

October 16

Happy Birthday Kimmy. We were not able to call because this %#&^#@ Tracphone will still not let us call anyone. Mike spent almost an hour tonight trying (again) to get it to work but no luck.

The drive today was awesome. We decided to take the long way round and avoid the



Interstate highway. It turned out to be a beautiful drive up highway 89. The fields were amber coloured with a hint of emerald green and soon we were approaching the mountains.

The winding road followed the Belt Stream. We stopped frequently to appreciate the magnificent views. Percy liked it too as he got a chance to stretch his legs and "do what dogs do".





We came to a cute little place nestled in the mountains with a very interesting sign.



The tank was getting low so we stopped at White Sulfur Springs and found a fascinating little garden next to the gas station.



At 4:30 we arrived at the Sunrise Campground in Bozeman Montana. We were greeted by Lion Marty. (Good thing Maureen was wearing her Lions pin). He invited us to his Lions meeting at noon tomorrow. We had planned to attend a meeting in Oyen but the threat of freezing rain made us decide to postpone that until the spring.

**Wednesday Oct 17, 2007**



Slept in this morning as we decided to stick around Bozeman and see what is going on. Lion Don very kindly met us at our campsite and showed us how to get to the noon hour Lions meeting. We were greeted warmly by the Bozeman Lions and they also seemed happy to meet Future Dog Guide Percy.

birthday hat.



The meeting was very aptly chaired by acting Lion Chief Jeff who had to wear the birthday hat

There was plenty of friendly teasing and great brainstorming as well as draws.



The Bozeman Lions have achieved **#1 status** in the United States and **#3 status** in the World for personal giving to Lions Sight First II.

They are also very involved in Leader dogs for both the police and the blind. The club is making plans to attend the USA/Canada Forum in Saskatoon next September so hopefully we will meet some of them again.

The afternoon turned out to be very wet and chilly (+3Celcius) and we could see the



We would love to further explore this beautiful region but decided that we would come back when the weather is more RV friendly so after a trip to the mall and Wal-Mart to let Percy stretch his leg and Maureen try out the great exchange rate we headed back to map out where we should go to stay ahead of the weather.

PS - still can't get the phone to work even when a nice Wal-Mart Associate tried his bag of tricks - it just won't do what they promised it should. What are we doing wrong?

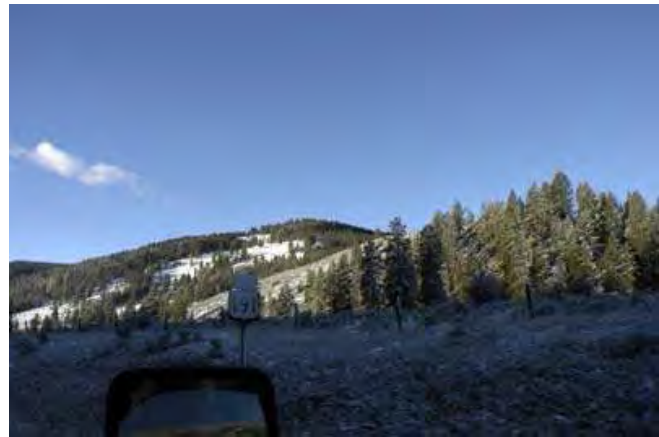
Thursday & Friday, Oct 18 & 19, 2007

What a Day! We managed to travel through 3 seasons in only 8 hours. It was fall when we left, winter came and left before noon and then it was spring after lunch!



As Mother nature was promising us cold and white we decided to put as much pavement under the wheels as we could, so we got up at 6 am (dark) and hit the road at 7:15 am (still dark and only 3C). As we left the Sunrise Campground in Bozeman we started to climb into the mountains and noticed that the trees and grass were covered with white stuff

We traveled up Highway 191 and the snow got a bit deeper and the thermometer dropped



By 9 am the temperature was down to minus 7 Celsius and according to our GPS we w snow on the trees was beautiful to look at but we were worried about our water pipes but the roads were a bit icy, so Mike put on the 4 wheel drive. The road twisted and We took it slow and easy and things went very well.



We traveled through Yellowstone Park and all about. He did not seem to mind the cold do".

By 10 am we crossed the Continental Divide and passed from Montana into Idaho. And the temperature had increased to a balmy 1 degree Celsius.

We stopped for lunch (canned chili con carne, and chicken noodle soup) at a pull out with a beautiful view of fields and cattle and were happy to find the plumbing in good working order.





Maureen helped with a bit of the driving. As usual the bright orange construction signs appeared both times that she was at the wheel. These signs were obviously waiting for Maureen to take the wheel again!

We pulled into the Hot Springs Resort near Garland at 4:45 pm. The thermometer was now up to 8 Celcius and we had a fantastic view of the mountains on three sides of us.



After supper we took Percy for a walk and talked to the pool guy who was cleaning the spring fed pool which felt very warm. He invited us to come back in the morning for a dip in the naturally heated water.



When we got back to the Mobile Suite Percy just wanted to rest after all the excitement.



Left the Hot Springs Resort on Friday at 10 am. Skies were overcast and the temperature only 8C so we decided to skip the dip in the pool. We traveled south on Interstate 15 which turned out to be very busy with lots of trucks whizzing by.

Arrived at Salt Lake City at noon, had a bite to eat and did some shopping. Percy was very happy to get some new toys from Petsmart.



into the foothills and lots of beautiful (and some not so pretty) buildings.



Finally we found our way off of the Interstate and onto Highway 89 and wound our way through beautiful log homes, streams, snow capped mountains and lush green valleys.

We arrived at Camperworld Pleasant Creek - a serene park nestled against the Manti



The lady at the desk was very helpful and let us pick our own site. She told us that the weatherman was predicting a storm over the weekend with cold temperatures, rain and snow. She also told us that she only trusted weather predicting to old Indians and people with Arthritis. We decided to stay put for a few days so as to avoid traveling in inclement conditions.

We chose a spot at the edge of the camp with a view of the mountains on three sides.

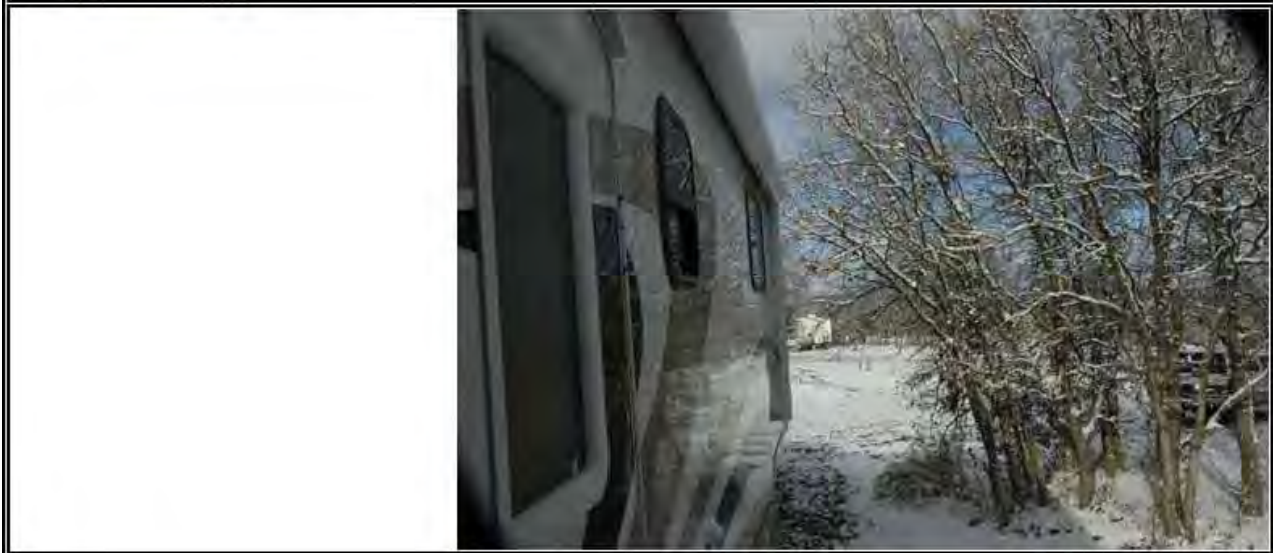


Before dinner we took Percy for a walk and came across two beautiful deer grazing on the front lawn. After dark the sky was clear with a very bright half moon to light the way as we walked again under the stars.



