



TEXAS NORTH STAR SAMS AREA 17 - 2010 JULY NEWSLETTER

July ended our string of campouts at "First For US" locations as we opted to camp in the air-conditioned luxury of the Country Place Clubhouse. We appreciated the mature, good judgment by whoever chose air-conditioning over, "it's a hundred and somethin' outside. Somehow... we think Jerry must have been involved.

Jackie and Jim, and Mary Sue and Jerry hosted our event. Jim was obviously the Chief Chef while Jackie & Mary Sue served as our entertainment coordinators. Jerry provided event security. The entire event was perfectly planned and executed.



Tami & Marena made a huge contribution with the entertainment when they... Well... maybe you better talk to them about that.

Anyway... we had a great time again. Dan was not on the road for a change so we got to visit with him. Thanks to everyone, we over ate... again.

We had a "Brown Bag Auction" and Becky says we are now "Just Rollin' in Money"... or, at least we can probably honor our financial commitments.



2010 - Elected Officers

President:

Darrell Patterson

Vice President:

Tim Moran

Secretary:

Debbie Saffholm

Treasurer:

Becky Moller

Wagon Master:

Allen & Laura

LaTurner

Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor:

Jim Moller

Special Projects:

Del Duerr

Sunshine Chair:

Sally Ford

Chaplain:

Tami Patterson

Web Master:

Tim Moran



Del adds a clue to one of the pile of gifts for our "Brown Bag Auction." Del was also the official event photographer.

A little later Jerry Jones worked his auctioneering magic and the club is now "Back on its Feet" financially. Several of us were so entranced that we actually "up'ed" our own bids. Truly, every auctioneers dream audience.

Right... Jerry works the crowd.

Below... Lew and Tami... busy entertaining, while Jim assumes a manly pose in the background.



After two years of planning, Allen and I finally made the trip to South Dakota and Wyoming. Our travels included Sioux Falls, the Corn Palace, Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Monument, Yellowstone, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, and the Rocky Mountain National Park. The best part of the trip was Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills. We saw some spectacular vistas, waterfalls, elk, buffalo, and a grizzly bear with her two cubs. With the exception of some rain at night the first week, the weather was exceptional. We were constantly on the move from one objective to another with only two or three nights at some locations. We have definitely learned to set up and take down our camp in a few minutes. In the future we will take fewer clothes with only enough to fill a laundry basket and the color scheme will be monochromatic.

We have learned a few new facts. Hwy 81 north to South Dakota is part of the 17,000 mile Pan American Hwy that extends from Canada to the tip of South America. We took Interstate 80 from Salt Lake City to Cheyenne following the route of the California Trail and the Transcontinental Railway. It is difficult to imagine traveling these routes in covered wagons.

We know that most of our friends have traveled these same routes so we are not including the usual pictures. ***Like a game of Where is Waldo, we are asking you to name the location of our pictures.*** Of course, I have an album of pictures that I will be happy to share at our next gathering.

Allen & Laura LaTurner



1. Above: _____

3. Above: _____

2. Below: _____

4. Below: _____





5. Above: _____

6. Below: _____



7. Above: _____

8. Below: _____



9. Below: _____



10. Below: _____



Don't Miss This...

Here is the Deal...

Fill in the location for each picture in the numbered space by Laura & Allen's pictures.

If you are coming to the impromptu, un-approved August campout at Hickory Creek... bring the answers with you.

If you are not camping, email, text, or call the answers to Jim or Laura BEFORE Thursday, August 19th and you will be included in the contest.

Contest ??? Well of course... At Hickory Creek the person with the most correct answers (according to Laura) will win an expensive looking prize.

In case of a tie, we'll figure something out.

More Travelin'...

If you're wondering what they have in Amarillo, TX, it's beef! Lots and lots of beef! Jerry Jones and Mary Sue Wells recently joined Jim and Jackie Reid at the Oasis RV Resort in Amarillo. Jackie and Jim had just attended Jim's school reunion in Knox City, Texas. The four of us highly recommend this RV Park in Amarillo. It was one of the nicest we have come across in our travels.

Our first outing was to the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. What a lot of history under one roof – all about the 26,000 square mile expanse of the Panhandle Plains. From there we checked out a super hamburger place on Main Street, the first of many eateries we visited.

The next day, we ventured out to the Stockyards in Amarillo, and had lunch – "little steaks" at the locally well known Stockyard Cafe. Their definition of little is quite different than ours



Palo Duro scenery.....



This is the picture Jerry took of Jackie and Jim in front of the café.



Here is the picture Jim took of Jerry and Mary Sue in front of the café

The next day, Jackie and Jim spent the morning at the printing company where they had worked while in Amarillo. We met them around noon, and were taken to lunch by Jim's former boss Nell Foust, a truly wonderful lady. Her family has had the print shop pretty much forever. Jim had worked there 25 years, Jackie 7 years. We were treated to some amazing Mexican cuisine, and of course most all of it was made with – what else – beef!

