

## ***Issue # 52 March 2009 continues***

### **Vacation High Lights**

#### **30-Mar-2009 8:53am 33°**

While the snow continues to melt I think I will fill the last two days of the month with high-lights of my vacation.

#### **Fuel usage**

Date	Mileage	Miles	Gallons	Cost	MPG	\$/Gal
Feb-19	9,460	Start	24.902	48.04	Start	1.929
Feb-20	9,936	476	55.586	100.00	8.56	1.799
Feb-21	10,380	444	57.527	97.74	7.72	1.699
Feb-22	10,719	339	52.251	96.80	6.49	1.853
Feb-23	11,204	485	57.630	126.72	8.42	2.199
Mar-01	11,564	360	43.876	92.97	8.20	2.119
Mar-07	11,900	336	25.013	50.00	13.43	1.999
Mar-08	12,151	251	67.483	134.84	3.72	1.998
Mar-15	12,463	312	38.677	77.32	8.07	1.999
Mar-16	12,933	470	49.516	87.59	9.49	1.769
Mar-18	13,165	232	32.458	59.69	7.15	1.839
Mar-18	13,432	267	35.795	73.37	7.46	2.050
Mar-19	13,771	339	41.120	84.26	8.24	2.049

#### **More Fuel Stats**

Date	Location	Run MI	Run Gal	Avg MPG	Run Cost
Feb-19	Woodstock	Start			
Feb-20	St. James, Mo	476	56	8.56	100.00
Feb-21	El Reno, OK	920	113	8.13	197.74
Feb-22	Tucumcari, NM	1259	165	7.61	294.54
Feb-23	Flagstaff, AZ	1744	223	7.82	421.26
Mar-01	Gallup, NM	2104	267	7.88	514.23
Mar-07	Acoma, NM	2440	292	8.36	564.23
Mar-08	Los Lomas, NM	2691	359	7.49	699.07
Mar-15	Wagon Mound, NM	3003	398	7.54	776.39
Mar-16	KS	3473	448	7.76	863.98
Mar-18	Junction City, KS	3705	480	7.72	923.67
Mar-18	Lamoni, IA	3972	516	7.70	997.04
Mar-19	Galena, IL	4311	557	7.74	1,081.30

#### **Totals**

I used about 557 gallons of gas that cost \$1081.00. I drove about 4311 miles averaging 7.74 MPG. It must be time for a tune up! Maybe just an air cleaner and air in the tires may improve the gas mileage.

### **Cost of the Vacation**

My records show I charged about \$2331.29. I only took \$500.00 cash and I spent most of it. So this trip cost about \$2800.00 dollars.

#### **Larger Cost**

Fuel was the largest cost at \$1080.

Lodging was next at \$473

*I stayed at one hotel at \$198*

Food was third at \$411

With an over all cost of about \$3000 for 30 days isn't that bad. I use to think I had to allow for \$1000 a week when vacationing.

I know last year I went California and spent just \$2200 for fuel. The trip cost me over \$5000 for the trip.

Maybe things are getting better.

### **The Vacation Weather**

I had rain, snow, wind, and cold, very warm, sun and clouds. I had as warm as 80° and as cold as 9°. Yes it was 9° at home the day I left. They said the winds were blowing at 55 mph for a couple of days.

There were 3 times when the water froze. On one morning I flooded the RV Park because their valve froze because I didn't catch it because it was frozen. I had no damage that I know of because of the weather.

## **States I Traveled**

I traveled through Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona on the way out.

On the way back I traveled through Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and then Illinois.



Source: <http://maps.google.com>

*This is my general route of my vacation.*

The general route went something like this.

- A: Home
- B: Steve's
- C: Joined Mike & Petra
- C-D: followed along with Mike & Petra
- D: American Pilgrims Gathering
- E: Just there to make the map route correctly
- F: Greenburg, KS was just a drive by
- G: Edie's
- H: Marcia's
- I: Steve & Wally's

Then back home.

## **Weight Change**

When I left on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February I weighed 226 lbs and now only 220 lbs. All of the driving kept me out of the kitchen. Maybe the walking had something to do with that too.

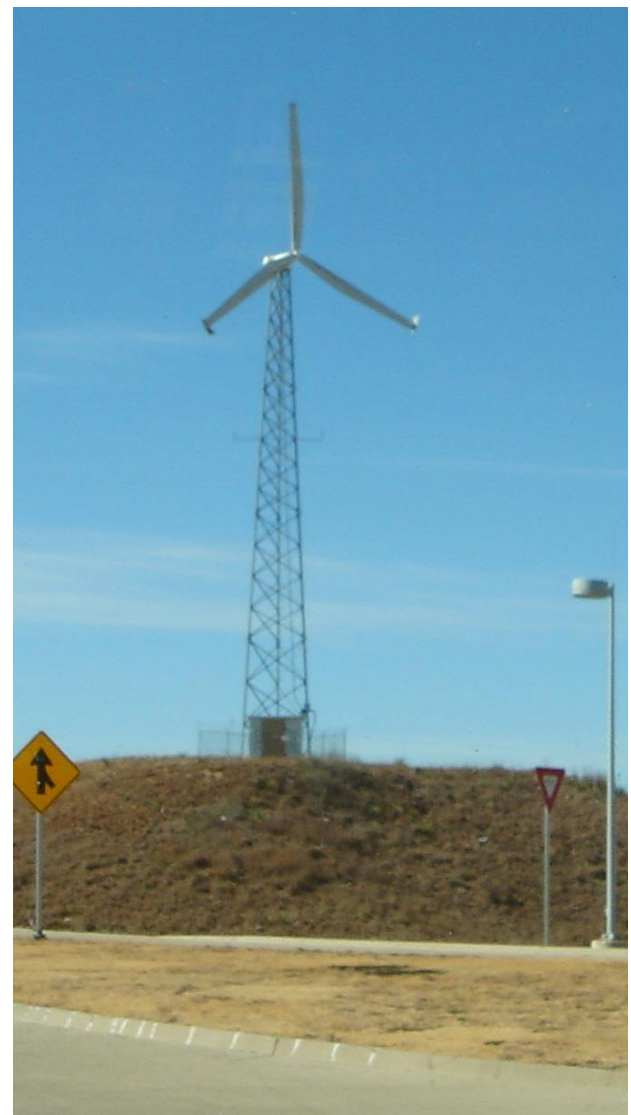
## **A Picture Tells a Story**

### **Windmills**

I saw many windmills on the first few days. They seemed to be almost everywhere.



*The first windmills were on Feb 19th in Polo, IL*



*I saw this one near a rest area on Feb 21st.*



*There was more along the interstate on Feb 22nd.*

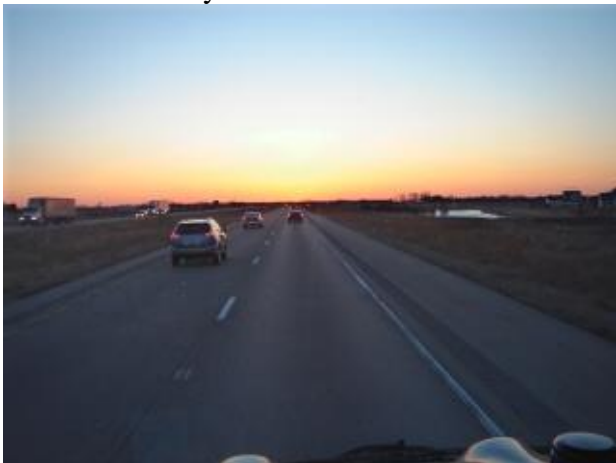


*This one was in town.*

I don't keep taking pictures of windmills. There was so many my finger would have gotten tired.

### **Sun Rise and Sets**

There were many time that I drove into the sun.



*The first Sunset of my vacation (Feb-19)*



*Another rough drive in to the setting sun on Feb 20th.*



*Feb 22nd brought still another sunset.*



*When I walked down to meet Mike & Petra near Lupton, AZ on Feb 26th there was a nice sunset.*

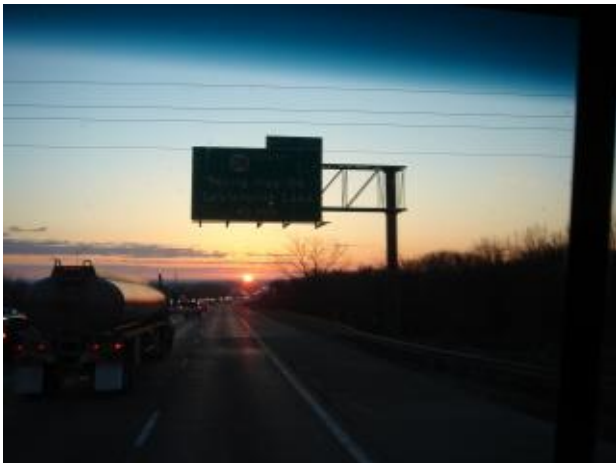




*On Mar 2nd I caught a sunset in the rearview mirror.*



*On Mar 17th the morning I drove to Marcia's it was foggy but you could still see the sunrise.*



*While driving through Iowa on Mar 19th I pulled of because it sun was blinding me.*

## How about some Snow Pictures



*There was fresh snow on Feb 22 and old snow on the 23rd.*



I know there was snow on the ground where the sun doesn't get to it in Iowa. No pictures of snow until yesterday at home.

## Noon

It is time for a break now so ... wait the phone rings. It is Aunt Annie asking if I wanted to go to Kellie's for lunch. You know I said; "Yes!"

## Back from Lunch

Aunt Annie picked me up and we went over and picked up Marge. I haven't seen Marge in a long time. It was go seeing her again.

## Back to the Vacation Pictures

Let's see what other groups of pictures can I show you? I took about 400 pictures and some of should be view but should be deleted. What about some of the fun pictures. Like things I took pictures just because the camera was pointing at something. Maybe some pictures that just didn't happen the way I wanted? And of coarse pictures of people making faces are always good to see. Most of these pictures will only be seen in this newsletter and no where else. So are you ready for this?

## Just More Pictures



*The Interstate (left) is straight and old Route 66 (right) is without form!*



*I wasn't taking a picture of the dirty window. I was looking at the white snow.*



*At first I thought this was a UFO. It was a small plain and a street light.*



*I think this was my first encounter with green grass. Wouldn't you know it the cows are trying to eat it all up before someone else to see it!*



*Another one of those ALCO Stores we don't have any more.*



*Mike was trying to take a picture here and it was so windy I think he was having trouble to keep the picture from blowing off the screen. ☺*



*It was so windy! Looks Mike's shoe strings are all on the left of the pictures! ☺*

You don't know how windy it was. Look at the shadows. They are all blown to the left too.





*I took this picture from up where Mike was taking those pictures in the last picture. I am looking down at the Creator at what I thought was Mike on the steps.*



*I zoomed in to the picture and I see Petra is beside Mike. It is nice that this camera can do this and still fit in my shirt pocket.*



*I took this picture because it shows the road (I-40) might go straight to the mountain.*



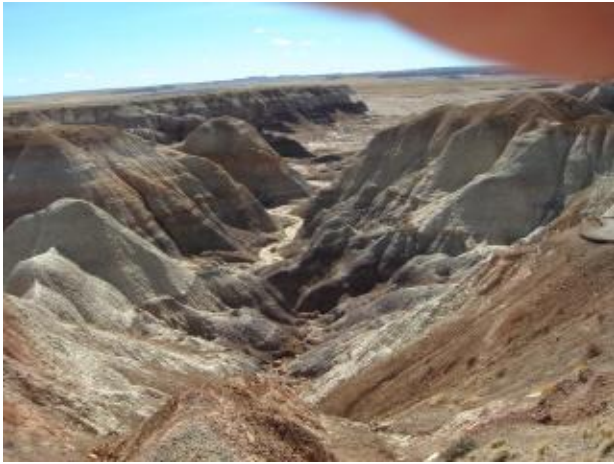
*At Meteor Creator I tried to take a picture through the telescope. This was the best of three tries.*



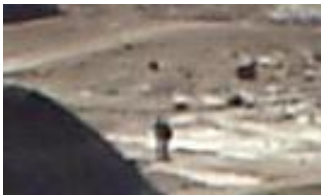
*I am always amazed how things keep growing with almost no water. They said that parts of the desert haven't seen rain since before Christmas.*



*I am showing you this training picture so you may learn. Take your fingers away from the front of the lens before you snap the shutter. That is unless you are taking a training picture as I am here. ☺*



*We were walking at different speeds. This time I was in front. I looked back for the view and I saw Mike & Petra. I waved and maybe I couldn't see them wave back. I kept waving and nothing. I guess they didn't see me.*



*I zoomed in and I think this is them.  
What you think?*



*This picture was less than one minute later. I think it is them. It is a long walk to get to them to ask. ☺*



*We declined the ride down from Acoma and hiked instead. One of them is Mike.*



*Mike hiking down the back stairs from Sky City (Acoma), NM*

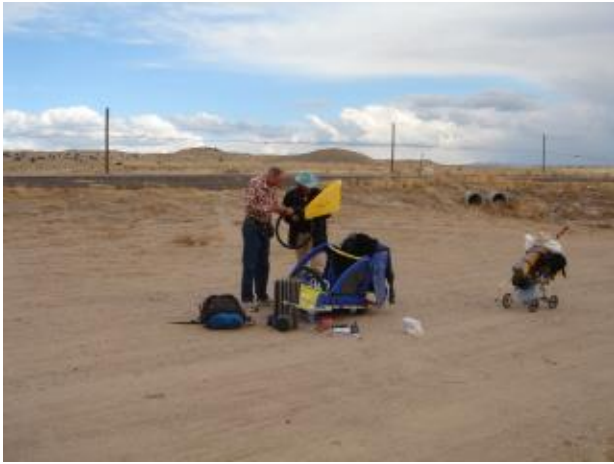


*We all wanted different kinds of Ice Cream so I got one of each.*



*At all the RV Parks they asked for my license number. I could remember it. So I finally took a picture because I always had my camera with me. Always!*





*Remember us fixing the flats for a long time?*



*Please note that Petra's buggy has no flats! You do see she has a loaf of bread for us to eat if it takes too long.*



*When I walked the Camino in Santiago 2 years ago I looked for these yellow arrows. They would point the way. This one was on the sidewalk in Albuquerque. It also pointed the way. Not my way it was the way of the gas line under the side walk. I guess different country, different meaning.*

## **31-Mar-2009 11:17am 46°**

There is a little rain this morning in more ways than one. I was up until almost four in the morning trying to install a *Magic Jack* on my PC. I was working with technical support and got nowhere. Magic Jack is one of the thing they try to sell you on TV that lets you plug it into the computer and in a few minutes it is a phone line you can use for \$19.95 for a year with no added cost. So far the 5 minutes has been about 4 hours. More on this in and upcoming issue.

### **Old Friend**

Yesterday I noticed it was Christine's Birthday. I worked with Christine for years and I have been going to go have coffee with her at here new job and just didn't get there. I got there today and we talked about old times. We had a good visit and could have gone on for hours but she had to get back to work. It was good seeing you again Christine.

### **4:47pm**

Know where was I? Oh yah vacation picture. There must be some more.



*I know this is out of focus or it would be a great picture.*



## Petrified Forest

There were many wonders in the Petrified Forest State Park.



*This is rock that was wood once up on a time*



*Some of these rock look like logs with the bark on them.*



*More log look a likes.*



*They were all over the place.*



*Some of them you could even count the rings. I think this one was 25 years old about 250 million ago.*



*This was a piece of wood chip looked very much like wood but it was also very much petrified.*



## **Painted Desert**

Then we visited the Painted Desert.



*There are many colored layers*



*Some places all that is left is the gravel on the top of the ground and the rest blew away.*



*And still another view of the Painted Desert.*

## **Petroglyphs**

After the Petrified Forest and the Painted Desert we saw some petroglyphs that the guide said were over 700 years old.



*Here is some people and a bird eating something.*



*Here you see some designs.*



*Here you see a foot print.*



## Old US Route 66

We spent a lot of time along Route 66.



*It was so windy this bird just hooovering here trying to go forward and the wind just kept him from going foreward. Either that or he was just playing. He must have stayed ther for minutes.*

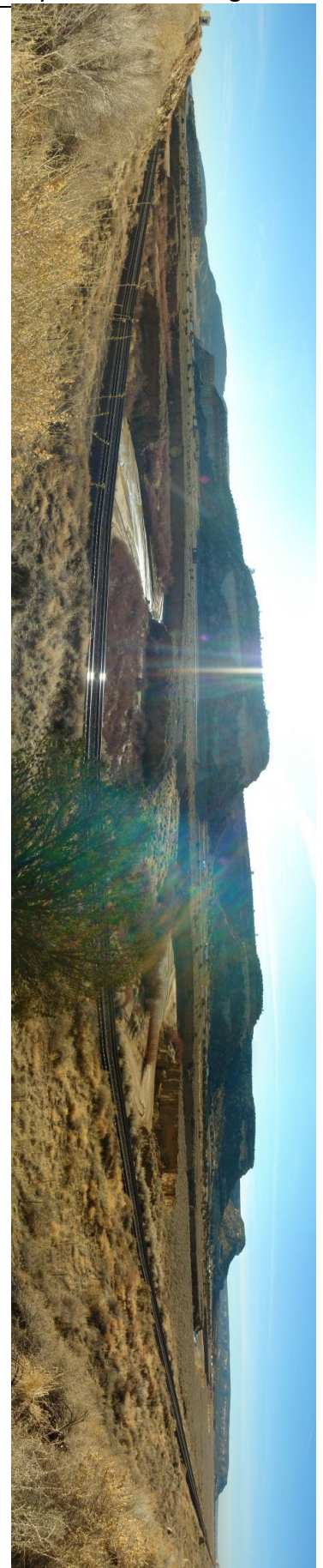


*This car was on disply here for many years.*



*There was some live in the desert. I like seeing things growwing in the desert.*

*I tried to make a panorama of the whole view*



## **Birthday List**

### **March**

Day	Name
1	Jenae
2	The day I retired 2007
6	Marie K
8	Bruce M
8	Taylor B
9	Sandi P
10	Sandi's other Anniversary
13	Sandi's Anniversary
13	Steve S
16	Marcia G
13	My Dad Died 1983
20	Victoria (IHOP)
21	John K
30	Christine P

### **April**

Day	Name
4	Lucy
11	Heather L
11	Roxanne M,
14	Jeremy M
18	Petra
19	Dave S
22	Carol 1942
30	Janet J

## **Happy spring**