Sunday October 21, 2007

We awoke to a winter wonderland.  
It was very calm and snow blanketed everything in sight.



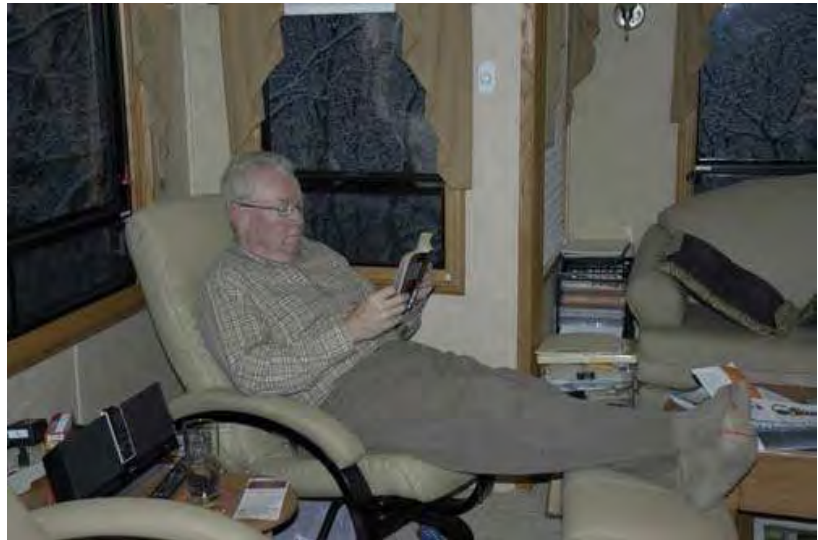
The s  
came  
midm  
and  
start  
melt  
white  
stuff  
looke

a great day to do some laundry and house cleaning. After the work was done, we took walk and found an old tennis court that Percy could safely run in. The thing that we appreciated the most was the quiet - we are miles away from the major highways and traffic noises. Saw lots of animal tracks but no

visible wildlife.



As I write this I am looking out at blue skies, majestic mountain range and trees that have now sadly lost leaves making it easier to see the mountains. Most of the snow has melted, so it will probably be safe move on again on Monday. In retros it was probably not a good idea to d to such a high elevation but the sc is spectacular and that is what we for.



We are warm in our trailer and have plenty of supplies and lots to read.



The water has been shut off but there is lots of water in our tanks.



Lots of other campers are here - some in tent trailers, so we are not alone and certainly not roughing it, in spite of the cold. We have a clean rig, clean clothes, a propane furnace, an electric heat pump, a portable heater and an electric fireplace. So the best thing to do is enjoy the scenery and the peace and quiet.



Top of Page

Saturday & Sunday, Oct 20 & 21, 2007  
Saturday



Very cold and overcast today, big change from Friday. Had a lazy morning and then headed out after lunch to visit the nearby towns. In Mount Pleasant we were able to get a wi-fi connection long enough to download the updated website.

We then drove a few more miles to the village of Fairview where we visited the Museum. It was a rather eclectic mix of old and very old. The show piece is a Mastodon that is two stories high. The original bones were found nearby but were not stable enough to display so a very lifelike replica is on show instead. In the 2 buildings (one is the old schoolhouse) there are larger than life sculptures, paintings, photographs and many examples of things used in bygone times including a great display of telephone equipment from the last century.

By the time we left the museum the thermometer had dropped considerably and flakes of snow were swirling around. We drove back to Mount Pleasant, purchased some supplies and decided to hightail it back to the campsite.

Throughout the evening the snow continued to fall. It looked rather pretty but was not what we had in mind when we drove south. Percy did not seem to mind the snow at all. One good thing is that the flies who were tormenting us yesterday seem to be all gone now!

Thursday October 25, 2007

It was rather chilly when we woke up this morning as both the water heater and the heat pump were on and blew a breaker. Once the sun came out it warmed up quite nicely as we broke camp and prepared to move on. According to the computer places down south are starting to fill up quickly, so we made reservations for the next month to ensure that we have places to stay.

Gail came over to say goodbye and give us farewell hugs and wished us well on our travels. Steve from Christmas Mountain could certainly learn a lot from this lady. You don't have to have a fancy place to make people feel at home!

