

Monday November 12 2007

As our luck had been so good on Sunday, we decided to try another area of town and headed to the far end of the Strip to the Stratosphere Casino. Fortunately we found a great place to park oversized vehicles that was close to the casino door.

On the way in we were approached by a Time Share representative who offered us show tickets and meals in return for viewing a Marriot Suite up town. As we had plans to go to a Lions meeting on Tuesday and that would be our last day here we could not take advantage of the shows. She then offered us a Visa Card filled with \$75 that we could spend anywhere, so we signed up for Tuesday and made our way into the Casino. Lady Luck was still with us and we were able to increase our holdings a bit more.

Freemont Street was on our list of things to see, so we drove south on the Strip and found a place to park. The parking attendant recommended the Buffet at the Golden Nugget. The Street has been covered over with a large canopy and the casinos and restaurants are lit up with millions of lights. When we got back out onto the street after a satisfying dinner (paid for with our winnings) the famous light show was just starting. It was amazing to see and best of all it was free! As we strolled along the concourse the sights and sounds were fantastic.



Back at the Stratosphere we played a bit more on the slots and then returned to the campsite.

Tuesday November 13 2007

Lawry's the Prime Rib restaurant was our destination for the Nevada Host Club Lions meeting.





We were warmly greeted by PDG Jim and Lion Chief Sid and the rest of the Lions. Percy was pleased to make everyone's acquaintance.



Lunch was Prime Rib, and true to their name and reputation they really know how to serve it up right. It was very rare and super tender and served with Yorkshire pudding, creamed corn and mashed potatoes.



The speaker was Ryan Donohue. He is the area Regional Field Director for Hillary Clinton Campaign and gave a very interesting talk about how the Caucus system works.





After lunch we played the slots again and collected our T-Shirts from the Stratosphere.

Wednesday November 14, 2007

Time to leave Sin City and get back to reality. As we headed out of town at 9:20 am under clear skies the tall buildings were replaced with dessert surrounded by mountains. We

roller-coastered west into California. Along the way we passed Baker - home of the World's tallest Thermometer.





Wonder how you pronounce this road name???



At 3:00 pm the Cherry Valley Lakes Campground became our new home for the next week.



It is a medium sized resort with lots of nice landscaping, pool etc. Unfortunately Interstate 10 is right next door, so the noise level is quite high, especially when you are outdoors. Wi-Fi does not work at our campsite, so we have to go to the clubhouse to connect but there is no extra charge for it.

The land was once owned by Mary Tyler Moore back in the days when the highway was just a back country road. The present owners are going to put up a 12 foot noise barrier wall which will improve this park immensely once it is completed.

We have signed up for a Thanksgiving Dinner with

entertainment afterwards on Saturday. The price was very reasonable at \$7 per person (including the entertainment!)

Thursday November 15 2007

Today was a day for lazing around, trying to make contact with the Canadian Income Tax people (a lesson in frustration!) and shopping in San Bernardino.

Friday November 16 2007

We're spending the day doing all the "little" things - laundry, web-site, trailer pick-up, etc. And yes, RELAXING too!

One thing that we have noticed is that it gets very dark really fast in this part of the country. When the temperature is between 20 and 30 Celsius we feel that is like summer. At home summer means that it is light until well after 8 pm at night. Here the sun goes down around 5 pm and then it gets dark very quickly. This may be because we are in a valley and the mountains block the setting sun

Saturday November 17, 2007

In the morning a great crew from Marty's Mobile Wash came to clean the outside of the rig. We did not get much rain in Vegas but it was just enough to make the dust stick and then we added a layer of bugs on the way to Cherry Valley so it was

time for a wash and our rig won't fit in most of the do-it yourself places.



The crew arrived early on Saturday. One young lady spent quite a long time washing the roof and then the rest of the crew went to work on the rest. They even detailed the tires. Very good service for \$1 per foot!

While the rig was being washed Maureen went to the Laundromat which is almost across the street. Mike and Percy went for a walk (Lucky dogs!)

When we got home we cleaned up inside and by lunch time all our work was done.



In the afternoon Mike joined some of the campers for a game of Snake Toss.



