



Happy Towel Day...

Tonopah, 5/16/23, 7:37 AM

Greetings Cohort,

I'm still, somehow, having a twinge of doubt; we will see how that sugars off as this day wears on. My Uncle Newton said that the first day is always the hardest, to overcome the inertia of several months sitting still.

This tracking programme should let you sort of ride along. The two IDs usually leapfrog, both should end up at the same place eventually.

<https://aprs.fi/#!call=a%2FNU7DE%2Ca%2FK1OIQ&timerange=3600&tail=3600>

I will have some limited connectivity for email. Text to 602.390.7932 might work too. Alternate: 602.706.6634. I'll check both at once in a while.

Hugs, ajo

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Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.

~Plato

Congress, 5/16/23, 12:44 PM

Greetings Cohort,

Made the easy climb as far as Congress. Stopped at North Ranch SKP camp for lunch and decided that 95f is too hot for climbing the Yarnell Hill. I'll try that in the cool-cool-cool of the morning.

Considerable road rerouting in Vulture pass. The nice wide turnout parking & camping area has been replaced by a fancy bridge that takes most of the wiggles out of the road over the pass.

Stay tuned for more news from on the road again tomorrow.

Hugs, ajo

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When we find ourselves believing that killing a man makes us more of a man but loving a man makes us less of a man, it's probably time to re-examine our criteria for manhood.

— Jay Smooth

Mormon Lake, 5/18/23, 11:56 AM

Greetings Cohort,

At Mormon Lake AridZona today. Arrived yesterday in a hellacious thumper. raining sideways, pea hail, newly paved road with no lane markers.

From Congress SKP Park where I believe I lost my not-red sun bonnet, up the hill to i40 was uneventful other than finding Diesel for \$4.35 (nearly a dollar less than some other places) in Chino.

In Historic Williams east bound bi40 had no room for The...Inn so I U-turned back to the west bound side where there was lots of empty parking suitable for /The Cat Drag'd Inn/ to park for lunch. After lunch the 3208 would not start with the usual start button but the outback maintenance start button worked so there's another problem to fix.

On towards Pie Town tomorrow.

Hugs, ajo

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I've grown old.  
Now my own name  
Rings a bell.

--Billy Collins, u.s. Poet Laureate 2001-2003

Hwy 269 MM277, West of Heber, 5/19/23, 3:21 PM  
Greetings Cohort,

Tuesday, no longer eastbound at mile marker 277, Hwy 269, between Payson and Heber, across the street from the Colcord ADOT Yard.

N 34 17.636 -110 58.639 W

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/34%C2%B017'38.2%22N+110%C2%B058'38.3%22W/@34.2939377,-110.979897,732m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d34.2939333!4d-110.9773167>

I fine couple of days with Paul at Mormon Lake hiking in the woods, visiting stone circles, cold water springs, wiring a couple of ceiling fans and of course picking up trash. Then south on Lake Mary Road, Hwy 209, very smooth pavement, through Happy Jack, to Hwy 87 where the smooth becomes rough, then really rough, and finally there is a sign that proclaims "ROUGH ROAD". Lots of ups and downs. Prob'ly a nice scenic drive if I weren't so busy staggering between pot holes. Finally at Payson Hwy 260 turns east towards Show Low, my sort of target for last chance shopping.

At about 0900 I stopped at the above location to have a cup of tea and walk about a bit. And that was the end of that days drive. So far at least.

After tea the bus would not start but this time is not the same problem as a few days ago. I spent a few hours troubleshooting--thank you Allan--and commiserating--thank you Paul--and finally putting away my tools and calling AAA for a tow.

AAA is my service provider. I've been a member for 27 years and in that time they have towed this bus once in Washington and twice in AridZona. However now AAA has changed their rules. They no longer tow old buses. Interestingly some big truck towing rigs will not tow Class A motor homes.

Needless to say I am somewhat pissed off to say the least. I've been two hours on the phone, bouncing from one rejection to another whilst The...Inn rocks from side to side in the slip stream of fast moving vehicles speeding up the hill I should have been over hours ago.

So far I have a towing appointment for maybe monday. If anyone wants to come visit over the weekend there is plenty of parking in this turn-out and plenty of trash to pick up. Fortunately I have plenty of wine and toilet paper.

Hugs, ajo

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If children are to keep alive their inborn sense of wonder, they need the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with them the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

—Rachel Carson (paraphrased to current PC standards...)

Tonopah, Allan's Garage, 5/20/23, 9:47 PM  
Greetings Cohort,

Thank you all for riding along. That last leg from Hwy280 MM 277 was an exciting ride. And an expensive one. AZ HD Towing as much as said we'll be right up. Their fancy year-old truck hauler showed up at 2330 and by 0300 /The Cat/ was /Drag'd Inn/ to Allan's Garage in Tonopah. \$2800.00. Too early to say if that is the end of my Summer Savings. We yet have to learn what went wrong and effect repair. And there is a matter of seeking reimbursement of the towing fee from AAA.

For a while the bus is not going anywhere so I have disconnected the aprs tracking programme.

In the meantime: back to the foodbank.

If you Gentle Readers have any spare ones of even a fistful of twenties please consider <https://paypal.me/ajoxton>

Hugs, ajo

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"If people were meant to be nude, they would have been born this way."  
—Oscar Wilde