

CHRISTMAS LETTER 2024



Guess what, it's that time of year when I get to write my Christmas letter to share with friends and family. The tree is decorated, the lights are up, and the shopping has begun! And here's what I've been up to this past year.

December – 2023

But first, to bring you up to date, my sister Lynn joined us again for the Christmas holiday, and this time her American Airlines flights went very smoothly. I prepared a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings, after which we opened gifts under the Christmas tree. As usual, the cats had a wonderful time playing among the boxes, paper, and ribbons.



Christmas Dinner & Pies that I baked the day before



Cats and the Paper

A couple of days later, the three of us drove to Palm Springs for an overnight trip, and along the way we paid a visit to Pioneertown, a replica of an old west town from the 1880's that was built by Gene Autry and Roy Rogers as a location for many classic western movies and TV programs in the 1940's and

50's. While Lynn and Leslie walked around the old town, I sat down for a beer in the saloon. The day was sunny and clear but there was a very chilly wind which limited the time we spent in the old town.

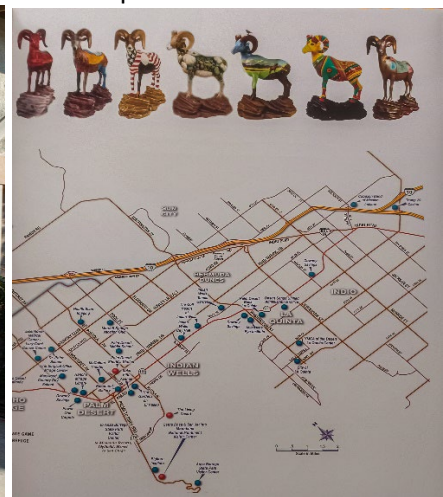


Pioneertown

After meeting up with the ladies, we drove to Palm Springs, and as chance would have it, I also had a photo shoot in nearby Palm Desert that day. So, I dropped Leslie and Lynn off at the Hyatt Hotel downtown to check in while I drove to Palm Desert. It was a beautiful day in the desert with sunny skies, calm winds, and 75 degrees. The photo shoot went well and as I was leaving the property, I noticed a large sculpture of a bull standing in the open garage of the house across the street. As I was about to take a photo of it, a man came out and said he was the artist who sculpted the bull. Then he invited me to see some of his other artwork, including several pictures of Big Horn Sheep he had sculpted, as well as beautiful paintings of desert sunsets. As it turned out, 109 copies of his Big Horn Sheep sculpture were made, then painted by various local artists for display in cities throughout the Coachella Valley. They were gorgeous, and he even gave me a copy of the book that was published by the "Bighorn Institute" that displayed the painted sculptures. It was a wonderful and unexpected moment.



Sculpture of Longhorn Bull



Display from the book "Path of the Bighorn"

Later I stopped at the Monterey Country Club to have a local "La Quinta IPA" beer before returning to the Hyatt Hotel to meet up with Lynn and Leslie. For dinner that evening we walked down Palm Canyon Drive to "LG's Steakhouse", the best in all of the Coachella Valley. We started dinner by sharing a fantastic Caesar salad that was expertly prepared tableside in the traditional manner. Then all three of us ordered petite filet mignon, along with potatoes and grilled brussels sprouts. The steaks were so tender that one hardly needed a knife. We finished dinner by sharing a special crème brulee before heading outside to "Market Night" that occupied several blocks of North Palm Canyon Drive. The street was crowded with hundreds of people, making it difficult to make any headway. After 20 minutes or so,

we were finally able to get back to the Hyatt Hotel. Lynn and Leslie decided to retire for the night while I searched for a place to have a beer. I stopped at “Las Casuelas Mexican Restaurant” and sat at the bar while listening to a band playing old Beach Boys songs. Then it was back to the hotel where I sat on the balcony and enjoyed the lovely cool evening and a beautiful view of the San Jacinto mountains in the moonlight.

Following breakfast the next day, we drove to Palm Desert to visit the “Living Desert Zoo and Gardens”. Besides the incredible variety of animals and plants from desert regions around the world, there was an enormous model railroad setup that fascinated both kids and adults as they watched trains running along the rails, across bridges, and through tunnels.



Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

We had a great time, but it soon became necessary to head home. The next morning at 6:00am, Lynn boarded her flight back to Illinois and a return to snow and cold weather.

January / February / March

The months of January, February and March saw me doing several residential photo shoots around southern California, all of which were fairly non-descript houses. Nothing of much interest or excitement. The most significant thing that happened during February was a series of strong storms that dropped nearly 10 inches of rain in three days! March followed up with another 3 inches of rain which brought the total to almost 14 inches of rain, which is our average rainfall for the entire year!



Almost 5 inches of rain in one day



a very wet garden

April

During the month of April, I attended an annual event called “BBQ, Boots, and Brew” that was held at the “Orange Empire Railroad Museum” in Perris. My good friend Robert Green was there to judge the BBQ competition, and there were plenty of teams vying for the grand prize. Besides the great BBQ available, a couple of local craft breweries were serving some of their most popular beers. In addition, a local Country & Western band played some classic songs by such legends as Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard. Meanwhile, the kids and their parents enjoyed riding the old steam train to downtown Perris and back. So, it was a wonderful time for all. On my back home, I stopped briefly at the Skydive Perris Airport for a beer and to watch a team of Canadian skydivers practicing for competition. They were easy to spot as they slowly descended - their parachutes decorated with the classic Canadian maple leaf.



“BBQ, Boots, and Brew”



Canadian Skydive Team

Also, in April I had a spectacular photo shoot of a huge house on top of a hill overlooking Lake Matthews. The house was lavishly furnished and had a huge pool surrounded by a beautiful garden. I also had to do a 3D virtual tour of the house which took quite a while. But it was a pleasure to photograph such a lovely property.



Lake Matthews photo shoot

May

In the month of May I attended the annual “Festival of Arts in the Park” here in Redlands on the Memorial Day weekend. The weather was perfect, with sunny skies and 75-degree temperatures. I strolled through the park to view some of the amazing artwork that included ceramics, weaving, painting, woodwork, and photography displayed by more than 100 artists. Then I sat down in the beer garden with a cold glass of Ritual Brewing Company IPA to listen to the band. In addition to the beer garden there were several food trucks, one of which was the “Cousins Maine Lobster” food truck that had won the Food Network’s “Great Food Truck Race” a couple of years ago. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day in the park, which is just 3 blocks from my house.



“Festival of Arts in the Park”

I had two photo shoots in May that stood out. One was a beautiful townhouse in Pomona. Although the property wasn’t very large, it was elegantly furnished and a joy to photograph. The other was a large “cabin” in the San Bernardino Mountains near Lake Arrowhead. It was surrounded by tall Ponderosa Pine trees and had four separate levels, one of which was a large deck overlooking the forest and the lake. It was a lovely place to photograph, but with all the narrow, winding mountain roads, it took some effort to find the place!



Pomona Photo Shoot



Lake Arrowhead Photo Shoot

June

Once again, I had several photo shoots in the month of June, but the one I remember most was the “Twilight” photo shoot of a new house in the high desert town of Oak Hills. It was a very large house with an abundance of gorgeous Italian white marble in several rooms. While the interior of the house was incredibly beautiful, the surrounding landscape was virtually bare! And to reach the property required driving over some very rough unpaved roads – not exactly the easiest place to access!



Oak Hills Photo Shoot

A couple of other moments were interesting to remember. (1) While I was in the grocery checkout line at Albertson's, an elderly man in front of me had purchased 6 Marie Callendar's Mac & Shrimp frozen dinners, 6 frozen Spaghetti & Meatball dinners, and 6 frozen Fish & Chips dinners! Then before leaving, he told the clerk "my wife is in the hospital". It was rather humorous and sad at the same time. (2) While I was hiking in San Timoteo Canyon next to the mainline tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad, an incredibly long freight train rolled by with 6 locomotives in front, 3 in the middle, and 2 at the rear for a total of 11 locomotives! I've yet to see a train with more than that number of locomotives.



Union Pacific freight train – San Timoteo Canyon

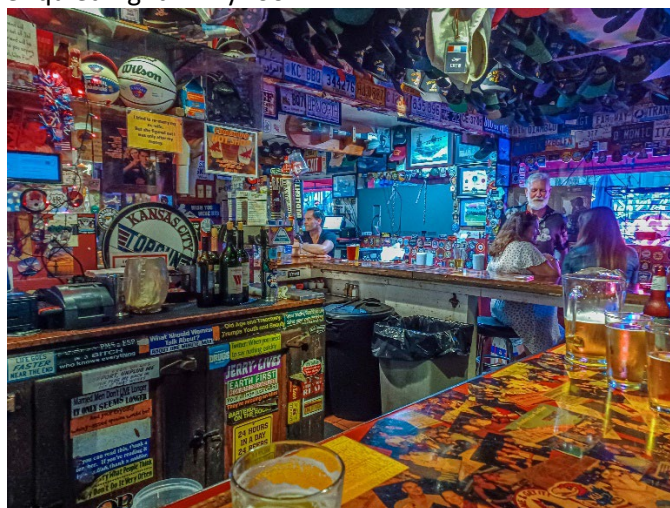
July

When July rolled around, I was on my way to attend the "Esri International Users Conference" in San Diego for the 40th time as either the conference manager or an attendee. I decided to travel by train from downtown Redlands to downtown San Diego, being the first time since the train line was extended to Redlands last year. The trip involved connecting to another MetroLink train in San Bernardino and then the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train in Los Angeles. Although it was a fairly long journey, it was a whole lot more enjoyable than spending 3 or 4 hours driving on the freeway. The views of the ocean and beaches along the coast from San Juan Capistrano to San Diego were beautiful as I listened to music on my iPod. When I arrived at the Santa Fe Depot in San Diego, I took the trolley to the "County Center/Little Italy" station and walked over to the Homewood Suites Hotel overlooking San Diego Bay. My King Suite was very nice with a living room and kitchen, in addition to the bedroom – also very quiet! From the hotel I took the trolley down to the Convention Center to register for the conference, and I was pleasantly surprised to find I could register in a matter of minutes. Besides my conference badge, I was handed a ticket for a free drink during the "Pre-Registration Social" event in the corner of Hall D. And another surprise was the authentic "Paulaner Pilsner" beer from Germany, as well as lots of snacks, popcorn, and two freezers full of ice cream treats – a real hit with the young kids and their parents. After

registering I walked along the waterfront, past several huge, expensive yachts in the Marriott Hotel Marina, to the new “Mike Hess Brewery” in Seaport Village for a cold glass of his West Coast IPA. Later in the evening, I walked back to the hotel and had a delicious “Ranch Chicken Flat Bread” for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

The next morning, I walked down to the Convention Center for the plenary session where I ran into several Esri friends, including Micheal Younan from Palestine. He said he wasn’t able to confirm his travel from Isreal until just 2 days before due to the ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza. (*I was surprised he was here at all*) The plenary session was amazing with incredible graphics and videos displayed on 50-foot-high screens. It was estimated that the attendance was well over 18,000 this year! The demos of the new GIS technology were state of the art and truly cutting edge. Later, I walked over to Joe’s Crab Shack for a lunch of traditional fish and chips, along with a cold beer. Then I picked up some coffee at Starbucks before heading back to the convention center for the afternoon plenary session which featured Tim Walz, the governor of Minesota as the keynote speaker. His presentation about how he used GIS in the process of decision making and policy was amazing. While I listened to him, I had the thought that he would be someone I could vote for to be president. (*that was a few weeks before he was chosen as the running mate of Kamala Harris!*) At the close of the plenary session, I made my way upstairs to the Map Gallery, along with thousands of other people. It’s always a very popular conference event and this year was no exception with “wall to wall” people and lines at the bars for drinks at least 40 – 50 people deep! I quickly decided to forgo my free drink ticket and walked over to “Lou and Mickey’s Bar” across the street for a cold beer before joining my dear friend DeeAnne there for dinner. We had a very enthusiastic young black guy as our server, and he was fantastic. My order of lump crab cakes, a specialty of the restaurant, was incredible. DeeAnne insisted that I share her classic “wedge salad” that was covered in bleu cheese dressing and crispy bits of bacon – delicious! DeeAnne and I had a wonderful time, and I gave her a copy of my travel blog “Leaving Alaska – Arriving California, April 1985”. Once again, DeeAnne insisted upon picking up the check – Thank You DeeAnne!

After dinner, I walked over to “Kansas City BBQ” to soak up a bit of the “local color” in the bar. Mike the bartender was his usual “sarcastic” self, but both locals and tourists mixed well together, thanks to Mike. I couldn’t help but notice a definite increase in the number and size of bras hanging from the ceiling fans. When I asked Mike if the bar still did the “night train” ceremony when a freight train passed by the bar, he said that the ceremony had ended a few years back when “Night Train” wine was no longer produced! And strangely enough, Mike said he would be going on a cruise to Alaska in a couple of weeks, but he didn’t seem too enthusiastic about it. After a couple of beers, I took the trolley back to the hotel and spent another quiet night in my room.



Kansas City BBQ

After a great complimentary breakfast at the hotel, I checked out and took the trolley to the convention center where I put my bag in their office, courtesy of DeeAnne. Then I spent some time in the Map Gallery taking photos of some of the most interesting maps and special displays, this time without thousands of people around me. One of the most unique maps was labeled “The Global Influence of Kentucky Bourbon” that showed the extent of worldwide sales of the famous whiskey. It was a pleasant experience in the Map Gallery compared to Monday evening, despite there being no free beer!



Map Gallery



User Conference Exhibit Hall

Then I picked up a cup of coffee from Starbucks, picked up my bag from the convention center office, and left a copy of the new book “Mapping the Deep” for DeeAnne since she was a great admirer of the author Dawn Wright. From the convention center I took the trolley to the Santa Fe Depot to board the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train to Fullerton. There was a large group of Amish families also waiting to board the train, and I would see them again later at the station in Fullerton as they waited to board the Amtrak Southwest Chief train bound for Chicago. Departure from San Diego was delayed by about 10 minutes, but we finally boarded the train. Even business class was crowded but I was able to get a seat to myself, and the complimentary snack box, with a Stella Artois beer, came just in time. It was a pleasant trip to Fullerton as I listened to music on my iPod and gazed upon the Pacific coast.

Upon arriving in Fullerton, I had over an hour to wait for the Southwest Chief train, so I put my bag in storage at the station and walked over to the Old Spaghetti Factory for a delicious dinner of “Garlic Mithra”. After that I went to the Santa Fe Café for a beer while I watched huge BNSF freight trains rolling by.



Santa Fe Café – Fullerton station

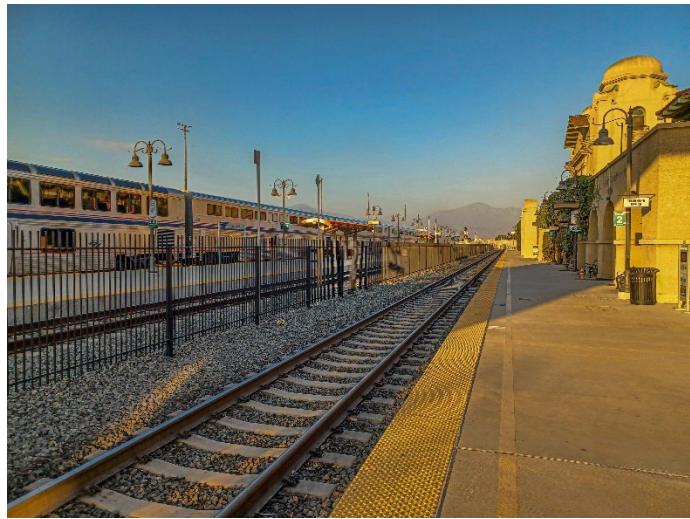


Old Spaghetti Factory (Former Union Pacific station)

After dinner, I boarded the Southwest Chief, along with the Amish families, and it was a very pleasant journey through the Santa Ana River canyon as the sun was setting. I arrived in San Bernardino on time and connected with the MetroLink train to downtown Redlands, thus proving that it was indeed possible to travel by train from Redlands to San Diego and back!



Observation/Lounge Car



Southwest Chief arriving at San Bernardino Depot

August

For the month of August, I had a couple of very interesting photo shoots of Petsmart stores in Temecula and Fullerton. The job involved doing a 3D scan of the store, similar to the work I had done for Walgreens stores, as well as some still photos of electrical connections. Although the technique was similar to Walgreens, the “working environment” was totally different. In the Petsmart stores I was constantly surrounded by people with their dogs, and the barking almost drove me nuts at times, especially when I had to scan the dog grooming area! In addition, I had to scan the area “behind” the fish tanks which was always a very noisy confined space with huge water filtering systems and large pipes everywhere. Each job usually took 2 to 3 hours instead of the normal 8 hours for the Walgreens stores. I found the Petsmart staff to be exceptionally friendly and helpful, which made my job much more pleasant. I particularly liked the cat adoption area because as soon as the cats saw me, they were very curious and watched my every movement. (*perhaps I was the highlight of their day!*)

Also in August, a dear photographer friend of mine passed away suddenly. I attended many photography classes with him and learned a great deal from him. He spent over 30 years in the Navy as a photographer and knew just about everything one could know about the old film camera equipment and darkroom processes, something of which young photographers these days have no concept. Frank was a very patient and amazing teacher as well, and there are a lot of people who mourn his loss.

September

The month of September was a busy one for me with some travel as well as several photo shoots. Besides two more Petsmart stores in La Quinta and Palm Springs, I had a photo shoot of a large house in Moreno Valley. And when I showed up to take the photos, the owner was still cleaning the house and there were packing boxes in almost every room, so it was not ready for photos. But the real estate agent insisted that I take photos of the house as best as I could, so I did. But I made sure the company that booked the shoot knew why the photos were not the best! As part of the contract I have with the

company I am not responsible for making sure the house is clean and prepared for photos – that’s the job of the real estate agent, but it’s still frustrating for the photographer.

As my birthday approached in early September, I planned a trip to a place in California where I had never spent any time, other than passing through on my way to somewhere else. So, I booked a hotel room in the small town of Mojave which is about 60 miles north of Los Angeles and 50 miles west of Barstow in a region known as the “high desert”. After checking into the hotel, I drove north of town to “Red Rock Canyon State Park”, and along the way I stopped at the “Jawbone Station BLM Visitor Center” where they had some fascinating exhibits on the history and natural environment of the high desert region. The area of Jawbone Canyon was settled by Europeans around 1860 and named Jawbone because the canyon was shaped like a giant “mandible”, the lower jaw. Several gold mines operated in the canyon up until the early 1940’s with over \$700,000 worth of gold being extracted before the mines closed. Today the area is best known as a very popular off-road recreation area that is managed by the BLM. A few miles north of Jawbone Station is Red Rock Canyon State Park that features scenic desert cliffs and spectacular rock formations in vivid colors of red and yellow. During the early 1870’s the colorful rock formations served as a landmark for the 20-mule team freight wagons that often stopped nearby for water. The state park has been the location for several films and TV commercials, as well as being a popular camping spot. However, on the day I visited, the visitor center was closed for renovations, unfortunately.



Red Rock Canyon State Park

Leaving the state park, I drove back to Mojave to scope out the town, and on the north side was a new craft brewery which caught my eye. I was looking forward to a cold beer in the 104-degree weather, but when I entered the brewery, I found they were out of most of their beers and only had a choice of either “Mango Hefeweizen” or “Cranberry Ale”, neither of which interested me – so much for a cold local beer! Outside, in front of the brewery, there were at least a dozen Tesla charging stations, of which only one was being used. Meanwhile, the parking lot of the shopping mall was full – so much for EVs in Mojave!



