COMMENTS AND TIPS, What we learned!!!

**On the Road**:

* Pack lunch, snacks, drinks in your vehicle. Why? Because when driving an LQ with lunch in the fridge on a road with no rest stops can be difficult to find an exit/place to pull off (and difficult to get back on) when unfamiliar with the area and exits.
* Jake brake saved our brakes which allowed us to stop quickly. We could smell the brakes from vehicles ahead of us, especially on the Grapevine.
* No rest stops on 15; however, exits with areas big enough for rigs are the Glen Ivy exit at Tom's Farms and Norco is another location.
* Recommend 15 N to 210 W to 5 N; reverse going home 5 S to 210 E to 15 S. This to avoid LA.
  + Starting out, We took 15 N to W 91 (traffic and an accident) to W 71, to N 57 which had a traffic light backed up in Pomona, CA, so it took four hours. We saved an hour coming home taking 5S to 210E to 15 S.
  + 210 had multiple emergency pull-offs for trucks. We utilized this to pull off to get lunch.
* Not necessary to fill the water tank full. Put in 1/4 amount, enough to water yourself, horses; keep in mind the weight (1 gallon is 8.34 lbs.), so if you have a 20 gal tank (48 x 8.34 lb.) = 400.3 lbs. You can fill up your fresh water upon arrival at camp before parking your rig.
* Get Horse Quencher for water. It has oats, molasses, can use with electrolytes, sweet, add to water and horses will drink, which is especially critical when traveling thru the valley.
* Bring 2 bags of shavings for trailer, one for trip up and one for trip back. Because we didn't have quite enough shavings, I had to take a shovel to dig out the wet shavings from Danny's pee.
  + Note: Danny is the reason for 1 bag of shavings each way.
  + Use 1/2 bag 1st day, cleaned trailer, added remaining half bag that night for next day's travel.

**CAMP:**

* Paved Road all the way into camp, road and campgrounds are big enough for RV, LQ, big 5th wheel, semi-trucks.
  + Check out at Noon; check in at 2 pm; however, no ranger’s gate so you could arrive after 12 noon.
* Bring hoses. Definitely bring your white hose for your fresh water tank. Once pulling into camp, you can stop at multiple bibs to fill up water tanks for trailer/RV.
  + Use the white hose. Never use a garden hose.
* Bathrooms were .50 for 5 min shower; .75 for 7 minutes, which was enough;
  + Bathrooms had power outlets, so you could use hair dryers, charge your phones/laptops/iPad. We had cellphone reception.
* 2 bags Mini shavings, 1 per corral, bring tooth rake as corrals had rocks, rake up rocks, put down shavings or horses will not lie down. The mini shavings worked great.
* Horses are allowed to graze in camp.
* Portable corrals and tying horses to a trailer is allowed if all the corrals are taken.
* Trails are very good, 99% clear of brush, wide, excellent for trotting and cantering
  + No Bugs due to low water/moisture; some horse flies.
* Lots of creek crossings, small creek by individual sites, natural spring trough by camp A
* Lots of deer. Due to the wide trails, no issues with ticks. There are horse/deer flies.
  + We blanketed last two nights with duck blankets as it got pretty cool.
* Two trails out of camp hook into other trails and fire roads.
* One trail loop is 17 miles, all in shade. Another trail is an all Day/pack a lunch ride, we didn’t have the time to go on either.
* Four areas on the Eel river you can swim and the river has foot bridges, and trails for hikers only
* Used one bale of hay, 3.5 10-gallon cans of pellets for 8 night/9 days (travel days included).
  + We took FIVE 10 gal cans of pellets and two bales of hay, which would be enough for 12 days on future trip (8 nights at camp with 2 days/one night up then back: 12 days total. Weight is less going home because feed is reduced.
  + You can drop more weight if you can dump the tanks. We dumped at I-5 S rest stop.
* All Corrals are 12 x 12, four rails with a gate.
* Group camp A: 22 Corrals, 10 in the center across from Camp B, 12 individual corrals on the outside perimeter, but no water bibs for 9 of those corrals. Plus the 9 corrals are at a higher elevation than the water tank serving the camps so water pressure is extremely low.
* Big common area with picnic tables in a U shape with an excellent BBQ, bear lockers. Trees shade the common area and horse shoe pit.
* rents for 200.00 a night
* Group Camp B: 12 corrals plus portable corrals and tie up to trailers allowed for extra horses.
* Proposed for interested members to rent out Group Camp B next year; 12 corrals, big common area with picnic tables under a huge shady Pine tree, BBQ, bear lockers.
* Group camp B rents for 135.00 per night with one time charge 8.00; Total: 1088.00 for 8 nights; Divide cost by person. If there are more people with portable corrals or tie up, the cheaper the cost.
* Can park around and across one vehicle road from corrals; can park close enough to see your animals.
* Denise G is very interested in joining this trip, members are welcomed to stay in her RV, and she has a portable corral that she can bring so someone else can use a corral.
* There are FIVE individual sites to rent. Sites 1, 2, 3 are good, with Site 2 the best; Site 4 was the worse for parking a rig, Site 5 had room but not level.
* Each individual site has their own water bib, with a water trough between Site 2 and 3.
* It was worth the trip, even for five nights, but you want to go for at least eight nights.

Additional Information:

* We Stopped at Angel Acres at Los Banos coming home. 35.00 per horse, plenty room for horses and rigs. Exactly half way as we left camp 7 am and with two stops for gas, reached Angle Acres at 3:30 pm. A very nice horse ranch with stalls with in/out, arena, and pasture.
* Surprised at mileage of diesel truck, all due to weight of the trailer; grapevine hard on mileage;
* MPG 10.77 to 13.92; We towed less weight coming home. For the whole trip, we average 13.166 mpg.
* The biggest expense is gas, but if interested parties trailer together, you can share the cost of gas.
* We liked Rayen's Backcountry EZ boots, easy to put on, stayed on in water crossings.
* We took Banamine, didn't need it.
* Other camp sites suggested:
* Pt. Reyes National Sea coast: Stuart Ranch Horse camp with poles for high tie, no dogs allowed.
* Jack Brooks Horse Camp in Pescadero Creek Park, 50 corrals, dogs allowed. Suggested by Wendy. Road into camp can be challenging for big rigs.
* Caballo Loco at Lake Del Valle, can be hot, can swim in the lake with your horse. 12 corrals, two high ties.
* McCall Memorial Equestrian Park, 53 corrals, not many trees so minimum shade.