

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Black Hawk, Colorado.**

After spending 35 days in **Pahrump, Nevada**, we hit the road. Our friend, **Tim**, is traveling with us in his RV and is also pulling a trailer with his motorcycle. It's good to have a riding companion.

Today is Chuck's birthday and at the moment it's a tad lonely. We had expected to be out celebrating, but the weather was growing cold and the clouds were ominous. We decided to get back to the RVs and ride another time. So here we are in the late afternoon on a mountain top at 8,500 feet in a hail storm with thunder and lightning. It could be worse. The motorhome is warm and cozy and we have television, cell phone, and Internet.

At any rate, we left Pahrump and our first stop was **Hurricane, Utah**. We have very fond memories of Hurricane as that is where we first met our U.K. friends, **Dave and Issy**. We took the motorcycles and visited **Zion National Park**. We were only in Hurricane for two nights, but we covered a lot of ground and also visited **Silver Reef**, the dinosaur tracks at **Johnson Farm**, and the **Mountain Meadows Massacre Site**. These were darn interesting stops and we will have to tell you more in another newsletter.

Our next stop was two nights in **Capitol Reef National Park, Utah**. We dry camped at the **Fruita** campground which might be the prettiest park ever. A spectacular campground and a spectacular red rock area.

Then two nights in **Moab, Utah**, dry camping at the local Elks Lodge. Naturally, we had to take Tim for a ride through **Arches National Park**. Unfortunately, the weather got hot, windy, and dusty, so we got back on Interstate 70 and rolled to the Elks Lodge in **Grand Junction, Colorado**.

The next morning, we got an early start as we knew that this was the day to cross the Rockies. It's a beautiful drive, but it's a long climb to over 11,000 feet and is best accomplished in the cool hours of morning. As you climb the Western side of the Rockies, you pass through some of the most famous ski areas in the United States; **Breckenridge, Vail, Steamboat Springs, and Aspen** just to name a few.

As you start down the Eastern side of the Rockies, you enter fascinating historical gold and silver mining towns: **Georgetown, Silver Plume, Idaho Springs, Empire, Central City, Black Hawk**. Wow, it would take a couple of weeks just to see the sights of these high altitude historic areas. We are completely fascinated and we'll spend four nights camped on our mountain top. Tomorrow afternoon we are scheduled to take a ride on the narrow gauge steam **Georgetown Loop Railroad** and tour the **Lebanon Silver Mine**. What a treat that will be.

Tuesday, June 1st, we will head for the Black Hills of South Dakota. We check in to

Hart Ranch, Rapid City, on June 4. We expect to be in Rapid City for 2 or 3 months assuming that our financial retirement seminars are again successful.

Well, as you can see, we have a lot to write about and cover with photographs. This was pretty much just an outline that will have to be filled in at a later date.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

Chuck & Donna Cole

(530) 524-5020

ChuckandDonna@myexcel.com