

Dear Friends,

Greetings again from **Eagle Lake, CA.**

After ten absolutely delightful days at Eagle Lake, California, we finally have to begin packing. We will be in **Medford, Oregon** by the afternoon of July 6. July 7, we spend pretty much all day at Hansen's BMW Motorcycle Center getting a fairly extensive service on our motorcycle. We also need to pick up one more pistol at Good Guys Guns in Medford, but we are not positive when it will arrive. In the meantime, we will keep working on catching up with our travel newsletters. We still have so much more to tell you about our activities in and around **Pahrump, Nevada.** So let's get started.

Bonnie Springs, Nevada

Once again we left Pahrump early in the morning for a motorcycle ride with **Tim.** We got on Highway 160 headed southeast toward Las Vegas. It's a long climb out of the Pahrump Valley and over a pass with a steep descent toward Vegas. Beautiful scenery all of the way. As we came out of the mountains, we turned north on Highway 159 and headed for our first stop which was Bonnie Springs. If you are near Vegas, Bonnie Springs is an interesting place to visit. Yes, there are springs and flowing water and duck ponds and cool shade. We had pie and coffee in the restaurant, looked around a bit, and headed for our next destination which was Spring Mountain Ranch. But there is a lot more to do at Bonnie Springs. The main attraction is a recreated old western town called Old Nevada. **The Wild West is still as wild as ever in Old Nevada, a replica of an 1880's mining town built on the 115-acre Bonnie Springs Ranch.**



Bonnie Springs, Nevada, western town.

You have to pay to enter the western town, but it looks like a lot of fun on weekends with a nice motel, saloons, simulated gun fights and hangings, and a narrow gauge railroad to get you from the parking lot to the springs. If you would like to know more, check out their website at <http://www.bonniesprings.com/index.html>.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Nevada

Continuing north on Highway 159, we rode to Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Boy,

there's some history in this place. At present, it is a lovely place to have a picnic on 520 beautifully manicured acres.



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Nevada.

The ranch house itself has an extremely interesting past and today is an extremely interesting tour. Spring Mountain Ranch is located within the **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area**, beneath the colorful cliffs of the magnificent Wilson Range. The many springs in these mountains provided water for Paiute Indians and later brought mountain men and early settlers to the area. This 520 acre oasis was developed into a combination working ranch and luxurious retreat by a string of owners who have given the area a long and colorful history. Past owners of the ranch included Chester Lauck of the comedy team "Lum & Abner," German actress Vera Krupp (former owner of the Krupp diamond,) and millionaire Howard Hughes. It's a good visit and we recommend it. If you'd like to know more, check their website at http://www.stateparks.com/spring_mountain_ranch.html.



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park ranch house.

Red Rock Canyon, Nevada

After our tour of the Spring Mountain Ranch house, we once again headed north on Highway 159 to tour the Red Rock Canyon road. We were anxious to ride the one-way, 13 mile scenic loop of the Red Rock area. This is one magical area comprised of 197,000 acres in the Mojave Desert and yet, only 17 miles west of Las Vegas. Every single mile of the 13 mile loop offers scenery that rocks your imagination.



Highway 159 on the way to Red Rock Canyon, Nevada.

As you enter the scenic loop, the first stop is a toll booth and the second stop should be the visitor center. There is a ton of information in the visitor center and we strongly recommend you spend at least a half hour looking around and perhaps buying a cold drink. A new visitor center is under construction and in the meantime, the center occupies a large portable trailer.



Calico Hills section of the scenic loop, Red Rock Canyon.

Fortunately, we had brought cold drinks and a picnic lunch along on the ride. Below is our lunch stop at some shaded picnic tables underneath imposing climbing rocks. While having lunch, we had the pleasure of watching a climbing class rappelling off the rocks. Tim is at our picnic table below.



Lunch stop on the scenic drive, Red Rock Canyon.

The Red Rock area is so vast that our pictures do not begin to give you the emotional impact of this very special place. If you go to Vegas, you must see the Red Rock area and take the 13 mile drive. It's an unforgettable experience. There are three hikers right in the center the picture below. They show up as little specks which gives you a better idea of the grandeur of these spectacular red cliffs.



13 mile scenic drive, Red Rock Canyon.

After leaving Red Rock Scenic Drive, we got back on Highway 159 and headed south. There are lots of wild burros roaming along 159. Sometimes they are behind fences and sometimes they are in the road. They are quite comfortable with people and don't scare easily, so you have to use caution on this road.



Wild burros on Highway 159, Nevada.

When we hit Highway 160, we headed west and went over the pass and back into Pahrump. On the Pahrump side of the pass, a pickup truck towing a travel trailer lost control and rolled both the truck and trailer. Damn, the highway was closed. Hey, we're hot and tired and sitting in the desert sun isn't a pleasant prospect. What the heck. We got off the pavement and onto the gravel and headed around the accident. We expected the highway patrol to stop us or say something, but they didn't bat an eyelid. Now we love Nevada even more. The rest of the ride back to our motorhome was easy and without complications. What a great day of riding! Life is good.

We still haven't finished our tales of the wild west in Pahrump, so expect another Great Escape in a few days.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna
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