

Sunday December 16, 2007

After breakfast we went for a walk around the park. The sites at the other end are a bit more spacious but generally it is row on row with very little greenery. Not exactly our cup of tea! We are only here for a week so will try to make the best of it.

Yuma is known as the city with sunshine 95% of the time. The sky today has hazy clouds but the sun is doing its best to shine through it.

We are very close to Mexico here so will take a day trip to Los Algodones.

Monday December 17, 2007

Yuma is the lettuce capitol of the world. Just outside of our resort there are acres and acres of very flat fields covered with greens of every imaginable kind. Sprinklers are used to irrigate the crops. Large platforms carry the pickers as they harvest the crops.





The workers are transported into the fields in buses with porta-potties on the back..

It is amazing to think that the greens that we see here may end up on Ontario or Alberta plates for Christmas.

Tuesday December 18, 2007

We left the campsite just before noon and drove west on the interstate taking the Algodones exit towards Mexico. After parking in a very large parking lot on the US side we walked across the border to Los Algodones. Our eyes were accosted by all the signs for cheap drugs and even cheaper (so they say) liquor.

Walking along the narrow streets we were constantly approached by the vendors to buy their trinkets.





We also noted that every corner had a dentist office or optical store. There are more than 200 Dentists, many are women, in this tiny town and according to the snowbirds that we have met the prices are about 60% cheaper than in the US.



As Mike had recently broken his prescription sunglasses, we decide to check out the opticians and found one that was to our liking. The staff at Algodones Optical was very professional and the total bill (including an eye examination) was only \$200 for a pair of Titanium Progressive (multi-focals) glasses that would probably cost twice as much at home. They promised that the glasses would be ready in 2 hours.

In the interim we went for lunch at El Rancherito Restaurant. It was quite busy as there was a bus load of seniors who were having a great time singing and dancing.



The staff was very friendly and the food was exceptionally tasty.
We had a full meal and 3 beers for a grand total of \$20.
(Yes, one of us drank 2 Mexican beers)



As there was still time to kill before the glasses were ready, Maureen went to Juanita's Beauty Salon and had a manicure (\$12).

We had to wait about 45 minutes in line at the border crossing, but had some good discussions with the other people in line. Many of them come yearly for dental work and glasses and not one of them complained about the quality.

December 19 to 21st, 2007

After our trip to Mexico we spent the next three days going for walks and bikes rides and getting ready for Christmas. (Maureen is making something for Mike and it is very tricky to work on when we live in such tight quarters, so he has to go on errands and have lots of naps).

Saturday, December 22, 2007

We left Yuma at 815 am under clear but cool (7C) skies and arrived in Mesa (a suburb of Phoenix) at 130 PM.

Our new home for the next month is Viewpoint RV and Golf resort. There are over 1500 sites and it has everything that you could ever want to do (or not do).

These are the
bulletin boards
advertising all the
activities.



We signed up for the Christmas Pot Luck and the New Year's party.



Mike was VERY impressed with the library

It has two very large clubhouses. This is the front hall in the main one.



For more pictures go to the [Resort Website](#)

Click on the slide show (it takes a while to load but is worth the wait.)



Our
site is
quite
wide.



All the sites have their very own citrus tree and we are
allowed to pick the fruit.



Percy really likes the puppy run - it has toys and grass!



At night we

discovered that each street is decorated with a theme and there are awards for the best street so



We put out our little snowmen and rope lights to make a winter wonderland on our pad.



Monday, December 24, 2007 - Christmas Eve

Time to wrap the gifts and get ready for Santa's arrival.



Maureen made Paella for dinner

We attended the Candlelight service at The Love of Christ Lutheran Church.
It was a very nice service and the house was packed.

We especially enjoyed the great music.

Tuesday, December 25, 2007 - Christmas Day

We were up early to see what Santa brought us.
Percy was very excited and helped to open all the gifts.





Santa brought Percy some treats and a new play toy.
One side says "naughty" and the other is "nice".



Mike can usually guess what's in a parcel. He had trouble with this one.



It was the blue tea pot (so the rest of the family is safe for this year!)



Maureen got some new PJs (the nights are rather cool here so she needed some warm snugglies)





And Mike got a new
Yukata (to replace the one
he lost)



In the pocket there were more treats for Percy

The park hosted a pot luck luncheon. They supplied the turkeys and the wine.



The Johnson family did a wonderful job of cooking the
bird
and making much of the feast. The table was beautifully
decorated.



Kay and Clarence brought dessert and we brought the
mashed potatoes.

All in all it was a wonderful meal with great company and
lots of Christmas spirit.





This was not our most memorable Christmas but it sure was relaxing and very stress free.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Wednesday, December 26, 2007



We biked over to the practice area today and chipped a few golf balls around. More practice is definitely needed before we venture out onto the course.

We had signed up to take a light tour on the trolley tonight but arrived one minute after seven to find that they had already left. Oh well - we shall try again another night.

Thursday December 27, 2007

Santa left us lots of laundry for Christmas, so Maureen headed out to the North Point Building to try out the washers. Unfortunately the machine that dispenses the money cards was not working, so it took almost an hour to obtain one at the main building. With a card in hand the process went smoothly.

Mike's laptop has not been working well (it recently went on a tour to Afghanistan and did not seem to like the sandy conditions there). A new one was ordered before Christmas, and it finally arrived today. Mike has his work cut-out for him to get it set up. Still no signs of our Christmas mail.

Friday December 28, 2007

New laptop working well, but needs lots of work to transfer all the programs and data from the old laptop.

We finally made it to the trolley ride.

Lesson learned - if you are five minutes early you are on time. If you are on time you are probably late.

It took about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours to travel up and down all the streets in the park to admire the lights. Sure glad that we took blankets and warm clothing. The displays were amazing and well worth braving the cold to see. We met some of our neighbours on the tour and had a great time joking with them.

Saturday December 29, 2007

Biked over to the golf course and hit some balls at the driving range. Still not ready to play for real!

Maureen ended up with a very sore shoulder so spent some time in the hot tub to sooth the

muscles.



Sunday December 30, 2007

After supper we attended a block party. It was a dessert social with lots of yummy sweets. A great way to get to know the neighbours! They gave us lots of ideas re good places to dine out. Seems like this a favourite past-time around here, and there are plenty of good restaurants to fulfill the need. Also got some tips on where to go for a bike ride.

Monday, December 31, 2007



It is the end of another year and time to celebrate.
Viewpoint RV Resort was the location for a gala New Years Eve party.
The Theme was Up, Up and Away.
There were balloons everywhere.



There was even a hot air balloon display.
We took turns with our neighbours

to see how high we could get.





The Bill Taylor band played tunes for the older folks



And a DJ played music for the younger crowd.



Martha watched as her husband got airborne on the dance floor.
Good practice for catching those fly balls Dick!

There was plenty of yummy food



And each table contained all the trappings for a noisy new year's bash.



When the moment came to welcome in 2008 there was Champagne and balloons popping everywhere. All in all, a great way to start off the year.



Best wishes to our families and both our old and new friends for a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy 2008.