

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Pilot Knob RV Resort**.

For those of you who do not RV, Pilot Knob is in the tiny town of **Winterhaven**, California, which is next door to **Yuma**, Arizona. The primary reason to stay in Pilot Knob is its proximity to **Los Algodones**, Mexico. We dropped into Pilot Knob for four nights so that we could go to Algodones and have the progress of Donna's oral bone graft checked. We are happy to report that it is growing nicely and Donna will probably get one or two implant posts installed after tax season.

Since we have written about Pilot Knob and Algodones in the past, we will not give any more details, except to say we had a lovely visit from **Jim and Katt** from Quartzsite. The four of us had a very fine dinner at **Famous Dave's BBQ** in Yuma. We have concluded that Famous Dave's BBQ pork ribs are the best we've ever tasted. They are smoked, have no fat, and are fall-off-bone tender. When you get your receipt, if you call the phone number listed and answer a few questions about your dining experience, you will get a free dessert. The hot fudge sundae is also wonderful and big enough for two people. Famous Dave's is a chain, so if you come across one, don't miss it.

Last time you heard from us, we were in an RV Park called **Jojoba Hills** in the tiny town of **Aguanga**, California. From there we made a very short 35 mile drive to **Wilderness Lakes RV Resort** in the town of **Menifee**, California. Wilderness Lakes is a large park full of small lakes and large canals. We parked our rig right next to a canal and had the joy of watching every kind of duck imaginable.



**Mr. & Mrs. Mallard who hung around our RV.**

Wilderness Lakes is part of Thousand Trails/NACO and is an affiliate of Resorts of Distinction which is how we got a reservation. All in all, a very nice park, but with one major drawback. It is right next door to a very large dairy. We were advised by our RV friend, **Larry**, to not park near the dairy. That was good advice. When the wind blows from the dairy to the RV park, it is definitely not a pleasant aroma. Fortunately for us,

the wind blew the other direction most of the time we were there. The canals also have the advantage of fish and so we saw quite a few people throwing a line in the water. Just a couple of miles from the park is the official winter home base of the Budweiser Clydesdale horses. The horse farm is not open to the public, but if you drive down the dirt road you'll probably see the Clydesdales.



**Our RV is just under the tree to the right of the small island.**

While at Wilderness Lakes we had a lovely visit from **Earl and Virginia**, who drove over from Jojoba Hills to finish up a couple of annuities. After the paperwork was done, we went out to dinner in Menifee. Wow, what a surprise. We found a marvelous little Italian restaurant with world class pizza and two skilled guitar players. All in all, a great evening.

We also had a lovely visit from **Robert and Tiata** from Escondido, California. Oh my, RVing is so much fun.

After a week at Wilderness Lakes, we headed East. Our first night on the road (2/8/08), we spent at an Indian Casino call **Fantasy Springs** in **Indio**, California. As luck would have it, we parked very near two very interesting gals who had RVed out from Missouri. They had come all that way to enter a pickleball tournament. Pickleball is becoming very popular in the Southwest. It is played on a court that resembles a small tennis court. The racquets look like slightly oversized ping pong paddles and they hit a plastic ball about the size of a tennis ball, but full of holes (whiffleball?). It doesn't go very far or fast and it doesn't bounce very much. Doubles is very popular among seniors in that you don't have to run very far. If you'd like to know more, go to <http://www.pickleball.com/>



Our second night on the road we spent at **Greasewood RV Park** in **Quartzsite**, Arizona. It was fun to see Quartzsite without the crowds of the RV show. Kind of a nice little town actually. Instead of 400 RVs parked with us at Greasewood like there were just three weeks earlier, there were less than a dozen RVs around us. Happily, the weather was finally getting warm after so much wet, cold weather this winter.

