



CUATRO ESTADOS FEBRUARY 2020

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Newsletter Editor.....Pat Wilson

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PREZ SEZ...

February is for Lovers - Practice Valentine's Day All Month Long

We sure have enjoyed our time in southern California and in Death Valley, CA. Winter is a lingering season except when you are a snowbird. I remember back when we first retired and went south for the Winter, I kept calling it summer and it

was quite confusing really because when we got home, we had another summer to look forward to. Ahh retirement! I would sit with my face in the sun enjoying the warmth and the gentle breeze on my skin under the saguaros and say to myself “This is the life”, we are blessed and should never take it for granted.

Speaking of taking things for granted, while we were in New Orleans with Diana McVey and Bob Skaug we started talking about manners and courtesies and agreed that we needed to be more appreciative of our partners. We said please and thank you and many other kindnesses were exchanged, it brought both couples closer. Why don't you practice Valentine's Day all month long?

Becky



BUSINESS CARDS

Your Cuatro Estados business cards are ready for printing. Please go to the website and click on the Membership tab scroll to the bottom and you will find your business cards in a PDF format which you can download and print or take to the printer. These are excellent advertising tools for our club. You can write in your name and number on the back.

RALLY NEWS

Visit our website cuatroestados.com and check out the Rally Tab for the complete and detailed information about upcoming rallies. Also visit our Facebook page to see the latest photos from rallies, plus Bill Eckel's videos. See how much fun we Cuatro Estados members have at our rallies! Any questions, contact Wagonmaster Gene Dorsey Gene.dorsey@msn.com, 505 974-1845) or the rallymaster.

WELCOME TO TUSCON ARIZONA IN MARCH 23-29!

Check out the registration and details on FMCA.com or Family RVing magazine. **Come three days early to TUCSON ARIZONA March 23-25 for the Chapter Volunteer (Week) and get 3 free nights.** The work is light, and it is fun well as rewarding! You will meet people from all over our area and the U.S. and form bonds and friendships. By coming early, you will already be parked and beat the rush. Some of the things you can do are help with security, parking, registration, transportation (drive trams or golf carts), help with seminars etc.

Then attend the FMCA 101ST International Convention & RV Expo, www.fmca.com. Register for the convention then join us as volunteers for 3 free nights March 26-29 The Entertainment is excellent, the seminars educational and informative, and there's no end to the things you can buy for your RV – and even a new one of those if you like! We will again be participating in the chapter fair, so will need help with that, so plan to join us early!

Contact our Chapter Coordinators for more information: Tom & Pat Krouse 970-433-0531 tompatkrouse@bresnan.net

PHOENIX ARIZONA IN APRIL 17-21

Rally Pricing: \$26/night, \$130=5 nights with full hookups; same \$26/night rate for early arrivals or late departures. Please notify the Keiths that you are attending. Join us for adventures in and around the big city of Phoenix. Our schedule is packed full of area highlights--Tour the Queen Creek Olive Mill to see how olives are grown and processed, taste the various olive oils and learn about their characteristics. Lots of free samples and gifts for sale. Visit the Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum to get up close and personal with real wartime planes, artifacts and stories from WWII through Vietnam era. Organ Stop Pizza is a must-see experience with live play of the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ. Lots of entertaining side characters and song requests keep the good times rolling. Travel the Apache Trail to experience the scenic wonders and on to the old west town of Tortilla Flat in the Tonto National Forest and Superstition Mountains. Those with high clearance vehicles may want to continue the scenic journey to the popular recreation destination of Roosevelt Lake on the Salt River, dedicated by Roosevelt in 1911. Enjoy plenty of gaming action at Wild Horse Casino and shopping fun at the 90 Phoenix Premium Outlet stores. Join the Redmans to learn about delicious Dutch oven cooking while on the road. Tour Taliesin West to learn about Frank Lloyd Wright's famous architecture and school and his connections to Phoenix. Marvel at the fascinating display of musical instruments from around the world at the Musical Instrument Museum, a Phoenix top rated attraction. Tour the beautiful Wrigley Mansion and grounds, historic home of the chewing gum magnate and a national historic landmark. Last but not least, see how Amazon gets those packages to you by touring the huge Amazon

Fulfillment Center. The logistics will amaze you.

Rallymasters are: Nancy & Ernest Keith 417-861-4528

nancykeith@missouristate.edu , Karen & Roger Redman 505-362-2219

redmankl@comcast.net

PICKIN' AND CHOOSIN' AT TORREY, UTAH IN MAY 12-18

Spanning a route of more than 120 miles, Utah's Scenic Highway 12 travels through some of the most diverse and ruggedly beautiful landscapes in the country. The surrounding red rock formations, slickrock canyons, pine and aspen forests, alpine mountains, national and state parks, and quaint rural towns all contribute in making Highway 12 a unique route well worth traveling. Highlights of Scenic Highway 12 include: Bryce Canyon Walk, Anasazi Ancestral Pueblos, Capital Reef and the Mormon fruit trees, Pink Ledges Trail (just a few miles from Highway 89, our fave), Bryce Canyon 2 hrs away from camp.

Our suggested itinerary still only cracks the surface, thanks to its proximity to multiple state parks (Kodachrome Basin, Escalante Petrified Forest, Anasazi State Park Museum), national parks (Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef), scenic backways for well-prepared travelers (Cottonwood Canyon, Hole-in-the-Rock, Burr Trail, Hell's Backbone) and virtually endless outdoor recreation options on the expansive Dixie National Forest.

There are so many things to do and places to go in the area that we just couldn't decide. Instead, we'll meet each evening for Happy Hour and/or dinner (yes, that we WILL plan in advance) and give a couple of options for the next day's adventure. If you've been to the area and have a "must see", we'll consider that, too. So come with an open mind, a spirit of adventure, and a sense of fun. We promise that we won't let you down.

Rallymasters are: Sandy & Steve Varley 801 641-4416 sndyvarley@yahoo.com

URGENT INFO FOR UPCOMING RALLIES

Denver Rally at Chatfield June 14 to 19: Sites are already half gone

Time is already short to reserve a site at Chatfield in Denver for the rally for June 14 – 19. Make reservations soon at 800-244-5613 or on line at Reserve America.

Reserve in Loop D for full hookups, or if D is all filled up, Loop C (electric only).

Sites 115-125 are the closest to D loop. This is a Great Campground and there will be lots of great places to see on this rally. Contact Rallymasters: Joan & Jim Glasmann 303-870-2964 jim_glasmann@msn.com or Bev Eckel 505-833-1569 bbeckel_2007@yahoo.com

March 23-29 TUCSON, AZ Chapter Volunteer Week FUN, EASY, REWARDING

March 27-29 TUCSON, AZ FMCA International Convention

April 17-21: MESA, AZ

May 12-18: TORREY, UT/CAPITAL REEF NP

June 14-19: DENVER/LITTLETON, CO

July 15-19: TAOS, NM

August 18- 24: GLENWOOD SPRINGS (SILT)

September 21-27: NORTH SALT LAKE CITY, UT

October 14-20: CAMP VERDE, AZ

November 12-15: TBD



RALLY REPORT to Death Valley Furnace Creek Campground JANUARY 21-27

Attendees were Bob & Becky Coulter, MJ Brenner & Michael Rozdilsky, Bob & Jim Catalana (brothers), Diana McVey & Bob Skaug, Carol & John Herr, Steve & Sandy Varley, Bill & Bev Eckel, Doreen McDonald & Doug Motz, and new members Susan & Richard Houston mostly full timers from Carlsbad, NM. It has been 9 years since the Cuatros Estados have been to Death Valley and a lot of things had changed. The campground is now paved and greatly improved. The restaurants and store were upgraded and quite expensive (\$103 for a tomahawk steak) but we solved that by having lots of heavy snacks and potluck nights. In fact we got together every evening for a fire and fun filled evening, courtesy of John Herr. The weather was just perfect along with the star filled night sky.

The first night (Tue) was happy hour and heavy snacks. The next morning (Wed) we went to the Inn at Death Valley for a delicious breakfast and walked the beautifully landscaped grounds surrounding it. We checked out the visitor center watched the movie (some saw it twice), went to the Borax Museum and the Harmony Borax works just down the road. After the drive through Mustard Canyon we had a very nice soup and salad dinner. We sure have some good cooks in the group.

The next day (Thur) we were to drive 5,000 ft plus to Dante's View, but it was

closed due to ice and snow. It would open later in the week and we had time to visit on our own, which most did. The Houstons had been at the opera house in Amargosa and suggested we all go so we did. The opera house was rented by a famous ballet dancer named Marta Becket, it is a historic treasure. She wrote a book called Dance in the Sands and was featured in Life Magazine. We all went for Indian Tacos at the Timbisha Shoshone reservation in Furnace Creek. That afternoon we drove the twenty- Mule Team Canyon, stopped at Zabriskie Point and did a rough 4 WD to the Hole in the wall, which was led by Diana and Becky as the two Bobs were home sick. At 4 pm we broke out the wine, yummy cheeses, salami, salmon dip, olives etc. and had a great evening watching the sun set sitting by the fire.

On Friday we moved up the schedule (no sleeping in for us). We headed north to see Devils Cornfield, Stove Pipe Wells, the Dunes and Mosaic Canyon. After hiking the canyon narrows as far as we could we all went to the Badwater Saloon in Stove Pipe Wells for a frosty brew and a very good lunch at a reasonable price. We went home let the dogs out and drove to Badwater salt flats the lowest point in DV (282 ft below sea level). On the way home we drove through the dramatic Artist Drive and stopped at Artist Palette for pictures. Every time we drove past Golden Canyon the parking lot was packed. Several of our group went later. That evening we had our expansive and I must say delicious Taco Bar.

Saturday brought a LONG trip (38 miles of dirt) for 3 couples to Tea Kettle Junction and the Racetrack Playa were rocks moved across the ground. Some went on a ranger tour of the damage to Scotty's Castle, some high in the mountains to the kilns, others just relaxed or went back to places they missed. We did get together once again for food and drinks around the campfire.

Sunday was a day on your own, some drove to Titus Canyon others to Dante's View. The farewell dinner was delicious with grilled meat and wonderful sides and salads. Thanks to the Herr's for hosting the get togethers at their place!

Everyone marveled at the beautiful scenery; they said they really enjoyed the trip and were glad they went. Several couples were already making plans to go back.





REPORT on Optional Excursion after Death Valley JANUARY 27-30

Rally Masters Becky & Bob Coulter

The Monday after the rally we departed Death Valley and headed for the mining town of Beatty Nevada. Everyone except McVey /Skaug and Catalana's followed to this location either by tow vehicle or RV. We met at the parking lot across from the Stagecoach Hotel and Casino where we parked the RV's and unhooked some tow cars. We headed back to Rhyolite to see a funky open-air museum by Belgian artists which featured ghostly figures doing various things from riding a bike to posing for the last supper. The group enjoyed clowning around in and among the sculptures. Then we made a stop at an interesting bottle house which was built by Tom T Kelly in 1906 and comprised of 50,000 bottles. We proceeded to the Ghost Town of Rhyolite (1904-1916) which boasted the remains of a \$90k bank, a large school with a basement and a huge train station that hosted 3 railroads, to ship the rhyolite which was silica rich volcanic rock used for crushing stone and sharpening tools. We returned to the casino and ate a good lunch at the Denny's inside. After lunch we walked across the parking lot to the Death Valley Nut and Candy Store where you could buy about any candy you could imagine,

even chocolate rocks and centipede gummies.

We bid adieu to many in the group and proceeded on to Tonopah, NV with the Eckels and the Houstons where we skipped the International car forest due to the biting cold winds and lack of access. We found it quite cold at 6,000 feet, no water hookups allowed. We did however find a brewery and BBQ which warmed us up quite nicely. We slept in and departed for Rachell, NV to see if we could spot any low flying aircraft or aliens. The trip was worth it for the drive alone; no cars, no fences, snow covered mountains, moonscape terrain and miles of beauty dotted with cattle. We stopped at the A' le' Inn restaurant and bar for lunch and some shopping. It was the Houston's 50th Wedding Anniversary. What a place to celebrate! We were told there had been quite a few weddings there. They had everything from alien tequila and quilts. That evening we found ourselves in the Casablanca Casino and RV Campground in Mesquite NV. Mesquite is a quiet little town situated in the banana belt of NV with weather similar to St George UT. The Eckels departed the next morning and the Coulters and Houstons departed the next day.



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