

Cutting wakes on Twin Lakes

by Roger Peterson
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LEADVILLE — Chris Kobylars gets his water-fix on Twin Lakes, and he gets paid for it.

Captain Kobylars with his motorized pontoon boat, recently resurrected boat tours of the lakes. Along with first-mate "Max" and second-mate "Ruby", a father-daughter team of golden retrievers, the trio plies the water daily, accompanying visitors, tourists and explorers on tours of Colorado's largest glacial lakes. Business is coming brisk after only two weeks of operation, said Kobylars, owner and operator of "Twin Lakes Boat Tours."

"Boat travel on the lakes dates to the 1880s and I felt there was a need. Everybody has a reason for visiting here. The scenery is incredible and this is another option for folks to get across to Inter-Laken."

Kobylars, who grew up around the water on the East Coast, is an accomplished sailor. However, following his move to Colorado, he wondered how he would adjust to life 900 miles from the nearest ocean. Earlier this summer, he contracted with the Forest Service to ferry workers and cargo to and from a renovation project at Inter-Laken. For two months he provided nautical support for the effort, and it was then that he began toying with the idea of hosting guided tours of the twin tarns.



LEADVILLE CHRONICLE/ROGER PETERSON
Chris Kobylars resurrected boat tours on Twin Lakes, using his motorized pontoon boat.

Working from the sandy shoreline below the Moache Parking Area, located just east of the village, Kobylars offers two-hour voyages to noteworthy points around the lakes. Standard stops on a typical tour include an hour layover at the historic resort of Inter-Laken, on the lower lake's southern shore. The captain is well-versed on the history and architecture of the site, once a posh getaway for Leadville mining men from the rough-and-tumble silver camp. The tour continues to a promontory along the south shore where generations of ospreys have nested in the treetops.

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