

Well, the Eastern International Rally is over now for another year. We have never been to that rally but from what I hear, it's one of the best. Now it's time to look into our upcoming activities in the western region.

- The AZ/NM State Rally, Wickenburg, AZ, from Oct. 25 – 29, 2016
- Our Christmas campout, Distant Drums Campground in Camp Verde, AZ, Dec. 6 – 9, 2016, with early parking on the 5th.
- Quartzsite dry camping, Jan. 15 – 19, followed by Rice Ranch in downtown Quartzsite, Jan. 20 – 25th

Our breakfasts will continue the first Tuesday of the months, Jan. through March. The time is 9:30 at Coco's Bakery and Restaurant.

We are still on the road every month with our local RV club in Minnesota. This month we went to one of the member's lake homes to start the day off. We have an annual "brat feed" at their place. It's an old family lake home where the daughter was raised. Her father was an amateur chain saw wood carver but what a memory he left for her. They are a deeply religious family so the father carved a larger than life statue of "Jesus" and the family held many services sitting in the circle around this statue. There are also statues of fish and bear, etc. It's just a little piece of heaven on earth. This club is all much younger than we are so it's fun "playing" with them. They even have a "Rolly Bolly" court there. That's a Belgium game which is quite popular here in our neck of the woods and in different locations in Canada. (When her father retired, he moved to Mesa too and lived in "Mesa Regal" where he even had a court built for the game.) While there, we put a tour together to a local "shrimp farm". I don't have a lot to report on it as it is fairly new but growing by leaps and bounds. The week we were there, they even had a delegation from Nigeria visit to learn the new ideas being used. It was very interesting. The shrimp are raised in containers that are maybe 12" deep and 30" long. The water is filtered from the bottom side so the shrimp are raised in clean water. These shrimp are light blue in color as they take on the color of the container and the back side of these tanks are dark. (Think of those raised in Viet Nam and other Asian countries have a hint of brown to them.) They get the "babies" from Texas and they are so tiny. We saw a glass container with maybe 100 in the bottom and they just looked like some fluff floating around in the water. You would never guess they were shrimp unless you took a very close look. They take about four months to grow to jumbo size. No, we didn't get to sample any but look forward to the time we can.

I have also been thinking of how I rave about the wild flowers in the Spring in Arizona but I have been looking right past them here in Minnesota. Well, this year we have been noticing them and they really are beautiful too. I learned the names of them right away in Arizona. All I know here in Minnesota is the dandelion. I have to work on that.

Oh yes, I also have to tell you about the latest "motorhomes" in Minnesota. Would you believe, they are using the ice fishing houses now to camp in? Some are 25 feet long and sit close to the ground and are quite handsome. No, they don't sit idle during the summer months anymore. We haven't been around in the winter for so long that the ones we remembered used to look more like the country out-houses. Not very big ...

Helpful Information to Know:

Information that you should know and have handy if you ever have the mis-fortune to need a wrecker service while traveling.

1. Make and model of the motor home.
2. Approximate length of the unit.
3. Approximate loaded weight of the unit.
4. If the unit is gasoline or diesel and if the engine will start and stay running.
5. Measure the distance from the center of the front axle to the front bumper.
6. Request a wrecker with an “under reach lift and tow system”. Some now are big enough to pull a big motorhome backwards which eliminates the need to disconnect the drive shaft.
7. Request the wrecker service to disconnect the drive shaft on your motor home before towing the unit.
 - a. If the drive shaft is not disconnected and the unit is towed, possible damage to the transmission could result.

An RVer's Prayer

God bless our traveling home
And guide us everywhere we roam.
Help us find the roads we seek,
But please don't let the plumbing leak.
Save us Lord from engine trouble
And mechanics that would charge us double.
Lord, as we cross the U.S.A.,
Would you bless us with sunshine everyday?
As we travel the country near and far,
Let us remember who we are.
Our Lord who watches over all
Would you please let gas prices fall?
Lead us safely to good food and friends,
And when our last journey ends
Grant our rolling home sweet rest
Until it's next endurance test.

I just happened to run across this one and for those that know me, understand. I just have to pass it along ...

“On the fifth day God created man. The next day she corrected her mistake”. (Do you like it? I like!)