

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Portland, Oregon**.

We are currently camped at the **Gateway (Portland) Elks Lodge**. The lodge is quite nice with a great bar and excellent dining. Behind the lodge is a small RV park that holds 12 RVs. The electrical is quite marginal. Six spots have 30 amp service and the other six only have 15 amp service. You can't run heaters or air conditioners in any of the spots. All spots have water, but none has a dump. Worse yet, there's no dump at all anywhere on the property. Happily, the city of Portland has a free RV dump station not far from here. The lodge expects a \$12 per night donation, and frankly, we think it's overpriced considering the limited facilities.

We ended up spending 15 days in **Redding**. With the help of our friend, **Tim**, we washed and polished the coach. As you might guess, it's a big job and it's not fun. On the other hand, we got to spend time and catch up with a lot of our friends in Shasta and Trinity Counties. Visiting with old friends is always a special treat for us.

On June 6, Tim took us to dinner at the American Legion as part of his motorcycle group, the **American Legion Riders**. It was a nice dinner and we enjoyed having free time to spend with Tim.

On June 7, we rode the bike over to **Lewiston** and had breakfast at the restaurant formerly known as "**Mama's**." Then we rode down to the **Lewiston Peddler's Faire** and spent several hours walking around. We ran into our veterinarian, **Neal**, and had a nice chat. The rest of the Faire was sort of strange. It seemed to be populated by out-of-town vendors and out-of-town visitors. Since we lived in Trinity County for 25 years, we had expected to see a lot of old friends. After the Faire, we rode into Weaverville and visited with **Jim and Pat**. Then over to **Douglas City** to visit with **Dave**, then back to our old neighborhood to have dinner with **Floyd and Helen**. Floyd and Helen took us out to dinner at **Marino's**. The dinner was great and much better than we had remembered. After dinner we gassed it back over the mountains and into Redding. We were definitely in a rush as Chuck did not want to ride over **Buckhorn Summit** in the dark. Heck, it's a dangerous ride in the daylight.

On June 8, we had hoped to go to **Jay's** house warming party in Redding, but Tim had that day off from Sears and so the three of us needed to keep working on the coach job.

On June 10, **John and Shari** took us to dinner at one of our long time favorite restaurants, **Dry Creek Station** in **Bella Vista**. In some ways, it's kind of a dive and not up to Shari's restaurant standards, but we have always had fun there. We loved it!

On June 11, **Bob and Irene** invited us to a bar-b-que at their home in Redding. That woman is a great cook and the food was spectacular. Much to our great surprise, they had also invited **Mark and Patti**, two more of our old Redding friends.

On June 13, Tim took us to dinner at another one of our old Redding haunts, the **Post Office**. Same good food as always and another special treat. Afterwards, we went to see the indoor kart racing in the Redding downtown mall. Hey, what a surprise. It's a nice long and curvy track laid out in what used to be a large department store. The karts are electric, battery powered and seriously fast. This is a really neat facility and if we hadn't been full of alcohol from dinner, we would have definitely gone racing. Next time we are back in Redding, indoor kart racing is our first stop.

Okay, you've got the idea. For about two weeks we worked on the coach and visited with old friends. Why we didn't take pictures is a mystery to us. Well we know full well you probably didn't read all of the above boring text, so let's move on to the interesting photos.



The Jewel Box Revue at Seven Feathers Indian Casino in Canyonville, Oregon.

On June 14, we roared out of Redding, stopped in **Medford**, Oregon, to get an oil and filter change for the motorcycle and then headed directly for one of our favorite stops, **Seven Feathers Indian Casino** at **Canyonville**, Oregon. We love Seven Feathers because we can camp free in the dry camp area, share a great dinner in the sports bar (good food cheap) and then go to the Cabaret Lounge and see an excellent and free show for the price of a couple of drinks. These shows are the same quality as found in Las Vegas. On the way to the show, Donna asked me what was playing. I replied, "I don't care as long as it has babes." Well the babes weren't terribly attractive, but they sure could sing. But, as luck would have it, they weren't babes either. Yep, a musical revue with four drag queens. These guys could impersonate just about any female singer. Good music and really funny jokes. We were either clapping hard or laughing our butts off.

Speaking of Seven Feathers, the place is growing like crazy. They are in the process of adding another 250 rooms to the hotel and they have completed a very large modern and upscale RV park with every amenity imaginable. Wow, what a surprise. Take a look for yourself, <http://www.sevenfeathersrvresort.com/>

After one night at Seven Feathers, we went straight to the Escapee's park in **Sutherlin**, Oregon. We went there primarily to catch up with our old RV/motorcycle friends, **Nullet and Sandi**. Our friends love this park and are on the waiting list to lease a lot. We wanted to know more about it and to arrange a motorcycle ride to see the area. About three miles from the park is the old historic town of **Oakland**. The origins of the town date back to around 1850. Fires in 1892 and 1899 destroyed much of downtown Oakland, but the structures were immediately rebuilt with brick and stone, and steel doors and shutters which reminded us of Weaverville, California.



Downtown Oakland, Oregon.