After a short scenic drive and a wrong turn, we arrived in Hurricane at the Willowind RV Park. We were greeted by Rose, and after a walk around the park to see what was available, we chose our site and moved in. The thermometer was reading 24 Celcius so we changed into shorts, opened some beer and turned on the air conditioner.

Wednesday October 24, 2007

Late morning we set off to visit Zion National park. Along the way we saw lots of development, especially subdivisions being built out in the desert in the shadow of the mountains.



We traveled along the Virgin River and came upon the Virgin trading post.

At a rustic campsite Percy and Mike went for a stroll in the sand. Quite a difference from 2 days earlier when snow was covering everything! Percy seemed to love it, but was happy to get back



to the truck for a drink of water as it was quite hot in the sun.

When we arrived at the park the Ranger measured our Truck and determined that it was just slightly wider than the tunnel through the mountain would handle, so we were advised not to travel through the park but rather go on the shuttle bus that runs through the canyon.

On the bus Percy caused quite a bit of interest as everyone wanted to know about our Future Dog Guide. Percy seemed to enjoy the ride (and all the attention) and we saw plenty of fantastic rocks, trees and water along the 1 - 1 / 2 hour ride. We stopped a few times to get a closer look at the flora and fauna.





Along the canyon the vegetation was constantly changing. At the Grotto their was lots of green and gold as the trees were just starting to turn colour.

We checked out the campsites in Zion Park but there were no spots available in the immediate future

except for the South campground where the sites were too small for our rig. Percy found some people that we had met on the bus and got to play with their dogs. We also stopped to chat with a fellow Mobile Suite owner and he told us about some great places that he had visited.

On the way home the sun was low and cast beautiful lights on the mountains.





Do you know what kind of tree this is?



If you look closely you will see that there are dozens of pairs of shoes hanging from the branches so it must be a shoe tree!

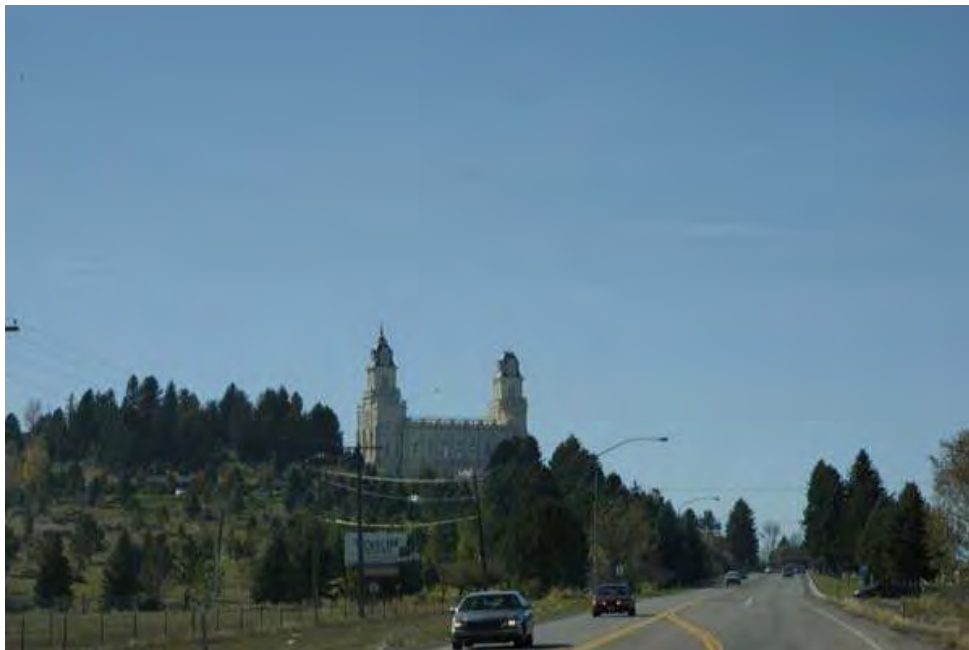


Back at the campground we met a couple from British Columbia and spent a pleasant evening discussing the joys of Full-timing in an RV.

Tuesday October 23, 2007

The temperature in the mountains was still rather cold but the roads were clear, so we decided to see if we could find a more temperate climate by traveling south. Packing up took a little bit longer than usual as we had to get all the ice off the tip-outs. We started out on highway 89 but after lunch hooked up with Interstate 15 again. This time it was not as busy.

Along the way we drove through a little place called Manti that has a very  
large  
Church of Latter Day Saints temple.



When looking for a place to stay overnight we paid attention to both latitude and altitude and avoided campsites with high elevations.

We could not find a Coast to Coast site that met our criteria, so we settled on a very small private campground called Red Ledge in Kanarraville Utah. It was only a three star but far enough off the Interstate to be quiet and the

temperature outside was a lovely 19. The lady at the desk was very friendly and let us chose our own site. That did not take very long as they were all within site of the office. Gail told us that her park is the smallest RV park in America. Getting internet access was a bit tricky, but she encouraged us to keep trying different codes and finally we were successful. We also learned that Kannaraville has the only all female fire department in the US.

After dinner we went for a walk and then hit the hay early as we planned to do some exploring tomorrow.

Monday - Thursday, Oct. 22 ~ 24, 2007 Monday October

22, 2007

The sun was shining brightly when we woke this morning and most of the snow had melted. Our neighbour next door was up on his roof sweeping the snow off his slide-outs. Mike took his lead and did the same, as we do not want the snow in our rig when we put the tips back in.



As it was a beautiful day we took advantage of the cool but clear weather and headed south so see the sights. We packed a lunch and headed into the Manti-La Sal National forest. As we traveled up the mountain and through the Huntington Canyon the temperature dropped to minus 6 Celsius and the snow got deeper. At one scenic stop we saw snowmobilers getting ready to head out.

We could tell by the snow fences and markers that the snow can get very very deep up here.



Also witnessed lots of hunters both on the road and camping in the many little campgrounds along the way.

Percy stopped to check out the snow and try out one of the rocks.



Just before Huntington the Powerplant loomed very large on the horizon.





It uses coal from the nearby mines to turn water into steam which is forced through the generator shafts and produces electricity.

Trucks carrying more than sixty tons of coal passed us on the highway.



On the far side of the mountain the temperature soared to 8 plus.

On the way back it dipped again below zero and the landscape was white again.



We arrived back in Mount Pleasant around 4:30 pm and stopped at the library to use the computers and then headed back to the campsite for dinner.

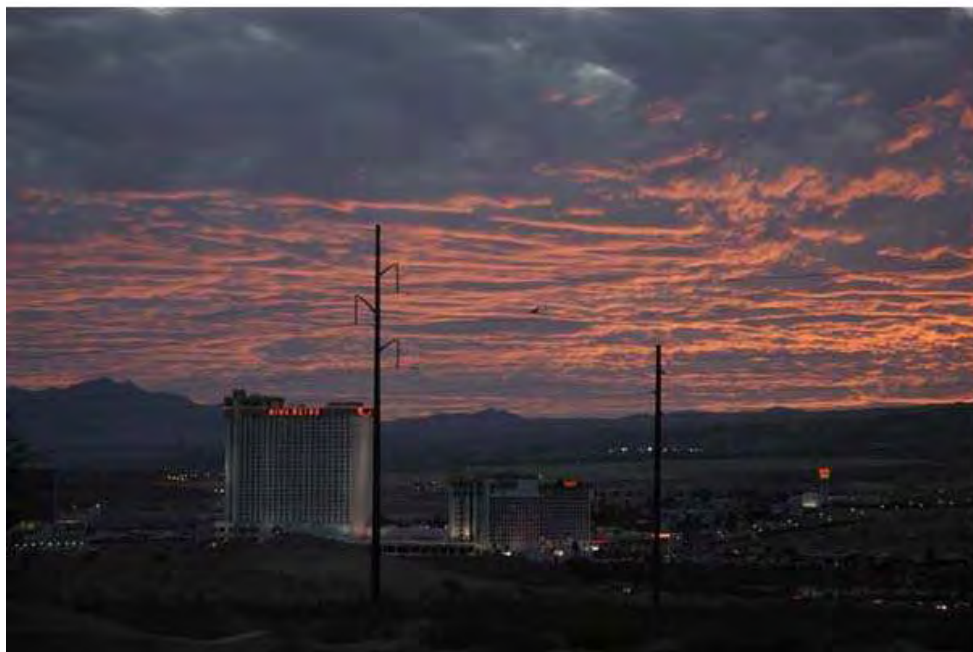
Monday October 29, 2007

Time to do some work! Installed some hooks in the bathroom and broom cupboard and got the laundry done. Afterwards we drove into town for some groceries. Temperature is still high but as it is dry it feels fantastic.

