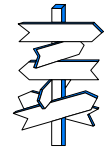




**THE MILEPOST**  
 Quarterly e-Newsletter of *Discovery Pioneers*,  
 a chapter of **Discovery Owners Association, Inc.**  
 First Quarter 2005



**Hello, Discovery Pioneers!**

This third installment is a tad late, but it just wasn't possible to create it sooner. Bob and I left Boulder January 18, heading to Arizona. We spent time at Gold Canyon, then headed to the remote mountains of eastern California along the Colorado River. Seven miles in from the river (up 1,000 feet, then back down 1,000 feet) we joined Ron and Betty Dierlam for a time at Black Meadow Landing, parking on the beach of the Gene Reservoir (the wild burros are prolific and very interesting, as are the bunnies...their ears are as long as their bodies, and they have black tails). After a time we headed south to Yuma for several weeks, visiting friends, then on over to Tucson to Beaudry RV for some warranty work. While there we visited Doug and Marty Marion at Voyager RV Park. Finally it was time to head north, so we went back to Gold Canyon for several days before coming home this past weekend.

Our one big excursion while at Black Meadow Landing was to Quartzsite. We missed most of the big doings, since it was early March when we got there. However, it was enough to give us a taste of the place. I was determined to visit the bookstore owned by the "naked man," and I was not disappointed. Remind me at Moab and I'll give you an in-depth description...of the store!

While we were in Yuma, we toured the countryside, marveling at the tremendous agricultural flavor of the valley. We saw huge fields of lettuce, broccoli, onion, strawberries...you name it, they grow it. We were told that if one drives down a road and spots a harvesting crew near the road, we should stop and get out of our car. We did, and we were given eight HUGE heads of freshly-cut lettuce to take home with us. The workers cannot accept money, so it was a real treat. We shared with friends and I must admit...I don't care for head lettuce, but this had to be the best I've ever tasted.



Kitts Peak Solar Observatory

We also went shopping in Algodones, just across the border from Yuma. It was interesting, and one has to be willing to bargain, otherwise it's no fun for the seller. Great buys...even haircuts, eye exams and glasses, and prescription medicines at remarkable prices. Another treat was attending a powwow at the

Quechan Nation...the dancers were terrific and I finally had a chance to try frybread...yum!

While we were in Tucson we took a day and went up to Kitts Peak National Observatory. This was a spot on my must-see list ever since I saw the photo of the then-newly built solar observatory in a 1960s issue of *National Geographic*. I wasn't disappointed. We took a tour inside the solar observatory, at the top and at the bottom, and then Bob and I trekked over to a 12-story observatory for a look-see. Unfortunately the elevator was broken, so I stayed on the ground and Bob walked up the 12 flights. (I am a sufferer of vertigo, and when the stairways are open as this one was, I am not able to take even one step up...I just physically cannot do it.) The mountain is covered with observatories of all sizes and descriptions, and the headquarters has very interesting exhibits.



Another interesting sight was getting a good look at the two new Discovery exterior colors...Newport Blue and White Diamond. The Newport Blue front is shown here; the White Diamond is similar to the Stonehenge, except the

colors are various shades of lighter gray.

We left Tucson for Gold Canyon and along the way stopped at Biosphere 2 near Oracle, Arizona. This is an amazing place to visit...a bit pricey, but very interesting. We walked through an enclosed rain forest, passed by an enclosed ocean, gladly left the humidity to step into an enclosed desert, and then we descended into the bowels of the huge complex to see what makes it all work. If you get a chance, don't miss this one.



Biosphere 2

As I got ready to create this issue, I found I had to first sort through three large boxes of accumulated mail, 90 percent of which was junk. Yikes, how can we stop all this junk mail? Does anyone have any ideas? I spent at least four hours today, opening envelopes (had to make sure no one sent us a check for a million dollars!), and I could have spent that time unloading the D, or somesuch.

But it wasn't completely in vain; I found two

envelopes containing membership applications! I have already emailed all of you with the addresses of John and Jan Kovach, and Ivan and Sheila Backes, and at the end of this newsletter you'll find an updated roster for your files. Welcome, Kovachs and Backes'!

Here's another funny bumper sticker: ***Where are we going, and why am I in this handbasket?***  
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**Greetings, Pioneer Members**

It's been a rather quiet time as far as Pioneer activity is concerned. That's not to say there was nothing going on, however. Nina has continued to keep us updated on membership changes, as well as notes of concern about our members. This has been a big undertaking, considering that she and Bob have been on the road for several months. We have several new members and hope to see them at as many of the summer rallies as possible. Welcome, new Pioneers!