The object of the game is to wrap your balls on one of the rungs on the ladder. The higher up you wrap the better your score. Puts a w



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for a swim in the pool and spent some time talking with one of the lady campers by the pool.



and entertainment in the evening. For \$7 per person we got a full course Turkey dinner (including salad bar and homemade pies) plus a very entertaining cabaret after



performance the audience was invited to get up and dance.
Mike tested out his hip again by dancing with LJ.



Sunday November 18, 2007

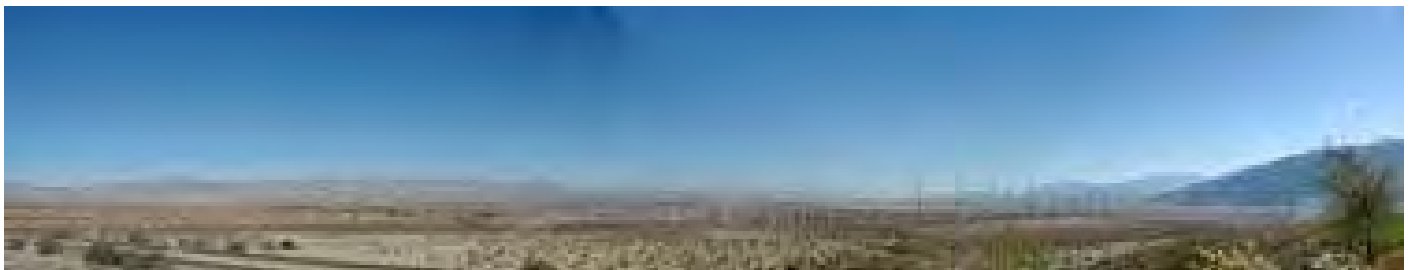
After our exciting evening the night before this was a lazy day at "home". Mike got to watch some racing and football and Maureen did some re-organizing in the kitchen.

Later that afternoon we all went for a bike ride through a park in the adjacent subdivision. Everyone got a good workout and worked out an appetite for dinner. Percy was especially happy to get his feet in the very green grass. Turf is rather scarce around here and where there is grass there are usually signs prohibiting dogs from setting foot on it.

Monday November 19, 2007

We all piled into the truck and headed down the interstate to visit Guide Dogs of the Dessert, near Palm Springs.

On the way we noted some large Windmills in the distance.



As we got closer we saw that there were hundreds and hundreds of them situated throughout the valley and most of them were spinning.



As we traveled down the road more and more of the windmills stood along the road and on the mountain side.

We learned later that San Geronio Pass is one of the windiest areas in the world and is home to 3,500 electricity-producing wind turbines. The power generated by the wind turbines is used to meet the needs of about 250,000 people.



In Canada we get excited to see a dozen windmills - seeing a thousand was unbelievable!

[For more info click here!](#)



When we arrived at the Dog Guide school we were warmly welcomed by Kathie.

She gave us a tour, introduced us to many of the staff and dogs, and filled us in on the history of this organization which has been in business since 1972. It is a relatively small school mostly for vision impaired clients who need dogs. Lions are strong supporters of this worthwhile project.





It was interesting to compare how things are done here vs Canada. The most noticeable difference is we say Dog-Guide and they say Guide-Dog.

Another interesting difference is that they use artificial grass as the rabbits eat any grass that they are successful in growing.





There is a courtyard for the dogs to play in. It has a memorial wall where benefactors may make a donation in memory of people and dogs.



Percy met some dog guide puppies.



They even have play equipment and special beds for the dogs.





One staff member offered to try to clip Percy's nails as we had not been able to do it ourselves. Unfortunately Percy would not co-operate, so we had to go to a Vet to get the deed done.

More info on Guide Dogs of the Desert - Click the Icon below



Tuesday November 20, 2007

Maureen had some computer work to do, so Mike took care of Percy and the Laundry. He also decided to make another attempt at getting the \$*#^\$% Trac-Phone to work, but did not meet with any success. He was repeatedly put on hold and given the run around. Fortunately the AT&T phone is working fine, but it is frustrating to have spent money on a phone that won't work to call Canada.

After our work was done we all went for a long bike ride in the park next door to the Resort and then started to put things away in preparation for the move on Wednesday. We have enjoyed our time at Cherry Valley Park. The people are friendly; they have a great laundry room, a good activity schedule and wonderful food. Unfortunately the highway noise is starting to get on our nerves. It is impossible to sit outside or leave the windows open due to the ever present sound of cars and trucks whizzing by. The staff assure us that the noise barrier wall is scheduled to be constructed soon, but until it is, we will not likely be coming back to Cherry Valley.



