



**...from Travels with Cole & Cole
Great Escape #127**

Dear Friends, July 4, 2012

Greetings from Pahrump, Nevada.

RV Update

We sent out our last travelogue on April 8 as an Easter greeting and to alert our many RV friends that we were nest building in Pahrump, Nevada. Yes, after seven years on the road in our motorhome, we bought a stick built home in Pahrump and expected to have it squared away by summer. Well, summer is here and we are still working on the house. We have made a great deal of progress and are nearing completion.

The town of Pahrump lies in a large high desert valley about one hour driving time west of Las Vegas and one hour east of Death Valley. Is it hot here this time of year? You'd better believe it. This week, we are running an afternoon high of about 101 degrees and an evening low of around 74. Vegas, on the other hand, is much hotter with 109 daytime highs and 85 for nighttime lows. July and August are the hottest months and we cannot recommend a visit at this time.

No, we have not given up RVing. The motorhome is parked next to the house and can be ready to travel in about an hour.



Motorhome next to the house.

The above photo is a shot of our back yard with the motorhome parked next to our rear patio. Yep, we have lovely mature trees and even a patch of lawn. To keep our lawn green this time of year requires watering three times a day seven days a week. Fortunately, our automatic watering system takes care of that.

However, this travelogue is not about our home. It's about freedom and beer. But so many of our friends have been wondering what has happened to us that we felt the above update was necessary.

History of Our Freedom

Freedom has been a major core value in Chuck's life since he was a boy and there is no more appropriate time to write about freedom and independence than the 4th of July.

The 13 colonies of the United States were originally under the control of England and King George III. We were colonies of England, but while King George insisted on taxing these colonies, he did very little to aid the struggling colonists. By 1773, the colonists were beginning to think of independence from England and to some extent, these feelings were solidified with the Boston Tea Party. Taxation without representation was becoming intolerable.

In 1774 the colonists formed their first formal government which became the "First Continental Congress." On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress wrote a second draft of their list of their grievances against King George and John Hancock was the first to sign this document which was called the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the final draft was completed and signed by 56 of our founding fathers. These brave souls knew full well that the Declaration of Independence was a treasonous document and that King George would execute any and all of the signers if he could catch them.

The colonists knew that war with England was inevitable. And so the Revolutionary War was off and running and continued for about eight years. The war was finally ended by the Paris Peace Treaty in 1783. Please note that this long and brutal war was a war of survival. It was not fought in some distant land for some obscure or politically motivated goal. If we lost this war, the consequences would be devastating and perhaps we would never be a free nation.

States Rights

What the average citizen of today doesn't know is that the colonists were fighting for 13 united but independent states. The majority of the founding fathers felt that a central federal government was a bad idea. They knew that a powerful central government would do its best to erode the freedoms of the states. Such a federal government might, in fact, be no better than being ruled by England.

This is what central governments do and our founding fathers were well aware of this fact. In an attempt to limit the power of a federal government, the colonists devised a brilliant document called the Constitution. They also created a brilliant and novel form of government consisting of three independent branches: Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Supreme Court. It was intended that the three branches abiding by the rules set down in the Constitution, would serve as a check and balance system to prevent the centralized federal government from taking over the states.

Eroding Freedoms

The fears of our founding fathers concerning the loss of liberty and freedom were well founded. We have indeed watched central governments all over the world grab power and control and the United States has been no exception. Our liberty and freedom has been dramatically eroded and it's continuing at an accelerating pace. Politicians are quite willing to lie and cheat in attempts to increase their power. Democracy does not work well without a balancing set of ethics. Without ethics, the majority will steal from the minority. Thus, landlords will have their property rights diminished by renters. Without ethics, renters who are in the majority will vote laws to steal from the landlords who are in the minority. If there is any doubt about this fact, please examine what has happened with rent controls in New York City.

The Most Basic Freedom

Can there be any freedom more basic than the right to defend oneself? And yet the right to self defense is a right that is hated by almost all central governments worldwide. How can the weak and old defend themselves from the young and strong? I'm afraid that guns are the only answer. Guns are the great equalizer. An armed society is a polite society. Contrary to what central governments would like you to believe, there is less crime in heavily armed populations than in lightly armed populations. Where guns have been successfully banished, only the criminals possess them and crime flourishes as a result. As economic conditions deteriorate in the United States, crime and riots will and have increased. If you're counting on the police to protect you, you are living in a dream world. Remember, when seconds count, the police are minutes away. They cannot possibly protect you. They may eventually bring the criminal to justice, but it's too late if you've been robbed, maimed, or killed. It is for this reason that we choose to live in places like Rapid City, South Dakota, or Pahrump, Nevada, where we can legally carry concealed weapons and defend ourselves if necessary.

Other Basic Freedoms

It seems to us that health care is another basic freedom and that the government

should not be involved in telling us what kinds of treatments we can have, what kinds of drugs or supplements we should take, or where and when these treatments should occur. The government's only role should be to insure honesty and truthfulness in all advertising and promotions.

We should be allowed to save or spend our money as we wish. We should not be forced by legislation to buy anything. If we spend foolishly, we should be allowed to suffer the consequences. Without consequences, the population does not learn to make wise choices.

We need a money supply that will allow us to accumulate and preserve wealth. Gold is real money. Gold backed paper money is also acceptable provided that the government will at all times promptly trade paper money for gold at a realistic market value. If a government is allowed to print money without gold backing, the inevitable result is inflation. With inflation caused by running the printing presses, all goods go up in price. The value of the goods did not increase, but the value of the money decreased. The American public doesn't seem to understand this basic fact.

Our colleges teach Keynesian economics. Keynes was a socialist who strongly believed that governments had a duty to infuse and inflate a nation's currency during periods of economic downturn. He believed that these policies would level out economic cycles. Ben Bernanke still subscribes to this bad theory. Does increasing the quantity of money in circulation actually help in the short run? Perhaps, but ultimately it causes a disaster in the long run. We are in such a disaster at the present time. Massive federal spending has led to a national debt in excess of 16 trillion dollars. Our country can't even pay the interest on this debt much less the principal. It seems to us that we have only two choices at this time. Default on the debt and suffer horrendous consequences or inflate the money supply and pay off the debt with worthless dollars. The latter is the direction we are headed which only puts off the consequences and in the meantime, liquidates the life savings of our citizens.

The politicians love inflating the money supply. It allows them to make promises to the citizens of free benefits. The government has no money of its own. They can only give benefits to one group by taking that money away from another group. In order to get elected, they promote the idea of basic rights to all citizens. The right to health care, the right to housing, etc. Unfortunately, these government programs can only be paid for by confiscating the wealth of others. The government then tries to make these confiscations seem acceptable with terms like, "paying your fair share." There is nothing fair about it. If you confiscate the wealth of people who earned it, these men and women have the knowledge and wherewithal to leave the country and everyone suffers as a result. At the present time, only about 40% of the American public is gainfully employed at producing goods and services that benefit our economy. Now the question becomes, can the 40% support the other 60%?

Liberty, Freedom, and Beer

There is no more appropriate time than the 4th of July to attempt to provoke a discussion about liberty and freedom. If you love liberty, then you must be prepared to stand up for personal freedom. The freedom to succeed and the freedom to fail based upon your own abilities and decisions. Our founding fathers

were ready to fight and die for these principals. We must be willing, at every opportunity, to minimize the role of federal government. We must seek truth, honesty, and leaders who will keep their promises. Whenever and wherever we need to reduce the size and power of the federal government. Free enterprise might save us, but the federal government certainly cannot. Jobs are not produced by government programs. Jobs are produced by private enterprise when and if government doesn't mess it up. Scale back government, reduce welfare benefits, and allow private enterprise to innovate and we have a chance. Three sectors excite us: energy, automation, and genetic advances in medicine. We have a shot at becoming one of the world's largest producers of oil. Thanks to automation, we have a shot at reducing our labor costs enough to become competitive with cheap labor nations. We have a shot with genetic research of curing many major illnesses.

If you love liberty, then campaign and vote for smaller government, less mandated programs, and personal freedom.

Hey, what about beer? Where does beer fit in? The Boston Beer Company produces what might arguably be called the best beer in America. They produce many fine beers under the Samuel Adams brand name. Recall that Samuel Adams was one of our 56 founding fathers. Let us share with you what Samuel Adams had to say about liberty and freedom.

"If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest for freedom, go home and leave us in peace. We seek not your council nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen."

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Attention

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Until next time, home is where we park it.

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