

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Desert Hot Springs, California.**

The guilt has finally made us write. Sad to say, it's been a little over two months since our last travelogue. How time flies when you're working your butts off. We are very, very busy helping people move their retirement money from dangerous places like the stock market to our "safe investments" free from market risk. Well let's try and get caught up.

In our last newsletter, we showed you Christmas at the Western Horizons park in **Kino Bay, Mexico**. But perhaps you would like to see a little more of that area. The park is up on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Cortez, but it's an easy walk down to the beach. It's a great beach for several reasons. **Annika** loves to walk along the beach and collect seagull feathers. Chasing seagulls is also a lot of fun.



Annika on Christmas Day 2008 with two of her very best seagull feathers.

The beach is also loaded with very tasty little steamer clams. **Donna and Peg** went down to the beach and dug up a feast of clams with their bare hands. They brought home so many clams we could barely eat them all. What a treat!



Jim, Chuck, and Donna chowing down on clams and Tecate beer.

Old Kino Bay is a sleepy little fishing village. **New Kino Bay** is a bit more modern with more upscale restaurants and lots of condos. Both are beautiful.



Old Kino Bay.



New Kino Bay.

We left Kino Bay, Mexico, on December 26 and headed toward the border crossing at **Sonoyta** where we had entered Mexico. But this time, we knew better than to try it in one day. Friday night we stopped in the little farming and University town of **Santa Ana**. We had heard about a Mexican gentleman and his American wife who had a small RV park in the back of their house. The house is right on Mexican Highway 15 and was easy to find. What a great overnight stop. Our hosts were **Edgar and Ana** and they were a real delight. We asked Edgar if he could recommend a good restaurant that we could walk to. He asked if we liked *real* Mexican Carne Asada. He drove us into downtown Santa Ana to the restaurant, taught us how to say "two orders" in Spanish, and promised to pick us up in one hour. This little restaurant serves nothing but Carne Asada, but oh, what Carne Asada it is! The meat was kept warm by a small bar-be-que grill right on our table and every time we looked up they were bringing us another treat of vegetables or bar-be-que'd onions. We had a couple of beers with our dinner, finished a wonderful and inexpensive meal, and then Edgar showed up right on time and took us back to the motorhome. It was a perfect Mexican evening.

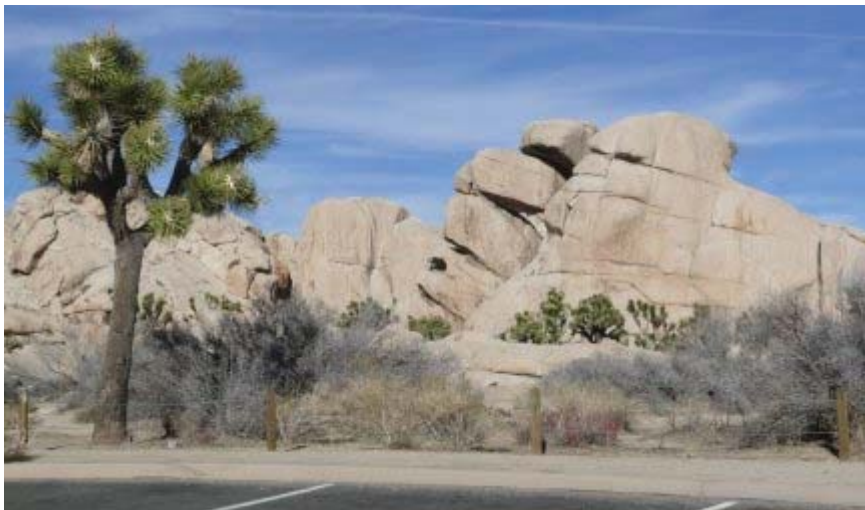
The next day we got back to the border crossing where there was one car ahead of us. Our total time to get across the U.S. border was five minutes. That must be the world's record. Our friends, **Jim and Peg**, crossed the border at Nogales on Sunday of New Year's weekend. They waited in line for a total of seven hours! From the border, we drove straight to the Elks Lodge in **Gila Bend, Arizona**, had a couple of drinks, and hit the sack.