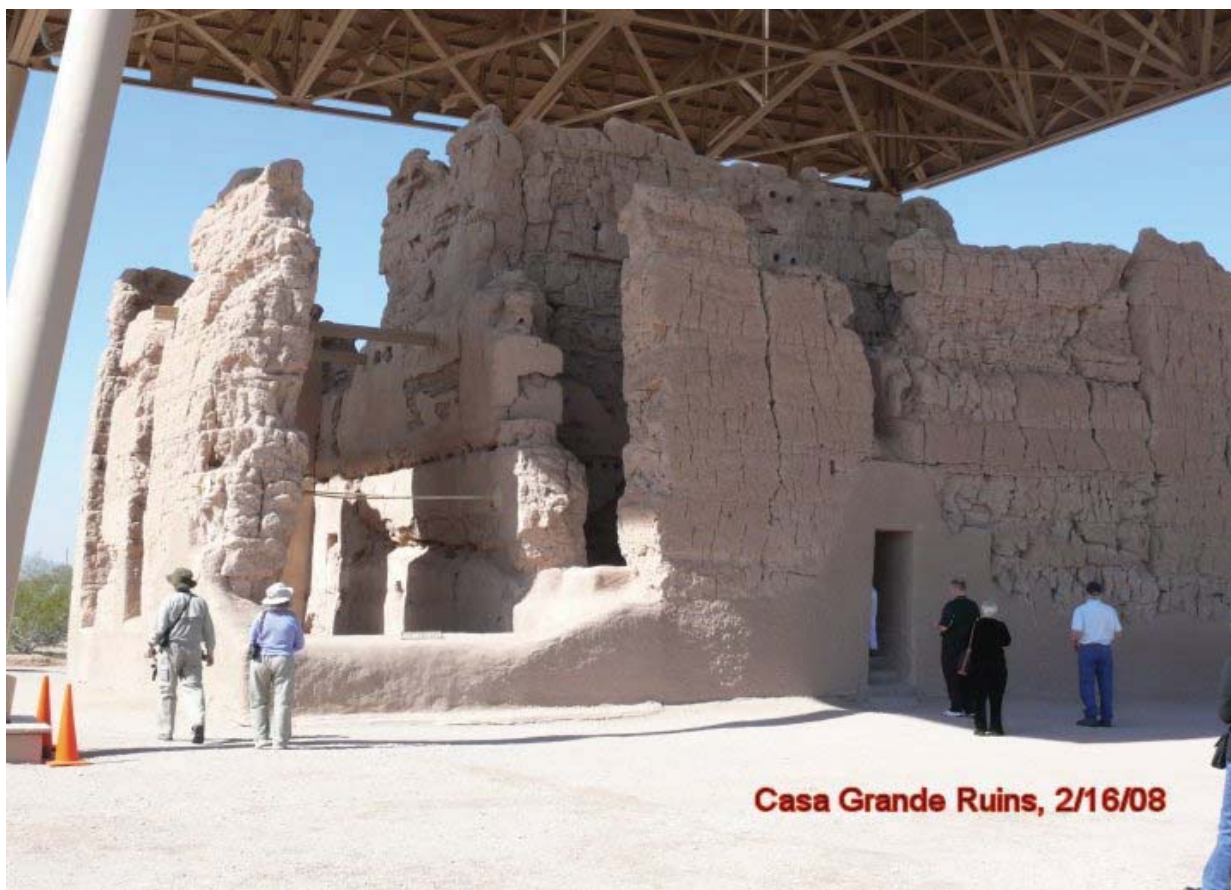
The third night on the road we spent at **Harrah's Ak-Chin** Indian Casino in **Maricopa**, Arizona. There was lots of nice flat RV parking in a dirt area behind the paved car parking. This is a darn nice casino out in the middle of nowhere on Highway 347. Unfortunately, the casino doesn't have any competition which probably explains the very high food and drink prices. Their best steak was more than \$40. Hey, we expect casino food to be cheap. There is a trick, however. If you buy food at Fry's in Casa Grande, the back of the sales receipt will have a 2 for 1 buffet coupon at this casino. With the coupon the prices are about normal.

On February 11, 2008, we finally arrived at **Western Horizons Desert Shadows RV Resort** in Casa Grande. This is a large and very nice park, but frankly there isn't much to see in Casa Grande except the namesake of the town. The **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument** is worth visiting although it is actually in the nearby town of **Coolidge**, Arizona. We were in Casa Grande to meet up with our old Weaverville friend, **Vicki**. Vicki and her husband, **Keith**, now live in Missouri, but Vicki was flying into Phoenix to give an all day fitness lecture on Saturday, Feb. 16. After the lecture, Vicki drove to Casa Grande and spent a couple of nights with us. What a treat! We have not seen Vicki in more than 5 years.

So, on Sunday morning, the three of us went to visit the Ruins. The Hohokam Indians built a huge settlement at this site. By around 1350 A.D., the four story Great House had been completed. It's really an amazing piece of engineering as were the miles of canals that the Hohokam Indians built considering that their culture existed before the wheel and before steel tools. Can you imagine digging a canal 30 feet across and 12 feet deep for 20 miles with stone tools? It took thousands of Indians to do it. This particular large settlement existed for about 150 years and then the Indians left. Where did they go? Why did they leave? Nobody yet knows and they did not have a written language to tell us. If you would like to know more, go to <http://www.nps.gov/caqr/>



Vicki and Donna at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Coolidge, AZ.



The Great House at Casa Grande Ruins, Coolidge, AZ.

After the Ruins, the three of us drove to the **Goldfield Ghost Town** near Apache Junction. We had a nice lunch at the Mammoth Steakhouse and had the pleasure of listening to an outstanding western singer named **Lee Alexander**.



Lee Alexander with the Superstition Mountains.

Following lunch, we drifted over to the ice cream store for dessert. In past travelogues, we've described some of the attractions at Goldfield such as the mine and the narrow gauge railroad. So we won't bore you with those attractions again. But, a ha! This time we went to visit and tour a re-creation of the town's original bordello which existed during the 1890's.



**Bordello Museum from the street, Goldfield, AZ.**

During the gold rush era, this town had about 80 men for every woman. And while the men didn't live long working in the mines, they made substantial amounts of money. The average miner worked 6 days a week, 12 hours a day and made \$2 a day. Hey, that was really big money since most non-miners only got paid about 30 cents a day. So, high paid guys and a shortage of women equals easy pickins for the prostitutes. There were about four classes of prostitutes. There were crib girls at the bottom and the high class, well dressed, well fed, women of the bordello at the top. \$2 got a man 15 minutes in the bordello. Our guide was dressed like a bordello girl and stayed completely in character during the tour. Chuck found her very seductive. The tour is very well done, very informative, and is only \$2 just like in the gold rush days.



**Bordello Museum Guide.**

*"In the RV lifestyle every day is an opportunity to visit a place previously unknown, a chance to witness things yet unseen, to embrace the adventure around the next corner. Along the way you make new friends and create an encyclopedia of memories. " --RV Travel Magazine*

The above quote beautifully and succinctly describes our view of the RV lifestyle. For any of you who would like to meet us along the way, our current travel schedule is below:

2/25 - 3/10 -- Western Horizon Resorts Indian Waters RV Resort, Indio, CA

3/10 - 3/17 -- Mountain Lakes RV Resort, Lytle Creek, CA

3/17 - 3/22 -- Outdoor Resorts RV Resort, Indio, CA

3/22 - 4/3 -- Western Horizon Resorts Ramona Canyon RV Resort, Ramona, CA

Gap to be filled in later.

4/10 - 4/24 -- Western Horizon Resorts Charleston Peak RV Resort & Winery, Pahrump, NV

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna  
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