

Sunday January 20, 2008

Our last day at Viewpoint in Mesa. As we take a last look around, we both agree that this park has a variety of amenities all in one place that will be hard to find at other places. We will probably come back next year!

We know where we are heading (west to Texas), but where will be put all the things that we bought during the month here?





One of the Three Pools



Any one for shuffleboard???



Just waitin' to get a site



It's almost a KM from one end to the other end!

Monday January 21, 2008

We were up bright and early, and headed off to Robert Crist's to get the fan and oven replaced before heading west. The staff there treated us very well and we are pleased with the service. While we waited we grabbed some lunch at Costo and did a bit of window shopping (no more room in the rig so could not buy anything)

We did not get out of Mesa until mid afternoon, so we had to make new travel plans. As we drove through the dessert, we noted that due to the recent rain, things looked much greener than when we arrived a month ago.

A few hours west on Highway 70 we found the Melvin Jones Memorial. It is a project of the Arizona Lions, as a tribute to the birthplace of Melvin Jones on January 13, 1879 in Fort Thomas.

As you can see from the picture of Maureen and Percy in front of the spire, it is an impressive tribute to our Lion's Founder.



These plaques commemorate the important role that Melvin Jones played in the formation of the largest service organization in the world. As Canadian Lions, we are proud that Canada was instrumental in making Lions truly international.





A bit further, down the road we stopped at the Apache Gold Casino and RV Park (just past Globe Arizona). On checking in, we were given coupons for drinks and free play on the slots, so of course we had to check it out. We decided to try out the buffet and when we got in line a gentleman behind us gave us a coupon for one free meal that he could not use. He was also kind enough to join us for dinner. After eating, we played the slots and came out \$7.00 ahead of the game!

Tuesday January 22, 2008

It was another early start in the morning. The desert gave way to the mountains and we saw very large feed lots, full of hundreds of black and white cattle (possibly dairy cows?)





Our stop for the night was at the Western Skies RV park near Vado New Mexico. This was a very small park and easy to get in and out.



Maureen discovered that the new oven (that was installed two days ago) unfortunately does not work any better than the old one.

Wednesday January 23, 2008

The weather was threatening to get wetter and colder, so we wanted to keep moving south east and hopefully find some sunny skies.



We stopped briefly at the Texas Information booth and collected some books and maps on Texas. Passing through El Paso we saw this very colourful outlet mall. This caught our eye as most of the buildings in the south west are brown or pinky beige.



In the distance we noted something hovering high in the sky.



For many miles we tried to figure out what it might be. When we finally arrived at the gate, the mystery was solved as the signs identified it as the "United States Air Force Thethered Aerostat Radar Site".



We decided to stay the night at the Marathon Motel and RV park. This charming little resort includes a beautifully revitalized motel. Even under grey skies, the panorama from our site is amazing. We have an unobstructed view of the mountains on three sides, and the grounds are full of a myriad of southwestern style landscaping.





We went for a walk to check things out. Percy discovered a place where they are making Adobe bricks



Wonder what is behind the wall?



A cleverly camouflaged hydro meter!

Here there is a lovely place to relax but be careful when you
sit as it
REALLY swings!



There is a quaint *Courtyard Cafe* where breakfast is served on the weekends. We shall have to check it out some morning when it is warmer!





Mike met the owner and discussed how computers could help him to provide service to his clients.

After supper, we gathered in the courtyard, around the fireplace, for a pleasant evening of conversation with our fellow campers.



i



Thursday January 24, 2008

Weather forecast looks pretty dreary, so we decided to stay in Marathon for a few days and avoid driving in the cold rain that could possibly turn to freezing rain or even snow.

Drove into Marathon for some supplies and a quick tour of the main streets. This was obviously a hub of activity back in the forties and fifties, but like many small towns has felt a huge strain when the Super Highways took the travellers far from town. We prefer to take it easy and avoid the four lane roads whenever possible. Our reward is a less harried journey and a chance to meet great people along the way. From the looks of things, this little town is making a comeback. Hopefully travellers will reward them for all their hard work and determination!