

Dear Friends,

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

Back to Work

We are back in our old familiar haunts at **Desert Pools RV Resort** in Desert Hot Springs, California. Starting next week we will be doing our retirement seminars once a week. "**Protect and Grow Your Nest Egg in a Down Economy.**" The first seminar will be here in the park at 11 a.m. in the dining room, on Wednesday, November 4. If you're in the area and would like to attend, give us a call and we'll send you more details.

Two Pleasant Surprises

Before coming here we spent a week in **Pahrump, Nevada**. As you may recall, we really enjoy that little town. Our good friends, **Robert and Natalia**, live there so we got to visit a little and as usual, we looked at a few homes. While there, we made another fantastic discovery about the town. We found a great paint and body shop with very low rates. For quite some time, we have been driving around with some damage to our lower bay doors. We got a repair quote in South Dakota for \$2,800. Ouch! Just too much. In Pahrump, we got a quote of \$600 for the same work. Wow, too good to be true and we had references for the shop. Better yet, the shop owner came to our park after work and took the doors off so he could do the body work and prime the next day without our having to move the coach. The day after that, we went to his shop and he did the final paint and used expensive fast dry paint. The work came out great and we only spent one day in the shop. The shop rate for collision repair is only \$42 an hour. An hour away in Las Vegas, they want \$130 an hour. We are delighted to be able to recommend this shop.

Kustom Kolors (Darren Mather, Owner)
2091 North Blagg Rd, Pahrump, NV 89060
(775) 537-1676
(702) 325-1534 Cell

We also spent a day at a big rig shop in Pahrump and had a lot of chassis maintenance done. Our list of maintenance items was very long. Things like pull the wheels and inspect the brakes, flush and renew the brake fluid, flush and renew radiator fluid, etc. Wow, another great shop with low rates. Chassis and engine work was only \$68 per hour versus \$130 in Vegas. Good guys who knew what they were doing and did it fast and efficiently. Again, we are pleased to recommend this shop.

Rod Paulson, Inc. (AKA, RPI)
4590 North Leslie St, Pahrump, NV 89060
(775) 751-8766

Utah

There are some places in this country that are so unique and awe-inspiring that they are set aside forever as national treasures. Utah is proud to be home to five National Parks, seven National Monuments, two National Recreation Areas, and one National Historic Site. No other state can match this record.

Moab, Utah

Let's back up a little and tell you a little bit about Moab, Utah. Without a doubt, Moab is a tourist town and we loved it. Lots of fun restaurants and tours of every possible kind. It's really a fun place with two incredible scenic attractions, i.e., **Arches National Park** and **Canyonlands National Park**.



Moab Valley from The Sunset Grill restaurant.

The Sunset Grill sits high on a hill and the dining room windows overlook the Moab Valley. First rate food and first rate service, but a bit pricey. Given the view, it was worth it.

Arches National Park

We've never been to a national park that wasn't spectacular and this was no exception. It's just one "wow" moment after another. If you just drive through and take pictures, you can see the park in four and a half hours, assuming that you spend ten minutes at each scenic location. If you get out and hike a little, make that a day.



Park Avenue.

All of the scenic pull-offs are named. The above spot is called Park Avenue and is one of the first

stops you come to. It's so grand that it takes your breath away.



Courthouse Towers with the Three Gossips.



South Window Arch.

North and South Window Arches are right next to each other. They are huge. The little specks under South Window Arch are hikers!



Wolfe Ranch one room cabin in Arches N.P.

John Wesley Wolfe settled here in the late 1800s with his oldest son Fred. A nagging leg injury from the Civil War prompted John to move west from Ohio looking for a dryer climate. He chose this tract of more than 100 acres along Salt Wash for its water and grassland -- enough for a few cattle. The Wolfes built a one-room cabin, a corral and a small dam across Salt Wash. For more than a decade they lived alone on the remote ranch. In 1906, John's daughter Flora Stanley, her husband, and their children moved to the ranch. Shocked at the primitive conditions, Flora convinced her father to build a

new cabin with a wood floor -- the cabin you see today. The reunited family weathered a few more years in Utah and in 1910 returned to Ohio. John Wolfe died on October 22, 1913, in Etna, Ohio at the age of eighty-four.

Good grief! The pioneers of our country were unbelievably tough, courageous, and self reliant. Too bad so much of that spirit has been lost.

Canyonlands National Park

Just a half hour west of Moab is the spectacular Canyonlands N.P. It is just as awe-inspiring as Arches, but in a completely different way. At Arches, you tour from spot to spot and generally look up to see a spectacular rock formation. At Canyonlands, you tour from spot to spot and look down into deep and spectacular canyons. Canyonlands is Utah's largest national park, but it is very difficult to see all of it. The park is divided into four districts: **Island in the Sky**, **The Needles**, **The Maze**, and the **Green and Colorado Rivers**. It's easy to drive in and see all of the scenic spots of Island in the Sky section in about half a day. To see more of the park, you'll need a 4-wheel drive vehicle and/or rubber rafts.



On top of the Island in the Sky mesa.





Green River overlook.

The Rivers

There are two rivers in the park, the Colorado and the Green. The rivers wind through the heart of Canyonlands, cutting through layered sandstone to form two deep canyons. Both rivers are calm upstream of the **Confluence**, ideal for canoes, kayaks and other shallow water craft. Below the Confluence, the combined flow of both rivers spills down **Cataract Canyon** with remarkable speed and power, creating a world-class stretch of white water.



Major John Wesley Powell

On May 24, 1869, Major John Wesley Powell set out from Green River, Wyoming, on a remarkable mission---to explore and study the uncharted canyons and waters of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Powell, a geology professor and a one-armed Civil War veteran, began the journey with nine novice oarsmen, four wooden boats, and ten months of provisions. As they entered the canyonlands, Powell

wondered, **"What shall we find?"**

In July, when Powell's party reached the section of the Green River pictured above, one boat had been smashed and provisions were low. But he found a unique landscape that drew national attention. Powell's journal describes a **"weird, grand region"** of naked rock with **"cathedral-like buttes towering hundreds or thousands of feet, cliffs that cannot be scaled, and canyon walls that shrink the river into insignificance."**

It was a voyage of scientific discovery, but also one of the world's great adventures. Today's adventurers run the river in relative safety in rubber boats, but they see a wild, untamed landscape that has changed little since Powell's time.

Is Moab Worth the Visit?

Considering that Arches and Canyonlands National Parks are not near anything, one could ask if they are worth the trip. The answer is, ABSOLUTELY. Budget at least three days. One for each park and one for the area around Moab. A week would be much better. Moab has plenty of motels, camping sites, and RV parks. There are lots of restaurants and touring companies. You can take raft tours, jeep tours, quad tours, dirt motorcycle tours, and even helicopter tours. None of the tours are cheap, but all are spectacular.

How Do You Get There?

Moab is located on Highway 191 about 30 miles south of the intersection with Interstate 70. It's also accessible by coming in from the south and Glen Canyon, but this is a much more difficult, though scenic route.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna
(530) 524-5020