

# ***Southwinders Crusin'***

*July/August 2011*

The California Southwinders are an official chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association.

## **A few words from your President**

**Fran Nakayama**

Some of you may have already seen this article circulating via email. Because our group travels, I felt it would be of special interest to all. The ending part wants recipients of the article to pass it on to 30 others in order to increase its circulation. I eliminated that part and feel there are valid points in it that's worthy of printing it below for you.

This came in from a San Jose CA Petroleum Engineer:

### **TIPS ON PUMPING GAS**

I don't know what you guys are paying for gasoline.... but here in California we are paying up to \$3.75 to \$4.10 per gallon. My line of work is in petroleum for about 31 years now, so here are some tricks to get more of your money's worth for every gallon:

Here at the Kinder Morgan Pipeline where I work in San Jose, CA we deliver about 4 million gallons in a 24-hour period thru the pipeline.. One day is diesel the next day is jet fuel, and gasoline, regular and premium grades. We have 34-storage tanks here with a total capacity of 16,800,000 gallons.

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening....your gallon is not exactly a gallon. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and the temperature of the gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products plays an important role.

A 1-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for this business. But the service stations do not have temperature compensation at the pumps.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode if you look you will see that the trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. You should be pumping on low mode, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL. The reason for this is the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the gas and the atmosphere, so it minimizes the evaporation. Unlike service stations, here where I work, every truck that we load is temperature compensated so that every gallon is actually the exact amount.

Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up; most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom.

Thanks to Dave Hudspeth for volunteering to fill in as the Alternate National Director. It is members like you that keep this club going.

We hope you were able to join us July 15<sup>th</sup> at Lake Elsinore West Marina & RV Resort for the Baseball Rally.

Is it time for YOU to step up to the plate and have a rally of your own?

If you need help or suggestions, please talk to your fellow Southwinders.

Remember, it's not a competition, make the rally your way!



The baseball rally was a *Grand Slam Home Run!*

**1<sup>st</sup> base:**

For those who arrived early on Thursday we had dinner at Chili's. The rest of the evening we played cards and Scrabble.

**2<sup>nd</sup> base:**

By 3:00 pm on Friday everyone had arrived with the exception of Shirley Cook who had brake problems and was not able to join us at all.

Friday night we had a perfect potluck dinner, with chicken, potatoes, salad and dessert.

We had our meeting at 7:00 pm and 50/50 drawing. Carla Casetta won \$10.00 and Roland Tockstein won \$14.00.

**3<sup>rd</sup> base:**

Saturday morning we started with a baked French Toast Casserole, turkey sausages, fresh oranges and juice. Then you were on your own to just relax, shop at the outlets or enjoy the lake. We had many friends join us for the day including Dave & Jackie Hudspeth. Then after lunch, we meet at the clubhouse for an ice cream social. We had vanilla ice cream with chocolate or strawberry sauce, fresh banana and strawberries, whipped cream, nuts and a cherry on top! Next we divided the group into two (2) teams, red and blue, and played a bean bag game of baseball. The blue team won 9-8. It was a lot of fun!

Soon it was time to carpool to the ballpark to see the Lake Elsinore Storms play the Lancaster JetHawks. When we arrived at the ballpark we all received a Mascot "Thunder" toothbrush holder. We had great seats and as we enjoyed the game, they had a number of fun things going

on between innings. We had six (6) children with us and they got to join “Thunder” and run across the field, Chuck Goetz caught a tote bag that was tossed up into the seats and they displayed the name of our group on the big screen TV. The Storms got nine (9) runs in the first inning and won the game 14-2.

***Homerun:***

Sunday morning we had bagels and cream cheese, fresh bananas, strawberries and oranges. Thanks to Chuck Goetz for making the coffee both mornings. Thanks also to Paula Goetz and Lucille Tockstein for their help with making the breakfast and cleaning up!

You ***struck out*** if you missed this rally! We hope to see you soon at the next rally.

### Classified



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The USO relies solely on the generosity of the general public and provides a link between the American people and military personnel. Through the USO, Americans can show their appreciation and express their gratitude.



Thank you California Southwinders for your donations! We have collected: \$126.00

**Southwinders to aid victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami disasters**

We collected \$100.00 to send to The International Rescue Committee, an organization that will give **100%** of all donations directly to Japan.

Thank you Southwinders for your donations!

**Independence Day****July 4, 2011**

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

Enjoy your freedom and have a nice summer!

**New Members****Welcome**

Larry and Loi Chaffers from Palm Desert, welcome aboard!



- **January 11-15**  
FMCA Western Area Rally  
Riverside County Fairgrounds  
Indio, CA  
Hosted by: Carla Casetta & George Person
- **March 2-4**  
Pechanga RV Resort  
45000 Pechanga Pkwy  
Temecula, California 92592  
951-587-0484  
Hosted by: Chuck & Paula Goetz and Dave & Jackie Hudspeth
- **May 4-5**  
Cinco de Mayo Rally  
Bakersfield RV Resort  
5025 Wible Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93313  
661-833-9998  
Hosted by Carla Casetta & George Person and Chuck & Paula Goetz
- **October 5-7**  
Lone Pine Film Festival  
Boulder Creek RV Resort (Reservations Pending)  
2550 S. Hwy 395  
Lone Pine, CA 93545  
760-876-4243  
Hosted by: Dave & Jackie Hudspeth and Chuck & Paula Goetz
- **Thanksgiving Weekend, November 22-25**  
Lake Elsinore West Marina & RV Resort  
32700 Riverside Drive  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530  
951-678-1300  
Hosted by: Bob Achziger & Carol Hermann and Carla Casetta & George Person

*Editor's note:*

Please be sure to read the next two reviews about RV traveling, in part to the same place, written by different members of our club.

When wondering through Wyoming, we saw more animals, a herd of antelopes, cattle and sheep. Our first stop was Cody, the town built by Buffalo Bill. We decided to stay an extra day because there is so much to see. We took a trolley tour of Cody, “give us an hour, we’ll give you 100 years.” Lots of history in this town including the Irma Hotel named for Buffalo Bill’s daughter. We saw a gun fight there.

There is a wonderful Buffalo Bill Historical Center in town. It’s basically 5 museums in one. What’s really nice is you can come to the museum 2 consecutive days, which is exactly what we did. The afternoon we were there we saw a demonstration of the chuck wagon. We got a taste of homemade pinto beans, biscuits and cowboy coffee; this was the staple food of the cowboys. We also saw art work, sculpture gardens, guns and Indian artifacts. Then we went to a miniature museum which showed the Plain Indians, the bison and the Calvary. It was a huge model with over 60 different scenes and moving trains.

One night we went to the Dan Miller Cowboy Music Revue, a Branson Style Music Variety Show. This was well worth the money to hear western singing and a little bit of cowboy poetry. Another night we went to the “Cody Nite Rodeo”. Cody has a rodeo every night in the summer months so we were there at just the right time! The mayor put on a free summer concert in the park, so we had a chance to listen to some live country music and the city council members were serving free ice cream sundaes!

We came up 9,000 feet to get over a mountain to get to Buffalo, Wyoming. The terrain in Wyoming reminded George of Arizona, because of the red rock. There are also lots of ranches and open meadows.

We spend a night in Sundance and a day at the Devil’s Tower. It’s the first national monument. We walked around the base of the tower with a ranger who pointed out evidence of the porcupine (eating around the bottom of the trees.). Do you remember the movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*? This is where the movie was filmed in 1977. The Mountain View RV Park we were staying at let us watch the movie for free! We also drove a scenic loop around the area and had lunch at “Cindy B’s” café which is in the town of Aladdin, population 15. There were about 8 other people eating lunch and George got a good laugh when I said, “half the town is here!”

On our way to Cheyenne, we saw beautiful fields of sunflowers. Spectacular! And now for something completely different, we went to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens where we walked a labyrinth. Then we had “high tea” (which was really “afternoon tea”) at the Nagle Warren Mansion. This was a very elegant Victorian house that has been turned into a bed and breakfast. For dinner we had tacos at the Elks Lodge #660 and I won a free margarita!

What, *another* train ride? Yep! This was a one hour lunch train ride. It’s the only privately owned railroad in Wyoming, but the ride also took us to Colorado and back. We rode through the 40 square mile ranch and we saw buffalo, beefalo (a cross between a Texas longhorn and a buffalo), llamas, a new born baby ponkey (a cross between a pony and a donkey), a pig, ostriches, camels, goats and a yak.

While in Wyoming, Silver met a cat named Roscoe. Roscoe’s name was originally Silver. Silver’s name was originally....Lara! I bet you were guessing Roscoe...gotcha!

When we joined with you all in Feb. at Pechanga, we told you that we had a long trip planned and wouldn't see you for awhile. Well we're back and I thought I'd write a travel update, in case anyone was interested.

We left on April 11 and traveled 3700 miles to see the Western states. We returned home on June 21. We started out by staying south due to the weather. The first night we arrived in Needles Ca. The next day while getting gas, the attendant noticed a bubble on one of our tires. Our tires were old but had recently passed inspection. Either they went downhill in only 3 weeks since the inspection, or I need to find a new inspector! We saw the bubble and rolled into their RV service center - fortunately they had one. Upon further inspection we ended up replacing all 6 of our worn out tires. While it was expensive, it was something we had planned on doing when we returned. We felt blessed that we caught the problem before having blow-outs. We proceeded on Interstate 40 which runs right along Route 66 through many stops in Arizona. Our first stop was the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon railroad in Williams AZ has a very nice RV resort with it. We took the train 2.5 hours one way to the Canyon. Dakota, our Weinaramar who has been enjoying all the new smells, spent one day in the kennel. It was a 9 hour day with the round trip train. Williams was 40 degrees and still had snow on the ground. After the Grand Canyon, we continued through Arizona stopping along the way to see the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Holbrook (where the inspiration for CARS came from) and of course Winslow Arizona (made famous by the Eagles song, "Taking It Easy"). From there we traveled to New Mexico where we visited a very windy Albuquerque and then onto Roswell - home of the UFO phenomena. We visited the UFO museum and it was very interesting. Roswell's museum has firm evidence of a government cover up in 1947 under the Truman administration. Something did happen there that the government didn't want anyone to know about. They went so far as to threaten people and make several of them "disappear". They trucked in tons and tons of dirt to bury the crash site. The site was dug up in 2002 as an archeological dig. However what crashed there is unknown and up for debate. Which makes things interesting. Roswell was our most southern destination and it was 90 degrees there. Just outside of Roswell by 50 miles we visited Lincoln NM - it's where the Lincoln county wars took place and Billy the Kid shot the sheriff (that got him in all his troubles). We ended up having lunch on a real family sheep farm- strange food, but another adventure! Hey, "Adventure before Dementia" is our motto.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of our trip started when we turned north to Santa Fe. Santa Fe was 40 degrees with occasional snow. Quite a difference for only one day! We finished traveling Route 66 and were ready for the Santa Fe and Old Pecos trails. It's really fascinating visiting the places where history actually took place. We were in and out of Santa Fe rather quickly. We found the weather cold and the shops were very expensive although very quaint with pueblo style architecture. We left before our reservations were up and were very pleased to find that KOA would refund nights not used. We stayed in many KOA's along the way as they seemed the nicest and most secure places along our route. The weather continued to be a problem our entire way; mostly high winds. However the cold rain with snow showers were also a concern. I kept saying, "but it's spring!". We moved on to Colorado. We spent time outside of Colorado Springs where we visited the Rocky Mountains and saw the Hopi Indian Cliff Dwellings that have been

well preserved. Then we moved onto Denver where we visited the "Unsinkable Molly Brown House". Molly wasn't her real name, it was changed for the movie. Her real name was Margaret Tobin Brown. It was a lovely Victorian home in downtown Denver and the tour of the inside was very interesting. She was an impressive activist when women were barely allowed to vote – Colorado & Wyoming had given women the vote, but the rest of the nation hadn't. The tour people made a point to say that she is only remembered for one night on the water after Titanic sunk, and her great social work is forgotten! She ran for state senate twice and US senate once, not getting elected. She fought for miners working conditions, children's rights and started Denver's first "dumb friends" shelter for stray animals. Dumb being used in the sense of being unable to talk. And those are only the things I can remember - she did more. We then zipped through Wyoming to get to So. Dakota and Mt. Rushmore. This trip made history come alive and brought out our inner cowgirls! We spent a week in Rapid City So. Dakota seeing Mt. Rushmore, the Black Hills, and the Badlands. It was geologically and historically fascinating! We had 2 days that it didn't rain so we used those days for Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands. The rainy days we spent going to famous cities like Wall, Sturgis, and Deadwood. Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane called Deadwood home. We saw the bar that Wild Bill was killed in, in a dispute over a poker game. The prices in So. Dakota were really cheap and the people were very nice. It was a fun week. Rapid City had statues of all the presidents on the street corners downtown. One could take a picture with their favorite president!

Then it was on to Wyoming where we parked in Buffalo and drove into Montana to see Custer's last stand battlefield. The battlefield was huge. It was 5 miles deep and they had a loop that you could drive to see it all. We also saw several other battlefields as we were on the Bozeman trail where all the fighting with the Indians took place. The argument was over the nomadic style of life that allowed the Indians to kill and eat Buffalo and stay by the Platt River for their water source. The Cavalry wanted them to stay on their reservations and stop harassing the settlers, gold miners and wagon trains that were using the Bozeman trail and going through the territory. The battles were often gruesome, deadly and lasted for about a decade. Custer's last stand involved 3 battalions of Cavalry (2 of which didn't show up to the right spot) against 3 different tribes of angry Indians (Arapahoe, Sioux, Crow). As a wise Indian said after the battle, 'we have won the battle and lost the war', knowing that the Cavalry would retaliate. Indeed all tribes were forced onto reservations within a few years after the battle. We learned lots of interesting tid-bits in addition to what we already knew! In the middle of Wyoming and the Indian wars territory which was pretty rural, we found a gourmet steak house! We ate there every night for our 3 night stay; delicious food with a high Zagat rating, in the middle of nowhere! From Montana's battlefield we re-traced our steps back to Cheyenne in southeast Wyoming, to see the historic and oldest train depot in the west. We also got to see the giant boots that are on 8 corners of the city (all in different color schemes) and take a train to see a herd of Bison. The Bison train took us out to a herd on a farmer's ranch where we got to feed the Bison by throwing pellets through the open windows. The Bison came right up to the train to get their pellets – they were so used to the trains. We went to the rodeo museum in Cheyenne and watched as they prepared for their annual "Frontier days". It was the spirit of the true west. Billy the Kid, Wild Bill and Calamity Jane's spirits were at every turn. Of course the ironic part of this trip is that the best weather in the country during our trip was at home! Dakota (our dog) enjoyed the sights as well because we often took her on our explorations. After 4 days of heavy sightseeing, in between heavy rain showers we moved on.

The last leg of our trip started when we left Wyoming and traveled west to Utah. Utah was incredibly beautiful. It looked like a picture post card from the moment we entered the state. Salt Lake City Utah. Was very interesting. It was like visiting Mecca or the Vatican. Even though only 40% of the city is LDS (Latter Day Saints i.e. Mormon) the influence was overwhelming. We wanted to see Temple Square even though we are not of the LDS faith, but I wasn't prepared for the lack of separation of church and state that exists in the city. The best example I can give is the street names. Ordinarily driving around a new city takes a minimal amount of time to study the map. Salt Lake City was a challenge. All of the streets had the same names. The name was South, or East, or West, or North depending on which side of the Temple it was on. 100 South meant that the street was 1 block South of the Temple, 200 South - 2 blocks etc. While this seems very logical, it was a nightmare. Main Street separated the east/west side of town, so the addresses restarted at 0 after Main. So a typical address would be, 534 east 400 South St. Your next address might be 745 west 600 South St. Those 2 addresses would be separated by 2 blocks north to south but 12 blocks east to west. OK so that was a high learning curve! We toured Temple Square and went to an open rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. We went out and saw "This is the Place" Heritage Park where the LDS folks first settled Salt Lake. Our next stop was Zion National Park in southern Utah where the big red rock formations are. It was truly beautiful. They had a shuttle that took you through the main canyon, but you could drive Highway 9 through the Mt. Carmel tunnel. The tunnel was a mile long and only wide enough for one way traffic, so there were rangers regulating the traffic flow. We drove to Kanab Utah and visited Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. It's a rather famous no kill shelter where hard to place animals can go. It's one of our favorite charities. We took their van tour over their 3700 acres. We spent a week in the Zion canyon seeing everything. It was pure natural beauty. Then we spent the last 9 days of our trip in familiar Las Vegas visiting their "natural" wonders – hotel casinos and outlet malls! It was an incredible trip. There were lots of new experiences and worlds of fun. I recommend everyone should put this kind of trip on his or her bucket list.

We're back now and we'll see you soon. Pictures are posted on my web page. Go to:

<http://web.me.com/lorenasikorski>