

Earl's Diary - Friday, February 1, 2013 (part 2)

I got a late start from Needles this morning (about 10:30). Of course, that didn't matter too much because I was only going to travel about 70 miles. The ride down the California side of US 95 from Needles to Vidal Junction is a beautiful desert drive. The pavement is very good as it meanders up and down through the desert landscape. A person can see all types of rock sculptures on the trip. Several times I noticed piles of eroded sandstone that looked like piles of mud. Other times different layers and colors of sandstone shone off in the distance. This part of the desert is not flat! The ups and downs of the road reminded me of riding a roller coaster. Lots of trucks were heading north. This route must be a thoroughfare from either Parker, AZ or Blythe, CA.

After traveling south 54 miles from Needles, I arrived at Vidal Junction. What's at Vidal Junction you ask? Nothing but a California Border Inspection station. That's it! At one time there was a restaurant and two gas stations. All are closed now. I didn't see any homes in the area. I guess the inspection personnel live elsewhere. Vidal is at the crossroads of highway 95 and 62.

From the crossroads, it's just 17 miles to the Colorado River and Parker, Arizona. I stopped at the local Walmart. Was it busy!!!! In fact, my impulse buying filter was engaged and I walked out without buying anything! I decided to wait until tomorrow and go to the local Safeway (just across the street from Walmart). I will pick up a few supplies then.

Up the road, about 10 miles, is Buckskin Mountain State Park. I arrived in time to check in and claim my spot. So here I am now! This afternoon I took a short walk about the park and noticed signs announcing a campfire program for 6:30 tonight. Oh Boy, I thought. I will be sure to make that. At 5:45 I was eating my dinner and had plenty of time to make the campfire. NOT! Wouldn't you know it? I came across the Colorado River into Arizona. I forgot the time changes. I missed the campfire program. Oh well! That was my most exciting occurrence for today.

Tomorrow I will travel back into town to do a little grocery shopping and find a WiFi spot. (That will either be McD's or the library). Until then, thanks for coming along with me today. Bye for now - - Earl :-)

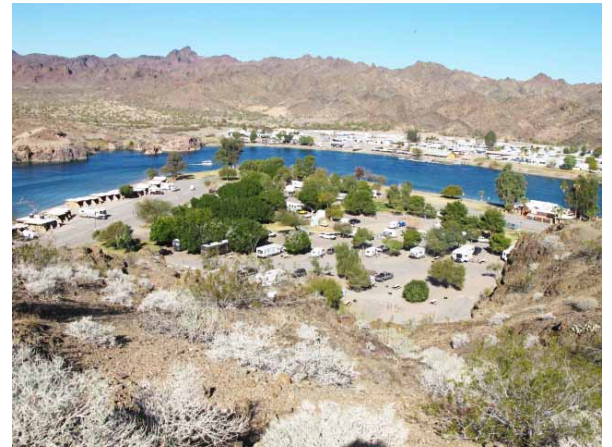
Earl's Diary - Saturday, February 2, 2013

Here it is Saturday morning already! I was lazy and slept in until - - - - - (I'll never tell). After a leisurely breakfast I went for a walk with my camera in hand. The weather is overcast and a little chilly. I had to wear a sweater. Here are a few pictures I took.



“The Peanut” parked in site #47. If it looks like a picture from last year - it isn't! It IS the same site however. Last week when I made the reservation I saw site 47 was available, so I took it. Notice the tin can behind me.

This is a picture of Buckskin Mountain State Park. (This IS a picture from last year. I didn't feel like hiking to the top of the mountain this year.) This view is looking west into California.



My! Those Californians know how to pack them in! It's hard to imagine there's an hour's time difference between here and there.



I must be off for town now to get this epistle on it's way to you folks. Bye for now - - Earl