

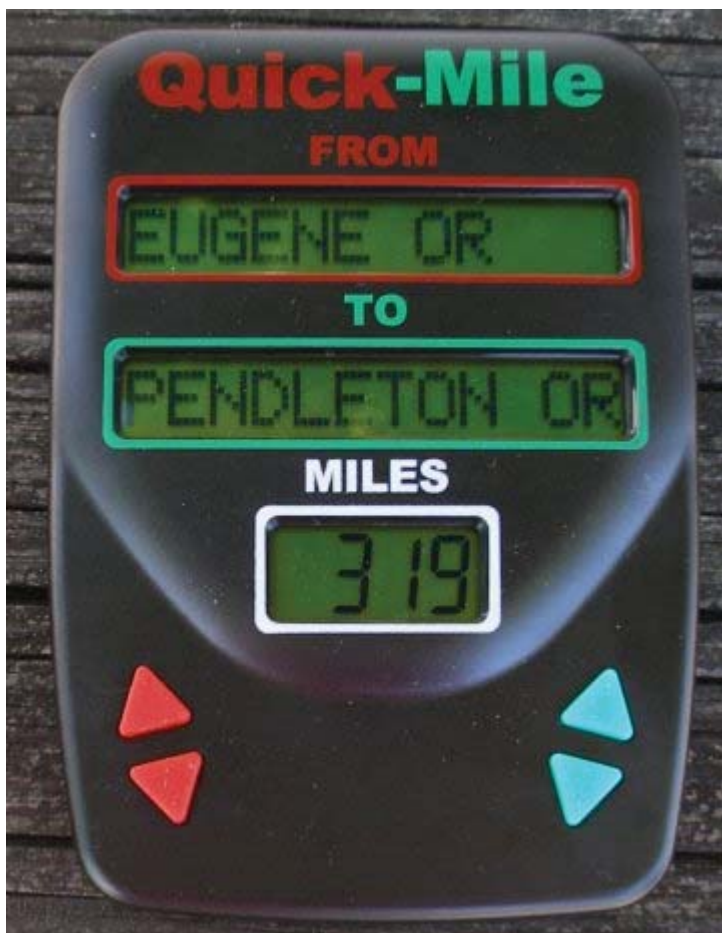
Dear Friends & Relatives, Wednesday, July 6, 2005

This has been our biggest road trip yet. We left Trinity County on Friday, June 10 and headed for Win River Casino in Redding. Saturday afternoon we went to a dance in Redding and Saturday night to a party in Cottonwood. Then we spent the night in the Casino's parking lot again and Sunday afternoon we were off for the big adventure. We have the enclosed trailer in tow with our motorcycle inside. The bike is to be our transportation after we arrive at a camp site.



We headed up Highway 5 and stopped for the night in the free RV parking at Seven Feathers Indian Casino in Canyonville, Oregon. This is a good stop and if you ever go there, we recommend eating in the Sports Bar. The food is excellent and a much better value than the other restaurants in the casino.

Mon, 6-13-05, we are out of the casino and headed north again. That night we stopped at Kamping World in Eugene, Oregon. We had been dry camping without hookups so we wanted to empty the holding tanks and take on water. It is a nice park, and we got a long pull through for \$25. You can walk from the park to the local TA truck stop where there is good food at reasonable prices. At the truck stop Donna bought a very cool mileage calculator. The darn thing only cost \$19.95 and can easily and quickly determine the distance between any two major cities in the U.S. We recommend it.



Tuesday, 6-14-05, most of the day was spent checking out RV stuff in the area. We dropped into Countryside Interiors in Junction City. They specialize in furniture for RVs. Next we dropped in on Cummins Northwest in Coburg and got an engine manual and an oil filter. We also tracked down Carrier & Sons RV Repair in Eugene. These are all good places to know about. That night we stayed in the parking lot of AM Solar in Eugene.

Wednesday, 6-15-05, Chuck had a bushel basket full of modifications he wanted made to our solar/battery system. The solar techs and Chuck worked on our coach the entire day and about two hours the next morning. He will give you the technical details in another letter. For now all I can say is, "wow." Our solar system is incredible.

Thursday, 6-16-05, we head off to the parking lot of Carrier & Sons to be ready for warranty work on Friday. Friday was a long, boring day and we spent the night in their parking lot.

Saturday, 6-18-05, at long last we are off to have fun! It's back on Highway 5 and after shopping for RV supplies and a grocery stop at WalMart, we turn east just before Portland and run along the Columbia River on Highway 84. Now we're cookin'. We are into the Columbia River Gorge and it's getting late. Donna locates a small and really pretty RV park about 1,000 feet above the river. Boy, did we stumble into fun. The picture above of the coach, trailer, and motorcycle was taken there. The name is Crown Point RV Park in Corbett and we recommend it. It was so nice, we decided to stay another day and go for a motorcycle ride. The manager suggested we take a 14 mile ride up to the top of a lookout point. Wow! Great ride and what a view. From that one spot, you could see the snow capped mountains of: Mt. Saint Helens, Mt. Ranier, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Jefferson. The photo below is Mt. Ranier from our vantage point on Larch Mountain.



Well after that short ride, we are ready for more and we hopped on the motorcycle and went down the old, and original highway through the Columbia River Gorge. Hey folks, don't try this with your RV. The road is very narrow and curvey, and parking is very scarce. Oh, but what a ride! You go by some beautiful points that overlook the Columbia River Gorge and then you pass at least a half dozen gorgeous waterfalls. The most spectacular is Multnomah Falls which drops more than 600 feet right next to a lovely hotel/restaurant/bar. We got there at noon on Father's Day. What a treat. There was a 14 piece swing band playing for free on the outdoor patio. We had a couple of beers, a great lunch and sat and listened to the band who also had four vocalists. It just doesn't get any better than this. Then it was back on the motorcycle and up the mountain to our home on wheels for dinner and sleep. The picture below is Multnomah Falls.



Monday, 6-20-05 It is back down into the Columbia River Gorge and east on Hwy 84 along the river. Followed the river to Hwy 730 and turned northeast into Washington heading for Walla Walla. This area is just a narrow two lane road over endless rolling hills of farm land. More than a little boring. At Walla Walla we picked up Hwy 12 and headed north. Yep, more boring rolling hills. (Well, okay we did get some really great onions.) Out in the middle of nowhere, Highway 12 turns east and heads for the Snake River. Ah, but before you get to the Snake River, you get more narrow, two lane road and a continuing dose of boring rolling hills. Finally, just before you get to the Lewis and Clark valley, you hit the Snake River and things look up. That night, we camped in a very nice campground called Chief Timothy. It used to be a State Campground, but now is privately owned. Lots of grass and lots of squirrels. Annika had the extreme joy of chasing one of the really tame, mooching squirrels up a tree several times. The park was also full of ducks who left duck feathers everywhere. This park has been the high point of Annika's trip. Protecting us from squirrels and collecting souvereir feathers is the most fun she's ever had.

Tuesday, 6-21-05, It's a very short trip to the town of Clarkston and an RV park on Granite Lake. The Snake River separates the town of Clarkston from the town of Lewiston. The first is in Washington and the second is in Idaho. All in all, a fun place so we stayed there three days. Granite Lake is the starting point for a lot of jet boat trips into Hell's Canyon of the Snake River. This area is extremely rich in history and focuses heavily on the exploits of the Lewis and Clark expedition which is having it's 200th anniversary this year.

Friday, 6-24-05, we leave Clarkston and head north on Highway 95 to Moscow, Idaho. A very short and pleasant trip. We are in Moscow for the annual Life on Wheels RV School at the University of Idaho. Theoretically, school starts on Monday, but there was plenty to do until then. We got checked in and were very surprised when they gave us two tickets to a play Friday evening. It was called, "Everything I Need To Know, I Learned in Kindergarten." A lot of fun and very thought provoking, believe it or not. Saturday, about Noon, we boarded a chartered bus and went north to Coeur d'Alene for a boat cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene followed by a lovely dinner at a lovely resort on the lake, followed by the two hour bus ride back to the University. Darn, we're getting tired. Sunday afternoon, Life on Wheels threw an ice cream social with live blue

grass music followed by a very nice welcoming ceremony and an overview of the classes. Wow, retirement is tougher than it looks. We went to bed tired again. The following picture is Lake Coeur d'Alene and the tall building is the resort where we had lunch.



Monday, 6-27-05, our first 90 minute class started at 8 a.m. (We chose not to go to the exercise class which was on the track every morning at 6:30 a.m.) Everything you ever wanted to know about RVing was offered. Four 90 minute classes each day and you could pick from a half dozen choices for each period. So Monday through Friday we went to 4 classes per day. Everything from solar technology to how to travel in Mexico. We often split up to cover more classes. There was just a ton of information to be had. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND LIFE ON WHEELS IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT RVS AND RVING.** Since the classes were widely separated on a large college campus, we got to walk our tails off without going to the track in the morning. Well if four classes wasn't enough, there was often a mass lecture at night. For example, on Monday night we went to a slide show travelog, "In Search of the Great White Bears." This was a documentary about the polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba. Are you getting the impression that this school was no joke? Another night the Moscow chamber of commerce bussed us to a free BBQ downtown. Hey, by Friday night we were brain dead and physically exhausted. The school promised a lot and delivered even more. We were so tired Friday night, we just stayed where we were. Well, that's the story of the great trip to Life on Wheels. More another time.

Home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna