 6:45. Jimmy & John P were hunting at the time. They hunted in the big blind and got 5: 2 teal, 1 spoonie, 2 dogs. The construction crew finished building Jimmy's deck by 12:30 even though the old widow maker gave up the ghost after many years of service. They had to finish driving the pilings with concrete blocks.

In the afternoon, Rodney's angel gave us one and a half bushels of oysters and we caught a few trout & 1 red fish. The weather is warm, the wind is calm and there are gnats. *(Does this seem like a recurring theme, Charlotte?)*

December 6, 1998

Sunday

In the morning hunt John S & Jimmy K got 7 birds and Pierce limited out with 6: 2 spoonies and the rest dogs. Joe caught over a dozen nice trout while the hunters were out. Still warm, tu today is windy ESE about 20. Gnats don't stand a chance. Is this really December??

December 11, 1998

Friday

We arrived at camp early, or at least John Pierce did. Later at about 4 PM John Serigny and Jimmy King arrived. This is the first weekend of the second split. We're hoping for some good duck weather this weekend. We certainly don't have it yet. It's in the 70's now, and it'll be in the 60 tonight. That's pretty warm for December. We expect rain tomorrow and colder weather Saturday. It'll be nothing that we can't handle though. Now the wind is from the East at about 10; it was stronger during the day.

December 12, 1998

Saturday

Weather played its part in this morning's success. Clouds w/no wind & plenty of gnats & mosquitoes. We stayed to the blind until 9 AM. Nothing was flying. We saw very few large groups of birds as we had been seeing the last week. Carl Arredondo really screwed the pooch on this forecast. John & Jimmy got 4 dogs at about 6:45 and didn't fire again. Pierce got 1 dog all morning.

We returned to the camp and were cleaning ducks when the front they've been promising since Thursday finally came through. It's 11 AM and it's still raining. We're very upset at Carl Arredondo, the dummy. The wind has switched to the West and is blowing at about 10-15. Too bad we didn't get the weather earlier.

December 13, 1998

Sunday

This morning's hunt was killer. John S & Jimmy K **LIMITED OUT AGAIN!!** Twelve birds included: 7 gray ducks, 2 red heads, 2 dosgris, 1 male mallard. (XIII) John P 1 red head. Pierce had to leave at 7:15 because the WNW wind was threatening to leave him high & dry. WNW wind and temps in the 40's in the morning. Very cloudy. It was the best duck weather in the world. We're going home.

December 18, 1998

Friday

We arrived at the same time today. John Serigny, Joe Serigny, Jimmy King and John Pierce are all here. It is warming up with SSE breeze. Before the tide came up, John S & P & Jimmy visited Rodney's Angel and got 2 good bushels of oysters. Supper tonight was chicken & lima beans. Temps in the low 60's. A slight breeze from SSE at 8 to 12. We're hoping for ducks tomorrow.

Camp Log Book X

Page 19

December 19, 1998

Saturday

Our morning hunt was on the light side. John P got 2 dogs and John Serigny and Jimmy got 2 bluewing teal. It's really warm today. There are very few birds flying. After hunting and duck plucking, John & Jimmy ran to Leeville with Pierce. They are planning an assault on Jay's flat and needed the netting for their plans. There are birds in there today. We figure we should try them so we will. Joe went fishing at a couple of spots and caught 20 or so specks with some really nice one in the mix. While John & Jimmy ran to Leeville, Joe went fishing again and again caught 20 or so specks. The tag team opened oysters until about 1:30 and then took naps until 3:30. John & Jimmy fought the gnats to pick up decoys from their blind in preparation for the assault on the mud flat tomorrow.

Supper tonight was a pork fricassee w/lima beans on rice. Temps in the high 60's tonight after a day in the 80's. Is this really 2 days before winter begins??

December 20, 1998

Sunday

Our morning hunt was excellent. John & Jimmy took 11 birds: 2 dogs, 5 teal, 3 greys, and 1 pintail. They would've **limited out** except for a lost bird (a pintail hen). We're going in to do the gas plumbing.

December 22, 1998

Tuesday

Arrived at camp for Pre-Christmas hunt—John Serigny & Jimmy King. We arrived a little after the most winter-like weather of the season. Very appropriate since today is the first day of winter. Wind is from the NE at about 20 + Temps in the low 50's. Wind Chill is severe, but not terrible. They're expecting rain with this over the next 2 days, so there should be good hunting going on for the next couple of mornings. Hard to say if we'll be the ones getting that quality of outdoor experience.

Supper tonight was field peas with Chiasson's seasoned round meat. The field peas were cooked from scratch. John S was the guest chef on this culinary adventure. Most of the afternoon the temp in the camp was 55 or less. The Coleman lanterns have gotten it up to 62 so we're in pretty good shape. The sleeping bag will be a comfort tonight.

December 23, 1998

Wednesday

Beautiful hunting weather greeted us this morning. NE wind is at about 20. It's cloudy, overcast, the only thing lacking is rain. They said last night that we'd get some wet stuff today, but we haven't as of yet. The morning hunt was on the nice side. John & Jimmy got 6 dosgris, 1 teal, 2 grey ducks, 2 pintails: 11 birds all totaled. We lost 1 crippled teal so with that bird **we've limited out again**. Ducks were flying all morning. The birds are definitely there. The field peas were so good that we've scheduled them for again this evening. Along with some oysters from Rodney's Angel that Jimmy got from him last night.

December 24, 1998

Thursday

Merry Christmas!!! It rained for about 40 minutes this morning. Temps in mid 40's, cloudy conditions. Beautiful duck weather. John & Jimmy got 6 dosgris. They're heading back home for the holiday festivities.

December 26, 1998

Saturday

Happy birthday, Jimmy King woo! 49. We arrived at camp for a 1 nighter. Here are John Serigny and Joey Doucet. We caught minnows, so you know what that means; right, we can't catch a fish. The two-some fished the marsh and all they caught were 2 small reds that they couldn't keep from Mom's spot.

Camp Log Book X

Page 20

A late afternoon trip to Rodney's Angel got us three quarters of a bushel of oysters. John is very fond of Rodney because he is so generous. Tomorrow we'll try Pierce's place to see if the broken marsh gets us any birds.

The gray ducks across the canal didn't show today. We did see dosgris flying everywhere, though. Supper tonight was field peas w/ground meat (yes, Charlotte, the same ones that Jimmy and I had before Christmas) & corn on the cob, oh yeah, I forgot, the rice was there too.

The oysters from Rodney's Angel are going to Lake Charles w/ Joey & Trisha.

December 27, 1998

Sunday

The morning hunt was very foggy. John S & Joey D hunted the new flat between Pierce & Rodney's flat. Three ducks was their total: 1 teal, 1 pintail, and 1 dosgris for the morning's effort. They did loose 1 cripple. We're heading in as it is warming considerably.

December 30, 1998

Wednesday

We arrived at camp a little before noon. John Serigny and Joey Doucet, John P, and Joe Joe. Three boats. Jimmy King can't be here this outing. His boat is here in his absence. We're staying out here until Saturday. That means New Year's eve & New Year's day is on the list. We visited Rodney's Angel around 1 PM and he was very generous. We got 2 bushels from him. They are very salty. The tide is low so he could get a lot of them and; thus, was generous with us.

December 31, 1998

Thursday

Our morning hunt: John P ZIP, John S & Joey Doucet 2 dogs, 1 grey duck, 1 teal—total 4 birds. John P hunted where Joey & John hunted on Sunday morning. John & Joey hunted the broken marsh between Rodney's mud flat and Jay's flat. All morning John & Joey watched gray ducks going in to Jay's flat. That's it, Tomorrow we go.

Joe went to where John's old blind was on the pass to the back tract and Rodney's Angel met him there and gave him almost 2 bushels of oysters. Rodney has been very generous this week.

Camp Log Book X

January 1, 1999

Friday

Happy New Year!!! We are at the camp for this holiday for another time in recent memory. Last night Joey shot fireworks, and we stayed up and watched fireworks going off at Point Fourchon & Leeville. We had the traditional good luck meal for supper last night. We had pork roast and black-eyed peas & rice. Pierce did a great job of preparing supper. We went to bed at 8 PM and saved our new year greetings for in the morning.

Our morning hunt saw considerable warming on the temperature front. The wind has shifted to the SE and is blowing pretty stiffly. We all hunted in Jay's mudflat and Pierce got 1 pintail, 1 teal (green wing) and 1 gray duck—total 3 birds. John & Joey got 3 gray ducks. While they were hunting, Joe caught a couple of keeper specks at the little fence. John P hit the road for home after duck cleaning and a little rest & reflection. Joey & Joe fooled with Rodney's oysters until about 3 PM and then they went fishing and caught a couple of redfish and 9 or so specks. John painted on the west side of the camp while they were fishing.

Supper (after a little clay target shooting) was fried fish & oysters with black-eyed peas & rice. We listened to the Gator Bowl today but have not been able to listen to another bowl game on TV yet. Sure doesn't seem like New Year's day.

January 2, 1999

Saturday

Added to the log on January 8, 1999. Our morning hunt was on the dismal side for about an hour or so. There was rain and lightning all around us. The rain didn't start until we were hunting in Jay's flat. John Serigny & Joey missed a few birds and finally Joey knocked down a gray duck and went out to get him; he didn't; the bird had gotten to the bank. While he was stomping around, John S noticed the lightning had really increased off to the NW. John picked up netting and decoys and sent Joey to the boat. They loaded gear & headed back to the camp. As they were running towards the camp they could see the Norther coming. The sky NW of the camp was turning a deep ominous blue color. As the boat touched the wharf, the wind switched to the WNW and began blowing very intensely. The rain came down in a horizontal direction. It blew so hard that a half full ice chest was blown off the deck and the pirogues were blown out of the boat. The intense wind lasted about 15 minutes. It blew at or very near 50 miles per hour we figured. The camp shook and trembled quite a bit during that short time.

We had a lot of stuff loaded and ready to go, but hung around until 9 AM due to the lightning and thunder. We traveled in a light rain w/very little wind, and when we got to Leeville discovered there had been some wind damage there. Roofs of some of the boat houses had blown away, and a power pole had been knocked down. LP&L was there changing it. It was John Serigny's first ZIP hunt of the season. It really wasn't that disappointing because we had been smart enough to get out of the flat before the weather hit. Both Joey & John were satisfied with no ducks on this particular morning. Writing this one week later, we feel it could've been a whole lot worse.

January 8, 1999

Friday

We went back to work after all the fun of the holidays and are here again. Only John S & Jimmy K are here. Joe's taking a weekend off. He's expecting to return next week—mostly for Rodney's Angel. John & Jimmy visited him today and got about a champagne of oysters from him. He really, really likes us. Weather is fall-like today after a week of mostly cold temps. Temp in the low 70's today. We're expecting a frontal passage before morning. We hope the severe weather passes us before we go hunting. We can stand the rain, but 50 mph winds could be a problem.

Camp Log Book X

Page 22

Supper tonight was Wal-Mart baked chicken and broccoli & cheese Rice A Roni. Jimmy deemed it acceptable.

January 9, 1999

Saturday

Morning hunt—The front came through at about 5:30. Lightning, thunder, rain—We waited for the lightning to move to the south before we left. We paddled into the flat and set up, and the rain intensified and the wind really picked up.

It was blowing in the 30's, and the rain came down pretty steadily. Steadily enough to penetrate Jimmy's Gore-Tex jacket. He was wet and cold before a very long time had passed. They killed 1 pintail, 1 gray, and 2 dogs. They also killed a teal that drifted off and was lost. Jimmy also knocked down another gray and a dosgris that got away from them. The wind was so fierce that they had harrowing adventures getting out and picking up ducks. There were white caps in Jay's flat (where they hunted) Jimmy even decided to pull over into the tract instead of fighting the wind to get up to the end where John had work his way to pick up a couple of downed birds that had been blown down to the end of the flat. It was very rough running back to the camp across the tracts.

Oyster soup for lunch was pretty good. It is getting colder-down to the 40's by lunch-and it is cloudy. A very nice day for hunters. The wind has laid down to about 25 or so W/ gusts higher. No fishermen are out here today. The sun made its appearance around 1 PM. A beautiful day ensues.

January 10, 1998

Sunday

John & Jimmy in the broken marsh between Rodney and Jay's flat. They got 3 pintails and 1 gray duck. Mostly shot by John Serigny because Jimmy was blocked out by the wind pattern. Very cold this morning it was 30 degrees on the front porch of the camp with about a 20 + mph wind north wind. We're heading in.

January 16, 1999

Saturday

Last weekend of hunting season here. John S & Joey Doucet, Joe S in Jimmy K's boat with Suzan and Jackie, who came to fish. After a cold week, the temps are up into the 60's today. It's a little cloudy, but we're expecting no rain. Tide is below normal but gaining. An afternoon hunt today. John & Joey hunting in Jay's flat got 3 gray ducks. We also met Rodney's angel while we were there and he gave us about a bushel of nice oysters. We opened them before supper.

January 16, 1999

Sunday

Morning hunt—John & Joey in Jay's flat 2 greenwings and 1 widgeon. Joe, Jackie & Suzan caught 5 trout near the fence on Tee Gus's place. John and Joey are heading in. John has to repair the roof work Rodney did this week. Joey has to return home. (Lake Charles)

Suzan, Jackie and Joe will stay until tomorrow. They hope to catch more fish. It has been very slow of late.

Camp Log Book X

February 15, 1999

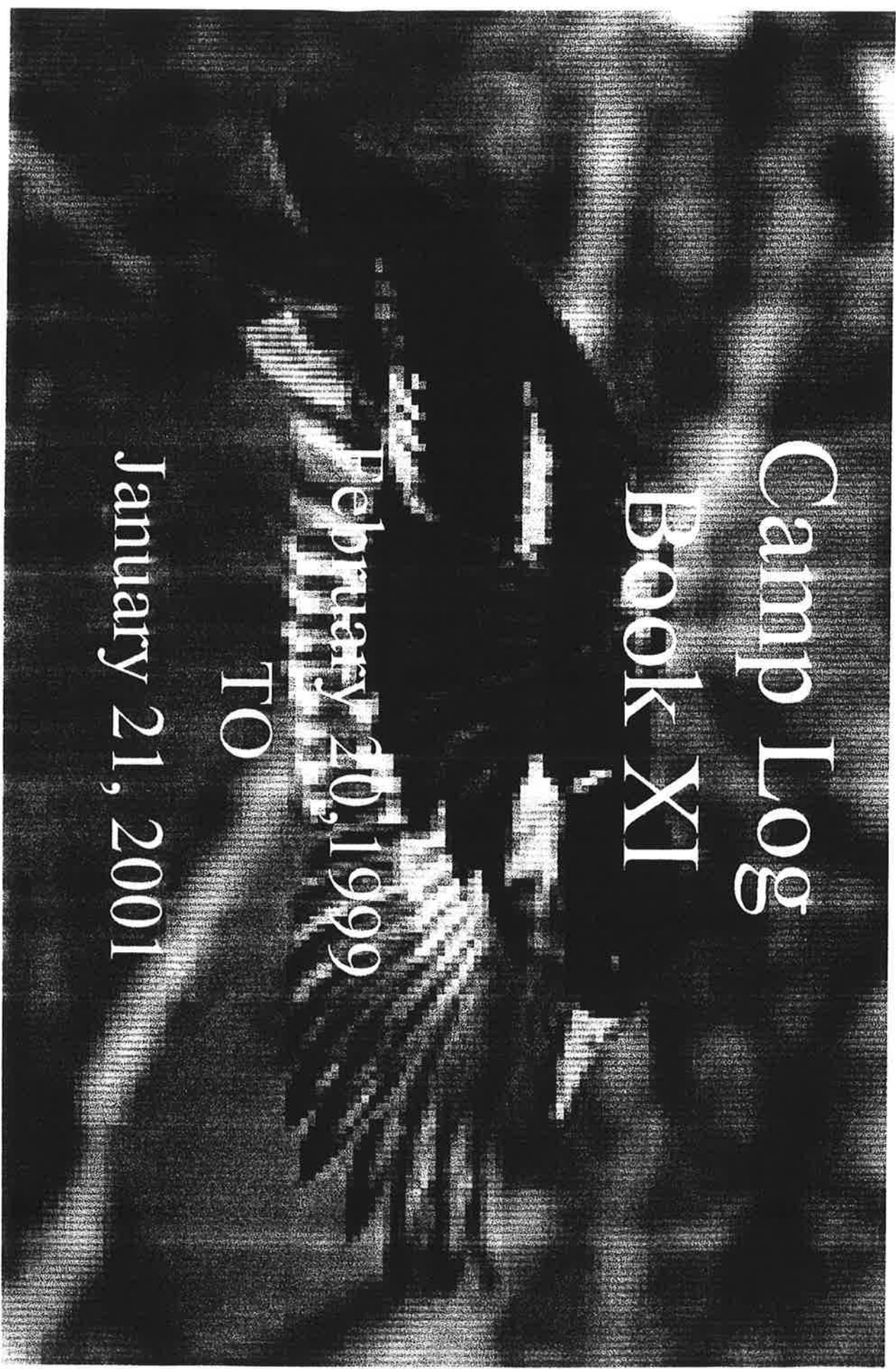
Monday

At camp to rescue stuff. John S & Joe S will try fishing. Catching minnows as we write this. We had an excellent hunting season this year. We had 136 ducks fall to our guns. An excellent year by all accounts.

February 17, 1999

Ash Wednesday

John & Jimmy arrived at camp early in the morning. They had loaded Jimmy's boat with 19 sacks of bricks. They also checked Jay's flat and discovered about 200 ducks in there. They stood there and watched them all return as they waited. On Monday as Joe & John were fishing near the clam shell dam, Rodney made an appearance and gave them 3 five gallon cans full of very fat oysters. As we have said many times—Rodney is a very generous man.



Camp Log Book XI

February 20, 1999

TO

January 21, 2001

CAMP LOG BOOK XI



DEDICATION:

This volume of the camp log is dedicated to all those who have gone before:

Edward Dubois
JC Desoto
George Smith
Joseph Serigny
Ed Pierce
Louis Lahare
Wilbur Seager
Guy Callais
Donald Bollinger
Charles "Doc" Potts
JD King
AE (Pappy) Shipp

Camp Log
Book XI

So begins the next round of scrawling. Hunting season 1999 was very good to us. We have had a very good 1998 as well. Hopefully, the next 2 years will surpass the last 2.

February 20, 1999

We arrived in the morning for painting and general fooling around. John S & Joe S are here in John's boat. Jimmy couldn't make it because of Anna's softball tournament. We'll try fishing today. It's beautiful weather for February. Today is sunny & bright temps in the low 60's. Our only glitch is that we left the Coleman lanterns in Jimmy's boat in Leeville. We're making coffee & O ' Darby's here too. John was able to paint the W side of the camp and the E side of camp today. Joe caught 2 specks fishing this morning and John and Joe both took naps after lunch-which was white beans W/fried venison sausage. We've forgotten the Coleman Lanterns in Leeville so this is being written by candlelight. John will try to paint part of the roof tomorrow. The tide is pretty high so Rodney's Angel wasn't very successful w/oysters today, but we may get some tomorrow.

Sunday**February 21, 1999**

A little front came through last night. It's blowing from the North today. It will be a bouncy trip home. Late yesterday Joe caught about a 4 LB red at the new cut to Jay's flat. We believe it'll be a good fish producer.

This morning the tide was again high, but Rodney had some success and gave us a little less than a bushel of oysters. He is very generous.

We're headed home.

Sunday**March 28, 1999**

We arrived at camp with visitors from Shreveport, John & Joe S w/ Charlotte, Ricky, Richard & Rachel.

Fishing—(Rachel caught 1 speck) shooting clay targets and general resting were the rules of behavior today. At 1:30 Joe Joe & the Shreveport guests were brought to Leeville. Jimmy King was there for the return trip. John S & Jimmy returned to the camp and proceeded to take naps.

Supper tonight, Charlotte, is chicken & lima beans. We're in hog's heaven.

Last night was SOYS banquet. Sportsman of the year was Richard L. Mitchell the senior. Joey Doucet did receive an untoward number of awards for the past year.

We had rain this afternoon from a low pressure system crawling across Texas. This could jeopardize our painting plans. We'll have to check out the weather before we start work tomorrow. The paint /patching stuff for the roof is mixed & waiting. All we need now is clear weather.

Temps on the mild side today. Low 70's. Tonight will be in the 60's, but a heavy E wind has kept it VERY cool. A typical spring day.

Monday**March 29, 1999**

John and Jimmy spent the morning painting the roof. The entire cover has at least one coat and we are happy about the outcome.

John had pretty fair luck catching specks from the wharf. He caught 7 but none were keepers. Heading in before the rain.

Sunday**May 29, 1999**

Arriving at camp around 10:30 in the morning were John S & Joey with Joey's brothers-in-law John and Joe; sound familiar?

Trawling season has been a very large disappointment so far. Very few shrimp around here-but they're small. We will try a few drags in the morning if we can.

Joe & John came out in their new boat--a Key West fifteen footer. A cute little fishing boat. The little boat worked all right on the way out here. At about 1:30 in the afternoon or so a squall came through and drenched the place.

Paul Autin and his wife were here to save themselves from the bad weather and when things got better they headed home.

We may try another drag this afternoon if the weather cooperates.

We will be here tonight. The generator is here and waiting.

Supper tonight will be ooh-yi-yi.

August 13, 1999

Arrived at camp for working expedition: John S, Jimmy K, & John Pierce.

Trawling season was a gigantic disappointment. Very few shrimp and what was there was small. We trawled infrequently due to the kind and amount of shrimp and Joe Joe's worsening condition.

Supper tonight was chicken & lima beans. A strong NW wind has the tide ripping out. It was 9:30 before we hit the hay. Saints won 26-17 over Miami. Rickey Williams looked impressive. The generator will run tonight. Temps at 2 AM in low 80's high 70's.



Saturday August 14, 1999

We're at the camp to tear down the old wharf in front of the new camp and back porch on the old Camp. We accomplished both those tasks before 10:30. The rest of the day was devoted to relaxing and a couple of shots from John S's new Benelli pump.

Afternoon naps ended early. John P & John S drove to Leeville for ice, gas, & tires.

Supper tonight was oh-yi-yi. James K did the preparation while John S drank martoonies all afternoon. Supper finished early today. Tomorrow we fish. It's been great to get away from life's travails this weekend. The generator has been working overtime this weekend with temps in the upper 90's. It's really warm & muggy.

Sunday August 15, 1999

Cool front came through during the night. High 70's this morning. It's very nice for August. NE breeze 15-20. Fish not cooperative this morning. None were caught. We're heading in.

Friday August 27, 1999

The crew arrived at the camp at about 6 PM. Jimmy K with a load of boards fit to sink the *Bismarck*! John S got here just ahead of him. John Pierce tried to get here early, but his motor is not functioning it seems. He dears sabotage by Dennis at Houma Marine. So both boats had a heavy load for the trip here. The generator is going full tilt. Holly says she could live without the noise. She can't even take a nap in peace. This is her first trip campward. She's not sure how she likes it. She says there's no place like home, Dorothy.

Supper tonight was hamburger steak and some veggies done by Pierce. Tomorrow we plan to redo a wharf in front of the new camp and maybe some trawling. Maybe some barbecue is in our future—maybe pork ribs and pork and beans. Wow! I'll report tomorrow night on our successes.

**Sunday
August 29, 1999**

Wharf built, Holly rescued, we're heading in.

**Friday
September 10, 1999**

Tomorrow is the first day of teal season. We're here and glad to have survived another year so we can take advantage of the object of our desires—hunting.

Last Sunday, Holly got frightened by the little B/W TV falling from the table; it fell mostly because her tail was wrapped in the wire from the TV to the power cord, and she ran off into the marsh and stayed gone for over an hour. We finally found her & brought her back to the camp. John S & Jimmy K were trawling when she ran away. The wharf in front of the new camp is done & we only have to create stairs for it now. We'll do the design work this week and prepare for next weekend. Joe Joe may help out with the design elements.

Supper tonight was top loin steaks with broccoli & rice. Holly is here again and she is still very stressed about the noise. We will eat well this weekend. There are 3 more weekends left to teal season. We will be here a lot over the next 3 weeks. Another cold front has come through and they're predicting 60's in the morning. We'll see. It would be nice. The breeze is from the NE and pretty steady. Maybe tomorrow things will cool off. Highs are in the 80's and are a welcome relief.

**Saturday
September 11, 1999**

We are flabbergasted. John & Jimmy K got 6 teal this morning. They also knocked down a teal that was lost. Holly was worse than useless this morning. She was actually afraid of the dead birds.

Another run to Leeville for ice and minnow traps and fishing lines. Afternoon naps were delicious.

It was in the low 70's this morning, but by 3 PM it is summer again.

Supper tonight is teal smothered in onion w/white beans and fried garlic sausage. Our thinking was the teal are a bit small, so the sausage will help fill in the spaces. After naps were taken, supper is cooking. No minnows anywhere so a drag in William's canal was in order. After about a half-hour they caught about a gallon of very nice white shrimp. No fish were caught subsequently. Only a couple of places were tried, but some small flocks of blue wings were seen around the area. Hopes for tomorrow seem bright.

**Sunday
September 12, 1999**

Holly is 5 months old today. Jimmy and John S in Jay's flat took 8 teal- a limit. After the hunt only 7 were found. It has been an excellent weekend. We have killed fifteen teal in two days. We're going home.

**Saturday
September 18, 1999**

Arrived at camp early this morning with a full load on John's boat. Jimmy's is in the repair shop and won't be ready until next week. Teal season is still going on, and we're wondering how we'll do tomorrow. We haven't seen any birds flying around today.

We trawled at about 10:30 this morning and had about 1 gallon of shrimp. They were pretty nice white shrimp. We tried another drag at about 5 PM and had noddas—less than half a gallon.

Holly is here again and had a pretty scary time trawling in Lake Palourde. We have a good E wind at about 15-20 and the swells were impressive.

Our hearts are heavy this weekend. Joe passed away on Thursday. Dad, Papere, all the names we knew him by will never be used in the same context again. We feel his presence everywhere we go. We remember his voice, his touch, his presence, and his persona. He is gone and we will forever be in his debt for how he affected our lives. He wasn't always a pleasant man; his flaws were often painfully obvious, but he had gifts and shared them unselfishly, and that generosity is what we will most remember. Of the original group that purchased the camp, only

Bill Seager & Ed Sanders remain. Though Dad turned the legal ownership of the camp over to me 5 or 6 years ago, he was always the owner. I may have paid he leases, but his will ruled every aspect of the operation of this place. Now that he is no longer here we wonder what will happen the next time a new project is in the offing. His skills, that were given freely, always helped complete our tasks successfully. He often marveled that we were successful in almost all our endeavors of improvement. The reason we were so successful was his presence. We may have had as much success without him, but we're glad we didn't have to worry about that until now.

We know a lot because of Dad. Trawling, fishing, hunting, blind building, plumbing, carpentry, changing tin roofs, putting in new doors and windows, step building, cooking, all were skills we learned from him. He taught us to love life and our family. He taught us how to love our friends and show them we cared. He taught us that strangers can become familiar if we treat them with respect. He taught us to share our plenty, whatever that might be, with those who have less. He taught us that coming together to celebrate is one of the most important things we do in our lifetimes.

He lives in us—all of us. We will always remember and respect his gifts to us. We will miss him.

Supper tonight was smoked-sausage spaghetti. It was very good. Temps this weekend in the 80's. In the 60's at night. It was very pleasant to take a nap this afternoon with no generator going.

Saturday October 23, 1999

We arrived at camp after a morning of Cayman golf at LCO. John P, Jimmy K & John S in 2 boats. Pierce's boat is still in for repairs. Blind building is in major full swing. John & Jimmy had started last weekend with the big blind in their pond across the tract. More roseaux for this weekend is the plan.

Sunday October 24, 1999

We finished the blind work very early this morning and spent the rest of our time doing basically nothing. This morning is very nice. A north wind is coming in at 15-20 and temps are in the 50's. A wonderful day to be out here. Jimmy King cooked wonderful spaghetti sauce last night, and it was a good day for Bailey's in the coffee. We're going in early.

Saturday October 30, 1999

We arrived in early morning. John S & Jimmy K. Pierce is working. We built a set of steps for the new porch. The steps would definitely not pass the Joe Joe test. They have a distinctive lean to them. We used mostly materials from the old steps and that had something to do with it. Supper tonight is a goose choo-roo with white beans and, of course, rice. N Holly got over her fear of swimming and retrieved dummies almost to the middle of the canal. She is a pain in the butt, though. Tomorrow we fish.

Sunday October 31, 1999

Happy Halloween!!! Fishing this morning was very productive. We caught 44 keeper specks before 9:30. Fish were everywhere. We're going home.

Saturday November 6, 1999

We arrived at camp at about 8:30 again. This week, no work for us—just play. We caught minnows right away. We fished all the spots we had fished with success last Sunday and caught 1 speck that was a keeper. We'll try it again tomorrow. We're cooking ducks again. This time the ducks will keep field peas company. It certainly was a beautiful day today—Sunny, windy from the NE. Temps in the 70's during the day and in the low 50's at night. We're just marking time until duck season starts next week is what we're doing.

**Sunday
November 7, 1999**

The morning of fishing was interesting, but not very fruitful. We caught 2 keeper reds and 6 keeper specks. We're heading in.

**Friday
November 12, 1999**

Another duck season opens. Since we started this odyssey, we've hunted 35 years here. We've had some good years, some bad, but none really outstanding—oh yeah, there was 1977—that was a great one. We certainly killed ducks then. Of the original owners of this place only Ed Sanders and Bill Seager are still alive. They don't come here, though.

Hunting season is something very special. A new season gives us a chance to test out the new guns and gear. It's always a treat to be here and wait to see what the winds of fall bring to us. We are constantly surprised and never disappointed regardless of the results. This year Holly is sharing the new season even though she's not sure she is happy about being here. Opening the season with a new gun and a new dog makes it that much more special. To celebrate the new season, we had steaks and parsley potatoes for supper. Very good!!!

**Saturday
November 13, 1999**

Our morning hunt was on the slow side. We got 3 grays and 3 spoonies. Jimmy Kin did most of the killing. John S was working with Holly most of the morning. She finally retrieved a duck. Once she got the hang of it she seemed okay. They did lose 3 birds, however, Holly didn't help there. She isn't afraid to run the marsh, though, and mud is really her friend.

The weather really sucks for hunting. It's sunny bright in the low 80's during hunting time. It was 60 degrees this morning. The only redeeming quality is a NE wind conducive to duck killin'.

We'll be having spaghetti for supper tonight and the generator will probably have to run for us to rest tonight, I'm sure. The weather is warm, but the beer is cold, so we're happy.

**Saturday afternoon
Addendum**

We had visitors at the camp this afternoon. Shaun & Patrick Pierce & Dex Cheramie came to fish and they brought oysters to open and eat. They brought a few home too.

After they opened oysters, Shaun P helped drive pilings for the new wharf. Supper tonight is spaghetti done by Jimmy. It will be tough to hunt tomorrow with the gnats. The boys this afternoon suffered as they opened oyster. It seems Patrick has grown to tolerate them a bit better than he did as a youngster.

**Sunday
November 14, 1999**

John S & Jimmy K 10 birds, 2 teal 1 redhead, 7 grey ducks. Missed much. Warm, gnats, ENE wind at 12, going home.

**Friday
November 19, 1999**

Here for the weekend--John S & Jimmy King. It's terrible weather for duck hunting. John put out decoys and placed new wire so we could walk around the blind right before dark. Tonight's supper is Pork fricassee w/ lima beans. Jimmy said it was very tasty. Gnats are falling from the lighting as we speak. Holly said she likes pork rib bones very much. John S got shots from Dr. Mike yesterday and he has a severe case of the hiccups at the moment. We're expecting fog in the morning. So getting to the blind will be an interesting experience. Even a couple of Stoli's and Mountain Dew didn't help very much with the hiccups. The gnats are stalking the exterior of the camp and even answering the call of nature outside is an experience in pain and aggravation.

**Saturday
November 20, 1999**

Morning hunt produced 4 ducks (3 spoonies, 1 gray), but we did have one lost cripple. Holly has retrogressed in her hunting lessons. She balked at retrieving a dead bird this morning. She has a long way to go before she is considered a hunter.

The weather really bites and that is literal. The gnats really nailed us this morning. Temps were in the low 70's at daybreak. A sort of a kind of a front has staggered through and the wind has started out of the west. I guess you can call it a wind. It's at about 5 to 10 and less even. It's 75 degrees right now (10:45 AM). You can't keep ice at this rate. We'll be seriously low on ice by tomorrow morning at this melt-rate.

The bright side is that we've gotten 20 ducks so far this season and we're only 2 weeks into the season, and we've not gotten the cold weather as yet. It could be a good one.

**Sunday Morning
November 21, 1999**

Very dismal this morning. One rail by John S. Holly still wouldn't fetch. It seems John must touch the object before she retrieves it. It's extremely gnatty and warm.

**Monday
November 22, 1999**

We arrived at about noon--John & Susan Serigny, Josh and Ron Briscoe and John Pierce with Holly. Pierce's boat is running again just barely.

Afternoon fishing was pretty active. The specks are schooling near the Alligator place. Supper was hot dogs & hamburgers & fries doe by Pierce on the grill.

**Tuesday
November 23, 1999**

Morning hunt was poor. Josh Briscoe took one dosgris and John Pierce got 1 gray duck and 1 spoonie. Gnats were weak because it's so hot.

Fishing after hunting was better than yesterday afternoon. We gave Ron 12 specks to bring home. At Leeville we met Joey, Trisha, and Marsha who'll be here until Friday. Afternoon fishing was pretty good again.

**Wednesday
November 24, 1999**

Morning hunt got John and Joey 3 gray ducks. The gnats almost killed us. We smoked cigars in self-defense. Fishing after the hunt was okay, but warm. We picked up Wes Doucet at noon.

**Thursday
November 25, 1999**

Happy Thanksgiving!! Our morning hunt got Wes Doucet 1 hooded Merganser and 1 gray duck. John and Joey got ZIP. Fishing was average. We got a few specks late in the afternoon.

**Friday
November 26, 1999**

Our morning hunt wasn't very productive. John S & Joey D got ZIP. We are heading home. It's been a great week and we really appreciate Jimmy King cooking our thanksgiving turkey for us even though he didn't come to the camp. He's a real trooper. We had a great time and even washed and bathed under the roof run-off during a cool front that came through. What a life.

**Friday
December 10, 1999**

Last weekend was the split between the seasons. John S went hunting geese in Lake Charles and had no success there either. The following arrived at the camp this evening: Bobby Delaune, Yeah, that's right, Bobby D, you heard right!!! John Pierce and Jimmy King, and John S are also here along with Bart and Holly.

We'll be hunting & fishing, and doing the camp routine as per usual. Supper was grilled country ribs and pork-n-beans and some steaks that Bobby D brought in from New Orleans.

**Saturday
December 11, 1999**

Our morning hunt wasn't really too bad: John S and Bobby D ZIP, Jimmy King and John P in Jay's old flat—5 grays. They pissed off the new guy in the racro. Fishing in the morning was okay, but only 2 keeper specks and 1 red fish were brought in.

**Sunday
December 12, 1999**

Our morning hunt was less exciting than yesterday's. John S and Bobby D hunting in the big blind had a couple of chances and got nothing for their efforts. John P & Jimmy hunted the flat and got 1 teal and 1 spoonie for their efforts. We're going home now. Bobby had another long night and needs some rest.

**Saturday
December 18, 1999**

We arrived on Saturday because of Dallas's nuptials. We're sort of surprised about Dallas getting married. We never thought he's live that long.

John P is busy cooking a beef & pork fricassee with lima beans. Jimmy's taking his customary nap. The weather is nice- rain this morning. We're cooling off this afternoon. We hope the tide falls this afternoon because Rodney promised us oysters if the tide fell a little.

Maybe the weather this week pushed in a few birds. Anyway, we hope so. The body count is way down from last year, but we're having lots of fun.

**Sunday
December 19, 1999**

Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. John S killed a marsh hen, but everyone else (John P & Jimmy) ZIPPED. We just, it seems, have no birds at all. We're going home. It's warming slowly, but it will be colder when we return on Tuesday.

**Tuesday
December 21, 1999**

Christmas is fast approaching, and school is out for the holidays. We arrived this afternoon for a couple of days of hunting--John S & Jimmy King. Our prediction of colder weather has come to fruition. This afternoon was in the 40's. Tomorrow will be colder, but we'll have no freezing weather. The wind chills will be down there. Supper tonight is chicken in tomato sauce, but with a twist. This time we have no lima beans so we will have to use white beans. The reason being that *someone* forgot to bring the limas. We won't mention names, but it wasn't John S.

**Wednesday
December 22, 1999**

Morning hunt success in the flat was good: 7 ducks (3 greys, 3 teal, 1 pintail). John and Jimmy were very happy. The tide started out reasonably high and fell drastically by the time they left the flat. The weather was very good it was cloudy, with a N wind at 10-15. Temps were in the low 40's.

After cleaning ducks and cheese toast for lunch, naps ensued. After naps, John & Jimmy met Rodney's Angel at the clam shell dam and they were very pleased when he gave them 2 sacks of very nice and big oysters.

Supper tonight was field peas & ground meat (the seasoned variety from Chiasson's on rice. It was excellent!!! One bushed of oysters was opened before supper. The other one will wait for tomorrow. An afternoon trip to the mud flat chased up many birds. We'll try there again tomorrow despite the low tide we're expecting. Our season total has taken a bad hit so far.

Maybe this week will swing things in our favor. It seems there are a few more ducks this week. Maybe the cold front brought new birds down. We hope things improve. However things go, we'll console ourselves. John S is currently consoling himself with a gin & tonic. The jalapeno stuffed olives are very tasty.

Thursday December 23, 1999

Our morning hunt was slim today. We did get 2 rails. No ducks were shot. The guys from Grand Isle were there & they hunted in the flat with us in a very low tide. It was chilly, but not really cold. We're going home.

Wednesday December 29, 1999

We arrived at camp today to spend a couple of days. John Serigny, Susan Serigny, and John Pierce, in Jimmy's boat, are here. We'll be staying until the 31st. We're going home because of the anticipated Y2K problems. We may have to return because of Y2K, but we'll be home when the clock turns. Susan fished right away and caught little reds near Jimmy's wharf and then lots near Pierce's wharf. Only one keeper, though. At about 4 PM everyone, including Holly, traveled down to the dam and met Rodney who gave us 2 nice bushels of oysters. He is very generous.

Supper is broiled chicken w/rice-a-roni. After some problems with John's new radio, Pierce & John got the oysters opened before 8:30. Cool tonight, lows in the mid 50's. Nice sleeping weather.

Thursday December 30, 1999

John S and John P hunted Jay's flat and got one green wing teal. Holly made her fist legitimate retrieve on the bird and pleased both Johns very much. When they returned from hunting, they found Susan had been catching rat reds from the wharf hand over fist. She had 15 keeper reds before 10:30. She also had one speck that was a keeper. She then proceeded to catch fish for supper. We have hot dogs and chili for lunch and then we took a run to Leeville to bring the reds to Jimmy. We left at about noon.

At 3:30 PM Susan rudely woke John S and had him bring her fishing at Bayou Cayman. They caught 4 keeper specks and one that Susan caught was over 18 inches long. John had a red fish break his line as well. Supper tonight was fried fish and fried oyster po-boys. Pierce sure can cook!!!

Friday December 31, 1999

The last day of the Millennium is here. Well, not really. That's not for a year yet. At least we'll call it that for current discussion.

Our morning hunt was a little better than yesterday's effort. John S got 1 spoonie and crippled one that flew over to Pierce across the flat and he had to finish it off. John S also got a marsh hen early on. Holly retrieved another duck. Susan didn't have as much success fishing today as she had the previous day. She was able to land 3 keeper reds to add to the 4 specks we caught yesterday evening. John S took her fishing when he got back from hunting, but she was only able to catch 3 smallish reds that they threw back. It's really warming up out here. We'll have upper 70's by this evening. We're planing on returning Saturday, but that depends on

Jimmy K's exploits. We'll greet the milli vanilli at Pierce's house tonight. A bottle of Bombay sapphire is on the agenda.

We're heading in on a very low tide through the Lake Jesse route.

**Friday
January 7, 2000**

The camp has made it to the new millennium. We are here to celebrate. We're here with all the gear we need. (Plus some we really don't). Pierce is working this week and we really don't expect to miss him next weekend. We know he'll be here.

Supper tonight was hamburger steaks with chicken rice-a-roni. It was certainly okay, but it's no chicken and limas. The wind is on the chilly side and temps tomorrow will be in the 40's before sunup, but it'll be warming considerably.

We're wondering id the guys from Chenierre will be her tomorrow. We're also wondering if we'll have ducks.

**Saturday
January 8, 2000**

The morning hunt was OK. John S and Holly got 3 grays and 1 pintail. Holly made retrieves on 2 birds like she was a pro. Jimmy K got 2 green wings. Jay's flat is still pumping them out at a steady rate.

The red fish were un-believable today. They were everywhere. The temps were in the 50's this morning, and we had an ENE wind. The tide is up over last week, but falling all morning.

**Sunday
January 9, 2000**

This morning John S got 1 gray and 1 teal. Jimmy K got 1 teal. It has turned off hot and muggy. We're going home before the rain.

**Friday
January 14, 2000**

We arrived at camp on the first day of a new cold front. John S & Jimmy K and John Pierce are here. Everyone brought their own vessels. Pierce's Suzuki is running essentially the same-SUKY-it's very hard to start.

Supper tonight is steaks (*sirloin, if you please, sir*) with double baked potatoes. It will be chilly tonight as the temps drop into the 40's. We are told that the temps will moderate tomorrow. The wind is whipping out of the NE at 15-20. Rally nice weather for the sleeping bag.

**Saturday
January 15, 2000**

Our morning hunt was on the medium successful side. Jimmy K got 3 greys and 1 teal; John S got 1 blue wing teal; Pierce got ZIP. Pierce left early because he set up too near another blind on the Lake Laurier side of the mud flat. The guy hunting there yelled at his dog, Trixie, all morning. Henceforth blinds in the area will be known as Trixie's place. Tomorrow we'll hunt the

crevees East of the big flat. There were mega ducks in there today. If we kill a few, it'll be worth the work we'll have to do to get there.

**Sunday
January 16, 2000**

Morning conditions were not conducive to hunting. A very low tide caused the group to leave late. John S and Jimmy tried to get to the flat just to the east of Jay's flat, but John found it too diligent an effort. Jimmy K decided to give it a try. John left to go to Jay's flat to hunt with JP. Pierce was already there and set up. Pierce got 1 duck and knocked another down that got away. John S ZIPPED & Jimmy did the same. Gnats were giving us a pretty hard time and calm conditions hampered our success rate. After packing up the camp everyone hit the road.

**Friday
January 21, 2000**

We have arrived for the last day of the season. John S and Jimmy K are here. It's cool today, but La Nina has put the crimps on the spokes of a cold winter so far. We haven't had a really cold day yet this year. The weather is really great for citrus trees. The tides continue to be low. That makes Rodney's Angel really accessible to us. We may check with Rodney tomorrow morning instead of hunting. If the tide is high, we'll try to hit the flat we couldn't get to last week. There are ducks in there the only problem is figuring if they're worth the work it takes for getting in there. If the tide's up tomorrow, we'll give it a ripple. Jay's flat is on the agenda for Saturday evening.

Our supper tonight was chicken and lima beans in tomato sauce. It's our last hunting weekend; we thought we'd splurge.

**Saturday
January 22, 2000**

(I'll never get used to writing that year.) Our morning was a good one for duck hunting. We had an ESE wind at 15 or so, and it was cloudy. No sunglasses were needed today. John & Jimmy hunted the flat at the end of the Marsh buggy track. The tide was a lot higher than it was when Jimmy hunted there last weekend. It was actually a short 40 step pull to the little cut. John and Jimmy got 5 birds today. Holly even retrieved one or two. She really wanted to swim today. Our take of ducks is not as great as last year, but this year has been good to us in many ways. Holly has learned a lot, though she has a long way to go. Supper tonight is #7 steaks and fresh sausage spaghetti. It's very tasty.

We returned to meet Rodney's Angel this afternoon and he gave us a bushel of really nice oysters. Rodney is a very generous man. We had naps this afternoon, and they were excellent. We have managed to raise the level of relaxation to all-time highs.

**Sunday
January 23, 2000**

The season ends today. Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. One teal was bagged by the crew. John and Jimmy outsmarted themselves and moved further back in the marsh buggy tract flat, and it cost them. Gnats killed them early then the rain that filled the boats overnight started again. They hunted until 8:45, but their diligence got them nothing extra. There it is!

**Sunday
March 26, 2000**

Fishing excursion comprised of John S, Richard Mitchell, Rachel Mitchell, James (Rachel's squeeze) arrived at the camp after the SOYS banquet last night. The Sportsman of the Year is Susan Serigny. This award is a first for the organization. We started late and hung around until about 2 PM and caught about 20 specks, but only 1 was a keeper. We're heading in though James can't understand why.

**Monday
April 24, 2000**

Suzan, Jackie & John are here for fishing. The cast net got us no shrimp. That makes John worry about the season. We fished from 8 AM until about noon in the marsh and caught 3 keeper specks and 1 keeper red fish. We had a couple of other fish, but not too much and we have a really strong W wind that has kept us out of a few good spots. We'll be heading in soon.

**Sunday
June 11, 2000**

Joey Doucet & John S are here for Joey's vacation. We arrived Saturday afternoon & trawled a couple of hours Saturday and 3 drags Sunday morning. We went to George's with 100 lbs. of 80-100 count shrimp. We're getting \$1.15 a lb. for the smallish shrimp. We've neglected the log during this trawling season. Three weeks ago John P & John S came out for an over-nighter and 6 hours of trawling got them 103 lbs. of 80-100 count shrimp and each an ice chest to bring home. The first weekend of the season Susan & John came out and caught almost 2 ice chests in 2 drags. There were shrimp here then. Last weekend, June 3 Jimmy K & Bobby Delaune accompanied John and they trawled Friday afternoon & Saturday morning and sold 133 lbs. And brought 2 ice chests home. The trawling season hasn't been really bad at all.

We're spent 4 nights at the camp since trawling season has started and the gin has given us restful evenings. We've consumed a bottle of Seagram's and a bottle of Gordon's since the season has started. John Pierce has helped considerably in that endeavor. John S & Joey fished this afternoon instead of trawling and they explored the new duck lease on Mr. Milton's section. They got 2 reds and 1 keeper speck. They'll try again tomorrow, and they expect to be back during the week. This time maybe with Pierce in tow. Supper tonight is duck in onions & rice. Last night we had field peas with barbecued ribs. It was very good.

**Saturday
August 19, 2000**

It's been quite a while since we wrote in the log book. Since the last entry John Pierce joined John S & Joey on one trawling junket. They sold some and brought some home. Pierce & John even made a trip and did the same thing. Bobby Delaune and Jimmy K came trawling and we all went home w/shrimp. Joey and John S even caught a few red fish during their trawling excursions. The trawling brought a couple of hundred dollars in the coffers. We've paid the lease and are now part of the landed aristocracy. Today Jimmy & John S are here to do some painting and get the place ready for the upcoming teal season. It's actually less than a month away now.

Holly is about the same dog she was at the end of last season due to John's inability to procure some live pigeons for her training. It is very hot here. Temps have been running in the high 90's with some 100's around the area. John S's orthrosopy is healing nicely. At times it is a bit cumbersome and he is stumble-footed. Lifting one's feet is more difficult these days. It seems that Jimmy's excuses have been real all these years.

We really haven't done too much work so far. We painted a little this morning, but we've decided to hole up for the really hot part of the day. We'll stain the E side of the new camp this afternoon, and we'll put up the left over stain somewhere--probably the N side. We've got a little over 2 gallons of stain left. We'll have to buy more. That'll be later.

Supper tonight is pork roast and red beans and rice. The roast is already cooked. The beans are from a can. Charlotte, I know you're disappointed, but it's so hot that now is not the time for culinary gyrations. The best thing to do is stay under the fan and try to remain cool.

We took our naps and got up at 3 PM. After that we put a lot of stain on the new camp. The east side is in rally bad shape. We'll have to redo that side soon. John wasn't able to handle all the work. Jimmy seems to be in better shape. He stood up well. John's knee was only part of the problem. He doesn't seem to have the strength he had 10 years ago. But then, who does? Some exercise seems to be in order. Tomorrow we attack the old camp's floor. It's extremely warm in the camp tonight. It's 80 degrees in here after supper cooking and with the light bulbs going.

September 15, 2000

It begins again!!! Teal season is here. E arrived at the camp at about 4 PM--John Serigny and Jimmy King. We unloaded the boats after we had to move the table and carpet into the older camp. We also took a ride to the mud flat and saw no birds. We have no great expectations for tomorrow. We did see a flock of teal on the N side of William's canal. We also saw a few black winged teal, but those are off limits for this particular season.

Supper tonight is a fresh sausage spaghetti. We hope it tastes good. John just checked the sauce and declared it acceptable. We'll probably start the season in the flat this year. It doesn't look as if anyone has claimed the flat for teal season.

Saturday September 16, 2000

Our first duck hunt of the season was on the promising side. We got a shot at a flock and Jimmy knocked one down and John scratched. Poor preparation is the culprit (we certainly won't say it's poor reflexes. Jimmy's light twelve is not working very well however. It seems there is a jamming problem. Mitchell is not on Jimmy's A-list right now. Jimmy's other gun, the 3 and a half Browning gold is in the shop as we speak. We should call him Jammin' Jimmy. We're encouraged that we got one teal. We saw other flocks. Maybe a spinning wing decoy will help. We're just relaxing right now. Maybe fishing will happen later. We're too contended now to do anything else.

After naps (10:30 - 2:00) - This afternoon we went fishing and Jimmy caught a couple of undersized pecks. The wind is from the NE at about 15-20. A real bear for fishing. We listened to Florida's miraculous comeback against Tennessee and were shocked that the Gators won. Hurricane Gordon is heading to Florida, and it looks as if we are spared again.

The tide is extremely high. We probably have water in the boat stalls right now.

**Sunday
September 17, 2000**

Nice day it was Sunny & Windy from the NNE. Morning hunt was really nice. Two teal were killed along with a third that Holly couldn't find. We later saw it get up and fly away, so it must not have been hurt badly. She did retrieve both dead birds; she balked when one of the birds flapped in her face, but she eventually went back and got it and another that we knocked down. If our shooting had been better we'd have had the third one. There's always next week.

**Saturday
September 23, 2000**

We arrived at camp for the second week of teal season. John Pierce, Jimmy King, and John Serigny. We arrived yesterday at 5 PM. Supper last night was Oh-yi-yi, and it was very spicy, but it was very good. The camp martoonies were in obvious presence. At least John S was in condition to set the alarm clock. John and Jimmy hunted in Jay's mud flat and killed one teal by John. It seems this week he finally hit something. Jimmy missed on 3 in the decoys earlier and his gun even worked this time. The gun worked, but his eye didn't. John Pierce stayed to the camp and fished, but had no success. We ran to Leeville and brought landscape timbers out to build the new platform we're trying to get going. We went out & sank the pilings and nailed the cradle in place and next week we'll put the super structure on it. We took afternoon naps and then worked on the East wall of the new camp. **(**Outlook is a snap!**)** That's according to John P. This afternoon we're looking forward to a trawling expedition. It is very warm this evening. It's in the low 90's most of the time. That made it very difficult to take naps today. There is a good ESE wind blowing, and, thus, the tide is extremely high. There was water in the stalls in Leeville, and it'll probably be as high tomorrow.

**Friday
September 29, 2000**

We arrived at the camp with a major load. John S & Jimmy King are here. All of our gear is in Jimmy's boat. John carried 10 sacks of Billy's sidewalk in his. Nice weather is here this weekend. It's not as warm as last weekend. A cold front came through last weekend and now we have 60's at night and 80's during the day. It would be really great if not for hurricane Keith in the western Caribbean. This week will be critical for that threat. Supper tonight is roast pork ribs with field peas & rice.

**Saturday
September 30, 2000**

The last day of the teal season was very slow. No shots were taken. We hunted beyond the big bay on the lease. I think we'll call it Milton's Bay. When we returned we ran to Leeville and picked up the rest of Billy's sidewalk. Jimmy carried 20 sacks in his boat. John carried 6 sacks and the lumber for the blind platform in the flat. John & Jimmy placed the sacks around the pilings under the new camp which are slowly becoming part of the canal. They finished about noon and ate Vienna sausages for lunch & slept until 3 PM. Rest was needed after the work of the morning. An afternoon fishing excursion w/ minnows got them 1 undersized speck. They even fished on the lease.

Supper tonight, Charlotte, is chicken & Lima beans. The camp martoonies are flowing. The Olympics are on the TV/radio, and we're going to work on the blind platform tomorrow before we head home. Holly says it sucks not having anything to retrieve; all a dog can do is fall asleep on the faux cache of the pirogue.

**Saturday
November 2, 2000**

We're at the camp for a one nighter. John S & John P arrived in Pierce's boat (John's one is in the repair shop—RICE-BURNING PIECE OF CRÄP.) Jimmy King and Peter Knight arrived in Jimmy's. We're here to relax—no work on the schedule. After naps, John S brought Peter fishing. They caught about 10 trout in an hour and a half not far from the camp at Susan's spot. Supper tonight is barbecued ribs. Jimmy has donated his old BBQ pit to the camp. Pierce did some repair work on it, and it seems to work very well. We had potato salad and all the fixins—most notably pork & beans done by John P as well. They were awesome. The month of October was not conducive to coming to the camp. John S did get to go squirrel-hunting w/Joey Doucet on West Bay WMA near Kidner. They had a very enjoyable morning, but shot no bushy tails.

Joey and John S came fishing 1st weekend, and Joey was talking to the red fish. He caught 9 or so; 5 were keepers. They also managed to get 5 trout to succumb to their advances. On the way in they started hearing a knocking coming from the engine of John's boat. They made it in, but the boat is in the repair shop now and will cost \$900 or so to repair. Hopefully, it'll be ready before the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Friday
November 10,2000**

We're here for the weekend- - John S, John P, & Jimmy K. We have only a little construction under consideration. Repair on the bulkhead is something we'll be trying. Supper tonight was fresh garlic sausage sautéed in onions, tomato sauce, and Rotel. We ate the whole mess on po-boy buns, and they were very good. The camp martoonies were very good as well. This week we remembered to bring the garlic and olives. Tomorrow we fish.

Hunting season is around the corner, just one week to go now, and we've yet to see a duck around here anywhere.

**Saturday
November 11, 2000**

We were able to close the hole in the bulkhead this morning, and made a run to Leeville to get the rocks John carried to Leeville on Tuesday. John S & John P went fishing at about 10:30 and caught 6 nice fish (5 trout and 1 that John P caught was over 18 inches and 1 red fish the same size as the trout). After the naps of the afternoon, we busied ourselves in preparing supper. Yes, Charlotte, it's chicken & limas. Of course, camp martoonies were in play most of the afternoon. We hope to fish again in the morning, and we hope to listen to LSU on the radio tonight. SL lost to Ruston last night 41-6 and ended their playoff experience for the year.

**Friday
November 17, 2000**

We arrived at the camp very late today. Getting lanterns lit was a real trial. We didn't get gear organized for at least an hour after arriving. The NE wind is ripping heavy and rain is

coming down heavy. The cistern doesn't seem to be collecting water well. We suspect the drain spout doesn't work efficiently. We stayed up until 10PM drinking beer and martoonies. Here at the camp for the opening of duck season: John Serigny, John Pierce, Jimmy King, Peter Knight, and Kent Matherne. Supper was Oh-yi-yi. We also had fried calamari before supper. The temperature is staying in the mid-40's. The weather is great for an opening of duck season.

Saturday November 18, 2000

This morning's weather is no different from yesterday's. The NE wind has the tide extremely high. Sitting in the blind was a real trip. The wind is extremely strong and gusting even stronger. Jay's mud flat was a real bear. We couldn't even get to the cuts to paddle to the boat. We had to push across the marsh to get back to the boats. What we thought would be great weather for an opening morning turned out to be really tough for us hunters. White caps in the tract were in the 2 to 3 foot range. When we got back to the camp it was time. Everyone was tired and worked to death. The rain came down only while Peter & Kent tried to fish. Oh, yeah, Kent nailed 2 dos gris on the morning hunt. Three others fell, but weren't found. Our netting just didn't stand up to the wind today; it was flapping and flying around. Wind is not blind netting's friend. Supper tonight is duck & oyster gumbo done by John Pierce. Our weather will not change by tomorrow morning. We'll fight it again!

Sunday November 19, 2000

We all stayed to the camp this morning. Our brave words of yesterday are just hollow promises. The tide is over the marsh about 2 feet. No way we can sit in a pirogue today on the bank. The wind was down a bit from yesterday, but it's still in the 20's. There was so much water that John S & John P went to Jay's flat in Jimmy's boat to put some new features on the platform blind. They also checked the bank for decoys that had blown away yesterday finding one. They then braved the rain and wind to check the new lease seeing a couple bunches of ducks. We had a leisurely breakfast this morning and headed in at about 9:30. A very sorry opening weekend.

Monday November 20, 2000

We arrived at the camp at about 2:30 or thereabouts- -John S & Jimmy King. It's sort of lonely at the present. Jimmy's going in tomorrow and others will be arriving on a daily basis in the coming week. Supper tonight is McSerigny burgers and beef vegetable soup that Jimmy had cooked at home last night. It was stick to your ribs good. Holly is keeping busy chasing her tennis ball. The tide has fallen about 2 feet since yesterday, and it will probably fall more before the end of the week. Temps tonight are in the 40's. The wind has died down, but it will freshen tomorrow as a reinforcement of the cold comes in. We didn't see very many birds on our trip to Jay's mud flat this morning.

Tuesday November 21, 2000

Our morning hunt was on the slim side. Jimmy King shot 1 dosgris. John S didn't shoot. This could be a really bad year. The tide was low & it was very cold this morning. We were shivering in our boots by 8:30. The wind is at 20 or so from due North. The platform blind looks like a skyscraper now. Jimmy King has left, but he left his boat behind. Suzan & Jackie have

arrived for a couple of day. Marsha Sue Serigny may come out tomorrow if her cold allows it. Our afternoon fishing excursion got 1 keeper speck. Susan caught it; oh, yeah, she came out today as well. Susan & Jackie caught sheephead around the camp, but we can't catch a minnow right now. They caught the fish on market shrimp. Supper was sausage spaghetti. Everyone enjoyed it. It may freeze in the morning.

Wednesday November 22, 2000

Morning has arrived and finds John at the camp. The tide has kept him from hunting today. It is very, very low and he didn't have the desire to fight the mud & crud to get to the mud flat. A leisurely breakfast ensued and soon after Susan began fishing. She has no luck at all through Jackie caught a few small sheephead. A trip go the marsh got them nothing and the tide was so low that they left to fish in deeper water. They tried in Bay Batiste near the compressor station and Jackie caught 1 keeper red fish and another that was too short. Later a trip to Leeville got Marsha Sue and more butane. Afternoon was dedicated to cooking white beans for supper and some fishing near Rodney's angel. Susan caught 1 red, but it was too small. Supper was fried sheephead and white beans and rice. Oh, Susan did catch a 16" black drum today. It tasted wonderful!! Rodney is a very generous man, and according to his generous nature he gave us a half bushel of oysters. We'll open them tomorrow.

Thursday November 23, 2000 Happy Thanksgiving!

Tide is low again today and the wind has started out of the East at last. The tide should be coming up today. John went to the platform in the mud flat and didn't fire a shot. Jimmy Cheramie on the north side of Williams canal fired a couple of times. Happy Thanksgiving! After the hunt, preparations for Thanksgiving lunch were under way.

During slack time this morning John check the cistern down spout and found it was clogged with coon droppings. He cleaned the spout and at least we have some water making it into the cistern now. A new connection part is coming soon. Lunch is baked turkey, dirty rice, sweet potatoes and apple pie. It was all good! After naps, John took Marsha & Susan to Bay Cayman, and they caught 4 keeper specks really quickly. They came back to the camp to get Jackie and by the time they got to Bay Cayman again the specks had gotten lock jaw. They tried pappy's spot and the little island with little success even though Jackie caught a 7 lb. red as they were leaving the little island spot. Supper tonight was left-overs and we head home tomorrow, probably in the rain.

Friday November 24, 2000

John S was up early and started packing up between breakfast preparations. The rain has mostly held off, but we see threatening clouds to the West. On the run in with heavily loaded boats, Jackie Ducros ran Jimmy King's boat and handled the assigned task admirably. As the last boat was being backed into the stall, the rain started in earnest. We made it in just in time to avoid the downpour.

**Saturday
November 25, 2000**

John S and Jimmy K arrived for an overnigher. John S is running Pierce's boat until his new Tohatsu is installed. The rental fee is very reasonable. John & Jimmy set up camp and took off to check out Rodney's angel. He was his usual generous self and gave us about a champagne and a half of oysters. We opened them as supper was being prepared. By the way, Charlotte supper was a fresh pork sausage (Andy's sausage, of course) ra-ta-tat-patat. Jimmy said he's been leaning towards one for a long time. Next weekend we're cooking field peas. John already has them purchased. We can't say for sure what'll be served with the peas. We'll think of something.

Tomorrow Jimmy & John plan to hunt the lease for the second time this year (once was during teal season). We'll see if it makes a difference in the kill. They also plan to use Auto Duck for the first time.

**Sunday
November 26, 2000**

We had a modicum of success this morning. John S 1 gray, Jimmy K 1 gray and 1 hen mallard. The auto duck really worked. It drew in the 3 ducks that were shot. The hen mallard was literally talking to the thing as she was shot by Jimmy. We're heading in. Weather is warming. Tide is low, but not terrible. John and Jimmy hunted in pond #2 on the new lease. We were very comfortable this morning. It was sunny with a N wind. Maybe things are turning around.

**Friday
December 1, 2000**

John Pierce arrived this afternoon, but early. He was here at about 12:30 or so. John S & Jimmy K didn't get here until about 5 PM or so. John's new Tohatsu ran well. Jimmy's didn't though; it stopped on him under the Leeville bridge. They made it here none the less. Supper tonight is port smothered in onions. We ran short of rice and we're eating it on bread. It's still really good, though. E're hunting on the lease tomorrow, so we'll see what's there. It's warm today compared to what we've had round here since the season opened. Tomorrow we'll see a change as a front comes through. We'll see how bad it gets.

**Saturday
December 2, 2000**

Our morning hunt wasn't very great. John S got 1 gray and 1 hooded merganser. John P got 1 dosgris. Jimmy ZIPPED. Pierce hunted pond #1 near the power lines, but the pod is opening up and has little viable marsh. John and Jimmy hunted about a quarter of a mile from him and were in the broken marsh near the power lines. John S was lucky to find the gray duck who was a cripple and got to the marsh. John wished Holly would've been here to see what she'd have done. Her cut pad hasn't healed as yet.

John's new Tohatsu runs about like \$5,500. He is slowly getting his boat loaded with all the stuff he had in it before it went to Houma. Lunch today was roast beef po-boys w/gravy. John Pierce did a great job with them. Army is playing Navy right now & the land is tougher than the water so far. The western division-leading Saints are playing Denver tomorrow in NO. Another season of college football goes by the wayside. Thanks for pro football to help us through the winter doldrums.

**Sunday
December 3, 2000**

It was very cold this morning, but we were prepared. It was in the upper 30's (39degrees on the porch) this morning. We're dressed well and loaded with hot chocolate and cappuccino so we're in good shape to hunt on the lease this morning. John & Jimmy knocked down one bird and lost it. John Pierce way-laid 2 mottled ducks and that was the total for the morning. The sun came out at about 10 or so, but the wind was relentless and boring in from the NNE. We've got the gear!

Going home.

**Friday
December 8, 2000**

We arrived a little later than last week- -John Pierce & Bart. Arriving a little earlier than last week were John S and Jimmy King. We had a very cloudy afternoon despite what the weathermen said yesterday. The weather this week should be improving to the warm side. That means the fishing should be improving. That's a plus. Maybe they'll be a few more ducks too. That remains to be seen.

Supper tonight was roast beef po-boys done by JP. They were quite tasty and done by 6 PM. Supper was over before the evening news was over. Jimmy was asleep soon after that.

**Saturday
December 9, 2000**

Our morning hunt was on the slim side again. John S and Jimmy K got 2 dosgris; John Pierce got 2 teal. The hunt of the year so far. The tide is falling to very low levels this morning. It is gaining all night. Air temps are warming considerably, though. By noon we've lost our deck weather for sure. The wind is around to the E now, and it will be moving to the south before morning. Our temps will be much warmer and hopefully the tide won't drop as badly tomorrow with the S & E wind. If we were staying another day, tomorrow would be the day to fish. With the temps moderating, they'd be hitting for sure.

Sunday December 10, 2000

Morning hunt was on the dismal side. Jimmy K 1 dosgris; John S & P ZIP. John & Jimmy had a group of gray ducks circle them for a while, but they got no shots. Auto duck's charge died at about 7:45. The weather is warming. It was foggy until 7 or so. The tide is low, but manageable.

Saturday December 16, 2000

John S arrived early this morning after taking the Friday, yesterday, off for the nuptials of Kelly Brown. John S got here about 8 AM followed shortly by Jimmy K at about 8:30 and John Pierce at about 8:45. John S & P went out to put reflectors and brought their fishing lines and caught 20 or so specks and about 10 were keepers. They fried the keepers for lunch. Everyone got here early because of an anticipated cold front. It came through while naps were going on. Hardly anyone stirred, but it got kinda rough outside because John S's landing net blew off his boat never to be seen again. Our strong SW wind was replaced by a Westerly one at about 25 MPH or so. When the wind shifted the rain came in. It only rained for a few minutes, but the wind was very violent and blew the chairs off the front deck. At about 4 PM when we got up from our naps, the wind was really ripping from the West. The tide was blown out and dropped about a foot in 3 hours. We hope it'll be high enough to hunt in the back tomorrow.

Supper tonight is kitchen-sink spaghetti. John S did the cooking even though he did burn the spaghetti, not the sauce, the stinkin' spaghetti. Jimmy K took off late in the day to meet Rodney at the boat graveyard, but found Rodney was sort of bare and not very generous today. Something was said about the tide being too high. Our martoonies were supplanted by Vodka & diet 7up tonight. We're not sue we can handle that too much. We may be looking for a new sociable concoction.

Sunday December 17, 2000

Our morning hunt was VERY dismal. Everybody did the ZIPPO deal today. John S did shoot a rail. Jimmy King had to go get it Holly picked it up, but wouldn't bring it back. John Pierce shot nothing but the breeze.

It was very cold this morning. It was 39degrees with a 15-20 MPH NNW wind. We were okay though because we had our neoprene to keep us warm. You don't need wool pants with neoprene waders. We're going home in very cold conditions. It is warming during the day today, though. The Saints play Atlanta today and must win to win the Western division.

Thursday December 21, 2000

John S and Joey Doucet arrive at camp late in the day. It was a good thing they took Jimmy King's boat. John S's brand new Tohatsu wasn't running very well. They had to tow the boat to the camp. After a call to Houma machine they let him know they felt it was spark plugs. Because of the double oil he's been running and the low RPM's he'd been keeping to following the

owner's manual, the plugs fouled quickly. John S changed the plugs and the engine began running just like new.

Supper tonight is field peas from scratch and hamburger steaks. They smell really good right now. It's very cold this evening. It's in the 40's with a 15-20 mph wind. The wind chills are down in the teens. It rained on us all the way here this afternoon, and it took over an hour and a half to get here with John's boat under tow.

Friday December 22, 2000

Our morning hunt took place in the broken marsh just East of Rodney's flat. John S got 1 gray duck and 1 marsh hen. Joey shot, but hit nothing. It was very cold this morning. It was 37 degrees when we left the camp. It had been colder (34) at one time. The real problem was the wind. It was blowing between 20 & 25 mph, and it was a Gore Tex morning for sure. Neoprene waders were a must. We hunted for 2 hours.

After hunting Joey & John had ham sandwiches and chicken noodle soup for lunch. They then visited Rodney's angel. He was exceedingly generous and gave us 2 baskets of oysters. We returned to the camp and worked a couple of hours shucking them. We couldn't get them all done though. With about an hour of daylight left, John prodded Joey to fish on the bottom near Jimmy's wharf. He proceeded to catch 23 red fish. Only 1 of them was a keeper.

Supper tonight was the same field peas we had yesterday with ground meat added. We also fried oysters and red fish. It was very good and we're really disgusted that we eat so much out here.

The temperature rose considerably during the day today, but it will drip into the 30's by morning. The good news is that the wind is gone and it will warm quickly tomorrow, we hope.

Saturday December 23, 2000

We had a very eventful morning. Based on our poor performance in the broken marsh near Rodney's we vowed to hunt the lease today. That way Joe could see what shaking out there. Unfortunately on the way to Bayou Cayman John S took a wrong turn between Al Joseph's spot and Joe Joe's spot and put the TRI-MAR up on shallow water. Joey & John used the push poles for about 20 minutes with only moderate success. Finally, when they no longer could make headway, John used the engine along with Joey pushing to free the boat. They got to deeper water, but not before the hot buzzer on the new Tohatsu came on. John cleaned the intake ports and got the engine to pump with no buzzer. They finally got to the lease at about 7 AM. At about 7:15 a few grays came to gawk at Auto Duck and Joey knocked one down. It was a cripple and swam off into the broken marsh before Holly could get to it. Joey went to search, but couldn't see where the bird went up, so he was unsuccessful. We sat there until almost 9 AM. Then 4 grays came in to the set up, and didn't leave. Joey shot & killed 2. John killed one and crippled the 4th who went to the broken marsh and did like the previous cripple and disappeared. John & Holly went after it, but couldn't see where the bird had gone up, so their search was nipped in the bud.

They picked up their gear & headed in. When they got back, Joey fished from Jimmy's wharf again and caught 3 more keepers. One of them was 30 inches long and close to 10 lbs. John packed the camp while Joey caught may undersized reds and enjoyed himself very much. They shucked the rest of Rodney's oysters and headed home. It is cold in the morning (40 or so), but the wind is abated greatly and neoprene gloves just aren't needed today. There is a breeze at about 8-12 from the E so the front we arrived in is headed away.

We're going home for Christmas.

Wednesday December 27, 2000

We arrived at the camp at about 10 AM. John S and John P. Jimmy King has some kind of gastric distress and isn't here yet, though he may be here Friday or so with Peter Knight. The weather is really sucky. It's warm & rainy. There is a front coming soon. It should be much colder tomorrow morning. We came out early to avoid the worst of it, and it seems we pretty much did. After a light lunch both slept until afternoon coffee at 3 PM. After a bit of wool gathering, we decided to visit Rodney's angels and he was his generous self giving us a really large bushel of oysters. They were a bit muddy however. Supper tonight is T-bones grilled on the barbie. John P sure can cook. He also oven-roasted some potatoes. They were excellent.

Thursday December 28, 2000

Well, the front has certainly come through. It was blowing 20-25 with gusts higher from the West. The tide is really falling. The west wind is blowing it out of the marsh.

John S & P hunted in pond #2 on the new lease and didn't fire, but saw some birds out there. We saw pintails, grays, and dosgris. John made it to the lease without any problems this morning. When we returned, we were more than happy to stay in the camp for an hour or two and keep out of the wind. At about noon John S put tonight's supper to cook and they got to work on the oysters Rodney's Angel gave them. It was really cold out there and the guys' feet suffered the most. At 2:30 with the beans about half done and the oyster gear put away it was nap time and that continued until about 4 PM. Along with white beans the guys have, what else? Friend oysters. Supper was a great success. The weather remained cold & cloudy all day. The temps are in the low 40's, but the NW wind is whipping at 15-20 and has the wind-chill down there. It's very raw weather. Tomorrow could be a repeat of today's situation.

Friday December 29, 2000

Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. A pair of dosgris came to see us and we were able to stop 1. John S's bird is the total for 2 days of hunting. It's cold, but clear & sunny, and we don't see very many birds flying around today. John S & P hunted the broken marsh on the lease this morning. We'd seen birds trading back & forth there yesterday, but today we saw nothing. When we returned, John S decided to try fishing off Jimmy's wharf a la Joey. He caught a keeper right away. John P was packing while John S was fishing. After a few minutes, John P took over the fishing duties and caught 8 more keepers and a large number of other red fish. John took over & caught the last keeper of the 2 man limit. All this was accomplished in about 90 minutes. They headed in with more fish & oysters than ducks for their 2 day duck hunt.

The weather today was nicer with less wind and more sun than yesterday, but it's cold still. Temps are in the mid 30's at sunrise with a N wind between 15 and 20. The wind slacked off and by noon was less than 10. The tide is dropping, but it isn't killer low yet.

Saturday January 6, 2001

Happy new year!! John S and Jimmy K are here for an overnigher. Weather is moderating. After about a week of pipe-busting lows, we're here in temps that will reach the low 60's today. Lows are in the low 50's. After all the cold weather, we expect fog in the morning. The tides were extremely low this morning, and as a result we had to come in from Lake Jesse down the parallel canal. The tide is so low we don't think hunting the lease is an option for tomorrow. Jay's flat may be an option. We have a very light se breeze today. It may cause the tide to be a little higher tomorrow. With a chance of rain thrown in to the mix, it could be interesting.

The tide is so low that we knew Rodney would be there, and sure enough, we visited him at about 4:30 and he gave us a really big bushel of gigantic oysters. He is very generous. Supper tonight is black-eyed peas with hamburger steaks. The steaks were made with Andy Chiasson's ground meat. It was very good! Tagamet was dessert.

Sunday January 7, 20001

John S woke up with a very upset stomach this morning. A stomach virus is the culprit. He is running a fever and nausea and diarrhea along with it. The guys are heading in without hunting today. John just hopes he can make it home without an accident of some sort. Later.

Friday January 12, 2001

We arrived at the camp before dark—John S and John P. Supper tonight is eggplant primavera. Pierce is such a chef. It's rather cool tonight. It's in the low 40's with a NE wind at about 12+. We had to close the door to tolerate the chill. The tide is very low. We may not be able to hunt the lease tomorrow. Supper was very good. It should be warming this weekend, but it isn't warm tonight. It's in the 40's and the wind has it rather raw.

Saturday January 13, 2001

Our morning hunt produced ZIP, NADDA, **Zilch!!!** No shots were taken. We hunted the broken marsh on the lease. The tide was very much higher than it's been in 3 weeks. No problem getting out there today. Not even auto duck helped today. We had ENE wind at about 10 or a little higher. When we returned, we cooked corned beef hash with Egg & cheese. It was great. Jimmy K arrived at about 11:35. He immediately went to bed and took a nap until John shot the 22 at about 3 PM. John P & John S took no naps today mostly because Jimmy arrived in the middle of the ones they were trying to take earlier. They busied themselves cooing white beans and goose smothered in onions. At about 4 PM they visited Rodney's Angel and John S got almost a bushel of oysters from Rodney and John P & Jimmy begged a bushel and a half off of him. Rodney is certainly a very generous fellow. It's been warming all day, but there are clouds that kept the day dreary & chilly. Next weekend- - - **"The last chapter."**

Saturday January 20, 2001

We arrived to the camp about 9 "ish" this morning- -John S & Jimmy K. We had to run around Lake Jesse again this morning. (It's getting to be a habit.) The tide is extremely low. After naps we had to go and scout a place to hunt tomorrow. We looked at Rodney's old mud flat. That looked like work! Jimmy made it to the deep end across the flat via a cut we saw that was opened East of the flat. We looked at one of the flats closer to Lake Palourde. We may try that tomorrow. We're worried about how much the tide will fall. We took some really luscious naps this afternoon. Lunch was corned beef hash with egg. Jimmy thought it was pretty fair. Supper tonight, Charlotte Brown, was sirloin steaks with roast potatoes. John S is the chef today. John P is offshore and incommunicado.

We're had a **very bad** duck season this year. You really can't say that enough. It's one of the worst we've seen in a really long time. It's very cold today. Temps never made it out of the 40's during the day today. Tonight there will be a light freeze to complement the cold day. George W was inaugurated today. Only the second son to follow his father as President of the US. Bill Clinton showed his true nefarious colors today by pardoning a baker's dozen of his less law-abiding compadres. Just like the crook that he is. It certainly looks as if the Democrats are entering a leadership vacuum. Social programs are in definite jeopardy.

Sunday January 21, 2001

On our morning hunt Jimmy King knocked down a gray duck, but it was only wing-tipped and it swam and crawled through mud to get away from us. The tide is extremely low this morning. It's actually lower than I've ever seen it. We had real problems getting out of the spot we hunted in this morning. We hunted down William's canal right before the marsh buggy tract on the right. We saw a few birds this morning, but nothing serious. The birds are here now, but they are very wary of any kind of set up including Auto Duck rotating away. Temps were newar freezing this morning, but with a lack of wind there was nothing to deal with.

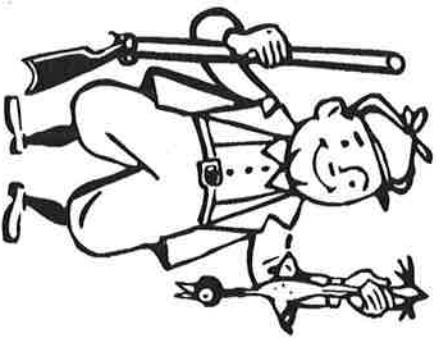
Our hunting season is over and we've had lots better and a couple worse, but not may. We killed 21 birds this year. That's about the least in the last 4 years for sure.

This entry ends Book XI of the camp log. We're looking forward to starting volume XII.

Camp Log

BOOK XII

CAMP EXPEDITIONS AND OUTINGS FROM
August 18, 2001 to January 25, 2003



Produced through the auspices of the Sportsman of the Year Society solely for the use of its members

INTRODUCTION

This volume of the camp log will be number XII (12). We start the record keeping during the year 2001. Since last hunting season a couple of fishing trips have occurred and no overnight trips have taken place.

The trawling season has been very good for the few trips that were made. An overnigher is needed soon. The shrimp have been plentiful and large. We only hope the upcoming year is as good for bodies and souls.

Sportsman of the year for 2001 was Dallas Doucet. Dallas wasn't even alive when we started writing these things down. During the winter Bobby Delaune gave us a couple of tons of broken concrete from his sidewalks at his Metairie home that needed to be redone. John S. and John P. made three trips of rocks to the camp. They carried 26 sacks on one trip. They carried 16 sacks on another trip and 10 sacks on a third.

During the summer Solid Waste came and picked up the pile out of the end of John S's street--so much for conscientiousness. We are only about 3 months away from teal season. We are anticipating it breathlessly. We've been keeping this log for 22 years now and hope it continues a few more.

J. Serigny

6/21/01

August 18, 2001

Joseph's birthday was yesterday. We're not here celebrating that as much as we are the school year coming up. Teal season is opening in less than a month so we're here living things up for that eventuality.

Of course, that also means school is cranking up. John S's 30th year is sure to be exhilarating. We want to shrimp a little, though we know there aren't many out here.

We got here early, just to relax and haul about 10 sacks of rocks. Over the spring we hauled about 40 bags of concrete from Bobby D's sidewalks. We thought that we'd be able to do more, but SWDI picked up the pile at John S's house before anyone could stop them. Now we got sacks of asphalt from Philip & Mrs. Collins's driveways. John S is sacking a few until Damian Adams & his concrete crew are able to pick up the rubble. Trawling season was really nice. We made enough trips to supply the freezers, give some to the red necks, and keep Jan Happy. The shrimp were very nice last year. We had low river stage and a mild spring W/little rain. The big brazils lasted until late June. In early July the quantity dropped, but what you caught were really nice. The shrimp counted 60-70 at the shed. John S & John P made a few fishing trips and did pretty well. One trip in late July got them 13 specks. They were all just a little too small to keep though.

It's very warm out here today, but the generator is working and a 15 mph W wind is working well.

There's a hurricane in the Caribbean, a "C" one, and we'll see where that takes us this week.

EVENING ENTRY

Naps proceeded after a run to Leeville to rescue John's fan & carry a few more rocks. Naps ended about 2 PM. John & Jimmy shot the breeze and enjoyed afternoon coffee until 4. The high tide is boiling out at a very noticeable slip so we pulled Williams canal and caught about 3 dozen shrimp. The whites are very scarce. We've got enough for bait for tomorrow, so we're happy, but there aren't enough to pull for.

The sun was bright and hot today, but the West wind is really humpin' so it was comfortable enough to cook supper without the generator going today.

Supper tonight was pinto beans w/jalapeno and fried fresh sausage. It was good enough to have Jimmy take home the leftovers for lunch tomorrow. There are oodles of fishermen out here today. We hope to join them tomorrow.

August 19, 2001

Fishing expedition: 1 speck, 1 red. Going home. Hot!

September 14, 2001

Here for opening of teal season: John S, Jimmy King, and Holly girl.

Hurricane Gabrielle has pushed high water over the marsh, but we're here anyway. Our determination to hunt is only surpassed by the suffering of the victims in New York and their families. As we stand on the edge of World War, we are ready to use America's vast wealth to subdue this threat to our well being and freedom.

Okay, it's teal season, but we've seen no teal. We don't even know if rail season is open. That would be nice w/the high water. A few rails would be worth the trip. Of course, we're looking forward to fishing some too.

The last few weeknds have been dedicated to weddings and playing golf in Natchez. John P is involved in moving to Denham Springs. Next weekend we'll miss teal hunting to do that. Hey, helping Pierce is the priority.

Supper tonight is chicken, lima beans in tomato sauce. Jimmy demanded it. Not really, but since we've been out here so infrequently, we figured we'd celebrate.

It is a bit warm out here tonight. We can't tell you just how warm because our outside thermometer gave up the ghost and went down sometime in the last week.

Holly is trying to play with her tennis ball, but she can't seem to keep it out of those junky corners in the camp.

Supper was much better with an Absolute screwdriver and an Ariel Honduran torpedo shaped cigar afterwards.

Dead roaches and mice litter both camps, so we know our poisons and traps have taken a toll.

John had to dispose of a couple of coons right after supper. The bit the dust quickly with minimal pain. John's shoulder was marked, but the coons never knew what hit them.

The wind should shift around to the N tomorrow. That may mitigate the high tides that are hanging around these days.

Saturday, September 15, 2001

The first day of teal season is a bust. Not 1 duck seen-not even black-winged teal. A front did come through and it's only in the mid-80's today. Eighties are better than 90's for sure. We'll see about fishing before too long.

It's sunny and clear, and there is no way you would ever think that there'd be a hurricane anywhere around here. I'm sure the people in Florida would feel differently.

Evening Entry—In the late afternoon we pulled Williams canal and naturally hooked right at about Flour-avon's pond. The pipe's still there. By the time we got everything up we had a couple of crab traps in the trawl. We threw over again and pulled to lake Palourde, but we had only 4 shrimp. Barely enough for bait for tomorrow's fishing. Supper tonight was fresh sausage spaghetti. We also had ground meat & smoked sausage in there. It was pretty tasty. Holly enjoyed it tremendously. The mullets are beginning to school seriously around the camp. Fishing may pick up yet. ***Sunday, September 16, 2001***

Morning hunt-ZIPPO- Just as yesterday. We did have 1 black-winged teal land in the decoys. Holly was really excited and she couldn't figure out why we didn't shoot it. She wanted to go & get it right away. We'll be back in 2 weeks.

Friday, September 28, 2001

Arrived at camp in the late afternoon. John S & Jimmy King. Holly's here too. We got here about 5 PM, unloaded the boat, and proceeded to get ready for supper preparations. Supper tonight is sirloin strip, pork steaks, and filet mignon from the barbecue grill along with potato salad. Not too shabby a meal. We're enjoying beautiful weather. Low 80's during the day with a brisk NE wind, in the 60's at night.

Last weekend we couldn't come to the camp because we had to help Pierce move to Denham Springs. That took all afternoon Friday and most of the day Saturday. We were too tired to come out on Saturday afternoon. Ten years ago would have been different. The best thing about the whole weekend was Pierce bought the beer.

There should be new arrivals of teal here this week. We hope we get a few shots anyway. There may be guests arriving tomorrow to fish we'll see how that goes. We're here despite our problems and our country's problems, and that's what makes this place so great!

Saturday, September 29, 2001

This morning's hunt was very dismal. We got no shots, but did have a couple of black ducks buzz us. About 9:30 we went to Leeville and picked up officer Peter Knight and Rickey Mitchell, that redneck from Shreveport.

After lunch of hash brown omelet w/corned beef, John S, Peter, and Rickey went fishing and got no bites. Upon returning, we took naps. John Jimmy & Peter got up at 4:30 or so and Mitchell slept until almost 7 PM. Supper tonight is field peas & ground meat and fried fresh sausage. After supper late night lasted until almost 11 PM. Tomorrow will be a very long day.

Sunday, September 30, 2001

Teal season ends today w/no shots fired. John and Rickey got no shots this morning though they were buzzed by about two and a half dozen teal at about 8 AM.

Heading home.

Saturday, October 20, 2001

It seems like a really long time since we've been here, but it really hasn't been that long. About 3 weeks is the actual length of time. Just long enough to forget what a camp martoonie tastes like is all.

We arrived at about 10:30 John Serigny and Jimmy King. Joey & Trisha are here for the weekend, but Joey had other obligations. The WUSS!! After unpacking the camp, John & Jimmy went to the old platform blind and tore down the pirogue hide. They had brought roseaux and palmettoes to cover the shooting platform. They used the wire from the pirogue hide to close in the front & threaded palmettoes through the wire. With 7 bundles of roseaux from Magoo's business we're ready to go almost. We do need to cut a couple more bundles to fill it out. The tides are lower these days and getting around the marsh is a little more dicey. The tidal fluctuation is almost 1.5 feet. It seems that it should be really great for fishing, but no one is catching. Maybe it's the pressure.

We're staying the night, and we'll be back next week for repairing Jimmy's wharf, and we'll also be starting on a connecting walkway between the front & back deck. John's trawl is coming off. He's decided it's too close to hunting season to worry about shrimp.

The weather has been beautiful this week. Night time temps are in the 60's and highs during the day are in the low to mid 80's. Supper tonight was hamburger steaks with field peas & rice. Lunch was pretty good too-grilled ham & cheese sandwiches.

The martoonies do taste rather good tonight even though John is fighting with the hiccups because of a visit to Dr. Mike yesterday. That's a small price to pay for being able to breathe. We just hope the duck season is worth all this work. At the present time the temperature in the camp is 68 degrees. That's really nice!

Sunday October 21, 2001

This morning was very productive. We built the frame on the lease and fished on the way in. We caught 5 specks, 1 white trout, and 2 keeper reds. We're heading home in the muggy fog.

Saturday October 27, 2001

We arrived at the camp at about 1:30 PM. John had the Cayman Classic at LCO this morning. Here are John S and Jimmy King. We got to work on repairing Jimmy's wharf. We have the center span shored up and have driven a 4X4 on the south end of the wharf to tie up Jimmy's boat. That work took us until 4 PM. We went to the lease and worked on a blind frame that we hope to use. We installed wire and put palmettos through the wire. We'll finish it up next week.

We'll finish up Jimmy's ward tomorrow and maybe put a coat of paint on the W side of the camp.

Temps tonight will be record lows for this time of year. They're expecting 42 degrees. The sun was out today and it was really a beautiful day. Supper tonight was a beef and pork spaghetti. Jimmy made cheesy garlic bread.

We'll be out here next week again. The week after that will be the beginning of hunting season. We're looking towards the Thanksgiving holidays. We may even see JP that red neck from Denham Springs out here then. Joey should be making the trek from Houston as well. We're looking forward to seeing our friends and family at the camp.

Sunday, October 28, 2001

Back to standard time today. We won't be saving daylight from here on. We finished the wharf work early and went fishing. Jimmy got 1 keeper red and John caught 1 speck. It

was windy out of the NE. The day was sunny and bright. The tide was gaining hard all morning. We're heading in.

Friday, November 9, 2001

We arrived at camp to celebrate the opening weekend of duck season. John Serigny & Jimmy King. We're not sure where we'll hunt tomorrow, but we know we'll be hunting. That's the best part about this weekend. Supper tonight was ra ta tat patat with smoked sausage.

John has made it here with his newly repaired boat. We'll experience cooler temps and dryer days over the weekend. Temps are a little cooler than normal, but still in the 70's during the day. The tide is falling all day. It has about a foot fluctuation from high to low. If we don't kill ducks, we'll try to catch a few fish. We also have some construction projects to deal with. We're trying to complete a walk way from the new back porch to the from deck. We'll see how that goes.

Saturday, November 10, 2001

John's boat still leaks, but not nearly as bad as it did last weekend. He's pleased with the repair job.

Morning hunt on the promising side. John S 1 teal, 1 spoonie. Jimmy King one spoonie and one lost bird. Holly retrieved a couple of birds, though she tried to eat one. After duck plucking and straightening up, John & Jimmy headed to Leeville to pick up netting rocks and fans. The weather is too nice for duck hunting, but very pleasant for fishing. Clear to partly cloudy. Temps in the 70's daytime. Nights in the low 60's Pleasant weather. North wind at about 10 mph.

After naps were done, we put decoys out on the platform blind near the WMA line. We fished briefly with no success. Supper tonight is white beans to rice w/roasted duck & goose. It'll take a while to tenderize that blue goose we put in the pot.

We're very happy that hunting season is once again here. We're very happy to be here for a couple of days of hunting , fishing and relaxing. Being here is very good therapy for us and it relieves stress we get from our work.

Sunday, November 11, 2001

Our morning hunt was bright. We took 6 grays and lost no birds. Holly even retrieved a couple. We're going home.

Friday, November 16, 2001

John Pierce arrived at camp at about 10 AM. He made himself to home and enjoyed his day. John Serigny, Jimmy King and Joey Doucet arrived. After unloading a ton of stuff and exchanging pleasantries we got supper started. Supper is roast beef in brown gravy and French fries.

We stayed up until 10 PM talking and drinking (mostly VO by John Pierce) and finally got to bed. It is cool at night, but very warm during the day getting in to the upper seventies.

Saturday, November 17, 2001

Morning hunt was on the dismal side. John P. & Jimmy K on the platform got 2 grays and John S & Joey on the lease got ZIPPO. When we returned, we rested up from the gnats and Joey & John S went fishing. They caught 1 keeper red. We caught a couple of really tiny specks that we dutifully returned. We caught back to the camp at 1:45 or so and headed in to Leeville to pick up Shaun Pierce. After buying gas, ice, and tonic, we returned and were greeted by John P who was cooking a seafood gumbo. John S and Joey did some work on the west side walk way assisted by John P. Jimmy and Shaun kept each other company in the camp. The gnats ate up some of the lumber and lots of the workers.

We're sitting down talking at the present, but we're sure we won't be up until 10 PM.

Sunday, November 18, 2001

Morning hunt- -The weather was nicer for hunters today. We had a NNE wind at 10+ that kept the gnats down greatly. John S & Jimmy K hunted the fast grass blind on the lease. They got 2 hooded mergansers and 1 gray duck. Joey, John P & Shaun hunted on the platform blind on the WMA and got nothing.

John S, Jimmy K and Shaun P headed in for an overnigher while Joey & JP stayed to the camp. They'll be here tonight and guard the blind tomorrow from intruders.

Monday, November 19, 2001

Morning hunt. John P & Joey got 1 dosgris and the gnats had their way with them most of the morning. The weather has turned off very warm getting to the low 80's by midday.

At about noon John S & Susan S showed up with a load of junk for Thanksgiving. The weather is supposed to change in the next couple of days. We should get some duck weather Wednesday or Thursday. Unfortunately that'll be too late for some people who have to go to work soon- -like Pierce who leaves to go to Grand Isle tomorrow to head offshore.

Monday afternoon fishing got us 2 keeper specks and 1 flounder.

Tuesday November 20, 2001

Today was beautiful weather for duck hunting. We headed to the blind about a half hour before John Pierce left for Leeville and work. John S and Joey stayed to the blind until 9. Susan slept until right before then. She didn't even fish while they were gone. John & Joey got 1 gray duck and 1 merganser. After a little duck cleaning, John & Joey & Susan went fishing but had no bites. We stopped at every spot & had no takers. The weather is cloudy and windy. The temps will fall by tomorrow, but today was mild and comfortable.

After lunch & naps and some work on the new walkway by John, the crew went fishing again & ended up with 1 speck caught by John S. The little rat reds were biting around the camp around noon and Susan & Joey caught a few but had to release them all because of size.

Wednesday, November 21, 2001

It was colder this morning with the temperature about 40 degrees. It turned off sunny & clear with very light NNE winds changing to NE. John S and Joey got no shots this morning. After fishing until 11:30, John S headed to Leeville to start Joey on his way back to Lake Charles. John waited until 1:15 for James and Rachel Ford due to Rachel's migraine. Naps were in order for the afternoon.

James fished with no productive results. The gnats ran him in around 3:30. John schooled him on pirogues and shotguns before dark. Supper was grilled red fish and seafood gumbo leftover from Saturday. Fantan continued until 10 PM.

Thursday, November 22, 2001

Happy birthday, Amy King. Happy Thanksgiving everyone else! Our morning hunt had a moderate E wind and a slight drizzle. John S and James Ford downed 2 gray ducks at about 8:20. After coming back to the camp, John & James loaded unnecessary gear and went to Leeville and picked up Marsha at the boat launch.

Turkey fried by Joey on Tuesday night is on the menu for today. We have dirty rice, brown & serve rolls, corn mock shoo & sweet potato souffle, oh yeah I almost forgot, cranberry sauce. We'll eat, fish and head to the house.

Saturday, November 24, 2001

Arrived at camp early this morning. John S & Jimmy King. We arrived with a boat load of boards for the new walkway. We started work on it right away due to the expected rain this afternoon. We did okay and finished our work at about 11 AM.

Naps were the early afternoon project and when we awoke, we drank coffee on the new West wing. The thunder from the approaching storms is what woke us. The rains started early about 3:30, but they ended as quickly as they started before 4:30. John's cooking chicken and limas. We also have salad and corn mock shoo left over from Thanksgiving. Supper is looking really good.

Sunday, November 25, 2001

This morning's hunt was very nice. John S & Jimmy K got 3 gray ducks. They should've gotten more, though. Wind from N at about 15 or so. Sunny and Clear is the weather for today. We're cleaning up and heading home.

Friday, November 30, 2001

John Pierce arrived at about 7:30 AM. He had a long trip from Denham Springs so he decided to get an early start. He spent the day enjoying the weather and fishing. He caught 2 non-keepers. John S arrived at about 4 PM, after Pierce's nap was over. They unloaded the boat and ran around checking for ducks. One of Trixie's guys had some birds around his blind. We suspect feed. We saw may flocks of ducks, some teal, some unrecognizable around dusk. We are greatly encouraged.

Friday, November 30, 2001

Supper tonight is grilled sausage & country style pork ribs with grilled veggies. It's very cool tonight as a very nice front came through Thursday. It's in the low 50's tonight; we expect highs in the upper 60's tomorrow. Gnat weather! We hope the wind keeps up. Tonight Pierce is indulging in Salty Dogs and John S is enjoying camp martoonies. The Habanero peppers are very nice.

Saturday, December 1, 2001

Morning hunt had John S and John P get 2 gray ducks. They had other chances, but were unsuccessful. Trixie shot a lot. We returned to the camp and cleaned guns and ducks and headed to Leeville to cary rocks. We also bought lottery tickets. Jimmy King arrived just after lunch today. He took a nap immediately upon arriving.

John S & P went fishing and caught 2 keeper specks. Supper is oyster soup a la John Pierce. It's cool tonight, but not as cool as last night. Bon apetit!!!

Sunday, December 2, 2001

Our morning hunt on a partly cloudy warmer morning: Jimmy King 1 gray & 1 lost duck in the broken marsh E of Rodney's old blind. John S & John P got ZIP on the platform. We're going in sweating all the way.

Friday, December 14, 2001

John Pierce arrived at about 9 ish. He spent the day fishing a little and relaxing a lot. At about 4:15 John Serigny arrived. Jimmy King won't be here this weekend. He's taking care of his mom who's convalescing from surgery. Super tonight is a special one **OSO BUCO**, I think the spelling is close with **RISOTO CON FUNGI!** Pierce should be on a TV cooking show. Well, actually, he did get it from TV. It was really, really good. It's coolish tonight with a light NE wind. Tides are running high in the morning and lower in the afternoon.

Saturday, December 15, 2001

The second split opens today with our hopes for improved prospects. We ran the survey yesterday afternoon and saw very few birds. We figured we'd

hunt the lease today so we journeyed out there and shot 2 dosgris. We had chances on a couple of gray ducks and could do no good.

Sunday, December 16, 2001

Morning hunt on the dismal side today. An assault on Jimmy's mud flat was thwarted when someone was found hunting very close to where the group was headed. After reloading everything on the boat, John S & P hunted the broken marsh beyond Rodney. They got 1 dosgris. Pierce will not be staying out tonight. He's headed home later after a brief nap. His effort was a valiant one, however.

Friday, December 21, 2001

We arrived at about 4:30 PM- -John S & Jimmy King. Traffic held up Jimmy's arrival at Leeville. Stopping for gas & ice had something to do with it as well, I'm sure. They did a little survey of the duck population and found Trixie holding all the cards once again. He may not be hunting tomorrow. A guy's gotta work sometimes. Supper tonight was hamburger helper. Jimmy said it was too healthy, but he served himself 3 times. Between them they ate almost 2 lbs of ground pork and hamburger with a box of cheese and shell macaroni. Healthy? I think not.

Jimmy went to bed at around 7 PM. He didn't even do any reading tonight. John's fighting the good fight & staying up until 8 or 8:30. A new bottle of Citadel gin is keeping him company. Holly is happily chasing her ball around the camp. It was really cold this morning, but the wind is around to the NE already and will become SE tomorrow before a real cold front comes in.

It will be light freezes everyday next week. Tonight is in the low 60's. Tides are a little low, but should be coming up at least tomorrow.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Our morning hunt had good and bad to it. First we set up too close to Trixie's place off the back tract. He was not very happy with us and shot every time we had ducks circling our spread. We were successful though and were

able to kill 3 birds (1 gray and 2 spoonies), and we crippled and lost 2 more gray ducks.

After we cleaned ducks John:

1. changed the female receptacle in his boat to prepare for tonight's rain.
2. Repaired the front door of the camp.
3. Put the second coat of paint on the south side of the camp.
4. Put paint on the E side of the old camp. He ran out of paint when he was about 99% done.

During these tasks Jimmy slept. Oh, he did get up long enough to eat 4 sandwiches and half a serving of ramen noodles. He did return to bed after lunch. John Painted until 2 PM. When he ran out of paint, he took a nap. Naps ended at about 4 PM. Supper tonight is pork fricassee w/lima beans & rice.

We're low on beer because it's been really warm today. Painting goes better with beer. We'll be hunting near Trixie again tomorrow, just not quite so close.

Sunday, December 23, 2001

Merry Christmas. Sunday morning hunt- -1 gray duck in the middle flat between Pierce and Rodney's old flat.

Friday, December 28, 2001

Arrived at camp just after rain was over. John S and Jimmy K are here. No JP this weekend because he's up to family obligations. We got here before noon and had lunch and while Jimmy tested out his new old mattress for a nap, John painted. This week's color is yellow with the majority of the camp that God-awful semi purple color. John calls it mauve, and he thinks it's very LSU. Jimmy just thinks sit sucks. Of course, he who doesn't paint gets no voice in deciding what the colors will be. Supper tonight was chicken & limas w tomato sauce. Jimmy said it was very good. Tomorrow we hunt Jay's flat. A brief ride around this afternoon showed us that Trixie still has the ducks. We'll hunt Jay's flat just to show him we can go where we want. Maybe we'll get a few

passing birds. Whatever, the weather will be moderate and balmy so we'll enjoy being outdoors tomorrow.

John is enjoying his post-supper martoonie while Jimmy reads. John would be reading too if he hadn't forgotten his reading glasses at home. John is trying to reread the Fellowship of the Ring since he saw the movie this past week. A great movie, too.! That Frodo is a real hero. **Frodo Lives!** I hate Orcs! The Nasgul have a way to go before they receive my acceptance as well. Holly says her only concern is who has the corner on the market for tennis balls. We'll try to remember to write tomorrow, but a nap COULD take precedence.

Saturday, December 29, 2001

It's almost time to wish you all Happy New Year. This morning was cool with a light NE breeze. The sun rose and things warmed up. John S & Jimmy K in Jay's flat got 2 gray ducks and 1 male pintail. Jimmy also accidentally shot a big merganser. We lost a crippled male pintail that glided down too far to get to. Jimmy scouted out to look for him, but ran out of water and had to hoof it. Holly worked like a champ today. Everyone of the birds except for the merganser had to be dispatched after she returned them to the bank. One of the gray ducks was a wing-tipped cripple that got to the bank. John waited until the hunt was over to look for it, and when Holly got near it, it jumped from the bank and Holly gave chase. The bird dove 3 or 4 times, but she stuck with it and got it. John had to wring its neck to finish it off. She's definitely improving. We're expecting a front through this afternoon. It should turn colder tomorrow into Monday. We should have excellent weather to hunt in tomorrow.

Afternoon addendum -

There wasn't much work done today. After a really big brunch of hash browns, grits, eggs, boudin, and biscuits, naps were in order. The naps continued until 3:30 or so. After coffee and after making a start on white beans for supper John & Jimmy made contact with Rodney's angel. He wasn't very generous today. His deal was high tide. He did give us a couple of nice oyster to taste. They were very salty! Supper tonight was white beans done a-la-Philip Collins and grilled sausage (smoked & fresh & pork country ribs.)

John has saved the leftovers so he can bring them home. They're that good! The birds have been hanging around the mud flats this year, and our most successful hunts have been mostly from portable blinds. We've been hunting close to Trixie mostly because the birds are drawn to that area. Maybe Trixie has been providing some enticement for them to stay there.

Our successes in the early season are a memory. We're trying to create our own fortune by following the birds to where they want to be. Today's mild success was a direct result of our efforts to find the birds. This season's increased tally has been brought about by our weather that has put some birds in our area as opposed to last year's dearth of birds because of poor habitat and lack of early cold weather to the north.

Sunday, December 31, 2001

Morning hunt is the new flat between Pierce & Rodney- -3 gray ducks. We lost 1 cripple. The Wind is from the North at 20+. It's cool in the 40's this morning and clear. We're heading home.

Friday, January 11, 2002

Happy New Year! Our first visit to the camp since before the turn of the calendar. John Pierce arrived at about 10 AM. It seems he got a little bit of a late start. He did have a couple of afternoon aperitifs & then a nice long nap ensued.

John S and Jimmy King arrived at about 4:45. After unloading the boat, a ride to the back tract made us realize we need to hunt somewhere around Rodney's old mud flat. That's where all the birds were this afternoon. We'll see tomorrow.

Saturday, January 12, 2002

Our morning hunt was on the pleasant side today. We hunted Rodney's mud flat. We went in through the new cut on the E side and Pierce hunted up front while Jimmy & John S hunted towards the old blind frame of Ed's. John S & Jimmy missed a few birds early on while they were setting up. Once they were ready, birds arrived at about 6:30. John & Jimmy killed 2 pintails and 2

gray ducks. Pierce got 2 dosgris and 1 pintail. We hunted until about 8:45 and had to shove to get out the tide was so low. The day is cloudy and we've had a few sprinkles of rain so far today, but nothing of any great consequence. The cloudy weather is nice. The temps are in the 60's so far. We can live with that pretty well. After a couple of afternoon toddies, naps are in desperate need.

Sunday, January 13, 2002

Our morning hunt is just the opposite of yesterday's experience. It was cool and clear as a bell. No birds were flying this morning. We saw a few grays, but got no shots everyone- - ZIPPO.

After a pot of coffee, we tried fishing near the wharf and got reds to bite. We ended up with 4 keepers and many, many smaller fish that were put back. Everyone is going in.

Friday, January 18, 2002

We arrived at the camp in the early evening with a very large boatload of stuff. John S and Joey Doucet are here this evening. After unloading the boat, we took a ride to scout the birds and found birds in both Rodney's and Jay's mud flats. There were also birds on the N side of Williams canal across from Rodney's flat. Supper tonight is a spaghetti sauce. There was pork, fresh sausage, smoked sausage & ground meat in it and it was very, very good. It is very warm tonight, after a week of cool weather, but we may get a change after tomorrow's rain. A cold front is headed in some time tomorrow. Temps are in the low 60's in the morning and that will be the highest all day.

This is the last weekend of the season. It seems we've had a decent one after all especially considering last year's dismal affair.

Saturday, January 19, 2002

Morning hunt turned out to be okay. John S & Joey got 1 teal & 2 gray ducks. We lost 2 spoonies that we knocked down. One of the grays was chased by Holly across the Pointe Des Huiters pass & then dropped the bird in the grass after she brought it to the opposite bank. John had to go out in the pirogue and get the bird. At least we didn't loose it. Later a high flier came over

& both John & Joey shot at it and the bird finally died about 65 yards from the blind. John went out & found the bird and had to walk the marsh quite a ways to get to where the bird had bounced off the ground. The walking was pretty easy, but John did have to stop and rest a couple of times. Then we searched for the lost spoonies and had no luck.

Jimmy King arrived at about 11 AM. John & Joey had just finished cleaning ducks and guns when he showed up. Lunch was a potato & onion & ham omelet w/cheese on top & hog head cheese sandwiches. A full pound of hog head cheese evaporated almost instantaneously.

After naps we had to run to Leeville to get an extra pirogue for tomorrow's hunting. Of course, we chose the moment the cold front came through to take the trip. We got rained on but good and the wind changed around to the NW (it had been from the SW all day). On the way back from Leeville we ran into Rodney's Angel and he supplied us with 2 large bushel baskets of oysters. Rodney is very generous.

Supper tonight is white beans & rice with grilled beef & pork chops. Jimmy has been marinating them for years. We opened oysters and grilled red meat. Yeeeeee Hah!!!! That's living, boy.

Sunday, January 20, 2002

Another hunting season comes and goes. Our morning hunt was sorta nice for the last day. John S & Joey got 3 gray ducks in the middle flat area near Pierce. Jimmy shot 1 merganser at the end of Rodney's flat. We're taking our time going in. Linger. Linger. John and Joey should've killed more gray ducks. They seriously messed up on a large bunch and then both shot at the same bird out of a pair. Our season has been pretty good at 52 birds. That's more that double last year's count.

Friday, February 8, 2002

We are on our first post-hunting season excursion of the year. We hope to run into Rodney's Angel this weekend and get a few oysters from him. We need to do a few things round here too. It seems there is a leak in the roof of the new camp. We'll check that out. We may paint, too. Anything is an option.

Supper tonight was hamburger steaks with mashed potatoes and reaux peas W/boiled eggs. John P said it was very good but he couldn't eat it all. It seems that the chef made the hamburger steaks exceedingly large.

Jimmy hit the sack right after supper. John S & John P sat up having toddies & watching the opening of the Olympics winter games in Salt Lake City. (The XIXth). The Citadel makes the Olympics even better.

Saturday, February 9, 2002

Morning arrived late for us early risers. John S didn't get out of bed until 7 AM. Before breakfast we visited Rodney's Angel and he had been having very good luck and gave us almost 3 champagnes of his big, select oysters. He is very generous. We fixed the breakfast upon our return. Biscuits, ham & egg omelet with potatoes and onions. It certainly went down good. John P & S painted the front of the new camp and repaired some holes on the roof. Jimmy relaxed- actually he slept until about noon. About 2 PM John & John S ran in to Leeville to get sacks of rocks and shell/asphalt mix for around the camp.

At about 4 PM they all went to the blind on the WMA line and tried to burn the blind and frame. It doesn't seem that they were as successful as hoped and another fire may be needed. Supper tonight is fried oysters wrapped in bacon W/white beans and rice. We're crusin.

Sunday, February 10, 2002

Early morning oyster opening accomplished. A cold fron has come through and the wind is ripping from the NW this morning. It shouldn't get too very cold before we leave.

Sunday, April 7, 2002

Fishing expedition on a very windy day. John S, Rickey Mitchell, and Charlotte Mitchell are here. We arrived at the camp at about 9:30. Well, it's daylight savings time you know. We're saving daylight every day. The wind is out of the SE at about 12-20 mph. White caps abound in the front tract. We're about a month away from trawling season. Boat repairs are on the way.

Duck season next year looks like 5 ducks for 45 days. Populations are hurting from lack of breeding ground water. It's not as bad as the eighties, but pretty near.

Sunday, April 28, 2002

We're out here for a fishing trip- -John S, Rickey, and Charlotte Mitchell. We caught 1 red fish that wasn't a keeper. It's about noon now & we'll be headed in soon. It's warming up; summer is on the way.

May 25, 2002

Memorial Day Weekend finds us at the camp for a trawling excursion. John S, Marsha Serigny, Trisha and Joey Doucet are here. Much beer was drunk in the afternoon & 2 drags got us over an ice chest of shrimp. Supper was grilled beef ribs and pork ribs. Marsha made barbecued shrimp and they were very tasty. We played cards until 10 PM.

May 26, 2002

We started trawling late today. All together by noon we had over 2 ice chests of shrimp. Late fishing yesterday afternoon got us 2 keeper specks and 1 keeper red. We're going home now.

Saturday, June 29, 2002

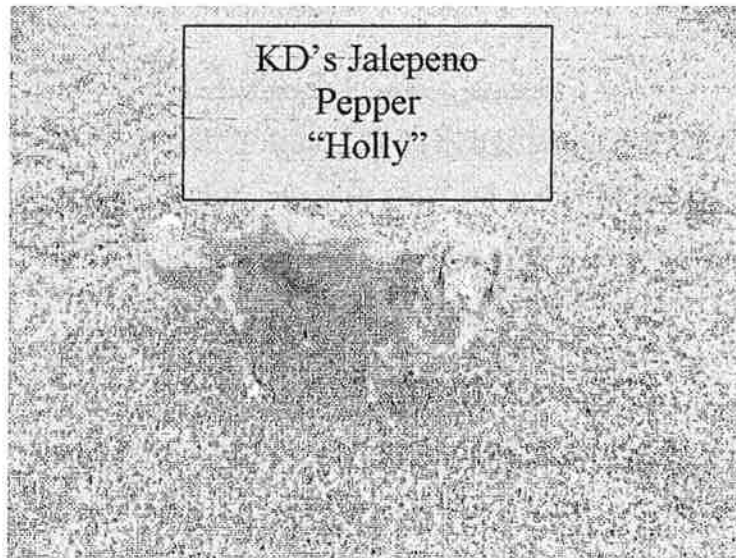
Trawling season ended yesterday, but the season really was over way before that. Last Saturday (June 22) Rickey Mitchell & John S caught maybe 1 gallon of shrimp in an hour drag in the pot hole. They caught quite a few crabs as well and boiled the shrimp and the crabs for supper at Evelyn's house.

We arrived today at camp- -John S & Joey Doucet. They got here at about 3:30 in John and Jimmy's boats. They decided to forego the fishing this afternoon and cook spare ribs on the grill instead. At about 6:30 pm John Pierce showed up in his boat. It seems he completed his honey-do projects at home and the condo early enough to make the run in time for supper. John S screwed up and burned the grilled veggies, but the Busch's barbecue beans were perfect accompaniment to the pre-cooked spare ribs. We sat on the deck

and talked until almost 10 PM. The new generator droned on & cooled the camp for sleeping. Gin & Vodka were consumed in large quantities.

Sunday, June 30, 2002

We slept in until 5:30 or so. John S & Joey made the regular route and caught a few fish- -1 red and 13 trout. We kept Pierce informed of the blow by blow events W/Joey's walkie-talkies. We got back to the camp at about 11:30 and attacked the coon in the roof problem on the new camp. After knocking down the soffet on the new camp, we tallied 3 coons on the total kill. The urine odor was really bad in the new camp from the family that had taken up residence in the box-ins and roof. We went to Leeville for gas, minnows and vodka. When we returned, we shot a straggler coon that had escaped our onslaught earlier in the day. We had killed one on Saturday, so the tally for the weekend is now 5. We tore down the soffet & facia on the new camp North side and covered the coon entry points, and on the peak sides we covered the easiest to reach access points of the pitch side of the roof. We worked until 2 PM and napped until about 4:30. John & Joey went fishing while Pierce cooked sausage spaghetti at the camp. The Richard's fresh sausage saw very spicy. It was a great taste-treat. Vodka flowed until almost 10 PM again.



Monday, July 1, 2002

THE GREAT LIMESTONE DEBACLE- -We woke up at about 5:30. (The generator ran all night. Woo Hoo!!! Pierce headed to Leeville at about 6:30. Joey and John S headed there a few minutes later. Jimmy King was there waiting for us when we arrived. We waited for the truck load of limestone from Cajun trucking that would go into JP's new stall. At about 7:45 John P got a call from Jan P in Denham springs that the dish washer had flooded the house. J P called Cajun trucking and cancelled the delivery. Pierce headed to Denham and Jimmy went home. Joey & John S came back to the camp and after a few preparation went fishing again. Thank God for minnows! Joey caught 5 keeper reds including one really nice fish of about 23 and a half inches long. We came back to the camp at noon and ate leftover spaghetti and napped until 3:30. After coffee, we fished on the North side of Williams canal and John caught 1 keeper trout. Supper tonight was grilled rib eyes courtesy of JP and this time John S didn't screw up the veggies.

Vodka is flowing at the present writing and 19 fish are in the cold storage. We'll be heading in tomorrow and waiting for the 4th of July celebration. We don't know when we will return or when the limestone will make its appearance once again.

Tuesday, July 2, 2002

We slept well. The ribeyes we had for supper set well on our stomachs. John S and Joey are all that's left of the crew who were here. We went fishing and caught the rest of our redfish limit and 3 more specks and 1 white trout. Bay Cayman was the killer place. We're going home.

Friday, September 20, 2002

Arrived at camp with 2 boats full of junk. John S & Rickey Mitchell in Rickey's little 16 ft Carolina skiff & Jimmy King in the tub. They thought they'd have to bring Pierce's boat along too because of the load, but it seems they were able to squeeze it in even though Rickey's boat was mis-loaded. It took them until 5 PM to get things squared away. John S brought Rickey to the mudflat to set decoys. Of course, we saw NO teal so we hope the shooting to the north of us chases a few birds down here.

We were supposed to get a cold front through today, but the thing died on our doorstep really bad. We've got Isadore in the S central gulf. She's gonna be a huge one before things are done. We hope the camp will be here next week. We'll see. God has been really good to us over the past 30 or so years. It's been since Betsy since we had a real killer storm in these parts. We hope we can go 30 more before a gigantic one like Isadore comes through.

John also has a new boat. It's at Mike's fiberglass shop as we speak. He's having a fantail, front deck and pipe sockets built in to it. Hopefully it'll be here next week w/o a storm to hurt the place.

Rickey bought his boat in July and it's been to the camp a few times since then. We've caught a few trout over the summer and some mild success w/reds, but nothing really satisfying. Maybe tomorrow will be different. We sure hope so.

Saturday, September 21, 2002

Morning hunt in Jay's mud flat got us 1 teal by John S. We did see a few bunches of birds in the area. At 10:30, John S and Rickey ran to Leeville and got Charlotte from the boat stall. She, Rickey, and John went fishing and caught 1 nice white trout and 2 seventeen inch reds. It is really hot today, but the wind picked up about 2 PM and is blowing pretty good from the ENE. Charlotte was returned to Leeville at about 4 PM. She wouldn't quit fishing. She got a pretty good dose of sun burn for all her efforts.

The camp is really hot so the guys sat on the porch until about 8:40. We're writing this by flashlight. We're staying up to see what Isadore will be doing later in the week. Showers this afternoon helped to freshen up everyone. Holly says it's even hotter w/a fur coat on. We'll hunt in the morning and hopefully when we leave tomorrow, it won't be our last trip to the camp.

Saturday, October 12, 2002

We've been out here every weekend since teal season, but Isadore & Lilli prevented the second weekend of teal season from coming into execution. Isadore put about 2 inches of water in the camp. Lili put about 6 inches. For each of the past 2 weekends we've had to mop & scrub to get the camp liveable. Isadore took the carpeting in the old camp. It finally died and Lili took Jimmy's wharf. We're here this weekend to rebuild the edifice bigger and better than before. We arrived yesterday at about 6 PM. John S, Jimmy K, and John Pierce are all here. Supper last night was grilled pork, beef & sausage w/shrimp & corn & broccoli bisque. Pierce did such a great job on it!

We slept until about 6:30 this morning. John took a run to Leeville because some tools were left behind in John P's boat. Work on the wharf began at about 7:30 and continued until 1 PM, but the wharf is about 90% complete.

Charlotte and Rickey came by at about 1:30, and they hung around for a while before going fishing. John went out to check on them to make sure they weren't lost. While he was out

there he caught a humongous catfish and 3 small specks that he threw back in as he should. Supper tonight is a nice steaming pot of white beans and shrimp sausage that is fried to a turn.

Saturday, October 19, 2002

We arrived at the camp very early in the morning. John S & Jimmy K. John's new boat has its fantail and its front deck. It also had a large load of lumber in it. Jimmy King had the generator and his own lumber extravaganza going on. A few minutes after they arrived Charlotte and Rickey made their appearance in "Mom's Toy."

The fellows went to work solidifying Jimmy's new wharf. They pulled up a couple of boards and drove 4 by 4's that were attached to each main support. This did a lot to cool the shimmy on Jimmy. After that work was done, lunch was prepared. Jimmy browned onions & limas w/pork chops and rice. Charlotte and Rickey helped clean up the food. After lunch, Jimmy took a nap. John & Rickey worked on fixing up lines and reels and Charlotte fished and caught a couple of really nice flounders. At about 1 PM after it was officially determined that catching minnows was impossible, Rickey and Charlotte took off to go fishing in their boat & John went fishing in his. John caught 7 specks and 1 white trout that were keepers. He caught about a dozen more that he had to throw back. Charlotte and Rickey took a nice mess of fish home. The caught nothing, but the two flounders that Charlotte had caught around the camp. After fishing, John S and Rickey fixed the gutter and then ran out to the platform blind on the WMA line and stabbed some landscape timbers for a new platform. Charlotte and Rickey headed in to go home at about 4:30 or 5 PM.

Jimmy King ably took over the cooking duties and ably prepared a chicken fricassee and potato salad.

The weather is cooler that it was last weekend, but we're on the back end of a cool front, so we have a SE wind w/very little tidal fluctuation and above average tides for us today. Tomorrow we do more work on the wharf.

Friday, November 1, 2002

We arrived at the camp with construction materials hanging from every appendage. John Pierce got here at about 9 AM. He carried as much lumber as he could in his boat. John & Jimmy had put the lumber in the boat stall during the week. John & Jimmy also washed out the new cistern & then carried it to Leeville. John carried all the gear and Jimmy carried the T-111 siding in his boat topped off by the cistern and the generator. When they arrived at the camp a long period of unloading was undertaken. At about dark-thirty, supper was undertaken.

John S grilled rib eye steaks and baked sweet potatoes in the oven. After supper serious consideration was given to relaxing and keeping our hearts healthy w/moderate alcohol intake was accomplished.

Saturday, November 2, 2002

A major undertaking begins. First light found John S & Jimmy K pulling off the old tin from the N wall of the old camp. That took a little over an hour. While that was going on, the old wooden cistern was expunged from its platform. Busting a hole in the side was accomplished with a hammer and this drained it rather quickly. After the old wall came off, John S got under the camp and jacked up a rotten floor joist. It had to be blocked and re-jacked a number of times before the new joist could be slid under the floor and nailed to the old joist.

Once the new joist was nailed, the next step was to start installing 11/32 T-111 siding on the old studs. That work progressed nicely slowed only by the installation of a 14" by 21" window near the head of Pierce's bunk. We broke for a quick sandwich about noon and were done with the wall and window installation by 2:30 or so. The next activity involved putting gutters and plumbing on the new cistern. We wrapped up all the work at about 3:30 or so. Rickey Mitchell had arrived at about 8:30 or so in the morning and lent valuable assistance during the day's work. The only problem he had w/the tasks he was given resulted from a vague lack of accuracy reading a tape measure. After all the day's work was quashed, he went fishing near John's blind. He got no takers & returned in enough time to head in before dark.

Supper was hamburgers done w/Andy Chiasson's seasoned ground meat. VERY TASTY!!!

Sunday, November 3, 2002

After a quick breakfast, John S, Jimmy, and John P wrapped up the construction. The corner covers were cut and nailed and the door fascia was replaced quickly. We were done by 7:30 so we packed up and headed in. Next weekend we duck hunt.

Friday, November 8, 2002

We arrived at the camp at about 4:45. John S & Jimmy King. The tide was so low this afternoon that we had to run around Lake Jesse and follow the high line to get here. We're sort of along out here this week. JP is working and Rickey Mitchell will be out here tomorrow. John cooked a spaghetti w/ground meat & smoked & fresh sausage for supper. It tasted really good. Holly is out here too. She wouldn't not be here for hunting season. She chased a ball around the camp all night and finally collapsed around 9 PM.

John S is having a day ending gin & something. His cigar should last until about 9:30 or so. Jimmy's been in bed since 7:30 or so -let's say immediately after supper. We're hoping for a few ducks tomorrow.

Saturday, November 9, 2002

Our morning hunt was very dismal. John S & Jimmy got 2 dosgris. When they got back to the camp at about 9:30 or so Rickey Mitchell was here. Jimmy packed up and headed in to do some work at PASS on Sunday morning. John S sprayed the tank with undercoating until he ran out. It seems definite that another can is needed to complete the task. After the mild work action, John made a potato/onion/corned beef egg omelet. Then John & Rickey went fishing. They caught specks right away and ended up with 5 nice keepers.

John took an afternoon nap while Rickey explored up and down the canal. We had at least a couple spurts of rain between 1 and 3 PM and when we were supposed to go to Leeville and get Charlotte, it poured. We called her and told her to put off her visit. John is roasting ducks tonight with field peas & rice added to make our supper meal. The weather is very unsettled. Rain squalls in the afternoon, and we may get more tomorrow accoring to Brad Fan-A-Bitch on channel 4. He predicts temps in the 80's tomorrow. Rickey collapsed at around 6 PM. He'll have to wake up for supper.

Friday, November 15, 2002

John P arrived at camp early in the day followed by Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell at about 1 PM. About 4:30 or so John S and Jimmy King arrived. We've got 4 boats and only 3 wharves out here. Something's got to give. Supper tonight is reheated sausage and chicken spaghetti. We sat up until about 9 or so talking and hit the sack w/a NW er coming in.

Saturday, November 16, 2002

Our morning hunt was held in beautiful weather for hunting. We had a NW wind at about 25 w/gusts higher. It was cloudy and raining until sunrise.

John S and Jimmy K were hunting in the pond with the platform blind. They had shots at gray ducks 3 different times and failed to knock anything down. Rickey mitchell hunted near them and had shots at ducks twice and knocked nadda down as well. Pierce hunting near his old blind got shots as well, but hit nothing. Kinda pathetic isn't it? When they returned to the camp, John called Susan and found out that she had brought his cigars to Leeville. John S and P made the run to get them and also brought the auto duck pipe so the dildo duck could be used on Sunday. Running the City of New Orleans canal was no problem for John's new boat. The

"Reel Love" is the real deal. Lunch today was roast beef poboys with gravy and onions and mushroom in the gravy, yes, Charlotte, we don't scrimp on meals here. Naps ensued.

Upon arising, Jimmy King headed home. He was feeling poorly. He's gonna miss a really good supper- -duck and goose gumbo w/sausage and oysters. The wind has really kept howling all day. It'll be cold tomorrow morning and the wind will stay strong. Monday morning will be really cold one. The sun has come out this afternoon, and the morning should be cold and clear. Prospects for our hunt tomorrow seem dim.

Sunday, November 17, 2002

Our morning hunt was VERY dismal. No shots were taken by anyone from sunup to 8:30. When John S & Rickey decided to leave because of the low tide level, John walked to the Auto duck and they had 2 gray ducks trying to land in the decoys. Rickey had to get his gun out of the scabbard & load it to take a poke at them. They circled and came back & he got a crack at them, but couldn't connect. Pierce had to leave his area near Rodney's flat at about 7:30 because the tide was really falling hard. The weather turned off clear as we had expected and really nothing was flying until the 8:30 express. We'll be back next weekend.

Saturday, November 23, 2002

We arrived on this very chilly morning quite early. Temps are in the 40's and the wind is up there blowing from the NE. John S came in his boat and Rickey & Charlotte Mitchell in theirs. Joey Doucet will be arriving later. He'll take Jimmy's boat to come out here. Jimmy won't be making the trip again this year. Charlotte fished right after we got here and caught a 10 lb red right away. Joey called from the boat launch at about 1 PM and John ran out to meet him. So he could remember the route through Lake Jesse. We busied ourselves around the camp most of the afternoon. It's good to relax.

The tide is running very low in the afternoon. We went out to the back tract to see where Rickey could hunt tomorrow. He found enough water in a pond near the fence and set decoys and while he worked, Charlotte caught about a 3 lb. red. She just seems to attract those fish like mad. We came back to the camp and Joey prepared his famous ribs for supper. They were really good w/a side helping of baked beans done w/the famous family recipe. The burgundy wine flowed freely and thus everyone slept really well.

Sunday, November 24, 2002

Our morning hunt was another ZIPPO deal. Rickey got a couple of shots at bec sees and John & Joey went shotless even w/auto duck. We hunted until 8:45 so our effort was there even though the ducks weren't. We came back to the camp and had coffee w/Feeney's and started Kilzing the new N wall. John & Joey got it taken care of while charlotte & Rickey went to get decoys & fished w/no luck.

Target shooting & painting took a couple of hours & Charlotte & Rickey packed up to head home when they returned from their fishing excursion. We did have some time to warm up some of the left over ribs and the pulled pork was very good. After Charlotte & Rickey went in, Joey fly-fished & John took a serious nap while the saints got their butts kicked by Cleveland. Joey caught a couple of reds that were smallish and they decided to visit Rodney's Angel and see if he had a couple of oysters to give them. It seems Rodney has been generous to other people and only had about 3 gallons or so of oysters to share. So we went back to the camp to work on supper. We had sausage/ground meat spaghetti, and Holly liked it a lot. We'll hit the sack early this evening and try the ducks early in the morning.

Monday, November 25, 2002

Christmas is one month away- -WOO HOO!!! Our morning hunt was kinda nice. We killed 3 wigeon and 2 dosgris. We also lost 4 cripples that Holly couldn't help with. We hunted until 9:15 and cleaned up until almost 11. We went fishing at the little island spot and Joey caught a nice speck right away with his fly rod. The specks were blocking everywhere and both John and Joey caught a number of fish. Even little reds were biting, but they were dutifully returned as were the smallish specks. At 2 PM John had Joey bring him back to the camp and Joey went out to fish again. John and Joey kept in touch with walkie talkies. Joey caught a really big speck that went over 21 inches long. He had a nice mess of other fish too. Altogether they must have caught close to 20 keepers.

The weather was much warmer today. No jacket required. We've got one more day of warm weather coming & then a cool down for Wednesday w/rain and drizzle to boot. Susan may get very wet going home. We're not spending Thanksgiving out here this year. That's the first time in a least 10 years. It may be more like 15 years since we've been home for Thanksgiving. We're hoping the fish keep biting so Susan can have some enjoyment from her trip out here tomorrow.

Tuesday, November 25, 2002

Morning hunt had some successes today- -Joey got 1 bec see and John got 1 dosgris. "Hey Bec See" was created during the hunt. (Sing it to the tune of "Hey Nineteen" by Steely Dan) We came back and cleaned guns and ducks and ran to Leeville to get Susan who arrived exactly on time to meet us.

Fishing took place all afternoon. John Ss caught a half dozen specks. Joey caught about as many and a few reds to boot. We're not sure how many fish we've caught in the last 2 days, but we're sure it's a goodly number. Supper tonight is smothered pork w/white beans & rice. We played Fantan until about 8:30 and Joey really cheated a lot. An air boat came by at about 2:30 or so and woke us up. A cold front came through about 9:15 or so and by morning it was down right chilly.

Wednesday, November 26, 2002

We're going home today, but not before we hunt a little bit. Joey & John hunted the old long paddle blind and shot one teal. They both shot at the same bird. They saw a number of other ducks and had a group of grays come and see them right about quitting time. Susan & Joey went fishing and Joey caught a couple more fish, and the trio headed home about noon. It is cloudy and windy today. We would've hunted in Pierce's flat if we could have, but it seems Trixie has moved there. He has a blind between Rodney's old blind and the long paddle. It looks to us as if he's trying to horn in on the places we hunt. That may be because we hunted so close to him so many times last year. Anyway, if he thought we were close last year, he hasn't seen anything yet.

Friday, November 29, 2002

November is almost over & we're only just in to double digits on our duck tally. John S and Jimmy King are here this weekend. We arrived before 1:30 and settled the camp as quickly as possible. LSU lost to Arkansas today as unbelievably as they beat Kentucky. At about 4 PM Rickey Mitchell and James Ford came to the camp. It seems they aren't staying tonight, but they'll be back tomorrow. Rickey set his decoys near the little island & James fished until about 4:45 and they headed in. Supper tonight is chicken & lima beans on rice. We're not quite sure where we'll hunt tomorrow, but we hope we'll see some success.

Saturday, November 30, 2002

November ends today and it's been very hectic. Our morning hunt was little more encouraging. John S & Jimmy K got 4 dosgris in Jay's flat. The weather was a factor indeed. Rain started at about 6:45; at about 6:50 is when they shot and killed the birds. Holly got them all. She did well. They sat around the rest of the morning and got nothing else but wet. They came back to the camp at about 9:15 or so, and cleaned ducks and got the water out of the guns. While cleaning the guns Rickey Mitchell and James Ford arrived. These guys really had to fight the weather to get to the camp. Some people just want it worse than others. John fixed corned beef omelet for brunch, and afterwards Rickey & James set out to fish at the little island.

Sunday, December 1, 2002

Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. John & Jimmy hunted in Jay's flat again and though John shot at 3 ducks, he hit nothing. They had to leave at 8:15 because the tide was falling quickly. They were able to paddle out though, and got back to the camp w/o incident. The front is really humpin and blowin, so they'll head home through the lake Jesse route.

At about 9:15 Rickey Mitchell came in to the camp. He'd arrived at about 7 AM and headed out to try out his new Benelli. He got no shots, though. The 3 nimrods packed the camp and headed in considerable bundled against the cold weather.

Friday, December 6, 2002

We arrived at the camp at about 4:40 PM- -John S and Jimmy King. They had to wear long underwear to run Lake Jesse because of the cold weather & low tides. The high today was near 50 with lots of sun, so they wore the real stuff. Supper tonight is pork loin smothered in onions on rice with bean soup as an appetizer. John cooked the soup earlier in the week. We had to close the door on the camp to get the temperature to come up to 70 degrees inside the camp. It's cold out there.

Saturday, December 7, 2002

Remember Pearl Habor! It's also Bobby and Debbie Delaune's anniversary. Yesterday was Trisha and Joey's anniversary. Okay, enough being polite. The morning hunt took place on a very cold morning. We didn't think it was they cold when we went outside, but after being out hunting for 3 hours, we were chilled. The temp got up to the mid 50's today and the wind got turned around to the NE. The morning was clear & sunny, but clouds closed in as the day progressed. By 2 PM the clouds were pretty solid. It's not really frigid, but if you stay out in the

wind long enough, you start to hurt. When we got back to the camp, we found Rickey Mitchell had arrived.

After cleaning the guns and ducks, John & Rickey ran in to Leeville and rescued John Pierce's pirogue from its loneliness in the boat stall & carried it to Jay's flat at the drop off spot. Rickey fished while John Kilzed the rest of the north wall. After the work was done, they went fishing at the little island. John caught 2 keeper specks as well as 2 that were too small and he caught 3 undersized red fish which were dutifully returned. The left the fishing hole because John was getting cold and they returned to the camp at about 4 PM. The tide has fallen a lot today. We hope it comes up enough to make hunting in the flat possible tomorrow. Oh, by the way, John and Jimmy got 2 dosgris, a pair of pintails and one extra bird. It was a very active morning by any standards. Holly made a couple of really nice retrieves and since they crippled 2 dosgris, she searched diligently for the cripples. She had one on the bank and it flapped itself free from her, got to the water, dove, and was never to be seen again. Hopes are high for tomorrow.

Sunday, December 8, 2002

Thus, the first split ends. Morning hunt results- -John S, Jimmy K, and Rickey M in Jay's flat had one duck knocked down by John S. It was a teal and was able to dive away from Holly. So the end result is 0 ducks for today. I think our total for the first split is 19. We're going home.

Friday, December 14, 2002

No hunting this weekend, but we're here to work on the deck on the E side of the new camp. We started work early and got a lot of the work done by noon. 8 supports were driven in place. Next weekend we'll bring the generator to do drilling and such. We'll bring the deck boards next week and by Sunday afternoon we'll be walking on the deck. We painted in the afternoon and the N wall of the old camp is coated. The color is sort of a bluish-greenish grayish color. Pierce calls it heritage blue. I call it battleship gray. We'll put a coat of paint on the old camp floor tomorrow.

Sunday, December 15, 2002

Early morning painting got underway. We waited until 11 AM or so but the humidity is high & the paint isn't drying very quickly. John S & Jimmy left at about 11 to return to the world of work and grind. John P stayed over one more night. Next weekend is the beginning of the second split.

Friday, December 20, 2002

John Pierce arrived at the camp at about 9:30 AM and spent the day working on fishing reels and relaxing. John S and Jimmy King arrived at about 4:45 or so through Goat Island. After unloading the boats, and a few beers to relax, supper was created. Roast Beef po boys and fries were consumed as if the guys were starving.

Saturday, December 21, 2002

Our morning hunt in Jay's flat was an interesting experience. John P nailed 2 grey ducks. Jimmy & John S knocked 1 down and lost it. Upon arrival at the camp guns and ducks were cleaned, and the final stages of construction on the new deck were begun. Joists and deck boards were attached to the runners and the work was completed by 1:30. Naps ensued. Upon arising preparations were begun for supper. While John S & Jimmy slept, John P caught red fish for tomorrow night's supper. Supper tonight is hamburger steaks with garlic mashed potatoes and roux peas.

Friday night temps were in the mid 50's. Tonight is in the mid 60's. What does that portend for Sunday night?

Sunday, December 22, 2002

Our morning hunt was about the same as yesterday's. John S got 2 gray ducks. Holly had to find one of them. John had to shoot a gray duck that John P had shot earlier. After Pierce shot it the duck sat there until Pierce got out in the flat in his pirogue and was almost on top of the bird. Then it decided that it wasn't that badly hurt and took off. Luckily it flew over John S & Jimmy hunting on the Pointe Des Huitres. John S knocked it down again and it fell behind their blind on another island nearby. John then had to shoot it again before Holly picked it up and brought it into the grass. John had to get his pirogue out to get out there to pick up the bird because after she dropped it in the grass, Holly wouldn't bring the bird back to John. She got reprimanded for her stubbornness. On their way out of the flat they ran into Rodney's Angel and he gave them more than a 5 gallon bucket of big oysters.

Once back at the camp John S & P went fishing along Bayou Cayman & caught 2 specks. Pierce actually did all the catching. While this was going on Jimmy opened oysters and took a nap. Upon returning, John S & P watched the Saints game until naps overtook them as well. At the end of the game, the Bungals had beaten the Saints 20-13. The Saints' candle had burned out. They're just like pot roast after 3 hours of cooking. DONE! The really don't deserve to be in the playoffs. Next week they get to loose to the Panthers.

Supper tonight is white beans and rice with fried fish & oysters. Jimmy K did the frying and beside making a gigantic mess did a great job getting the fish to come out perfectly.

Monday, December 23, 2002

Our morning hunt produced one gray duck taken by John P and one gray duck taken in a joint effort by John Serigny and Jimmy King. Both of them shot right before it fell. Holly made a great retrieve on the downed bird & brought it back alive. John had to administer the coup de grace upon Holly delivering it to hand. The tide was a little higher today and we had an easy time getting in and out of Jay's flat. We're heading home for the Christmas festivities today. It's been a great 3 day trip.

Saturday, December 28, 2002

We arrived at the camp via Lake Jesse due to the low tide- -John Serigny and Holly in John's boat and Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell in "Mom's Toy." After the boats were unloaded, camp was set up. Everyone is staying in the old camp tonight. Charlotte is sleeping in here to just to keep Rickey in control. Supper tonight was grilled pork Loin and roasted seasoned potatoes. The gnats were in attendance this afternoon for quite a while. The cool temperatures this evening have knocked them down quite a bit. The Giants won in overtime today, so the Saints are out of the playoffs if the Falcons win tomorrow. If you ask me, and no one did, but here it is anyway, they don't deserve to be in the stinkin playoffs.

We had a great Christmas and Jimmy King isn't here today because of a bad head cold. The tide gained all afternoon today. It must be low in the morning; we'll see tomorrow. Hopefully, it will be easy to get in and out of Jay's flat.

Sunday, December 29, 2002

Our morning hunt in Jay's flat can be summed up succinctly in a few words- -We survived. It was really dismal. There were very few gray ducks visiting us today. Rickey Mitchell had a chance on a dosgris, but since he didn't take his safety off the bird flew on unharmed. Charlotte fished at the camp while hunting was going on. She caught one keeper red fish on the bottom.

We won't be here that long.

Friday, January 3, 2003

Happy new year everyone. We arrived at the camp early in the day- -9:30 AM or so- - John Serigny and Jimmy King. We have lumber to start on Rickey's wharf. We did some work

on it last weekend. We'll be putting down 2 cradles and the board supports tomorrow. Rickey Mitchell will be getting here in the morning. The tide is scary low today. We went down to the clam shell dams about noon and ran into Rodney's Angel. He gave us about a bushel and a half of some really nice oysters. Some were giants. He had a lot of smallish ones too. A cold day today even with the sun and no clouds. Temps never got out of the low 50's with a 15 mph NW wind. It was truly chilly on the way out here this morning, but we've got the equipment. We can handle it.

John cooked a kitchen-sink spaghetti for supper. Jimmy says it'll be good for lunch tomorrow reheated.

Saturday, January 4, 2003

We had a very productive day for everything except the duck hunting. John and Jimmy ZIPPO for 6 or 7 tries this morning. They hunted in Jay's flat. The tide was up enough to let them in. The gray ducks landed in the middle all morning. When they got back to the camp Rickey Mitchell had arrived. Rickey started catching red fish while John & Jimmy cleaned up. He caught 2 keepers and about 25 or so that were too small. After fishing, work was begun on Rickey's wharf. Cradles were driven and stringers were nailed. It's ready for boards.

John S and Rickey ran to Leeville after John checked on Rodney's angel and got a 2 gallon bucket of oysters from him. Rickey had neglected to get John Pierce's pirogue so they ran in for it. When they got back, Rickey went fishing, John S went to the clam shell dam to visit with Rodney's Angel again. He gave John a half champagne of big oysters. Rodney is a very generous fellow. Jimmy King paddled to the weir & found Rodney there too and got a 5 gallon bucket of big, thick, fat oysters from him. All in all they had a very productive day.

Temps stayed in the 50's today w/ lots of sun. It's a very beautiful day. The tide got very low again, but not near as low as it got yesterday. It should gain big time tonight. Supper was GREAT! Jimmy King cooked his version of oyster soup. He also fried oysters and red fish fillets. It was most filling and everyone was in bed before 8 PM. Tonight is not as cold as last night when temps fell into the 40's. The wind has switched around to the SE and is light and not really doing a whole bunch.

Saturday, January 11, 2003

We arrived at the camp early- -John S. Rickey Mitchell and Charlotte Mitchell. It's very cold this morning. We have lumber to work on Rickey's wharf. That took place before lunch and after lunch, we took naps until 3 in the afternoon. John and Rickey hunted in Jay's flat, but they tried the end closest to Trixie, and the gray ducks were landing on the end near the

pointe des huitres. It was cloudy and windy from the NE. A gray afternoon. The best duck hunting weather we've had all season. There were just no ducks to shoot at. Supper tonight is a beef potato stew with rice. It was very good. In the low 40's tonight. It's nice to use sleeping bags.

Sunday, January 12, 2003

The morning hunt today was very dismal. No birds other than bec sees ever came near us. We did shoot a few times, but we saw the error of our ways when we recognized what we shot at as big bec sees. This morning we had clouds and wind from the NE and drizzle. It was a glorious morning to hunt ducks. We just had no ducks coming near us. We've got everything bundled up including ourselves for the run in to Leeville. We swept up and plan to return next weekend for the last hunting weekend of the season.

Friday, January 17, 2003

John Serigny arrived to the camp at about 4 PM this afternoon. John Pierce was already here. He had come Wednesday, and for 2 days he's been relaxing seriously much. He's caught red fish and ate red fish and dread and had lots of red wine. It'll continue to be very cold for the next couple of days. Tonight we have a freeze predicted for the area. Temps will be in the 20's tomorrow. We'll hunt if we can, but we're not taking any chances. Supper tonight is fresh sausage cooked in Rotel tomatoes on po-boy buns. Woo Hoo!

We've got the heater going and it's really very warm in here above the knee level. The floor on the other hand is very coolish. Wine goes down good and helps warm your innards.

Saturday, January 18, 2003

The temperature stood at 34 this morning. Wind from the N & E was light and varying during the day. The tide was low and falling all morning. John S and John P left late this morning to go hunting. They went out to the broken marsh east of Rodney's flat. Gray ducks were landing all over the flat and in the mid flat near Pierce's old blind. Nothing came near enough so they got no shots at all. Tomorrow is the last day of the season, and it looks like we're stuck on 26 birds for the season. When they got back to the camp John S started fishing and caught 5 keepers in just a while. He caught many more that were returned as they were much too small. Coleman lantern repair & rod repair filled a few minutes and then relaxing took center stage.

Saturday, January 4, 2003

Our last day of duck hunting will see no hunting taking place. Our season ends with a whimper. We did not hunt today because John P has a really bad cold that sort of presented itself during the night keeping him awake a large majority of it. His cold/sinus condition was so bad he just couldn't answer the call this morning. John would've gone along, but since we haven't exactly been knocking them dead, he decided discretion was the better part of valor. John S did catch 1 more keeper red, which brings the total up to 7 for the two-day effort. Rickey Mitchell had to work today and couldn't make it our. Jimmy King is taking care of his wife after surgery, as a dutiful husband should. We'll leave the ducks that are left to return north and produce anew. Twenty six ducks is the tally for this season. Not a great year for us, but not near the worst we've ever had.

Saturday, January 25, 2003

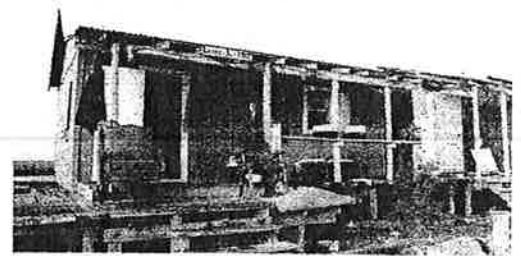
Yup, I know this doesn't happen very often. It's not usual for us to come to the camp the weekend after the season ends, but we've got work to do. John Serigny. Rickey Mitchell, and Charlotte Mitchell came to the camp today to finish the work on Rickey's wharf. The final boards were nailed and the tie posts were driven and secured. While we were working a helicopter circled the camp a number of times. We think they were looking for stranded fishermen. We found out later that there were quite a few of them lost in the marsh this particular weekend. It was so bad that even mud boats were being stranded in shallow areas. We got the work done and Charlotte managed to fish a while and catch pretty much nothing. She did manage to foul up her line a bunch of times, though. We headed in about noon after eating lunch and on the way in, we just beat the rain.



Camp Log Book XIII



March 7, 2001
Through
January 23, 2005



Produced through
The Auspices of
S.O.Y.S.



Camp Log Book XIII

Page 1

Friday, March 7, 2003

Arrived at camp early in the day- - John Pierce. He put barbeque beans on to simmer to wait for the other members of the intrepid group. At about 4 PM John S & Jimmy K arrived from Leeville. The wind is from the NE and blowing pretty well. John S got pretty wet on his trip through CNO canal. The Reel Love is not a dry running boat.

After unloading the boats and hooking up the new propane lantern, grilling of meat began, Supper tonight is grilled jalapeño sausage from Bourgeois meat market in Thibodaux, Thanks to Molly are in order. There was also pork ribs in the cooking event. Jimmy fried potatoes to go along with the grilled meat. The temps are pretty nice. We have 50's in the evening and low 70's in the day. The only problem is the gnats are really bad.

Saturday, March 8, 2003

Morning was very muggy, foggy and cool. We took off on a quest to find Rodney's Angel. We located him along the canal back towards Leeville and he gave us almost a full basket of oysters. We brought them back to the camp and started to search for him again. We went to Meatloaf's and located him there; after a lot of soul-searching he decided to part with almost another basket. We thanked him for his generosity and set out to return to the camp. We decided that 2 bushels of oysters wasn't enough for our needs, so we decided to look for Rodney again. Surely, we reasoned, Rodney had enough oysters to give us another basket. This time we found him in Jay's flat and while gray ducks landed and took off from the flat, we entered into another round of negotiations with Rodney, and were rewarded for our perseverance with MORE than another bushel and a half of oysters. Rodney is certainly very generous. He has given us more than our fair share of succulent oysters.

We finally returned to the camp to stay at about 9 AM. About 15 minutes later, Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell showed up. They had been fishing near the rock dam up front and they had 4 nice specks and 1 red fish. They cleaned 1 speck and the red for us because we had expressed an interest in eating fried fish for supper. They, like Rodney are very generous. They took off at about 10 to go fishing near the power lines. John, John, and Jimmy set to opening Rodney's oysters. They worked until about 12:30 or so and had them all opened. After cleaning up, John S made potato, onion and corned beef omelet. After eating, everyone set out to take naps. About that time the Mitchells returned with 1 gigantic sheep head more than they first showed up with.

Naps again cranked up while Charlotte & Rickey fished from the wharf. John S woke up at about 3 because of the gnats which were coming through the screens. The gnats were so bad outside that Charlotte & Rickey hit the road to go in rather than fight it.

John S & P worked on getting supper ready. They put the white beans on. We were supposed to have fried goose, but we've opted to choose fried fish & oysters instead. Yes, it's a sacrifice, but we will bear the awesome responsibility with as much glee as we can muster. Jimmy King got up from his nap at about 4 PM and the fog rolled in not very long afterwards. We're not supposed to be having this terrible weather, but sometimes mother nature takes the upper hand in these matters and there you go. We're supposed to get rain in the morning w/thunderstorms and fog. Isn't that wonderful?

Well, we did have white beans and rice and fried oysters for supper. It was very good. As this is written, Jimmy is working on his testing schedule for State tests next week at PASS. It is very warm and muggy, but at least the gnats have gone to bed. We hope to have good enough weather to make it in tomorrow.

March 30, 2003

Lots of 3's in this date. We're here because Chalotte & Rickey wanted some fish to cook. We're here in the wake of a cold front that makes the place look like December or January. John's boat is at the shop for repairs and John S, Rickey and Charlotte are here in the **Mom's Toy**. We left after 7 this morning and got here at about 8:30 or so. We put water on to make coffee and started fishing. We've been trying for about 45 minutes and have nothing going on yet. The place hasn't changed any since we were here last. That's been about a month now. Okay, really about 3 weeks, but we have had the SOYS banquet in the interim and the Sportsman of the Year was Richard Mitchell. We wasn't here to accept the

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 2

award since he's serving his country in the military. The was in Iraq is one good reason a serviceman received the nod for the award.

We're going to piddle around here some today. John S will be back next weekend to bring Trisha & Joey and a friend of theirs out here. We hope they hjaive success. Today it's sunny and cold-50's. The wind is gusting to 20 and it's pretty cold standing on Jimmy's wharf w/the NW wind nailing you. John has taken to sitting in the camp & drinking coffee & smoking a cigar to pass the time. Fishing can wait for better, warmer weather. Charlotte cooked a beef soup w/veggies & brown sauce last night and brought it out this morning & it certainly went down good at lunch time. It made the camp a lot less cold.

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Here at the camp are Trisha and Joey Doucet, Scott Slater and Hinckley (Scott's yellow lab) and Leigh Guidry. John S was out here on Thursday (4/3) after School and left Friday afternoon after showing Joey how to get to the popular fishing spots. We will find out today if the directions took. Joey and Trisha picked up Leigh at the boat shed about 3:30 on Friday. So far, the fishing has yielded one speckled trout (caught by John S on Friday. However, no one is deterred and we will set our fishing again today after a late breakfast. Without John snoring, everyone slept until 8:30. the crown and coke consumed the night before didn't have anything to do with the late morning. Slater was hurting this morning after drinking so much last night. Joey wasn't faring much better. We had boiled crabs for dinner last night. Hnikley has definitely made an impression on the camp- dental impressions, that is. The puppy (3 months old) has managed to chew on everything and everyone in the camp. So far, it has been a great trip. Even the out-of-stater, Scott Slater, who was raised in New Mexico, is catching on th life at the camp and enjoying it. We'll write more later.

Later- We brought Leigh in at about 2:30 because the Variety show at SL was calling. Scott slept off his hangover for about 3 hours this afternoon. After getting back from bringing Leigh to Leeville, Joey and Scott went fishing. Nothing caught. again. One speck was caught in the morning. Late afternoon meant swimming for Hinckley. He didn't care for it much. We tried the clamshell dam, but even whough we were all in the water, Hinckley just wanted to get back to the boat.

One funny thing, during the first fishing trip, Hinckley got on the front of the boat, looked down into the marsh where we were banked, and proceeded to jump, head first, into the marsh. His head was in the water and mud and all we could see was his butt sticking up in the air. Later that morning, while fishing, we suddenly noticed Hinckley was gone. We all started calling and looking for him in the water and the marsh. He was actually hiding out in the storage area in the front of Jimmy's boat. Scared us all! Life with a puppy! Back at the camp after the swimming expedition, Joey and Scott decided they wanted to attempt to break a few of the clay targets they brought out. Right before the sun set, they cracked open the box & let em fly. All in all it has been a really good time. Fun was had by all. We will be heading in tomorrow morning and back to Houston after cleaning up at John S's house. Thanks for the hospitality. *Trisha Serigny Doucet*

ADDENDUM; The guest writer was incorrect. Scott and Joey caught 2 speckled trout on their fishing expedition.

Saturday, April 26, 2003

We're here at the camp for major construction. John S (arrived Friday night) John Pierce (arrived Thursday). We are tearing down the E Wall of the new camp (it was down by 8:30 mostly because John slept until 7) and installed a new one with T-111 siding. The windows are reseated and the construction was done by 3 PM. Rickey & Charlotte arrived at 9 or so. Rickey & Charlotte fished when Rickey wasn't helping w/the construction. All they caught were catfish. Final finishing touches will be put on the wall tomorrow. We've eaten well. Barbeque for supper on Friday night. Roast beef po-boys for lunch today & tonight we're smothering pork loin with onions. We'll head in tomorrow. The work looks impressive.

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Elson Adams & Uncle Buck came out for the shrimp opener & caught 4 ice chests in 5 drags in the front tract. Lots of big ones here.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 3

Friday, May 16, 2003

We're at the camp for trawling weekend number one. John S, John P (arrived Thursday again), and Jimmy King.

We made one drag in the little pot hole that lasted 45 minutes or so and we made a drag in the back tract. Between the 2 drags we might have caught 2 gallons of shrimp. It surely looks dismal. What's going on? Was it the eclipse of the moon last night? What gives???? People have been catching shrimp all over the place. It looks like they've lit out for greener pastures. I guess we'll try the canals & pipelines tomorrow. Maybe we'll have better luck. Supper was a hot dog spaghetti by Pierce. John did slip 4 eggs in it before it was all said & done. Very Good!!!

We hope we can do a lot better tomorrow. The wind is roaring at 20+ from the SE. It's nice to sleep. The generator helps too.

Sunday, May 18, 2003

Trawling turned out a little better on Saturday. We managed to fill up 2 ice chests to bring in & sell and about a half of another to peel. We've done okay w/the big shrimp & have about 2 gallons of tails. There's no price, though. We got \$.40 a lb. For the 80-100 count shrimp.

Saturday, May 24, 2003

We're here to paint the new wall - - John S & Rickey Mitchell. Yeah. We'll trawl, too. The painting took about an hour or so & a 1 hour drag in the front tract got us almost an ice chest of shrimp. We had quite a few big Brazils in there, too.

Saturday, May 31, 2003

We're at the camp for trawling. John Pierce & Shaun Pierce arrived on Thursday. They enjoyed the solitude for 2 days. They tried to change the springs on JP's trailer before they came out, but a rusted bolt put a stop to the process. John P called John S to get a torch set up from Rodney to heat the thing. John called Rodney & made arrangements for the rig, but Rodney forgot to put it out for John to pick up. That meant John P & Shaun had to wait in Leeville about 2 hours for everyone to get there. John S, Jimmy K, Charlotte and Rickey all showed up at the same time & the springs were changed almost before all the boats were launched.

After setting up the camp we made one drag in the front tract. It was very dismal. We had maybe half a basket of shrimp. We decided to have lunch and take naps instead of trawling.

After naps a drag in Williams canal got a ton of mud & bottom trash. Two drags today for maybe half an ice chest of shrimp. Supper is barbeque. John P did ribs, sausage, and chicken. We had beans & potato salad with it. After supper Jose visited us & John did about 8 --- lick, drink, suck-type shots. Bedtime was about 10 PM.

Sunday, June 1, 2003

Hurricane season starts today. It's supposed to be a bad one. Bay Batiste was pretty good to us today. We made a really good drag at about 6:30 or so. We pulled the front tract for over an hour & had little basket. We skid 100 lbs of 80-100. The price is now \$.60 a lb. John P & Shaun P & Charlotte & Rickey headed in. John S & Jimmy K are staying out one more night.

Naps took place at about 12:30 or so & continued on until 3:15. When John & Jimmy woke up, they noticed a boat in the front tract. They had coffee & decided to join the boat trawling. It turned out to be Uncle Elson. He had Dean W/him. They had pulled an hour & only had about 10 lbs of shrimp for their drag. They said they had made a drag in the high line canal & only caught a few lbs of shrimp, but loaded the trawl up with mud. They said they weren't staying the night. Not enough shrimp are out here.

John & Jimmy pulled an hour & got almost a little bushel basket of shrimp. Then they pulled Bay Batiste pipeline and loaded up W/bottom trash. Where were shrimp too, though. They caught just about

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 4

a champagne. So tonight they have 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ ice chests in the boat. A couple of drags tomorrow should do the trick. A nice SW wind has kept things pleasant. Supper tonight is chicken fricassee w/lima beans.

Saturday June 7, 2003

We arrived in the Morning: John S, Jimmy King & Rickey Mitchell. Two boats out here this week. John's & Jimmy's Charlotte would've come, but she has work to do. A drag in the front tract got us about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of shrimp before lunch. After sandwiches, naps ensued.

After naps an hour drag in Bay Batiste got us a champagne of shrimp, but they were very dirty. It took us near an hour to clean them up. We made a drag in the back tract, but they caught a crab trap in the trawl that hurt their chances. They caught only about 10 lbs or so. They do have about 100lbs in the boat, through. We'll hazard Bay Batiste in the morning. Supper tonight was s kitchen sink spaghetti. There was ground meat & pork ribs and sausage, both smoked & fresh, in the sauce. We'll be going in tomorrow. We will keep some shrimp to bring home & sell a few as well.

Friday, June 13, 2003

Yup, Friday the thirteenth. We got here at about noon after getting signals crossed about what time to leave. Jimmy King thought departure time was 8 AM & John thought noon. They finally got signals together and headed out at about 10 AM. This weekend marks a first for the camp. John S borrowed a 5,000 BTU a/c from Rodney & the generator seems to handle it really well. For afternoon naps it worked okay. No icicles, though.

Oh, yeah, we are here to trawl. John & Jimmy made a drag in the front tract & caught about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a little gray bushel. They tried Bay Batiste & caught over an ice chest. They have a 70 qt. Full & some in a 50 qt right now. They'll try it again tomorrow. Supper tonight was grilled sausage & sirloin & red beans & rice. John ate no rice. His diet is primary. Atkins isn't too terrible. His Lipitor is working overtime, though.

Last weekend they sold 150 lbs of shrimp and peeled 14 bags of shrimp. There were a few crabs in the pipeline this evening. We hope to catch a few more tomorrow. We hope to be able to trawl tomorrow. The storms have sot of lined up to our west & we've been catching them pretty good this week. The best thing a out that is the cistern is really full. We seem to have the flapper valve problem in the toilet solved for now. It seems to seal. It had balked & drained the cistern last week. We're sort of on watch about it.

Saturday, July 26, 2003

We arrived at camp with our new a/c. John S & Jimmy K are here. This is just a shakedown cruise to get the bugs out of the a/c hook up. It seems to working well. We have the inside temp down below 80 at the hottest part of the day while we napped. We got the toilet to flush, which is an improvement from the last time we were here. Trawling season was okay, really. The shrimp were small, but towards the end were plentiful enough to put a good supply in our freezers. We had one tropical storm come right over us a few weeks ago. Bill flooded the boat yard and put water over the road to GI, but we were spared any damage to the camp from it. We've had a few visitors over the summer, and they've been nice enough to leave us notes thanking us for the camp's availability. We hope it's around here long enough to do them some good in the future.

The a/c is a 7500 BTU Sunbeam that Wal Mart was practically giving away. Naps lasted until 3 PM. It was very comfortable w/the a/c running. After coffee John S went fishing. He caught 6 specks and 2 catfish. Only 3 of the specks were keepers. John S left the camp about 4 PM and was back around 6 or so. He started grilling supper soon upon his arrival. Grilled items included shrimp sausage and pork ribs and BOUDIN. It was very good. Along with Jimmy's potatoes salad and Busch's baked beans it made quite a meal. All in all our set up seems to work nicely. We'll see how the a/c gets the job done tonight. It's been keeping the camp at around 81-83 degrees this afternoon even w/the sun heating on the West side of the camp. It should get more efficient as the day goes on. By morning it'll be downright nice in here. Pierce couldn't make it this trip. He's involved in renovations on property for his sons. Jan is in the real estate business it seems and she's suing JP as the carpenter/subcontractor. Sounds like a plan.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 5

John S is contemplating a new generator. A smaller lighter one, to be sure, would be very nice. They are very expensive, though. A Yamaha 2800 is about \$1300. It could well be worth it, though. At least you wouldn't need 2 men to load it into something. A 60 lb generator is something old men can carry. We haven't been able to catch any minnows around the camp. There are a few moving about from place to place, but they don't want cookies. We borrowed a couple of crabs to try that. We'll see in the morning if we have any takers. The Saints start training camp today. That means teal season can't be very far away.

Sunday, August 17, 2003

Happy birthday, Joseph. Came to camp for summer fishing- John S, Rickey & Charlotte Mitchell. Very hot & calm all morning, but we could see a storm brewing up to the NW at about 12:30. We came back to the camp for lunch and to avoid the squall. While we were eating Vienna sausage & bread the rain started. By the time we had finished eating all hell broke loose right on top of us. Rain was very dense & lots of lightning to go with it. John & Rickey had to pump the boats at least 4 times, and as this is being written, we're getting close to another round of pumping. John called Susan on the cell phone & she says it's bad in Larose as well. We've been here since 12:30 and it's 2:45 now and the rain has not subsided enough to allow the run to Leeville yet. We did catch 5 fish that we're keeps and a few that we had to throw back. At least the rain has kept it a bit cooler than it was this morning. The rain volume has abated and the lightning seems to be farther off so we may make the run in soon. We're staring down the barrels of teal season in about a month, so we'll write more later.

Monday August 25, 2003

JP arrived @ camp around noonish. Just changed hubs on boat trailer in Leeville. I decided to make a night of it. Eighty-eight degrees, wind easterly @ 15 - 20. A bit warm, but nice. Will be going back in tomorrow. More work on Shaun & Pat's house before going to Natchez. GOLFING. *John Pierce*

Sunday, September, 6, 2003

We're at the camp for a day of fishing- John S, Rickey and Charlotte Mitchell. The tide is extremely high. It's about 12 inches high in the boat yard. Not too great for vehicles. Our desire to come to the camp over rode our discretion in dialing w/the high tides. A cold front came through on Friday and has dried off the air quality. NW breeze should be pushing the tide lower, but I guess the moon is aligned or something like that. Temps are in the high 80's today. We're watching TS Isabelle in the Atlantic. This is only the first week of September and we're in the "I" names already. We hope there are none around for teal season in two weeks.

Friday, September 12, 2003

Well, it seems teal season is a week early. Either that or we're a week late. It's probably the latter. Here at the camp for the festivities are John S & Holly in John's boat. Jimmy King is here in his boat with bad steering. We have decoys netting, the big 16 ft pirogue & all the stuff we need for hunting. We don't know if we have ducks. Magoo has reported seeing some out in Bully camp. Barry Braud has reported seeing some in Lake Theriot. We'll see what we have tomorrow.

We're expecting lots of rain tomorrow. We had tons of it on the way out here today. Luckily, we go to Leeville after it had gone through there. Between Uncle Smith's & Thomassie's place, you could barely see the vehicle in front of you. Thirty miles per hour wass top end. The tide is extremely high. We had serious water in the boatyard this afternoon. The ESE wind all week has it really up there. It could be worse. Isabel looks as if she'll go towards the E coast. We pray everyday she does. This is a mega storm- -category 5- -160 mph sustained winds, gusts above 200- -really scary.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 6

Supper tonight was really good stuff. John marinated sirloin & country ribs in Worcestershire, barbeque sauce & Guinness draft stout. It was awesome. We may trawl as well. White shrimp season is open and people have caught some. We thought teal season was opening next week, but it seems there are so many teal they're giving us an extra weekend. John S has been really turning and burning on weekends- -LIONS club golf tournament last weekend; Natchez the weekend before that; and the state DU convention the week before that. It's really nice to be here this weekend. We just hope we can get the boats up on Sunday. We may see Charlotte & Rickey, but I'm thinking it won't be until Sunday at the earliest. South Lafourche is playing Covington right now and Jimmy King has been asleep since supper ended. Holly is after John to play ball w/ her. It's been a very exciting evening, YAWN.

Saturday, September 13, 2003

Whoo Hoo!! One week to pay day. Living from check to check- -that should be a country and western song title. Teal season this morning was a dismal affair. No shots & no teal seen. After coming back to camp we got things cleaned up and worked on creating a screen for the a/c window. It took just a bit of time and effort, and there were some set backs, but we managed to secure something that was serviceable. Holly started her "big air" training and lost a couple of balls in the process, but she shows much potential. John & Jimmy are relaxing after hooking up the a/c and the minor work detail. Supper this evening is OOO Yi Yi. We hope to trawl later today. Naps lasted until 2:15 or so. After coffee & some shaking off the cobwebs, John & Jimmy made a 35 minute drag in the front tract & half an hour in Williams canal & caught maybe a pound of shrimp & 3 crabs. The crabs were the real prize. We need them of the OOO YI YI. Today has been really nice. No rain, yet. But clouds are building to the west and we aren't optimistic about hunting tomorrow.

Georgia is beating up on S Carolina right now 24-0. Georgia is going to Baton Rouge next weekend.

Sunday, September 14, 2003

We saw ducks this morning, but nothing close enough to shoot except one red head which we passed on being the law-abiding souls that we are. When we got back to the camp, Charlotte & Rickey arrived w/lemon meringue pie & lots of ice. We're heading in, and we will return next week.

Friday, September 19, 2003

John S and Jimmy King are here for the second weekend of teal hunting. Last weekend Charlotte & Rickey showed up Sunday morning & stayed to the camp after John & Jimmy left to go home. They fished & caught 15 trout. John S helped them clean them when they got back to Larose. The tide is much lower today than it was last weekend. There was no water in the boat yard today.

Supper tonight is sausage sandwiches done in tomato sauce w/Rotel & onions. It's a very spicy repast, Charlotte. It's really easy to make. Just brown the onions in a skillet, Brown the Rotel tomatoes a little & slide in the sausage, (Andy's is the best) and simmer it until the sausage is done. We're going to enjoy it tremendously. Charlotte & Rickey will be here tomorrow. They need to bring ice. There may be a cold front coming through, but it'll be 89 high tomorrow. Ice doesn't hold well above 80's. I think the fit will bite tomorrow. Maybe we'll catch a few shrimp, too. We'll see.

Saturday, September 20, 2003

Morning hunt quite an event. John & Jimmy got 2 teal in Jay's flat. They should've gotten more. We had 4 hit the decoys about 6:15 or so. John knocked down one but it swam to the bank before Holly could get to it. Jimmy zipped. Later 2 teal hit the decoys. John got one & Jimmy couldn't get the second. John shot at it 2 times as well, but got nothing. Holly retrieved that one. After the hunt was over, John, Jimmy & Holly walked the marsh where the crippled teal went into the grass & they shook it out where John could shoot it again and Holly got it and returned it to hand. We cleaned ducks and waited for the Mitchells to arrive. John S rigged his line and immediately caught a 13 inch speck across the canal from the camp. Subsequent fishing produced no further bites. John S hit the marsh to fish accompanied by Holly and Charlotte and Rickey chose that moment to arrive. John came back to the camp and lunch

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 7

ensued. Richard's boudin sandwiches went down well. Afternoon fishing & naps took off soon after lunch. Charlotte & Rickey caught 4 trout. John S caught ZIP. Jimmy slept.

An afternoon post-nap trawling excursion in Williams canal to the lake got us maybe a pound of shrimp. They were nice sized and made it to the grill. Nice appetizers. Supper tonight was grilled pork & Rouse's green onion sausage. We had barbequed beans and Wal Mart potato salad. We're full and tired after a day's activities. We're sitting around talking & waiting for a decent time to go to bed. Jimmy's not deterred & is sleeping before 8 PM. Tomorrow is another day.

Sunday, September 21, 2003

Morning hunt- John S & Jimmy K each one teal. Total for weekend - 4 birds. Charlotte & Rickey are fishing and we're packing to go home.

Friday, September 26, 2003

We arrived at camp- John S & Jimmy K. We've come out for the closing of teal season on Sunday. We carried our usual ton of stuff including, but not limited to a/c, generator & various and assorted boxes & bags of equipment for hunting and our comfort over this short respite from the stresses of work. It's been a very long week, and we're not done, yet. We're supposed to get a cold front through tomorrow. It's none too soon. Today is the 1 year anniversary of Isadore. The cold front should protect us from whatever comes up out of the gulf. In the Atlantic TS Juan is heading N & that's a really good thing.

Charlotte & Rickey should arrive tomorrow. They'll be here sometime in the afternoon. You can be certain. Supper tonight was roast beef po-boys. We even had lettuce & tomato to go w/it. Along w/ French fries they were some pretty good sandwiches. I didn't bring eggs this week. We have grits, but no eggs. You always forget something.

The tide has come up extremely much. It's up to the bottom of John & Rickey wharf.

Saturday, September 27, 2003

Morning hunt a zippo deal. No shots fired. We were back at camp before 8:30. We did see a couple of birds, however, very early. No shots presented themselves, however. After a few Sunday duties, John went fishing for an hour or so. One cigar's worth and he caught 3 keeper specks. Back at the camp, lunch was a repeat of last night's repast. Naps ensued. Jimmy started cooking white beans & roast duck & pork roast. The camp got so hot they shut down the a/c & opened it up to vent the heat out. We expect Charlotte & Rickey this afternoon.

Sunday, September 28, 2003

No teal seen today. We did see a pair of grey ducks that passed fairly close, but of course, no shots were taken. Charlotte & Rickey fished the marsh this morning w/no results. They currently are at their favorite spot diligently trying to catch a few fish for Evelyn. Heading in w/a NE'er blowing 20+. We'll run Lake Jesse. Next stop- hunting season.

Sunday, November 2, 2003

Less than a week to hunting season. We're here for a 1 day trip. John S, Charlotte & Rickey Mitchell. Charlotte & Rickey are down the canal at their spot. John is at the camp making coffee and writing in this book. We have a very high tide today w/a mighty E wind. John caught a speck from his boat a few minutes ago.

Here it is the weekend before duck season and no one is around. Usually we'd be out here getting stuff ready for next weekend, but it seems everyone is busy and other projects are more important. Well, times change and I guess that's true of people as well. We'll see what happens around here over the upcoming month. We have visitations scheduled so that may put a fire under a few people.

Camp Log Book XlII

Page 8

Friday, November 7, 2003

Here for the opening of Hunting season- -John S & Jimmy King. We will be here all weekend. Supper is roast beef Po boys & fries. We hit the sack by 8 PM. Weather is really nice. It's cloudy and cool & breezy. Should be really good hunting weather tomorrow.

Saturday, November 8, 2003

The first day of duck hunting has arrived. We're still hunting for something. We knocked down 1 gray duck today and lost it. Holly chased it out of the grasses, but the bird dove and we couldn't see where it came up. We stayed in the blind until 9 AM.

Supper tonight is pork roast and white beans & rice. We expect to see Rickey & Charlotte Mitchell later today. Maybe we'll fish today and maybe not.

Sunday, November 9, 2003

WOW!!! What a difference a day makes – morning hunt on the bright side. John & Jimmy in the big blind – 1 gray, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 2 spoonies, 1 blue wing & 1 green wing, all in all a nice outing. It was windy, sunny, and warm. It's more fishing weather than duck weather. Charlotte & Rickey caught a dozen or so trout even a couple at the camp. We'll return next week.

Friday, November 14, 2003

We arrived cat camp- -John S, Jimmy K, Joey Doucet, and Steve Garris who are fresh from Houston. We got tons of stuff. We got groceries & we got gin, scotch & vodka. We're ready to roll. Tonight we're grilling pork & sausage for supper & Jimmy is making dirty rice. Steve is enjoying his stay. The scotch and gin flowed until almost 10 PM.

Saturday, November 15, 2003

Our morning hunt was on the bright side. Joey & Steve got 3 dos gris & 2 gray duck in the big blind. John & Jimmy got ZIP in Jay's flat. Joey & Steve went fishing at Charlotte & Rickey's spot & got 4 keeper trout. John also made a run to Leeville to rescue his medicine. Susan had delivered it to the boat stall so he could take his blood pressure medication. Later in the evening Joey Steve & John visited Rodney's angel & got about a bushel of his best oysters.

Supper tonight is duck choo-roo & Jimmy King did an excellent job keeping the oysters wrapped in bacon tasting really nice. The scotch is all gone before supper hit the table.

Sunday, November 16, 2003

Our morning hunt: John & Jimmy ZIP in Jay's flat. Joey & Steve 1 spoonie in the big blind. It's hot & muggy – no weather for hunting, but great weather for GNATS. We'll be back next week.

Friday, November 21, 2003

We're here for the weekend. John S, Jimmy King are here with the new generator. It seems to be working okay – really. It's providing power for lights and Jimmy's fan is working well. Supper tonight is ra ta tat patat w/corned beef. It's a bit dark. The onions suffered at the hands of high heat. John was busy with beer & no one noticed the onions being caramelized past the point of no return.

It's cool tonight but the mugginess will return tomorrow. It seems the tide has turned around a lot, but there's 1.3 feet of fluctuation. We should catch a few fish. We did see a couple of ducks this afternoon while relaxing on the porch. It was really interesting.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 9

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Another ZIPPO morning was suffered. The wind died, the sun shone, and we had no chances this morning. We came back to the camp and Jimmy took advantage of the down time to clean his boat. He even pulled the decking out. LSU is currently behind Ole Miss 7-0. LSU's defense is playing well, but Ole Miss scored on an interception on LSU's first offensive play. It's now 7-3 Ole Miss. We're cooking a gigantic spaghetti for supper tonight. We had to run the generator to take a nap today. It's that warm. Holly says she's just disgusted about going out all muddy only to sit & watch with no ducks to catch.

Well, LSU pulled it off. They shut down Ole Miss when it counted. They won 17-14 even though they didn't play especially well. Jimmy & John watched the entire proceedings even though the battery for the TV crapped out half way through the game. They ran the generator to finish the event. Supper tonight was a very good kitchen-sink spaghetti w/fresh sausage & ground meat and smoked sausage. Jimmy heated up cheesy bread to go along with supper and it really hit the spot. John stayed up to read **Newsweek** & Jimmy hit the sack right after supper. Gin w/grape flavored water tastes pretty passable. Tomorrow, we expect Joey & Charlotte & Rickey.

Jimmy is even going to stay out another day. The weather forecast for Monday morning is his prime motivation. It should be rainy & turning colder. It's just about 8 PM and Holly need a bit of a walk. John will be turning in soon. It's been a long day.

Sunday, November 23, 2003

Morning hunt was a little brighter today. We had shots, though they were long ones & we got no birds to being home. ZIP. We crippled a mallard drake that drifted down about a quarter of a mile away. It was not a whole bunch of fun to see him sail down too far to go after. We searched for him after our hunt, but he was nowhere that we could see. At 10 AM John went to Leeville to pick up Joey Boy. On the way down Williams canal, John saw Rickey and Charlotte at their spot. They had already acquired 5 trout of mixed speculation. When John returned from Leeville, they were at the camp eating a sandwich. After lunch, they headed to the fence to fish a little. They caught 3 or 4 huge specks. I mean plus 16" or greater.

Joey fished off the wharf all afternoon & caught 3 smallish reds. John caught a nice white trout at the little island. It tasted very good with supper. Supper is roast beef & gravy po-boys w/fries. We had a little fried fish appetizer. That was nice.

The weather was very balmy today. The temps were in the 80's for highs. The wind was up & very nice. Tomorrow will be quite a change as we expect a front to come though W/heavy winds. It'll be a rough morning. We'll struggle but make the effort. Tuesday and Wednesday will be colder, but calmer. We'll see how it goes tomorrow. Tonight we rest.

Monday, November 24, 2003

We had a front come through at about 12:30 AM or so. The wind from the NW was screaming by the time we went to the blind. We did kill 3 spoonies & as close as we can tell, everyone got one bird. Getting back at the pirogue drop was a really interesting experience. Running the tract from the blind to the camp was a bouncy deal as well. Jimmy King is going home today. We ran the high line and around Lake Jesse. We got seriously wet from the bow spray. Too bad we didn't buy DLX's. When we got back to the camp we ate potato onion & egg omelet and decided to nap instead of fish in the high winds. Naps ended at about 3:30 & after coffee & relaxing & watching the news, Joey grilled some pork ribs and rib eyes. John fried potatoes & supper was extremely good this evening. We hope to do better hunting and fishing tomorrow.

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Well, we're here and not much else is shaking. We shot at a couple of gray ducks this morning. No success. We'll try the lease tomorrow. John & Joey left to try fishing in the marsh at about 10:30. They returned at about 1 PM w/2 really nice reds. John is reheating the barbequed pork from supper last night. It's very quiet out here. Week days are very sparsely populated. The weather is moderating. It's much warmer this morning. The wind is slowly reducing in velocity. Tomorrow will be warmer. (high in

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 10

the 70's). We'll be going home tomorrow. Joey is enjoying his vacation very much. While John napped, Joey diligently fished around the camp. He did catch 1 keeper & many smaller reds that were quickly returned. Supper preparations began. It's tough to continue eating when you've been eating so well for so long. Supper is fried fish & field peas & rice.

Wednesday, November 26, 2003

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. We all should give unlimited thanks about how luck we are to able to spend 5 days in a row out here. Our morning hunt netted 1 dos gris shot by Joey & retrieved by Holly. We only saw a couple of other birds. We are heading in for the holidays.

Friday, November 28, 2003

John S & John P arrived at the camp about noon. John P, he of the severe cold who had to leave & go home because of it a couple of weeks ago when Joey & Steve G were here. We saw LSU beat the crap out of Arkansas 55-24 this afternoon. Joe & Trisha are there. We hope they didn't freeze because it's really cold out here. We assume it was just as cold in Baton Rouge as it was here. In the 50's all day w/a heavy wind that's blowing at least 25 but probably as much as 35 or so. We stayed glued to the TV during the game. No fishing today for sure. LSU could be staring down the barrels of shot at the national championship game. Before that game comes about, though, the SEC championship game in Atlanta. We have no idea what the ducks have in store for us tomorrow, but we're here- -that's for sure.

The north shore has a freeze warning tonight. We don't think we'll get that cold. Beer & whiskey flowed during the game this afternoon. We were happy it got to be suppertime. Oh, that reminds us. Supper was hot roast beef po-boys, garlic mashed potatoes & that Mexican corn dish Marsha made for Thanksgiving.

Saturday, November 29, 2003

Our morning hunt was on the chilly side. It was near 40 degrees with a 10-15 N wind. Our success was mixed. We killed 1 teal, 1 dos gris & 1 black mallard. Pierce had to go out & search for the black duck. It flew about 100 yds. away before it died. After straightening thing up around the camp, John & John went fishing in the marsh. One 20 inch red fish was the result. When they got back to the camp they ate lunch & took naps until 4 PM. We're watching Florida-FSU and the gators are trying to come back from a 17-6 FSU lead. It's 17-14 FSU now & . . . oops. . now it's 17-17. Wow! If Florida pulls it out, they play LSU in the SEC championship game next week. Well, FSU beat Florida 38-34. Looks like LSU will play either Georgia or Tennessee next week. We won't know until the BCS rankings come out tomorrow.

Sunday November, 30, 2003

Our morning hunt got us ZIP. Pierce crippled a bird really early at dark - 30. We saw it swim to the bank, but couldn't tell where it went up. We waited until after the hunt to go w/Holly & look for it, but no success. JP took off to go in. Charlotte & Rickey are out fishing today, but they report no success.

Friday, December 12, 2003

Well, it's been 2 weeks since we've been out here. Various activities kept us busy last weekend - so no trip. Excuse us! John Pierce got here early today (about 9 AM) John S & Jimmy got here at about 4:15. Supper tonight is John P's smothered egg plant w/shrimp, ham and ground meat. We also had fried pork blade steaks to go along w/it. We hit the rack early 98 PM). A long week at work caused the early turn in.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 11

Saturday Morning, December 13, 2003

Our morning hunt was not a very bright event. We had one bunch of gray ducks make a couple of passes & Jimmy K knocked one down that we dispatched once it hit the water. At 8 AM we looked back toward Leeville & were surprised to see heavy rain lurking near by. Expecting a frontal passage, we thought discretion would be the better part of valor & headed to the camp. We got back scant seconds before the rain, lightening & thunder moved in. We cleaned our duck & had a couple of minutes to relax – Jimmy even began a morning nap – when the torrential rain made us have to pump the boats. We had to wake Jimmy up at 10:30 to do an emergency pumping of his boat. This continued until about noon. Finally, the rain moderated and we were able to eat & nap.

After naps – round 3:30 or so the wind had still not switched over to the North. That occurred at about 4:30 or so as we were readying supper. Supper was very tasty white beans & rice & hamburger steaks made w/Andy's seasoned ground meat. Supper was over by 6 and John Pierce entered into an especially noisy altercation w/supper dishes. We're hunting tomorrow w/20 mph NW wind and cloudy weather. We've had lots of duck weather, but absolutely no ducks to speak of. The clouds and rain were here all day and prevented us from working on our awning on the new camp. We carried the generator out here for naught. We will have to tackle that job next week.

LSU is in the sugar bowl for the National Championship – even though a lot of people think USC is the real powerhouse. We'll have to make our judgment a few weeks from now when the games culminate.

Sunday, December 14, 2003

This morning it's cold cloudy, windy with a spit of rain occasionally. Great duck weather! John S, Jimmy K & JP got 2 spoonies from the big blind. We're heading home.

Friday, December 19, 2003

The following are here for the weekend ; John S & John P. No Jimmy K this weekend – he has vehicle problems and may need to buy a new engine for his truck. John S got here at about 4 PM and JP had been here since about 9:30. After getting things situated, supper was grilled sirloin tips w/roasted potatoes & broccoli & cauliflower w/ cheese sauce. We finally have some low tides. We hope it'll help w/the ducks. We know it'll help w/getting oysters from Rodney's angel. Temps tonight are around 50. the wind is from the West at about 12 mph or so. It's okay though – it really is - the wine keeps you nice & toasty.

Saturday, December 20, 2003

Our morning hunt occurred on a very low tide (the decoys in the big blind pond were tilting on their keels) was enjoyable. John S & John P got 2 green wing teal and 5 rails. The rails were coming down the batture to get water and we waylaid 3 of them from the blind and 2 more as we paddled back to the boat. We had a very enjoyable hunt under a clear – cold bluebird day type weather. We got back from hunting and cleaned the birds, we ran to Leeville to rescue lumber for the awning on the East Deck. We started working on the edifice at about 11:30 and were done by 2. John S then checked W/Rodney's angel and got about a basket of oysters. The oysters were for a marsh hen oyster jambalaya that was extemporaneously produced by the 2 chefs in attendance. It turned out well even though neither of them had ever prepared jambalaya before.

Sunday, December 21, 2003

Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. We had no shots fired, though we did have gray ducks and pintails circle us. We're heading in – Joey is not coming out & Jimmy is sick so both JS & JP are going home today.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 12

Friday, December 26, 2003

Merry Christmas! Only 365 days until Christmas. We're wondering if 2004 is a leap year? We're here for the weekend. John S & John P are here. We got here at about 9:30 or so. After setting up the camp & resting a while we went out to set decoys and left the pirogues in the marsh. We tried fishing unsuccessfully but ran into Rodney's Angel & picked up a small basket of oysters from him. The oysters are still skinny however. At least we have a few of them – thanks to Rodney – he's a very generous fellow. Supper tonight is roast beef po-boys w/lettuce, tomato & onion & mushroom gravy.

It's a lot warmer out here this weekend. The breeze is good & strong and the sun is shiny & bright. We did chase up a few ducks in Jay's flat this morning so on Sunday we'll try it out. We have a 1.7 ft. tidal fluctuation, so we should have some active fish tomorrow.

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Our morning hunt was very sad. We crippled one gary duck and couldn't come up with it at all. Holly looked to no avail. We pulled all the decoys & will try in Jay's flat tomorrow. It seems there are a few birds frequenting that end of the marsh. Trixie was shooting a little this morning. We saw no birds after the hunt though on a quick check. Soon after we returned from Leeville, we had Rickey Mitchell and James Ford show up. They started fishing while John & John headed to Leville to get netting. In the nonce, James caught his first red fish from the side wharf. When John S got back from Leeville, he tried his fly rod for reds on the bottom w/a gold spoon fly & caught one small red which he dutifully returned to the briny. We cooked roast beef & gravy for lunch again and we had fries on the side. James & Rickey ate too. Even Holly said it was awesome. John S & JP went to nap time while James fished from the wharf. Rickey soon joined the chorus of snores and his voice was the most loud in meter and timbre.

In the meantime, James caught a couple of keeper reds and a flounder. Of course, he caught many, many more that weren't keepers. Supper tonight was pork fricassee. JP out did himself on this one. It had lima beans in it & the Tony Chassierroux mix had a little spice kick that really made it taste great.

Our weather sucks. Temps are in the 70's today & lows are in the upper 50's & low 60's at night. The NE wind we had yesterday have become E & will be SE tomorrow. Gnats are trying to get cranked up, but the breeze is keeping them down rally well.

Sunday, December 28, 2003

Our morning hunt was very up-beat. John S & John P got 2 nice male grays & lost a wing-tipped third gray. We could've shot pintails too, but alas the season is shut. We're waiting to see if Rickey & James make it out today. They said yesterday they would, but it's 11:00 & they're nowhere to be seen as of yet.

Friday, January 2, 2004

Wow! Can you imagine? 2004! There for a while I had doubts that I would ever get this far. I may not have made it yet. We'll see. Here for the weekend are John S, Jimmy King & Holly. Holly is here mostly because she couldn't stay home. Missy has to keep care of her mom. So Holly comes to the camp. Hurt leg and all. We got here about noon. We have the generator as there may be some construction work that needs to be done. We need the generator, too because the weather is warm and muggy. A fan helps you sleep. John hopes his toothache lets him sleep. Oral surgery is definitely on tap. The bowl games are in full swing. Unfortunately for LSU, USC beat Michigan convincingly. LSU will take on Oklahoma on Sunday night. It's pretty breezy, so that gnats aren't rally that bad. It could be a real bear.

We took a ride to the mudflat late this afternoon and there were ZERO ducks! None anywhere. It's very discouraging. Well, we killed 27 ducks so far this year. If we don't get some birds around here the next couple of weeks, we'll be sucking wind for the season.

The Saints finished 8-8 which is not bad really when you figure they finished 2nd in their division above Atlanta & last year's Super Bowl Champs, Tampa Bay. The fans are really disappointed, but

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 13

they're used to it. We'll try the mud blat tomorrow. Maybe we'll hunt the Pointe Des Huitres or maybe across from there. We'll see.

Saturday, January 3, 2004

What a great day! We got 3 ducks this morning in Jay's flat. Holly had to swim all over the flat for one of them. John knocked down a male gray duck that was barely wing-tipped. Holly took off after it. The tide was so low that Holly had to half swim half hop to try to close down the distance on the bird. John got out in a pirogue to give her a hand. Luckily the bird didn't want to go up in the grass. When John got within 25 yards of the bird it flapped a lot of distance between it & Holly, so John took the opportunity to shoot it w/a load of Hevi Shot #6's. One shot stopped the bird. While John was out after the bird, Jimmy had a chance on a single, but 3 shots got nothing. We stayed until 9 o'clock or so, but the grays were very wary. John shot a dos gris early that hit the decoys. So they got 2 nice male grays and 1 dos gris. After we got back to the camp, Jimmy went back to Jay's flat to meet Rodney's Angel. Rodney gave Jimmy a champagne of really nice oysters. He's a very generous man. While Jimmy was making arrangements w/Rodney, John was working on the new camp awning. He nailed the slats to be ready for the metal. We'll do that next week when Pierce is here. After John finished with the construction work, he made a couple of casts in the canal in front of the camp and caught 2 keeper specks.

After Jimmy returned, John cooked corned beef omelet for lunch. John went fishing while Jimmy took an eye-resting nap. John caught 1 speck at the little island and tried a couple more places w/o success. He stopped at Joey's spot and caught 8 more keepers. He even fished w/his new fly rod & had one hit. He went down to Anne's spot and caught a few more coming back to the camp w/an even dozen specks. He caught 3 specks on the fly rod as well. When John returned from fishing, Jimmy got up & oyster opening got under way. Supper tonight is chicken fricassee w/lima beans. The Tony Chassierre's instant roux is some really good stuff.

It's really warm today. We're running the generator to rest a little at night & John's toothache is off & on. It hasn't stopped him from enjoying this last weekend of the Christmas holidays, though. We'll hunt again tomorrow. We've gotten about 30 ducks this season. Five more than last year & we've got 2 weeks left. It's been really breezy today & that's kept the gnats down a lot. With these temps (low 70's), it could've been really bad. Tomorrow will be in the high 70's.

After the chicken fricassee, and by the way, those lima beans are really tasty in a sauce like the roux, Jimmy is gone off to La La land at about 7:15. John is trying to stay up until about 8. Our little TV is not handling the S wind very well. We just can't get the tuning down to catch channel 26. No NFL playoffs for us. We have at least 2 airboats cruising the shallows trying to arrow a red fish. It's almost 7:30 & pitch black. Serenity Now!

Sunday, January 4, 2003

Our morning hunt? --- John & Jimmy got 2 gray ducks and 1 red head this morning. It's very, very warm. Charlotte & Rickey got here at 11:00 & had a few fish caught already. Heading in.

Friday, January 9, 2004

We arrived at camp early in the day in warm weather and rain- John Pierce. ?The only problem was he forgot the butane bottle so he couldn't start supper early. John S & Jimmy King arrived at about 4:30, but by this late in the day the weather had changed significantly. Wind is about 20 or so from NNW. The tide is about normal, but the temp is falling and it will be cold for sure tomorrow. Supper tonight is a spicy chicken & lima beans. John S's salty dogs went down well.

Saturday, January 10, 2004

Morning hunt was a mixed affair. We saw many ducks, but most of them were either unshootable or pintails and, thus, also unshootable. This morning is a good morning for hot chocolate. John P got 1 gray duck while John S & Jimmy K also got 1. We came back to the camp and while John S & P took care of dishes, ducks and guns, Jimmy ran to Leeville to rescue his sleeping bag.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 14

At 11 AM when Jimmy wasn't back, the Johns went to look for him. They found him in the curvy part of Goat Island about fifty yards in a very shallow cut. He said he hit something. Yeah, right! It was the bottom! He obviously made an ill-advised turn. He swears he hit something & had to go into the shallow cut to try to save the boat. Anyway, John S & P threw him a rope & pulled the boat to the bank. John P got in & he and Jimmy with John S pulling a rope attached to the boat from the bank, got the boat to deeper water. Then Jimmy got the engine started, even though he thought it had hit hard enough to keep it from running, & headed back to the camp. At about LOOP pipeline, he got a crab trap caught in the wheel. John P threw out the anchor while Jimmy cut the crab trap out of the prop doing many injuries to his hands in the process. Finally!! They got everything working & came back to the camp. John S & John P tried to put the metal on the awning on the E side of the new camp, but the drill ran out of juice on the first sheet. They stored the rest of the metal & called it a day. Jimmy was so upset about his trying times on the way back from Leeville that he slept all afternoon. John Pierce tried fishing near the bulkhead & lost a really large red near the boat. It was really too cold to fish. The wind was hitting him while he fished from the front of the boat on Jimmy's wharf.

The Panthers beat St. Louis in double overtime this afternoon & while we were grilling bratwurst & pork ribs for supper, the New England Pats are beating Tennessee Titans 14-7. Oh, by the way, we had broccoli rice & cheese w/the grilled meat. It was very tasty.

Sunday, January, 11, 2004

Our morning was hunt very slim. John P got 1 gray duck that he waylaid - John S & Jimmy Zip for 1 chance. We're going home. We will be back next week for last weekend.

Friday, January 16, 2004

The Southern Decadence weekend is going on in New Orleans this weekend. Jimmy K & John S arrived at about 4:30 or so this afternoon. After getting the camp set up, we got a real barbeque set up: beef & pork sausage, broccoli & cheesy bread, and cheese rice. Joey & Scott are coming tomorrow, but we expect a lot of rain so we'll struggle through it. Supper was a mini-feast and we expect more in a similar vein tomorrow.

Saturday, January 17, 2004

Major rain fall. It started at about 5:30. With Sunday having 2 hunts on tap, we decided the best thing we could do was put the pirogues at the drip off & come back to the camp & wait it out. We pumped boats until about 10:30- sometimes every 20 minutes. At 10:30 John S headed to Leeville to pick up Joey & Scott Seater (this is Scott's second trip to the camp in less than a year. We must've grown on him). The rain continued in monsoon like proportions while John ventured to Leeville. It intensified after Joey & Scott entered the boat. The rain let up around noon & John S, Scott & Joey were able to run the marsh and set coordinates on Joey's new GPS unit. It certainly looks like a real useful device. It seems very complex, though. They came back to the camp at about 1:30 and naps ensued. The weather turned rotten again & the wind picked up & we were inundated again with rain & heavy winds. Temps will be dripping tomorrow but tonight we're in the 60's.

John cooked field peas & Jimmy cooked pork roast & Andy's garlic sausage. It was very tasty w/the mushroom gravy

Sunday, January 18, 2004

This be the lastest day of the duck season. We've seen worse, but it really wasn't that great at all. We plan on hunting this morning and this afternoon as well. John & Jimmy headed out at 5:30 AM or thereabouts and Joey & Scott were still sleeping in. Our morning hunt was pretty dismal - -no birds for a few long-range attempts. We came back to the camp w/ a really heavy W wind humping. John tackled the porch cover & was successful in getting most of the metal secured. Joey got up on the camp roof & caulked a few holes that were beginning to give up the ghost against the rain.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 15

Scott helped a lot handing equipment & working as support for the effort. Jimmy cut pieces to close up the last run, but John decided to cut pieces w/a power saw at home instead. So we have a few pieces left to install. At about 12:45, John & Jimmy ran in to Leeville to bring Scott & Joey back. The west wind at about 20 or so made the trip really interesting. Salt water tastes really refreshing. Jimmy's boat ran well & the group made no wrong turns either going to Leeville or coming back to the camp. John & Jimmy took naps upon returning that lasted about an hour and a half. They were seriously needed. At 3:30, after coffee, John & Jimmy went to Jay's flat to make the last hunt of the season. They stayed until 5:15 & got 1 gray duck for their trouble. That makes 36 for the season. Better than last year, but not a banner year.

While John & Jimmy were hunting this morning, Scott & Joey fished at Charlotte & Rickey's spot & caught 6 specks. John had caught one yesterday in front of the camp, so they're heading home w/7 fish. John & Jimmy returned from the evening hunt & cooked really thick pork chops and added ground meat to the field peas & served it on rice. We believe the NE Patriots beat Indianapolis today & at this writing it seems the Carolina Panthers are doing in the Eagles. We'll head home tomorrow for the culmination of a very eventful year of hunting. Tomorrow is MLK & we're off, so we've taken advantage of the situation by staying over on the Sunday night.

Saturday, February 7 2004

We're at the camp for a cold weekend sojourn. John S & Jimmy K are here in John's boat. Yes, only one boat. The *Reel Love* handled the extra load admirably. We had to run the Lake Jesse route. We got here after seeing big ducks on the north side of Williams canal before Bay Batiste. We may have to locate where that flat is they're in. We ate lunch & relaxed and took naps until about 4 PM. We sojourned down to the clamshell dams and were presented w/2 nice champagnes of oysters by Rodney's Angel. He is a very generous man. These oysters are beautiful-large & thick. Holly swam around & chased her ball while we waded in the water commiserating w/Rodney. She did manage to cut her back paw on one of Rodney's oysters. We arrived at the camp about 5 PM and set to cooking supper. White beans and pork roast are on the dais for supper. We were conceived that it might be too late to eat if we lingered at Rodney's too long, but we can hang. It's too cold to be really comfortable out here, but we like it a bit chilly. Temps are running in the low 50's w/the wind, it really nails you a lot.

John S caught a couple of small reds off the wharf, but the wind chased him back to the camp in a short time. Polar tack is very necessary today. Tides are very low today, but will probably be lower tomorrow. We have a little roof work to do on the deck awning. The real work is on the roof of the new camp. It's leaking very badly & will be addressed soon. We just hope we can get the requisite help to do the work for the necessary period of time.

Friday, May 14, 2004

We're here for the first weekend of trawling- -John S & Jimmy King. We arrived W/ a windy but sunny day. We fixed roast beef po-boys for supper tonight.- -a very good supper. They were quickly done & very tasty. Didn't trawl this afternoon; we'll wait until in the morning.

Saturday, May 15, 2004

We made a 40-minute drag in the front tract & were able to pull only for 30 minutes in the back tract when the lightening and wind & rain chased us back to the camp. The rain came down for more than 2 hours so hard the John & Jimmy had to pump the boats every 15 minutes to keep them from filling W/water. The weather finally calmed down about noon & John & Jimmy took their naps w/less than an ice chest of shrimp caught so far. They went to the little pothole for the afternoon and finished filling up the ice chest. The real bonus is that there were a few nice shrimp in the pothole. Supper is a chicken fricassee w/lima beans. John made the roux w/brown flour & it was strong but tasty.

Charlotte & Rickey showed up at about 4:30 & they went fishing & caught 5 nice reds. All this happened before dark. The sun reappeared but the wind blew really hard this afternoon making it really nice to sleep. Had to cover up to stay warm. The generator ran the fans well.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 16

Sunday, May 16, 2004

We trawled this morning & have shrimp in 3 ice chests to sell (220 lbs) & we're bringing home a few to peel & the big ones will be split w/John & Jimmy taking each about 2 gallons home. We're heading in.

Friday, May, 21, 2004

At camp for this weekend: John S & Jimmy King for a weekend of trawling. We pulled the trawl for an hour in the back pothole & got not much. Supper is fried sausage & red beans & rice. We'll see in the morning how our trawling will get along.

Saturday, May 22, 2004

We made a drag in the pothole and it wasn't very good, so we tried the front tract & went back to the pothole. We trawled in the back tract & the pothole in the afternoon after naps. It was worse. Charlotte & Rickey won't be here until tomorrow. They're bringing ice- we'll need it this weekend it's much warmer than last week. Supper is done & we're resting up for tomorrow.

Sunday, May 22, 2004

We've made three drags this morning and we have about 2 ice chest (112 lbs.) to sell & about half what we had last week to bring home.

Saturday, May 29, 2004

We arrived at the camp: John S, Joey Doucet & Scott Slater - oh - Hinkley too. We got here & went out to trawl. We made 2 drags in the pothole & caught very little. At about 7 PM Jimmy King arrived. He was feeling a little pukey this morning. We BBQ' ed for supper. Jimmy made potato salad.

Sunday, May 30, 2004

We trawled a couple of drags this morning w/o any more success than yesterday. The wind whipped up above 25 mph today & a ride to Leeville for gas & ice was very interesting. John cooked OOO YI YI while Joey & Scott broke targets & Hinkley barked just like Holly does when we shoot. Everyone enjoyed the supper.

Monday, May 31, 2004

Happy Memorial Day! We made one drag this morning. John, Joey & Scott did the honors. Jimmy cleaned the camp. We're not selling the shrimp this weekend. We'll bring everything home because John won't be coming back for a while due to his up-coming tests & surgery. We have enough shrimp to peel a few bags of big shrimp (5bags) & a few more small shrimp (24 bags). We'll come back when we can.

Friday, September, 24, 2004

We're at the camp for the last weekend of teal season. We're here even though we've got really little in the way of proper equipment. Jimmy's boat is in the shop. We had to steal Rickey's boat. Because we don't have Jimmy's boat, we couldn't bring the big 16 footer to hunt from. We have the little pirogues instead of the big one. It'll be interesting. The tide is really high from the second up close & personal visit from Ivan. Tides are really high. None of John's flapper decoys were working so he discarded the lot of them. A wind-driven wonder duck is on its way from Cabelas. John's new WHITE truck is safely put

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 17

away in Pierce's boat stall. We grilled for supper & John's earache is really paining him a lot. His sinuses have attacked him in an all-out full court press. His ear is full of fluid & yawning or burping is very painful & after tonight's supper that'll be a lot of pain.

Saturday, September 25, 2004

Our morning hunt was on the bright side. We got 2 teal from a group of 3 that came in to the decoys about 6:15 or so. Holly did her job even though she dragged about 6 decoys back with her. We'll forgive her inadequacies for now. She's chasing a ball around the camp as this is written. She is insatiable when it comes to chasing tennis balls.

After cleaning the ducks, John & Jimmy worked on the wiring feed to the camp. After that was done, John worked on his outboard. The telltale water pump indicator was clogged so he cleaned it out. Lunch and naps ensued in that order and at about 3 PM, they arose to coffee & supper preparations. Chicken & lima beans took about 2 ½ hours to cook. Then again John likes to take time to cook. That way he gets to drink that much more beer. It was very toasty. John's ear has about calmed down, but his hearing is definitely affected. He has to use the left ear to hear what's going on while talking on the phone. His ear was leaking fluid last night, and he's hoping the damage isn't permanent.

Charlotte & Rickey aren't coming this weekend so we stole the Mom's toy at the right time. We've tried to catch minnows w/duck guts, which usually works well, but the high tide has the little fish deep in the marsh, so it's not a possibility for minnows this week. We may have better luck next week or in the future. We'll see.

We're not sure what the plans are for the upcoming hunting season-we'll see. It could be a very lonely season this year-with Joey & Trisha in Qatar it could be a long time between visits for them. We've been coming to the camp off & on during the summer, but not staying over night. We didn't log the trips because we had the logbook at home. Charlotte & Rickey have been pretty successful on their excursions. They caught red fish steady on during their late Sunday trips this summer.

Sunday, September 26, 2004

This is the last day of teal season. We're happy we got to hunt at all w/all the storms we've had. When we look at the damage the people in Alabama & western Florida suffered, giving up one weekend of teal season doesn't seem to be too bad.

Today was really nice. A beefy N wind at 12 or so was present. We almost got our hats knocked off by a bunch of teal at just daylight. They surprised the crap out of us, but only one straggler landed and we got him. Therefore, our total for the season was 3 teal. Not very encouraging for most people, but we're happily surprised.

Friday, October 15, 2004

We arrived at camp: John S & Jimmy King w/a load of lumber to work on an awning for the west side of the camp. We've got landscape timbers & a few treated 2X4's. We don't know if everything we have will be enough to what we want to do but we'll give it the old college try.

Vodka & grape soda goes down fairly well. Maybe there's a bit too much vodka in the glass, but who's measuring? Oh, yeah, Holly is here too. She is ready to fetch ball. We had a bit of trouble w/John's outboard on the way out. When he passed under the bridge one of the spark plug wires came undone. He also had a dead battery at the launch. His new little deep cycle battery did an admirable job of firing up the engine. Trying to fix the engine, John ran a direct gas line, but when that didn't work, he pulled off the cover of the 70 & he observed that he had a spark plug wire off the bottom plug. John figures he'd loosened it when he cleaned out the telltale water pump port a couple of weeks ago. Once he connected the plug the engine ran on w/no trouble.

We got here late and once things were set up supper was undertaken. Roast beef sandwiches w/roasted potatoes for supper were okay. John used too much Kitchen Bouquet in the gravy. Jimmy said it ate okay anyway. Ooh! The second swig of vodka & grape-flavored soda water tastes much better than the first. Holly said she likes the roast beef gravy on her kibble okay. It's really nice out here. We

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 18

had a little cold front come through last night (Thursday) and it's pretty cool w/a W wind getting it. Tomorrow it'll change around to the SW & we'll get the muggies back.

Well, John has 133 days before retirement. Retirement will be a good thing. Smoke cigars, drink beer U come to the camp. Something he can wrap himself around. Duck season starts in about 3 weeks & we really are waiting for it. We've got a little work to do, but we're ready. It doesn't look like we're going to need the generator to sleep tonight. It'll be really nice. Jimmy went to bed right after supper as usual, so John has to stay up & throw the ball for Holly & drink this nasty Taaka vodka. The camp handled the high water from Matthew well. No mud inside a la Isadore & Lilly in 2002. We're cruising here.

Saturday, October 16, 2004

We started on the W deck cover bright & early. John called Rickey & asked him to pick up the widow maker at Jimmy's house. Then he called Trisha & had her get John's medicine ready for Rickey to pick up. John & Jimmy got the uprights bolted in place & nailed the supports for the rafters in place. While they were cutting the rafters, Rickey showed up & delivered the widow maker. They finished the rafters they had – they were one short – by noon. Then they got John's wharf back in shape & ate lunch by the time Rickey left at 1:30 or so.

John S is waiting until Rickey gets back on the road before he takes a nap. Jimmy felt no such duty or responsibility and is sleeping off his morning's labor. So next weekend, we have to nail runners & screw the metal in place and we've got it made in the shade. Literally!!!

After naps no projects were undertaken. Hey, we're her to relax, so that's what we're doing, damn it! Oh, well, Jimmy did clean up his boat & checked his gas lines & John called home & told everyone what was going on. He did cast a plug a few times to check for silly red fish lurking near the camp, but no luck. At about 6:30 or so supper was started. We had white beans & fried Bourgeois's Jalapeño sausage. It was KILLER! The jalapeño flavor really gets it. We love it.

We'll be here next weekend on Saturday. Celeste Brown's nuptials are due to occur on Friday night. We've had a pretty hefty W wind all day long, but it sort of quits at about 8PM or so; that makes the generation a handy item during the night.

Saturday, October 23, 2004

We arrived at the camp at about 10:30 AM due to the nuptials of Celeste Brown-ne Celeste Doucet. It seems as if the Doucets are taking over the world. We started on the West Wing cover and were able to get everything done by 1:30. It took quite a concentrated effort, though. After we had sandwiches & naps we got up and had a little coffee. Après coffee, John started on supper & Jimmy King began installing supports on the porch cover uprights to support a 2X12 that will serve as a shelf for the new cover. He has grandiose plans for benches & drink tables & such. He was about half done when he stepped off the edge of the porch and fell sideways onto the rocks that are serving as wash protection. He went down really hard & he was holding screws in his hands so he didn't even put his hand down to break the fall. John was standing about 10 feet from him and thought surely he'd broken something. He fell really hard! He was bleeding from scrapes on his head & back & side. John thought sure a rib was broken, but he says he has not trouble breathing. We'll see what gives in the morning.

John grilled country style ribs so Jimmy had cracked ribs and country style ribs all in one evening. We had salad – yes – salad. John had to make the salad dressing w/mayo & olive oil & other flavorings that he found here at the camp. We'll try to finish the shelf tomorrow. The weather has been okay, but here we are at the third weekend in October & daytime temps are still in the mid to upper 80's. It'll be a really hot one for us until the end of the month for sure. We did have a really strong SE breeze all morning & the water was up in the boat yard, but just barely. No problems for people w/undercoated trucks. We've attacked the rat problem & found one dead rat in the new camp. We're expecting rain tomorrow, but it should hold off until the afternoon. At least we hope so. The new box of Peter Vella Burgundy will come in handy tonight. Jimmy may be in too much pain to sleep really well. A little wine may help w/that some.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 19

Friday November 12, 2004

We're here for the opening of the duck-hunting season. We are not very optimistic. WE saw no ducks at Jay's mud flat this afternoon. Jimmy King is convalescing from cracked ribs & bruised kidney & lung. He also had internal bleeding on this deal. He was very lucky that he wasn't hurt more. John S was very surprised that he was okay to stay out after he fell. John S wasn't surprised when he ended up in the hospital for a couple of days, though. He'll be here next weekend, however. John Pierce and John S are holding down the fort until he returns.

Supper tonight is smoked ribs & barbequed fresh pork sausage and brochette w/fresh tomatoes & mozzarella. We listened to oldies well into the evening. Burgundy wine was consumer.

Saturday November 13, 2004

The first morning of duck season is a bit disappointing. No shots fired. We saw only 5 ducks all morning. We didn't see those until 8 AM. John caught a nice speck from the wharf. Then they headed to Leeville to rescue JP's sunglasses & cigars. The tide is much lower than yesterday. The weather was perfect duck weather this morning. It was cloudy and cool in the 50's. It's a great day to hunt, not much of one for killing ducks. After leftover barbecue for lunch, naps ensued. JP slept for about 45 minutes and while JS slept, JP caught 2 more trout. It seems there are a few around here. Supper tonight is grilled hamburgers & green beans done w/tomatoes. It was an excellent repast. We're drinking wine & listening to LSU play Alabama. It's not very encouraging for the home team as LSU is trailing 10-3 at the present time. We'll need more burgundy wine for next week. It's down to the dregs this evening. We'll have to supercharge it before long. We NEED wine after supper here at the camp. It's much better than benedryl to make a person sleep well. The wine box is empty before 8:30. Peter Vella is a hell of a guy. LSU had made a big defensive play and finally have the lead at 13-10. Then they make a big offensive play & w/9 minutes left, it's 20-10 in favor of LSU. LSU scored with 4:56 left to make it 26-10 and of course, they missed the extra point. We're fighting to stay awake until the end of the game. Pierce has succumbed to the siren song of sleep & we wait for LSU to run out the clock on a major victory against the Tide. LSU wins 26-10. LSU's record goes to 7-2 on the year.

Sunday, November 14, 2004

We got a couple this morning. We shot 2 nice male grays out of 4 that came by. It's cloudy and warming on our way home. The wind is heavy from the SE.

Friday, November 19, 2004

We arrived at the camp fist at about 3:30- -John Pierce w/his new cell phone working. John S & Jimmy King arrived later, but not too much later. Jimmy made great time getting down the bayou today. This is Jimmy's first trip to the camp since his fall during construction of the **rib cage**. Supper tonight is grilled chicken & brochette with rice pilaf. Everyone enjoyed the meal. Two new boxes of Peter Vella Burgundy kept us up-lifted in our spirits until 9:15 or so.

Saturday, November 20, 2004

We're still not doing so well on the hunting. That's an understatement!!! We've seen many dos gris going south high up, but only had one buzz us in a shoot able attitude. He surprised us & we didn't get a shot at all. It's not rally duck weather this weekend. It's muggy, warm with light breezes. It's not a whole bunch of fun to sit in the blind for 3 hours w/no shots, but the enjoyable company makes the time pass. We're not sure if Jimmy can fire his gun in a pain free method - maybe we'll find out tomorrow. When we returned to the camp, we straightened thing up & got stuff put away. Jimmy went to sleep at about 10:30. John S ran to Leeville to get the fans & pierce started cooking chicken gumbo. At about noon, John S crashed as well. He got up at 3 PM & Jimmy King arose shortly after that. John S went down the canal & ran into Rodney's angel who gave him enough oysters for the gumbo.

The supper was really good. The gumbo tasted just right & Jimmy even enjoyed the brown rice. There may be rain tomorrow; we'll see.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 20

LSU has just kicked off to Ole Miss. LSU scored on their first possession. Ole Miss kicked a field goal & it's 7-3 w 7 minutes left in the first quarter. LSU scored again at the end of the first quarter to make it 14-3. Ole Miss scored w/7 minutes left in the first half to make it 14-13 LSU. LSU made a 51 yard field goal w/1:07 left in the first half to make it 17-13. Ole Miss kicked a last second field goal with less than 10 seconds left in the half & it's 17-16 at half.

Sunday November 21, 2004

Our morning hunt was a little brighter today. Two gray ducks were taken at about 7 AM. We saw far fewer birds flying today. We heard no other shooting. Jimmy King is going home today. We're waiting around to see if Wes will make it out here. We'll call at around noon to see what gives.

Wes arrived at 3 PM in Leeville. John picked him up in his boat & stole some of Jimmy's gasoline for the return trip. Wes shot clay targets and made a nuisance of himself for most of the afternoon. Supper was a repeat of the gumbo connection of Sunday.

After supper, a rousing game of fan-tan proceeded to unfold. Bedtime was just after 9 PM.

Monday, November 22, 2004

Our morning hunt was much like the others before it. There was a lot of sitting & watching & not much shooting. We did manage to knock down one gray duck as 4 circled by. John S says Joey's gun is very accurate. A short fishing excursion by Wes & John S got us 8 trout. They were dutifully cleaned & will serve as supper tonight along w/Rotel fresh sausage sandwiches. It was hard to tell what was tastier - the fish or the sausage sandwiches. As w/the previous evening, Fan-tan occupied us until 9 PM or so. John S & P hit the sack & Wes stayed up to do homework. Ah, the college life. He finished his paper at 10:30 PM or so.

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Our morning hunt results: John S & Wes Doucet and Duke sans Holly got 1 mottled duck. Pierce stayed to the camp & cleaned up heading. Holly kept him company due to Duke's exuberant behavior.

Friday, November 26, 2004

We arrived at about 9:30 AM. John S and Jimmy King are here. It's colder than last weekend; at least, it is today. The day started out in the 40's, but by noon it's up to 60 or so & the sun is out, but there's still a bite in the air. John Pierce & Shaun ended up getting here at about 11 AM. So we have a very healthy contingent on hand this weekend.

Saturday November 27, 2004

Our morning hunt was very dismal w/no shots fired by either group of hunters. John & Shaun P hunted in the old long paddle & had no shots. Jimmy & John S hunted the big blind ditto. The sun was out from sun up until about 8 AM. We heard thunder & saw blue-black heading toward us & decided discretion was the better part of valor & headed to the camp. Jimmy packed up and headed in just as the rain started. He probably had some major saturation before he made it back. By 9:20 or so the rain intensified & we're in the camp staying dry.

Sunday November 28, 2004

Our morning hunt was on the bright side. Trixie was there & kept the birds moving. He must be using enticement. We saw many birds flying, but John S got no shots. John & Shaun P got 2 grays & had chances on other birds as well. It's sunny bright & windy from the north. Beautiful, just fucking beautiful!

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 21

Friday, December 3, 2004

We're getting close to Christmas, and Sunday is the last day of the first split. Here for the end of this gloomy fortnight are Jimmy King and John Serigny. We arrived in the rain. It really started coming down after we got here & it rained fairly solidly until dark. After supper, it sort of settled down. It isn't very cold. We're hovering at about 60 degrees or so. Supper was roast beef sandwiches in grabby w/mushroom & onions. It was pretty good for a non-Harry's po-boy. Not exactly diet. We did have whole wheat bread, though. We had sweet peanut butter as an appetizer. That was rather enjoyable. The bottle of Tanqueray won't make it out of this weekend alive. One box of wine is in the garbage-most of the damage there was done last week. We still have Merlot even though the burgundy is gone. We may have a problem before the weekend is over. If it rains as much as they expect it to & we sit around the camp a lot, the Merlot may not be enough to keep us going through Sunday. We'll see-there's always beer.

We've heard that the last cold front pushed many birds down. We'll see tomorrow. We can stand the rain. We just hope there won't be too many lightening bolts coming down. That could chase us back to the camp really quickly.

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Morning hunt - oh, what a beautiful day to duck hunt- it was cloudy with NE wind @10-15. Temps were in the 50's A truly great day. We were surprised by 4 teal early & missed our shot at them. A drake mallard gave us a fly-by, but we waited on the shot & lost our opportunity. At about 7:30 3 grays came in to the decoys. John S knocked down 2 and Jimmy ZIPPED on the third. Our total for the morning was 2 gray ducks. We've signed off on the big blind and will hunt elsewhere tomorrow.

We returned to the camp and cleaned up and took care of the ducks. After that Jimmy tried to crank his engine to pump his boat & discovered the control box was so screwed up that he couldn't turn the engine over. Evidently the messed up control box wouldn't let the shift control go into neutral. We called Rickey & got permission to use his boat, so we towed **The Tub** in to Leeville. (it took an hour & 15 minutes through Lake Jesse) & came back out w/ Jimmy running the **Mom's Toy**. We finished with all these travails at about 12:40 or so. We put out a minnow trap & ate lunch & were in bed by 1 PM. Jimmy slept until 3. John stayed to bed until 4. Naturally, they did no fishing. Supper tonight is hamburgers W/grilled onions & mushrooms & wild rice as a side. We've had lettuce & tomatoes on sandwiches 2 nights in a row. We're making sacrifices, but enjoying ourselves nonetheless. Jimmy played with his new set of lights, and he is currently reading by the light of his new headlamp. He's decided it's quite functional. John is writing his historical record & enjoying a Punch Grand Crue & a glass of Merlot. An enjoyable evening is being had by all. Navy walloped Army today & Auburn is putting it to Tennessee right now in the SEC championship game. It looks like USC will get their undisputed shot at a national championship this year. The game is turning around a little w/ 2 minutes left in the first half, Auburn leads 28-21. Tennessee brought it to 31-28 in the 4th quarter. The day has been very gloomy and dark w/clouds & no sun at all today-a wonderful day to be at the camp. With 7 minutes left Auburn went up 10 pts. 38-28, and with less than 4 minutes left Tennessee turned the ball over on downs. It looks like Auburn will go 12-0 for the season. Auburn takes the SEC championship 38-28 and finished 12-0. What a season!

Sunday, December 5, 2004

We're not going hunting today. We'll head home. Rain & calm winds w/gnats is not hunting weather.

Friday, December 17, 2004

Arrived at the camp yesterday- John Pierce. He stayed to the camp thought he had no working butane bottle. He had a sandwich and a soft drink for breakfast. We couldn't have handle it, but he said he had a wonderfully relaxing stay.

John S & Jimmy King arrived at about 4:30 or so. After unloading the boat and setting up the lanterns, we grilled steaks & pork chops for supper. We had baked jams to go w/it. It was enjoyable.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 22

John P & John S stayed up until 9 PM talking & enjoying adult beverages. Jimmy went to bed at 6:30 or so.

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Our morning hunt was on the dismal side. John S & Jimmy in Jay's flat's shallow end got 1 gray. John hunted in the long paddle and did not fire a shot. He did run into Rodney's angel and Rodney gave him a champagne of big fat oysters. Rodney is a very generous fellow. He even came to the camp and gave John & Jimmy each a champagne of oysters as well. John P went back to the long paddle to get his decoys & Rodney was there again & gave John P another basket of oysters. All in all we've received 4 champagnes of oysters from Rodney's angel. He is exceedingly generous. Naps ensued after hot dogs & chili for lunch. We're expecting cold weather, but it was warm this afternoon. We even had gnats while JP was opening oysters on the E side of the new camp.

Tonight's supper is oyster soup prepared by Jimmy King. He DID make a horrendous mess on the stove w/tomato sauce. No more complaining about John's mess.

Sunday Morning, December 19, 2004

Our morning hunt- John P 1 gray duck on Pointe Des Huites, John & Jimmy in the pond before the flat knocked down 1 gray duck & it got away before Holly could locate it. Later John & Jimmy missed on a pair of grays. That was the first miss for John w/ Joey's gun.

Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Yeah, we've taken a lot of time off over the last week. But, you know, Christmas & all. It did snow on Christmas day-first time in 50 years for Louisiana. I must've been too young to remember it. We arrived at about 11 AM-well, maybe it was a little before 11, but not much. We brought the new table for the rib cage. Jimmy has spent a lot of time getting this edifice ready for deployment at the camp. It's a companion piece to the rib cage. We'll work on securing it in place tomorrow. Today, John got the shower platform completed. It's a great oyster repository. We had a sandwich at about noon & then slept until about 3 or so. It was really nice to take a nap out here. Yesterday, John brought Patrice Fournes's parents out here. They caught 4 keeper fish-3 sheep head & 1 red fish that was a keeper. They had a great time.

After naps and afternoon coffee, John & Jimmy went on a fact-finding excursion to the dams up front & ran into Rodney & they got a champagne & a half of really nice oysters from him. They also espied many more around the clamshell dams and the rock dams on the Tennessee Gas pipeline. Rodney said he may be able to provide more oysters there in the future. He is such a generous fellow. Supper tonight was pork fricassee w/ lima beans & brown rice-a very fibrous repast. We hope to see a few more birds tomorrow. It doesn't look as though there are a lot out here, though.

The tides have been exceedingly low since the snow on Christmas Day, but we're into a new regime of SW flow & we'll be warming up very much over the next few days. That means fog for us. We may hunt in Rodney's flat tomorrow so we can figure out where to go. We may have to leave a little later than usual because of the fog. We'll see. Another member of the old guard passes today. Mr. Milton died today. It's been a long time coming for him. He may not have always been the best friend to all of us & he certainly wasn't loved by many of us. But he suffered a lot the last few years of his life and surely that will be a good thing to be ended. We'll miss him out here.

Jimmy crashed about 8 PM. John wants to check out "West Wing." It may be a rerun. It's sort of cool, like, not cold or hot out here, if you get my drift. We've had upper 50's at night & in the low 70's during the day. Nice to sleep & warm during the day; the only bad thing is GNATS!!!

Thursday, December 30, 2004

Our morning hunt in Rodney's flat was a ZIPPO affair. We had one pintail come early, but we didn't shoot at it because we weren't ready. Tomorrow is the last chance at pintails for us, we think. We believe the pintail season ends on Monday.

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 23

We finished the shower stall deck & step & Jimmy's bench is now fully functional. Tides are a little higher today. Thus, there are quite a few fishermen running around today. We haven't tried fishing because we can't catch minnows. Plus, we had a lot of project work to get done. This evening we have to deal w/the oysters Rodney gave us, so we may not fish any then either. It's 12:30 right now & naps'll be coming up very soon. Holly is upset it will hinder her ball chasing. Naps lasted until 3 PM. After naps we took 2 hours to open Rodney's generous donation to our larder. Supper prep began at 5 PM. Supper is chicken & lima beans in tomato sauce. National news is replete w/horror stories about the tsunami in the Indian Ocean. We hope Trisha & Joey are okay. We believe they are, but haven't heard from them as of yet.

Friday December 31, 2004

Happy New Year! We had a good hunt this morning. Actually, it was the best hunt of the year so far as a matter of fact. We got 5 ducks and 1 rail total. We hunted in the middle flat between Rodney's and John Pierce's old pond and got 2 pintail, 2 green wing teal & 1 dray along with the rail. We're cleaning up and heading in.

Friday, January 7, 2005

John & Shaun Pierce arrived at the camp at about 2:30. They brought a bunch of John S's stuff because they were in Jan P's exploder due to John's recent vehicular mishap. John S had to carry a pirogue for Shaun Pierce. Jimmy King didn't make the trip on Friday, so John S put the extra pirogue in Jimmy's boat & he'll bring it out tomorrow when he arrives. John S got here at about 4 PM and he had the generator w/him and a few other pieces of equipment. After amenities were taken care of, John S made roast beef & gravy sandwiches for supper. Nine fifteen arrived & there were a couple of clack & tans consumed before the hands of the clock showed bed time was eminent. Weather is warm & wind is from SE & it's muggy. We've had 70's during the day and mid 60's at night.

Saturday, January 8, 2005

Our morning hunt had us see many ducks flying around and getting few shots. John P & Shaun P got 1 gray duck. Shaun P is credited w/the kill. When we got back from hunting & after the duck was cleaned, we started putting the TV antenna together. About halfway through the process, Jimmy King arrived. We completed the antenna installation & the manufacturing of our flagpole by 12:30 or so. We have great reception. John P's color TV is really a great addition to the camp. After Jimmy ate & took a nap, John S got antsy and paddled out behind the camp & found Rodney's angel who gave him about a champagne of really nice oysters. Rodney is such a generous fellow.

Supper tonight is Andy's fresh sausage cooked in Rotel. John P is doing the cooking and it smells really good. The antenna is working really well. We're watching WBRZ out of Baton Rouge today. The NFC wild card game is on right now. St. Louis leads Seattle 14-10. Today was an unusual weather day for January. We stared out w/rain & had cloudy skies w/N wind at about 8-12. The temps rose a little in mid-morning & the gnats really came out big. We opened oysters before supper & the temps got cooler as the evening progressed.

Sunday, January 9, 2005

Our morning hunt in much fog today got John S & Jimmy each a Friday duck (PT teal). John & Shaun P got ZIP. It is really warming up. We're going home.

Saturday, January 15, 2005

We're here for the weekend/beginning- -John S & Jimmy King. We'll be here until Monday. Monday is MLK day. We didn't come out Friday because of Mrs. Callais's health issues. She is back home, though, so Jimmy has been able to make it out here. We arrived at about 10:30 or so. We started working on the entertainment center immediately. We got it completed by 1:30 or so & Jimmy watched "O Brother Where art Thou?" As soon as the work was complete. After the DVD, John put the TV on the

Camp Log Book XIII

Page 24

Jets Steelers game. The battery died during the second half, but it had given us 4 ½ hours of play time. John switched to his little TV & its c-cell batteries & watched Pittsburg beat NY 20-17 in overtime. Atlanta is tied w/St Louis as this is written 7-7. It's cold this week. We're expecting 39 degrees tomorrow morning & Monday as well. It's sunny today, but clouding over late in the afternoon. Warwick Dunn just ran 60 yards for a touch down & it's 14-7 Falcons.

Sunday, January 16, 2005

Our morning hunt was on the chilly side. It seems the tide has not fallen too far, though. John & Jimmy hunted the broken marsh between John P & Rodney's flat. They got 3 birds- -one red head and a couple of mergansers for a smoking experiment. Charlotte & Rickey arrived at about 10 AM or so & got to fishing right away. Many undersized reds were caught and a few sheep head were apprehended as well. While Charlotte & Rickey went fishing at the fence and Milton's pipe, John & Jimmy went down Williams canal toward Leeville & ran into Rodney's angel. Rodney gave them a champagne & a little bushel full of oysters. He's a very generous fellow. Supper was fried oysters wrapped in bacon & field peas & brown rice. We also had some fried sheep head. New England beat Indianapolis 20-3 today, so it's Pittsburgh and New England in the AFC championship game.

Monday January 17, 2005

Upon arising this morning we found it much colder and windier than yesterday. We've decided to forego the hunting this morning. We'll open a few oysters & hit the road. All that, of course, will be done after we get the toilets to flush correctly.

Friday, January 21, 2005

John Pierce arrived at the camp early in the day from Mrs. Callais's funeral. John Serigny arrived at about 3:35 after John P's naps were over. After getting unloaded, John S & P took a run to see where the birds are. It seems they are scattered between Rodney's and Jay's. Supper tonight is pork ribs smothered in onions. We decided to give up on the duck gumbo for tomorrow night and will have corned beef spaghetti instead.

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Morning hunt: John S 1 gray duck in the broken marsh East of Rodney's flat, John P got 1 widgeon in the broken marsh across the flat from where John S was. John P had birds landing all around him, just not near his decoys. Major windy weather is on the way and should be here tonight. If it's too rough, we won't be hunting tomorrow. John S went down to the clam shell dams at about noon & ran into Rodney's angel. He gave John a half a bushel (a little black basket) of nice single oysters. John thought it wasn't a lot but Rodney is very generous as we all know by now, and that was all he had. Really, John & John took about an hour to open the oysters. They decided to cook the 2 ducks they got today. Yes, they'll be having duck, pork & oyster gumbo tonight. They decided that it would be an abomination to go a whole duck season & not eat duck at the camp. It was excellent as well.

Sunday January 23, 2005

This is the last day of duck season for 2004-2005. A gigantic cold front came through last night at about 9:30 or so. This morning the wind is really whistling from the N. I'd estimated 25-30. Yup, gale force for sure. We'll have to take extra precautions on the way in today. It's been a pretty poor year. We only killed 25 birds all year. Last year, we were in the 30's- -36 or so. This year has not been kind to us. It's been a long time since we killed 50 ducks for the year. It may be a while, yet. We'll be back in a couple of weeks to visit w/Rodney's Angel.

ADDENDUM

Over the course of the last couple of years many people have visited the camp in times of foul weather and threatening conditions. We're not sure when the habit began, but people began to leave us notes telling us how much they appreciated the "port in the storm" to quote one of the note writers. We thought you'd enjoy reading their comments.

June 20, 03 Thanks for the use of the camp. The weather was terrible, but the camp was great. Thanks to a courteous person. Cleaned up. Thanks again and GOD Bless America - Paul Stovalt

June 29, 03- -Thank for being a very kind person and use of the camp. Weather got bad. May God Bless people like you. Thanks Darwin, Aaron, Lensy

July 20, 03- -Thanks for a port in the storm. Got pretty rough today and you saved us.- -God Bless

No Date- -Thanks for the shelter! God Bless Y'all. Oln & Elton Berry - Crystal Springs, MS

August 31 @ 4 PM - -Thank you for your hospitality! We weathered the storm at your camp. Much appreciated. ♥

Then we wrote on the top of a tablet "Please sign guest registry!" (That was Charlotte's idea) and this is what we got:

Al & Leni 31 July - storm. Thanks.

8/28/04 Oln & Elton Berry, Crystal Springs, MS Thanks as always.

8/28/04 Tammy Hartley - Thank you

8/28/04 Dee Ls Bourne

8/28/04 Linda Fulton (Thank You)

8/28/04 Stephanie Rabalais Thanks

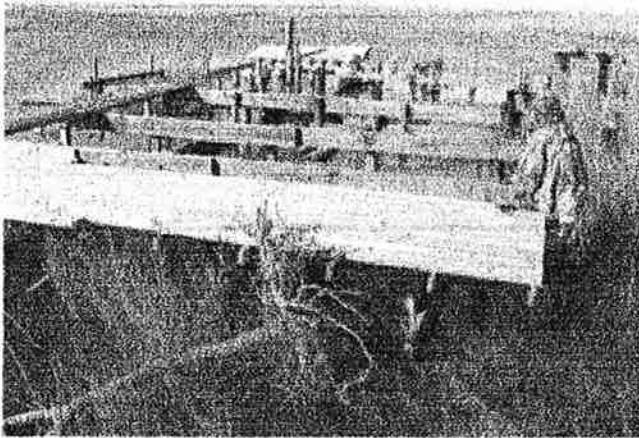
9/3/04 Kenny De Marie - Storm THANKS! 3 IN 1 DAY.

9/4/04 David D. Carrier Didn't catch any shrimp again. Hailee said Hi. God Bless ya'll

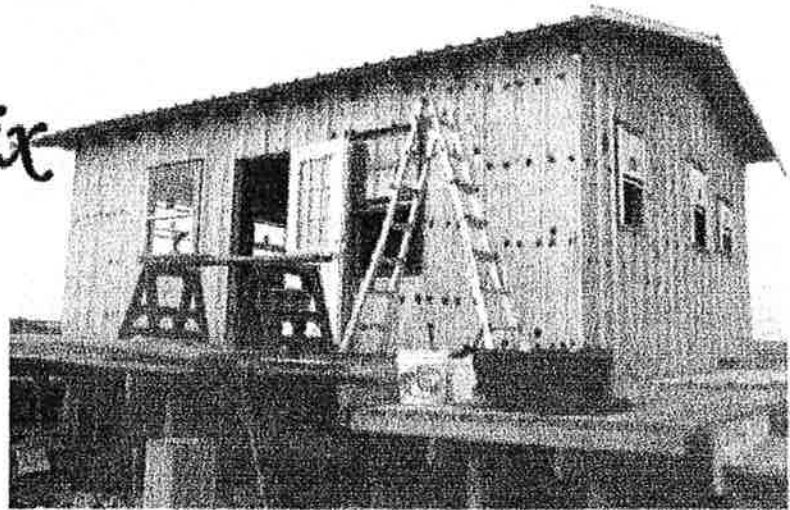
Camp Log Book XIV- -A

December 17, 2005 -

- January 21, 2007



Camp Phoenix



A replacement for the original book XIV
which was lost in *Hurricane Katrina* on
August 29, 2005

Camp Log Book XIV- -A

A replacement for the original book XIV which was lost in the destruction of the camp during Category 4 Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005.

This book begins with the construction of the new camp constructed on the site of the original structure. The new feat of engineering expertise being named "The Phoenix".

Entry dated: December 17, 2005- -Saturday

Our camp is beginning to arise from the ashes of the former buildings. On August 29, 2005 Category 4+ hurricane Katrina washed away just about all of the structure that had been a large part of our lives for so many years. When Jimmy King and John S visited in September, there were only Charlotte and Rickey's wharf, Jimmy's wharf, and the east deck left. Oh, there were at least 2 sections of the old deck under the rib cage left, but they were badly damages as well.

Then, a couple of weeks later, hurricane Rita (another cat 4 +) roared into Lake Charles, but she pushed water with a SE wind all week and raised a good 5 to 6 feet of water over the structure again. She took Jimmy's Wharf and one of the ribcage deck sections. That left us with one wharf and one section of deck to our compound. Not a tremendous level of infrastructure remaining.

We waited to get started on doing something about the rebuilding. In the interim Louie King offered us the debris lumber washed up on his property in Grand Isle. We went out there a couple of weekends and salvaged lumber and then we began tearing down his boat stalls as per his request.

The stalls were too small for offshore boats and Louie felt his bottom line would be more greatly enhanced with a trailer (camper) slot situation than the one he had. He offered us materials in exchange for our work and we agreed. We spent at least 3 weekends tearing stuff down and working out there. We really wanted to help, so reconstruction went on the back burner until things on the Island were clearer. We even salvaged pilings. We also got roofing metal and lots of 2x6's for initial construction. We also found 2x4's and creosoted lumber that were collected and stored at Louie's until we could transport them to Leeville.

In October we rented a jet pump and jetted down 11 or so pilings and at least a dozen landscape timbers to shore up the foundation we had left and we added about 6 feet to the back of the foundation (away from Williams canal) so the camp building itself could be further off the canal. We then connected the stringers and built the foundation, then floor joists and sub floor. We painted the sub floor a week after the first split of duck season started. We even took a Sunday off to duck hunt during the Thanksgiving holidays.

On that hunt Jimmy killed a dosgris and John S knocked down a gray duck that they lost. John didn't send Holly right away, so the bird swam off even though many shots were fired in the general direction of said escapee.

When the first split ended, walls were up and ceiling joist had been added. Then the rafters were put in place, and before the second split began, the metal was screwed down to the roof. John S, Jimmy King, and Rickey Mitchell have all done an outstanding job with the construction. It's long and laborious, but very satisfying. There's still a very long way to go to complete the project, but headway is being made.

This Saturday (12/17/05) the weather has kept us home. Jimmy King is also not feeling well, so here we sit. We should've gone hunting, but today would be tough for that. It's really great hunting weather, it's cloudy and windy and spitting drizzle here and there, but w/o a camp for respite and warmth, we'll pass.

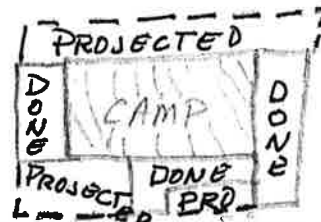
Roger Brown is working on our front door frame. He's volunteered to do our cabinets as well. We'll see how that progresses. John Pierce is out of commission big time. He's had surgery on his neck vertebrae. He's had 2 of them fused and is convalescing in Denham Springs. He originally said he was out of the whole deal, but since has recanted and seems to be excited about the new construction. John P even ceded his boat stall to Rickey, though we haven't been able to put his boat in it yet as we are using the thing for lumber storage. Our boat stalls were about the only ones that survived Katrina. We talked to Ms Belle and she said she'll rebuild eventually. We've saved a whole lot of money on what we've done so far. We'll be spending a lot though soon when we get to the inside of the place. The windows have been purchased, and John S is building the casements. He has one left to do. Unfortunately, he's run out of 2x6's. He'll finish today, though, for sure.

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Well, John still has one window casement left to do. It'll take some doing to get 2x6's. John and Jimmy should go to Grand Isle today to get what they have left out there. There will be some work done today, though not at the camp site.

Right now the camp has a roof on it, but no walls inside or outside have been installed. We're working on walkways to do the exterior walls right now. We've got some done, but we're progressing on the remainder.

Walkway sketch:



The cam is 24'x 18'. It's quite an edifice.

At about 9 AM John S & Jimmy King drove to Leeville and dropped off 12 landscape timbers at the boat stall. They went to grand Isle from there and secured a 24' creosote board 2.5" x 12". They cut it to 15 feet and 9 feet and will use it at the camp for the front deck. They also selected 4 appropriately sized pilings and cut them to 10' 6" for the cistern support. They loaded up the afore-mentioned materials and then loaded the other truck with 2x6 lumber and headed for Leeville. They off loaded the big stuff at the boat stall and brought the 2x6 lumber to Larose. After lunch they were unloaded at Jimmy K's to be de-nailed at leisure.

John S finished the last window casement after the saints lost to Carolina 24-10. Aaron Brooks is gone, Jim Haslett should be and Tom Benson needs to sell the team and get his ass permanently out of the football business. Enough editorializing.

Monday December 19, 2005

John S and Jimmy K went to work on the camp today and were very successful in getting some progress made on the N side walkway. They added runs to the front walkway and added length to the E side deck as well. The stringers for the N side deck are all put together. Our next workday is scheduled for Wednesday, but it'll be a tough one as Jimmy's tilt and trim is not working very well. His motor won't trim down. We'll be using Rickey's boat on Wednesday when we head back to the camp. We may have gotten a little more done today if we hadn't forgotten the tools in Jimmy's truck necessitating a run back to Leeville before starting work again. We should be able to wrap up the decks this week and tackle the windows and outer walls next week. We're perilously close to spending the night out there.

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

John & Jimmy King went to complete the N walkway today and got the job done by 1 PM. Nailing the surface boards was done in one hour. It took 2 and a half hours to build the supports between the stringers. It was a pretty cold day today though the sun came out at about noon and warmed up the area well enough to keep us from freezing. What really helped was the electric coffee pot Jimmy King brought with him. A pot of coffee when we got there and one at noon (a stouter, more-

flavorful brew) really helped the day pass by quickly. We have to finish the canal side deck next, and then we'll be putting in window casements. After that's done we'll be putting the metal on the walls. That could be the turning point for the place.

Christmas is upon us and this weekend will be spent in celebration. We'll be heading back Monday again to try and get more work done. We have the holes in the roof metal to plug as well as the walkways and windows. We have finally used up Louie's 2x6's and we're on our own now when it comes to lumber. Thankfully, we've just about finished major construction requiring big lumber. We still have metal to do and we have Louie to thank for a good supply of metal for the exterior walls. We'll be putting those up in the very near future.

Thursday, December 22, 2005

John S hauled the completed window casements to Leeville today. Jimmy K's boat was gone and it seems it's on its way to Houma for repair of the tilt-n-trim device. Tomorrow we go to the camp for construction.

Friday, December 23, 2005

John S and Jimmy King went to the camp site today and completed the walkway work and began the window placement. The weather was sunny and milder than the other 2 workdays this week. John & Jimmy placed the previously built window casements for the 2 bathroom windows. There are 7 left to do. John feels he and Rickey can knock those out this coming Monday. Then we'll start the outside walls.

Monday, December 26, 2005

John S and Rickey Mitchell went to the camp today and completed the casement installation. It seems that Wednesday is the next workday scheduled and that we may get rain for that. John and Rickey installed 3 window casements before lunch and Rickey caught minnows with a minnow trap they got from the boat stall. While John took a break, Rickey started fishing and in a couple of minutes had a keeper. He kept on fishing until he had 10 keeper reds and 1 flounder.

While he fished, John installed the 2 kitchen window casements. After the fishing was over, John & Rickey showed some guys from Baton Rouge where to catch the fish and they proceeded to catch a few. John and Rickey installed the big front windows and headed back in at about 2:30 or so to clean fish at John's house.

Monday, January 2, 2006

Happy New Year! We are very glad to see 2006 get here, mostly to get rid of 2005, which has NOT been kind to us. They hauled styro board and slats to put on the studs for metal. We should get a couple of walls closed in this coming weekend. We should get a couple of walls closed in this coming weekend. We'll have to put up slats first, though. We'll have to nail the clamps on the rafters, too, so that'll take some time. Hopefully, Saturday and Sunday will see us really get some work done. We haven't gotten very much done in the past 2 weeks. Only the window casements have gotten done so far. Much of that is due to Surgery, Surgery, and surgery. John's teeth and Susan's shoulder and elbow. We hope that things have leveled off a little for now. Duck season is a total and complete loss. We've only made one hunt so far and there are very few birds out there anyway. We'll see what happens in the next 3 weekends.

We were concerned about oysters. Last summer there were people out there harvesting them commercially. Well, I've been out there at low tide and there are oysters out there, man are there oysters out there. I'm going to get some very soon.

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Last Sunday Jimmy King and John S went to the camp and started putting metal on the outside walls of the camp. They worked until 1:45 and were able to put one wall on the N side up. That'll mean that it'll take quite a while to complete the walls. It seems we won't finish before the duck season ends. We do have a 3 day weekend next week. If Jimmy feels like working all 3 days, we may be able to

accomplish something- -at least a couple of walls. Then maybe we can spend the night Saturday and hunt Saturday afternoon. There are quite a few ducks in Jay's mud flat, so we'd really like to be there and take advantage. It's been really hard work for us, but we're getting really close.

John is going to be going to the camp tomorrow on his own to install a couple of windows on the wall that was just completed. This will save time down the line with completion of the outside skin.

On Saturday John and Jimmy worked on completing the slats for the wall metal. John S ripped old weatherboards from Joe Joe's garage at Dallas's house and some new 8' pine 1x4 lumber was also purchased for the job. Hurricane clips were installed on the N side ceiling joists and most of the South side ceiling joists. They installed styroboard as far as they could on the south side without the front door. That'll take some measurement and piecing, so they left it alone for now.

The slats on the rafters on the peaked side are the only ones left to install. John may make an attempt on those tomorrow. We'll see.

Tomorrow's weather may be mild enough to allow a solo run to the camp. John will check things out in Leeville before he makes the run. He'll bring 2 windows with him and may try to install some slats while he's there.

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

John S went to the camp today and installed the 2 north side windows. He got to the camp at 8:30 on a very chilly gray day. The tide was very low, though not as low as Sunday last. After installing and caulking the windows, John installed slats on the West side rafters and an additional cross slat in preparation for installing the metal on the west side Saturday. More slats are needed for the E side rafters and those will be prepared tomorrow if at all possible. This weekend is a 3-day one and we may be able to get some work done if everyone is able.

Thursday, January 12, 2006

John and Jimmy picked up the front door and frame from Roger Brown today. The metal door is hinged and Roger even installed a lock set with a deadbolt lock in the door and frame. It was delivered to Leeville for transport to the camp after being picked up in Golden Meadow. John and Jimmy put it in Jimmy King's boat before leaving, and managed to inflict a little damage to the bar that keeps the bottom of the frame together. John will go to Leeville today to repair it.

Friday January 13, 2006

John S Has come up with a logo and a name for the cam. See below

Saturday, January 15, 2006

John S and Jimmy K went to the camp to work today. They put up metal on the West wall and started on the East wall. At the end of the day, the East wall is half completed. They will return tomorrow.

Sunday, January 15, 2006

John S and Jimmy King and Rickey and Charlotte Mitchell went to the camp today. The tide was running exceedingly low, but it wasn't nearly as low as it was on Saturday. While John S and Rickey put up metal on the East side, Charlotte was catching fish. By 9:30 she had most of all 4 limits caught. These were all keepers as well. She dutifully returned the small fish to the water as soon as they were measured and found lacking in length. Jimmy was sealing old holes in the tin and everyone was busy and it was quite a ways to noon when Charlotte announced that she had the 20 total fish she needed to fill everyone's limit.

John and Rickey finished the East wall and John, Jimmy and Rickey then tackled the south wall. (Front door wall of the camp.) By quitting time they'd put up the first 3 sheets of tin there. Before they



THE PHOENIX

started metal, they had installed the West side windows and after lunch the E side bathroom window was done. In the metal installation/window installation 4 days of work, John used 20 tubes of latex caulk. Every window was caulked on the outside edge of the casement under the metal. Then the window installation required a lot of caulk. Twenty tubes of caulk is really a lot. You're looking at over \$40 just for caulk.

On Saturday, John and Jimmy had installed the front door and frame built by Rover Brown. Roger donated his time and effort and even installed a lock set and dead bolt in the door and put the hinges in place as well.

Monday, January 16, 2006

Martin Luther King day. Well, everyone has the day off to celebrate MLK, so we decided to come out and work. We brought the last of the windows to install. Charlotte and Rickey are here today, too, but they'll be going in early because Rickey starts his week of work tonight. Jimmy caulked holes while John and Rickey worked on metal. The metal work was completed before 11:30. After that windows were installed and one by 12:30. Charlotte and Rickey headed in them. John and Jimmy worked on the front door. It had been taken down off the frame to work on the metal earlier. When it was re-installed, it didn't close properly. After an hour of adjustments and re-securing, it closed again.

John and Jimmy left the camp at about 2:30 or so and checked Jay's flat. There were between 20 and 30 birds in there. Now that the outside of the camp is done, we'll hunt next week.

Friday, January 20, 2006

We arrived early this morning. It took us until noon to set the place up to spend the night. Yes, we are spending the night here. We've gotten the walls and the roof done so we're all ready to give it a try. We'll be having rain-that's for sure. Moisture from the gulf and a front are trying to come through tomorrow morning. This afternoon may not be so bad.

The place is pretty comfortable, but we had really bad luck here and someone stole most of the stuff Jon had carried out on Thursday. They stole John's shoes, propane cylinders, a blue Rubbermaid tote full of rope and stuff. They stole cast iron pots and pans. They stole my brand new Ducks Unlimited calendar. It's pretty depressing. They looked for anything they needed. Basically they stole the good stuff only. Well, there you go. Back to the beginning.

After supper entry- We're still discovering things that were taken from the camp yesterday. The little barbeque pit and charcoal are gone.

John S & Jimmy went to Jay's flat and set decoys and put up the blind and hunted there for about 25 minutes. When they got back after having no chances, they grilled steaks and cooked broccoli and rice. After supper John is writing in this log and drinking some Christian Brothers XO brandy.

It's cool tonight with a south wind. It should be really high tide in the morning. We should have no problems getting into Jay's flat. Oyster harvesting may be another story. Fishing??? Enh? Maybe, Maybe NOT (if it's raining) though the specks should be biting well with the SE flow.

The Christian Brothers XO is very good. Jimmy had some problems with his boat pump this afternoon. Luckily, John packed a spare, so we were able to get the gallons of water out of Jimmy's boat. We have left the pirogues in the marsh. Hopefully they'll still be there in the morning. The way things are going you can never tell. ■

Jimmy ate supper and then laid down on his inflatable bed and I'm sure will be sleeping before long. Tomorrow is a new day; we can only hope. As I expected, Jimmy fell asleep before 8 PM. John is still up, but the Christian brothers are trying to get him to go to bed really soon. It may be a good idea. Of course, first gas must be put in the generator and other tasks must be accomplished.

Saturday, January 21, 2006

It rained all night long. Jimmy was up pumping his boat at 1 AM. John woke up soon thereafter and went outside, but Jimmy had pulled the bilge plug in his boat and the water was flowing out. "You can't sink that boat." Eddie was right.

The rain continued through the morning hunt and it's very mild and the gnats gave us fits. Before we left the flat, though, we ran into Rodney's angel and he gave us enough oysters for supper.

It's white beans and oysters wrapped in bacon for supper. Really great! We took naps after opening the oysters and went back to Jay's flat for the afternoon hunt.

John S & Jimmy got 2 nice male pintails and had some shots on grays that they missed. That was all between 4:30 and 5:30 in the evening. They're sort of pumped about the morning now. Tomorrow will be a biggie. Packing up to go in will be a bear, but all the months of work are worth it now. We're back in the duck business now; even the thievery is a thing of the past. We're content. John & Jimmy's big Adventure is going on again. Supper was great. Coming out-a pleasure. Even the gnats seem kinder and gentler somehow. All is right with the world with pintails in the ice chest. The amazing thing is we still can hunt tomorrow morning.

The tides are running a little above normal right now - well, not above normal, but higher than they've been in a month. It's amazing. We have enough water to get into Jay's flat and there's even a cut to go through now that we didn't have last year. We're not sure if that's a good thing, but we'll take it.

The "Phoenix" needs some work. We have to start with plywood and install a toilet Pronto. Sanitary facilities are really primitive. We need a sink badly. The mess KP crew is complaining bitterly about the lack of amenities, so we've got our work cut out for us.

We're sure things will continue to come together although slowly. Hopefully by summer we'll have the cistern up and a stove and sink installed. It'll make the place more livable and less rustic and Spartan.



April 9, 2006

We came to camp Phoenix for a day of fishing and evaluation. Everything seems to be in place from when we were here last. We're a long, long way from done here, but we plan to make the effort next weekend. It's been over 2 months since the last weekend of hunting season and many things have transpired-including Mardi Gras, the SOYS banquet, Louie King is Sportsman of the Year for 2006 and Trisha and Joey are back in Houston. We continue to muddle along.

Friday, April 21, 2006

We arrived for a weekend of work and relaxation. John Pierce and John S arrived at about 10 or so. Our late arrival was facilitated by Jimmy K's balky back. We were supposed to meet at Serigny's house at 8 AM and Jimmy was a no-show. So at 9:15 he was called and related his story of woe. JP & JS took the tools and headed to Leeville. After unloading boats, they awaited a call from Roger Brown. He and Dylan arrived in Leeville at about 1 PM & JS got them and 5 sheets of plywood and came to the camp.

We'll forego working today and get started tomorrow. Pierce is grilling on the 175 mph barbeque pit from John's house. Country style ribs & sausage will be done this evening.

Saturday, April 22, 2006

We woke up at 6 AM and after breakfast began construction on the bathroom. Roger Brown and Dylan proved to be very efficient at nailing plywood. Roger was his efficient self and cut and measured at a blinding pace as Dylan worked diligently to keep up. They had 5 sheets put up in about an hour and a half. We went to Leeville to get the other 5 sheets of plywood. We got ice and other supplies we needed for tonight & headed back to the camp.

The work on the walls was done by eleven o'clock, and the toilet was installed shortly thereafter. Now we have flushie mode - of course, that's with a bucket, as the cistern is not yet installed, but it certainly is more convenient than the bucket and the garbage bag routine. Roger tried his hand at

fishing again, and he only succeeded in snagging a catfish or two. Maybe this afternoon when it's cooler, we can go into the marsh and entice a few specks to bite.

After naps and John, Roger, and John watching Dylan put up insulation, at about 4:15 or so John S, Dee & Roger took off to fish in the marsh. They tried the little Island and Mom's spot with only a few catfish to show for the effort. We went down to Rickey and Charlotte's spot and, naturally, Roger caught a nice speck just about the time we were preparing to leave. John was forced to drink some of Roger's beer so we could hand around for more fishing. Budweiser Select isn't so bad as to force you to barf, so it wasn't bad.

We're grilling for supper again. Tonight is chicken. We're reheating the beans, too. Having Dylan here is a real pleasure. It's nice to see things through a youngster's eyes again. We don't remember always how we used to observe everything with the sheer exuberance of youth. It's uplifting to have a younger person around to make you realize how luck you are to be here doing what we're doing.



Saturday April 29, 2006

We came to the camp: John S, Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell are here. We misjudged how strong the wind would be shipping today and really got beat up coming down CNO canal. John & Rickey painted the bathroom until they ran out of Kilz. We've decided to head out and get home sorta early-before the really bad weather gets here. Shrimp season starts Thursday. We won't be here until next weekend.

Friday, May 5, 2006

We came to check out the shrimp situation, and it is very dismal. John S & Dallas Doucet are here. One drag in the front tract and a thunderstorm chased us to the camp. We stayed inside while it really blew and poured outside. It was a real deluge. During the worst of it, we noticed we hadn't tied down the front of the boat, we noticed this because the boat was drifting away from the wharf. We ran out & luckily got it secured before it got away. Of course, both Dallas and John got soaked.

After the storm and dry clothes they made a drag in the back tract and it was better than the 5 lbs they caught in the front. I said back tract & I really meant the pothole behind the camp. Dallas took home the shrimp.

Saturday, May 13, 2006

Here for the day are John S & Joey Doucet. This will be another sojourn with the Doucet clan. We're here to avoid Trisha's shower. We're really looking forward to the baby, but men are not allowed at women's events. We trawled the front tract and did better than Dallas and John had done a week ago. We then went fishing and were successful in catching 3 really nice sow specks. On the way home a drag in the pothole got them a pretty nice mess of shrimp. They caught about a quarter of an ice chest all totaled.

Friday, May 20, 2006

We arrived for a work weekend - John S and John P are here. We expect Roger Brown and Dylan to show today, but we'll see. About noonish Roger called and said he had a boat down and it wouldn't be prudent for him to come out. Maybe we'll see him tomorrow - Maybe not. We ran to Leeville and got plywood and worked until about 4 PM putting in place said materials. After a short break, we went to the pothole and trawled for a half hour with very small results. We caught about 10 lbs or so of very small shrimp. It'll be trials and tribulations to put shrimp in the freezer this year.

Supper was hamburgers done by JP. We're just sitting here enjoying a breezy evening. It certainly is nice out here.

Saturday, May 20, 2006

We slept in this morning. The crab man woke us up at 6 AM. We went to bed at 9 PM last night, so you can see we were tired puppies. After boudin, poached eggs, and basil & sun dried tomato bread, we decided to go up on the roof and attack the leaking ridge cap. We got it done by about 9 AM, and while John S was on the roof John P got the striker plate on the door lowered so the door now locks up when you close it.

We'll be heading back to Leeville in a few minutes to pick up the remaining plywood to work on the walls. We should be finishing up today. We will make a fresh pot of coffee before we leave however. Yesterday, we finished the exterior bathroom wall and the N side interior wall is completed as well. We're halfway done with the West wall too. We'll see what gets done today.

Well, we've got the walls done!!! We have plywood walls. JP & JS got done at about 3 PM or so. They relaxed until about 4:30 and John S called Ray Bernard to see how he was hitting his new driver. Ray told John that his mother had passed away on Friday at Seiko's nursing home & he told John that Barbaro had broken a hind leg during the running of the Preakness today. All events are bad news events. The only bright note is that Ray is hitting his driver 20 or 30 yards farther than he was hitting his Hippo big head & way farther than the Big Bertha War Bird he was using in Gulf Shores last week.

No trawling this afternoon! After yesterday's fiasco they decided to forgo the pleasure of another pull. We'll save the gas for when there are more shrimp out here. JP's Solar cell porch light is a very welcomed addition to the paraphernalia of the camp. We could see during the night to pee off the porch. There is a very refreshing breeze tonight & it is surprisingly pleasant for this time of the year. We didn't run the generator last night and tonight may be a repeat as nice as it is.

For supper we had a shrimp, crab and calamari spaghetti that was very tasty. We also had garlic bread, so it was a very enjoyable evening. It's really starting to look like a camp in here. Next time we come here we'll be working on the cabinets and bunks. We'll save the inside ceiling for later. There may be trawling going on next week; not sure, we'll write & tell you if we do.

The weather has been really nice this weekend.

Sunday, May 21, 2006

Yes, we've been really lucky this weekend. We've had SW & SSW winds that kept the camp cool enough to sleep without the a/c going. JP & JS would spend the late afternoon early evening sitting on the cabana deck with no bugs and a breeze cool enough to wear a long sleeved shirt. Pierce even go the old quilt out a couple of times to cover up. This is May?

Friday, June 2, 2006

Well hurricane season started yesterday. I'd like to see a hurricane around here. I'd shoot it in a minute. No, really, I can do without a hurricane at all around here, especially since the last one we had here did so much damage to us. Well May didn't seem right, but June is starting up just right. It's in the mid 90's and the humidity is just killer out here. Thankfully, we have a good SW breeze going tonight-or this afternoon really.

John Pierce and John Serigny arrived at about 9:30 or so. Then they went out to Leeville to get the materials. We're going to try to put the ceiling insulation in this week. Looks like no Roger Brown this weekend. Pierce and Serigny pointed for about 3 hours today. John S is covered in paint to prove it. Two coats of Kilz 2, thank you very much! We're very tired from our exertions, but the beer is cold - very cold and quite potable. (Take that Scripps spelling bee!)

Pierce is making smothered eggplant & ground meat for supper. It's my favorite and I can hardly wait. Tomorrow, it's insulation and we may take a shot at building a bunk as well.

Last Sunday (5/28) John S and Jimmy King came trawling. Charlotte & Rickey came fishing. John & Jimmy caught a few shrimp in the back pothole and a couple of drags got us almost a 48 qt. Ice chest of shrimp. It was the first decent drag of the season.

Saturday, June 3, 2006

We got up at 6:30 or so & after breakfast, we started installing foam board above the ceiling joists. We got that done by about noon thirty or so and then spent about 3 hours building the first bunk - John's bunk set is the first done & we're still not sure if we put it the right height or not, but we can

adjust as needed. It's screwed in place, so changing it would be very easy. Supper was a bratwurst stir fry that John S concocted. He put the rice in and it ended up being nearly Jambalaya. We ended the day with a nice NNE breeze blowing on us as we sat on the wharf and watched a big thunderstorm off to the South.

Friday, June 23, 2006

We arrived at the camp in the morning John S & John P. No Jimmy King – no Roger Brown. We may get Rickey and Charlotte out here tomorrow. We made a run to Leeville for materials. We had to go through Lake Jesse because there's a lay barge blocking CNO canal. They must be moving a Texaco pipeline for the new bridge and highway to Fourchon.

We started installing 6" thick insulation in between the ceiling joists. After doing 8 foot or so from the West wall, we started nailing sheets of 3/8 plywood to the ceiling. We have 1/3 of the camp done. The overhead work was so debilitating that we decided to wait until tomorrow to do another run.

With the rest of the afternoon we built another set of bunks, so we've got 4 beds built. That means John will bring 2 more mattresses out next week. Susan will be deliriously happy about that. She was pleased to get rid of the 2 that John brought out on Thursday. John also brought out other junk that he needed to get out of the garage. Thereby, he gave Susan other reasons to be happy.

JP bought steaks for tonight's supper. At least we'll eat well tonight. Right now we're relaxing after a hard day's work. We've earned our rest.

Saturday, June 24, 2006

We had a pretty good thunder bumper during the night. The boats and we survived well. Supper last night was rib eye steaks. John P. did an excellent job grilling the beef and vegetables to go along with them. We had grilled onions, zucchini & potatoes. Then, of course, after supper we were obliged to sit on the deck until well past dark-thirty indulging in adult beverages. It was a very enjoyable evening.

We got up at about 6 AM and had a hearty omelet breakfast.

After breakfast, we put up another bundle of insulation and then we started on the second row of plywood on the ceiling. We were done by 10:30 or so. It is really, really, really hard work doing the overhead stuff. Our age and infirm condition plays a big part of that. Plus, it is really hot out here. If you don't sit in front of a fan, you sweat your ass off. Whenever the squalls get near, the wind picks up, which is really nice. There just aren't that many squalls. We took naps after lunch, but they were only of about one hour duration because of the sweltering heat. Looks like no Rickey & Charlotte today. If they haven't gotten here yet, they're probably not going to make it all.

Supper tonight will be veggie and chicken breast with macaroni & cheese. Yeah, I know you're thinking "How bland," Yeah, right, normally it would be but we mix the whole mess up! Ah HA!!!

Sunday, June 25, 2006

Happy Birthday, Trisha. Let's see, that's 31, right? John S & John P stayed up until 10:45 sitting on the porch enjoying the Northerly breeze. After 2 really hot days, it was nice to have cool refreshing breezes. With the generator funning it was down right cool and covering with a sheet was needed.

This morning we're going fishing. We had omelet for breakfast again. This morning our omelet had carrots and onions & broccoli. It'll turn off hot today as well; but for this morning, it's nice.

Friday, September 15, 2006

We're here for the first weekend of teal season. John S and Jimmy King are here. JP is down with his "Red Badge of Courage" broken ankle; so John S did the honor for grilling this evening. He grilled chicken & Andy Chiasson's fresh sausage. We had baked beans as well.

The camp is eminently more livable now that part of the ceiling is completed. It would be nicer if all of it was done, but bringing all the gear for hunting precludes any construction materials being hauled. John S's boat has a butt full with pirogues and trawling gear and such like. We brought the A/c but we just have no luck. It seems the little machine has some serious problems & won't work at all. We're afraid that it seizes up & may start a fire, so we're roughing it, though Jimmy has serious reservation about staying without it. Wes and Joseph should be coming out tomorrow. Teal season

actually started today, but we had to pass on the opening morning hunting as John S was in Houston taking care of Audrey Frances until Thursday. Joey was on a trip & Trisha went back to work, so Audrey was at day care and Mi Mi and Pap were on call. We picked up the little munchkin at day care on Monday and Tuesday and we just basically sat around the place on Wednesday. Joey came home Thursday, and we headed home then. The 6 - hour trip is a tough one, but nothing is too hard for grandparents needing to be a part of a baby's life. We're getting on in years, and things seem to be picking up speed around here. We have close friends who are showing their age a lot. Harold Adams-a former sportsman of the year is headed for an angioplasty or some such procedure. We won't go into all the gory details, but Jimmy King is suffering from some severe problems as well. His dizzy spells could signal some serious health risks here. John S is doing fairly well at the present, but you can never tell what's going on until it hits you between the eyes.

We're tuned in to the SL broadcast and the tarpons are not fairing well. They're currently loosing 28-0 to Jesuit.

The airboat is stalking around a lot this evening. It came by at about dark.

Saturday, September 16, 2006

Our morning hunt was a ZIPPO affair - to quote John P. We sat around and waited for Wes & Joseph. They called when they were leaving Galliano's super store and we got to Leeville at the same time they got there.

Jimmy K has decided to go home. He said it was too hot to sleep and rest well. I think he's being a gigantic screaming Wuss.

Wes and Joseph got here unloaded their gear and lined up stuff to do. They discovered there were no playing cards at the camp so they're bummed. We need to get some cards for future use. LSU is leading 3-0 over Auburn, so it's a defensive battle into the second half.

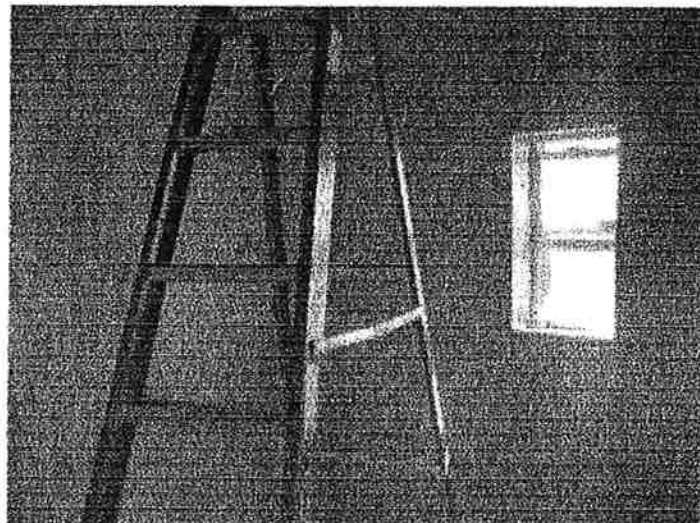
Sunday, September 17, 2006

Our morning hunt was a dismal affair. Squalls were the only thing moving. It's very warm and humid. Wes and Joseph shot at a marsh hen, but no luck. John & Holly sat all morning and thought about more exciting times. It's nice to have the younger generation out here. We just hope they don't loose interest because of the lack of birds.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Arrived at camp a little before noon - John S & John P. We had, naturally, a ton of gear for hunting & fishing and all the tools for working as well. We had to run back to Leeville to pick up the Greenlee storage box and 6 sheets of plywood and ten 2x4 boards for bunk building and ceiling work. Oh, I forgot about the 2 bundles of insulation. Let me make a note here that JP is duly impressed with the flavor and torque of the Habanero sweet pickles that Joe made for him. Attaboy, Joey!!!

We worked the afternoon installing the Greenlee box to the floor and wall. If someone wants to steal it, they're going to have to really work to get it. Supper tonight is T-bone steaks and broccoli/cheese rice. Holly chewed on the bones for about 2 hours. The little generator (2KW) seems to have a problem. The receptacle is not making contact very well. Maybe something has come loose. During the night it shut itself off twice. We're not sure what's up with it.



Friday, September 29, 2006

Well. Today is a better hunting day than we've had in a while. We had a pair come into the decoys at about 6:45 and we knocked down both of them. One was a cripple & Holly went after it, got it, and swam to the nearest bank and dropped it. It jumped back in the water and she got it again & brought it to the bank and left it there to go after the dead one in the decoys.

We sat and talked and passed the time - at 7:45 John S declared leaving time would be 8 AM. A few minutes later 3 birds came to the decoys. One was a pintail, so no shooting at it, but the 2 other birds were teal and after a 6 shot fusillade, the Johns got both of them again.

We picked up the two birds-well; Holly got one and brought it halfway back before bringing it to a convenient point and dropping it. JP got that one & John S corralled Holly and brought her over where she'd left the teal earlier in the morning. She circled around & got down wind of the bird and got it. John had to walk over to her to get it because she'd decided guarding it was preferable to actually picking it up. The end result of the excursion was 4 fat, plump teal for the SOYS banquet.

Let me tell you about the weather this morning. It was breezy - about 10-12 from the NE. It seems a nice fall cool front came through during the night. The wind was from the SW yesterday, and it was in the upper 80's. Nice, but warm enough for fans. When we woke up at 4:30, it was chilly. Two shirts were needed this morning until the sun came up.

After duck plucking and dish washing & setting the minnow trap, John S went out to the platform blind and drove a landscape timber and nailed two cross pieces for the projected rebuilding of the platform blind.

Then the Johns started on construction of Joey's set of bunks. They got the framing done and cut the plywood for the bed supports and when they started with the nailing of the plywood-they hooked up the generator to the compressor and it was just not coming up to pressure. They tried bringing the generator next to the door and when they plugged in the compressor the generator tried to burn the plug up. John P pulled the power board of the generator apart & Jeri-rigged a splitter to replace the damaged receptacle.

The compressor still wouldn't work correctly, so we'll try to get Rickey & Charlotte to bring the bigger generator to Leeville tomorrow. We have to go out there to pick up another stepladder that Jimmy will bring there tonight. It's about 3 PM & we'll try some fishing this afternoon.

Saturday, September 30, 2006

Teal season ends today. Total for the season- 4 birds. This morning JP & JS suffered through a warm, muggy, buggy morning. We came back to the camp & called for Rickey, but he's working nights and needs to rest. We called Jimmy King & he had to stick around the phone & be on call over the weekend, but he was able to come to Leeville with the bigger generator and ice that we needed really badly. We met Jimmy & Anne in Leeville.

Pierce's new Yamaha is getting its hours of break in taken care of. After lunch we'll take care of the remaining ceiling work. It's really warmer today.

We picked up the bigger generator and ice in Leeville and passed some discussion with Jimmy and Anne and came back to install insulation. We did that & started with the ceiling plywood and got it wrapped up at around 2:15, though we took many breaks.

Mid 80's today as LSU drubbed Miss. State 42-17. Supper is grilled pork ribs and a cold salad of tomatoes, beets and sweet hot pickles. We went to bed at just past 8 AM.

Sunday, October 1, 2006

We're going home today. We slept until 5:45 after breakfast and after general cleaning, we'll truck it. We're carrying less junk on the way back due to Greenie.

Saturday, October 7, 2006

We came to the camp for fishing. Charlotte, Rickey, and John S are here today. Rickey came mostly to run his boat, but Charlotte and he ended up catching 20 or so white trout at their spot on the way here this morning. John came straight to the camp and set the minnow trap – to no avail I might add – and worked on the structure for a duck blind where the big blind in the little pond was before Katrina blew it away. It's really nice weather today. Windy from the NE and it was sunny and clear until about 5 minutes ago when it got cloudy and gloomy like it wants to rain. It's cool and dry, and we ate some lunch and Charlotte is taking a nap as we speak. John S tried fishing after the blind was built, but no luck for specks today. He may have to bring Susan with him to give the fish a try-maybe this week. Next weekend it's cabinet time.

Today is Derin's birthday party, but we decided fishing would be better. JP will be coming next weekend, and we'll try to pry Jimmy King away from his bed. We'll be painting the ceiling and probably building Jimmy's set of bunks. Hunting season will be starting in about a month, and we're looking forward to it a lot.

Friday, October 13, 2006

Arrived at camp about the same time as the cold front. It's 70 degrees in the camp right now. John S & John P- the working crew are here for the weekend. It's about 3 o'clock in the afternoon right now and we've been here since 9 AM. In those 6 hours we've installed a new gun rack that Pierce built for the camp and added an interior frame to our front door. We also painted the inside ceiling of the camp. It's primed now and we're ready for color.

It's very windy from the North & NE today; they said 8-10. Out here it's windier than that for sure. Tonight's supper is Andy Chiasson's ground meat – oh, excuse me, seasoned ground meat.

Saturday, October 14, 2006

This morning we slept until about 6 AM. South Lafourche got hammered by South Terrebonne 55-7 last night and JP and I sat around and listened to every gruesome detail. We made a scrap wood fire in the chiminea/BBQ pit and stayed up until it died down. John S went to bed first and crashed very quickly. JP stayed up a little longer to watch the fire and finish his drink.

After breakfast they went to Leeville to pick up the cabinets and counter top. They got back by about 9 AM, and though they had to just about reconstruct one of the units, they had everything installed by 12 noon.

It seems we didn't need Roger Brown for the cabinets after all. I'm not saying Roger wouldn't have done a more professional job, I'm just saying it is done – so there.

Hunting season approaches as we speak. It'll be an interesting situation for sure. Maybe in the next couple of weeks we can see what Anna has in rubble stored at her house.

Supper tonight is a pork fricassee with lima beans or rice. We also have a huge salad with beets, asparagus, lettuce, tomato, and our own special vinaigrette dressing.

We have stuff stored in the newly installed cabinets. It's a beautiful thing! We've got lots of flatware thanks to Jimmy King's larcenous nature. Kudos to looting! Supper was exceedingly excellent; the fricassee was a big hit. LSU is beating Kentucky 28-0 at the beginning of the second half. They're really tearing up the wildcats. The adult beverages are flowing well, and we may not be awake at the end of the game. LSU just scored from 19 yards out and the score is now 35-0. We should be out here again next weekend to work on installing the stove and various other amenities. You can tell by the way my scribbles are above the line that I've had way too many Cuba Libre's tonight. We'll try to get in early tomorrow because John S has to drive to Houston to rescue Trisha while Joey is on a trip to Thibodaux.

Friday, November 3, 2006

We arrived At the Phoenix at about 10 AM. We would've been here earlier, but we had to wait for the hardware store to open. The boat yard is in better shape than it has been in a long time. The guy on the backhoe had done a good job. John S was there when he got there on Thursday, and the tone of John S's voice got him going in the right direction.

It took us quite a while to get the boats loaded. We had tons of stuff to load into the vessels for the trip out here. We have a stove for the camp. Geirheart Alford needs to be thanked for that one. We have a door for the bathroom and John S got some oops paint to color the ceiling from Home Depot. It is yellow, though. About halfway through the painting, John S got this big craving for a banana. After the ceiling was painted, we got busy on installing the stove and we had that completed before 2 PM. We did take a lunch break after painting. When we had finished the stove and heater install, we played with the TV antenna that JP got from Aunt Peggy. We got it working by putting it outside. It picks up very well. We may have to put it on a mast pole, but it works well right outside the window.

Supper tonight is fried oysters wrapped in bacon. John S made mashed sweet potatoes. It was a very enjoyable repast. Tomorrow we will install the bathroom door and also a couple of cabinet sets. Then we will undertake crown moldings around the ceiling/wall junction. JP suggested that we paint the moldings purple to make the camp have an LSU theme.

Saturday, November 4, 2006

We slept well over the night; perhaps the brandy and the wine and southern comfort we had before bedtime had something to do with it. After a good breakfast, we started the day's activities with installing the RV antenna that John Pierce got from Aunt Peggy. It plays very well. Our TV is sans snot and cross channel interference. Then we installed cabinets and transferred food and other things (read liquor) into the newly installed storage units.

The newly installed stove works well except for when you try to bake. The burner pulses to keep lit and doesn't stay on for more than a few seconds. We'll have to look into what's causing the major malfunction. After cabinets, we installed a door to the bathroom. We were able to get it in place and use all the original facings and were to put it in place with few problems. We finished our projects by installing crown moldings and were done by lunch.

After lunch we took naps and were sure to set an alarm so we could watch the LSU Tennessee game on channel 4 at 2:30. The game had just begun when Charlotte and Rickey arriving undetected surprised us. They unloaded gear and ooh'ed and ah'ed about the new installations and headed out to go fishing at their spot.

Whoo!!! Hoo!!! LSU 28 Tennessee 24. Jamarcus Russell is a hell of a quarterback!!!

Sunday November 5, 2006

After breakfast this morning, Charlotte and Rickey took off to catch fish. They've called a couple of times that they're catching white trout and specks out the wazoo. JP and JS installed their bed shelves and are packing up to head to the house. Next weekend is duck season.

Thursday, November 9, 2006

John S & John P and Holly are here for the opening of duck season. It's been 2 years since we made a trip like this and that's too long. Yes, it's Thursday; when you're retired, you can leave middle of the week for these things if you like. Even more impressive is the fact that JP got to JS's house at about 6 AM and instead of heading to the camp, they went to Tideland and played 18 holes of golf. Now, this is what being retired is all about. Golf in the morning and coming to the camp in the afternoon is really living.

We were very tired from golfing and loading and unloading the boat, but we managed to install the new cabinets. We have 2 singles, a double and a corner set installed. That'll be about all for cabinets. We may get some painting done as well. We have purple paint for the ceiling moldings. We've moved the clock and added various accoutrements that add to the character and ambiance of the place. During the week John S came out and added boards to his wharf. He also brought a nice mirror for the bathroom. It was installed before he left for home.

Last weekend Rickey and Charlotte caught 32 trout about half were specks. When John was here Wednesday, he caught 2 fish (1speck and 1 white trout) on his way in. Tomorrow we paint.



Friday, November 10, 2006

We slept until 6 AM this morning. It was really nice to get up with the sun shining. After breakfast, we worked on step-ups for Holly to chase her tennis balls. Then we started painting. We've primed the cabinets upper and lower and are preparing to add purple to the yellow we've already done. Painting is very time consuming so we are waiting for the second coat until tomorrow.

At about 3 PM John S went to Leeville and picked up Roger Brown and Dylan Brown. Dylan, of course, is the same person who had the up-chuck incident back in April. We find that the repercussions from the previous fiasco have made him swear off strong drink for the nonce. Roger Brown started fishing immediately after unpacking his gear. He caught a speck and 2 white trout, but one was too small to make a decent filler, so he was inclined to return it for future use.

John Pierce outdid himself for supper tonight. He made hamburger steaks with mashed potatoes and gravy with onions and mushrooms.

Saturday, November 11, 2006

The first day of duck season 2006-2007. John S & Dylan and Holly went hunting this morning. It was a long morning, but very enjoyable because Dylan killed 2 gray ducks at about 7:15. They saw other birds, but had no other shots. While hunting was going on, there were fish being caught. Roger and John P caught about 32 fish between the camp and Charlotte and Rickey's spot. When duck cleaning and brunch were done, painting on the cabinets ensued. A second coat of yellow was added and purple was placed in close proximity to it.

At about 3:30 or so Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell arrived. John S & Dylan visited Rodney's Angel and got a half bushel of his finest, freshest oyster. He is a very generous fellow. The oysters will be fatter later this winter.

Fan-tan ensued after a supper of chicken and lima beans in tomato sauce. Bedtime was 9 PM.



Sunday, November 12, 2006

Morning hunt- -1 hooded merganser- a community duck from De & John S. Charlotte and Rickey got 2 fish and it was too cold for Roger and John P to go out today. We're heading home.

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

We arrived at camp at about 3:30 PM or so. John S. & Joey Doucet. Joey is very impressed with the work done here over the past few weeks. We had a tough trip out here. The wind from the west was really blowing at about 30 or so. When we were coming across Lake Jesse, we really were concerned with the outboards' ability to take the pounding.

The most challenging part of the afternoon was tying up to the wharf when we arrived. The west wind kinda kept us away from the wharf. John S finally got his boat tied to Rickey and Charlotte's wharf and helped Joey get Jimmy's boat to the new wharf. After unloading the boats, we had supper - steaks and garlic mashed potatoes. We drank the evening away after calling home to tell folks we'd made it here. We look forward to a week of hunting, fishing and various enjoyments.

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Our morning hunt was on a very low tide due to the hard west wind all night. We got 2 rails that Joey shot. We got back to the camp and cleaned birds and set up the new minnow trap. We got minnows for our afternoon fishing. Brunch today was a corned beef hash/omelet- -very stick-to-your-ribs. Holly especially liked it. The temp outside is in the low 60's, but the wind makes it very chilly.

Naps are coming up. They lasted until 2:30 or so.

Friday, November 17, 2006

We had a very dismal morning hunt; not even a rail to shoot at today. We saw 2 ducks all morning-we even took a spin to Jay's flat and there was nothing there. When we returned, we went fishing and Joey caught 1 speck, and undersized red that we returned, and a stingray. We got back at the stingray for Steve Irwin- -he has been avenged. Lunch today was hot dogs and chili. We'll be going to the front for Wes & crew at about 3 PM.

Last night the little generator stopped working so Dallas is on line to bring us another today - we'll see.

It's warmer today. The wind has already switched to the NE. The tide should be higher tomorrow. Hopefully, we get a little better action this weekend. Things are really nice here, but it would be nicer if we could kill a few ducks. In the afternoon, John went to Leeville to meet Rodney, Dallas, and Wes and the Chocolate Sassy. Wes's new boat is especially sexy. It doesn't fly, but it travels fast enough. We went to scout hunting places and it ran in both flats even with low tide.

We had barbeque for supper-pork ribs and bratwurst with pork & beans. It was a sumptuous feast.

Crown Royal and brandy filled the evening along with a lively game of fan-tan. Bed time didn't arrive until 10:30 and then hooting & hollering and "Three or four years ago. . ." And "F - - k you, cowboy." Were heard late into the night.

Saturday, November 18, 2006

Our morning hunt was not very impressive. No shots. If it weren't for the walkie-less talkies we'd have had a very boring morning. Joey did smack another rail that Holly had to locate after the hunt. At the camp plinking and target shooting were in clear attendance. Holly didn't bark or whine because Sassy wouldn't allow it. Rodney, Joey, and Wes went for an afternoon fishing trip après naps and caught a really nice red and a speck or two and a couple of assorted trash fish.

John S & Dallas held down the fort and John S delivered a ground beef and ground pork spaghetti that was really good. Wes went to bed early and naturally the crown drinkers had to mess with him. Holly's tennis balls were flying around the camp. Fan-tan gave way to Boo ray and the revelry continued. The night ended listening to LSU come from behind to beat Ole Miss in Overtime 23-20, which doesn't speak well for their chances against Arkansas next Friday.

By 10:30 everyone was passed out.



Sunday, November 19, 2006

Our morning hunt had a bright side. John S & Rodney had shots on gray ducks, but missed and Joey, Dallas, and Wes shot at grays and killed one. John S escorted the Doucet clan out to Leeville and returned for lunch. Naps, the Saints game-they lost to Cincinnati, and fishing was going well.

The Doucets are gone so it's a lot quieter now than it has been for two days. Rest is a major component in the experience here, so the quiet helps with the pursuit.

Monday, November 20, 2006

The cold front has really taken hold. It's in the 40's this morning. It's blowing out of the north at about 20. The wind picked up after daylight and it actually got colder. John & Joey had about 12 fray ducks come to land at about 2:15 or so. Joey knocked down one and John had a blooper. Joey and Holly went after the duck and John saw it fly about 30 yards and Joey and Holly weren't able to

track it down. The bird was probably moving big time. We got back, cleaned guns, and shot the rest of the old shells in John's bedon. Shooting days is really nice. We took naps after fried spam and chili and chips.

When we woke up, we visited Rodney's angel at the clamshell dam and he gave us a little basket full of nice salty oysters. He's a very generous fellow. Supper tonight is oysters Alfredo and fried

oysters. We had little Debbies for dessert and now that the Little Debbies are gone, it's definitely time to go home.

We're not hunting tomorrow. We've decided to fish and then head home. The worst thing about this trip has been the lack of game, but that is greatly overshadowed by the relaxation factor.

We'll be heading to tomorrow and it's been a great rip. Dallas, Wes, and Rodney helped it be that way. Temps will be in the upper 30's tonight. It's 47 outside now and 59 inside. We haven't even lit the heater yet. That may come tomorrow. With the martinis and scotch flowing around here, it's difficult to be cold.

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

A morning fishing trip got us 1 rat red that was caught by Joey. He's a nice one at about 22 inches long and nice and fat. We're packing up to head in. We have low tides and it is very cold today.

Thursday, November 30, 2006

We arrived at camp Phoenix with a strong SE wind blowing. Lake Jesse wasn't much fun today. John P was carrying 2 plogues on his overhead rack and they tried to travel off the rack a couple of times. So it took a little longer to get here than usual. Once we were here untangling the mess of gear was a problem, but we solved it in a relatively short span of time. We got started on the construction of Jimmy's bunk and had it done by 2 PM. Relaxing and beer drinking ensued, and at the present waiting for supper is the main activity.

Tonight's repast is roast beef po-boys. We may make garlic mashed potatoes as well. Jimmy King and John Pierce and John S are here tonight. We expect visitors late tomorrow evening. This is the final weekend of the first split of Duck season. The first split ends Sunday.

Friday, December 1, 2006

We welcome December Again. Hurricane season is over! Yeah, booooooy!! At about 8:30 last night a cold front came through and the temperature started dropping. It dropped until we got up at 4 AM. It had been in the 70's when the sun went down, it was in the 40's this morning. The wind was gusting above 25 mph, so John and Jimmy decided to stay at the camp and have a leisurely breakfast. Later in the morning, after dealing with fishing tackle, a new stoop for the front door was installed.

After lunch Jimmy napped while the Johns worked on minor projects and fished and at about 2 PM with falling tides, they went after Rodney's Angel and found him near the clam shell dams towards Leeville. Rodney gave them a bushel and a half of nice oysters. Rodney is a very generous man.

When they returned, Jimmy roused himself and helped them open Rodney's generous donation. Supper tonight is field peas and rice and fried oysters wrapped in bacon. Holly enjoyed the tidbits they left her, even though she had again cut the pad of her front paw on an oyster shell while retrieving her ball at the clam shell dam. Jimmy went to sleep before 7 PM and the Johns stayed up to watch TV and partake in adult beverages.

Saturday December 2, 2006

Our Morning hunt was chilly and slow; temps were in the 40's with a strong wind from the NNE. John S knocked down 1 gray duck at about 8:15. The bird flew away and died in midair about 40 yards from the pond. After duck plucking, John P went to Leeville and got Shaun Pierce and Mike Nelson.

Nelson's trip to the camp had him pumped for a duck hunt. John P & the boys went to visit Rodney at the dam and Jimmy went to see him at Rodney's flat. They both ran into him and were awarded with a bushel and a half each.

Shaun helped John P open his oysters that Rodney's Angel so generously provided and then the boys went hunting. No shots were fired. Jimmy & JP opened up the oysters, though the day had warmed up and provided us with gnats for a brief period. John S cooked supper. We had sausage/meat ball/ground meat spaghetti. Everyone enjoyed it tremendously.



After supper Jimmy retreated to his cave to read and the Johns, Shaun, & Mike stayed up until 11 PM playing Fan-tan, telling jokes (old ones, Mike didn't know the difference), and enjoying adult beverages. When bedtime arrived, walking a straight line became a challenge.

Sunday, December 3, 2006

It's in the 40's this morning with a 15 mph N wind. It is cold. John and Jimmy hunted in the blind and John S killed a hooded merganser at about 8:15 or so. Shaun P & Mike N hunted near Rodney's mud flat and had no shots. After hunting the Pierce group headed back home. John S & Jimmy are staying over another night. After Andy's hog head cheese for lunch, naps ensued. Tonight the wind is roaring. A reinforcing front has come through. It'll be a frigid ride home in the morning with the temps in the 30's and a stiff wind as well.

Pierce left us his DVD player and we are watching Sahara, or at least John is. Jimmy hit the sack at about 7:30 or so.

Friday, December 15, 2006

Here at the camp for the opening of the second split of duck season. John S and John P. Jimmy will be coming out on Sunday morning. Weather certainly has changed while we were on hiatus. Temps were in the mid 70's this week and may stay that way until Christmas. Oh, yeah, Christmas is coming and we are going to be staying home next weekend. We'll come out soon thereafter.

The big problem is the humidity and lots of fog. We had trouble finding the channel markers on Lake Jesse on the way out. There are gnats as well. Just giggles, really. It's cool in the morning when the fog is heavy, but later as the fog clears - you've got some 60's and 70's. The fishing should be good, but we tried around the camp with artificial baits and had no luck. We'll see this afternoon.

Saturday, December 16, 2006

The second split of duck season opened today. We had to wait to leave for the blind because of the fog. We sat in the fog in the blind until about 9 AM, but couldn't see anything to shoot at. We had a couple of hooded mergansers come by, but that was bout it. Temps in the mid 50's kept the gnats at bay. We came back to the camp and napped the afternoon away. Pierce did catch one keeper speck from the front deck of the boat parked at Charlotte and Rickey's wharf.

At 3 PM we went to Charlotte and Rickey's spot and caught a number of keep able specks - about 10 or so and a couple of reds to boot. For supper we had fried fish with macaroni and cheese and onions and garlic with ground meat and ground pork. It was very tasty.

Sunday, December 17, 2006

Our morning hunt had no fog-no ducks- no problem. When we got back, we went to Leeville to pick up Jimmy King. He'll be with us until Tuesday when we all go home. The weather is warm and windy. Thank goodness because the gnats would kill us without the breeze.

We spent the afternoon watching the Saints loose to the Redskins. They lost 16-10. But because of a Carolina loss they are the NFC south Champs. Our afternoon fishing got us another 6 fish and Jimmy visited Rodney's angel and got a nice mess of oysters from him. Rodney is such a generous fellow. Supper was grilled country style ribs and garlic mashed potatoes and salad. What a meal!

We are ending the evening watching Sahara. Jimmy's already snoring and it's only 6:40 PM.

Monday, December 18, 2006

Our morning hunt was, well. . .there was no morning hunt. The fog was socked in so thick we couldn't see across the canal. We spent the morning dealing with Greenly Box issues and rigging Jimmy's fishing lines. John S picked up decoys in the big blind pond after the fog cleared. Jimmy went to Rodney's mud flat on an exploring expedition, and while he was gone, John P started building a gigantic gumbo. John S fished from the wharf and caught a couple of keepers. Everyone napped and at 3 PM John S went to Charlotte and Rickey's spot to fish and the specks were there. He caught 16 keepers before returning at 3:30 or so. When he returned, Jimmy King was suffering from dizzy spells. He took his medicine and felt better soon. Supper was the gumbo that JP worked so hard on all afternoon. We also had salad and Grand's cinnamon rolls for dessert.

John P and Jimmy collapsed early on and John S stayed up to watch "National Treasure." After a phone call to Houston to tell Susan and the Doucet clan about our day, he's sitting here writing in this logbook.

Oh, I forgot to mention that Jimmy ran into Rodney's angel at the mud flat & Rodney gave him a small bushel of oysters for his effort. Rodney is a very giving and generous fellow. We dearly love him and appreciate his largess.

John S is about ready to call it a night since he has run out of E&J VSOP. Yes, the bottle had run dry again. Maybe he can find larger bottles somewhere. JP's burgundy wine is really nice however. Well, any port in a storm. The generator is plugging away to keep the battery charger going. John S is having one more cigar before bedtime. It may be difficult to get to sleep JP and Jimmy have blankets stretched over their bunks to keep the noise & light out. John S has trouble sympathizing; a little noise never stopped him from a good rest. Light? No problem! What's the deal? We may hunt in the morning, if the fog permits.

Wednesday, December 27, 2006

We arrived this morning after an enjoyable Christmas celebration. John S, John P, and Jimmy King are here until Saturday or if the weather dictates until Sunday. We'll see. We arrived before noon and set up the camp and then ate lunch and took naps. John S & John P put out decoys this afternoon and supper tonight was grilled steaks with broccoli and cheese rice. Jimmy promptly went to bed right after supper. We're anxious to see how tomorrow goes.

Thursday, December 28, 2006

Our morning hunt got John S and Jimmy King ZIP in the big blind. John P got a pair of hooded Mergansers in the old long paddle pond. John and Jimmy did see a few birds moving and after hunting John S and ran by Jay's mud flat and chased up a few birds. We got back to the camp and cleaned birds and got some things ship shape for bad weather. John S went fishing at a couple of places and had no luck whatsoever. Naps got underway in the afternoon and John P cooked okra and shrimp gumbo for supper. It was well worth the effort.

Jimmy's battery charger died and JP had to perform surgery. Then we turned on the little generator and had to perform surgery on the ground wire for that one as well. Thank goodness for toolboxes. We had rain this morning and the wind has kicked up big time this evening. It seems that Saturday, our projected departure date, may be rough sledding. Hopefully, John S will get to fire his new shotgun tomorrow. The weather will get worse on Saturday, so we may leave early Saturday without hunting.

Friday, December 29, 2006

Our morning hunt was slim again today. John and Jimmy had a few birds come around in Jay's flat, but only Jimmy had one shot at a single gray duck. John P had no shots in the old long paddle. When we returned to the camp we sat around and commiserated on our poor luck. We took naps after a light lunch, and we actually fished some this morning. None of the caught red fish were large enough to keep, so they were returned.

The wind picked up to 15+ mph and the tide is gaining really bad. The SE wind is to blame. Supper was meatball spaghetti done by JP. We had lettuce, tomato and ham salad & cheesy bread as well. It was very, very good. Jimmy set a record and went to bed at 5:35 PM.

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Yes, it's the New Year. We skipped the weekend last weekend. JP had had enough for a while and Jimmy was ill. John S stayed home and took care of stuff around the house. Here this evening is John S & P. Jimmy will be here tomorrow. He passed on the trip today because Louie King (the reigning Sportsman of the year) had some health problems. His stint procedure went bad and he ended up in ICU earlier today. It looks as though he's stable and will make it to this year's banquet. Supper tonight was Andy's fresh sausage cooked in Rotel tomatoes on buns.

JP and JS got here at about 1:30 today. The later arrival was due to a round of golf at Tideland today in the company of Pat France. John S shot 99. John P shot 103. Pat France shot 94 or thereabouts. Anyway they had a really swell time. This retirement thing is sorta nice. The weather is

warming after 4 days of chilly temps. The tide continues to rise as E and SE winds increase before our next frontal passage on Sunday night. Tomorrow we hunt the ducks.

Friday, January 12, 2007

Our morning hunt was very enjoyable. John S & John P got 3 gray ducks and one dosgris in Jay's flat. They had other chances as well, but their shooting lacked effectiveness. They hunted later than normal due to the number of birds and got back to the camp at 9:30. They called Jimmy King's residence and found that he had already left. They called his cell and found he was already in Leeville. John S went to get him. Since Jimmy had left Larose before we contacted him, he didn't know that we needed the bigger generator from John's house. John & Jimmy left the boat in Leeville and went to Larose to get the bigger generator due to the small generator's problems from last night. They made the trip and picked up the generator and more shells (just in case) and got back to the camp just in time to eat a light snack and hit the bed for naps.

Supper tonight is a very good smoked chicken done by JP with garlic bread and garlic mashed potatoes done by John S – a combo meal that was exceedingly enjoyable. Entertainment tonight came via Shaun of the Dead and The Brothers Grimm, DVD's brought by Jimmy. Weather is muggy and windy. We're expecting cold weather Monday night or Tuesday, but we won't be here by then.

Saturday, January 13, 2007

The weather is sunny and warming today with an ESE breeze. A very different day today than the conditions we experienced yesterday. John S & Jimmy hunting in Jay's flat got 1 male gray duck that Holly had to chase out of the grass as a cripple. Charlotte and Rickey came fishing and caught a few fish at their spot. John P ZIPPED in the long paddle.

SAINTS WIN!!!! They head to Chicago to play the Bears in the NFC championship game. This is the first time in recorded history that we watch a Saints game from the camp and the buggers actually win. This breaks the jinx.

Sunday, January 14, 2007

It is warmer and sunnier than yesterday. John S and Jimmy King got 1 dosgris in Jay's flat. JP got ZIP. We spent the afternoon watching football. We will go home in the morning.

Friday, January 19, 2007

We arrived at camp Phoenix at about 11 AM. John S and Jimmy King are here. JS has outboard trouble. It won't go on the top end. John suspects a coil or a power pack. He tried changing the plugs on the way out and no help. He then tried a new gas line rig up and same sad story. It ran part of the way, but whenever he tried to put it in the corner, it died completely. A trip to Houma is in the offing.

The weather is very raw. It's in the low 50's with drizzle and light rain. The wind has the wind-chill factor down there. We went to Jay's mud flat and got 2 gray ducks and 4 dosgris. We could've killed more, but we opted to wait for tomorrow. Supper tonight was a corned beef, potato and onion omelet with bean soup. Jimmy K went to bed before 6:30 PM. Curse you, JP – no one to stay up and watch *Ghost Whisperer* with. We may go to Leeville and get Rickey's boat tomorrow if he's not using it. John S will call him this evening and see what his intentions are.

Saturday, January 20, 2007

We had a pretty good morning this morning. We had a really strong ENE wind and it was cloudy with no rain. We started shooting dosgris before the sun was really up. We got our four dosgris and concentrated on gray ducks. We knocked down 5 grays and found 3. So total birds was 7 for the morning. There are dosgris every stinkin' where. Even in the canal they land and take off.

We slept past our departure for an afternoon hunt. We passed on the birds. It could be a large error on our part because it should start raining tomorrow. We had to bring John S's boat in to Leeville this morning. The *Reel Love* was running when we left the camp – not very well, but running. It quit on the high line canal on the way in. We took Rickey's boat after picking up John's boat. It ran very well. We're looking forward to seeing the Saints play tomorrow. They take on the Bears at Soldier field at about 1 PM tomorrow. We'll try hunting in the morning. It could be a really big washout, though.

Sunday, January 21, 2007

This be the lastest day of the duck season. This morning in Jay's flat Jimmy and John S killed 8 ducks. We got our 4 dosgris and then 4 other birds- -a mixture. The weather is much warmer today. We had a SE breeze at about 15 or so and the birds were moving. Our only regret is that the dosgris weren't here earlier in the season. They had to wait until the last weekend to show, but it was really nice while it lasted.

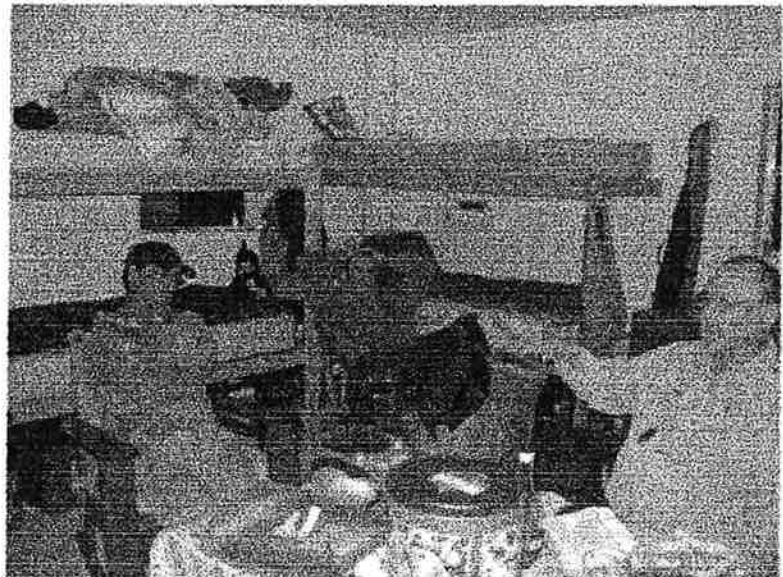
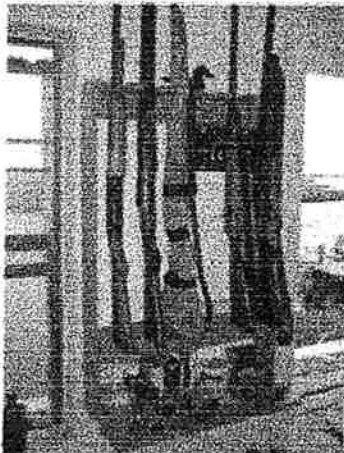
We've killed about 30 or so birds this year 27 of them in the last 2 weekends, so maybe our count is a little higher. I'll go back and check it out. We cleaned ducks and rested until 2 PM. We then watched the Saints end their season 1 game shy of the Super Bowl. The Bears were tough and the Saints went down 39-14.

We had chicken and lima beans for supper - it was very tasty. We have much rain this evening and we expect more over the next dew days. A cold front is trying to come through and it's being held up by El Nino. It's 6:45 and Jimmy has gone lights out. Thanks, JP. John S will stay up a while to watch New England and the Colts. Peyton Manning is having another tough game against the pats, but we know he'll pull through.

We're going in tomorrow and won't be back for a while. There is lots of stuff going on. John S's hernia surgery and his broken outboard are a couple of problem in his future.

We'll start a new log book soon, so this one is in the offing for printing.

Addendum- -The Colts win, the Colts win!!! They beat the freakin stinkin Pats with an Adam Veniterie field goal. Take that Bill stinkin Bellicheck, you worthless bum.



Camp Log Book XV-A
Beginning-September 9, 2008
Ending-Sunday, January 24, 2010



This book replaces Camp
Log Book XV which was
lost in hurricane
Gustave (9/1/2008)
and
Ike (9/13/2008)



Camp Log Book XV-A

1

September 21, 2008 - We're starting this log book even though we are not sure we'll ever have a new camp again. The Phoenix was blown away by Gustave on September 1st, 2008, a Monday, and Marsha's Birthday.

While John S was dodging falling pine trees in Denham Springs at John Pierce's house, Jimmy King stayed at his house and Roger Brown and Charlotte Brown rode the storm out on an Odessea Boat on the Intracostal Canal in Larose. Winds gusted to 110 mph in Larose. Grand Isle claimed winds to 140 mph. We've been to see the remains of the structure that was the Phoenix. It really put up a fight against the wind and water judging from the contortionist state the foundation was left in. We are judging what will follow. We may have found a building we can secure, but getting it to the site would be a real problem. It may require more than we can handle currently. We're investigating now. I'll try to keep track of what's going on with the effort. So far we have Roger Brown & Dylan, John S, Joey Doucet, and Jimmy King Committed to the project. We'll write whenever developments warrant it.

We're not sure where everyone else went for the storms. Oh, yeah, Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell went to Bossier. Dylan went to Tennessee w/his Mom & stepfather. We know Rudy King was in Denham because he visited John & Jan P whenever he was able - usually putting the electricity out with his sheer presence.

We're not sure if there will be any entries for hunting season this year. We'll see. For such a long time we had a camp with no cistern - now we have a cistern but no camp. The never-ending circle continues.

Sunday, September 29, 2008 - John S and Roger Brown went to the camp site to look at projected foundation repairs. Roger seems to believe we can get by with only jacking up the foundation. John S is going with the idea big time! After looking at the work ahead, we went to the old blind site and surveyed the remains. We're pretty good there 3-2 by 4's and we're hunting again. Here we go!

We fished at the blind and at the little island and caught a few fish. Then we perused the pipeline behind the camp, but saw no remains. We fished at Charlotte and Rickey's spot and caught some more fish, so we ended up with 4 trout all together. The plan is to start working on the camp this coming month.

Friday, October 24, 2008 - Well, we haven't gotten a whole lot done during October. Some of that can be attributed to weather and tide, some to our own natural sedentary nature. We did start up our efforts last weekend. On Saturday Wes Doucet and his lovely bride Alicia Collins Doucet said their vows and made their union official. On Sunday John and Rickey and Charlotte went to the camp and started working on the support system for Charlotte and Rickey's wharf. We got the outside cradle and built a new cradle to extend the wharf 8 more feet towards the bank. We have a bit of work left to don the supports and tie posts, but we will do that today (10/25/2008).

Saturday, October 25, 2008 - Well, we put 20 or so 2x6's on the wharf surface today, but before that we secured all the tie posts and put lag bolts down through the cross supports under the boars. We do have about ¾ of the surface done now. We have a place to put down tools and materials for the foundation building that is coming up. We also fished today. John S caught 1 nice speck and a couple of smallish white trout. Charlotte and Rickey caught a few really nice specks as well. Charlotte said the fish were all over 13 inches long. John S's fish was at least that large. There are some really nice trout out there! On his way back to Leeville, John S ran City of New Orleans and the bridge isn't that much of an obstacle any more. We can pass there if need be. The problem is the Goat Island area. The shallows near the end of Williams canal isn't marked any more and it could be very treacherous at low tide.

Saturday, November 8, 2008 - Today is the opener of big duck season, but we're not at the camp site this morning. We are gearing up to go, though. Roger Brown is the instigator on this one. We are carrying lumber, tools, tents, toilets, stones and all the things we need to stay tonight. We had so much gear that we had to make 2 trips to Leeville to carry everything.

Dylan Danos shot a marsh hen almost before we could finish putting down the wharf boards. We drove 6 more landscape timbers and stabilized the wharf structure a little. We also added six more 2x6 boards and made the wharf a complete 8 ft by 24 ft. structure.

Roger and Dylan worked on leveling the foundation while John S set decoys and worked on non-issue items around the camp. Basically, John S dodged the main work. Dylan and Roger were covered in mud and tired by the time supper arrived.

Charlotte and Rickey came by the camp to check on things, but they had only caught one large speck. Rickey agreed to haul dome stuff back to Galliano for John S to lighten the load on the way home on Sunday.

John S put up his trawling pipes and used his truck cover to block the wind to make his boat a little more livable. He cooked on the boat's front deck and slept on his cot in the boat. Not totally uncomfortable. Roger and Dylan slept in a tent on the wharf. Roger had an air mattress and was well off, but Dylan slept in a sleeping bag on the wharf boards and wasn't so comfy. We had mac and cheese for supper and oh yeah-John S added ground beef and onion to it & Dylan said it was his new all-time favorite. After Roger and John S had a plate full, Dylan emptied the pot. We stayed up until nine. John and Roger were sipping spiced rum and Napoleon brandy and telling stories and laughing. We had a great time. Not as comfortable as the camp, but the company made it every bit as enjoyable.

Sunday, November 9, 2008 - After bacon and bread for breakfast, John S put away the kitchen and straightened out the boat and he and Dylan went hunting. We got to the blind and waited until about 7:30 for our first close birds. A group of about 8 teal got close enough to let us shoot at them, but not close enough to let us kill them. Some gray ducks came by later, but decided to land in the pond just west of us instead of coming to our spread. At 8:30 we had 2 pintails come very close, but not close enough

Camp Log Book XV-A

2

to shoot. They kept circling for a while, though, so we decided to stay for another half hour. At 9 AM about 10 grays came at us from nowhere and were able to knock down 1. We both shot at the same bird, though, so the WE bird succumbed to our efforts. We picked up decoys and headed in. Roger, who had been working most of the morning, had things pretty well up and running and even worked on decking. We've got a good sized deck area to stack things on when we ever return for the future work plans.

Those plans include: rebuilding the East deck, or at least part of it, and putting down floor joists in the next 2 weeks. We'll see how the timetable works out. We will try to work some this coming weekend, but we don't plan any hunting this week. Maybe next week.

Floor joists- -6-14' 2x6's 26-10' 2x6's and 13-8' 2x6's

November 16, 2008 -Well, no hunting from the camp site this weekend. John S, Wes Doucet and Lucy Jane went hunting at Fire Lake near the Pointe Au Chene reserve. They flubbed a shot on early teal-twice, but finally knocked down a pair of mottled ducks who had the poor fortune to pick Fire Lake to try to rest from all the noise and danger. Both birds were cripples, but Lucy flushed one of the birds after it was on the bank and Wes successfully nailed it. At near 9 AM another pair of mottled ducks came by and John S knocked one dead, but again in the grass across the pond. It took Lucy a few minutes, but she finally winded the bird and pulled it out of the grass like a field trial champ. We got home and crashed. It sucks to be old.

Monday, November 17, 2008 -John S & Jimmy K went to the camp and did some repair work on the East walkway. They shoved a 10' 4x4 and put 10-5' 2x6's on the canal side of where Roger started the work and we have a nice section of deck for working from. They were done by 11 AM. They didn't even leave Larose until 8- so it wasn't a large amount of work, but it's done. That's it.

This coming weekend we'll be putting on the floor joists. At least we hope so.

November 25, 2008 -Well, we have floor joists again. On Sunday, November 23, John S, Roger Brown, and Rickey Mitchell and Charlotte, too, went to the camp site and redid the camp floor joists. Roger's plan for re - reconstruction is much spiffier than John's plan after Katrina. Roger's floor joists plan is sturdier than the one John S used for the Phoenix. It looks like this:

We will be putting plywood on the structure the weekend of the 6th. Hopefully, soon after that we'll be putting up the temp buildings. We may have some structure to live in by Christmas or very soon after. We are greatly looking forward to it. Charlotte and Rickey caught fish, but none were big enough to keep. It's taken until today for John S to get back to painless walking.

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 -No, we aren't at the camp, but we did duck hunt last weekend. No-not at the camp; but instead, we hunted at Stuttgart, Arkansas. Yes, that Stuttgart, the Valhalla of duck hunting-the Arkansas Grand Prairie. Wes and Rodney Doucet and John S hunted with Big Ditch Outfitters On Friday morning and Saturday morning. The weather was really beautiful duck hunting weather as we know it, but our guides, Mike Hoy and his son Jacob told us that cloudy conditions usually mean no mallards in the timber. They were right about that for sure. We killed 6 wood ducks on Friday morning and crippled on that we lost. Saturday morning we got one woody. It was lean for sure.

The duck hunting may not have been notable, but everything else-everything-was a real pleasure. We heard geese talking every moment we were outside our hotel rooms. On Saturday evening we went to downtown to the Wings Over the Prairie Festival to hear the World Duck calling Championship. When we stepped out of Wes and Alicia's truck, I looked up and could not believe the number of geese in the air. The sky was covered. There were all snows and blues, so David Boudreaux wouldn't have been happy with no specks, but we say specs and mallard along the road everywhere. The festival was pretty interesting: Duck calling, Gumbo cook off, dog trials, and then at Mac's was a huge sale tent and Dog demonstrations and retriever competitions. All this tuff continued on the entire week. It was quite an experience for us all and to top it off on the way home we won money on the slot machines in Vicksburg. Wes & Alicia won about \$400 between craps and the machine & Susan won \$650 on the penny machine and another \$150 on the \$5 machines. She was estatic and so was everyone else. We really had a wonderful trip and are glad we went.

Saturday, December 6, 2008 -This weekend is the split, and no duck hunting is going on. We did acquire the lumber for the subfloor. We got 23/32 treated plywood and the stuff weighs a ton. It's so heavy I can't imagine how we'll carry it to the camp. We'll see how it goes when we gout out there later. I will report on our successes later.

Sunday December 7, 2008 -Happy Pearl Harbor day and happy anniversary, Bobby and Debbie Delaune. Happy anniversary yesterday to Trisha and Joey. We were able to haul the plywood to the camp site. Dyland, Roger and John had the floor down and nailed by 11:30. It took 2 trips to get the plywood out there because it was so heavy, but we were able to succeed nicely. Roger's building is next.

Friday, December 12, 2008 -We are erecting anew building!! John S & Roger Brown hauled material to the site this morning. All the pipe frame and studs and rafters are there waiting for construction. All this was hauled with some trepidation because

the tide was so low. We had much trouble getting in and out of the launch slip and on our second load to the camp we had to run to Bayou Forte Blanche to get to the camp. John S and Roger B. Worked on putting up the pipe part of the building for a few hours and we're well on the way to completion when Rickey Mitchell showed up. Rickey had gotten stuck in the parallel canal because the tide was so low. He had to push pole to the high line canal before he could start the engine and get to plane off. We worked on the camp until 2:30 or 3:15 or so and went back to Leeville via Forte Blanche just to show Rickey the route. When we left the camp we were far from having the structure ready for plywood and metal.

Saturday, December 13, 2010 - Today we are making a major push to black in the camp. Dylan Danos, Roger Brown & John Serigny are here along with Rickey Mitchell who has pitched his balky tent to sleep in our here. We had to make two trips to haul our stuff and then our materials. We got everything out to the camp by 10AM & Roger & Dylan & Rickey had the roof on in nothing flat. Dylan even helped John S close some gaps on the canal side walk way and leveling off the east side walk way. By the day's end much had been done & spending the night under a full roof and about 25% of the walls was the main event. We put in the door and installed one of the windows and cooked venison sausage w/ green onions done in a couple cans of field peas. Roger also donated some venison back strap for the meal. It was pretty good and cooking at the camp is better than cooking and sleeping in the boat.

Sunday, December 14, 2008 - Rickey Mitchell and Dylan went duck hunting this morning. John & Roger worked and by the time the hunters returned had closed in the South and West wall and put in a couple of windows. The North wall was completed by the time we were ready for lunch. We had fried fresh-caught fish and pork chips on bread - a tastier sandwich has never been eaten.

At about 2 PM or so we headed in. We really have enjoyed the weekend, but are bone tired and weary. Next weekend, we hunt, now that the camp is completely covered and will keep us dry and out of the wind.

Saturday, December 20, 2008 - John S & Dylan D came to the camp early and found everything there still. It was warm and muggy and gnatty early today, but a SW wind has picked up by afternoon. John S & Dylan made 2 runs to the camp - first w/ their gear, and then with pegboard & foam boards and a little later they went back to Leeville to pick up Roger Brown. Roger showed up with a truck load of bunk frames and cabinets. By dark insulation on the walls was almost done and pegboard had been put up over the foam board and bunk frames were installed. Cabinets and a sink were then installed and an upper pantry was put in place (which was filled up in a hurry w/ stuff that had been being carried back and forth. The place is very livable and quite good-looking with the peg-board walls. Our work today really showed but that's because most of the work had been done by Roger at home before this morning's trip.

We also got some outside work done. Seams in the ply board skin of the camp were covered with slats donated by Rodney Doucet. We'll get more peg board from him as well. Yup, he gave us this load of pegboard. We also found out that Ronnie Skinner has a gas stove for us. That will be a good thing as well. Supper was onion sausage (venison) in lima beans & we had other stuff too, but my memory fails me about what it was Oh, yeah, barbequed country style ribs. Rickey Mitchell, who got to the camp just before Roger, did the barbequing. The little pit donated to the camp worked well. We drank XO & Jamison's until about 9 PM.

Sunday, December 21, 2008 - John S, Dylan D & Rickey M went hunting this morning. A bruise of a cold front was supposed to come through last night but nodd. John S & Dee hunted in the big blind & set decoys earlier. At about 7:30 or so they got a pair of dosgrs, or Dee did. About 10 minutes later the front hit. John S & Dee picked up decoys and headed back. Rickey was hunting near the Windey Bayou & was back at the camp before John & Dee because the N wind blew his decoys away & his boat was dragging anchor as well.

We packed up, but sat around the camp until most of the rain was over. It was blowing out of the NNE at about 20-25 with higher gusts. We waited until 11:30 to head home. We still caught major spray in Lake Jesse. John S had so much salt water in his eyes, he had to remove his glasses by the time they got to CNO canal. Arriving at the boat launch was a good thing today.

Friday January 2, 2009 - Happy New Year. It's nice to start the New Year at a camp. Camp Resurrection is serving our needs very adequately at the present time. John S & Roger Brown arrived today at about noonish. We are in Jimmy King's boat because we were carrying a gas stove given to us by Ronnie Skinner. It took very little time to get the stove going as Roger had hooked it up before loading it in his truck. John and Roger tried to connect the sink drain, but they discovered they were short a part. John put up a slat in the camp & Roger went to Charlotte & Rickey's sport to fish and caught 6 keepers - all specks. Roger caught reds around the camp too, but they were all much too small to keep. Supper was kosher gumbo and rice and Roger said it really hit the spot.

We couldn't watch the sugar bowl because channel 8 is already broadcasting in digital, so we drowned our sorrow and watched that cute little gal on Ghost Whisperer. Of course, Brandy and Jamison's Irish whiskey helped ease us into bed time at around 9 PM.

Saturday, January 3, 2009 - John went hunting this morning. Dylan isn't here because he had a soccer match at 4 PM on Friday. Weather is supposed to get rotten this weekend so we'll go in today. Roger has a card game scheduled tonight anyway.

Camp Log Book XV-A

4

Dylan will have to content himself with next weekend and the last one after that. John S didn't fire today. He went to Jay's flat and saw about 30 ducks there & will be after those birds next week. The traveling blind will be needed for next weekend.

Our stove needs some work. It won't bake w/o electricity & our little 1 KW camp generator just won't push the electronics on the thermostat. We'll try something else next week. Maybe a larger generator might be of assistance.

Roger caught fish while John S was hunting. Only one of the fish was a keeper, though. We'll be back next weekend.

Friday, January 9, 2009 - John S got to the camp at about 2 PM. Roger & Dee called later & John headed to Leeville to pick them up. Once everyone was in the boat, Rickey Mitchell showed up in his boat and both boat loads ran to the camp. Supper was smoked sausage-some with jalapeño- done in red beans with onions and rice. Sleeping was difficult due to a healthy dose of snoring supplied by Rickey Mitchell. John S got up at 4 AM to put on the coffee rather than lay sleepless in bed for another hour.

Saturday, January 10, 2009 - The morning hunt: John S 3 dosgris and Dylan got 1 gray duck and lost one that he knocked down. They hunted until about 9 AM and had shots at quite a few birds. A very enjoyable morning was had by all. The hunting wasn't good for Rickey who did not shoot in the big pond hunting from his boat. Roger Brown caught and threw back 42 trout. He had 1 keeper. Dylan went down the canal to see if Rodney's Angel was around and sure enough, got about a half sack of salty oysters from Rodney. He's a very generous man. Rickey was suffering from an overdose of cutters, so he headed home. Roger and John S worked on completing the foam insulation and screwing peg board to the inside walls. By noon Sunday all inside walls were covered and the roof was insulated.

The weather is warm. Highs are in the high 70's and low 80's. Gnats abound-thus-Rickey's affliction. It was rough after supper until John S & Roger had enough Black Bush Irish Whiskey in them to not feel the gnat bites. Bed time was about 9:30 and soon thereafter rain started. After everything was covered and brought in the rain stopped and a NNW wind really was blowing. At least it was cool until morning.

Sunday, January 11, 2009 - Our new inside/outside thermometer showed 61 inside and 51 outside at 5 AM. It was warmer than that inside after breakfast bacon and biscuits were done. Hunting was slower. John S knocked down a gray duck and lost it. Then he shot another bird. It may have been a big bec see, so John wasn't too disappointed when the dead bird drifter off to nether land. After the hunters returned and were packing, Chalotte and Rickey showed up to fish. They had very little luck. After Joey-made Jet Drive in Chili and hot dogs the boat was packed and John, Dylan, and Roger Brown headed in and Charlotte and Rickey stayed at the camp and straightened up stuff generally around the place. They headed in later in the early afternoon.

Friday, January 16, 2009 - We arrived at camp "Resurrection" at about 10 AM. - John Serigny & Jimmy King. We de-loaded Jimmy's boat and had warm coffee at about noonish. The reason we made coffee so early is because it's really cold this morning. We're talking high 30's- low 40's all the way until noon. After coffee and snacks, we took our afternoon naps until about 3 PM. We had coffee again and then we watched local news and weather until supper time. It will be cold tomorrow. It will be at least as cold as today- maybe colder initially. It'll moderate later in the day into the 50's.

Hopefully the tide and temperature will cooperate tomorrow morning and we'll be able to make a hunt. Supper tonight was red beans and rice w/sausage and pork steaks that we broiled or should we say roasted. Supper was very good, Charlotte, Tomorrow Roger Brown and Dylan arrive, maybe w/Dylan's new boat. We are looking forward to our meeting with Rodney's Angel this weekend. He is so generous with us. Hopefully this weekend will be no different. This is Jimmy's first trip to new camp "Resurrection." He thinks it's a really neat structure. His main complaints are about uneven boards on the canal side walkway. It doesn't seem to affect his sleep pattern much, however. He's been in bed since 7:30. John S stayed up to watch *Ghost Whisperer*. Jennifer Love Hewitt has sincerely bodacious Tatas. He also wanted to keep the place warm for a while. Right now at about 8:30 it's 40 degrees outside and 54 degrees inside the camp. Yup, it's chilly. Majorly! We can only hope the chill won't hinder our desire to hunt in the morning. John S is polishing off Roger's apple flavored brandy. He brought a bottle of Merlot, but the brandy's siren song is much stronger. Maybe it's because it aids in our effort to rest tonight. The outside temp is dropping- currently 39 degrees. The stove and the Coleman lantern are adding warmth. We'll write more tomorrow.

You know, this duck season has been a really different sort of animal. John S. can't remember when he has such a laid back attitude about the whole process. The best thing about this year has been the renewed interest of Roger Brown in the camp experience. We know that Dylan is the real reason Roger has a heightened interest in all things camp-related, but we're just happy about his increased participation. Our new camp motto is "I've spent most of my life hunting the rest has just been wasted." Maybe Rogers is finally in touch with that feeling. Even though it's because of Dylan, "That's a good thing!"



Saturday, January 17, 2009 - Morning temps on the chilly side- it's 38 degrees here. A combination of wind (N 10-15) and low tide (about 2 feet below normal kept us at the camp today. We stayed to the camp and had a leisurely breakfast and enjoyed checking the temp to see how low they were. Jimmy brought Mon-Mon King's cornbread pans and they are perfect for baking biscuits on the top of the stove. The El Grande flakey biscuits came out perfectly. At about 10 AM John and Jimmy went to Leeville to get Roger and Dylan. Dylan has his new boat in tow and will use it to hunt from this afternoon. After vegetable soup

Camp Log Book XV-A

5

for lunch Dylan went to the big blind for the afternoon soiree'. John S took to Jay's flat and neither had shots. Supper was in the works when John S returned. Dylan had come back earlier and he and Roger went fishing at Charlotte and Rickey. They had no success. Supper tonight is meatball spaghetti that was pre-manufactured by Jimmy King. It was quite tasty. John S, Dylan, and Roger stayed up until 9:30 talking and having adult beverages. All in all, today was a very interesting and relaxing day.

Roger installed an antenna and rotor and put up a color TV. We are currently catching all sorts of stations. The digital converter box is a hit! Roger even fixed John S's clunky old generator. Seems it wasn't turning up high enough rpm's. We know it's tricks now.

Sunday, January 18, 2009 - John S and Dylan got no birds today for about 6 shots. Roger Brown made potato pancakes with onions and sausage. We got rained on coming back from hunting. We were at the camp, though when the rain really started. It came down for about an hour or so, and once again we appreciated the water-tight integrity of the little building. During the morning hunt, Roger hooked up the kitchen sink. That is a major improvement for our operation so far. It isn't as glitzy as the TV hook up. But we really appreciate the convenience. Roger Brown has been tireless in getting things done around the camp. I don't know about Dylan, but John S and Jimmy K really appreciate all of his hard work.

John S and Dylan brought Roger back to Leeville at around noonish. When they returned, Dylan decided to hunt in John Pierce's old places. He didn't stay long, but John put 4 tubes of caulk around the outside of the camp while he was gone. With Dylan back at the camp, Jimmy took an afternoon nap and John S prepared for the last hunt of the season. Dylan crashed at 2:30 and at 3 PM when John S was getting ready to go, Dylan could not be brought to wakefulness. John had to go hunting-if only to get the decoys he'd left behind and the blind and Mr. Flapper duck. John had to smoke a cigar in self-defense to chase away the gnats-this, a mere 24 hours after almost freezing getting out here on Friday afternoon.

At about 4 PM or so someone running along William's canal chased up about 100 dosgris from Rodney's flat and half of them headed for John S. John stopped one dead and crippled 2 more that got away. Regardless, killing a duck on the last hunt of the year is a definite plus. When John S got back to the camp, Dylan had gone hunting again. He woke up and headed out in this boat at about 20 minutes to 5. He came back later with no birds at about 5:15.

Jimmy K is preparing fried oysters wrapped in bacon with red beans and rice. He has been working really hard this weekend. He's been doing almost all of the cooking and all of the dishes and cleaning stuff. We're going home tomorrow, but tonight we enjoy our meal and watch football. Earlier this afternoon the Arizona Cardinals beat the Eagles to get to Super Bowl XLIII. Tonight the Steelers take on the Ravens for the AFC contingent. John S is consuming some of Roger Brown's Rum. It is seriously smooth and refreshing.

Monday, January 19, 2009 - We slept a little later today now that the season is over. Jimmy King got up coughing at 4 AM and John S stayed in bed until 4:30 or so. Dylan slept until past 6 AM. After breakfast, guns were cleaned, things were stowed away, and the place was straightened up quite a bit. We waited until the tide began to rise. It was 10 AM by the time we left and we ran Forte Blanche on the way in. Dylan's shoulder hurt him from fighting with the tiller steering all that way, and then right at Lake Jesse he started having engine trouble. He made it in, though, and we're all safe and sound. It's hard to say goodbye to another year of hunting; we regret our missed opportunities, but we are very proud of the progress we've made and the friendships that have grown stronger.

Our only mishap of the weekend occurred when Jimmy King tripped and fell down the steps when he was heading to get some milk from an ice chest for his morning coffee. His right knee suffered some impairment. He'll probably end up walking w/a cane.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 - Well, my estimate about Jimmy was on target. His knee swelled up to where he was an invalid who couldn't take the trip to Crowley. John S had to recruit Wes Doucet to come along. Wes was more than happy to comply. We hunted this morning with David Boudreaux of Crowley. We hunted until about 10:45 this morning, but only were able to secure 1 snow goose and 1 speckled belly. Of course the lack of good shooting skills was the main culprit. John S killed one speck and crippled one other that was lost. He missed on a snow at about 20 yards early in the hunt, but redeemed himself with a sky-buster try on specks at about 10 AM that brought one screaming down from the stratosphere. He also crippled one out of the same flock with his second shot. The bird glided down about a mile off. Wes and "Rock" missed a couple of times as well. So we should've walked out with at least 3 more geese, but such is life. That's about it for the 08-09 hunting season. We had a lot on our plates and couldn't devote too much time to ducks this year. We sincerely hope things settle down and we're hunting more next year.

April 25, 2009 - We arrived at the camp at about 9:30 this morning. John S & Jimmy King. We're in 2 boats today. It's hot, but breezy, so you don't notice the heat so much. After unloading the boats and getting materials in order, we started putting up John S's little 8X8 foot building. It went very slowly at first because we had to put one of the walls together before attaching it to the floor and putting it up. Once that was done, though, things went faster. By 1 PM we had all the studs and rafters and ridge poles and plates put down & the S wall was done. (That's the one we had to put completely together before we started.) We were both tired and beat so we took naps from 2 to 4 PM. After post-nap coffee we had the W wall and E wall & half of the N Wall done & the building pretty squared off. At about 6 PM we called it quits for the day.

Supper tonight is chicken and lima beans on rice. You betcha, Charlotte! We expect to see Rickey & Charlotte tomorrow. They said they'd be out here then. Last weekend 4/17/2009- Dylan D and John S were here & did some deck work. Dylan also shot a bunch of John's 22 bullets. He worked hard so he was entitled.

Then Saturday 4/18/2009, John S brought Marsha and her squeeze Philip Dupont to the camp. This was Philip's first sojourn to the camp and although he only caught catfish, he says he had a great time. Marsha only caught one catfish, so she had to keep an open mind about Philip's fish victory.

The wind is really whipping from the SE & TV reception tonight is not so good, but we'll survive. The generator is going good and we aren't suffering. This afternoon's naps were very chilly and covering up was called for. We really need a clock around here. We'll fix that next time we come out.



Tuesday, May 19, 2009 - Shrimp trawling started a week ago yesterday, but John S was in Houston seeing to Jack Harris Doucet's well-being. Jack got here about 6 weeks early. This caused a pile of havoc on John and Susan S's vacation plans, but there you go. John S did get to go to Gulf Shores with Harold and Louise Adams and Ray & Brenda Bernard, & EP and Barbara Ledet, so Jack wasn't really a lot of trouble, but Susan missed the trip. Not that she minded a whole lot. She was very happy to be in Houston with the grand children. Today, though, was the first chance John S got to come trawling. Along for the excursion are Dallas and Erin Doucet. This is Erin's first trip to the camp. She says that she is good luck on fishing trips; we'll see if the same holds true for trawling. They started in the front tract and caught just over one gallon of shrimp in a 40 minute drag. Then the same amount of time in the pot hole got us a half of a 48 qt ice chest. We had almost a 2 gallon bucket of big white shrimp. More big shrimp than we had total shrimp in the first

drag. The wind was ripping out of the East & NE today. A cold front came through on last week. The tide was really up there, big. We headed home at about 2 PM or so.

Saturday, May 23, 2009 - We came to the camp to go trawling. John S, Charlotte and Rickey Mitchell are here. We started out in the pot hole because of the success of last week. First drag was a flop when 5 minutes in we had to pick up because one of the doors had dug in. The second drag wasn't much better because we had a shackle stuck in the door. On the third drag we caught a headache tree and had to pick up and we then found the trawl to be loaded with an ancient crab trap full of oyster shells. After taking an hour to free it from the trawl, we pulled the front tract and caught nadda. So with very little success, we headed home.

Saturday, September 19, 2009. Rickey Mitchell tried to get to the camp this morning, but spring problems with his boat kept him home. John S, Roger Brown and Dylan Danos came out hunting on Saturday afternoon with Jimmy King's boat, as John's is in repair. Supper tonight was T-bone steaks grilled by Roger Brown. John made hash browns- not the usual first rate culinary experience, but good eats nonetheless. John S put Copper Tox on the bathroom building and Roger caught catfish and a couple specks. After supper Mexican train left the station. Brandy, Irish whiskey and cognac flowed until 10:30. The inebriation level was considerable.

Sunday, September 20, 2009 - Our morning hunt in the big flat was enjoyable. We sat until 8:10 when 6 or 7 teal decided to join us and we kept 2 to show to Roger. It was a very enjoyable morning. Roger fixed pork chops eggs and home fries for brunch. It was very good. We'll head home today and be back for the last weekend of teal season next weekend.

Saturday, September 26, 2009 - John S arrived at the camp about 10:30 or so in a downpour. After talking with a couple of fishermen from Baton Rouge who had come into the camp to avoid the rain, John got the boat unloaded and piddled around doing stuff and messing with various non-issues until the LSU game started at 11:45. LSU eventually won 30-26. It was closely contested game and the outcome was in doubt until LSU's goal line stand with a minute left in the game. Alabama is beating crap out of Arkansas and Kenny Perry is leading the PGA Tour championship as we speak or to be more accurate, as this is written. John is very verklempt because it seems he has left his cell phone in Leeville. Maybe it's still at home but John is guessing his truck in Leeville. It was raining really good when John left the boat launch and he's sure he had put it in the back seat of the truck in Larose. Also, as John was running to the camp in the rain, his engine kept cutting out. John feared carburetor problems again, but it ran well enough to make it to Williams's canal. Then John reconnected the gas fitting to the tank, and the engine ran well the rest of the way. He kept heading for the camp because he figured if the engine wouldn't run, he could call Rickey. Now he has no phone, so it's trapeze without a net. John rested for a couple of hours this afternoon. It was very enjoyable.

When he got up, he opened the can of latex paint and gave 2 sides of the bathroom building some paint. He also painted the E side of the building's roof. He started on the main camp building, but the paint really needs to be cut and mixed. Maybe next time.

Supper was ground beef with onions and mushrooms mixed in. Holly said it was very good. She has been very, very antsy today. Maybe that's due to not having tennis balls out here. She did nap this afternoon, though. John will hunt in the morning. The weather has certainly changed. The downpours of this morning have given way to drier SW wind. Blue skies this



Camp Log Book XV-A

7

evening and it's comfortable though the sun is very hot. We even have purple martins out here today. I just hope to see a couple of teal tomorrow.

Sunday, September 27, 2010 -the morning hunt was on the dismal side. Through John S did have a hen pintail come to the decoys, he refrained from shooting. Maybe that she bird will bring her boy friends back with her in a couple months. John is packing up to head in. Maybe some fishing on the way. It's really enjoyable being out here, but it lacks a certain quality when you are here alone.

Friday, November 13, 2009 -First some back tracking, here. John S came out to the camp on Friday October 6 alone. On his own he installed the toilet and put down deck boards. He was going to put a ridge cap on the bathroom, but he was so tired from fighting with the PVC under the camp, that he quit and went home at about noonish. On Tuesday October 27, he came out on his own again to put palmettos on the big blind in the old pond and after finishing that he put up the screen door. He was home by 1 PM. The weather was very mild and breezy. After the toilet was installed, we were visited by tropical Storm Ida. Luckily, no damage to the camp was suffered.

Today John S and Jimmy K are here to celebrate the opening of another duck season. Tomorrow Dylan will be here to add a little youthful exuberance to the situation. So far today John has put fast grass on the blind over the palmettos and he climbed up on the roof and installed the ridge cap. Jimmy so far today has slept and read. It's very nice out here. We had 50's this morning. In the camp as this is written it's 74 degrees. We have a very nice west wind and about 1 foot of tidal fluctuation. We just hope that tomorrow there'll be ducks. Hopefully with all the coonasses excited about hunting season, some birds will be moving. Jimmy King will go home tomorrow and Dylan will be here. We're not sure when he'll get here, but we'll find out tomorrow. John S is cooking chicken and lima beans for supper. What can we say? It's a tradition.

Saturday, November 14, 2009 -Another duck season is here and we are content. Our morning hunt was a ZIPPO experience: nadda-no shots, no ducks-nothing until 8:30. After dish washing, Jimmy headed for home. John S came back to the camp after dropping Jimmy off and waited for Dylan to arrive. At about 3 PM Dylan arrival and helped with construction. The Bathroom has a window and a new East side wall. We also have a half gun rack in the camp. LSU football and adult beverages were enjoyed. It was warmer today with light breezes and occasional gnats.

Sunday, November 15, 2009 -During the night the generator died. It seems that it ran low on oil and croaked. After breakfast John S and Dylan hunted and Dylan managed to nail a single spoonbill about 7 AM. After we stayed to the blind until about 8:45 we headed back to the camp for potato and onion omelet and packed our gear to head home. We will return next weekend if not sooner.

Saturday, November 21, 2009 -We arrived at the camp in rain and chilly weather. Here until Tuesday are John Serigny, Joey Doucet and Curtis Stortz, who is on his first trip to the camp. Well, actually, this is Joey's first visit to the camp since we build the new more mobile streamlined building. We hope they both enjoyed the stay. It rained on us at the boat yard, but once we launched, the boats and headed here, the rain ceased and we were warm and cozy in the camp. Curtis and Joey immediately began firing pistols and 22 rifles. It was veritable fireworks display out here. Curtis had brought a new Weatherby 3" shotgun along with a .22 pistol and a 45 caliber pistol and a 9 mm pistol. We were shooting at all the beer bottles Joey could empty.

We grilled chicken and Mai Mai & Salmon for supper and stayed up until about 10:30 discussing various topics almost all of them dedicated to our mutual interests. It's still cloudy and windy, but it's cool and rally nice to relax and sleep.

Sunday, November 22, 2009 -We woke up early with good intentions, but the wind and Clouds kept us to the camp for quite a while. John S worked on changing wood on the bathroom and building a door for said structure. It ain't pretty, but it closes and give you privacy. While John S was wrapping up the carpenter work, he got a piece of sawdust in his eye and he really had a hard time getting it out. Curtis and Joey tried to help, but no luck. John thought a nap might help, but he couldn't sleep with the aggravation. He finally filled a plastic cup with water and flushed and flushed until he got the offending wooden shard to depart. By then Joey and Curtis were napping and John noticed Rodney's Angle paddling around the camp. John jumped into a pirogue and joined Rodney who promptly awarded him a little grey bushel full of oysters. When Joey and Curtis woke up, John opened the oysters for supper.

For lunch John prepared potato onions and corned beef egg omelet. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. It stayed cloudy all day today. Hopefully tomorrow we may be able to shoot a duck. Our OOO Yi Yi was very good and eaten with much relish for supper. The evening was spent consuming adult beverages and discussing many topics A-Z. We hit the sack at about 9:30 PM.

Monday, November 23, 2009 -We went hunting this morning, and Joey and Curtis actually shot at some ducks, though they were long range passing shots. I forgot to mention that yesterday when Curtis and Joey got up from their beauty rest, they saw that John had gotten oysters from Rodney's angle, so they being the envious and covetous type decided to have a talk with Rodney as well. Rodney decided to give the Houstonians 2 big bushels of oysters being as he may never see them again. You



know Rodney's generosity never fails to amaze us. After hunting, John S and Joey ran to Leeville and picked up various construction material and got more gas and water and cooking oil. In the early afternoon, John, Joey and Curtis built another bunk. This one a fold down on the south wall near the door. After the construction work was done, Curtis got involved in a conference call that he had to be involved with for work purposes. John S opened oysters and Joey napped. It seems he doesn't feel well. When Joey awoke, Curtis was done with his call and John S opened oysters for angels on horseback. Joey went fishing and caught one decent-sized white trout. For supper John cooked white beans and fried shrimp, oysters, fish and oysters wrapped in bacon. Tonight was TV night. The buys watched 2.5 men and big bang while supper was being prepared. The cranky stove just wouldn't cooperate, so it was very late when we were able to sit down to eat supper. A very sunny and nice day. Hardly an wind. It was really great being out here.

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 - We woke up this morning, had breakfast, & Joey started having intestinal distress. John S went to Jay's flat to pick up decoys and blind. After he returned, preparations were made to head home. Joey fought through his queasiness and came through a trooper. It took us a while to get going, but we're heading out and it's about 11:30. See you soon camp.

Friday, November 27, 2009 - We arrived at the camp with a load of gear-John S & Philip Dupont. Later (after unloading) they went to Leeville and picked up Susan and Marsha Serigny. This is an overnight soiree of fishing and various activities. This is Philly's first overnight excursion at the camp and Susan and Marsha's first overnighiter at this camp. In afternoon fishing Philip caught a keeper speck and Susan caught a nice sheep head. A trip to Charlotte and Rickey's got us 3 more keeper specks. A few undersized reds were caught and duly released as per regulations. Supper was turkey leftovers from home. We had rice dressing, turkey, yams, and some of the pork loin in cr me sauce that Marsha so ably prepares. After supper a little TV and some Mexican train, Pedro and fan tan ensued until Philip & Marsha went outside to night fish. John & Susan went to bed and Susan slept some & John slept until about 3 AM when the air mattress he was sleeping on in the new fold-out bunk went flat. He managed to grab a few winks before 4:30, but not much.

Saturday, November 28, 2009 - Morning hunt got us one bec see by John S & fishing around the camp was slim and gnatty. Philip did manage to catch a flounder while John S cleaned the duck. John S, Marsha S, and Philip D went to the little island and caught 5 keeper specks by John S and the rest by Philip. Upon returning, packing to go home was underway. So altogether about 10 specks, and a flounder and a red fish were kept by everyone in a united effort. Philip shot a few clays before leaving the camp. John S took the crew to Leeville, dropped them off and picked up Roger and Dylan and came back to the camp. Afternoon naps by Dylan and John S while Roger fished with a little success were the afternoon activities. Roger took the boat to go to Charlotte and Rickey's spot and John and Dylan shot the new boat gun.

Sunday, November 29, 2009 - There are just no ducks around here. Dylan & John S sat in the blind for almost 3 hours this morning and had no shots. Oh, we had a couple of gray ducks swing by, but that was it! We didn't even get a shot at a bec see. John S did shoot a marsh hen at about 8:15 or so and in the process discovered his shells, which had gotten wet during teal season were now not firing, or at least some of them weren't, so it was incumbent on Dylan to shoot the ones that would fire when we got back to the camp.

We're getting in. Dylan & Roger will be back next weekend, but John S will be getting Audrey-time in Houston.

Friday, December 17, 2009 - Only 1 week to Christmas. Next weekend, John S will be in Houston again. Jack will be opening his new Benelli Nova. Yes, he will have a gun that his grandfather gave him. Here at the camp for this weekend is John S and Jimmy King. Just like the old days-John is writing in the log and Jimmy is fast asleep. We came out in Two boats and Jimmy's 90 Tohatsu purrs like a kitten. There are a few more mergansers out here these days, but we have yet to see a real duck. Tomorrow is the first day of the second split so maybe we'll have help moving the birds around. John S checked the blind and it had nadda. He even went to Wes's pond, and again nadda. We didn't check the mud flats, but may hunt near Rodney's tomorrow.

Saturday, December 19, 2009 - We did not hunt today. Wind and cold kept us at the camp. We had a very leisurely breakfast and John S worked on changing the exterior lumber on the bathroom building on the West side. Unfortunately when John S & Jimmy built the auxiliary building, John bought lumber that was not exterior in nature. So not we've changed the east and west side. More to come on that subject later. At lunch, chili was enjoyed on this very cool day. It's gotten up to the low 50's today. The NW wind has pushed the tide down quite a bit. It's not scary low, but it's lower that it has been so far this year. After lunch John and Jimmy took a ride to scout ducks. No birds other than a few sea ducks in the back tract were seen. When they got back to the camp, Jimmy took his afternoon nap. John S passed on the nap and painted the bathroom building. John S painted the east side and the west side of the building. Then he painted the roof. With time and inclination to spare John then painted some of the camp building. He painted the entire east side around the entry door. He also painted the window section on the north side of the camp. With ambition to spare he painted the safety line on the east side deck, the step down from the camp's door and put a second coat on the bathroom building's door.

Jimmy came to life at about 5:30 or so and started preparation for supper. Jimmy is on the line for supper tonight and will prepare a Yankee pot roast. Beef and pork stew meat in a very flavorful gravy with carrots and potatoes over rice. It was a very enjoyable supper. Excitement is everywhere tonight with the Saints vying for their 14th straight win. As this is written, John

S is listening to the WWL broadcast of the Saints game. Right now the Saints are losing to Dallas by 14 pts. Things look dismal for the Saints with 9:02 to play in the second quarter the Saints are still behind by 14. John has emptied a bottle of Captain Morgan Private Stock. Sorry Roger! A bottle of Curtis Stortz's Compadre tequila is on deck for the upcoming second half.

Note to Reader. The remainder of the day's entry is rather disjointed and somewhat garbled and the quality of the handwriting in the journal gradually deteriorated. It has been reproduced here as best can be accomplished through deciphering.

With 7:23 to play before half the Saints finally crack the scoreboard to make it 14-3. It's not looking good for our home team. John S has shut off the generator for the evening. Coleman propane lanterns provide the illumination for tonight's scribble. The tide is turning slowly for the Saints. The cowboys who have had their way with the Saints' defense are doing their best to help the Saints hold down the scoring. The Saints are getting to Tony Romo now and their offense is not cruising as well as earlier in the game. The Saints get the ball back with 3:18 left in the first half. The Saints need to make adjustments at half to get things going. At the 2 minute warning, the Saints are moving with the ball. Drew Brees threw an interception with 1 minute and change left in the 1st half. With 1:22 before half the Saints take over on offense on the 30 and have a holding call on the first play. Brees fumbles on the Saints' 23 and the Cowboys take over on the Saints 23 with 45 seconds. The cowboys go up 17-3 with 45 seconds left.

Off the second half kick off the Cowboys score and lead 24-3 and that is the score at the end of the third quarter. The score goes to 24-10 when the Saints score with 12:35 left in the 4th quarter. A TD pass to Lance Moore with 8 minutes left makes it 24-17. The Cowboys miss a 24 yd field goal with 2:14 left. At the 2 minute warning the score is still 24-17. The Saints loose when Brees fumbles with 12 seconds left. Saints are 13-1.

Monday, January 19, 2010 - Happy new year, everyone! Well, things have not gone well for us here at the camp the last few weeks. We haven't been out here for over a month. The problem has been bitterly cold weather and our age. A lethal combination that works together to prevent us from making the trek out here. Last weekend the problem was rain and wind. I checked with Jimmy on Saturday and he didn't want to hazard it. The weekend before was plagued with cold temps in the low 20's. Our 60 year old bodies couldn't brave the temps to make the trip. The weekend before that was another Low pressure system that brought wind and rain. Roger called me to say he would rather not fight Lake Jesse in the wind and I concurred. Ergo, here we are with 1 week left in the season on Martin Luther King day, no less, and John S is here at the camp on his own. Of course, Holly came with him. The tides were low on the trip here, but not that bad. John S got here about 9:45 or so. The camp was in passable shape despite a trip by Dylan and his homeys between Christmas and New Year's. The only last ing affect seemed to be a sever lack of remaining alcohol and a hole busted in the screen door. With all the Bud Light bottle tops on the floor and all the missing rum and tequila it could have been worse-much worse.

John S unloaded the boat and started working on his project painting the outside of the camp. That little job lasted until about 2 PM or so. After the chore, Holly said she was bored, so John took her down to the clam shell dams. John ran into Rodney's Angle there. Rodney seems to have fallen on hard times. His oysters weren't big, but he did share and John S was able to bring back a little grey bushel full of oysters. John let Holly play in the water for a while and came back to the camp. Then Holly wanted to take a ride to look for ducks. Very few were seen. There were a few sea ducks in the back tract, but very little else. When we got back to the camp, John S started supper, but not long into preparation, Holly wanted to go to the duck blind to set decoys. So from 3:15 to 4 PM John Set out about 39 blocks for tomorrow's hunt in the big blind. John noticed that there was still some of Wes's stuff in the pond, so chances for a decent hunt tomorrow are slim. John will make the effort, though. When we returned to the camp at about 5 PM, John opened oysters until 5:15. Supper was finally begun in earnest. John is crafting fresh pork sausage spaghetti. Our uncooperative stove kept us from eating until about 6:30 or so. Holly said it was plate-licking good. John S is enjoying Wild Turkey American Honey right now-mostly because that was all that was left in the liquor cabinet. No more Monday night football this time of year, but 2.5 Men and The Big Bang Theory are very enjoyable. Roger's TV is a god send!

Tuesday, January 20, 2010 - The morning hunt wasn't a great outing. John S and Holly crippled a bed see that flapped off after being hit. It's partner in crime flew through a pattern of steel 3's like an armored fighter jet and kept on going. A couple of gray ducks circled 3 times and landed in Dad's old pond at about 7:30 or so. Then out of the blue at 8 AM a single gray duck flared over the dekes and fell to John's Browning. That was it for the hunt, but John wasn't too disappointed seeing how he did kill a duck. John went back to the camp & cleaned & packed and then moved stuff so he could paint some more. He painted the floor of the bathroom and the floor of the main camp or most of it. He moved stuff between the bunks and painted everywhere else-about 2/3 of the floor. When we put on another coat, we'll even paint the cabinets. All of this took some time, so John didn't head home until 12:05 or so.

Saturday, January 23, 2010 - Well this is not an official camp log entry, but it must be made to record notable happenings. You'll see why in a moment. John S & Wes Doucet and Lucy Jane went hunting on Wes's lease near Larose. We got a late start because Wes slept late, but we were ready to go-just a little later than normal. We launched the boat in the dark, but when we go to the lease 15 minutes later it was light. We set decoys and got into the blind and saw Joey Anselmi heading towards us in his mud boat. Joey stopped to say hello and continued on to hunt a blind farther on. Wes & John shot 1 teal from a group of 3 that came in & later realized they'd shot the same bird. About 30 minutes later they shot at 3 teal, but missed. Meanwhile, Joey was doing a lot of shooting and later called Wes to invite us over to him. He was having trouble hitting the fast-flying teal birds. When we got there, he had 1 gray duck and 1 teal. Within a few minutes of getting there, Wes got a teal himself. Then he killed 2 from a group of 3 that came by. John and Joey shot, but missed. At ten o'clock Joey headed back, but ran the lease to check on things first. When he swung by later he gave Wes his 2 ducks, but he put them in Wes's boat which was parked behind the island we were hunting on. We crippled a teal at about 10:45 and decided to go and bring Lucy to hunt it down, but when we got

Camp Log Book XV-A

10

to where the boat had been, it had drifted off the bank and across a 20 ft wide cut. Wes stripped down to his conson' and waded to the boat and threw John the rope and John pulled it back to shore. Wes figured the wake from Joey's mud boat had pushed the boat off the bank. Wes had shoved a paddle to secure the boat, but a rising tide had pulled the paddle free with the rising of the boat. Wes teased Joey later that the incident was intentional on Joey's part from his loathing to give up his 2 ducks. Joey good-naturedly agreed there maybe, just maybe, had been some desire in his actions to see Wes mud-crawl, but denied any malice.

Luckily the temps were in the 60's so Wes only suffered smelling lie rotten mud and never approached hypothermia. The incident will definitely be honored at the SOYS banquet coming up.

Sunday, January 24, 2010- The West Zone season ended today. Wes hunted again, but John S didn't go with him. Bucky Angelette did, but Wes said they got very little because they didn't shoot well. With less than 10 ducks killed this year it certainly wasn't a banner year for us. At least we made it through, and we are looking forward to next year.

Camp Log Book XVI

Beginning-March 1, 2010

Ending-January 22, 2012



*Produced through the
Auspices of the
Sportsman of the Year
Society.*



Camp Log Book XVI

Page 1

Monday, March 1, 2010

So we begin another volume of the Camp Logs. Jimmy King and John S are at the camp for an overnight stay. We will be looking to find Rodney's angel and see if his generosity persists. We arrived at the camp at about 9:30 AM. John jumped into a pirogue and found Rodney not very far from the camp. He gave us a big bushel of oysters and told us he was sure they were fatter than the last bunch he'd given us.

While we were decocouilleing the bunch, a couple of broken oysters showed up and he was right. They are nice and fat. We put the oysters in the little building in case it rained and went down the canal at the second cut from the camp toward the broken dam. There we ran into him again. He insisted we take more oysters. Even though we protested mightily, he insisted on giving us 2 little bushels of oysters. Rodney's generosity knows no bounds. We then went back to the camp and afternoon naps ensued.

John S didn't sleep well because of coughing and congestion and, thusly, his coughing kept Jimmy awake. Neither of their naps were very enjoyable.

Jimmy cooked supper and it consisted of sausage spaghetti. The fresh sausage from Chiasson's meat market was the jalapeño variety, and it was very tasty-spicy, but very tasty. Jimmy went to bed and John stayed up, watched Chuck, Two and a half men, and Big Bang. He consumed a little brandy and Chambord and retired at about 9:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Last night a strong line of storms moved through. The rain was so fierce that rain leaked from the cap of the roof due to the strong winds. Opening the door was a trial because the northerly wind tried to rip the door from your hands. It was pretty much over by bed time, but today the skies are cloudy and the NW wind is a steady 20 mph with stronger gusts.

After a nice breakfast, John and Jimmy set to opening the oysters Rodney's Angel had given us. That activity lasted until about 9 AM and resulted in over 1.5 gallons of beautifully fat, salty oysters. Once oysters were containerized and put on ice, general cleaning and pick up ensued. Our run home was less than enjoyable. Whitecaps and splashing from the bow spray made the trip challenging, to say the least. We were home by 11 AM.

This is a supplemental camp log entry for Saturday, April 10, 2010.

People at the camp, Rickey and Charlotte, weather OK, but windy, no gnats, arrived at the camp approx. 10:30am, stopped at Charlotte's spot, caught one, as you can see from the attachment, one is Catch of the Day, the other is Sunday evening appetizer! Well the camp is OK, nothing out of place, fishing only produced catfish, but the day was well spent, eating, fishing, boat riding, and napping. A good time was had by all. Oh by the way I did not advise you of the fallen fisher-woman last time we went to the camp, Charlotte was making the last step before stepping into the camp door, when she missed the step, and went down for the count!! Nothing like that happened this time. The tide range was not high, but steady rising all day, we came back from the camp, by way of Cole's crevee, well that was a new experience, seems the new elevated highway is not far from there, and the water way looks different. Please correct the Cole's crevee? Well, that's all for the camp supplemental of the day. **Rickey & Charlotte**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Well, nothing exciting to report, weather good, temperature great, camp area outstanding, napping was fantastic, lunch was outstanding, gnats non-existent, boat ride accelerating, boaters on the water, many, and courteous, FISHING SUCK-ES. NOT A BITE!! Rickey and Charlotte are here at the camp. Plans for 4/18/2010, Church @ 7:00am, and off to the camp to fish, shortly after.

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Reflections, reflections, where to begin, Ahh boat, motor running fine, fishing tackle, restrung and up-to date, bait the best money can buy, weather just a slight hint of a breeze, 5 to 7 mph, temperature, high of around 81, water temperature cool, maybe the problem, locations to fish, best in the world, camp site, inviting and nap ready, food for the fishermen, ham sandwiches and all the fixings, fish caught, MANY CATFISH!! Well at least we did not scratch, or to put it another way, who wants to buy bait, to catch fish you don't bring home? The experience was priceless, even if the catch was less than expected. Oh is next weekend available, I think were going to do it again, with more luck, I hope. On a lighter note, I was hoping that this morning's church service would be indicator for fishing; we tried fishing on the right side of the boat all day, but no luck. Rickey and Charlotte Oh by the way Charlotte has a calendar for you from the BTNEP, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. Bye for now.

Saturday, September 11, 2010

We're here for the first weekend of teal season: John Serigny and Phillip Dupont. We got here at about 2:30. John had duties at the LIONS club golf tournament earlier and they headed out après Golf. John crawled around under the camp and secured the sewer pipe that had come apart in some high water event. Mud is not John's Friend! Philip and John visited Charlotte and Rickey's spot and caught 1 keeper speck. Then Phillip caught a keeper speck from the wharf while John was cooking supper. We had pork smothered in onions or rice and Phillip said it was great! The rest of the evening was Fan-tan and brandy for John & cheating at fan-tan for Phillip. John just has no luck in getting a Fan-tan opponent who isn't inclined to pass with plays in their hands: first Joey, then Dylan, and now Philip. We went to bed at about 10 PM.

Sunday, September 12, 2010

John slept until five. He wanted to get up at 5 AM or so, but just couldn't answer the call. After coffee, biscuits, and scrambled eggs, the boat was loaded up and teal hunting was under way. They hunted the point Des Huiters and had 3 teal come in from behind and flare off early on. Shots at a pair and then a bunch of 5 were taken, but nothing was knocked down. They hunted until 8:45 or so, and enjoyed the morning immensely. It was coolish early, but once the sun made its appearance, it got to be hot really quickly. John S was sweating constantly.

The evenings were cooler and nicer and, with fans, sleeping comfortably was possible. After dishes and coffee, fishing ensued. John S caught gaff top and other catfish at the little island while Philip caught nadda. Then at Charlotte and Rickey's John S caught 5 keeper white trout while Philip worked had changing baits to no avail. No success. So we caught 7 trout in 2 days and enjoyed the trip immensely. The guys headed home to beat the rain and were home by 2.

ADDENDUM

Wednesday September 1, 2010- Happy birthday, Marsha. An excursion to the camp for rescue and recovery took place today. Going on the trip was John and Susan Serigny and Anne and Jimmy King. The trip out was uneventful. A table was put in the bathroom building for stacking storage and sleeping bags and cots were recovered. The ladies tried fishing with no success. Susan caught catfish at Charlotte and Rickey's spot and decided that was enough. The heat convinced her to head home. The camp was deemed ready for teal season.

Saturday, September 11, 2010- John Serigny and Phillip Dupont are at the camp for the first weekend of teal season. They missed the opening morning due to the LIONS club golf tournament at Tideland. They arrived at about 2 PM or so, and Phillip began fishing immediately. Phillip has zero experience with duck hunting, so some of the afternoon was spent indoctrinating him in pirogue paddling and navigation. He passed with flying colors and is ready for tomorrow's hunt. Supper was pork smothered in onions on rice. The fan-tan game raged until 11 PM. John is greatly disappointed that both of his daughters' taste in men leans toward those who cheat shamelessly at Fan-tan. Phillip can be excused since tonight's game was his first ever, and his omissions can be chalked up to inexperience rather than avarice. John still has his doubts about Joey's culpability, however.

Sunday, September 12, 2010- This morning's hunt was encouraging, though meager. We shot at several groups of birds but connected with none. We are encouraged though with the number of teal we are seeing. After hunting and washing dishes, fishing ensued and 2 specks and 5 white trout were lassoed. Phillip caught one keeper speck at the camp. Squalls chased us back to the camp, and we packed up and headed in about 1 PM.

Note to reader- Yes, it does seem that John S made duplicate entries for September 11 and September 12, but worse mistakes have been made. The editor decided to include them both for your amusement.

Friday, September 24, 2010.

Arriving at the camp at about 10 ish were John Serigny and Phillip Dupont. It seems that Phillip has taken to duck hunting to the extent that he took a vacation day in order to spend 3 days hunting with John S. After lunch and naps, they went to Charlotte and Rickey's spot and caught 8 fish- -3 specks and about 5 nice sized white trout. They came back to the camp at about 4:30 and headed out to put out decoys and set up the blind for hunting. They decided to sit for a while and stayed until about 6 pm, but saw no birds. When we returned to the camp, a rain storm threatened, but missed the camp. Heavy wind was all they got from the storm.

Supper was chicken and lima beans and it was good even though John spilled the garlic salt into the pot as he was cooking. This disaster happened before he had begun drinking Irish whiskey. After our salty supper, we played Fan-tan, and it seems that Phillip has reformed and has desisted his previous cheating ways.

John and Phillip took turns trouncing each other until 11 PM and John sat up until midnight to finish his cigar and regaled Phillip with tales of the characters who previously populated the camp here.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 3

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Hurrah, faith and begorra! Four ducks were harvested this morning under Phillip and John's guns. They knocked down 5 blue wings and were able to find 4. Holly was no help at all, but at her age, she's only here for her benefit, not the hunters'. John tagged a single teal around 7 and four more were knocked down at about 8 AM. One was a wing-tipped bird that Phillip paddled after all over Rodney's mud flat. Unfortunately, John did not let him bring his Benelli with him and the diving bird eventually disappeared. They headed back to the camp to clean ducks (haven't written those words in a great while.)

After ducks were done and a run to Leeville for minnows and ice was made, lunch & naps ensued. After naps the two decided to spend their time fishing. One keeper speck was caught, but the catfish were ravenously hungry. Many were caught and released. Supper tonight was grilled pork and sausage. Phillip cooked, and John enjoyed heating up the pork & beans.

Teal were seen while fishing was going on so hope is high for tomorrow's final day of the season.

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Our morning hunt was fun, though disappointing. We had about 3 nice bunches of teal swing in over our blocks, but we knocked down only 2. Phillip missed on a group behind us that John never saw. Then a group popped in and the pirogues swaying in water kept us from getting a shot. The next bunch gave us a front approach. John missed once & the empty hull refused to leave the barrel. Phillip fired twice to no effect- -RATS!! Another group at about 7:45 or so split with half of the 15 or so birds swinging to the front and the others going behind the blind. John knocked one dead, and Phillip hit one that came down but was very lively. John chased it and shot at it but it made it to very broken Marsh and made good his escape. Holly couldn't even get out of the pirogue due to her aging hips. The birds quit flying and at 8:30 the hunters headed back to the camp.

After duck cleaning and dish washing they went fishing and Phillip caught a number of specks & white trout on the bottom with a minnow. We cleaned up and headed in at about noon. Storms were around, but none close. A cold front is due tomorrow, but today it's summer for sure.

The weekend excursion got us 5 teal for 7 knocked down and about 10 specks and 12 white trout. All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend. Phillip wishes to return a few time for big duck season in November. We're looking forward to it.

Saturday, October 30, 2010

We came to the camp to do some wharf repairs and check on the condition of the platform blind. When we arrived, John S noticed something wrong, but he couldn't figure out what it was. Then he realized that the TV antenna was missing. Then he went into the camp and found many things were missing. John made a list of 30 or so things stolen from the camp. The list will be attached.

We felt sorry for ourselves for about a half an hour, and then John & Phillip drove a piling and checked on the blind. It was in acceptable shape & deemed ready for grassing. Fishing got us 6 specks- -most of them at Charlotte and Rickey's spot.

Supper tonight was a ground meat & fresh pork sausage spaghetti. Phillip observed that it was fit to eat. Once again John and Phillip stayed up until 10 PM drinking and talking.

Sunday, October 31, 2010

This morning we went fishing. Yesterday the gnats chased us out & back to the camp. Today, the breeze is a little up and the coolness in the air is helping to keep them at bay. We fished Charlotte & Rickey's and caught a few specks and lots of white trout. We ended up with 22 fish for the 2 day trip. We really enjoyed the fishing. Last night we had to keep the generator running to keep the gnats from eating us in our sleep. We just don't enjoy gnats. We headed home at about 11:30 AM.

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Arrived at camp in the late afternoon-about 3 PM- -John S & Jimmy K. We're here to put palmettos on the platform blind. The only problem being that the tide is so low we won't dare a trip to the blind. Jimmy napped, and John listened to LSU top Alabama 24-21. Who'd a thunk it? When John's plinking with the .22 John brewed coffee. Supper tonight is a ra ta tat patat with fresh shrimp sausage. We talked about making one with corned beef-maybe next weekend. Supper was really great and we stayed up talking until 10 PM. John drank a little more than his usual allocation of E&J XO extra smooth brandy, but he made it to bed okay.

Sunday, October 7, 2010

We fell back an hour today. Now the sun comes up at 7 and sets at 5:30 or so. Early this morning the tide was up enough to venture to the blind and the palmettos were placed. Next week we put fast grass and we're in business. We came back to the camp and packed up and washed dishes and headed home at about 9:30 or so. We'll be here next week for the opener.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 4

Friday, November 12, 2010

John Serigny & Phillip Dupont arrived at the camp at about 2:30 PM or so today. As we were unloading the massive weight of the gear we carried to the camp, one of the upright pilings of the wharf collapsed. It was rotted out at the water, but carrying generators and loaded ice chests over it was a bit much for it to handle. John & Phillip went out to the blind, set decoys and added fast grass to the blind's hideaway hide. The rest of the afternoon was spent fishing and fighting gnats. For supper John used the last can of corned beef in the world to make a potato stew. Yes, a rat a tat patat with corned beef. Since the free world will no longer produce canned corned beef-or at least that's what all the stock managers tell us when we try to get some- -we'll enjoy it this one last time.

Whiskey drinking and talking took up the time until almost 10 PM. Tomorrow is the first day of hunting season, and John and Phillip will try to uphold the long and storied camp tradition.

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Suck season starts up again. This morning was dismal. We saw very few birds and got no shots. We stayed in the blind until 8:45 with no success. That sorta means no gun or duck cleaning is necessary. That's the only bright side. John S worked on installing a new antenna, Phillip washed dishes and then they tried to shore up the wharf structure with no success or very little to speak of. Fishing then ensued and 15 trout were taken and returned to the camp. Phillip went out by pirogue to try for reds and John plinked with the .22 and then tried to take a nap. Charlotte & Rickey came by at about 2:30 or so & had lunch and then took Phillip fishing. John started boiling the field peas and salt pork & onions for supper and later filleted 5 white trout for supper frying. When Charlotte, Rickey & Phillip got back at about 4:45, they added a couple more trout to the fish fry and then they packed up & headed home.

John and Phillip ate supper at about 6:30 and after talk & beer & whiskey, Phillip hinted he was ready for bed at about 9:45, so John S finished his last glass of Bush mills Black & headed to bed.

Sunday, November 14, 2010

This morning's hunt was brighter than the opener yesterday. We had fog & mist that lowered visibility to about a quarter mile. Early on we were surprised by a squadron of four male pintail and failed to get off a shot. Phillip shot at a couple of bec sees later and we saw gray ducks nearby. At 8:30 seven teal came in to hit the decoys and 3 didn't leave. Thusly encouraged, we stayed until 9:15 or so but got no further meaningful shots.

We returned to the camp, cleaned ducks and guns, and went fishing. Our trout total for today was right at 15 again. We fished until 1 PM when the fish got lockjaw. We cleaned and packed the camp and waited until 2 PM to leave. Marsha's Scency party was in progress, and we don't dare arrive too soon.

Wednesday, November 24, 2010

John S and Phillip D made it to the camp at about 11 AM. The boat load of gear for the Thanksgiving day extravaganza was very memorable. Pirogues, ice chests, clothes, and cooking, fishing and hunting stuff filled every corner of the *Reel Love*. John S then ran in to Leeville and proceeded to load the left behind gear into the boat. When the ladies made it to Leeville, more gear was piled into the boat. When Marsha and Susan and John got back to the camp, Phillip already had specks in a bucket. Susan was chagrined to find her son-in-law had been surreptitiously catching her fish. Fish were caught from the wharf & later John & Susan went fishing at various spots while Phillip grilled supper for everyone.

Supper was grilled sausage & burgers, and it was enjoyed by all. After supper, a trivia marathon ensued & lasted until John prevailed with 20 correct answers just before lights out at 10 PM.

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010

Happy Thanksgiving Day!!! John & Phillip hunted until 8:30 and bagged one hooded merganser. They shot at a few more & lost one cripple that got away. When they returned to the camp, Rickey & Charlotte had arrived and brought smoked pork loin & green bean casserole with them for the Thanksgiving feast. Phillip cooked a turkey in his infrared cooker. It had been injected the previous evening. John S cooked dirty rice and Marsha brought smothered cabbage. We had customer pie and apple pie- -excuse me, pecan praline apple pie for dessert.

Two hour naps and fishing outings followed lunch. (John S & Marsha napped. Phillip, Rickey, and Charlotte went fishing.) The naps resulted in rest; the fishing trip resulted in nadda. John was accosted by Susan after his nap to bring her fishing where seagulls were diving on Williams Canal not far from the camp, and they went, though John felt the fish would scatter as they approached. As they approached, the gulls flew off, but John saw another group diving farther down the canal. This group didn't scatter as much so they dropped anchor. Susan landed two fish as soon as John turned off the ignition of the outboard. They proceeded to catch 29 keepers in 45 minutes of fishing. They also threw back over 30 undersized fish. In total they caught more than 60 trout in the 45 minutes. They returned to the camp to discover that Phillip and Marsha had caught a few nice specks from the wharf. Their total for the 2 days is currently standing very near 50 fish- -specks and white trout.

Supper was turkey leftovers. Susan went to bed early and John, Marsha & Phillip played Fan tan until 9 PM.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 5

Friday, November 26, 2010

The weather had been warm. Since Wednesday we've tolerated 80's daytime highs and low 70's at night. What's been saving us was the 15 to 20 mph wind from the SE. The wind changed to the SW this morning. We were expecting a change and it started today. Phillip and John were in the blind, and with no ducks flying at about 7:35 they looked back toward the camp and noticed the sky was turning ominously slate blue. They got back to the camp just as a gun metal dark sky ushered in a chill North Wind. Rain accompanied the wind shift and continued off and on all the way to 3 PM. The wind gradually increased until it was blowing at about 25 mph with gusts higher. Phillip soldiered on fishing until lunch catching 3 keeper specks.

The temperature in the camp hovered at about 60 degrees F at 3:30 PM. It'll get colder tonight. Hopefully, the wind will die down enough to allow fishing and hunting in the morning. If that happens, the trip to Leeville to return the ladies will be more enjoyable.

Saturday, November 27, 2010

No hunting for these guys today. Man, the wind is whipping with gusts close to 30 mph. Phillip started fishing at 7 AM. He had little success except for Cat Fish all day. John got the ladies started getting themselves and their gear together for the boat trip to Leeville. John was concerned that the hard wind yesterday and today would push the tides so low that getting in and out of the slip in Leeville would be out of the question. The boat was loaded and the ladies bundled up and the trip to Leeville was launched.

It was a bumpy ride with a 20 + mph NE wind, but once we turned into East Canal & had the wind to our backs, it was all gravy from there. John delivered the ladies & got fuel & ice at Griffin's and headed back to the camp after a few embarrassing moments when he forgot the boat gas tank and ran out of gas in the slip after 70 horse burned the gas in the hose. John eventually got back to the camp and found Phillip-what else- fishing. John washed dishes and after a quick lunch of reheated dirty rice and turkey the duo headed to Charlotte & Rickey's to catch a fish or two. That's exactly what they caught. One 17 inch redbfish-Phillip's first at the camp-and a nice white trout that John caught on the bottom with the dead man line.

Believe it or not, there are gnats out here this afternoon. The temperatures are moderating. This morning when John got up before the lanterns were lit and before the stove began pumping out heat, it was 54 degrees inside the camp. It was 51 in the bathroom and-believe me-the toilet seat was at least 20 degrees colder than that. This afternoon, however, it's a balmy 64 degrees outside. The sun is shining which is something it hadn't done since yesterday morning.

Last night's supper was stick chicken and leftovers. We have lots of desserts, and treats so we're in good shape-even if we don't cook. Tonight, Philip is cooking a chili bean to be served on rice. Relax, Charlotte, that's only red beans with hamburger & onions. Phillip did a really good job and supper was its usual high quality. Tomorrow, we hunt.



Sunday, November 28, 2010

Our morning hunt was comfortable but sparse. In the 50's this morning with a light NE wind. The breeze switched to the SE before the hunt was done. The weather front was a real quickie as most fronts in November are. The hunt was slow, but at about 7:30 or so a pair of gray ducks swooped in and Phillip nailed the female. About 20 minutes later the male returned, and was knocked down by both hunters. Holly and John looked for the bird with no success. The main reason we've had no luck looking for birds is that the grass is so high and thick. Twelve year old Holly couldn't get through the grass, and had to follow in John's foot steps to get around. The saw grass is at least waist high & almost to the shoulder with thin strong blades. The fresh water of last year's Davis pond diversion max flow episode has really helped the vegetation out here. It just makes cripples harder to find. Net result from the hunt-2 ducks downed, one found.

We decided to hunt until 8:45. After we picked up decoys and got to the camp, we cleaned up & headed in.

Friday, December 3, 2010

The first split ends Sunday, but we won't be there. No one wants to venture out. Even JP flaked out - -with just cause surely, but just saying', John S and Rickey came out in John's boat to work on a blind. The blind needed color enhancement for better camo. We couldn't get in the marsh, though, the tide was very low. We had to launch at the hotel and use south Lake to make it here. Rickey killed time by fishing and caught specks from the wharf. John joined him for a while and between them caught 3 keeper specks.

They went to the clam shell dam and ran into Rodney's angel. Rodney gave them about 3 dozen very salty single oysters. He offered more but since they weren't staying overnight, John Declined. They tried fishing at Charlotte and Rickey's spot with no success. They went back to the camp to kill more time as the tide rose. They tried taking the burners off the stove with no luck. They got one burner off, but broke 2 other screws of the 6 remaining screws. It looks like drilling and tapping is in their future.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 6

At about 1:30 PM the tide was up enough to get into the marsh. They went to the little island and John went by pirogue to work on the blind. While he was at that task Rickey was catching specks. He caught 8 keepers by the time John returned. John joined in the fun & together they caught 9 more keepers before leaving at 2:45. The biting had slowed into a crawl before they left.

Friday, January 7, 2011

We haven't been to the camp since last year. We didn't hunt the last weekend of the first split or either of the first two weekends of the second split. Tides have been low & the weather has been really bad. Today the tide was so low we couldn't launch at Belle's at all. We launched at Watt's and had to go through South Lake to get here. We're still hitting junk at various places. Jimmy struck something coming out of the slip at Watts. John struck something coming out of the bayou that goes to the weir on South Lake.

Setting up the camp took a while. Jimmy and John just aren't the fetch and haul it handlers that Phillip is. At about 3 PM John & Jimmy ventured down the canal to the clam shell dams and ran into Rodney. He, as is his want, insisted that they take some oysters back to the camp. Rodney's Angel is certainly watching over our oyster efforts and is really keeping us supplied with salty, fat, luscious oysters. He certainly is a very generous man.

Supper tonight was a rat a tat patat with fresh and smoked sausage. It was very good. Jimmy King ate 3 servings. We will hunt tomorrow. At least we will if we can get into the marsh with the low tides. John is watching the cotton bowl. The track meet that is LSU vs Texas A&M currently stands at 21-17 LSU. The offenses are turning and burning, and the defenses decided to mail it in. LSU has stopped A&M only once when the Aggies missed a long field goal and once when they intercepted an Aggie pass. LSU has gone 3 & out only once in the first half, and after another interception is threatening to score late in the half.

We haven't seen very many ducks since we've gotten here. Our estimation of tomorrow's hunt is on the pessimistic side. We have some really bad weather coming in on Sunday so we may not hunt, but may decide that discretion is the better part of valor and head in early on Sunday morning w/o hunting.

At half time it's 28-17 LSU. Phillip couldn't be here this weekend due to familial responsibilities: We miss him, but will enjoy our weekend nonetheless.

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Jimmy K hunted for the first time in over a year today with as little success as he had the previous hunt. John & he zipped in the big blind this morning. They shot at one marsh hen and had about 12 gray ducks do a flyover at about 8:30 but they were very discerning about their respite spots and stayed out of gun range as they over topped us. We returned to the camp at about 9:15 or so with sore bodies and clean guns. About a half hour after Jimmy washed dishes John shot at the marsh hen down the canal, but just couldn't stop the blighter. After dishes, the oysters what Rodney's angel gave us yesterday were opened. At 1 PM lunch was hot dogs & chili- -thank you Joey- -and soon after naps broke out.

John got up at 3 PM and got the generator going in order to watch the Saints play Seattle. He shouldn't have bothered as the Saints bid to repeat was quashed 41-26. It was a moral victory to come that close, but close only counts in horse shoes and hand grenades. It was an entertaining game & wasn't over until the Saint's onside attempt failed with 1:40 left in the game.

We're expecting really bad weather tomorrow afternoon, so John and Jimmy will head in early tomorrow morning. A low pressure area is forming on the cold front coming through this evening, and the prognosticators are saying it will be blowing 30-40 mph with East winds raising tides 2-4 feet above normal by Sunday night. North of Lake Pontchartrain will have sleet and ground freezing by Monday, and the East coast will get lots of snow before next weekend. We'll get out up at 4 and be out of here by 7 AM, hopefully. All that depends on how long it takes to get the boats packed and the camp packed up. Supper tonight was shrimp sausage spaghetti. It was very enjoyable, Charlotte. It was pre-made & packaged by Jimmy King. He only ate once tonight. As Shakespeare wrote, You can tell if a chef is any good bases on whether or not he eats his own cooking.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

We arrived at about 2 PM because of extremely low tides after last Sunday's big norther. Here are John S & Jimmy K. After setting up camp, John & Jimmy took a pirogue ride down bayou Manuel, and they were lucky to run into Rodney's Angel. Rodney was very disappointed that the oysters are not doing so well, and all the Barataria beds are empty. His boat was full enough, however, to give us 2 bushels of big, fat, salty oysters so maybe things are getting past the BP spill. John and Jimmy were very grateful, but none of their protestations were heeded by Rodney's Angel and he insisted and pressed the oysters on us. Rodney is a very generous fellow.

John cooked chicken & lima beans in tomato sauce, and it was exceedingly tasty. John stayed up watching football on the new LCD TV until 10 PM. The game wasn't over, but Mr. Jameson convinced him to hit the sack anyway. We know that Pittsburgh is in the AFC championship game. And we know that Green Bay was convincingly beating Atlanta when John succumbed.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 7

Sunday, January 16, 2011

John & Jimmy hunted this morning with no success. The season may be ending next weekend in the west zone, but there aren't any ducks (except Big bec sees) here now. They left the blind out in case they can hunt tomorrow, but it seems hardly worth the effort. Upon returning to the camp, John chatted up some Baton Rouge fishermen while Jimmy washed dishes. After that was done, oyster opening began and continued until lunch when Jimmy crashed after a hog head cheese sandwich. John wasn't sleepy just yet and opened more oysters until 1 PM when he decided to rest his eyes.

Jimmy got up at 3 PM and finished up the oysters while John, who arose round about 3:30 made afternoon coffee. By the time they cranked up the generator, the Bears had the Sea Hawks in a full Nelson. While supper was being prepared the Jets, Jets, Jets were handling the New England Stinkin' Patriots 28-21. Supper tonight was white beans & rice with fried oysters wrapped in bacon. Rodney's Angel's oysters were outstandingly luscious. Jimmy King sure can fry oysters. Oh, yeah, he cooked the beans as well. They were excellent as per his usual. It is 7:15 and as John writes this, Jimmy is abed for the 3rd time today. It seems he's gotten a bug from his cute-as-pie grand kids. John is in touch with his pain having succumbed to his share of cute-as-pie grandchild inflicted ailments in the past. John will shut down the generator & pack up the TV and then let Mr. Jamison keep him company until bed time.

Monday, January 17, 2011

Well the season in the West zone ends on Sunday Jan 23, but though that may be 6 days away, we've had enough of hunting for this year. No camp visit this coming weekend. We'll see how that goes but we'll return in a few weeks for general fooling around.

Friday, February 18, 2011

John Serigny & Curtis Storz arrived at about 1 PM today. We would've been here sooner, but we noticed at the boat launch that there was no butane bottle in the boat. A call home to Joey Doucet got us a new bottle, but it cost us about an hour of waiting at Watts dump. Once we got the bottle, we headed to the camp and the trip was mostly uneventful.. Once at the camp, unloading the boat took a while. Curtis had a 6 hour drive in his immediate past & needed sleep. John swept & mopped the camp and discovered the missing butane bottle behind the screen door- -so much for mental acuity. While Curtis needed sleep more than oysters, John needed oysters. John needed oysters more than sleep. Thus, he went looking for Rodney's Angel & found him not far from the camp down Bayou Manuel. Rodney insisted that John take a large Champagne of very fat, salty oysters. John resisted because everyone knows from media reports how poor the oystermen have had this year's season turn out. But Rodney's Angel insisted and John S finally relented.

When he got back from the excursion, Curtis had revived enough to fish. John S fired up the grill & cooked fresh sausage, pork chops and char broiled oysters on the half shell with garlic seasoned margarine sauce on them. Along with Curtis's home made chili w/beans it was a wonderful repast. A little TV watching ensued, and the 3 stooges was a big hit with both campers. Curtis went to sleep at 8 PM and John is up trying to decide which he likes best. E&J XO brandy, ST. Remy's VSOP brandy or Jamison's Irish whiskey. That decision might take 3 days to come to, which is pretty convenient because that's how many days he'll be here.

Tomorrow, Phillip Dupont arrives and Sunday he and Curtis go in and Joey Doucet and his sister's main squeeze come out. Curtis has amused himself shooting his AR 15 and his 1911. It has been very intriguing. Empty hulls are lying all about the place. It has been a very enjoyable experience.

Saturday February 19, 2011

We slept late this morning. Once Curtis was up he began fishing and was catching fish. Some nice 15 inch and one 16 inch speck were caught. John picked up Phillip Dupont at Leeville at about 10-ish in the morning. Fishing ensued and John S & Phillip went to the clam shell dam to fish and ran into Rodney's Angel who gave them a ¼ champagne of nice single oysters. Rodney is a very generous man. Phillip opened oysters for the first time and is very good at it. By the end of the day 12 keeper specks were landed & put in the ice chest.

Supper was fried oysters wrapped in bacon & white beans and rice. Phillip, Curtis & John stayed up until 10 PM talking and imbibing adult beverages. Curtis & Phillip shot Curtis's AR 15 & his 1911 and enjoyed it immensely.

Sunday, February 20, 2011

Everyone woke up at 6:30 AM mostly because of John's snoring. Breakfast was prepared & fishing ensued with less success than yesterday. No keepers were acquired. At about 10 AM Curtis, and Phillip went in to Leeville and John picked up Joey Doucet and Joey's sister, Monica's squeeze Craig. I missed the last name. Craig enjoyed being out here a lot. Joey and Craig went fishing & Craig caught a keeper speck at Charlotte & Rickey's spot. John took a nap while they were fishing & the guys opened a few oysters and generally chewed the fat & drank beer. When John got up from his nap, the group went into the marsh for a few minutes. Joey caught 2 keepers and Craig caught 1 keeper, so their fishing competition was a dead tie. At 4:30 everyone headed to Leeville to bring Craig back so he could be home to visit the LSU campus. Joey's sister, Monica is bringing her oldest daughter to see the place since she's a senior and shopping for colleges. Supper tonight is a repeat of last night's meal. John S stayed up watching Sanford & Son & Joey crashed.

Sunday, March 13, 2011

We arrived some short time after noon. John S and Jimmy King have come to search out Rodney's Angel for the SOYS repast. After unloading the boat and setting up camp, John & Jimmy set out in their pirogues to locate the illusive Rodney's Angel. They had gone a mere 70 yards down Bayou Manuel when they found him. He had a large collection of oysters in his possession. He offered 2 bushels of the tasty mollusks, but John refused saying that since Rodney had always been so generous with the oysters in the past that they would gladly pay him for them this time. Rodney refused money, but said that since he had been hard at work oystering the past few weeks that he had missed Mardi Gras. He wondered how he could get some doubloons and beads for Mrs. Rodney's Angel. John had just the solution. He searched his pockets and found 14 doubloons and a Frisbee ring that he had picked up out of Wes's yard yesterday while he was cutting the lawn for Wes. Rodney was overjoyed! Jimmy searched his pirogue & discovered 24 bead necklaces that had somehow gotten stuck under the wooden bench. So for the price of 14 doubloons, 24 beads and a Frisbee ring, the cost of the oysters was paid in full. We went back to the camp with the oysters, and Rodney headed home with his trinkets. Both parties were completely content with the deal that was struck. No finer bargain had been made since the purchase of Manhattan island from Native Americans.

Upon returning to the camp, disaster struck- nothing as devastating as the Japan Tsunami, but a real tragedy nonetheless. John got to the camp, put his oysters in buckets, cleaned his pirogue and waited for Jimmy's return. As Jimmy approached, the wharf, he became lodged by the strongly gaining tide against the fantail of John's boat. He tried to push himself forward to escape the *Reel Love's* fantail but the nose of his pirogue was trapped by one of the pilings of the wharf. The current began pulling the corner of his pirogue's bottom sideways trying to flit it under him. It would have failed had not the bushel of fat salty oysters from Rodney shifted to assist in the process. With Jimmy and the oysters leaning right, the current was able to push the right side of the pirogue below the water's surface and in 3 seconds the pirogue was swamped. It all occurred so quickly that John wasn't able to help at all. The oysters sank to the bottom of the canal and Jimmy would've as well had he not been able to climb aboard the capsized pirogue to keep his hip boots, now filled with chilled, salty water, from pulling him under. It was scary, but laughable at the same time. Such an instance shows us how things can go wrong and become life-or-death in an instant. Luckily, Jimmy's only hurt, besides his pride, was a sore shoulder from reaching for the wharf piling. John was shaken knowing that one of his best friends could have drowned before his eyes while he stood helplessly by.

After a reasonable time involving catching their breath and rehashing what happened, they went about their afternoon. John S cooked supper. A pork fricassee with lima beans served over rice. Jimmy went to bed to read while his clothes hung on the outside solar dryer. Hopefully, tomorrow we can again find Rodney's Angel and entreat him to replace the lost oysters.



Monday, March 14, 2011

John and Jimmy were up at 6 AM this morning. Their breakfast of fried eggs, sausage, & biscuits was eaten and work started at 7 AM. John began opening the oysters that Rodney's Angel had given him yesterday, and Jimmy went in search of Rodney behind the camp down bayou Manuel again. When Jimmy explained what had happened to him at the wharf when he returned from yesterday's meeting, Rodney was heart-broken about the loss of the oysters, but he told Jimmy he would get those oysters back by fishing them off the bottom soon. He told Jimmy that there was no way he wouldn't replace the lost oysters. Jimmy protested, but Rodney said that Mrs. Rodney's Angel had been so happy to get the doubloons and beads that he had a very enjoyable evening at home the evening before. He said she really enjoyed the Frisbee ring and had played fetch with Rodney's Angel Junior all evening. Rodney's Angel said she would toss the ring out the window of the houseboat and Rodney's Angel Jr. would rush outside and jump into the bayou to retrieve the plaything. Then Rodney's Angel Jr. would climb up the gang plank & rush through the dog door to return the ring to Mrs. Rodney's Angel, and she would toss the toy again with the same result. Thus, are the playtimes of Labrador retrievers when they enjoy a game.

Rodney's Angel said the in and out continued almost all night long. It continued long past the end of the retriever game, thus making Rodney's Angel even more generous than normally. He was so grateful that the trinkets put Mrs. Rodney's Angel in such a good mood, that he insisted upon replacing the oysters we had lost the afternoon before. He gave Jimmy way over a bushel of oysters as replacement. Thusly when Jimmy returned to the camp, John had opened barely half of the bushel they had been given the day before, so they had their work laid before them. When John asked what Jimmy had to pay Rodney's Angel for that large a group of fat, tasty oysters, Jimmy replied that Mrs. Rodney's Angel had paid for them for us. John thought that was unusual, but asked no further questions.

John and Jimmy worked on the oysters and finished up around noonish. While they were working a couple of crab men came by including one of Jimmy's former students, Roy Borne, Jr. They said the crabs weren't biting, and they were taking vacations to keep from running up expenses with no return. They ate corned beef & hash browns for lunch and took naps until about 3 PM. After naps and afternoon Ethiopian coffee, John S went down the canal and rescued the traveling blind which had been in the marsh since the second week in January. While he was paddling back to the boat, he got a call from Susan who told him that the New Bath installation tech had finished the installation of their new tub. John took the call while sitting in the pirogue on the paddle back to the boat. Isn't technology wonderful?

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 9

John and Jimmy had white beans and rice with Angels on horseback. John S had had that same supper 3 out of the last 4 nights at the camp and he's about had enough oysters for a while. Jimmy said there will never be enough oysters served at the camp and John surrendered to that concept.

Monday, March 27, 2011

This is an off-season entry. On March 19th the 35th annual SOYS banquet was held at John & Susan Serigny's home. About 35 guests arrived with their appetites. Fourteen smoked ducks, 60 fried oysters wrapped in bacon, over 40 fried fish fillets, 4 quarts of dirty rice, a pirogue cake, bread pudding many varieties of home baked breads some with fillings, and other dishes that escape memory (deviled eggs!) were consumed in copious amounts. Also adult libations were summarily consumed. The sing along was enjoyed, though the long Joe Walsh instrumental interludes caused interest to drift. Many awards of merit were presented. The slide show was run and the Sportsman of the year for 2011 was Joseph Doucet. Duly elected by unanimous ballot of the assembled membership

On Sunday, March 20, 2011, many of the members gathered to contest the SOYS international Invitational. After a 50 target shoot (contested under new and unusual rules decided on by the "Old Dudes") the best percentage shooter was Rodney Doucet. This was Rodney's 3rd SOYS International Invitational Title. Wes Doucet, the champion in each of the last 2 years finished 3rd behind Bucky Angelette. Finishing DFL was the Sportsman of the year, Joseph Doucet. It was another greatly enjoyed event of clay target shooting. Eleven shooters participated this year- a slight increase over last year's field. We even had a shooter from Houston. Curtis Storz arrived at Louis Armstrong airport on Friday.

John & Susan picked him up at the airport & brought him immediately to Drago's to sample charbroiled oysters, raw oysters and other noted New Orleans fare. While here Curtis had boiled crawfish at B&E's seafood in cut off. Curtis was dropped off at Louis Armstrong airport on Sunday for his return to Houston. John and Susan used the errand to spend the afternoon at Treasure Chest Casino and their buffet. All in all it was a great weekend.



Saturday, April 9, 2011.

We arrived at the camp at about 9:30 or so. John S, Phillip Dupont & Phil's uncle Bubba (Huey Toups) are here. We unloaded the boat and ran down Williams Canal and ran into Rodney's Angel working the honey hole. He gave us a large number of oysters. Many were smallish, but they only emphasize that the homey hole is still increasing the number oysters there. When we got back to the camp, John & Phillip opened Rodney's Angel's oysters. He is such a generous man. John was going to pay him for the oysters in the rarest commodity in the free world-canned corned beef- but Rodney refused because Mrs. Rodney's Angel was watching he weight these days and she love corned beef so much that he knew if he brought it home she would not be able to resist it. He told us that he really didn't care how much she weighed. He thought she was the most beautiful woman in the world at 108 lbs, or 180 lbs. he also told us that this would be the last hurrah for oysters this spring. Shrimping would be starting in a month and the oysters would be getting skinny, so he would be shutting it down soon.

At about noon John cooked potatoes & onions with corned beef-since he had a can he had bought at the Vietnamese store in Houma. Since Rodney's Angel wouldn't sabotage his wife's diet, they used the corned beef for their lunch. Fishing in the afternoon produced only a couple of catfish. For supper Phillip grilled pork ribs and John supervised the charbroiled oysters in garlic butter sauce with Parmesan & Romano Cheese. They were delicious, and Phil's pork ribs were moist, tender & tasty. All in all it was a great supper. Adult beverages and war stories lasted until 11 PM.

Saturday, September 10, 2011

John S played golf in the LIONS club tournament at Tidelands this morning. After his poor performance at the golf course, he will try to do some things he's a little better at- - hunting and fishing. Phillip Dupont and John S arrived at the camp at about 2:45 PM. They had to work for about 20 minutes clearing dead marsh grass off the wharf and lower deck. Then equipment was off loaded and Charlotte and Rickey showed to the camp. They had caught a fish or two and caught a keeper at the camp. John had a little boat trouble on the way to the camp and so did Rickey. John kept getting a hot buzzer and Rickey's boat kept shutting down RPM's. John suspects Rickey's boat has carburetor trouble and Rickey thinks not. John feels that his trawl doors are causing his problem. When the boat is loaded abundantly, he often has that problem. Charlotte & Rickey left at about 5 PM. Phillip & John went to the broken marsh near Rodney's and set up the blind and put out decoys and sat for about 45 minutes. No luck.

Supper was a homemade hamburger helper- -Mac & cheese with ground meat & onion. Both were very hungry and the pan ended the evening bare. LSU beat NW La 49-3 and then a gin rummy ensued that saw Phillip flatten John unmercifully.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 10

Sunday September 11, 2011

Today is the 10th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center towers. Our prayers are again for the victims and more importantly their families. Our morning hunt was nice. Not too hot and we saw birds as well. Our 8:30 express was 12 teal trying to land in the decoys. Our rusty shooting skill only got us 1 bird shot by John with his second shot. Phillip went 0 for 2 shots. We came back & cleaned dishes & proceeded to go fishing. We caught a few undersized specks, but only 1 keeper fish. We fished Charlotte & Rickey's spot & that's where we caught the keeper trout and one 11.5 inch fish that John returned to the briny deep. Phillip caught the keeper. We fished the marsh with no success. Only catfish & mini trout wanted our offerings. We got back to the camp at about noonish and packed up & headed home. We'll be back next weekend.

Friday, September 16, 2011

We arrived at camp about 6:45 PM. John Serigny & Phillip Dupont are here for a weekend of duck (teal) hunting. We set up the camp before dark & Phillip grilled sirloins and John made broccoli & rice to go with it. It is a really nice today, temps in the mid 80's and a wind from the N when we arrived. It had changed to the E by bedtime. The mosquitoes bred by the Lee downpour and tidal surge are at their peak population right now and keeping the screen door closed was an imperative. We listened to SL beat John Ehret. John drank whiskey and Phillip stayed up to keep John company until 11 PM.

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Our morning teal hunt was bright. We had one lonely teal come in at 7 AM and Phillip got him in one shot. Then at about 8:15 3 birds came in and we zeroed on those. Our shooting went from batting 1000 to 140 in a heartbeat. We caught a few minnows and shrimp in the trap and went fishing after washing dishes and general clean up. John caught 1 keeper white trout and all we caught else was catfish. We came back to the camp. John worked on the TV antenna and Phillip fished. Lunch ensued and Marsha Sue's chicken and sausage gumbo went down good with leftover steak.

Afternoon naps started at about 1 PM. Phillip got up at 3:30. John slept until 5 PM. After naps John S made chili beans with ground meat & smoked sausage. With the rice it was a wonderful supper. Whiskey and cigars are on tap for this evening. No LSU this Saturday. They nailed Mississippi State on Thursday night 19-6.

Sunday September 18, 2011

Our morning hunt was a ZIPPO affair this morning. We had one teal surprise us early, & we couldn't even get a shot off at him. We hunted until 8:45. We came back to the camp to clean up & Charlotte and Rickey arrived. It seems they're having trouble with their engine. John and Phillip cleaned up & loaded the boat & Charlotte & Rickey followed us back to the launch. Total teal for 3 teal hunts (2). Not great for us.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

John S is heading to Houston for an opening weekend dove hunt. On the trek to Houston he stopped at Piper's Haven & Best stop. He got good sausage at Best Stop & Wonderful cigars in Lafayette at Piper's Haven.

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Spent the morning at Trisha & Joey's waiting for Curtis to come to get me so we could pick up the camper we're renting for the weekend, but Curtis tried calling while I was outside, so he showed up about noon with the camper that he had picked up alone. John Y Curtis loaded up groceries & gear and Joey showed about noonish and we were on the road soon thereafter.

A four hour drive later, we got to Lake Corpus Christi Recreation Area & set the trailer up for the evening. Jeff Shamma was already there and Brandon Cradeur & his brother-in-law showed up later. Jeff had supper done in no time. We had pork loin done in a delicious crème sauce, chicken with stuffing and peach cobbler. Joey also grilled some sausage & boudin. Bed time was pretty early after beer scotch and Irish whiskey après souper'.

Friday, September 23, 2011

Opening day of dove season in South Texas is today. Our trailer is very near Mathis and we're hunting up I-37 on George West. Beeville is very nearby as well. Breakfast was grabbed at a quick stop. We check in with the farmer for hunting privileges, and by dawn we were setting up as doves flushed from the mesquite trees surrounding the harvested corn field. After a lot of shooting only Brandon's BIL Eric has a limit. The average bag was 6 birds. A few more were lost in the tree line. Back to Mathis-lunch (Mexican chili done by Curtis) naps and afternoon hunt where fewer birds were downed. Supper tonight is flank steak fajitas. All the fixings can with it. Served on soft tacos, it was quite an enjoyable meal. Up a little longer tonight.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 11

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Last night our number was increased by 2 when Ross Mohat and Jeff Glasspool joined us fresh from Houston. This morning's hunt was slimmer than yesterday's and after the hunt Ross and Jeff stopped to pay the farmer for their hunt and the farmers told Joey that tomorrow we could hunt in another place where there were more birds. The afternoon hunt was much the same as yesterday's though Ross and John didn't hunt. They stayed to the camper. John to cook spaghetti sauce for supper and Ross to watch LSU beat West Virginia.

The spaghetti had a little of all the leftovers in it. Oh, by the way for lunch on Saturday, Jeff Glasspool grilled steaks and pork Loin. So the spaghetti had pork, beef, sausage & ground beef in it. It was very good on Angel hair pasta.

Sunday, September 25, 2011.

Joey got up & grilled sausage U boudin for breakfast. That eliminated the need to stop for breakfast. We hunted the new field like yesterday afternoon. Jeff Shamma did not hunt to get a head start on heading back with his camper. Yesterday afternoon was a little better than Friday PM and this morning was better than Saturday morning.

All totaled we killed about 130 doves on the trip. Each hunter took 14 breasts home with him. Way fewer than last year's kill, but enough to make for a very enjoyable weekend outing. Everyone is looking forward to next year.

Saturday, October 22, 2011

John S and Jimmy K are here. We are also here to test out Jimmy's new boat. His 18 ft by 4 ft War Eagle boat with a 27 HP Kohler engine Mud Buddy is a really great machine. Jimmy's got the pop up blind on it and it's all outfitted with headlights and running lights and a fixed pump. It's very natty with its camo paint job. No more pirogues for us. We've got the device for hunting now. The camp is pretty much unchanged from its condition when we left it during teal season.

We may have a vermin problem, though. We've had a few chip bags chewed on. John will set traps when they depart for home tomorrow. Supper tonight was rat a tat patat with smoked sausage & fresh sausage. Jimmy King had gone to bed already. He had a nap as well this afternoon while John S listened to LSU beat Auburn 42-10. The Tigers are bad medicine in the SEC this year. They're 8-0 right now and they're getting ready to face Nick Saban & Alabama in 2 weeks. John S is trying to get election results, but no broadcast as of yet. All we can get is Stephen F. Austin vs Nicholls State and it's 56-14 with SFA in the lead right now. Nicholls really sucks. All NSU has managed is 2 kick returns for TD's. Their offense is nonexistent. Tomorrow we will fish.

Sunday, October 23, 2011

We rode the marsh today. We went out to the marsh towards Bay Batiste and went some places I hadn't been in 20 some odd years. Some of the places we went to today, I've never been before. The new boat really gets it. We fished, but caught nothing. With this boat though, there is no place we can't go. Heading in.

Sunday, November 6, 2011

We're here to install the new stove and such. We got here at about noon and everything hooked up by 2:15 or so. We listened to the Saints beat Tampa 27-16, and after last night's game where LSU squeaked by Alabama 9-6 in overtime. The game was very satisfying. LSU will undoubtedly hand on to its #1 ranking. Alabama will drop in the polls after last night's game, but it won't be very far. We could see the match up again in January when it gets to be championship time.

We bought a 20 inch apartment stove last week. John worked on converting it to LP gas at his house and he made up connections and got the copper ready so he could run it under the camp. All the connections were made and gas and air were adjusted and everything is running as it should. We tested out the stove this afternoon by cooking supper. John S made pork chops smothered in onions and gravy. We also had beef flavored rice and some canned great northern beans. Supper was over by 6:15 and Jimmy King went to bed soon after. At about 7 PM a light drizzle started, and by now it's a pretty steady rain. It's off & on but mostly on right now.

Hunting season starts next weekend. We'll be there, or I mean here. We have very low expectations for the season. With the dryness out west, we may have a few birds that are looking for a wet patch. We'll see.

Friday, November 11, 2011

Happy Veteran's Day, Jimmy King, John Pierce, Bobby Delaune, Curtis Storz. Also Happy Birthday, Suzan Serigny. You are 58 now aren't you?

John S & Jimmy K arrived at about noon. Tomorrow is the first day of hunting season. How many years has it been now? Well, John S has been coming here since 1964. That'll be 48 years with tomorrow's opening. Jimmy King has been coming here since 1970 so for him it's 41 years. That's a long time for both veterans. After the boats were unloaded, John & Jimmy snacked for lunch. Then naps ensued. Jimmy slept from 1:30 to 4 PM. John slept from 2 PM to 5 PM. It all made for a really lovely afternoon. Supper was Roast beef Po-boys w/lettuce tomato, mayo & onion gravy. Very tasty, indeed.

Our hopes are for a few birds tomorrow. We'll see how it goes. Our hopes are considerably higher than our expectations. With the paucity of birds we've seen in the recent history of the camp, we realistically aren't very optimistic.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 12

Whatever the result, we will enjoy our time here. Jimmy's new boat will make our enjoyment greater than it normally would be. Tomorrow will be its acid test for the usefulness as a duck killin' machine. Jimmy was asleep by 7:45 or so. John is partaking of Irish whiskey and Don Diego Cigars, a truly outstanding combination. Our hopes are high.

Saturday, November 12, 2011

The first day of hunting season left us optimistic. We had gray ducks come to our spread at least 4 times before 7 AM. We had shots twice. It seems the birds didn't like the blind on the new boat at first. Once we put fast grass over the netting, we got closer looks that got us shots. We picked up at about 9 AM and then ran the marsh. We will hunt near Rodney's tomorrow.

We went on the North side of Williams Canal and saw Jimmy Cheramie and his crew hunting near our old pass to Bay Batiste. We saw quite a few birds there as well. Lunch and naps ensued after John S stabbed 4 pilings for the new wharf on the bayou Manuel side of the camp. Supper was fried garlic sausage U white beans that Jimmy cooked at home last week. LSU is ahead of Western Kentucky in the second quarter right 14-7.

Sunday, November 13, 2011

This morning we hunted in the South end of Rodney's flat. We had one bunch of gray ducks come by & flare early. It seems for the gray ducks, we need more camo. We did have a teal land in the decoys, but we didn't see him quickly enough. He flew off of the decoys and we shot at him, but he had enough distance on us to keep him safe. We stayed until 9 but got no more shots. Back to the camp, cleaned up, and headed in.

Friday, November 18, 2011

Jimmy King and John S are here for another weekend of hunting. We got here at about noon. After getting things deployed, we drove 2 more pilings for the new fishing wharf. We rested and talked and at about 3 PM we found a place to hunt near the fence and put out decoys. We checked N O Williams Canal and saw that Jimmy's crew was in their blinds. We stayed away and headed back to the camp. Supper was hamburger po boys and hash browns. The TV works fine. News, sports, weather, and early evening prime time is really good since JK went to bed right after supper. We hope for better results on tomorrow's hunt.

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Morning hunt was very encouraging. We had mergansers buzz the blind a number of times. We just couldn't get our guns up quickly enough. The large bunches of gray ducks we saw last weekend have disappeared. We saw pairs and groups of three. At about 8:30 we had a pair of grays come close enough to shoot at and John S dropped one. We shot at it repeatedly, but it swam around the point across the pond we were in. A half hour later we went after the bird and Jimmy saw it and shot it with John's gun. He had about a 30 yard walk to get the bird with the decoy hook. It was our first bird from the boat blind and we feel we have the camo situation solved. We came back to the camp and John S worked on the new fishing wharf on Bayou Manuel while Jimmy washed dishes. After naps, we ran to the area between Bay Batiste and Jeff's pipeline and searched for hunting places. Supper was Chicken spaghetti. We would've had chicken & limas, but John forgot the limas. He also forgot eggs, but biscuits, bacon and grits were enough.

LSU is playing Ole' Miss tonight. John has a few chores to do tonight before bed, but at 7:05 Jimmy is already abed.

Sunday, November 20, 2011

We hunted today in the shallow end of Jay's flat near Trixie. We had a pair of gray ducks buzz us at about 7:30 and Jimmy got one down. As we were trying to decide when to go out and pick them up a group of 5 birds came right in and we dropped 3 of them. John S got 1 and Jimmy got 2. Our efforts a better grassing the boat seems to be paying dividends. After a few minutes they decided to motor out and get the birds. When they pushed off the island, John decided to pilot the boat around the back of the island they were hunting behind. Unfortunately, the area behind the island was a recent wash out. The inch or so of water they were floating on had hard ground under it & they were had stuck. The mud buddy couldn't get them out because it couldn't penetrate the hard layer of top soil. John S gave up trying to move them and Jimmy and John got out of the boat to walk it off the area. It was seriously hard ground and they walked around like they were on a sidewalk. The aluminum hull was off in seconds, and they push poled to where they were sure they had a soft mud bottom. John S hit the starter to get going, but nothing happened. All he got was a click & then nothing. After trying for long enough to assure that the motor wouldn't turn over, they searched for the cause with no success. They decided that they had better start to the camp & picked up their birds & start for the camp. They stopped at the opening of Jay's flat to the back tract so John could check and see if the prop turned free, and it did. When he got back in the boat, he was checking to see if the dead man switch was okay when Jimmy asked, " This may be a stupid question, but is the toggle switch in neutral?"

John had no idea that the engine wouldn't start with the toggle in the forward position. When we moved it to neutral and turned the key, the engine started right up-no problem.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 13

We went back & got decoys and came back to the camp. The stress of the incident had washed all thoughts of more hunting from their minds. They cleaned ducks, dishes and the camp and headed home with 5 nice gray ducks for the weekend.

Friday, November 25, 2011

John & Jimmy are here again. That's 3 weekends in a row. That hasn't happened since Gustav. We got here at about 12:45 pm or so, and John S set up the generator and the TV in time for the LSU VS Arkansas showdown. LSU prevailed 41-17 and is headed to Atlanta to play Georgia in the SEC Championship game. Supper was a rat a tat patat with Frank's green onion sausage. It was great. John S hit the nail on the head for sure.

It's almost 8 PM right now and Jimmy has been asleep for quite a while. We survived the Thanksgiving feasting yesterday very well. We are very grateful for our ability to be out here enjoying the new boat and a pastime both John and Jimmy enjoy. We'll be here until Monday this time. The weather will be horrible so we'll see how things go.

Saturday, November 26, 2011

We left the camp late this morning due to very high tides and windy conditions. We were set up by 6:40. We saw very few birds today and had no shots. The grays were more wary than last weekend. Our first view of gray ducks was at about 8:40 or so. We saw hooded mergansers and quite a few big bec sees earlier. Back out the camp we battened down the hatches to make ready for the approaching rain event coming in the afternoon and tonight. The high tide events are caused by the SE and W wind at 20 + and the huge tidal variance of 2.5 feet. John S got some cradle timbers attached on the back fishing wharf. We are progressing on that project, but at a very slow pace.

At about 12:30 or so the showers began off and on. Nothing very had or great in duration. John S decided to make a fe casts in the canal and caught a 13 inch speck. It was the only fish willing to bite though John tried for an hour or so. Jimmy slept. John got gas for the generator from his second boat tank and got the generator running at about 1:45 or so. Jimmy slept. John went to take his nap about 2 Pm or so. Jimmy got up to eat something. John slept from 2 to 4 PM. Jimmy stayed up & read until 3 and went back to sleep until 4:30

John S started with supper and watched Auburn/Alabama. Alabama won 42-14. It was a real trouncing by the Tide. If LSU beats Georgia in the SEC championship, they'll probably play Alabama for the National Championship. Supper was chicken & lima beans in tomato sauce. It was served at about 6:20 or so. Jimmy got up to eat and was asleep again before 8 PM.

We're expecting a big bad cold front to come through tonight. Heavy storms and rain are coming before dawn & heavy winds after the front. We probably won't hunt tomorrow due to wind. We're planning on staying until Monday though and may be able to get out and hunt on Monday morning.

Sunday, November 27, 2011

The front made it through at about 1 AM with light rain. After checking on the boats, we went back to bed & got up at 4:30. After a leisurely breakfast, they headed out hunting Jay's flat. Got there lat, so we could see the effects of the front. It stayed in the low 60's with a 15 mph wind with clouds and overcast- really nice duck weather. Gray ducks were flying, but they steered clear of us. No shots again. Back at the camp the wind really started blowing and after lunch (we stayed in the blind until 10 AM), we got naps. Temps are in the mid 50's and wind is really strong out of the NW. The tide was over the wharf this morning and will have trouble gaining tomorrow. It will actually get colder tomorrow. The clouds have held on all day, and we may have rain tomorrow with temps in the low 40's. It's really crazy weather out here.

We will judge conditions tomorrow and decide on hunting then. If we don't hunt, we will head home if conditions allow.

Monday, November 28, 2011

Wind is from the NW @ 15-20 mph, gusts higher. We will head home without hunting today. No breakfast, even. Just coffee, dishes pack up and go home. We won't be back for a while. Bennett's baptism is on the agenda.

Saturday, December 10, 2011

John S & Jimmy King arrived at about noon. They are in John's boat only to do some work on the wharf. Twelve foot 4X4's were carried out along with a few landscape timbers to add another few feet to the wharf's length. John also brought a pirogue to skim around and look for Rodney's Angel. John found him in the marsh behind the camp. He apologized that the oysters weren't quite fat enough yet, but the bushel full he gave us proved adequate. Rodney is a very generous man.

While opening the oysters the wind combined with the 40's temps caused both John & Jimmy to decide to forego the wharf work until the morrow. Jimmy napped & John got things ready for supper oysters wrapped in bacon with fries was a great supper. Oh, we po-boyed the oysters. It was great. Jimmy went to bed right after supper and John called Susan, watched TV and generally tried to keep warm.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 14

Sunday, December 11, 2011

We thought the N wind of about 15 – 20 mph yesterday was bad. Today is worse. We tried to work on the wharf, but the boat was unmanageable, so we'll wait. We're going home to get warm. The wind today is at least 25 mph with gusts higher, and they are straight out of the north as well. The high line will be a bear for sure. Temps are still in the 40's. Brrrrrrr!

Friday, December 16, 2011

John S and Jimmy K are here for the opening of the second split. The mud bug is dolled up and rearing to go. We completed the wharf work early in the afternoon. The outside cradle is set & the stringers are connected. Boards are next. Supper tonight was rat a tat pa tat with #7 steaks and corned beef on rice. It was very good but almost over salted by John S. It is 68 degrees here. It's only about 25 degrees warmer than last week. A cold front should come through tonight and drop the temps about 10 degrees. The wind won't be too bad. We have the gear. We'll see if this place has more birds than it did first split.

Saturday, December 17, 2011

Morning hunt was on the dismal side. Despite really great duck weather (cloudy, light rain occasionally, N wind 15-20), we got no shots. We did pinpoint where the birds were going though. It seems Trixie's blind is really loaded. At least 100 birds went down there. After hunting we scoped out the area. Trixie's blind is there & he even has a decoy placed in front of the blind. While we were there, birds were coming in to the area looking to land. If Trixie isn't there tomorrow, we will be. We'll leave late and see what gives there. If he shows, we'll hunt the shallow end of Jay's.

John S did catch one fish at about 11:30. It was a really nice 13 inch speck. Of course, it was the only biting fish in the area. John fished for about an hour & only caught the one.

Afternoon naps broke out unimpeded. We checked out Trixie again at about 3 PM and there were about 100 ducks in the general area of Trixie's blind. Back to the camp and supper was very tasty meatball spaghetti. Jimmy cooked it at home earlier in the week and brought the sauce with him. John S added the meatballs and ground meat. It was delicious! Tonight in the 40's and tomorrow the highs will be in the 60's. A beautiful day is on tap. Hopefully, it'll also include ducks for us.

Sunday, December 18, 2011

This morning's hunt was just awesome. John & Jimmy got their limit of ducks. They knocked down twelve and found 8: 5 gray ducks, 1 pintail, 1 red head, 1 dosgris. They were unable to find 2 other dosgris they knocked down and the same for 2 other gray ducks. We hunted near Trixie when we saw that he wasn't hunting this morning. The birds were in there when we got there, and while we set up, they were filtering back in. John S felt bad about hunting the guy's set up, but when you're not shooting anything anywhere going where the birds are is definitely something you want to do. Thanks to our new boat for making the successful trip possible.

That is the most birds we've shot out here in forever. We're really excited about the possibilities. We cleaned ducks & dishes and finally, the camp, and we headed to the house. We're not coming back until after Christmas.

Thursday, December 29, 2011

We arrived at the Jolly Roger at about noonish and after setting things up, headed out to Trixie's to see if there were still birds there. We coupled the trip with looking for Rodney's Angel to get a few oysters for supper tomorrow night.

There were no ducks at Trixie's but we got a half a bushel of oysters from Rodney's Angel. We were surprised to find him so quickly and especially so near Lake Laurier, but he told us he works the lake area during the week and hangs around the camp on weekends. He said that he looks for us on weekends because he knows we dearly enjoy his oysters. He is a very generous man.

Supper was Bourgeois Meat market's garlic sausage spaghetti. It was great. John shut down the generator and the TV at 9 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2011

Our morning hunt was a real shocker. We had 2 gray ducks flair off at about 7:45 & a bunch of dosgris buzz us at 8 AM. We were unloading our guns to leave at 9 o'clock when a bunch of about 20 dosgris came in. By the time guns were reloaded the birds had high-tailed it. John S got off one shot, but it was no more than a "get along little doggies" type attempt. We decided that tomorrow we'll be waiting for them.

When afternoon naps were done, the oysters that were gifted to us yesterday were opened. 2 dozen were kept half-shelled for supper. After coffee, John got the Weber Kettle going and the oysters were charbroiled and Bourgeois's fresh jalapeño sausage was grilled. We had charbroiled oyster & sausage po boys. Man, what a supper! Hope to do better hunting tomorrow.

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 15

Sunday, December 31, 2011

Fog!!! We are really socked in this morning. We didn't leave the camp until 6:30. The fog never lifted. We stayed in the shallow end of Jay's flat until 10 AM. No shots. We got to the camp and the fog proceeded to lift. We cleaned up and headed home. Hope for better luck next time.

Sunday, January 8, 2012

We arrived at around noon on this warm and sunny Sunday due to J. Serigny's grandson Bennett Dupont. Bennett was brought into the Catholic church on the same evening that the Saints beat Detroit in the wild card playoff game in New Orleans. On the way to the camp we were running down Williams Canal when John and Jimmy ran into Rodney's Angel and he insisted that they take a big basket of oysters. Rodney's Angel said he was looking forward to Mardi Gras. John S promised him lots of trinkets this year.

John & Jimmy got to the camp and set the place up. John got the generator going at about 2 PM & spent the afternoon watching the NY Giants beat the Dirty Birds from Atlanta and then watched Tim Tebow lead the Broncos to an overtime win over the Pittsburgh Steelers. Super was eaten during the game, and Jimmy King went to sleep soon thereafter. John S stayed up until about 8:30 or so & decided to go to bed after he fell asleep sitting in his rocker at about 8:15. I figured if I couldn't stay awake watching TV it was best to cash it in for the night. The E&J XO brandy probably contributed to this level of tiredness.

Monday, January 9, 2012

This morning we hunted in Rodney's flat & heard ducks quacking all morning. It seemed they were going into Jay's flat. At 9 AM they decided to leave, but had a hard time getting the mudbug going due to the low tides and due to the oysters around their set up spot. When they picked up decoys, they ran to Jay's flat and there were about 10 grays among hundreds of cranes in the flat. They decided to go there tomorrow if the weather and the tide permit.

When they got to the camp, they opened Rodney's Angel's oysters; Rodney is a very generous man. John S tried fishing after a prepared 2 dozen of Rodney's Angel's succulent oysters for charbroiling later in the day. His fishing efforts were equally productive when he caught 7 really nice specks and 1 undersized fish that he threw back. After some Joey chili, naps were secreted away. John S got up at 4:15 & charbroiled the oysters. He also grilled some fresh pork sausage. White beans and rice were added to make a delicious supper.

Tonight LSU plays Alabama for the BCS national championship. All day on TV the match up has been touted - ALL DAY LONG. LSU has started very slowly on offense and as John S listens to the game on radio, Jimmy King sleeps. At the end of the first quarter, Alabama leads 3-0. At halftime the score is Alabama 9 LSU 0. Alabama won - LSU failed to score and never crossed midfield. It was a truly horrible performance by the Tigers.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Rain and a hard SE wind kept us from hunting. We took a run to Jay's flat and saw quite a few ducks in the shallow end. Hopes are high for our nest trip.

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Yesterday, the Saints lost to the 49ers in a hard fought divisional playoff game. San Fran scored the go ahead TD with 9 seconds left in the game. They won by 3, and "Who Dat" nation mourns.

John & Jimmy got here before noon and went down to the clam shell dams and got $\frac{3}{4}$ of a basket of really nice single oysters from Rodney's Angel. Rodney is a very generous soul. We ditched the Saturday arrival due to Jimmy's ongoing prostate issues. John S watched football most of the afternoon. Denver lost to the New England stinkin' Patriots and the Giants knocked out the Green Bay Packers who were 15-1 this season. Supper tonight was good, but what it was escapes my brandy addled brain at the moment. Tomorrow will be the treat. Oh, now I remember, hamburger steaks, mashed potatoes and petit pois w/ brown gravy - not so bad.

Monday January 16, 2012

Our morning hunt was a ZIP once more. We couldn't get to the shallow end of the mud flat, so we hunted right where the tract opens up into Jay's. We had a couple fly bys, but no shots. We opened oysters & napped and had oyster po-boys for supper all in all not such a bad day. No fish today.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

No hunting today. Warm, calm Y gnats dissuaded us from an attempt. We'll come out Friday for the last weekend of the season.

Friday, January 20, 2012

We got here (John S & Jimmy K) at about noon. Then, John S found he'd left his cigars in Leeville, so he took Jimmy's boat back & rescued his camo bag with the cigars therein. Upon returning, John fished & caught 2 keepers and had a couple of other bites. After setting up the generator, John put 12 boards on the back wharf while Jimmy King read. After

Camp Log Book XVI

Page 16

construction supper was prepared. Grilled chicken, pork & chuck steaks with potato salad & baked beans were quite a feast. We hope to get a couple of shots at ducks tomorrow.

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Our morning hunt was not a pleasurable affair. Warm & muggy conditions brought us gnats and uncomfortable conditions. We saw many birds, but none of them wanted to visit us. At about 8 AM a gray duck that had flown by at least a couple of times came close enough for a shot. We did and after our guns were empty, the bird continued on his way fortunate that the hunters he gave a chance to were two old farts who can't shoot worth a damn.

While James washed dishes, John S tried fishing to no avail. He was successful in adding a couple of new upright supports to the middle stringer on the fishing wharf.

After naps, John S and Jimmy made an afternoon hunt in the mud flat. A couple of dos gris flew by, but not close enough to shoot at. They came back to the camp and John S broiled a couple of rib eyes and cooked some pasta on the side. It was a very pleasant repast after noon's bologna & cheese sandwiches.

Tomorrow is the last day of the west zone hunting season. We hope for success.

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Today is the last day of the West zone duck season for 2011-2012. We ran the marsh yesterday and saw a few birds near the poser lines, so this morning we went to Joe Joe's old pond and set up across from where Joe hunted and saw birds, but got none of them to come to our spread for a shot. We hunted until 9:30. We came back to the cap and did dishes, packed and headed in. This, of course, is our last trip home for this hunting season.

This marks the end of the entries for this Camp Log Book. We've enjoyed making the afore-mentioned memories and look forward to creating many more.



The Department of the Interior Mission

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island communities.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Mission

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) works to manage the exploration and development of the nation's offshore resources in a way that appropriately balances economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through oil and gas leases, renewable energy development and environmental reviews and studies.