

Greetings from Indio, California.

The primary news in this issue is that we are back on the road again.

Before we left Redding, we applied for and received our Texas insurance licenses, so now we are both licensed in four states. We intend to visit the snowbird areas around the Texas Gulf this spring. Now we are ready to do business in Oregon, California, Arizona, and Texas.

The weather in Redding was extremely pleasant this past fall. We took a couple of short trips with the motorhome in October. The first was to a FuelMeister biodiesel dealer conference in **Reno, Nevada**. We were able to park for free at the Nugget Hotel/Casino which was very convenient since the conference was held there. We enjoyed ourselves immensely. A very special treat included meeting the banquet dinner guest speaker, **Josh Tickell**. Josh is the author of *From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank*, and his 2006 book, *Biodiesel America*. Josh is a renowned authority on biodiesel and a captivating speaker. We highly recommend Josh's book, *Biodiesel America*. We have an extra autographed copy for sale at \$30 and we will pay the tax and shipping.



Donna, Josh Tickell, and Chuck

Our second October trip was for the annual Halloween gathering of the **Lakeport Elks RV Club at Woodson Bridge RV Park** just outside of **Corning, California**. We attended this event as guests of Chuck's cousins, **Paul and Ellie**, from Kelseyville. We love Woodson Bridge with its RV sites under huge canopies of trees right on the banks of the Sacramento River. We had a terrific time. Thanks, Paul and Ellie for inviting us.

Also before we left for the winter, we installed our early Christmas presents. The first is a Garmin Nuvi 660 navigation unit and it has been absolutely fabulous. The best we've ever seen. We also installed a new upscale CB radio. The radio has been very helpful

in identifying traffic problems and will be absolutely essential when convoying with other RVers.

On November 22 we said goodbye to **Ron and Sheryl at Green Acres** RV Park in Redding and headed south. Our first stop was the Elks Lodge in **Stockton**, California. It's an okay lodge with RV parking, but not much in the way of activities. The next morning we pulled out and drove about 15 miles further south to visit with Chuck's old friends, **Sandy and Isolee**. We only stayed there a few hours as the parking was a bit marginal, but it gave us the chance to visit and catch up on old times. Isolee and Sandy breed exotic birds in a big way. If you're interested in exotic birds, give us a yell and we'll put you in touch with Isolee.

From Stockton we got serious about traveling and headed south on I-5. We discovered that one of our trailer taillights was out so we had to find a place to park before dark. It was Thanksgiving and we'd hoped to go out for dinner. No luck. We spent Thanksgiving night in the parking lot of a truck tire repair service in **Kettleman City**. Oh well, we cooked up some cheeseburgers, fired up the television, and went to bed early. The next morning, we cut a trail for **San Luis Obispo** to visit with our long time friends, **Paul and Marie**. What a great place to stop. Paul and Marie gave us a nice place to park in their pasture and got water and a little electricity to us. That night Marie cooked us a full Thanksgiving dinner from Thanksgiving leftovers. The weather there on the coast was absolutely gorgeous. There was a light breeze that took away the fog and so the beaches at **Morro Bay, Avila, Grover, Pismo, and Santa Maria** were spectacular.

Paul is one of Chuck's long time engineering buddies and is probably the last man alive that can fix anything. In his garage he has a lathe, a mill, a bead blaster, a parts washer, and of course, an air compressor. One bedroom of the house is dedicated to repairing electronics. As soon as we arrived, Paul asked if there was anything that needed fixing. Poor guy. We spent 10 days there fixing things! With Paul, you don't just fix things, you improve them. Our coach and trailer are back on the road better than new.

While we were in San Luis Obispo, another couple, **Dusty and Marilyn**, drove over from Arroyo Grande and the four of us went out to the end of the Avila pier and watched the sunset while having dinner and drinks. Wow, a perfect evening. One of the great joys of traveling in our RV is our opportunity to visit old friends.

After San Luis Obispo, we had a long day of driving to the **Elks Lodge in Indio**, California. It's a very nice lodge with lots and lots of RV parking. Nice, but a bit pricey. The next morning, we had a very short drive to our current location which is the **Western Horizons RV Resort in Indio**. This is one beautiful park with every amenity imaginable. Beautiful concrete pads, lots of grass, beautiful pool, nice hot tub, great club house, pool room, exercise room, laundry, library, computer room, and lots of activities. They do breakfast six days a week, lunch five days, and dinner on Saturday night. It doesn't get much better than this!

Two nights ago we had a lovely evening of drinks and dinner with two new friends, **Nick and Joanne**, of **Palm Desert**. They have a beautiful home in a gated community. Their back patio is on a lovely lake and they can visit their neighbors with their electric patio boat. There is some very elegant living in this area.

We will be here in the Indio park until the morning of December 21. Two weeks is not nearly enough time here. Our friends, **Dave and Isobel**, from England are parked right behind us and are here for the same period. There is lots of fun to be had in this area and Dave and Isobel are the perfect companions to share it with. Yesterday afternoon the four of us visited the famous Shields Date Gardens. The cultivation of Palm dates is an interesting and extremely labor intensive business. The date gardens are definitely worth a visit. Last night we went to see a play, *Viagara Falls*, a comedy about two old guys, a call girl, and a little blue pill. We laughed ourselves silly!

The weather here in the **Coachella Valley** is just beautiful this time of year. The daytime temperature is about 75 and it gets down to around 50 at night. The valley towns are east of Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and form a very beautiful part of the California desert. The growth in this part of the desert has been fantastic. Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Bermuda Dunes, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, and Coachella have all pretty much grown together and become one large and lovely recreation area. If you like golf and country clubs, this is your Mecca.

If you can visit with us, we will be here for another 10 days. There is so much to do and see in this area that you'll be glad you made the trip.

Until then, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna