

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Yuma, Arizona**.

To be a bit more precise, greetings from **Pilot Knob RV Resort** in **Winterhaven, California**. We are right next door to Yuma and only one exit on Interstate 8 from Los Algodones, Mexico. We have been here about 2-1/2 weeks and we expect to be here at least another week.

But let's back up a little. We left **San Luis Obispo, California**, where you heard from us last and ran straight to the Elks Lodge in **Oxnard, California**. We got there in time to set up in the parking lot, go inside and have a drink, and have a nice dinner. In the morning we rolled early and got to **Desert Pools RV Resort** in **Desert Hot Springs, California**. Desert Pools is our home park in the Western Horizons system and we went there to clear up some questions about our membership and to convert our 5 year temporary membership to a lifetime membership. That set us back \$1,249. Well that's it, we're paid up permanently. The weather in Desert Hot Springs was absolutely fabulous. The air was clear, no wind, and a very pleasant temperature. We only stayed 2 nights as we had an appointment with Satellite Advantage in **Quartzsite, Arizona**. So on November 20, 2007, we arrived at the satellite shop and they went right to work.



**Desert Pools RV Resort in Desert Hot Springs, California**

We had a second wire run from our TV satellite to our new DVR (digital video recorder) so now we can watch one television program while recording a different program. Oh boy, this is so cool! If you have DirecTV, you use a DirecTV DVR, and if you have Dish Network, you use a TiVo. We can't imagine how we ever got by without it. We also had the shop reprogram our large Internet dish to pick up a new satellite and a new Internet provider. Our old provider went out of business and left us high and dry.



The big Internet satellite dish back in operation

We opted for a little slower Internet connection to save a few bucks, but now we don't have enough speed to be able to use Skype Internet phone. We miss talking to our old Skype friends so we might have to pick the speed up on the satellite again one of these days. In the meantime, we can probably use Skype in areas where we have broadband on our Verizon aircard. Unfortunately, this is not one of those areas.

Satellite Advantage was kind enough to let us park inside their large fenced yard so we dry camped there through Thanksgiving. A Mexican restaurant right across the street served a very nice Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert for \$9.95. We went to bed full and happy and watched pre-recorded programs on the new DVR.

On Friday morning bright and early, we rolled for Yuma, Arizona. Not too far out of Quartzsite and in the middle of the desert, is an interesting and historic spot called **Stone Cabin**. It's kind of a little store, but with great burgers, beef or buffalo. They also serve the biggest, most complete burger we have ever seen. It's huge and it has everything that could ever be put on a burger, i.e., grilled onions, mushrooms, bacon, cheese, etc., etc. The darn thing is \$15, but two people could only eat about half of it.



The \$15 burger at Stone Cabin, Arizona



Stone Cabin, Highway 95, between Quartzsite and Yuma

We arrived in the Yuma area on November 23. Our whole purpose in coming to Yuma was to deal with Donna's infected molar. We dropped in at our favorite Algodones dentist (**Sani Dental Group**) on a Sunday thinking that maybe we could at least make an appointment for Donna's tooth and see about having Chuck's teeth cleaned. Much to our surprise, the head dentist and the top porcelain crown guy were both there. We both got evaluated immediately. They put Donna on antibiotics and told her to come back in 5 days. Chuck didn't get off so easy. They strongly suggested that he get a porcelain crown on every tooth in his upper jaw. Chuck didn't think it could be that bad, but Donna got a close up view via the dental intra-oral camera and agreed with them. So we went and had a taco lunch next door, talked it over, and decided to do it. After lunch we went back in and said we were ready and they said, "Okay, let's get started." Good grief, after 4 hours in the chair every tooth was ground down and prepped and the impressions were sent to the lab. Unbelievable! Chuck was at the dentist Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and by Wednesday night at 7 p.m. had a complete set of upper porcelain crowns. Twelve, to be exact. They look good, they feel good, and they fit good. Wow, 4 days and only \$1,680 complete including x-rays, cleaning, etc.

Unfortunately, after 5 days on Amoxicillin, Donna was no better. **Enrique**, the head dentist, then put her on 10 days of Cipro which is one of the strongest and most expensive antibiotics on the planet. Finally by the 9th day, the swelling and pain started to disappear. Unfortunately, the specialist that needs to work on Donna is out sick. So now she has to continue on a half dose of Cipro until he returns. The game plan is to pull the tooth with the infection from a bungled root canal done by our California dentist. Then once the tooth is out, they are going to do a bone graft to beef up her jaw bone and install two implants. Six months later, assuming that the posts heal into the jaw bone, she will get two new porcelain molars. Damn, another \$2,250 complete. That is incredibly cheap compared to the states, but it is still not small change.



Mexican girls serving free margaritas in Algodones

On a much lighter note, yesterday, December 8, Algodones threw a Winter Visitors Appreciation party. They blocked off a street downtown, set up a stage, set up hundreds of chairs with dozens of booths lining the sides. The weather was sunny and lovely and there was more than 5 hours of free entertainment. Dancers, singers, bands, cheerleaders, etc., just plain fun and all free. In addition, booths were set up with tons of free food. Not just a taco, but complete free full lunches. In addition to the food, there was all of the free tequila, margaritas, and draft beer you could drink. There was an amazing number of drunk on their butts, senior American citizens. They were wiped out, singing, dancing, yelling, and falling down. Wow, what a country! Drinking in the streets to total excess.

Now we are sort of sitting around waiting until Donna gets her dental work done. Well, maybe not quite sitting around. Our wonderful friends, **Jim and Cathy** from Sacramento, were going to San Diego so they went a little wide and came to visit us in Yuma. They took us out for drinks and dinner and we had a wonderful evening with them. We also had a lovely Yuma reunion with our good friends, **Fred and Cheryl**. Another night and another dinner with our Yuma friends, **Kevin and Maurine**. We have been so fortunate to meet so many wonderful friends while traveling the last 3 years.

This park is also lots of fun. Every Sunday there is a wonderful hot dog/hamburger BBQ at noon followed by an ice cream social at 3 in the afternoon. Monday night there is always a good dinner. Thursday night they cook dinner, Saturday morning we all have super good and large cinnamon rolls, and Saturday night is always a really good BBQ steak dinner. Besides all the food, there's all kinds of crafts and games. There is so much to do, it's hard to get our work done.



**The \$1.00 Pilot Knob RV Resort cinnamon roll**

On another happy note, we set out to help many clients move their retirement funds to a safe haven out of harm's way. Our goal for 2008 is to move 1 million dollars. At the moment, it looks like we will do about a quarter million just in January. We get to travel, we get to help people, we make close friends, and we can make a living doing something we enjoy. Life is good!

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna  
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