

MAY 8-? - WALKER LAKE BLM, NORTH OF HAWTHORNE, NV

We thought it was a good thing that we were heading out of Dayton State Park today as the large puddle of water at the entrance of the park is significantly larger this morning.

The sun was shining, the temperature was rising, time to go. But first a stop at Starbucks just up the way to check email.

Hwy 50 heads north, northeast towards Fallon. Along the way we noticed what appears to be a large "pile" of mine tailings. What do you think??



The desert scenery went on to the horizon.



And the Lahontan Reservoir.



As we pulled into Fallon, NV, the point at which we head south on Hwy 95, I noticed a Jiffy Lube. Alfie was almost spot on mileage-wise for some new oil, so we dropped the trailer and I drove a couple of hundred feet to Jiffy Lube. About ½ hour later we were on our way, looking for the Telegraph Coffee shop. Coffee, a scone for Jen, and a ham & cheese croissant pour moi (I forgot to have breakfast this morning) in the sunshine was absolutely delightful.

There's a Naval Air Station in Fallon. Probably the reason for this monument.

Back on the road, the desert landscape changed. Water canals along the side of the road meant some sort of farming to us.



Then, a real surprise. We had to slow for a construction zone - it looked like the crew were repairing a culvert under the highway. The water was flowing quite rapidly out of the culvert on our left side. The real surprise was on our right - the desert was flooded!!



Just look at all that water.

A short while later we pulled off at the first of 2 campgrounds on Walker Lake. This one was a little too primitive, so we continued south.

We continued on and accidentally drove past the next camp ground but it definitely looked like it had potential. We stopped at a pullout and turned around.







Sportsman's Beach is a beautiful location overlooking Walker Lake. Each site has a picnic table with a permanent cover over it.

We pulled into site 20, a couple of sites away from a motorhome. As we were setting up camp, Julie and Chips came out to greet us. They'd been lonely the night before so they said. We told them we were the trailer trash they were hoping to avoid. We chatted at length. Turns out, in 1999, they purchased a new Monaco Windsor (36') motor home and have been full-timing in it for 12 years!



We set up camp for the night thinking we would stay for a couple days. Daily fee here on BLM land is \$6!

Before tea this afternoon, we walked further up the road from our site - around the corner and what a surprise. There are still more sites and some really nice ones - looking right out at the lake (not that ours is that bad). So we decided we'll move in the morning to one of them and stay a few more days. I just have to go into Hawthorne, the next town south, and pick up some more drinking water.

We have cell service, so we can check our email. The forecast for the next week here is sunshine and warm temps, cool nights. Just perfect; we may stay forever.

Check with you later.

### THE NEXT MORNING - MAY 9

We said goodbye to our neighbours this morning and moved to site 29. Of course I forgot to take a picture but it is a nicer, and more private, site than last night's - the road is behind us, not in front.

On my morning walk, I ventured down to the lake's edge - actually quite a drop down. I shot a video and decided to walk back to the boat launch ramp.



On the way back up a set of stairs to our level, I noticed a couple of "elevation" signs (this one is 1949). I will have to research the history of Walker Lake.

If it's any consolation, the town of Hawthorne, NV, where I am at the library, houses the US military's "Largest Ammo Dump in the World."

We've decided to stay a few days - the weather is forecast to be beautiful - sunny and warm/hot - and the camping fees are the right price.

See you in a few days.

