

2011 South West RV Trip

March 12 thru May 24, 2011

We left home on Saturday, March 12 and returned to Rockledge on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 We traveled 5,878 miles in the 73 days and visited eight states. We were able to add one more state to our "We have camped here" map. This trip was our first time to camp in Nevada. Our original plan was to travel through Oklahoma so we could add another state, however, with concerns for flooding and storms in Mississippi and Alabama we decided to come home on the southern route. This was very close to the route we took on the way to Las Vegas.

We met a wide variety of "stuff" on our trip: Temperatures ranged from highs near 100 and lows near 20 degrees. Altitude from sea level here in Florida to over 9,000 feet in Bryce Canyon National Park. Even gas prices were not immune to large fluctuations with a low of \$3.56/gallon to \$4.02/gallon. Fortunately, we did not need to buy gas when we were near the \$4.00 gas. The gas we did buy ranged from \$3.56 to around \$3.89. With most in the \$3.70 neighborhood

We also had some RV excitement along our trek including: 1) When our wheel cover came completely loose which also caused our tire to go flat; 2) Our Microwave oven stopped heating so we had to "rough it" for the last three weeks or so; and 3) We also developed a "very funny sound" soon after we got set up in Kingman, AZ which was a concern for about an hour, but then resolved it self. We are very thankful we did not have any serious problems.

We were able to stay in cell phone and Internet/Email contact, except for only a couple of days. We also had GREAT weather. We had a "spitting" of snow when we were in Williams, AZ and we only had one day in the rain. Overall absolutely beautiful weather

We truly love traveling around our GREAT country and visiting the outstanding sites in all parts of the country. We are particularly fond of the South West and this trip we were able to add several sites we had not visited before, including Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. We also touched on the Escalante Grand Staircase. We visited so very many fantastic places it is impossible to pick any one, or even a dozen or MORE as our favorite. This trip we finally made it to Roswell, NM, home of the UFO Museum and Research Center. Jerry has been looking forward to that stop for several years.

We also visited family (Kelly & Steph in Austin and Howard & Rosemary and also Lois & Ben in New Mexico) . We also met old friends - - most memorable were Nev & Bev, from Australia. We met them as we passed each other in Texas, they were headed East and we were headed West. We were able to see them in Las Vegas at the CALLERLAB convention as well. The convention also provided us the opportunity to visit with our many dancing friends from all over the Square Dance world. We even met many new friends at several campgrounds including Al and Janice, from Connecticut. We met them at our campground in St, George, UT and ran into them by chance over the next few days, in Zion and then again in Escalante.

One of our many joys with RVing is meeting new friends. Del particularly enjoyed her visit to the Acoma village and meeting many artists in Santa Fe.

We are recovering from our trip and will be getting caught up on mail, doctor appointments, and other such chores over the next few weeks. It won't be long before we will be planning and thinking about our trip next year.

We always enjoy our extended RV trips, and this year was no different.

We had a GREAT trip and we hope you have enjoyed our trip reports.

Thanx,

Jerry & Del