

Earl's Diary - Friday - February 3, 2012

I had a couple interesting things happen today. To digress a bit however. Thursday, just outside Bakersfield, I filled the gas tank - at \$3.60/gal. I thought that was OK.

With a full tank I pulled up over Tehachapi Pass toward the town of Barstow. On the journey I passed several gas stations at Kramer's Junction (that's where U.S. 58 and U.S. 395 cross). My gas gauge said only 1/4 used. Why stop there then? There will be lots of stations going through Barstow.

WRONG! No off freeway stations located as I zipped along. U.S. 58 merges with I-15, which in turn, a few miles later, splits off to I-40 (my destination). Still no off freeway stations. Oh well, still used a little more than 1/4 tank. Ah! there's a sign! Gas 45 miles ahead. That's just the right distance for me! So, I drove on.

I arrived at the small community of Ludlow with its two gas stations. Now, Ludlow is about half way between Barstow and Needles. There's hardly anything there except those two gas stations and a motel. It must be there to do with the railroad which runs nearby.

To my pleasant surprise, out in the middle of nowhere there is a DAIRY QUEEN!!! Needless to say, after gassing up, I had to indulge in a sundae!

I thought gas prices were highway robbery at \$4.20/gal. I bought just enough to get me to Needles (my stop for the night). Then, another BIG surprise - as I traveled through the town of Needles, the most inexpensive gas price at the local ARCO station was \$4.40/gal!!!!!! Now the big decision will be: shall I gas up in California or wait until I get into Arizona.

Now, on to another matter. My new Chevy is performing like a jewel! Pulling over Tehachapi Pass was an easy matter for it. You see, I'm still getting used to driving it, pulling a trailer. Those two extra cylinders sure make a difference in the power. I was even passing slow moving trucks! In the old 6 cylinder Chevy I would be down shifting all the time pulling up the steep grades.

I am now set up at Desert View RV Park and will head for Buckskin Mountain State Park, near Parker, Arizona tomorrow. This will be the first of two "cult" gatherings. They are calling this the "Pre-Quartzsite" gathering. I guess someone wanted MORE gatherings so started this one. I will be at this park for four nights before heading down the road to the real "Quartzsite" gathering next Wednesday.

In looking over the attendance roster, I see almost all of the attendees are Casita owners. (Casita is another type of molded fiberglass trailer). Casita owners are just as enthused with their Casitas as we Scamp owners are enthused with our Scamps! I will try not to embarrass the Casita owners with the appearance of my fifth wheel Scamp. (Casita doesn't make a fifth wheel model.)

That's about all I can report now. Buckskin Mountain State Park doesn't have WiFi available, so you may not hear from me for a couple days until I go into Parker and find the local McDonald's. Until then, thanks for coming along with me - - Earl



A view from my trailer. Off in the distance, to the right, Bullhead City Arizona. Down below lies the City of Needles, California. Notice the green patches along the Colorado River.

