

# 2012 North West RV Trip

## March 24 thru June 20, 2012

We left home on Saturday, March 24 and returned to Rockledge on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 We traveled 7,434 miles in 88 days. So, this year's trip was 15 days and 1,556 miles longer than our 2011 South West trip. We visited 15 states. Unfortunately, we were not able to add any more states to our "States We Have Camped In" map. This trip was our first time to visit Glacier National Park. We were within 300 miles of the park in 2007 when we traveled to Seattle for an Alaskan cruise, but we did not make it to Glacier on that trip.

As with our 2011 trip, our original plan was travel through Oklahoma so we could add another state. However, our final route took us around Oklahoma. Oh well, maybe next trip. We have visited all of the "lower 48" states, with the exception of California, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oklahoma.

As with most of our RV Trips, we met a wide variety of "stuff" on our trip including a wide range of temperatures. Daily highs ranged from highs of just over 40 to over 90. Daily lows ranged from lows in the low 20s to lows in the low 70s. We had almost all dry days with no precipitation, however, we did have some rain (thankfully not much) we also drove through snow for about an hour in Wyoming between Thermopolis and Casper. Overall, we had GREAT weather. As you can imagine, carrying clothes appropriate for such a Variety of weather is a challenge. That is another reason we enjoy travel by RV, we can carry a wide variety of clothes and nearly enough food for our three month adventure.

Altitude ranged from near sea level here in Florida to over 7,000 feet in Montana. Even gas prices were not immune to large fluctuations with a low of \$3.13/gallon to a high of \$4.01 in isolated St. Mary, Montana. Fortunately, we bought only 10 gallons in St. Mary. It is interesting to note these gas prices were very similar to our 2011 RV Trip to the South West. As with last year gas prices were mostly in the neighborhood of \$3.75.

Fortunately, we had very little RV excitement along our trek. These included: 1) A lock smith to work on our entry door jam, 2) Temporary fix to our awning cover to defeat the wind, and 3) Concerns with our black water tank. We also developed the same "very funny sound" we had last year. We never did figure out what it was, but after an hour or so it stopped and never did reappear.

Oh yes, we do not want to forget our trusty radio, which was not so trusty when it stopped working. The replacement we had installed in Albuquerque, NM worked like a charm for the rest of the trip. This new radio also allowed use of our XM satellite radio. This was very handy in the isolated areas we traveled through.

We were able to stay in cell phone and Internet/Email contact through out our trip. The Net 10 phone we purchased in Montana was a big help in keeping us "on the cell phone grid."

We truly love traveling around our GREAT country and visiting the outstanding sites in all parts of the country. We are particularly fond of the Western US. This trip took us to some of the areas we have visited before and also several new areas. This was our first visit to Bear Lake in UT, Salt Lake City, Cody, WY and of course Glacier National Park Including the Canadian part of the Park.) We have been within a couple of hundred miles of the park before, however, this was first opportunity to actually visit the park. This NP is definitely on our must see list.

We also visited family (Shaun & Sharon and their family near Tyler, TX; Kelly in Austin; Howard & Rosemary in Los Cruces, NM; Lois & Ben in Wyoming; and Dels brother in Illinois.)The highlight of our visits was meeting Shauns family including our three new Granddaughters (Amanda, Becky, and Sarah.)

One of our many joys with RVing is meeting new friends and another highlight was when we met an extremely nice young couple in Moab Utah. We started visiting with Rick & Marcia as we were waiting to be seated for Breakfast in the Jailhouse Café. We invited them to join us and we had a VERY nice visit over breakfast. They are from Park City, UT and after our visit with them we added Park City to our list of places to see. We were VERY glad we did.

We also met several old friends, especially at the 2012 CALLERLAB Convention in Nashville, TN. Being in Nashville provided the opportunity to take in the show at the Grand Ole Opry. As you can imagine, the show was very good and visiting this icon of country/western music was impressive.

Del particularly enjoyed her opportunity to attend two art workshops, first on the way to Nashville with Marsha in GA and later on Memorial Day with Carla in Wyoming. She was also able to visit several art museums throughout the west. Of particular note was the Western Art museum in the Buffalo Bill cultural center in Cody, WY. Jerry also enjoyed the sites around Cody. .

We are recovering from our trip and will be getting caught up on mail, doctor appointments, and other such chores over the next few weeks. It won't be long before we will be planning and thinking about our trip next year. We are glad Del has fully recovered from her experience at Crazy Horse and the "VolksMarch". In fact we are both over the ailments we had on our trip this year.

We always enjoy our extended RV trips, and this year was no different.

We had another GREAT trip and we hope you have enjoyed our trip reports.

Thanx,

Jerry & Del