From Gila Bend, we drove straight through to **Yuma, Arizona**, and spent a couple of nights parked in the driveway of our friends, **Fred and Cheryl**. They are great hosts so we had a wonderful time and took care of some annuity business with them. From there we went back to **Pilot Knob RV Resort** near Yuma, picked up our trailer and spent one night before we drove to our present location which is **Desert Pools RV Resort** in **Desert Hot Springs, California** (next door to Palm Springs.)

Desert Pools is our home park and a very nice park indeed. We decided to do something unusual, at least for us, and lease an RV spot and stay put for awhile. Every Wednesday night we give a financial seminar called, "**Protect and Grow Your Nest Egg in a Down Economy.**" We are being well received and have already moved over three quarters of a million dollars in just the last six weeks. It is our plan to stay here through April 15 as Donna is already up to her ears in income tax work. Staying in one place is definitely different for us, but happily some of our friends have come to visit.

Diana flew out from Idaho and we got to spend five lovely days with her. Our old friends, **Bonnie and Al**, came down from the Palo Alto/Santa Clara area of California and we got to visit with them. Our close friends, **Ric and Becky**, live near here and so we get to spend time with them. Our very old friends, **Jim and Pat**, from Weaverville have a second home in Palm Springs so we get to visit with them. Hey, if you're tired of lousy weather, come to visit us here in the desert. Most of the time it's incredibly nice. **Jim and Peggy** eventually got here from Mexico so we had more time to spend with them.

While Diana was here, we used her rental car and took a day trip through **Joshua Tree National Park**. What a different and interesting park that is. Lots of rocks, but no *real* trees. Rock climbers love the place. We also took Diana to see the Palm Springs Follies. The headliner at our particular show was **Susan Anton**. Wow, can that 5'-11" hottie sing.



Joshua Tree National Park.



Diana next to a statue of Sonny Bono (former Mayor) in Palm Springs.



Chuck with Susan Anton.

We have been busy with a couple of major projects while parked here at Desert Hot Springs. We will tell you about one now and cover the second in our next newsletter. As everyone knows, television is moving swiftly to high definition. If you live in a house and have cable TV, it's not too much of a big deal to switch over, not counting one or more high definition sets. On the other hand, in our motorhome it's a really big deal. We have to remove our television satellite dish and replace it with a high definition dish. We have to replace our DirecTV receiver/DVR, replace two television sets, and have extensive cabinet rebuilding done. All in all, a lot of work and probably over \$7,000.

Well, we've finally gotten started. Our rooftop television dome has been removed and replaced with a top of the line Motosat dish with five heads on it. Yep, it looks at five different satellites all at once. Compared to the little dish inside of our dome, the new one is huge. Perhaps four times larger. Well, we still can't see high definition television, but we sure have a much stronger signal than before and we are much less likely to experience rain fade. We have been studying high definition television sets for months and concluded that the biggest set we can get into the bedroom is 32 inches. Sony makes some really fine high end HD LCD sets, but the super high end has only gone down to 40 inches. This has really bugged Chuck. He just can't bear to spend \$7,000 and not have the best TV set. But oh happy days. Just yesterday, we learned that Sony will have their flagship technology in a new 32 inch set which should be available on March 22. We will buy one the minute they come out and expect to have one of the best pictures we have ever seen! Our motorhome is beginning to look like a space station. The very large Internet satellite dish is in the rear of the coach and the new HD television dish is in the front. Every other square foot of roof is covered with solar electric panels. On the off chance that you might be interested in the best 32 inch television in America, it is a Sony KDL-32XBR9, \$1,100 at Best Buy in about a month.



New television HD satellite dish in the front.

Well, enough already. Come to see us. We will be here through April 15. After that, we are off to **Pahrump, Nevada**, and headed to another major exciting event.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna Cole
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