



GULF STREAMERS E-NEWS

GREETINGS FROM GULF STREAMERS.....

They say time flies when you're having fun; in my case, that must mean I'm having the time of my life! But I wouldn't have it any other way! Between getting my sons off to school (Kent off to college and Quinn off to his first year in high school--high school, already? But that's my baby!), learning a new job and trying to get moved into my new house this month has been anything but slow and boring.

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally is just around the corner. There's still time to join us and what a time to visit! Albuquerque is celebrating its Tricentennial – a fiesta 300 years in the making with events and exhibits honoring their 300 years of art, history & culture. Chosen by the American Bus Association as the #1 event on the list of the Top 100 Events in North America for 2006, the Albuquerque Tricentennial concludes in October with the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, a world-renowned attraction and destination. Join us as we experience this beautiful magical moving picture show of hot air balloons sailing silently through the crisp fall air.

It's also not too late to register for the Copper Canyon Piggyback Train 29-day tour. We had originally planned this to be a 19-day tour October 26 – November 13, but due to a lack of participation we had to make some adjustments. Please note that the new dates are October 27 – November 24. The 29-day caravan is the ultimate of all Copper Canyon Trips. Going to Batopilas at the bottom of the canyon is a whole new experience. Here you'll mingle with local Tarahumara Indians as they go about their daily activities in this tiny oasis of civilization. It will be truly be an experience of a lifetime!

Be watching for the Pigeon Forge Family Rally flier! We will be traveling to Pigeon Forge July 13-17, 2007. Activities include Dollywood (what trip to Pigeon Forge would be complete without a visit to Dollywood?), Splash Country Water Park, Dixie Stampede, Rails & River tours, & horseback riding in the mountains. There is something for everyone! I'm putting the finishing touches on it now and will have that information to you just as soon as possible.

I spend a great deal of time on the Internet while planning rallies and a couple of sites have come to my attention that I would like to share with you. One of my favorites is roadsideamerica.com. As I've mentioned before, the road less traveled holds a particular fascination for me. The Road Side America site catalogs by state the offbeat attractions and allows visitors to post their opinions & experiences. Check it out who knows what you might find?

Another activity that I've been introduced to this summer is geocaching. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game, in which participants (called "geocachers") use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world! A typical geocache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure" (usually toys or trinkets of little monetary value).

For the traditional geocache, the geocacher will place a waterproof container (my first geocache discovery was in an old spice jar) containing a log book (with pen or pencil) and treasures, then note the geocache's coordinates. These coordinates, along with other details of the location, are posted on a website. Other geocachers obtain the information from the Internet and, using GPS receivers, seek out the geocache. The finding geocachers record their exploits in the logbook

NEWS YOU CAN USE.....

PRESS RELEASE

JURY DUTY IDENTITY THEFT SCAM

Please pass this on to everyone in your email address book. It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Most of us take the summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty that a new and ominous kind of scam has surfaced. Fall for it and your identity could be stolen, reports CBS.

In this con, someone pretending to be a court official calls, threateningly saying that a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you didn't show up for jury duty. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator.

If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, this scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes they even ask for credit card numbers. Give out any of this information and bingo! Your identity is stolen.

The scam has been reported in 11 states so far. This scam is particularly insidious because the perpetrators use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they're with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud. Pass this on.

Just a quick note... Whenever I receive an email (the Jury Duty Identity Theft Scam, the Bill Gates/Microsoft/AOL giveaway, Slow Dance Poem written by a terminally ill little girl), I check it out at www.Snopes.com. Snopes is an invaluable source for determining whether an email is legitimate or urban legend. So when in doubt, check it out!

To encourage tourists to make the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast their next vacation destination, RV Adventure Videos is producing a video called "Gulf Coast RV Adventure."

Producer John Holod (***traveling in a Gulf Stream towable trailer***) has recently returned from filming some of the devastation that has taken place. "The damage is severe in some areas," says Holod, "but don't forget, the Gulf Coast stretches 1,700 miles from South Florida to the Texas/Mexico border. There are plenty of great vacation spots to visit that have not been impacted by the hurricanes."

"The story of rebuilding the hard hit areas will be a great one," says Holod. "Most of us sat in stunned silence as we watched the devastation that had taken place along the coast last fall. We all wanted to do something to help. Well, there is something people can do to help, especially if they're RVers. They can "Go to the Gulf!"

"Even if there are no hotels open or there is a lack of electricity, you can still take a trip to this beautiful area in an RV," added Holod. "The people and businesses desperately need tourist dollars. If RVers would like to take it one step further, they can volunteer to help with the cleanup or cook meals for those that have lost their homes and are still living in shelters." The video will be released late next year. John Holod and Jodie Ginter will be heading to New Orleans during Christmas to help with the rebuilding and shoot footage for the new video.

