

Dear Friends,

We have been chanting "rain, rain, go away, come again another day" and today we got our wish. It's a beautiful day. We have had about two weeks of rain with only a clear day now and then. Yes, we know that this is nothing compared to where you are. We monitor the weather around the country and keep track of our friends. Still, the weather here in the desert has been quite unusual this year. The normal rainfall for the Palm Springs area (Coachella Valley) is about 4 inches a year. However, for many years there has been a drought and this area has only been getting about 1.5 inches. Well on January 20th we got 1.5 inches in one day. That's a huge rainfall in the desert and caused large amounts of flooding. The water comes roaring down out of the mountains and wherever a wash crosses a road, a foot of sand can be deposited in the roadway. At least a dozen roads were closed for a couple of days. We had 4 inches in one week! If you are a fan of desert wild flowers, this is your year. They should be early and spectacular in Death Valley National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/upload/Wildflower%20Update.pdf>) and Anza Borrego State Park (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638).



Mount San Jacinto from Catalina Spa and RV Resort.

How about snow? Yep, we have that too. In the picture above, you are looking across our park (Catalina Spa and RV Resort) at Mount San Jacinto. The Palm Springs tram rises 8500 feet and there is currently more than 5 feet of snow at the top of the tram. At the top, you can rent snowshoes and cross country skis! There are 54 miles of hiking trails at the top in the San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area, but at the moment they are all deep in snow.

We like to take motorcycle rides to lunch at **Pappy & Harriet's Bar and Grill** in **Pioneertown** which is above Yucca Valley. Hey, not right now. The restaurant is open, but is sitting in several inches of snow. Might be okay for a 4-wheel drive visit, but it's

not motorcycle friendly at the moment.



Upper pool and clubhouse at Catalina Spa and RV Resort.

By watching the weather very closely, we were able to make a one day trip to the annual RV show in **Quartzsite, Arizona**. We left the park with our friend, **Mel**, in his car at 6 am, and drove to Chiriaco Summit for breakfast. After breakfast, we rolled straight through to Quartzsite and arrived about 10:30 Arizona time. Wow, it was really strange. We drove straight to the big tent and had no trouble finding a place to park. The show was clearly smaller than in past years. Was the low attendance due to the economy, or to weather, or to both? We can't say, but it was fortunate for us. After a full day of walking around the show, we met our old friends, **Earl and Virginia**, as well as **Jim**, and the 6 of us shared a fun dinner at **Silly Al's Pizza**. After pizza and beer it was a long hard drive back to the park, but it was all worthwhile. An RV show with friends...it doesn't get much better.

Well, the weather hasn't been fun, but it actually worked well for us. Our retirement seminars are better attended when it rains and Donna finds doing tax returns easier when we can't go for a motorcycle ride.

Well, that's all the news that's fit to print. We would sure like to know what's going on in your life. As always, phone calls and visitors are welcome.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna
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