After supper the sun and clouds put on another fantastic light show. This time we had the camera ready.







Mike found some new books to read at the clubhouse. They also have a beautiful pool that we should check out soon. There are lots of dogs around and Percy still gets overly excited when he sees them so we need to work on his manners.

Sunday October 28, 2007

Left Hurricane at 7:45 am - the sunrise was beautiful and the thermometer was registering a cool 13 Celcius. We traveled south and again witnessed a multitude of topographies. As we passed through the mountain ranges the sheer size of the cliffs amazed us.



Soon we were out of the mountains and onto the plains again.



Brown was the predominant colour as the desert spread out all around us.

At one point we noticed bright reflections in the distance and as we got closer it became apparent that we were seeing thousands of solar panels being used to harness the sun's energy.



We stopped for lunch and fuel at Searchlight and arrived at Bullhead Arizona at 2:30 pm. Our new home for the next five nights is the Ridgeview RV Resort. Our destination has not been specific, but we did know that we were seeking a warm, dry climate. We knew that we had arrived when we stepped out of the truck and felt the heat of the sun (29 Celcius.) On checking the weather forecast for the next five days it promised to stay hot during the days (29 to 32) and cool at night (13 to 16). For us that is pretty close to perfect!

The campground overlooks the river and the city of Laughlin on the far side of the water. At nightfall we went for a walk and witnessed a beautiful sunset beyond the casinos but unfortunately did not have our camera with us.



Saturday October 27, 2007

This was a day for shopping. Maureen had seen billboards advertising Outlet stores i St. George so we just had to check them out. Maureen found some great bargains and then we headed back to pack up as we wanted to head out early on Sunday.

Friday October 26, 2007

As we were staying in Hurricane for a few days we decided it would be a good time to get a bed-liner put into the truck. We had to empty everything out of the truck and then Mike found a place in St. George and spent the afternoon there to get it done.

Maureen walked a few blocks into Hurricane and spent the afternoon shopping for what- nots and a few groceries. It was the anniversary of our first date (40 years ago) so we went out to a Chinese Restaurant for dinner to celebrate. The special was a seafood buffet, so we both got our shrimp and crab fix and walked back to the trailer to work some of it off.

Wednesday October 31 07

**Happy Halloween**

As the weather had cooled off a bit it looked like a good day for a hike. After a short drive north of Laughlin we parked the truck and headed out into the dessert in search of Grapevine Canyon. After walking down the valley for about 10 minutes we came to some Petroglyphs.



Further down the valley narrowed and we had to try different ways to get through.





It was very hot and windy - Percy loved the walk, but did not think much of the drawings on the rocks.

Eventually we came to a little waterfall and ventured a bit higher into the mountain where it was quite breezy. After losing a water bottle we decided it was time to

head back to the truck.



Next stop was Oatman - an old Ghost town on the famous Route 66.



As we arrived crowds of people were gathering on main street where three gun slingers had a run in with the Sherriff.



After the shootout we wandered through town and met up with some wild burros. Percy was very curious about them and wanted to get up close and personal with the baby burros.





After buying a few postcards we left Oatman and headed back to Bullhead City for some shopping where we saw lots of little Trick or Treaters at the mall.

In the evening we went up to the club house with our next door neighbours for a Halloween dance and Karaoke singing.

Tuesday October 30 2007



Time to cross the river and try out our luck at the Laughlin Casinos. We had been admiring the colourful lights on our nightly walks, so decided to see what all the glitz was about.



Looks much different in the day time!.

The Riverside Casino looked like the largest one, so we went there first,

and then went up to Hurrahs to see if our luck would improve. Mike had some good spins on the Wheel of Fortune and Maureen had some fun with the Blackjack machine, but eventually lady luck left us and we moved on. Oh well - easy come - easy go!