In January, Jerry and I hosted a Pioneer mini-rally



Jerry, Marge, Carl, and Neil. We really did have fun...don't let the solemn expressions fool you.

at our home in Mesa, Arizona. Those attending were Carl and Marge Ropp (they winter in Gold Canyon, Arizona), Bob and Nina Soltwedel, Neil and Marlene Elkins, and Chuck and Vie Brock. The Brocks are

longtime friends of Neil and Marlene. We have to think that the fun evening we had must have carried some weight in their decision to join the Pioneers.

As for the new Pioneer season, we are looking forward to an exciting rally being hosted by Neil and Marlene Elkins. They have done a super job



Marlene, Bob, and Vie at the potluck.

of organizing what has all the earmarks of an outstanding, interesting, and fun rally. A pre-rally is planned where we will spend a couple of days at Monument Valley in southern Utah before caravanning on up to Moab where the bulk of the rally will take place. You won't want to miss this one.



Nina, Chuck, and Joyce at the potluck.

According to Wagon Masters Don and Nancy Gillam, June or July rallies have not yet been committed. Let me or the Gillams know **soon** if you would be willing to help with one of these months. We have some location ideas to consider. In other words,

**HELP!** Our bylaws require that we hold four rallies per year.

Jerry and I have had an enjoyable winter with our usual activities. It was an *unusual* winter, weatherwise, with lots of much needed rain. Reservoirs that were at 19 to 20 percent are not full with the high country melt yet to come. All this moisture has made for a spectacular and colorful show of wild flowers.

We have made several trips with our Sunrunners RV Club, so the D has gotten some exercise. The Ropps and us plan to get together for the trip to Monument Valley the first of May. Our wish is that you all had a blessed Easter, and we look forward to 'circling the wagons' in Moab to start a fun Pioneer season.

Your president, Joyce Wiechman  
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**What Ya Doin'?**

That was the question your editor asked of all of you a while back, hoping to get some feedback to pass on to everyone. Here are the notes I've received:

**Chuck and Vie Brock:** "Well, we have been busy. Since joining the group we made a trip to Rocky Point, Mexico (Puerto Penasco) with 11 other units. The wagon master and his copilot (who owns one of those "other" things) were both raised in Mexico and were our guides for the week. We toured the old port area and fish market, where the stars of the area are magnificent shrimp. The Sea of Cortez seems to be a shrimp factory of sorts. The shrimp range from "normal" size to "colossal") and are deeeeeelicious. We may pass some of them around at the Moab rally.

The area is a popular resort location for tourists from California and Arizona, plus a lot of snow birds like us. Rocky Point is growing a lot as the "gringos" are buying up condos and houses for second homes. Many hotels and RV parks are available for tourists and prices are comparable to US prices.

We were parked at the Playa De Oro RV Park, right on the water. The park has good water and a good restaurant on the property.

Shopping is fun and productive with the various merchants in town as well as the beach people who sell a huge variety of items.

Almost everywhere we went, English is spoken, easing concerns for those who don't know Spanish.

A worthwhile side trip is to Pintacara where there are volcanic craters and lots of great desert scenery. We visited the Elegante crater which is almost a mile wide and 1000 feet deep. While we were there, millions of butterflies flew out of the crater to greet us. We have a few pictures to share, but as most pictures go, they do not capture the magnitude of the

spectacle. If you like oysters, there is an oyster farm north of town where a few brave souls sampled them. And we lived to talk about it!

While on the subject of food, there are many wonderful places to eat throughout the area. We loved the Mexican cuisine a lot, but for those not so inclined, great American food is also available.

We closed on our new permanent address in Mesa, Arizona literally hours before we left for Oak Harbor, Washington. Today, we had breakfast with Neil and Marlene Elkins in St. George, Utah and then battled strong winds, rain and snow as we headed for Ogden, Utah. We will be in Washington state for the wedding, some touring before we join the group in Monument Valley and Moab."

**Jerry and Linda Molzahn:** "We went to Texas for a two-week class in tail-gunning for an RV caravan company...on the way, Linda had to stop off for an emergency drive-by gall bladder removal! She spent the night in the hospital after the surgery and the next day we were back on the road...talk about dedicated RV'ers.

Spent some time in nearby Louisiana in bayous and pre-Civil War plantation homes and eating Cajun-style; visited Galveston Island in World War II landing craft that took us through the city and then drove right into the bay! Properly inspired by the NASA Space Center at Houston and stayed at a real RV park actually inside a flea market ... shop a little, go home and rest and then shop some more!

Christmas in Sierra Vista, Arizona, exploring Fort Huachuca and the home of the Buffalo Soldiers. An inspirational trek up the side of the southern mountains through the snow-kissed switchbacks of the Stations of the Cross to the summit where the Our Lady of the Sierras 50-foot statue looks out over the Tombstone Valley alongside a monumental cross and a wonderful chapel beside a waterfall. Christmas Day at a movie set ghost town site called Gammons Gulch in the middle of nowhere just 12 miles north of the I-10 Benson turn off. Built by Jay Gammons for the last 30-some years (he lives in his own Grand Hotel on Main Street) who was a child actor and whose father was John Wayne's bodyguard. He has tremendous stories about Hollywood.

New Year's at Puerto Penasco, Mexico riding ATVs across huge sand dune mountains, beaches, and to remote villages. Feeding sea lions, shopping in mud malls, sunset dinner cruises with Scottish bagpipers piping down the sun and belly dancers afterward for dessert. (This in Mexico?) New Year's Eve on the beach with a huge bonfire and setting off your own firecrackers which they call "dynamite."

January at Quartzite staying with friends in a lovely hidden RV subdivision, riding into town across the desert on ATVs to attend all the markets and the

big RV tent show. Four-wheeling up Harquahala Peak, a renowned twelve-mile spectacle to the site of the first Smithsonian Observatory to study the sun.

In between, still building in Grand Junction and finished three homes and started several more! Anxious to see you all in Moab! Happy Trails!"

**Neil and Marlene Elkins:** "We got Nina's email while we were in Georgia-in the rain-where we attended the FMCA International Convention and a pre-rally with the other side of our Discovery "family." So we didn't pick up the email until we were on our way home; we chose not to lug our laptop through the rain and mud while we were at Perry. In spite of the rain and mud, we had a great time visiting with our FMCA chapter folks and attending the FMCA convention in Perry. While there we saw Ross and Alice Peery. We need to all talk to them while we're in Monument Valley and Moab... they were looking very hard at (gasp, choke, wheeze) Monaco coaches! They didn't bite so they are still in the fold, but we really need to have a heart-to-heart with them!

Before that trip, we went on a little jaunt to south Texas to visit Neil's brother and his bride. What a trip! It started raining on us in Phoenix where we had a great visit with our old (that is, *longtime*) and dear friends, Chuck and Vie Brock, Bob and Nina, Carl and Marge, and Jerry and Joyce. It was a great get-together and we really appreciated their hospitality. It was such a good time that Chuck and Vie bought a home there and have joined our Pioneer family.

From there we went to Tucson for a couple of days to visit other friends before going on to Texas. The trip down to Texas was a trip from Hell ... fog, drizzle, rain, snow and more rain. Plus, we started having some problems with the Discovery. The family visit was nice, but the cold, damp, and windy weather reminded Neil why he left there to join the Navy and never went back...

On the way home we stopped back by Tucson to get some work done on the Discovery. While we were there at Beaudry's we....whoops, I see I'm out of time and space. We'll have to continue this at a later time ... hopefully at Monument Valley and/or Moab."



**Dean and Nancy Miller:** "We have returned to Nathrop, Colorado, from Texas, and currently have our Nathrop home for sale. We're looking forward to joining you all for the May rally."

**Roger and Nancy Talich:** "We attended the Southeast Region rally at Lazydays and are on our way home to Colorado. We'll see you all at Moab."

**Otto and Emogene Harp:** "We have just returned from a couple months in Fredericksburg, Texas. This is the fifth winter that we have been at Fredericksburg RV Park. Many of the same people come back each year, so it's like having a second family there. Several of the ladies brought sewing machines and spent time together making quilts. Lots of activities...line dancing, crafts, exercise, potlucks, etc. And always new places to explore. We're sorry that we won't be able to join all of you for the outing in Utah in May, but hope to do some future outings. We look forward to meeting you. Have a great spring, and give Joyce and Jerry our best wishes."

**Ken and Cody Baker:** "We just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Boy! did our kids throw us a big party. It will be something we will never forget. We had about 98 friends and family there. Ken's 91-year-old dad was there and he had a ball. Also, we just became great-grandparents to a beautiful little girl."

We have two sons, four grandsons, and finally a girl! I'll bring pictures when we come to Moab."

**Leo and Jackie Everitt:** "We are moved in, i.e., the boxes stretch from front to rear and the unpacking has begun. We're doing all the usual things required of a move – new license plates, driver's licenses, etc. The area has an RV storage facility with wash building and dump, plus six full service sites available for guests. It's really nice to be able to just drive over to the lot to access the D and/or clean it up. Anyone coming down I-95 please stop by. We're just six miles off Interchange 8 in South Carolina. Just give us a call so we can arrange for entry and a site reservation."

**Richard and Mary Searle:** "Hello from the deaf couple, Richard and Mary Searle. We are at the FMCA rally in Perry, Georgia. Today is the last day of the rally, and we enjoyed it very much. Sure is a big rally, too! We are leaving in the morning for Arkansas to see my older sister for a few days before we hit the road back to Colorado for the summer. We will be going to San Francisco for the Senior Citizen Convention for the Deaf, September 5-10. If it wasn't for that, we'd love to be in Estes Park."