Parking Lot in Mojave

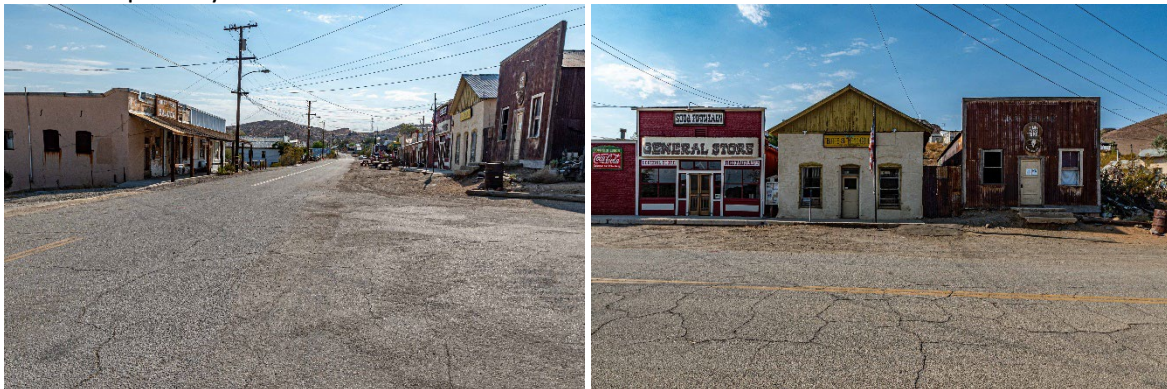
As I drove through the town, I couldn't find a single bar or a restaurant serving beer or wine. So, I headed to Denny's for dinner and enjoyed a huge plate of chicken fried steak covered in gravy, with mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, garlic bread, and a tall cold glass of iced tea! It was classic comfort food for sure. When I returned to the Comfort Inn, I was pleasantly surprised to find the hotel had a small cocktail lounge and bar, the only one in town! I had a couple of cold bottles of Lagunitas IPA and joined a few locals at the bar as they watched the football game on TV. Then I retired to my room for a quiet night.

The next morning, I had a delicious complimentary breakfast in the hotel before checking out and heading north to visit a couple of historic old gold mining towns, Randsburg and Johannesburg. Before leaving Mojave, I drove past the "Mojave Air and Space Port", formerly known as the Mojave Airport. It is now headquarters for various aerospace companies and institutions, such as the National Test pilot School. It's also home to the "Rutan Voyager", the first aircraft to fly nonstop around the world without refueling! In addition, it was the location where "SpaceShipOne" was launched on June 21, 2004 - the first private spaceflight. So, for a small town of 4200 residents, it has an amazing history and reputation that few travelers realize as they pass by the town on Highway 14 while on their way north to Yosemite National Park!



Mojave Air and Spaceport

The road to Randsburg was narrow and in poor shape, but passable. As I entered the old town, I spotted a few businesses that were open and welcoming visitors, although I was one of only half a dozen. I parked my Jeep and walked around the place taking photos of the old buildings, many of which had a lot of history to tell. Both Randsburg and Johannesburg sprang up from old mining camps in the mid-1890's, being named after the famous Rand Gold Mining District in South Africa. The towns are surrounded by old mine tailings from the numerous gold mines that once operated in the area. The mines closed down in the 1930's when the government set the price of gold during the Great Depression which made mining unprofitable. Randsburg has a small mining museum, but it was closed that day. Before leaving town, I stopped for some iced tea at the General Store since the White House Saloon hadn't opened yet.



Randsburg

Beyond Randsburg was the even smaller town of Johannesburg, now almost a ghost town. The drive back home was pretty much uneventful, though I did stop at Cajon Junction for a short time to photograph some of the huge freight trains that travel over the Cajon Summit. *(over 100 trains a day)*



Southbound BNSF freight train at Cajon Junction

During the last week of September, I made my annual trek north to Alaska to visit with Marion and Michael. On a Saturday morning, my next-door neighbor Mike kindly took me to Ontario airport for my flight to Anchorage, by way of Salt Lake City and Seattle! It was a quick and easy check in process for the Delta Airlines flight to Salt Lake City, so I had time for a pint of beer at the “Tap and Pour Bar” in the airport before I boarded the plane. The flight was very nice, as it always is in first class, and I noticed a couple of new things since my last trip with Delta. There was very fast free internet service on board throughout the flight, and there were no longer any “Inflight Magazines”. When we arrived in Salt Lake City, I saw there had been extensive renovation and additions to the terminals – much nicer than in the past. The Delta Sky Club had also been completely renovated and expanded with an impressive array of new features and services. I took advantage of the huge buffet and enjoyed a plate of BBQ chicken and baked beans, along with a chilled glass of Lagunitas IPA. The next flight to Seattle was also very nice with a classic wedge salad and roasted chicken for lunch. My seatmate was an old cowboy who had a large cattle ranch in eastern Washington and knew a lot about the old gold mining town of Republic where I had spent two years working for the US Forest Service. After lunch was served, he played several games of chess on his laptop before we landed in Seattle. Once again, the Delta Sky Club was very nice, and I had time for a glass of local IPA before boarding was called for the flight to Anchorage. Not long after takeoff dinner was served, and the braised short ribs were excellent. *(like Alaska Airlines, Delta now offers the opportunity to pre-order meals for each flight)*

Upon landing in Anchorage, I picked up the Avis rental car, but I couldn’t figure out how to put the car in reverse! The Avis attendant had to show me how the gearshift worked. Instead of pushing the gearshift lever forward or back, one had to “tap” the top of the gearshift knob – one tap to go forward or two taps to go in reverse which seemed very weird! It also took me several minutes to figure out how to turn the headlights on and where the control was for the windshield wipers – definitely not as simple as my old 1996 Jeep! *(it was a brand-new Nissan Rogue SUV)* Finally I drove downtown and checked into the Wingate Hotel on Ship Creek before I walked over to F-Street Station for a beer. Being that it was Saturday evening, it was very crowded, but I managed to find an open seat at the bar next to a huge block of Tillamook cheddar cheese from which people were carving slices to eat with their drinks.

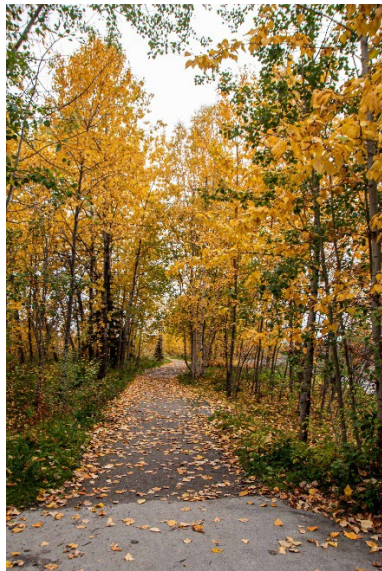
I was rudely awakened at 5am the next morning by a family in the room above me whose children started jumping and stomping on the floor! This continued off and on until 7am, so I demanded the front desk change my room, which they promptly did and apologized for the noise. I found that the breakfast room was crowded and had no decaf coffee, so I skipped it and went to Denny’s for a delicious

breakfast of country fried steak, eggs, hash browns, and toast, along with a hot cup of decaf coffee. *(after scraping the ice off the car windshield with the plastic hotel key card – Avis had forgotten to put an ice scraper in the car!)* Two things that I noticed about the restaurant - on the menu was “Reindeer Skillet” and outside the front door was a sign that read “Northernmost Denny’s in the World”!

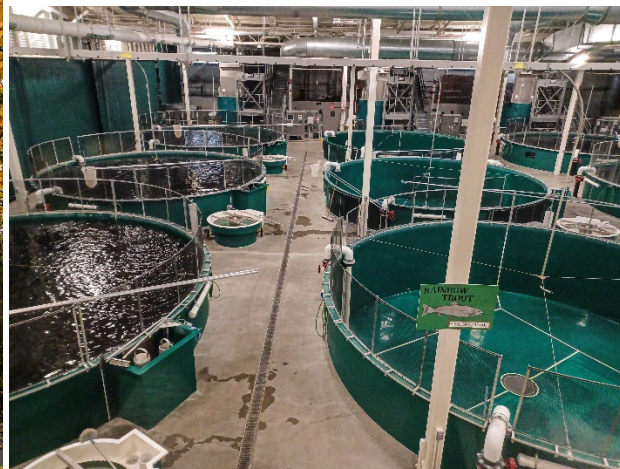


Denny's - Anchorage

After breakfast I headed back to the hotel, grabbed my camera, and hiked the “Ship Creek Trail” that followed the creek for about 3 miles with the beautiful fall colors of the forest along the banks of the creek despite the cloudy skies. It was a very nice trail and there were lovely views of the Chugach Mountains with fresh snow blanketing their peaks. On the way back to the hotel, I spotted a sign for the “William Hernandez Fish Hatchery”, so paid a visit and found it to be fascinating and one of the best in the world!



Ship Creek Trail



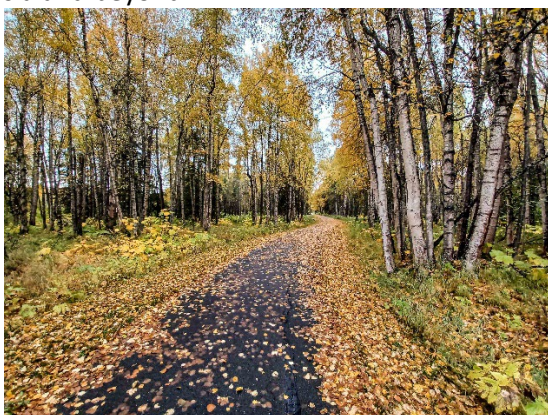
William Hernandez Fish Hatchery

Later in the evening, I went back to F-Street Station for a plate of their delicious halibut and chips, along with a cold pint of Alaskan Amber beer. It wasn't long before an interesting couple sitting next to me, a black lady and her native Alaskan husband, started a conversation with me. It seems that she had visited Anchorage 27 years ago, loved it and decided to move here. Shortly after that, she met her husband on one of his fishing charters and they married. He showed me some photos of the huge razor clams that he often collects along the shore of Cook Inlet when he's not fishing. We had a fascinating time exchanging stories about our experiences in Alaska. When they left the restaurant, another couple from Port Angeles, Washington took their seats and started a very fascinating conversation about a

historic old ship they own that served in WWI and WWII. They were planning to go to Seward the next day to pick up their 100-year-old aunt and bring her back to her home in Wasilla. In both cases I was never the one who initiated the conversation, but I enjoyed them, nonetheless. I ended the evening at Humpy's where a young man with a guitar was trying his best to entertain the bar but was receiving a very lukewarm reception - I felt sad for him. Meanwhile the guy sitting next to me was well past feeling any pain! After a couple of beers, I walked back to the hotel and retired for a quiet night!

The next morning, I got a message from Marion that she had fallen in the shower and bumped her head so would have to postpone our meeting up for coffee today. So, I went to Barnes and Noble for a Starbucks coffee and to browse through their extensive selection of books. I found a fascinating book by David Pogue titled "Pogue's Basics – essential tips and shortcuts that no one bothers to tell you for simplifying the technology in your life". His first published book was "The world according to Twitter" in which he posted a different question on Twitter every day for 284 days, then compiled the most clever and unusual responses into a book. As just one example, the question was "Compose the subject line of an email message you really, really don't want to read" – One response was "To my former sexual partners, as required by law"! I have three of his books and never get tired of going back to read them. From the bookstore I drove over to the new "Ship Creek Brewing Company" on Arctic Blvd to sample a couple of their signature beers. It was located in a small building that was part of a typical 1960's strip mall and next to the office of the "Machinists and Heavy Equipment Operators Union - Local #298". I tried two their beers, an American Pale Ale and the Alder Smoked Spruce Heles Lager which was indeed very smoky. As I left the brewery, the skies were still overcast with a light rain falling and 45 degrees – typical fall weather for Anchorage. As evening came, I walked over to the Glacier Brewhouse for dinner and ordered a bowl of their famous seafood chowder along with a pint of "Solstice IPA". The chowder had an abundance of seafood including shrimp, crab, lobster, clams, salmon and halibut and would easily qualify as a dinner entrée. After dinner, I made my way to Humpy's, and although there was no live music that night, the shrimp cocktail I ordered was huge and delicious, together with a "Twister Creek IPA", from the Denali Brewing Company in Talkeetna. I walked back to the hotel in the light rain for another quite night's rest.

The next day, after breakfast at the hotel, I drove to Point Woronzof on the shores of Cook Inlet adjacent to the international airport. I hiked along the coastal trail for a few miles through the forest of Aspen and Birch trees cloaked in their gorgeous yellow and orange foliage. Along the way were several large patches of huge "Devil's Club", which has very large green leaves and a woody stem that is covered in obnoxious and irritating spines – not something you want to touch, yet beautiful in a strange way. I came to a couple of viewpoints where I could take photos of the snow-covered peaks of the Alaska Range 50 miles west beyond Cook Inlet as the skies began to clear. Meanwhile, enormous aircraft continued to take off above me, including huge 747 cargo planes headed west across the Pacific Ocean to Asia and beyond.



Coastal Trail – Point Woronzof



Aircraft taking off from Anchorage International Airport

I managed to take several photos and a short video as the planes flew overhead. By now it was time to meet up with Marion for coffee at the “Steam Dot Coffee Shop” in midtown. We spent a couple of hours talking about her family in England, the “boys” Ben and Sam, and Michael’s new job with Costco. I found out that her brother Marius and his wife Rose were planning to visit Marion and Michael later in December, a trip that would take them from the warm sunshine of their home in Western Australia to the cold and snow of Alaska. However, Marius had said that he would be looking forward to seeing snow again, having once lived in the Northwest Territories of Canada many years ago before moving to Australia. It was a very enjoyable time with Marion, and I was looking forward to sharing dinner with her and Michael later in the evening. After meeting with Marion, I went to the “Matanuska Brew Pub” in midtown, a new place for me. The cold pint of their “Long Track IPA” was excellent, and they had a rather extensive food menu as well. By now it was time to meet up with Marion and Michael for dinner at their favorite restaurant “Suite 100”, which I was familiar with from several other dinners with them. We started with an appetizer of portobello mushroom fritters served with garlic aioli, which were superb. The server highly recommended the fresh halibut, pan seared and served with chili-ginger cream, basmati rice, and steamed vegetables – it was amazing! We all had a great time catching up on the past year, especially about Micheal’s new job at Costco. It turns out he had to go through a corporate training program that included everything from assisting the cashiers to collecting shopping carts in the parking lot! He seemed to really enjoy it and said he lost 50 pounds in the process. And as always, we had a lovely evening together, something which I look forward to every year.