The large building on the left is the E.G. Young and Company Building (1892). On the right is the Page and Dimmick Building (1890).



Downtown Oakland, Oregon.

The building on the left is the Jephtha Grubbe Building (1900 addition) which is now a deli and wine shop. If you look close, you can see our motorcycle in front. We had a so-so lunch there. With hindsight, we should have eaten across the street at Tolley's which has a reputation for excellent food, but with high prices. If you're into antiques, then you definitely want to visit Oakland, Oregon. You can easily get to Oakland right off I-5 about 15 miles north of **Roseburg**.

After Oakland, we had a motorcycle ride set up with Nullet and Sandi who said they would show us an interesting back road to Roseburg. From Sutherlin to Roseburg via the freeway is only about a 12 mile trip. The back road trip was about 30 miles and took us through some absolutely beautiful farm land and along the Umpqua River. What a great ride it was. After a very fine lunch in **Glide**, Nullet insisted that we visit a grocery store in Roseburg called **Sherm's**. We had to go to Sherm's to get ice cream cones. Well, okay, we have never refused an ice cream cone. But wait, Nullet and Sandi were on the track of the World's best ice cream deal. First of all, it was Umpqua ice cream which is truly superb. Secondly, it was unbelievably cheap. A single cone was only 99 cents and actually was equivalent to three or four scoops of Baskin Robbins. A waffle single scoop cone was \$1.30 and packed full and scooped high. It was actually difficult to eat the whole thing. Oh yeah, and no sales tax in Oregon. We will remember those cones for a long time.



Chuck and Donna riding in Sutherlin, Oregon.



Nullet and Sandi at a covered bridge near Sutherlin, Oregon.



A motorcycle ride to a reservoir in Sutherlin, Oregon.

After a couple of wonderful nights at the Escapee's park in Sutherlin, we rolled for **Springfield**, Oregon to visit our old friends, **Greg and Deb**, who own **AM Solar**. We managed to get in a little visit with them and also get another solar panel installed on the roof. That gives us a total of 700 watts now which seems like a huge amount of solar for an RV, but actually we could still use more. When we are dry camped, have our Internet dish up and running, along with a router, an Internet phone, two computers, and a printer, we use a lot of power. AM Solar is in a brand new facility and everything is first rate. If you want solar on an RV, these are the people to talk to, <http://www.amsolar.com/>

After a few hours in Springfield, we hit the road again and got to the **Peoria Road Monaco Service Center** in **Harrisburg**, Oregon. Unfortunately, that service center has been largely closed and now only does paint work. We dry camped for the night, got up early and went to the **Diamond Hill Service Center** which is also in Harrisburg. The Diamond Hill facility is much larger, way more crowded, and kind of a zoo. The internal communication at this facility is about as bad as we have ever seen. We were there for three days to get about one and a half hours of service. Waiting without knowing what's going on is the name of the game at this service center. If you ever get into the shop, they do good work. However, they never stock any parts so anything that needs to be changed means you will wait while the part is shipped from the main plant in Indiana. We have a six inch crack in our aluminum side wall. After days of arguing among themselves, they decided that it was a warranty issue and they would fix it for free. We have an appointment for two weeks in the middle of October. Two weeks for a six inch crack? Yep, they are going to tear off the entire right side of our coach, fix whatever has broken loose underneath, put on an entirely new wall, with new paint and new decals. Bet you a nickel it will take them three weeks. We would have been happy with a patch and to be sent down the road, but Monaco wouldn't hear of it, and emphatically told us so. It's a strange place. They make a lot of people happy with a lot of free service and they make a lot of people angry because they are so slow. For example, it generally takes from one and a half to three hours to get them to give you a bill after the work is complete. And that is only if you start complaining. Since they generally don't bother to tell you when the work is finished, you don't even know when to start complaining. Oh my goodness, as a management consultant Chuck would love to have a crack at straitening that place up.

On June 21, we left the Monaco service center heading for **Portland**, Oregon with a detour to check out the Bavarian-themed town of **Mt. Angel**. Once a year Mt. Angel has a huge **Oktoberfest** celebration which is Oregon's largest folk festival. We couldn't easily find a place to park the coach and trailer so we motored on to Portland, Oregon where we are now. Actually, the Oktoberfest celebration which occurs this year on September 11, 12, 13 and 14, looks like huge fun. If you want to know more, check out their website, <http://www.oktoberfest.org/>

Travel Plans:

Monday, June 23 -- We are meeting **Joel**, our importer of Chinese diesel engines and seed presses in Portland for lunch. The new modifications on our Internet satellite dish have failed and we hopefully have new parts arriving at Joel's warehouse on Monday. If the parts are in, and if we can get reservations, we will head for **Ocean Shores**, Washington. At the moment, we are stalled and in limbo until we can get our parts. We had hoped to get to Blaine, Washington in time to catch our British RV friends, **Dave and Isobel**, before they cross into Canada. Unfortunately, we are running out of time. Well, if worse comes to worse, we'll catch them next year. When we know where we're going, we'll let you all know.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna