Wednesday July 21: Yea! Today is the day! We were leaving at 4:00 a.m. and so I got up about 3:30 a.m. We had everything packed, but we didn't need much, a swimsuit and towel, toothbrush etc. We went to Aunt Sharon's house and then everyone set off. There was our family, Uncle Kent and Aunt Sharon's family, Grandma and Grandpa and Karen, Ricky's girlfriend, Karen, Alyson's boyfriend, Brian, and also a girl their age named Vicki. We stopped at McDonalds for breakfast and then went on our way again.

We drove, with a few gas and restroom stops. The drive wasn't too bad. We parked and then they took the boat down to the water and launched it and went to get the houseboat. Meanwhile we looked around the Marina and went in the store. I bought a cute Lake Powell T-shirt. Well, they were right about the heat at Lake Powell! It sure was hot, but I was glad. Uncle Kent drove the houseboat to the Marina so we could load everything on. Then we drove the houseboat to where our spot was going to be.

I rode on top of the houseboat, it was fun! There was a place on top with two benches and railings around. Randy just got back from his mission so the houseboat was new to him too. We met Ricky and Randy who were already out skiing! We stopped a while and Chris and I plus Ricky and Randy and Brian and Alyson jumped off the top of the houseboat into the water. It was fun and the water was warm! We rode to a place that they had camped before. It had sandstone on one side and sand on the other side so they could launch the boat.

My mom had bought a big squirt gun for Shane and Ryan and they were already squirting at each other like crazy. We then all took a cooling dip in the water. We swam around in the water and played and explored the area. The older kids went waterskiing today but I didn't get a chance today and I was afraid maybe I wouldn't get to go, but I ended up with lots of chances. The older ones rode the Jet Skis too. We liked Alyson's boyfriend, Brian; he was funny and got along well with us and the other kids. We also liked Vicki; she was really nice and played in the water a lot with us. She was good skier too!

When it was getting near evening it started raining, then pouring, and the wind blew hard too. We had to change the direction of the boat. It was still hot though. Jenny and I were going to sleep on the top deck with Chris and Scott but the weather changed that. It was hot and muggy and there were so many gnats all over that we didn't get very much sleep. My mom and dad slept in the bedroom and little Derek slept in the car bed in the kitchen by Jenny. I slept in the hall where everyone could walk on me. Shane slept on a bunk under Karen. The older teenagers still slept outside, in spite of the weather, on the back deck and Chris and Scott on top. Randy slept in the boat.

Burgeners were in the living room and Sharon and Kent and little Ryan were on the front deck with an overhang to protect them from the weather. I seemed to be swatting gnats all night but finally fell asleep and slept in.

Thursday July 22: I woke up to a beautiful sunny, hot day. I guess the storm had passed. We fished a little and caught some carp and several bluegills and let them all go after. We kept them alive in the water in the ice chest then let them go. We went water skiing this morning and I went too. I used two skis and I got up on my first try and stayed up awhile but I can't do anything fancy yet. My dad motioned for me to go over the wake but I didn't dare to yet. I just went back and forth in the wake.

Dad, Chris, and I hiked to the top of the rock hills. It had a name on the hill by our boat and Chris and I wrecked it and got rocks and spelled "Westra" in big letters with the rocks. They took our pictures up by the "Westra." Chris and I found a place nearby with deep clear water and a rock to jump off of and we swam in it. We made a trip back to the Marina for ice, ice cream, shirts for us, etc. Kent and Diane took us on a tour of the lake and it was nice. He showed us pretty rock formations and coves. Then they stopped at a small cliff about 20 feet or so and Jenny and I jumped off of it a bit. It was fun. I love cliff jumping (especially at Flaming Gorge). This wasn't as fun because it was too small, but it was still fun and kind of scary.

We stopped the boat where there were some Indian formations, and they were neat (Pueblos and stuff). We swam a little there and then Uncle Kent drove the boat back and it was sort of a bumpy ride. Uncle Kent asked if I wanted to ski on the way back and so I did for a while. It was sort of cold but felt good. My dad drove the boat for about 15 miles back. I got sunburned yesterday so I wore a T-shirt most of the time today. The older kids rode the jet skis some more and we played in the water. When night came the rains and winds came back again. I still slept outside on top in the rain but at least there weren't any gnats.

Friday July 23: We discovered the toilets not functioning and had to take it to the Marina to get it pumped out.

We did some more fishing and water skiing. Kent took dad and I and Scott and Vicky and Randy water skiing. Randy and Vicki are really good skiers and so is Scott and he loves skiing. Randy goes way out close to the rocks and I think he's going to crash and then he turns sharp! I skied about four times on the trip. I stayed right behind the boat and after I had been up awhile I could tell Kent was trying to dump me and he swerved fast. But I still hung on tight until I finally fell! My next turn I finally got the courage to try to go over the wake and I closed my eyes and went right over it, it wasn't hard at all, it was fun! But when I tried to go back over I fell. Kent told me to try and point my skis right at the wake instead of trying to sneak back over. I did and went right over the wake and over the other side too without even thinking and then fell! Dad finally got a turn; he tried one ski a few times but then had to settle for two skis. He looked funny -- probably how I look!

When we got back my dad and brother started pulling out tumbleweeds, which we called Yucca Bush, out of the lake. Chris then made a big huge pile of them on the rocks which we burned that night in a spectacular display. The men were cutting wood for the dinner tonight and they got a big log for us to play in the water with it was so fun! We stood up on it (or tried to) and tried

not to fall off. We sat on it and paddled on the water but it would roll over toppling us off. Two people would have to get on at once, one on each end on opposite sides to balance it. Later we got another log but it wasn't round but more flat so it didn't turn as easily. We sat on it and I even stood on it for a few seconds and it would start rolling and I would walk forward on it but usually didn't last long.

Finally my mom and the grandparents took a dip and enjoyed it very much. We did flares and fireworks and all of the kids had sparklers. Vicki pushed me in the water with my sweats on! Then we had fun in the water. Chris and I had a swimming contest and he won. Shane finally got more accustomed to the water. At first he was afraid to go out of the shallow water. But Aunt Sharon had gotten him and Ryan a floaty frog plus a life jacket and then Shane and Ryan paddled all over and had a fun time

We had a delicious dinner that night and the meat was so tender! Then the wind and the rain started up again. There must be something about Lake Powell nights! Jenny and I slept on top still, with the boys, and we were fairly sheltered from the wind because of the benches.

Saturday 24: We got more skiing in and did some packing and we found some tennis balls and had fun throwing contests. Kent took us cliff jumping again. Rick, Randy, and Brian stopped at a huge cliff and they all jumped. Randy took about 20 minutes deciding whether to jump or not. He finally jumped but hurt his back. Then we went to the same cliff as yesterday. I wish we went on a higher one but not as high as the one they went off of!

We went back and packed our things into the motor boat. It was full for the trip to the Marina. We took one last picture of everyone on the houseboat then said farewell and thank you to everyone and said goodbye to Vicki and hoped that she would have a good mission. We said goodbye to everyone else and drove to the Marina and packed everything in the waiting car and said goodbye and thank you to Kent and got some ice and left for our journey home.

We left about 6:00 that evening and stopped for gas and for pizza at the Pizza Hut. We ordered two large pan pizzas and couldn't eat it all. That's very unusual for our big group. We got home about 12:30 and were very tired. Shane and Jenny and Derek had fallen asleep in the car. I tried to, but couldn't find a comfortable place to sleep and so I just sat up and talked with the rest. We unpacked the car and left it in a big pile in the living room and hit the sack. It was a fun Lake Powell trip; I hope we can go again sometime!!