

Dear Friends,

Greetings yet again from **Blaine, Washington**.

Yep, this is the third travelogue from Blaine. We are trying to catch up and this may just do it. In our last letter, we told you about taking a half day off work and riding the motorcycle to Seattle and then grabbing a round trip ferry to Bremerton. That was our brief introduction to Puget Sound and the Washington State ferry system. If you're lucky enough to get a sunny day, Puget Sound is a very beautiful destination.

Our next stop was **Northern Lights Indian Casino and RV Park** near the quaint little town of **Anacortes**, Washington. Anacortes is on **Fidalgo Island** in Puget Sound and serves as a nice gateway to the **San Juan Islands**. Fortunately, we had budgeted two days at this stop to see a little of the islands. The first day we rode into Anacortes, looked around, and had an early dinner at the **Adrift** restaurant. All in all, a lovely day and a lovely meal.



**Chuck having a beer at the Adrift restaurant.**

After our early dinner, we hopped back on the bike and headed for **Deception Pass**. At Deception Pass there is a bridge between Fidalgo Island and **Whidbey Island**. A spectacular crossing to say the least. We had hoped to see more of Whidbey Island, but we had to turn around at the pass. We were running out of time and getting very cold. Boy, did the temperature drop at the pass. We hope to get to Whidbey another time and explore more.



**Puget Sound viewed from Deception Pass.**

There is a beautiful state park right at Deception Pass. They claim they have spots big enough for a motorhome, but we didn't have time to explore. After turning around at Deception Pass, we went straight back to the motorhome and crashed. We were too tired to even check out the casino.

On our second day in the area, we got up early and rode through the fog to Anacortes to get on a ferry to a couple of the San Juan Islands. This time we took the motorcycle on board with us. The motorcycle really works well because you board ahead of all of the cars. It's really neat to just ride to the head of the line and board first. When you dock you also unload first. It's neat, it's fast, and it's inexpensive. Our first stop was **Lopez Island**. It's a lovely island for a motorcycle ride. Very rural and very beautiful.



**Ferry getting ready to unload at Lopez Island.**



Map of Anacortes and the San Juan Islands.

We would love to spend a week in the San Juan Islands particularly if we could get sunny weather. Without a doubt, August is the best time weatherwise to visit Washington. On the other hand, this is when the natives and the tourists alike flock to go camping so reservations are more difficult to come by. There is a lot to see and do in the San Juan Islands: great scenery, good food, interesting towns, motorcycle riding, bicycle riding, hiking, camping, scuba diving, fishing, whale watching, eagle spotting, etc. etc. If you have the chance, don't pass up this scenic area.



Chuck on Lopez Island.

After a couple of hours on Lopez Island, we hopped on another ferry to **Friday Harbor** on **San Juan Island**. Friday Harbor is completely different from Lopez Island. It's crowded and bustling with boat loads of people shopping, eating and drinking. It's a fun town and the action starts right at the ferry terminal. You can easily walk from the ferry to downtown.



**Friday Harbor on San Juan Island.**

After walking most of the town, we hopped back on the motorcycle and took a delightful ride across the Island. Again, there was a lot to see and do, but unfortunately we only had a couple of hours to just catch the flavor of the island. We rode to **Lime Kiln State Park** which is a prime whale watching spot. Also, during the summer the Orcas (killer whales) visit the area to feed on salmon. We could only stay for 45 minutes and in that short time, we didn't see any whales or Orcas. You can, however, book whale watching boats out of many of the islands and the chances of seeing these interesting creatures is very good. The boats boast better than a 90% success rate.

Well, that was our brief introduction to the San Juan Islands. We must come back and see more on another trip.

### **Travel Plans:**

Tomorrow morning, August 22, we move to **Cedars RV Resort** in the town of **Ferndale, Washington**. It's only about 10 miles southeast of Blaine. We will be there August 22 through August 27. From August 28 through September 1, we plan to be at the **Elks Lodge** in **Oak Harbor** on Whidbey Island. On September 2, we load the motorhome and trailer onto the ferry to cross over to **Port Townsend** and then head to **Diamond Point RV Resort** in **Sequim, Washington**, to park from September 2 through the 15th.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna