

Cactus Patch Dispatch

Newsletter for NMHRRVC Chapter 81

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RAMBLING FROM NEW MEXICO TO

MISSOURI by Rossanna Hays
New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri all in one lovely consecutive journey was experienced by New Mexico Holiday Ramblers the past five weeks. Traveling, in my opinion, is the best educational and pleasurable sojourn one can have. And, when the weather cooperates as it did this trip, a terrific time is had by all.

Our home state of New Mexico is always a joy but after so much moisture, the state is in full bloom this summer. That bloom followed us right into the Colorado "Rocky Mountain" State Rally in Colorado Springs. Never has it been more beautiful. The weather was excellent regularly cooled down by afternoon showers accommodating the fun and varied activities provided. This pattern followed us all the way through Kansas to Branson, Missouri where thoroughly entertaining and diversified musical events were enjoyed. If you have not seen the Dutton Family Show, make a point to do so. Even the wee ones are

adorable participants. The ultimate finale to this journey began in Sedalia, MO at the International Rally. A large accommodating fairground provided spacious campsites with full hookups. The wagons were circled around a large indoor arena which accommodated the best selection of seminars ever experienced. Trams transported you wherever you needed to go. You were hard pressed to not find something of interest- in fact; there was more than you could manage to attend. What a delightful challenge!

It has been said if you are a Holiday Rambler you will always have friends. How true it is. Got a problem? Very quickly those friends will assist you in solutions. Need a companion for a day at the spa? Just reach out and touch someone. Need a walk or a bike ride around the park? Half a dozen just went by – hurry up! It goes without saying, you will never starve. Picture a grassy spot with spontaneous group formation, sharing drinks and a grill that will cook anything. Want to play any game you have ever heard of and some you haven't? Just show up at the registration hall and be amazed at the selection. As for entertainment, from Irish dancers to family singers to Dixie Land Band, musical satisfaction abounds. Sound and grand things happen at a Holiday Rambler Rally. If you missed this one you missed the best. But, there is always next year, just don't let it get by you. 'See you in Perry, Georgia!

Gift Bag Donated at International

Chapter 81 put together a gift bag from Trader Joe's to be given to the Habitat for Humanity charity raffle at the International Rally. Jean Staab from Kansas sent the following note to the Chapter: "Thanks, Chapter 81, for your generous bag of goodies and for your support of HRRVC charities. See ya in Perry, Georgia! (signed) Jean and Del Staab, Kansas"

About the Members.

Jim Mason is a very thoughtful son-in-law! Rusty's mother, a long time RV'er, joined Jim and Rusty on the Trifecta. While in Branson, all of us went to the Shoji Tabuchi performance. As some of you know, his venue is noted for very elegant bathrooms. The women's bathroom is loaded with fresh orchids. The men's room has a regulation sized pool table in it but also sports fresh red roses in a vase at each sink. Thoughtful Jim tucked one of those fresh roses under his shirt as he left the restroom. Upon reaching his seat next to his mother-in-law, with a flourish he whipped out the rose and offered it to his surprised but pleased mother-in-law. Awe, Jim! You make us all proud!

Billy and Rosemary Patten: "Rose and I have not been anywhere but we did a pretty big 60th anniversary. All of our children were able to come to Albuquerque with a bunch of grandkid's so we had a houseful. They had planned a weekend for us to celebrate and did we ever. We took the fairly new Railrunner train to Santa Fe and did some sight seeing. Then we had lunch at the Shed before returning back to Albuquerque.

"We played lots of games and had a significant barbeque in our back yard on Saturday 7/31/2009. Our anniversary is the 19th of August, but with the grandkids all returning to School in August they decided to celebrate early. Rose and I had a wonderful time and will always remember. Oh yes we are going to attend the State Rally in October. Bob is now

scheduled to have knee surgery on 12th of November so planning a quiet winter".

Pat and JB Hamlet took the Cumbres-Toltec scenic "moonlight train ride" Saturday, 8/1, sponsored by the Friends of the Cumbres-Toltec, to celebrate our 56th wedding anniversary (which was 8/4). The train left Chama at 6pm - it was scheduled to leave at 4:45pm but certain "friends" wanted to ride in a caboose. Because there were several "friends," twos cabooses were attached to the train and that caused some delay in connecting cars, gondolas and cabooses. On the way to Osier, we saw three doe and two bucks that were startled by the train. A huge meal that included drinks and a variety of desserts was served in Osier. The train began its return to Chama at 9:15pm in the "moonlight." I must say I think the ride is better in daylight. The scenery is so beautiful; I don't think moonlight shows it off to any advantage. Because the night air was chilly, all windows in the car were closed on the return trip and that gave an entirely different sound to the ride. Also there were no lights in the cars - the only light one could see was an occasional glimpse on a curve from the locomotive headlight".
(provided by Pat Hamlet – Thanks Pat!)

Max and Jean Kelso. Max wrote in an e-mail, "As for us, we are doing ok. I had a little cancer on my nose and had a little surgery; now it's gone. Jean, on the other hand, had major foot surgery July 17th. She's doing ok but just can't walk on that foot yet for another 4-6 weeks. Yes, we are planning on the New Mexico state rally. We haven't sent money yet, but we will soon. Our plans are to go to the Texas state rally and then to the New Mexico state rally.

Pat and Don Lange: Would you believe that Pat actually found six mushrooms growing inside the motorhome, on the carpet behind the driver's seat? It seems that the Lange's had driven through some heavy rain. Both slides had water leaks with the front leak

apparently sufficient enough to allow six mushrooms to sprout! The Lange's thought they had those leaks repaired at the International Rally. Wrong! The slide still leaks!

Francis Honey writes: Nice to hear from you Don. I think that the best I can say about this is "I guess this is the best that it gets!" Actually, I'm doing rather well. I'm walking the dog, again. She seems to know that she needs to be careful with me and walks gently along side me until!! RABBIT!! Then she's gone. And I'm down .Since falling is a hazard, now, it's nice to get practice.

Our motor home has, at last, recovered from our Florida and Alaska trips. We are emotionally ready also. But I tire way too quickly to go anywhere. All of those people who drive by and want to accept the motor home as a gift, when I die, keep me motivated in my strength training. So maybe...

Give everyone our thanks for their continued interest in our adventures.

Francis and Barbara

Dan and Norma Hollenshead had a blowout of the inside duel on the way to Branson, MO. Fortunately, they were close to a rest stop and pulled off to await assistance. If they would have driven much further, it is very likely that they would have experienced further damage and even a fire. Dan said that the tire remnants had bunched together in the undercarriage and was very hot to the touch. A smiling Dan was sitting in a lawn chair in the parking lot of the International Rally where he was watching the tire guy changing to four new tires that Dan had just purchased, the front ones having been replaced just a bit earlier.

Tails from the Trail

Pat and Don Lange were sitting with a group at the Bluewater State Park in western New

Mexico, talking about their units as is often the case when Holiday Rambler members are together. Don was complaining that their previous two Holiday Ramblers had many more features and seemed to be better built than the current, 2003 Endeavor that they are driving. Among other complaints, was that it is a problem getting hot water when out dry camping because there is no switch to turn on the propane water heater. Instead, he said, they had to heat water on the stove so that Don could shave. They even used stove heated water to take a "Navy shower", putting hot water in a sink and washing with a wash cloth.

Don Guerin sat there quietly and listened, his face registering wonder, perhaps even disbelief. He asked of Don Lange, "Well, what switches do you have for hot water?" Don Lange continued by complaining that he had only a 120 volt switch and a 12 volt switch. "Why would Holiday Rambler put in a water heater that heated with the chassis battery?"

Don Guerin said, "Let's go look at those switches!" They did. Don Guerin pushed the 12 volt switch and then both of them went outside to listen at the water heater compartment. The water heater was heating with propane! Now one of the faces was registering surprise/chagrin...and it wasn't Don Guerin's face! The literal minded Don Lange thought that "12 volt" meant that the water was to be heated by battery instead of recognizing that "12 volt" meant that the propane heating process was simply activated by a 12 volt ignition system.

Chapter Secretary

Chapter 81 has an opening for the position of Secretary. Don Lange is the acting Secretary at present but will step down at the end of December, or before, should someone else volunteer for the position.

CANCELLED CANCELLED
Chama Choo-Choo Camp out

by Rosanna Hays

ALL ABOARD!! For the Chama Choo-Choo Campout September 4-6, 2009 at the Little Creel RV Campground in Chama, NM. This will be our farewell campout to summer time so don't miss the joys of being in beautiful northern New Mexico. The Cumbres and Toltec Railroad is a trip you will not want to miss even if you have had the pleasure on a previous occasion. High mountain cool breezes will soothe your warm brow as you enjoy the tales of this historic narrow gauge railroad. Bill and Rossanna Hays will be the Wagon Masters. FYI, Rossanna's Tucumcari High School Classmate, Frank Turner has been instrumental in solidifying the current success of this significant corner of NM.

Western Sunshine Rally

Get your 2010 calendar out and mark the dates of February 2-6 so that you have a firm date for the Western Sunshine Rally. After many years, the Western Sunshine Rally will return to the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, Arizona. With improved 30 and 50 amp electric available and many full service hookups, this facility should provide comfortable RV sites. Many of us remember the very large buildings and the quiet setting just east of the city of Tucson. Situated right off I-10 at the Houghton Road exit, it is an easy access, often serving as an overnight stop for RV's as they try to find a good place to stop.

Erwin and Marilyn Peake have agreed to be the primary rally coordinators. They have asked long time national rally coordinators Shirley and Charles Otten to work with them. Pat and Don Lange also have accepted some responsibilities in helping them put on a stellar good time. "Howling at the Moon over Tucson" is the selected theme and should provide them with lots of freedom to build exciting events. Tours will include, of course, the famous Pima Air Museum and Bone Yard.

Also being considered for tours are the Old Tucson Studios, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Western and Eastern Saguaro National Parks, San Xavier del Bac and Tumacacori missions, Tubac (an art community), the deGrazia Gallery, and Colossal Cave. For the hikers and bikers in attendance, experienced leaders are available.

Ahh! There simply is too much to describe in one column. Watch for this column in each of the next several issues for more information and for the registration form. You simply cannot miss this big, February event for Holiday Ramblers!

The New Mexico State Rally is coming up fast. Do not let the opportunity to learn about and explore the unique community of Deming in Southern New Mexico October 26-29, 2009. The climate at this time of year is most accommodating. The residents are genuinely western friendly. Experience something you have not done before whether it is adventuring as a rock hound, reliving the days of Pancho Villa or exploring the "Smithsonian of the Southwest," you will chock it up to another Holiday Rambler Educational Adventure. See you in Deming!

Upcoming Events

(Cancelled)

September 4-6: Chama Campout

Wagon masters: Hays

September 7: Breakfast at Shoneys

October 5: Breakfast at Shoneys

October 13-17: Chapter 500 Pusher Rally

La Hacienda RV Park, Las Cruces

October 26-29: New Mexico State Rally

Little Vineyard RV Park, Deming

November 1: Breakfasts as Shonys

September Birthdays

29 Don Guerin

30 Rusty Mason

Did you know that you can live without soft water but it's hard?