After dinner, I returned to the Matanuska Brew Pub where a band from New Orleans named “Phatt Tuesday” was playing. I noticed they had a small basket at the foot of the stage for tips, along with a sign for using “Venmo” and a QR code for “online” tips! At one point during the evening, the band leader challenged a member of the audience to shout out the names of 13 different beers and for each name he would rhyme it with a line of lyrics from his song. And if he failed to do so he would buy drinks for the house. Well, he was successful with the names of all 13 beers, including everything from Asahi to Yuengling – very impressive and a lot of fun! Before leaving the brew pub, I bought a small bag of locally made “Beignets” which were very authentic and deliciously sweet, as if they had come straight from New Orleans. It was a great way to end the evening.



Matanuska Brew Pub

The next morning, I checked out of the hotel and drove to the airport for my flight to Seattle. Although it was a rather bumpy ride leaving Anchorage, it smoothed out after about a half hour, just in time for the lunch service. The curried chicken and rice dish I had pre-ordered was excellent with just the right amount of spice. Since for most of the flight there were heavy overcast skies, I spent the time catching up on some reading. When we arrived in Seattle, I found the weather to be almost the same as when I had left Anchorage – wet and cold. I had booked a room at the “Coast Gateway Hotel” adjacent

to the airport and checked into a very nice suite on the top floor at the end of the hall – perfect. Soon it was nearly time for dinner and the front desk highly recommended “Sharps Roast House” restaurant next door to the hotel. The restaurant specialized in smoking meats and fish on site that would be offered on the menu as BBQ and grilled dishes. I found a seat at a small table near the bar and ordered a locally brewed “Georgetown Bodhizafa IPA”. Meanwhile, just to my left I could see the large pit where they were smoking meat. When I asked my server for a recommendation of an appetizer, she insisted that I try the “Double-Smoked Pork Burnt Ends” served with “Big Boss BBQ Sauce”. Well, with a recommendation like that how could I turn it down! The pork burnt ends and BBQ sauce were served on top of a dish of fresh baked cornbread – absolutely fantastic!



“Sharp’s Roast House” pit

The following morning, after a nice complimentary breakfast in the hotel, I took the “Link Light Rail” train from the airport to downtown Seattle, a ride as a senior citizen that cost me \$6.00 roundtrip! I departed the train at the new Capitol Hill station and walked up Broadway Avenue to my old neighborhood near Volunteer Park where Marion and I lived after returning from England. As I walked around the neighborhood past our old apartment building, everything was so familiar that it felt like I had been away for only a few weeks, not several years!



Volunteer Park

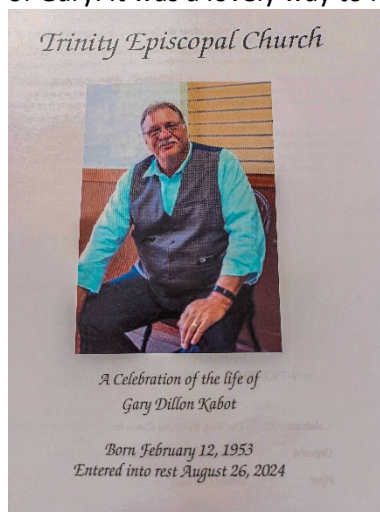


Capitol Hill neighborhood

Then it was time to take the train back to the airport to catch my flight to California. As I made my way up to the ticketing area, one of the escalators was not working so I had to climb the escalator steps. But at the very top my shoe caught the steel edge, and I fell forward, slamming my face on the steel plate! As I got up, a flight attendant asked me “are you ok?” and I replied, “I believe so”. Then I asked her, “do I look ok?” And she said “yes, you look fine”. I was afraid that I was bleeding, but luckily, I just had a bruise on my chin and a slightly swollen lip. Needless to say, I was very lucky not to have sustained

a serious injury! I had enough time before boarding the flight to have a couple of chilled glasses of Lagunitas IPA in the Delta Airlines Sky Club. The flight to Ontario was very nice and the lunch of chicken salad with balsamic vinegar dressing was great, as was the double chocolate chip cookie for dessert. Unfortunately, the flight arrived in Ontario late so there was no chance to take the 5:20pm shuttle bus to the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station as I had planned. So, I decided to wait for the 6:15pm bus and have some dinner at the airport. There was a new “Brewery X Bar and Restaurant” in the terminal building where I had a glass of their local IPA, one of their 30 different beers on tap, and an order of chicken “tendies”, which was so large I had to take half of it home. After dinner, I picked up my checked bag and waited outside the terminal for the shuttle bus. But to make a long story short, a lot of “shuttle buses” and city buses passed by, yet there was no sign of the “ONT-Connect” shuttle bus. Finally, at 6:35pm I had to take a taxi to the Metrolink station and barely had time to catch the train to San Bernardino and on to Redlands. Had I waited any longer at the airport, I would have missed the train! At last, I reached home at 8:30pm, glad to unpack my bags and relax from the long trip with many wonderful memories to share.

Sadly, a longtime friend and Esri colleague, Gary Kabot, suffered a massive heart attack at the end of August and it was his wish that his family and friends gather for a Celebration of Life event in his honor. So, on a lovely sunny Saturday in September, I attended his Celebration of Life at the Trinity Episcopal Church here in Redlands, together with a great many of his friends and family. The celebration began with an emotional eulogy by his brother Matthew and the recital of Gary’s favorite verse from the bible by his sister-in-law Sheila. Near the end of the ceremony everyone was invited to sing “In the Garden”, a hymn that Gary had requested. As we all walked out of the chapel into the garden, a bagpiper played “Amazing Grace” – the haunting sound of the pipes brought a tear to my eye! Later in the afternoon, most of us met up at the historic “Mitten Building” in downtown Redlands to share food and drink, as well as to share memories and stories of Gary. It was a lovely way to honor and remember him!



October

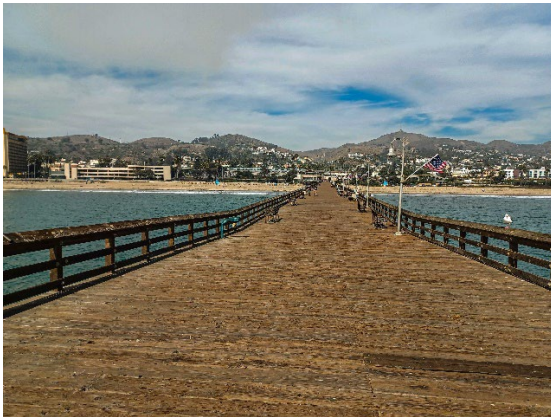
As the month of October came around, I had several residential photo shoots but none of them were particularly outstanding. At the beginning of the month, it was time for celebrating Oktoberfest and the City of Redlands organized an event in Sylvan Park near the University of Redlands. It was a very popular event, and my next-door neighbor Mike joined me. The day was very hot with temperatures topping 104 degrees during the afternoon. So, the cold beer was very welcome indeed! And of course there was a traditional Polka band, a “stein holding” contest, and many games for the kids. I was pleasantly surprised to find that German “Weihenstephaner beer” from the world’s oldest brewery was available. As I sat at a picnic table under the large tent, I noticed a couple of interesting things. One was

the name of the company that provided the porta potties, “Lux Dumps”! Another was the couple who spent several minutes dressing their young baby in “lederhosen”! All in all, it was an enjoyable afternoon in the park and a great way to celebrate Oktoberfest.



Oktoberfest – Sylvan Park

A few days later I took a trip to Ventura to attend the “Seaside Highland Games”, an event I’ve been going to for the past several years. Once again, I took the train from Redlands to Fullerton and then onward to Los Angeles and finally Ventura. Since I had about 45 minutes in Fullerton to make the connection with the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, I enjoyed a “Santa Fe Scramble” breakfast in the Santa Fe Café at the train station as I watched BNSF freight trains roll by. The route of the train through Ventura County passed acre upon acre of agricultural fields, everything from carrots and celery to Avocados and Lemons. Upon arriving at Ventura station, I walked a couple of blocks to the Clocktower Inn and checked into a lovely room overlooking a large park. I noticed a lot of young Korean families were attending a “faith healing” seminar in the hotel, as well as a few people in kilts who would be competing in the games. Then I took a long walk along the ocean front to “surfer’s point” where a lot of surfers were doing their best to catch one of the big waves. At the same time, heavy fog hung just off the coast obscuring any views of the Channel Islands offshore. Later in the afternoon, I walked out onto the Ventura Pier as many people were trying their best to catch some fish, but without much success. At one point a couple of deputies from the California Department of Fish & Game were checking the fishermen for valid licenses and to examine their catch.



Ventura Pier



“Surfer’s Point”

As sunset approached, I stopped at the “Madewest Brewery” on the pier for a couple of their American Pale Ale beers as I watched the surfers. The heavy fog off the coast prevented any views of the sunset, so I headed back to the hotel where the front desk recommended dinner at “Tony’s Pizzeria”, a very popular local spot just a couple of blocks from the hotel. I ordered a couple of slices of pepperoni

pizza and a cold bottle of Budweiser before sitting down at a picnic table outside in the courtyard. There was live music that night with a lot of people dancing to the music, and it was a nice way to enjoy dinner.



Tony's Pizzeria

The next morning, I joined the Korean families for a complimentary breakfast of scrambled eggs, potatoes, and sausage in the hotel atrium. After breakfast I walked up the street to the Saturday morning "Farmer's Market" where the entire length of Main Street had been closed for the market. As I walked through the market I passed many old historic buildings, among lots of people with their kids and dogs enjoying the warm sunshine. I came around a corner at one point just as a young woman walked by with a cute little goat on a leash! (*I made a comment to her that it was a strange looking dog, and she laughed*)



"Farmer's Market"



Main Street - Ventura

After I had toured the full length of the Farmer's Market, I went to the "Ventura County Museum" nearby and discovered some very interesting exhibits about the local Chumash Indian Tribe. There was also a special display of work by local artists and a strange exhibit about vampires and Count Dracula! Although the museum wasn't that large, it was well worth the time to visit.



Ventura County Museum displays

Around noon, I walked down to the Ventura County Fairgrounds near the train station to watch the Highland Games. As I walked along the main path inside the fairgrounds, I passed the tents that were set up by each of the “clans” displaying their history. Among the 42 clans represented was the Henderson clan, so I felt I should pay a visit and say hello to fellow members of the clan.



As I looked around for lunch options, I saw the line for “Kai’s traditional Scottish meat pies” was way too long, so instead, I ordered a breaded chicken sandwich with lettuce, cheese, and tomato from “Cruiser’s 66 Café” food truck, and it was superb! I enjoyed the sandwich, along with a cold pint of Harp Lager as I sat at a picnic table outside under the warm sun. Then I walked over to the main stage to listen to a band playing both traditional Celtic music as well as contemporary rock. Just before they took a break in the afternoon, the band played “Amazing Grace” while using burning sticks to beat large drums. It was a very solemn and emotional performance, which brought a tear to my eye!

Later in the day I walked along the oceanfront to the pier, and along the way I came to a special event called “A Walk on the Water” where experienced surfers were helping young kids learn to surf. There was quite a large gathering of people watching as the young kids joined the experienced surfers to “catch a wave”, and as the kids stood up on their board, there were lots of cheers! It was a fun event to watch, and both the kids and the surfers were having a great time. It was a beautiful, sunny day with a gentle breeze from the ocean. As the sun was about to set, I walked up to Main Street to “Finney’s Crafthouse Bar” for a beer. It is located in the historic old “Bank of Italy Building”, and the interior of the bar has preserved the elegant high ceilings and tall stained-glass windows – really beautiful. The bar was crowded with people watching the football game, and I noticed a couple of interesting things about the

place. First was the bottle of “Screwball Peanut Butter Whiskey” on the shelf next to bottles of more traditional whiskey. When I asked the barmaid if anyone ever ordered a drink with it, she said that a few people who didn’t like the taste of whiskey had! Secondly, when I asked for directions to the restroom, she gave me the “code” for the lock on the restroom door. *(the women’s restroom did not have a lock on the door – humm!)*



“Finney’s Crafthouse Bar”

Later that evening, as I walked down Main Street in search of a place for dinner, I spotted the “Taj Café” and the fragrance of the food lured me in. The menu was extensive and included both vegetarian and meat dishes. My choice of “Tandoori Chicken” with fresh baked garlic naan bread was exceptional and a very traditional and authentic Indian dish! The tall cold bottle of Taj Mahal beer went very well with the spicy dish. As I was about to leave, the owner of the restaurant highly recommended the “Kheer” for dessert, an Indian rice pudding with almonds, raisins and the flavor of green cardamom – fantastic!



Tandoori Chicken – Taj Cafe

After breakfast the next morning, I checked out of the hotel and walked down to the Amtrak train station to wait for the train to Los Angeles where I would connect with the Southwest Chief train to Riverside. It was a very pleasant trip along the coast and through the San Rafael Mountains, and at one point I noticed someone across the aisle from me “sipping” wine from a cup with a straw which I thought was a bit odd! Although I had only been away for a couple of days, it was a nice break from the routine, and something I’ll plan again next year.

