

Dear Friends,

Greetings again from **Ramona Canyon RV Resort in Ramona, CA.**

This travelogue will have to be short and sweet as Donna is up to her ears in tax preparation. We are staying at Ramona Canyon RV Resort, one of our Western Horizons parks. This will be an extended stay so that Donna can do taxes every day.

Ramona Canyon is turning out to be a nice little park and a good place for us to settle down and work. There are almost no activities here which again helps us keep our noses to the grindstone. The park is at 1,440 feet elevation in the mountains east of San Diego. The weather is fabulous with cool nights and daytime temperatures between 72 and 80 degrees. The park has a very rural feel. It feels like country and, in fact, it is out in the countryside. Yet, it's only about 25 miles to San Diego and about 22 miles from the charming historic town of Julian. It is also about 5 miles from the lovely little town of Ramona. So all in all, it's a peaceful little park with great weather and a good location.



Our coach in Ramona Canyon.

You can see from the above picture that the park is heavily treed and located in a rural setting. If you visit this park and want your cell phone and satellite to work, we suggest you select a site high on the hill and not in the bottom of the canyon.



Swimming pool and hot tub at Ramona Canyon.

Julian's History: Although the Spanish had noted gold washing down from the mountains as early as 1602, the discovery of placer gold in Julian by A.E. (Fred) Coleman in 1869 sparked San Diego County's real gold rush. That same year the Bailey brothers and their cousins, the Julians, arrived from Georgia to seek their fortune. Estimates of the total value of gold taken from the Julian District range from five to thirteen million dollars. No less an attraction to Julian than gold are the apple trees, which were first planted in the 1870's.

About Julian (from the Julian Chamber of Commerce): *Julian is an historic gold mining town located approximately an hour east of San Diego. It is the premier mountain retreat in the county and is unique in that it has four seasons. Spring brings the blossoming of many flowers including daffodils, summer is perfect for hiking and star gazing, fall is famous for our apples and fall colors, and winter brings snowfalls and bright, crisp, "Christmassy" days.*

Although famous for apples and our superb apple pie one can enjoy all year round, Julian has become the center for visitors who wish to stay in the mountains but take day trips to the nearby casinos, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the coast. It has always been the B&B capital of Southern California, known for its romantic atmosphere, but is now fast becoming a great destination for families, hikers, weddings and corporate retreats.

Specialty shops line our streets, our attractions are unique, ranging from wineries to wolves. From the old time melodrama to the Grape Stomp Festa, Julian events are great for couples, families and groups.



Main street of Julian on a Wednesday afternoon.

On Wednesday, March 26, **Earl and Virginia** rode their Honda Goldwing over from Aguanga. We met at Ramona Canyon and then the four of us rode to Julian. What a great ride. Highway 78 is a perfect motorcycle ride.

If you ever have the chance to visit Julian, by all means do so. But don't do it on a weekend. The town is quite small and the main part is only about four blocks long. On the weekend this town is wall to wall people. The transformation is almost unbelievable. People in cars and motorcycles come in from all over to spend the day in Julian. It is quite cool in town as the elevation is about 4,400 feet. It is a pretty drive from the San Diego area up Highway 78, a beautiful drive from Escondido, and an interesting drive on Highway 79 from Temecula. If you are in the desert in the eastern side of Julian then it's not a bad drive up through Anza Borrego Park and the town of Borrego Springs. You can also come up from the southern side of Anza Borrego park. We suggest you don't do that. It is very narrow, very winding, and very slow.



One of the many quaint shops in Julian.

Change of Plans: Because of Donna's workload, we are staying put here in Ramona Canyon until April 19 when we check into Pilot Knob RV Resort next to Yuma. We are going back to Yuma so that Donna can get a couple of troublesome teeth fixed in Algodones, Mexico.

3/22/08 to 4/19/08 -- Ramona Canyon RV Resort, Ramona, CA

4/19/08 to 4/26/08 -- Pilot Knob RV Resort, Winterhaven, CA (Yuma, AZ)

4/26/08 to 5/17/08 -- ??????????????????????????????

5/17/08 to 5/23/08 -- Yosemite Lakes Resort, Groveland, CA

Yosemite in May: Who wants to come along? We already have reservations at Yosemite Lakes, as do **John and Shari** from Redding, CA. Yosemite Lakes is only five miles from the west entrance to Yosemite National Park. If you're interested check out this website:
<http://www.1000trails.com:80/getaways/california/yosemitelakes.asp>

Yosemite Lakes is a Thousand Trails/NACO park. Some TT/NACO parks participate in affiliate programs like ROD, etc., and this one is an RPI (Resort Parks International) member so that means that we can stay here up to one week under our RPI membership. We don't know if it is a Coast to Coast affiliate as we don't have a CC membership. You can look through your own membership books or online to see if it is listed in one of your programs. If not, John and Shari can give you a guest pass, but you will have to attend the sales presentation.

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna
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