

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Yosemite National Park. Well, actually we are parked five miles from the Highway 120 entrance to the park and about 20 miles from **Groveland, CA**. We are in a Thousand Trails membership park called **Yosemite Lakes**. This is a very unusual membership park in that the park also has a commercial branch right across the street that is open to the public. In addition, it has public cabins, yurts, and a hostel, as well as a convenience store and a gas station. The membership portion of the park is huge and can accommodate tent campers, small and large RVs of all kinds, and also has cabin rentals. It's also unusual in that the guard gate is manned all night and can accommodate check-ins after dark. But, in spite of the size, it has no organized activities or meals. But what the heck, with Yosemite National Park five miles away, who needs activities in the RV park?

We left the heat, the wind, and the dust of Yuma, Arizona, and arrived here in three days of driving. What a contrast. We are at 3200 feet in the Sierras with green trees and cool nights. We are in a deep canyon so the sun comes up late and goes down early. When the sun goes down, the temperature drops like a rock. This morning at 6 a.m. it was 33 degrees. It is really nice to be back in the mountains.

Speaking of treats, Chuck's entire family came up to help celebrate his birthday. Actually, he only has three living relatives, but indeed, they all showed up.



**Chuck, Donna, and Cousins Paul, Betty, and Ellie.**

As you might guess from the photograph, the relatives are not young. But, oh they are

tough. They wore us out. They drove up from the San Francisco Bay Area and then threw a BBQ dinner for us the same night. The next day, they picked us up early, drove us to **Yosemite Valley**, then up to **Glacier Point**, then back to the Valley for a late lunch at the **Ahwahnee Hotel**.



Lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel.

The Ahwahnee Hotel is very old, but in pristine condition. It's just flat beautiful and the food is elegant, grand, and really, really good. The pastry chef is superb and the desserts are to die for. It wasn't on the menu, but Chuck wanted a plain old chocolate sundae. Everyone else had exotic works of art. Well, his chocolate sundae turned out to be super delicious and a custom made work of art. Three scoops of vanilla ice cream cradled in light and thin pastries topped with fresh raspberries, delicious chocolate syrup and some kind of ornamental, but edible decoration. If you haven't eaten at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, do it. It's not cheap, but it's worth every penny.



Chuck's chocolate sundae.

The next day, the cousins picked us up early again and back down to the valley for more touring followed by a picnic lunch on the **Merced River**. This is the perfect time of year to visit Yosemite if you want to see the waterfalls at their best. Cousin Paul insisted that we visit the waterfalls in the afternoon because there is more snow melt in the afternoon and so the waterfalls are even more spectacular than in the morning.





**Picnic lunch on the Merced River.**



**Bridalveil Falls.**



**Lower Yosemite Falls.**

Lower Yosemite Falls had so much water that it was creating its own very strong wind. The wind picked up the mist which made the trail very cold and wet.





**Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls.**

At this point, we have a bit of a dilemma. We have a car load of Yosemite pictures, but if we show many more, your download will take forever. So, we had better show just a couple more and sign off.



**Nevada and Vernal Falls with Half Dome as seen from Glacier Point.**



**Upper Yosemite Falls.**

Did you know that Yosemite was America's first Federally protected Wilderness Area? The legislation was signed in 1864 by Abraham Lincoln. The history of the park is extremely interesting and we may tell you more about it at a later date.

### **Travel Plans**

We have extended our stay at Yosemite Lakes and so won't leave here until May 27. We expect to arrive in **Sacramento** the same day. Chuck's birthday is actually May 29. Any of you Sacramento friends want to celebrate?

After Sacramento, we will drive straight to **Green Acres RV Park in Redding, CA** and spend a little time there visiting with Redding and Weaverville friends.

After Sacramento, it's off to somewhere in Oregon.

### **Satellite Phone Number**

In places like Yosemite Lakes, there is no cell service of any kind. Fortunately, we can check for calls, make calls and receive calls on our Magic Jack phone via our Internet connection if Donna's computer is on. Here in Yosemite Lakes there is no WiFi, but we can still receive your calls via satellite and our new and improved satellite dish. We have unlimited calling from and to anywhere in the United States or Canada. Our Magic Jack number is: **(530) 845-5281**.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna