

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Quincy, Washington**.

Well, actually, we are at a very beautiful stretch of the Columbia River, about seven miles west of Quincy on Highway 28. Very beautiful, but a little warm, i.e., around 95 in the day time and down to about 70 at 4 a.m. Sure, 95 is not that hot, but the power in this park is rather marginal so we can only use one of our two air conditioners. Using hindsight, we should have come to the eastern side of the Cascade Range either earlier or later in the year.

Wow, there has been a lot of water under the bridge since you last heard from us in **Portland, Oregon**. We will have to break up this newsletter into smaller pieces or it won't be digestable.

After we left Portland, we drove north on I-5 until we hit the Columbia River where we turned west on Highway 4. Our friend **Joel**, from Portland, recommended 4 as a very scenic route. Boy, was he right! Highway 4 led us to 101 north which took us to **Willapa Bay** and the little town of **Raymond**, Washington. Willapa Bay is the U.S. capital of oyster production. Everywhere you go, someone is selling oysters in one form or another. At some of the harbors, there are mountains of oyster shells. We spent two nights on the bay in lovely weather. If you look closely, our motorhome is on the point of land in the center of the picture below. The point of land had eight RV spots and was owned by Pedigree Cats Catamarans. The owners were very gracious and gave us a tour of the boat building facility. Basically, they build one custom catamaran at a time. Very expensive and very beautiful. <http://www.pedigreecats.com/>



**Willapa Bay, Raymond, Washington.**

It was about a half day drive from Raymond to **Ocean Shores**, Washington. We rolled into Ocean Shores RV Resort (Western Horizons Resorts) and spent two weeks there. This park is not like any other we have been to. It is unbelievably green. Very tall trees and very dense greenery. Once you pull into your space, you cannot see any of your neighbors. Our space below is extremely open compared to most. We drove all over the park looking for a space that had a clear shot of the southern sky so that our Internet satellite dish would work. We must have Internet access to be able to work our Doctor Diesel business. The park is huge. Acres and acres of trees and greenery. Generally, it is too big to walk to the office, or the club house, or to the laundry, or anywhere else. It was a good stop for us because we were able to give two financial retirement seminars.



**Ocean Shores RV Resort at Ocean Shores, Washington.**

The town of Ocean Shores is right on the ocean. It's a fun little town with one heck of a Chamber of Commerce. Practically every weekend, there is some kind of event to attract tourists. Lots of restaurants, some good, some bad. We had a fabulous Irish dinner at Galway Bay. Another fabulous dinner at the local Indian casino. Ocean Shores is at the north end of **Gray's Harbor**, the only deep water harbor north of San Francisco Bay. On the weekend, you can go to the harbor and buy live Dungeness crabs right off the crab boat. You can take them home live, or the boat crew will kill them and clean them for you. We drove out to the harbor with new friends, **Ted and Jill**. We bought two crabs and they bought four. We had them killed and cleaned and brought them home and cooked them in salt water. Wow, this is so much better than cooking them and then cleaning them. The meat in the body is way better if the guts are removed before cooking. We had our super fresh, super delicious crab feast on the 4th of July. You sure can't do that in California.

On the weekend before the 4th of July weekend, the town of Ocean Shores had two fun events. The first was a chain saw wood carving competition. This was, indeed, a serious competition and the carvers were very, very good. It was a timed event and it was amazing how fast they worked.





**Wood carving competition at Ocean Shores, Washington.**

In addition to the wood carvers, there was a sand castle competition. It, too, was a timed event and the competitors had from 10 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon. There was an amateur class and an intermediate class and they could do whatever they wanted. The masters class, however, were given a theme at 10 a.m. and they had to create their sand sculptures in accordance with the theme. The masters had a level spot about 20 by 20 feet and could have up to eight members of their team. Boy oh boy, did they work hard. The winner got a nice trophy and \$1500 cash.



**Portion of Masters class sand castle at Ocean Shores, Washington.**

Clearly, Ocean Shores is a lot of fun, but there is a down side. A warm day in July is about 62 degrees with fog and wind most of the day. Because of the wind, the beach often has big time kite flying events. There is a superb kite shop near the beach. Oh my, they have every kind of kite known to man. Simple one string kites, steerable two string kites, and killer four string kites. The four string kites can be controlled to fly left to right and they also have two more strings called brakes that limit how hard they pull and how fast they climb. These bad boys come in many sizes. We bought a small one with 1.4 square meters of sail area. The shop also had them in 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 square meters. At 7 square meters you have a handful that can drag you down the beach. They are often used to pull snow skis, surfboards, and three wheel steerable beach buggies. When you fly kites with this much power, you wear wrist bands called "kite killers" which are attached to the brakes. If you have to, you just let go of the steering handles and the kite killers will bring your kite back to earth. The same shop also sells a huge collection of decorative windsocks and collapsible fiberglass poles to attach windsocks to your house or RV.



**Windssocks at Ocean Shores Beach.**

We left Ocean Shores on July 10th and headed for **Arlington**, Washington to spend three days at an Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in. But that is another story. We will share more in the next installment.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna