

Dear Friends & Relatives, Sunday, June 5, 2005

We've been spending some time in Trinity County since the last trip, first in Lewiston and now back in the park in Douglas City where we spent the winter. Donna is working on extended tax returns and packing more "stuff" into the motorhome, and Chuck is working on the motorhome (he will report on the mods soon), modifying our motorcycle trailer, and moving our "for sale stuff" out of our Trinity County storage sheds and into Redding storage sheds. Redding is massively over-built in storage sheds which makes them significantly less expensive than in Trinity County. We also need a bigger market for what we have left to sell, so soon we will be concentrating on running ads, printing flyers, and trying to sell stuff in Redding.

We did manage a super fun trip for Chuck's birthday this year during the Memorial Day weekend. On Friday morning, May 27th, we headed north up I-5 to McCloud, California (about 8 miles east of Mount Shasta City), where we spent three nights at Dance Country RV Park (<http://www.mccloudrvpark.com>). This park is a particular favorite of ours. Back in September of 2000, we spent our last night of a 10 day trip with a 28' trailer we had rented to see if we liked towing a trailer. We had a business trip to the Seattle, Washington area and didn't want to leave little Annika (9 months old at the time) in a boarding kennel. This was our first RV trip together and in many ways, was the beginning of this journey we are on now. Because Memorial Day weekend kicks off the summer camping season, the RV park was crowded, but not unbearably so. It's still interesting for us to walk around and look at the other RVs and campsites, and to meet the other campers.

After hooking up the motorhome to water, sewer, and electric, we settled in for some lunch. While we were finishing up lunch, our friend, Jen, from Mount Shasta dropped by to surprise Chuck. Jen accompanied us on our Friday afternoon fun which was a tour and tasting at a cute little microbrewery in Weed, California (<http://www.mtshastabrewingcompany.com>). They have some really nice beers and the samples are free and very generous. Then we all headed to Dunsmuir for dinner at Sengthong's, a Thai restaurant that Jen highly recommended. After dinner, as part of a British Car Show, the Straight Ahead Big Band (<http://www.straightaheadbigband.com>) was playing at the Dunsmuir Community Center from 7 pm until 10. Chuck has wanted to see this band play for years. His interest in the Big Band sound comes from having played trumpet in a dance band many, many years ago. He recently sold his French Selmer trumpet to Straight Ahead Big Band trumpet player, Dick Morris of Weaverville. So finally in Dunsmuir, we not only heard this band, we heard Dick play Chuck's trumpet.

On Saturday we headed to Mount Shasta where Jen was having her final yard sale that morning. Jen caught the full timer RVing bug from us and has sold her home and most of her "stuff" and, as of a few days ago, just picked up her fifth wheel and truck in Redding. After the unsold remains of Jen's yard sale was either hauled off to the dump or put away to go into storage, we all headed to a nearby park where the humane society was putting on a pet walk and big pet event. Dogs were welcome, so we took

Snickerdoodle, Jen's new puppy, and Annika. We watched dogs doing an obedience course, an agility course, took in a discussion on sled dogs and had some BBQ. The premier Saturday event was the three of us taking the Shasta Sunset Dinner Train out of McCloud (<http://www.shastasunset.com>). This is an exceptional treat that all of us have wanted to do, but either felt was too expensive or had no one to go with. Dinner started with delicious homemade bread, followed by appetizers, Ceasar salad, Beef Wellington, and finally, Tiramisu for dessert. The scenery from the train was spectacular and the interior of our beautifully restored dining car was amazing. The staff was attentive and we have concluded that the whole experience is well worth the cost when you want to show someone a special time.

Sunday, May 29, was Chuck's birthday, so we went into McCloud for breakfast. McCloud was having their first annual mushroom festival with cooking demonstrations, food and craft booths, and live music including belly dancing. McCloud is a cute little town with interesting little shops. In the afternoon, we drove east on Highway 89 to check out McCloud Falls ([http://www.waterfallswest.com/ca\\_uppermccloud.html](http://www.waterfallswest.com/ca_uppermccloud.html)). The McCloud River has several waterfalls, campgrounds, and walking trails. We explored the river trails for a couple of hours (Annika's favorite part of the whole trip), before heading back to camp. Later that afternoon, Jen came over for a BBQ complete with Donna's blended Margaritas.

On Monday it was time to head back to Trinity County where our storage sheds were waiting to have their contents moved. We definitely did not want to come back and wished we were free to head in whatever direction our mood dictated. On Friday, June 10th, we are headed out for a longer trip into Oregon and Idaho. We are really looking forward to this trip.

Until next time, home is where you park it.

With love,

Donna