

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Desert Hot Springs, California.**

When we left **Puerto Penasco, Mexico**, we elected to exit via **Lukeville, Arizona**. The town on the Mexican side is **Sonoyta**. This is a very nice border crossing as it doesn't get much traffic so the waits are relatively short. When you leave, you are on Hwy 85 headed north, it's also called N. Sonoita Hwy. It's a good road and a very pleasant drive.

Very close to the border is a beautiful camping area called **Organ Pipe National Monument**. It has very nice camp sites for RVs as well as tents. There are no hookups, but there is water, picnic tables, a dump station, showers, and garbage pick up. There is great hiking and very interesting ranger lectures.



Our motorhome on a nice concrete RV pad.

The park is just full of very healthy Organ Pipe cactus. Strangely enough, the majority of all U.S. organ pipe cactus is located here in this one location.



Chuck and Annika beside an Organ Pipe cactus.



Typical vegetation in Organ Pipe National Monument.

Although this is a very remote and desolate area, it is quite beautiful with wonderfully clean air and well groomed hiking trails. We only stayed one night which certainly was not enough. There is lots to learn about in the Visitor's Center and the camping is very quiet and relaxing.

After Organ Pipe we headed for **Yuma, Arizona**. We got there via I-8 and Gila Bend. We didn't have any reservations in Yuma, so we drove straight to our old standby, the **Paradise Indian Casino**. Paradise has good free parking for RVs and okay cheap food. We were in Yuma to reprovision the

motorhome. After Mexico, we were out of everything except frozen shrimp from the Sea of Cortez. Gosh it's good, we are still eating it. Our motorhome radio had been giving us problems so while in Yuma we got a new radio, 4 new high end speakers, and Sirius satellite radio connection. Wow, it's really nice to have 80 channels of commercial free radio that doesn't fade as you drive.

We were also in Yuma to pick up our motorcycle and trailer and to have Donna's gums looked at in **Algodones**. The surgeon had removed the stitches over the bone graft before we headed to Mexico, and the membrane over the graft had come out of the hole. So they stitched it up again.

On December 31 (New Year's Eve) we left Yuma and headed for **Desert Hot Springs, California**. The main road goes by the **Salton Sea** on the west side. We have told you in past letters that the west side is rather unattractive in that the sea has become smaller and the old resorts, etc. are now a long way from the water. So what the heck, we took a lesser road going up the east side of the Salton Sea. Wow, what a difference. The east side is gorgeous.



The motorhome on the eastern side of the Salton Sea.

Once we saw how beautiful it was, we made camp immediately at a State Recreation Area and spent a rather quiet New Year's Eve right on the water's edge. There are several nice locations in the Recreation Area to park. The main one has a lot more people and full hook-ups. Interestingly enough, there are a couple of beautiful camp sites with shaded table areas and showers reserved exclusively for kayakers. You can't stay there unless you kayak in. **Dean and Tere**, and **Bob and Kathy**, take note. We chose the **Salt Creek** campground which had a camp host, port-a-potties, and trash bins, and only cost us \$5 to park.



New Year's Eve sunset over the Salton Sea.

This was our idea of a perfect New Year's Eve. We cooked up some Sea of Cortez shrimp, opened a bottle of champagne, and sat outside and watched the sunset. It was warm and lovely. We had television via satellite, radio via satellite, and the Internet via a third satellite. Kind of strange, huh? Modern technology allows you to get back to nature, but with all of the modern conveniences.



First day of 2008 at the Salton Sea.

On New Year's Day we woke up refreshed, at peace, and with no hang overs. The above view is what greeted us in the morning.

At about 11 a.m. we packed up and started a routine drive to **Desert Pools RV Resort** in Desert Hot

Springs. This is our home park and we like it a lot. We were scheduled to stay here for 9 days, but we extended the stay an additional 7 days. This allowed us to give two of our "**Funding Your Retirement and Protecting Your Nest Egg**" seminars. The first week we did a morning seminar with coffee and donuts and the second week we did a luncheon seminar and supplied free pizza. Both were very well received.

Here is our travel schedule for any of you that would like to catch up with us:

January 17 - January 22, Greasewood RV Park, Quartzsite, Arizona

January 25 - February 1, Escapees Jojoba Hills RV Park in Aguanga, California

February 1 - February 8, Wilderness Lakes RV Resort, Menifee, California

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna