

# 2014 North West RV Trip

## March 14 thru July 7, 2014

We left home on Friday, March 14 and returned home on Monday July 7, 2014. Even though this was our longest trip time wise, it was not the longest milage. When we were planning this trip we estimated we would travel around 10,000 miles, however, we traveled nearly 8,000 miles.

Before we set off on this adventure we had a general plan which included a stops in Reno, NV for the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention and travel as far west as Portland, OR.

We were able to stick pretty close to our original plan, however, we hit a couple of "snags" along the way. We had planned to swing thru Michigan, but we determined we did not have the time. Then, while we were in Cape Girardeau, MO Del had to return to Jacksonville to be with Leslie while her husband, Doug, had some serious health issues.

We were able to add one more state to our "we camped here" map when we stopped for a few days in California.

We stopped in Reno, NV for the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention. We always look forward to the convention when we can meet new friends and get reacquainted with our friends from all around the square dance world.

We stopped in Mount Shasta in California (Near Mt Shasta Mountain) for two nights. What beautiful country & views of the mountain. We also stopped near Crater Lake in Oregon. Both places are at high altitude and covered with up to 10 feet of SNOW!! What a sight.

We spent four days in Portland, OR to visit with Jerry's son. Kelly was "tour guide" around the Portland area. What fantastic scenery - Mount Hood, numerous waterfalls, rolling hills and much more. We experienced all the weather Portland has to offer - sunny - rainy - hail - and we drove in some snow on Mt hood. Portland is also famous for GREAT food and Kelly made sure we sampled a big part of it - YUMMY!!!

After Portland traveled up the Columbia River Gouge toward Idaho. At Boardman, OR we headed South East and left the Gorge. We stopped in Baker City, OR for some much need rest.

After Baker city, we moved to Twin Falls, ID for a couple of days then on to Idaho Falls, ID. Here we visited the Maleluca store to fill our monthly order. Del also did some drawing on the Snake River in the middle of town.

We then moved to Jackson, WY. What beautiful country this is. Snow capped mountains near by and the National Wildlife ART Museum. After Jackson, we moved to Lander, WY for a visit and tour of the Eagle Bronze company. This was one of our "bucket list" items when we left home. They are a major foundry for bronze art work, including some VERY large art works. We then moved to Guernsey, WY for a visit with Jerry's sister and her husband. Then on the Lusk, WY for an art workshop - Del enjoyed this VERY MUCH!

After Wyoming we moved to Hill City, SD for a visit to Custer State park, Crazy Horse Monument and others - we always enjoy our visits here.

We moved from Hill City, SD to Rapid City, SD. Even though we have passed through this area 6 or 7 times, this was the first visit to Rapid City. We had lunch at the Firehouse Brewery & eatery. this is an historic fire station, very interesting place to eat. Del also found a fascinating high end western store. Very nice items, some museum quality.

After we left South Dakota, we stopped in Gibbon, Nebraska for a few days visit with Jerry's brother and his wife. We had a VERY nice visit. After Nebraska we made a stop in Le Claire, IA for a visit to the Antique Archeology shop. This is the Home base for Mike & Frank - - the American Pickers on the History Channel. It was very interesting to see many of the items we have seen them "pick" on the TV show. Among the gems was a "Von Dutch" motorcycle. This is a unique motorcycle created by Von Dutch several decades ago. It was modified to include a VW moto among other modifications. Mike paid \$21,000 for it. It is NFS (NOT FOR SALE).

After Iowa we moved on the Aurora, Illinois for a visit with Del's brother. We planned to be here a few days before continuing our "meander" to ward home. We met Bob's fiancee while here. Del plans to return in August for the wedding.

After Illinois we moved to Cape Girardeau, MO. This is the home town of Rush - one of our favorite talk radio hosts. While here we got word about a family emergency back home. Del flew to Florida and returned on June 22

We then moved to Little Rock, AR to attend the 63rd NSDC. This three day event is a gathering of dancers from all around he world. nearly 4,000 dancers attended and danced all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

We attended the ARTS meeting on Sunday and then headed home. After a brief stop in Jacksonville we arrived home on Monday, July 7. WOW - WHAT A TRIP.

The altitude during this adventure ranged from near sea level here in Florida to over 9,000 feet in Oregon. Even gas prices were not immune to large fluctuations with a low of \$3.16/gallon to a high of \$4.20 in a small isolated town in Nevada. Fortunately, we bought only 10 gallons at that high price. It is interesting to note these gas prices were very similar to our 2013 RV Trip.

We did have some RV excitement along our trek. These included: 1) A major leak (flood) in the driver's compartment when we got to Tallahassee; turns out the roof seal was in very bad shape, 2) Torn awnings which required major repair in New Mexico. All in all though - - nothing too major. The mobile RV Repair folks around the country are VERY much appreciated.

We were able to stay in cell phone and Internet/Email contact for most of our trip. There were some isolated areas with no service, but, fortunately these were few and far between.

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