

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Play Hard at a New Mexico State Park This Labor Day Weekend

**Santa Fe, NM** – You work hard, so play hard and have a safe and memorable time at your New Mexico State Parks! State Parks offer great family fun under the New Mexico stars and sun this Labor Day Weekend. “From Stars, Scuba diving to Biggest Catfish, NM State Parks offers adventure for everyone,” said State Parks Director Christy Tafoya. “With the summer rains, lake levels are up so boating and fishing are exceptional. The entire family can also have fun hiking, camping and attending our special events throughout the long weekend.”

### Labor Day Weekend Events

**Bottomless Lakes State Park, Roswell, NM:** Bottomless Lakes State Park is the best way to dive into the Labor Day weekend during the annual *Bubblefest* on September 5th, 6th and 7th. The event features underwater dive poker and fun, educational activities for divers and spectators alike. “Bottomless Bubblefest is the park’s signature event. It’s a great way for scuba divers from around the region and state to get together and share their experiences throughout the course of the weekend,” said Park Superintendent Blake Ingram. “We also award great prizes to the three best hands for our dive poker game,” he said. Dive poker involves tossing two decks of weighted cards into Lea Lake and divers compete for the best hand. No more than five cards can be held at a time, and divers may discard one of their cards in exchange for a new card, similar to traditional poker. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday for the winning hand. Bottomless Lakes State Park also offers a variety of fun activities for everyone. Visitors can swim or rent paddleboards and pedal boats to explore Lea Lake.

**Clayton Lake State Park, Clayton, NM:** Come experience the skies of northeastern New Mexico this Labor Day weekend September 5-6 at the *1st Clayton Lake Star Fest*, a family-oriented event for budding astronomers of all ages! Travel to Clayton Lake State Park and peek at the heavens through various telescopes at Star Point Observatory.

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Activities include solar viewing, night sky viewing, a “Solar System Hike,” and an introduction to cellphone astronomy. Try this as your first star party or as a warm-up to the famous “Okie-Tex Star Party” September 12-20th, some 50 miles away near Kenton, OK. “This is a chance for folks with kids to explore astronomy as a family,” said Pat Walsh, State Parks Regional Interpretive Ranger. “We’ll have stories and activities for the little ones.” The Clayton Lake Star Fest runs from 1 p.m. Saturday to 1 a.m. Sunday and is free with regular park fees. The event includes hands-on activities for ages 3 and up, and a free cookout for the first 100 participants. Festival sponsors are the Clayton Astronomy Club, The Amarillo Astronomy Club, the Clayton Lake State Park Trout Derby Committee and NM State Parks.

**Leasburg Dam State Park- Radium Springs, NM** – Join us Saturday, September 5th for *Music and the Stars* at Leasburg Dam State Park. Start off your evening by enjoying the eclectic sounds of *AMERICANA*, a mix of rock, blues and country by Benjy Rivas. Music begins at 6 p.m. until sunset. After a beautiful sunset, the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will have the observatory, telescopes and volunteers on hand for you to observe and learn about various celestial bodies. Visitors are encouraged to bring a folding chair and insect repellent and pets on a leash are allowed. This is a family oriented event and it is free for valid New Mexico State Parks annual pass holders; otherwise a \$5 per vehicle day use fee applies.

**Oasis State Park- Portales, NM:** Oasis State Park and the Friends of Oasis State Park will be holding the *7th Annual “Biggest Catfish Challenge” Derby* on Saturday, September 5th. “It’s a great time to get the family together for an evening of fishing and having a picnic under the stars,” said Jim Whary, Park Manager.

Registration will be from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. and the derby will be from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. The event is open to all ages. There will be two categories in the challenge: Adult (age 16 years and older) and Junior (age 15 years and younger). First, second and third place prizes will be awarded based on weight of the fish and will be awarded immediately after the derby. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the derby as well. The catfish limit is 2 per person, per day. Anyone 12 years of age and older must have a valid NM fishing license.

State Park officials remind boaters to always wear a lifejacket when out on the water and to be aware of weather conditions. State law requires that you wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger wear a lifejacket while on the deck of a moving vessel.

*Find your New Mexico True State Park! While enjoying your Labor Day weekend at a State Park, record your experience in a short 2 minute video and then upload it to [www.newmexico.org](http://www.newmexico.org) and you could win some fabulous prizes! Find your New Mexico True State Park Video Contest is on-going through October 31, 2015. Check out <https://www.newmexico.org/NMTruePark>.*

Reserve your favorite camping spot, find out more about events and check out our FREE boating safety classes by visiting our website at [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).



*Conditions are right for adventure at New Mexico State Parks!*

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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