

Saturday December 1, 2007

Drove into Parker to mail some Christmas presents. On the way we saw this sign. Perhaps these are the four food groups in Arizona?



After dropping off the mail we headed north to see Lake Havesau.



Percy is quite a good traveller. He is content to sit or lie in his crate. Once in a while he gives a woof to a passing car or truck but usually he is quiet until the truck stops.

Lake Havesau City has imported the old London Bridge. I don't imagine that it had palm trees growing around it when it lived in England.





Percy and Mike checked it all out.
Percy really liked the grass growing by the river edge.



Mike and Percy liked the statues of Lions;
Percy wanted to play in the water!



We stopped for lunch and noted that the locals have a unique way of decorating their dune buggies. On the way home we admired quite a few beautiful golf courses.



There is quite a bit of controversy in the papers about maintaining all the greens spaces in the middle of the desert.

We thought that we might cross over at the Parker Dam but discovered that the Duallys are too wide to cross over, so we had to back-track through Parker to get home to our park.



The sun was setting as we crossed the river.



This stone close to our park looks like a large head that is ready to fall off the hill.

Sunday December 2, 2007

Mike woke up with a head cold, so spent most of the day resting.

Maureen decided that it was time to decorate the rig for Christmas.

The Thermometer did not look much like winter.



We heard about all the snow in Canada, so we put snowflakes on the windows.
And snow men in the driveway



While cleaning up, Maureen put Percy's food dish on the patio.

The birds thought that this was for them and Percy spent the afternoon chasing them away. Some of them played tag team. One bird would come in from the front and get Percy's attention while 2 more would swoop in from behind and get some food. Poor Percy was outnumbered but seemed to love the chase!



At the end of the day we were entertained again by a beautiful sunset.



Monday December 3, 2007

Mike was still not feeling great, so Maureen drove into town for a few groceries.

The park was hosting a Monday night football special with hot dogs, pizza and \$1 beer. Mike was feeling much better by then so he went to the party and Maureen stayed home and learned how to work her new sewing machine. It weighs about one third as much as the old one did. It even has an automatic needle threader and has 70 computerized stitches.

Tuesday December 4, 2007

Last day in Earp, so it is packing up time again. We have been taking nice long walks through the park and along the sandy beach once or twice each day. Percy really enjoys running on the beach and chasing the birds along the river.

We are heading to Quartzite Arizona on Wednesday. We don't have any reservations and are planning to find a place there to "dry dock", so probably won't be able to update the website for the next three days. We are looking forward to some peace and quiet before heading back to civilization again.

Wednesday December 5, 2007

Left Emerald Cove around 9 am and traveled south on Highway 95 under clear skies. We drove through the desert (a whole lot of nothing) and then about an hour later came to a place where there were hundreds of RVs parked, some together in little clumps and others just out in the middle of nowhere. We passed through Quartzsite and kept driving to the south end of town and stopped at one of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites to find out where we could park. The volunteers told us that the short term place was further down the road, so off we went and turned in at mile marker 99.

There was a path heading towards the mountains and we followed it for a while and then headed west across a little dip (called a wash out here) and picked a spot with a beautiful view of the mountains on all four sides. Our nearest neighbour is about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and we can only see about 10 rigs around us. We are far away enough to be private, but close enough to avoid feeling totally isolated. After staying in private campgrounds where your neighbour is within spitting distance, this is a real treat and the best part of all is that you can park here for up to 2 weeks for free.





Maureen set out the Christmas ornaments





the perfect spot with lots of rock fire rings and very little around us to be hazardous. The camping host was not home, but the helpful people at the long term campers hut told us where to find some free wood at the recycling plant.

We do not have any "services" here but our water tank and batteries are full and the waste holding tanks are empty.

We went for a walk in the dessert and Percy had a really good run.



Then we just sat, looked at the scenery, marvelled at the quiet and did a bit of reading until the sun set.







After dinner Mike made a fire and we sat and admired the

beautiful stars and listened to the coyotes howl.

Thursday December 6, 2007

Everyone tells us that all RVers should go to Quartzite (at least once). In January the place will be packed with over a million RVs, but we decide to come early and check out the lay of the land without all the traffic.

After a short drive we parked the truck and strolled along the tents and RVs that line the streets. They had absolutely everything for sale - some new and many used. We found it rather interesting to see, but did not find anything that we really needed to spend money on. so we headed back to rig and relaxed for the rest of the afternoon.

As the sun set, it cast a golden glow on everything - including Percy.





The sky behind the rig turned pink and blue



Inside our Christmas angel was lit from behind by the setting sun on the mountains.



And outside the sky just got more and more spectacular!





Friday December 7, 2007



Started with gray skies. Throughout the day the clouds changed from white to gray and back to white again as they moved quickly across the mountains. It looked like it might rain but we only got a few sprinkles. The wind was strong but warm, as it blew from the south west. It looked like a great day for a nap.

The sun set was not as brilliant as yesterday but pretty all the same.





Right after we finished the dishes the water pump died.
Good thing that we had planned to leave tomorrow.
It was too windy for a campfire,
so we played Mexican Trains and Maureen won.

Saturday December 8, 2007

We got up early, packed everything up and headed to Quartzsite to find a new pump. After checking 5 different places with no luck we decided to head south on highway 95 towards Yuma and try our luck there. After a few cell calls we finally tracked one down. Unfortunately we got lost but the nice man at CJ's RV Specialist Repair shop said that he would wait for us.

Then we drove east on Highway 8, which runs through a mountain valley just north of the Mexican border. A few miles down the road we were pulled over by the border patrol. They asked if anyone was in the fifth wheel and then waved us on.

About an hour later we arrived at the Dateland Palms Village RV Park. A very friendly young lady at the gift shop signed us in (turned out she was from Alberta) and let us pick our own campsite.



This park is very pretty with lots of green space (Percy was ecstatic) and only half a dozen rigs.



The highway is fairly close but not close enough to be noisy. We do however have to contend with the noise of the train tracks with freight trains going by regularly.

Sunday December 9, 2007

Woke up to the sound of rain on the rig. The skies remained cloudy most of the day, with intermittent rain showers. Went for a walk up to the gift shop and later took a bike ride down the old highway. On the way back we saw a border patrol truck along the train track.

Shortly after dark we heard the sound of choppers and low flying planes overhead and they continued going back and forth for a few hours, sometimes with search lights panning

the ground.



We have read about the many illegal immigrants in the US. Now we see firsthand the measures that are being taken to curb the flow across the border.

On the late night news the feature story was about the rain. There was no mention of border patrols, so obviously what we think is exciting is just everyday common occurrence and vice versa!

Monday December 10, 2007



When we came to Dateland we thought that it would be a rather unexciting week with lots of relaxation

And relatively little to do. Little did we know that "Life is what happens when you are making other plans".



The park is very small and the only activities are walking the dog and doing the laundry. Our rig obviously wanted more excitement. The water pump had quit when we were out in the desert, so Mike spent a very frustrating time installing the new pump.



For some strange reason the pump is behind the water filter, so getting the job done requires a lot of patience and aptitude. After a lot of finagling and a few choice words the pump was in place and hallelujah working!

We discovered that we could send and receive E-mail sitting in the school parking lot, but the "stores" in Dateland were practically nonexistent. The park flyer said that there was an IGA in Wellton, so we headed west about 38 miles to do some

shopping. Along the way we saw lots of trains and many airplanes flying low over the desert. Some were dropping flares.



Look very carefully and you can see the flares.

We did not find an IGA, but there was a Del Sol store. Maureen had a long list of ingredients needed for some special recipes that she wanted to try. We were able to find most of the ingredients and then headed back to the campsite.

Tuesday December 11, 2007

Activity number 2 was calling from the laundry hamper, so Maureen went off to the Laundromat. Most parks have 6 to 8 washers and dryers. This one only had 2 of each so Maureen resigned herself to spending the afternoon there. When she arrived with 6 loads she discovered that only one washer was working (the other had an "out of order" sign on it.) After prioritizing she decided that 4 loads would be sufficient for now and proceeded to make the best of it. Fortunately she had a good book but a not so comfortable chair. When the last load was in the dryer the owner came by to see what was wrong with the washer and discovered that it was working just fine. At that point the afternoon was gone, so we will do the sheets and towels another time.

Arriving back at the trailer it was noticed that the fridge was displaying an error message and the CO detector was also flashing red. What could this mean? Mike investigated and found that the batteries were dead and ultimately found that the converter had malfunctioned. The fridge temperature was going up and Maureen was starting to panic because the fridge was full of all the special ingredients that had been purchased the day before. After trouble shooting for a while Mike discovered that the Eliminator (a portable battery) could be used to boost the fridge and keep it cool.

Maureen then proceeded to make a big pot of El Paso Chili. Yum!! We ate dinner by candlelight and decide that SOS

calls could be made the next day.

Wednesday December 12, 2007

Mike was on the phone bright and early to find someone to help with our converter problem. After many calls it was determined that Yuma was the closest place to purchase a new converter so Mike headed out to obtain one.

Maureen spent the afternoon getting to know her new sewing machine and Percy had a good snooze. Recipe number 2, Ginger Chicken Wings with Shrimp fried rice turned out very well with a few substitutions.

The converter has now been installed and everything seems to be working A-OK. We will hold our breath and hope that nothing more happens to spoil our week of "doing nothing".

Happy Birthday Marty!!!! (Dec 13)

Friday December 14, 2007

In the morning Maureen went back to the little Laundromat (this time with a comfortable chair) and did 2 more loads. After lunch we decided to get our bikes and take a ride down the road that parallels the train tracks. The sign said that there was another RV park 2 miles east. The road has practically no traffic so it is perfect for riding. The Oasis turned out to be similar to Dateland with many more campers. They have a pool but it was covered over as the

temperature is a bit nippy for swimming. The Dateland rates are much better, so unless you really want to swim, we think it is a much better value.

When we got back we stopped in at the Restaurant and had a "World Famous Date Milkshake". They have a trademark on this name and sell about 90 every day.

[Click on link here to checkout their website !](#)



We also bought some freshly picked grapefruit. The orchard is beside the date grove and the branches are loaded with very juicy tart fruit.



For supper Mike barbecued the leftover ribs from Wednesday but the BBQ was not heating well, so it took quite a while to heat them.

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Saturday December 15, 2007

We packed up early and discovered that Mike had a flat tire on his bike. It is getting to be more and more like home every day -something

else to fix!

On the way out we stopped to say goodbye to the owners.

We then traveled west for 60 miles (100 km) and made our way to the Yuma Lakes RV Resort. Like the other Colorado River Adventure parks it has wagons interspersed throughout. There are two little lakes but one is almost dried up.

Our site is near the back - with a bit of a view of the mountains, if you look over the other rigs. We were very disappointed to discover that internet is only



available over the noon hour and not only do you have to go to the clubhouse to access it you have to pay \$ 1.00 to use it for 20 minutes. This is definitely not "internet friendly". The literature says that there is free internet available at the public library, so we will probably try to access that, but will have to drive quite a way to get to it.



The fridge was looking a bit bare, so it was off to Yuma to buy some supplies.