Around the park there are various wagons. Mike & Percy tried one out for size but soon decided to make a run for the hills.





[Wednesday November 21, 2007](#)

Moving Day. We packed up our rig and headed down the Interstate 10 at 11:30 am. The sun was shining brightly as we passed the windmills again.

[Thursday November 22, 2007](#)

Happy Thanksgiving to all our American friends.



We stayed "home" and enjoyed the warm sun and the peace and quiet. The only sounds are from a few golf carts or cars going by but they are rare as we are on a dead end street. The internet is working well here and we can sit at our kitchen table with a view of the mountains while we surf the web.

[Tuesday November 27, 2007](#)



Time to explore the National Park! Traveling over the mountain to the north of us we arrived at Joshua Tree National Park. After a quick stop at the Visitor Center we

entered the park which is full of thousands of its' namesake - the Joshua Tree.

The hills and Mountains here look to us like a giant picked up handfuls of rocks and piled them here and there.



We stopped for a picnic lunch and then made our way south where the mountains changed into the Mojave dessert and then into the Colorado dessert which is dominated by sand dunes.

A stop at the Cholla Cactus Garden provided an opportunity to see these fuzzy looking cacti up close. They looked like warm and fuzzy teddy bears, but we heeded the posted warnings and resisted touching these dangerous plants.



At the southern gate of the park we hooked up again with interstate 10 and made a quick stop at Costco on our way back to the campsite.

Wednesday November 28, 2007

Moving day again. By 9 am we were on our way north east on Highway 62. We chose to avoid the Interstate and take the road less traveled. Our reward was an interesting trip through the dessert where we saw many different topographies along the way.



At Twenty Nine Palms we noted many murals on the buildings. This one is a pictorial honouring the nearby United States Marine Base.

Thursday November 29, 2007

Time to do the laundry again (where does it all come from?)
The Laundromat here is quite large, but also very busy, so Maureen had to wait for the machines. In the afternoon Mike hooked up the computer to SKYPE on the internet and was able to call Matt. When Maureen got home from the laundry we called Windsor again and talked to Charlie. As they have a web-cam we could see him, but he could not see us. Mike is hoping that Santa will bring him a new computer so we can have a web cam too!

We cooked up some ribs on the BBQ and after dinner we went for a walk on the beach. This park is very quiet. Most of the people seem to stay in their rigs most of the time rather than enjoying the wonderful weather. Very strange!

Friday November 30, 2007



We woke up to very overcast skies. It has been two months since we left Ontario and only the second time that it rained. We got a few sprinkles in the morning (just enough to get us wet while we put the cover on the truck). After dinner the skies opened and it really poured - not a common occurrence in the desert. If this was white precipitation we would certainly be buried in it. The new neighbours across the lane could not get out of their rigs this morning without stepping in a very large puddle. No wonder they moved out today!

We finally figured out why it gets so dark so early. The time zones have been constantly changing as we traveled west and

now we are traveling east again. In all the confusion we made a mistake and turned our clocks back instead of forward, so we thought that it was 5 o'clock when it was really 7 pm! It is very confusing here, because we are still in California (on Pacific time) but as we are just across the river from Arizona (which does not follow day-light saving time) the people at this park go by Arizona time while just down the road it is California time. No wonder we are confused!!!



At one point the highway paralleled the railway track where travelers have strategically placed multi-colored volcanic rocks on the earth beside the track, creating a type of graffiti that goes for miles and miles.

Around 3 pm we arrived at Emerald Cove Resort, our new home for the next week.





The campground is situated on the sandy banks of the Colorado River and is surrounded on three sides by mountains in California and Arizona.

This camp does not have wireless, but does have high speed cable that we can use for both TV and internet. It took a while to get everything set-up but both are working really well.

Parker Arizona is just across the river and we needed some supplies, so we made a quick trip into town for groceries. On the way back we saw Christmas lights on many of the trailer

parks. With such nice weather here (presently sunny and 25 Celsius) it is hard to believe that in one month the holiday season will be over. We are still debating if we should put some lights on our rig.