

Well, another vacation. We left on Wednesday, the 28th of June, and drove to Tonopah, which is in the middle of Nevada. It is an old (1900) mining town. Lots to see there. It has had its ups and downs and now has a population of 2400. The next day we looked at ghost towns in that part of Nevada and arrived in Austin to spend the night. No AAA recommendations here, but I had picked the "best" motel in town. Ha. The motel was a series of manufactured housing with small rooms and no door on the bathroom. The town (1865) was a big disappointment as well. They had a great web site but the town was nothing. Pop 450. To top it off, an ice cream truck pulled in and ran its motor all night to keep the ice cream cold. The other two motels were worse. Austin is on US 50, which is billed as the loneliest road in the US. Off the next day to more mines and ghost towns with Friday night spent at Battle Mountain. It is 50 miles east of Winnemucca. Not much in this town but casinos. It is stop on I-80 for travelers.

The next day (Saturday) we drove north into Oregon to meet Nicole and Eduardo in Fields, OR. A gas station, café, and B and B was the town. Nice place and we did some hiking in the Pueblo mountains south of Fields. We stayed two nights in Field and then drove up to French Glen, 60 miles north on Monday. We stayed in a historical Hotel and met some nice people. Town was about the same size as Fields.

Central Nevada and southeast Oregon are largely desert and the towns are small and far between. We had never been to this part of the West before. Lots of places to still visit in the great basin area.s

On the Fourth of July we drove to Bend to stay at Nicole and Eduardo's new house on the west side of Bend. Lots of Activity on the Deschutes river which runs through town. Saw fireworks and listened to lots of firecrackers.

Today, Sharon and I went for a hike, but got stopped by snow. We made it half way to Green lakes north west of Mt. Batchelor. I have attached a picture of the snow on the trail. One more week and we will be back in Hermosa Beach.

JIM and SHARON