

February Worldmark Travels

By Corky Warfield Justice

We made two trips in February and had a great time on both.

From Feb 8 through Feb 11 we went to one of our vacation resorts at Bass Lake, CA. It's only about two hours from us at approximately 3,000 ft level. It was sunny here in the valley when we left, but by the time we reached Bass Lake it was cloudy and looked like rain. Bass Lake is only about 30 min from Chukchansi Casino, but this time we didn't even make a trip there. It was just too pretty around the lake.

When we went to bed Sunday night, about 11:00pm, I looked out the window and it was spitting snow. Being a California girl and living much of my life in the central valley, snow was a rare thing for me. So, I kept waking up and looking out to make sure it hadn't stopped snowing yet (smiles). We got up the next morning to approximately 3 to 4 inches of snow everywhere. It was so pretty. We walked in the snow, threw some snowballs (Bob was happy that he still had a pretty good throwing arm), and just generally enjoyed all the white stuff. It stayed on the trees and ground until we left on Wednesday and had started snowing again. Since then they have had several more inches, which is dearly needed. I was hoping to try some fishing, but under the circumstances that didn't happen this time.

We took a second trip from Feb 22 through Feb 28 to another Worldmark in Indio. This was the total opposite of Bass Lake. It was in the high 70s the whole time we were there. This resort is only about two years old and one of the largest they have. We really enjoyed the sunshine and warm weather (had been and still was grey, rainy, and on the cool side in Exeter).

Our room was overlooking the "Lazy River" and it was neat to sit on the balcony and listen to the music, watch the "floaters" and walkers in the river. We kept saying we were gonna get down there, but somehow never got around to it. Next time for sure.

Monday we went shopping and vegged.

On Tuesday we went to the Living Desert and walked around. We were both disappointed in it overall. One of the best parts was a model train exhibit they had. It was different scaled trains all set up outside with little towns, logging areas, Grand Canyon, etc. We naturally thought of John Bauman and wondered if he had ever been there. The next was wild mountain goats in a large enclosed area. They blended in with the color of the rocks and at first it was hard to find them. Then at the very top we saw one with huge curved horns standing on top of the mountain with his head surrounded by clear blue sky. There were several more just below him. He was definitely the king of the mountain and looked like he was posing for all the picture takers. I of course, had left my camera back at the condo.

We felt the downside was not the initial price to get in (\$22.00 for both of us - senior rate), but after you get in there is a \$6 charge per person if you want to take the shuttle, which buzzes

through the compound explaining where you are. You can get off at designated spots to do browsing etc and then get back on. The other was a butterfly/humming bird exhibit that they charged \$2 per person to see, unless you were a member of the Living Desert Club. Since we have butterflies and humming birds at home, we decided not to see this one. Bottled water was \$3 and sodas were \$3.50, however, there are water faucets scattered. We suggest taking your own water.

Wednesday we walked around our complex and drove around Indio etc and generally did a little site seeing.

Also on Wednesday we went took a ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. If none of you have done this it is awesome and well worth the time. It was redone in 2000. It's a two mile trip ending at the 8500 foot level. There are two cars that travel up and down every 20 minutes. They do a 360 degree turn twice on the way up and down very slowly so you don't even notice it except for the change of view. They would hit a little "bump" when they crossed over the large supports and the kids thought that was really neat.

It was very windy at the top; they said that it was unusual to be that windy. And of course there was lots of snow up there. They have a nice restaurant, buffet type snack bar and a regular bar. If you are into having a cocktail, I can vouch that the Bloody Mary I had was very very good. However, at that altitude, two would have put me asleep.... We both enjoyed this adventure very much.

Thursday we had another veg day.

Friday, Carol & Tommy Roberts joined us and spent the night. We had a great time doing our usual talking, catching up, eating and just enjoying each other's company. Tommy knew of a great Mexican restaurant in Palm Desert (Casuelas - I think was the name of it) and we had dinner there. They have the biggest yummy Margaritas I've had in a long time. We went to breakfast Saturday morning and then headed to our respective homes.

We like to travel/vacation in the spring and fall when places aren't so crowded and not too hot or too cold.