

## ***Issue # 50 February 2009 Continues***

### **19-Feb-2009**

#### **Vacation Day zero**

I am starting this issue with day zero because I have not left yet. I have to finishing the laundry and dishes so I do not have to do them in the morning. I want to make only one trip out side in the morning. I will try to put some water in the motor home if the hose didn't freeze over night and then leave for breakfast. After breakfast I might stop for coffee.

All in all tomorrow I am out of here!

Marty's Random Thoughts is a collection of newsletters I wrote for my amusement and gave to my friends and family for their enjoyment. Book 1 is the beginning years to 2007.



See the web site below or grab me off the street to get your copy  
The online store is at: <http://stores.lulu.com/metras3>

### **19-Feb-2009 8:00pm Day 1**

After getting off to a slow start I made it within 100 miles of Lake St. Louis, MO.

While loading up the motor home I noticed I had very heavy frost on the windows, all of them. One of the trips with a load of stuff I noticed the glass was shinny. At first I thought that was

strange. Then I realized the frost was on the inside.

I had turned on the heat because I had flushed the antifreeze from the plumbing and didn't want it to freeze and break something.

The frost was on every window in the motor home. I did not want to have to scrape frost on the inside. The nice thing was the sun was helping it go away. Most of it was gone by the time I returned from breakfast.

The next thing I was going to do was put some fresh water in the tank so I didn't have to go to the gas station for anything except fuel. Well my water hose was frozen. I figured I could take a big jug of water along just in case I needed it before I got into a warmer area and I could fill the water tank. Remember it was only 9° when I got up this morning.

By the time I got ready I had time to go for coffee and say good-bye to Mary. I just got there just there before she left for the day, so I had coffee with Arlo. While sitting there I remembered that I forgot to put the jug of water in the RV.

I went back home and got the water and notices a couple more thing I hadn't done. Well I checked and checked and I needed to stop at the ATM and get a little cash, I needed fuel, and checked

the LP. It was almost noon when I had all of the finished.

You guessed it, it was time for lunch. I stopped and had lunch with Kim and then stopped at Wal-Mart and picked up a couple of gallons of drinking water. I finally got on the road at one o'clock.

I set the GPS to Flagstaff via St. Louis and started following what it told me. And I kind of did what it told me.

It got me here so I can stop typing now and get some rest so I can meet Steve for breakfast.  
End of day one. Good night!

## **20-Feb-2009 Day 2**



*It was good seeing Steve again. He has his hand on the motor home because I think he want one. I had a good visit with Steve. We would have talked for hours but he had to get back to work.*

### **Later**

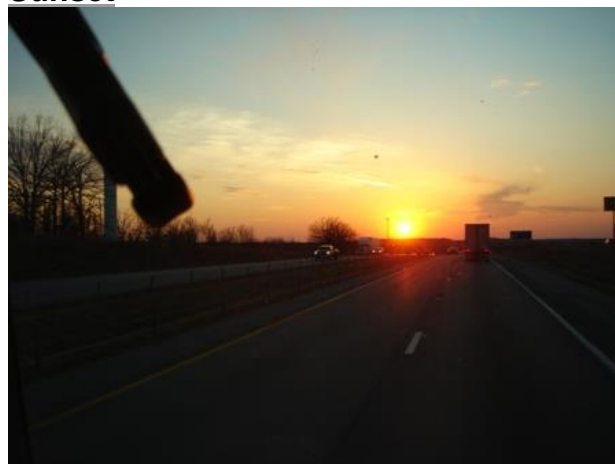
Sometimes \$2.00 an hour is too much to pay. I am at a Love's truck stop with a McDonalds. McDonalds usually have free Wi-Fi so I tried to update my blog so you get first hand information where I was.

The connection kept dropping off. I decided to wait and update later.

It is only five o'clock so I am going to do some more driving before I

stop for the night. Right now I am about 5 hours west of St. Louis on I-44 in a rest area. I need to get out of here and make room for the trucks. There must be 10 Semi's entering for each one that leaves. They must be getting ready to end their day.

### **Sunset**



*Driving off into the sunset is ok for cowboys who live happily ever after but you can't see much when you are driving in to the sun.*

It is nice and warm here today. No jacket weather and motorcycles around.  
Marty

### **9:00pm**

I drove enough today. Around 7 I stopped in a Wal-Mart and got some bananas. While there I saw 2 security cars driving around the parking lot. So I asked if it was ok to park there over night. The lady said that they were limiting it to 3 hours because they have had some problems. So I moved on to here.

I am at the last Rest Area in MO on I-44 going west.

### **Food**

I just finished some of the soup I made last week. I have a big crock pot so I made enough for 20 people and bagged, sealed, and froze it for this trip.

Tonight's I heated it to long before putting it in a bowl. I had been thawing it in the microwave and putting it in a bowl to finish heating it. The bag broke open in the microwave, I love messes! ☹

Tomorrow I think I will look for a real RV park. I still need some water in the tank and most of all, they have Wi-Fi.

### **Fuel**

I filled up with Gas before I left Thursday. It was \$2.00 a gallon. Today I had to buy some more it was only \$1.79. And I think I drove past a station that said \$1.49. Isn't that nice that they are lowering the prices for me? I didn't fill the tank so I don't have any real gas mileage numbers for you, but I think it is around 8 MPG. Maybe I will fill up tomorrow.

I am 631 miles out of Woodstock tonight. I'll get some sleep now and wake up in the morning and see what happens. Good-night

## **21-Feb-2009 Day 3**

### **Snow**



*I woke up this morning and there was snow on the ground. I thought getting away from the snow was one of the reasons for going on vacation. I guess it didn't happen yet.*

I just finished breakfast and tried to get online to update thing for you with no luck. It is trying to connect but nothing. I will try again somewhere else.

It is about 10:30 and I am in OK on I-44 at the first oases. I am going to

head out and look for a place to stay tonight.

### **7:33pm Clinton Lake, OK, KOA**

Well I am in a RV park tonight. That means I have the RV hooked up to water and electricity. I am typing this while I watch T-V. I just ate a pizza and have some in the refrigerator for later.

Now that am here I see I have almost 1000 miles since I left home. I think there was 1700 miles from Woodstock to Flagstaff. Looks like I have some driving to get there by Monday.

Mike sent me an email saying he was in Williams and that they will be in Flagstaff Monday. I am going to try to get there before them.

I can drive a long time if I get an early start. What I am having trouble is driving from 5 to 7 at night. The sun is in my face and the visors on this motor home are not very friendly. I think I understand how to make it better. I just have to do some shopping to get some parts or go to Camping World and see if they have for this. They might have something that may work better.

I have to go. This movie is too good to be typing while watching T-V. I don't remember it name but it is that movie that Bruce Willis and the little kid that sees dead people.

Oh that's right, "*The Sixth Sense*"  
Good by until next time.

Marty

## **22-Feb-2009**

### **On the road somewhere**

While driving you have only a short time to see sites unless you stop. Sometimes you see the same thing over and over.



*I was seeing a lot of wind turbines. In this one place I even saw one that looked like it was mounted on a truck.*



*Another thing I saw along the road was these crosses. I think that they were memorials to some that died on the highway. Somewhere along the road was this very big cross? It must have a very important person that died here.*

I thought ALCO had gone out of business when they left Woodstock. Well I drove by one and they are still in Business. I shopped in one in New Mexico.



*A long time we had a Hornsby store in Woodstock. They went out of business and an ALCO store took it place. These were stores like K-Mart and Wal-Mart before they started to sell food.*



*And as before I stayed on the road too long and had to drive into the sunset.*

**23-Feb-2009**  
**In Arizona Somewhere**



*While driving through New Mexico and Arizona I saw they too have some snow.*

One of the places I always like to drive by is Twin Arrows, AZ. There is the abandon souvenir shop with 2 great big arrows in the parking lot. It has been closed a long time and the arrows didn't look so good this time.



*Note the arrows are on the far right.*



*Here is a close up of the arrows.*



Somewhere I saw this and needed a picture. I thought it was funny they needed a sign to tell me this was a stone. 😊



*Here is what the sign looks like.*

### **Meteor Creator**



*Meteor Creator is very impressive. If you are ever near Winslow, AZ it is a must see place.*

The wind was blowing about 50 MPH while we were there so we were holding to our hats.



*If you look out the other way you could see forever.*

Looking in another direction you could see my home was a little lonely.



*Looking in another direction you could see my home was a little lonely.*



*Mike and Petra posed for a picture in 55 MPH gust of winds. I think that is Mt. Washington in the background.*



*I had to take a picture of myself in front of the picture of the creator in the museum.*

## **24-Feb-2009 7:48am Day 6**

### **Winslow, AZ**

Good morning. Yesterday I filled up with fuel in Flagstaff on Route 66. Then I went down the road to find Mike and Petra. I found them just a few blocks down the street. After finding a place to turn around I loaded them up and all their stuff into the RV. They didn't have much stuff. I guess when you are hiking across the country you don't want to be carrying a lot of stuff.

We went to Star Bucks for coffee and visited and talked about things. They did a day of walking of about 30 miles the other day. I am not in shape for that much in one day. I think that is about 30 days of walking for me.

Later we went for supplies and dinner. They got a hotel room here in Winslow and I am parked in a restaurant parking lot next door. I have been using the hotel's Wi-Fi connection once in a while. I am parked a little too far away to get a good solid connection. Since it is free I will take what I can get.

The Wi-Fi connections are kind of like the cell phones were 10-15 years ago. Sometime the signal is very good and sometimes there is none.

Wi-Fi is good because if you have wired connection you can add Wi-Fi fairly easily and let other use it. It doesn't cost a lot of money to set it up for other to use, maybe as cheap as \$50. It works so if a lot of people aren't trying to use all at once it is just fine.

With that kind of setup I can jump on and use it. And check emails but it is a weak signal so it is a little show. When it is for free I can't complain. Right now it isn't letting me connect. Maybe the paying people staying in the hotel are using it. Oh, well!

I get cranky when I have to pay for it and it doesn't work well.

### **Cold Chill**

I was sitting here warming up because I didn't have the heat turned on. It was only 50° when I woke up this morning. Don't feel sorry for me. It is warm enough under the covers. I just flip the switch next to the bed and it warms the air in 5 minutes. For a couple of days it got down to 48° before morning in here.

Anyway it seemed to not stay warm as long as in the past after turning on the heat. Maybe it was that ceiling vent I left open yesterday while it was 70° that I am sitting under this morning?

There is a routine you should go through to check windows and vents before you turn on heat or A/C. Same as you might do at home.

When I camped in Clinton Lake the other day I left the water hose laying

on the ground after using it the night before and it was frozen in the morning. I had to bring in inside before I could fill the fresh water tank. I was just cold enough to freeze and to do any damage. Yes, even down here in Arizona there is snow and ice!

### **Today's Plan**

We talked about doing some different things today I don't remember what we decided. There was walking down to breakfast, walking the Petrified Forest, driving to Holbrook, and other things. Mike and Petra will be out and around soon and I see what they have to say.

None of us are on any kind of real tight schedule so it is hard to say that we have to do this or that. I have about 30 days before I have to be home. Even that could be 60 days because some of that I can do from here.

Mike said that they have a no date when they have to be on the east coast to catch their ride across the big body of water over there.

### **Walking in the Petrified Forest**

We decided to walk in the Petrified Forest.



*Some of these fallen logs even up close don't look petrified.*



*Mike & Petra posed on a log that turned to stone a bazillion year ago or so. We were also sharing the air with a 50 mph wind.*

Maybe those cave men had stone chippers. ☺ Even up close they look like wood.



*This picture shows up wood chips, well, what looks like wood chips. It is really petrified wood.*

We also went to the Painted Desert. There were petroglyphs there but I don't find any pictures.



*Mike and Petra were making diner in the motor home. They let me just sit back and watch. They make a good team and a good meal.*

## **25-Feb-2009 7:45pm Day 7** **Holbrook, AZ**

This morning I dropped Mike and Petra off in Joseph, AZ. They were going to walk to Holbrook while I was doing other things.

I need to fix the glass in the cabinet doors so they didn't fall out and break. They are held in by this plastic rubbery stuff that keeps falling out.

I had all the stuff to do it I just needed to take the time and do it. I fixed the two that kept coming loose. I will check out the other later.

About an hour or so ago Mike called and told me he at the Super 8. After I figured out where that was I could see it for the RV park. I walked over there and said "Hi!" then back to the RV park.

They were gearing down from their walk. We will go and get something to eat in a while. I am not sure If we will walk or I will drive. There looks to be only fast food places near here.



Maybe I'll call and ask them.

**10:00pm**

Maybe I should go to bed now instead of messing with this. I am tired. We all went out and eat some Mexican food tonight and it was great.

I turned on the T-V for a few minutes to see what they watch in Arizona and it's much the same as home. That is except I could get one channel. So I think I am going to bed.

Good night!

**26-Feb-2009 2:46pm Day 8**

### Lupton, AZ

Mike and Petra are walking from Sanders, AZ to Lupton, AZ. That would be where I am now. I drove to Gallup, NM to get some supplies then I came back here to Indian reservation to check out what they have to sell. Since I was frozen last night I had to buy a blanket.



*In the souvenir shop I saw an old friend sitting in the back of the shop.*

The Knaack box is being used for security. They are very strong. I didn't even think of using it for souvenir security. I guess Frank Yellowhorse knows a good thing when he sees it.

Thinking about frozen, my water hose froze over night in Sanders, AZ. I turned off the water and put the hose in the sun to thaw. Later I saw the water running all over the place. I got soaked trying to screw on a valve so I could stop it.

We had a laugh over me getting drowned then I went to the restaurant where I paid for the camp site and had another laugh.

After breakfast Mike and Petra headed east down old Route 66. I hung around the diner having coffee for a while. I found it was for sale. It looked to seat 20 to 30 people, a 3 bedroom home and what looked to be a full city block of property. The same owner for 22 years and she is ready to retire. The RV park wasn't part of it. And for about \$130,000 you could have all of this. All you would have to do is get the county to let you put up a sign so you could see the place from I-44 and clean it up a little.

Most of the customers were local. That is because it is hard to find from the interstate.

She said that she was running it with just 3 employees. So Kim, Anile, and Mary, you want to relocate to Arizona? ☺ Just kidding!

I met Frank Yellowhorse in one of these shops here in Lupton, AZ. He said he was the old one of the Indians and the head of the tribe. I think he said he was 87. I asked him if I could park in the area over night. He said that it was ok most any where on that side of the highway. So when Mike and Petra get here we will find a place.

I am in a parking lot on the south side of the highway because there is no open business here. It should be ok to park here tonight.

I think I will take a nap while I wait for the pilgrims to get here.

When Mike called and said they were near by I decided to walk down and meet them. Yes, I know how to walk! ☺



*It was very dark when I took these pictures. I am amazed I could get them to show anything.*

We walked back to the RV in the dark.

### **27-Feb-2009 1:04pm Day 9**

#### **Gallup, NM, USA RV Park**

After getting checked in and settling in I decided to walk down the street to get a hair cut. It wasn't really a street it was Old Route 66 now called route 118 now. Yesterday while checking out Gallup for today I saw this barber shop just down the road a little so I could walk down there.

So I started walking east to get a hair cut. Well it had to be 2 to 3 miles. It took 40 minutes to get there and 40 minutes to get back. The full round trip was 2 hours including the hair cut after

waiting in line. Later I found it was 7 blocks. Address was 2207 and the RV park was 2950. It took me 40 minutes and it seemed like a long ways to me.

When I arrived at the barber shop I ran in to another old friend sitting in the back of the barber's pickup.



*When I arrived at the barber shop I ran in to another old friend sitting in the back of the barber's pickup.*



*See the close up.*

Mike and Petra will meet me here tonight. They are walking in from Lupton. It is 16 to 17 miles away.

I think since I am on the internet I think I'll catch up on bills and things.

### **28-Feb-2008 7:45am Day 10**

Good morning. It was down below 20° last night and my water hose is full of ice. I have it lying out in the sun. The report say it is going to only be in the 50's today. This mean the only water I have this morning is in my tank. I didn't fill it yesterday be cause I was goofing off. It will be fine. If not I will bring the hose inside.

#### **Frozen before**

The other day when we stayed in Sanders, AZ the pipes froze. Not only my fill hose but the pipe coming out of the ground froze and I thought it was off. I had enough water in the tank so I just turned off the supply and put the hose in the sun and it was fine in an hour or so.

When I walked around the motor home to check things out I saw that the valve had been frozen and then melted. I almost flooded the park. I screwed on a plug on the pipe to stop the water and soaked myself; we had a laugh about that. After reporting it I got a refund for my trouble and a cup of coffee.

Thinking about coffee Mike and Petra are at a hotel so I am going up and get my own coffee.

#### **My feet are sore**

Mike and Petra were going to walk to the other side of Gallup today and then to Wingate, NM tomorrow.

I decided to walk uptown with them today until I figured it was far enough for me. I checked in the RV park office and John said the shuttle bus did not come all the way out to this part of town. I am at the far west part of Gallup. He said that he would send his son to pick up me when I was ready. I told him that I might be fine but just in case I would like the help if it was available. I told them I might not be back until after dark and they should not wait for me because I might just make it on my own.

Mike, Petra and I started walking east. We stopped at a bakery, pizza place and had a snack then stopped at a coffee shop on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> street. I don't know how far that was but I was at the point

when I was ready to head back to the RV park.

We said our good-byes and I started walking west.

I must be confused. Mike and Petra are walking east and I am walking west but we still find each other.

On the way home to the RV park I stopped and talked to a few people.

I talked to the first guy for a long time. He talked as much as me. My feet had rested so I went back on my way. Then I saw some walking a little slow and I was walking quit.

Before I caught up to him another guy was crossing the street to my side walking the other way. When he got closer the street light post was in between us. I made jester of which side of the post I should pass. The guy said; "Was that post moving back and forth?" Then we laughed and kept going. He got me!

When I got to the guy that was walking slowly, I warned him I was behind him so he didn't jump. I was walking very soft and I could not hear my steps. He laughed and said he heard me way back there. We visited for a few minutes when a young high school boy came along and asked the time. He walked with me for a long time I thought he was going follow me back to the RV park. He kept asking the same questions over and over. He was a little spooky

Just when I thought he was going all the way, his way a man came running up from a motel asking something.

When I got close enough to hear, what he was asking I told him answer. He was asking me the day and time. He said he wasn't sure. He thought it was

Saturday. When I told him it was 5:30, he said; “At Night?” I said;”Yes 5:30pm!” He said; “It is night time? Boy its night time!”

We had a good laugh. I told I didn’t what day it was this morning.

He did say he was confused. He just walked away shaking he head. I guess I’m not the only that get confused.

When I turned around the young boy was gone. That was ok with me!

All of this entertainment helped me get back to the RV Park without noticing my feet were sore. I stopped at the store about a block before getting home and picked up some dinner.

Now I am going to eat said dinner. It has been a good day!

### **Some more Pictures**



**Mike and Petra are walking east from the RV Park to down town Gallup NM.**



**The Graffiti on the wall in New Mexico is sometimes better than back home.**



**Red Rock State Park was really just Red Rock Park. Now owned by the City and is some kind of Sports Park. You could not get in to it because of all the bars. And yes, it was closed! The RV Park!**

This issue and this month are at the end. There is more to my vacation and you can read about in the next issue.