

Davis Dam area ensures an enjoyable outing

By Margo Bartlett Pesek

The Davis Dam area offers a variety of attractions, ensuring an enjoyable outing. It is a good destination for cool season travel, for temperatures there are warmer than in Las Vegas. Using U.S. 95 south to State Route 163, visitors from Las Vegas can be at the dam in about an hour and a half, a distance of about 95 miles.

Spanning the Colorado River Canyon near the extreme southern tip of Nevada, Davis Dam backs up the river's waters to form Lake Mohave. The dam is central to an area that can be a paradise for anglers, hikers, boaters, campers, and sightseers. Nearby features include fine campgrounds, superb fishing, swimming, boating, water-skiing, miles of river and lakeshore for exploration from the water and on foot, ghost towns, and scenic desert canyons and mountains.

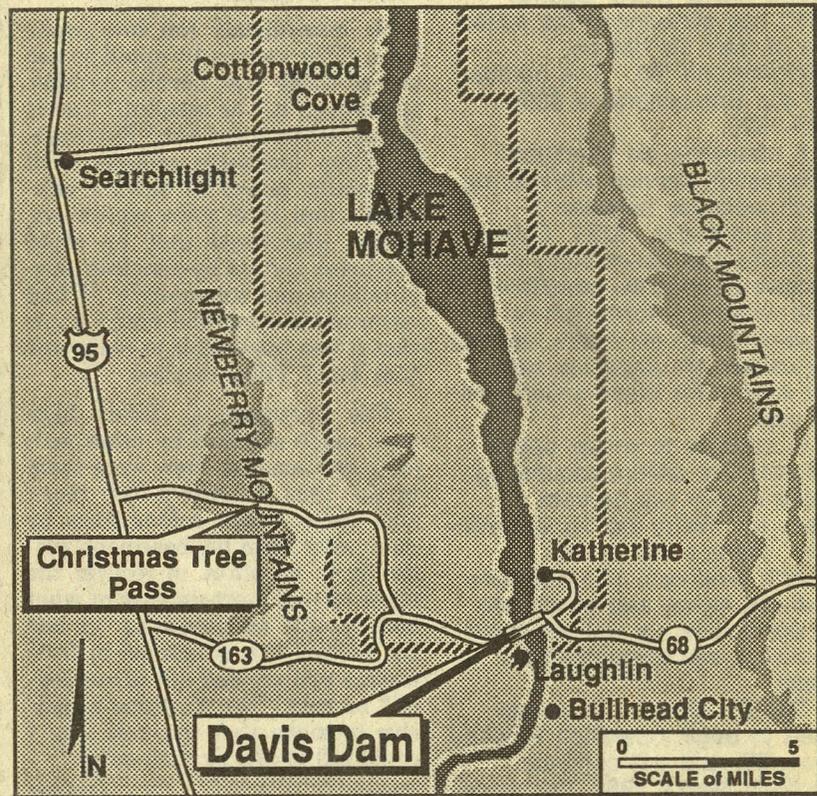
Davis Dam is just a few miles from those twin city phenomena — Laughlin and Bullhead City. A few short years ago, Laughlin on the Nevada side of the river consisted of one casino. Bullhead City, Ariz., was a community of riverside trailer parks and a few businesses strung out along a highway running south along the river. Now the housing developments shoulder each other as they crowd up into the hills on either side of the river.

Trip of the week

Businesses line the highways on both sides of the river. Full-fledged casino resorts line the river, vying with each other to see which one can build more rooms faster. Traffic is bumper to bumper cars, vans, campers, trucks, and tour buses. The area is witnessing a boom surpassing any before, including the days when the area crawled with prospectors and gold seekers swarmed to new camps in the desert mountains.

Take time out to see Davis Dam on a self-guiding tour along its top and down into its working depths. This earthfill structure is one of a string of dams which harnesses the potential of the Colorado River to generate hydroelectric power and to create a water recreation area in the middle of the desert. The dam also stores the waters of the river in Lake Mohave, a hedge against drought even in dry years like this one.

Katherine, just three miles north of the dam in Arizona, is one of the most complete of the National Park Service facilities in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. It offers boat rentals, launching area, marina, swimming beach, trailer park, campground, picnic area, lodgings, restaurant, store, gift



REVIEW-JOURNAL Map by Mike Johnson

shop, and more. Its campground of nearly 200 sites has shaded tables, grills, parking pads, and centrally-located toilets. Naturalists give talks on many weekends from October through April. Inquire about

hikes, guided or on your own, when you pass the ranger station.

The list of things to see and do in the Davis Dam area is long and varied, limited only by your own interests.