The next morning, we checked out the Donut Stop – which you cannot miss as it has the largest sign in Amarillo – really, I do think it's true! It has every breakfast pastry known to man, and we did our best to try most of them! We knew we were going to have to exercise some of this off, so Jackie had thoughtfully planned a lot of walking for us.



We ventured over to the Harrington House, which was right across the street from that print shop where Jim and Jackie had worked. What a treasure to have in your neighborhood. It is shown by appointment only. We were met there by two ladies from the Amarillo Area Historical Society, who were delightful tour guides. The beautiful 4 story colonial home was originally built by two cattlemen who wanted a place to “hang their hats” when in Amarillo. It was eventually bought by the Harrington family. It is exquisite in every way – from the towering oaks in the surrounding gardens to the imported Versailles parquet flooring, the lovely area rugs in every room, the walls of one room that have carvings of the history of the West, to the room where stars like Clark Gable and Sophia Loren stayed when they were in town for one of the Harrington parties. Jackie and I were not allowed to touch the bed where Clark Gable had slept, even though we offered to pay! The home is truly worthy of a visit if you are in the area.



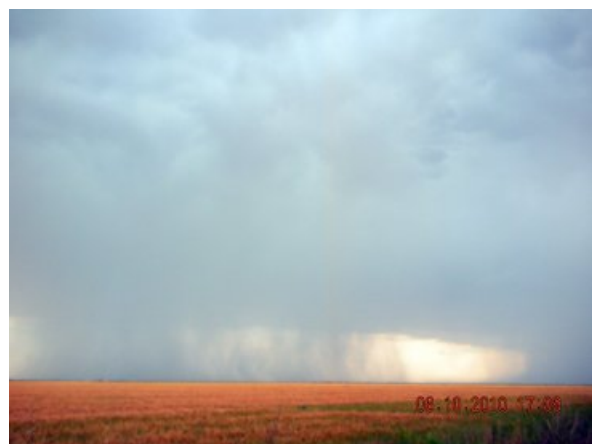
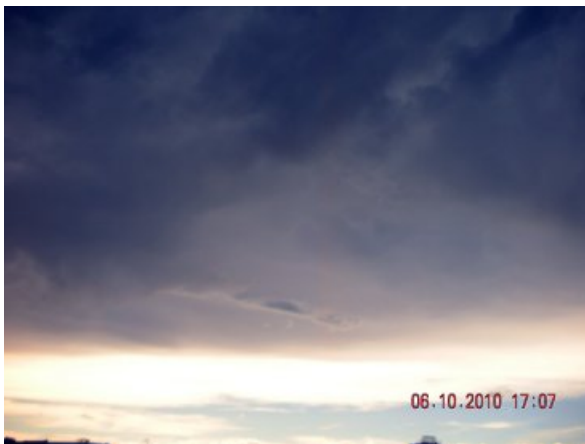
The Harrington House in Amarillo, TX



That night we went to the world famous Big Texan Steak Ranch where you can eat a 72 ounce steak with all the trimmings for free – as long as you eat every bite. We were told when we arrived that we had just missed a 64 year old gentleman do just that. Since we had already consumed half a cow in four days, we opted for smaller steaks, which were as good as we had heard they would be. There were several tour buses there, the house was packed, and the western musicians were terrific. When they played Orange Blossom Special, it sounded like the original!



Jim is thinking – bring on that steak! Jackie is wondering if she can possibly eat another bite of beef!



That evening we were blessed with a good, hearty West Texas thunderstorm - wow!

The wind in Amarillo can be fierce – as you can see above – Jackie and Jim almost blew away in the wind later that evening!!

We left Jackie and Jim there to have more fun and eat more beef. Jerry and I could no longer button any of our clothes, and since we couldn't go out in public that way, we headed back to Carrollton, where we immediately went on a diet and paid a visit the next morning to the walking track and exercise machines at the local Senior Center.

But it was all worth it – we had a grand time in Amarillo!



Really Neat Ideas... "I think it would be a good idea to do a newsletter issue centered around the animals **BEHIND** the campers. You could get pictures of everyone's animals and put them in the newsletter with comments as well as give them a place on the Website. People really have a glow when you talk about their pets and this is also a positive I would think for new people looking to join the club." Herb

We officially adopted Herbs suggestion at the August Meet & Eat. We will make the September newsletter the "Pets Issue" this year. That means... Jim needs a couple descriptive sentences about your pet(s) and a picture, or two. If you are in the pictures too that would be a plus I think. Some folks have already gotten theirs finished and we are ready to print them. Others have agreed to send something soon.

I think it is a neat idea and we would hate to miss knowing what is special about your pet.

Get 'er done !!! Please... Jim

Coming Events...

Our Next Three Campouts...

August 20-21 No Campout! - There is an unauthorized gathering at Hickory Creek to watch the hot air balloons. call or email Jim Moller (or anyone) if you need details.

Sept. 15-18 - Mini Rally at the Canton Civic Center - registration on line beginning April 1 at www.txminirally.com.

October 15-16 - Fort Richardson - Jacksboro - Make your own reservations via web or phone (512-389-8900).

For Much More Information... Visit our website at:

<http://www.northstarsams.org>