When Halloween came, the City of Redlands blocked off the street next to our house and allowed a number of local organizations to set up tents, games, food trucks, and entertainment stages for the evening. There were hundreds of kids and their families who attended the event, and as a result we were overwhelmed by “Trick or Treaters” all night long! In anticipation of the event, I had purchased one thousand pieces of candy, but that didn’t last much past 8:00pm, after which we had to turn off our porch light to indicate we were out of candy. Although it was a very hectic evening, it was also fun to see the kids in their costumes and their parents making sure they only took “one” piece of candy.



Halloween in Redlands

November

On the first weekend in November there was a special event at the “Dos Lagos Mall” in Corona called the “Amber Waves of Grain Craft Beer Festival” organized by the Stone Church Brewery and the “All American Riders” motorcycle club. It’s an annual event to benefit local veterans’ organizations. As in past years I booked a room at the Staybridge Suites Hotel near the event site, and after checking in I walked over to the mall to pick up my VIP ticket and beer glass. Then at noon, the parade began with many military reenactment groups representing several wars, from the Civil War to WWI, WWII, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. They were followed by a number of old military vehicles and vintage cars, after which the University of Riverside Pipe and Drum band made their way along the parade route. The finale of the parade was a “ride by” of a dozen roaring motorcycles which drew applause from the crowd. At the conclusion of the parade, over 45 craft breweries opened for complimentary tasting of their beers. Besides the craft breweries, there were several food trucks, so everyone was sure to find something they liked. Having a VIP ticket allowed me entrance to the VIP tent in front of the stage where I could sit and enjoy the music, along with some delicious sandwiches, snacks, and cookies.



Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur



The VIP tent in front of the stage

The band was “Geno and the Lone Stars” who played some great classic rock-n-roll that got a lot of people on their feet dancing. And at one point, the lead guitar singer who sounded just like Johnny Cash himself suddenly climbed on top of the bass guitar player who was playing while lying flat on his back onstage and belted out an amazing song – incredible performance!

I tasted several of the beers offered and found a very nice “Belgian Triple IPA” from the Stone Church Brewery, as well as a classic West Coast IPA from the “Brewluminati Brewery”.



Stone Church Brewing Company – a main sponsor

Later in the afternoon as I was sitting in the VIP tent, I saw an old Hispanic man gathering aluminum cans and plastic bottles from the trash cans. He very carefully emptied the water bottles on the plants next to the trash cans before squeezing the bottles and putting them into his black plastic trash bag. As I watched him, he caught my eye, and I raised my glass of beer to him. He must have thought I was offering him a beer because he shook his head to say no and then gave me a “thumbs up”. When the event came to a close, I walked over to TGI Friday’s for dinner, but unfortunately it had gone out of business. As an alternative I headed for the new Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant and Bar nearby. Although it was crowded on a Saturday night, I did find one seat at the bar and ordered a West Coast IPA. When I asked the bartender what she recommended for dinner that evening, she immediately said I should try the “Ginger Salmon”. The filet of fresh King salmon was baked with a sauce of ginger, basil, and garlic – really an amazing dish. And to top off the evening she insisted that I have the luscious strawberry shortcake that was most definitely “over the top”! So ended a wonderful evening.

The next day I had a photo shoot in Carlsbad that required me to do a 3D virtual tour of the property. On the way back home, I stopped at the Perris airport “Bombshelter Bar and Grill” for a beer as I watched a classic car show. Meanwhile, skydivers were enjoying the clear blue skies and landing on the runway not far from the car show. Quite a contrast of interests.



Vintage car show at Perris airport

As Thanksgiving approaches, I will once again prepare a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, as well as a couple of pies. It looks like it will be just Leslie, me, and the cats this year since our friends have made plans to visit their families for the holiday. On another note, my sister Lynn just completed her move from Shelbyville, Illinois to Baker City, Oregon to be close to her stepson Wes and his family. They plan a big feast for the Thanksgiving holiday when Lynn's other stepson Dan joins them.

And on a sad note, I received a phone call on Veterans Day about my old army buddy Mike O'Brien having just suffered a severe stroke and hospitalized in the ICU. Mike and I had been friends for almost 55 years and the news from his son Jay was a shock to me. I had often visited Mike in Las Vegas over the past several years, most recently this time last year. The next day I sat down and wrote a letter to Mike recalling some of our best times together. I emailed the letter to Jay and a couple of days later he read it to his father as he and the rest of the family gathered at Mike's bedside. Mike's long-time business partner Ken recorded the moment on video to share with me and many of Mike's friends. Later, as I watched the video, I shed a tear and remembered many of the wonderful times with Mike. The video recording will be a wonderful way to remember him. He passed away peacefully a few short days later, surrounded by his family. RIP Mike!

Miscellaneous Notes and Observations

January

La Sierra, Riverside

- I was attending an "Open House" for the Inland Empire Photographers chapter and afterwards I went the "Racer's Pub & Grill" nearby for a beer. What I discovered was a "dive bar" where the female bartender and servers were all wearing the tiniest black string bikinis I had ever seen! *(they might as well have been naked)* I asked one of them a personal question, "how do you feel about wearing your "uniform?", and she replied that it was required but she was OK with it! The music was very loud, heavy metal, and obnoxious so I left. It was definitely not a place for dinner! *(that would be a scrumptious burger later at Red Robin Bar & Grill)*

April

San Timoteo Canyon Road

- The Amtrak Sunset Limited train rolled past around 4pm! *(it was scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles at 6am, so it was running 10 hours late!)*
- Shortly after the passing of the Amtrak train, a very long Union Pacific westbound freight train came along headed by 7 locomotives with 2 in the middle and another locomotive at the rear for a total of 10 locomotives!
- Meanwhile, another long freight train was "stalled" at the railroad crossing and traffic on San Timoteo Canyon Road was backed up for miles!

May

Darby's Bar & Grill, Redlands

- As I prepared to pay my tab at the bar, the young woman next to me suddenly dropped an "Alka-Seltzer" tablet into her drink! *(weird)*

August

Petsmart store photo shoot, Fullerton

- Rather than drive to Fullerton, I took the Amtrak bus from Riverside, with the plan to catch the Orange County Transit bus #143 at the Fullerton station to the location of the store at 1411 S. Harbor Ave. But after I arrived at the location, I could find no Petsmart store! I checked the map I had downloaded the day before from Google and it showed the correct address, but the

surrounding area was nothing like the map I had. So, I went online and checked Google maps again, and lo and behold, the address was south of Fullerton station, not north! It meant that I had to take bus #143 back to the station and wait for bus #43 instead. I finally arrived at the Petsmart store and was able to complete the photo shoot by noon. Afterwards, back at the station, I had lunch at the Santa Fe Café, along with a cold glass of Spacedust IPA while massive BNSF freight trains roared past, shaking the platform. Later in the afternoon I boarded the Amtrak Southwest Chief train to Riverside.

Empire Bowl Bar, Redlands

- Sign above the bar read, "Tips are like Tits, the bigger the better"

Darby's Bar & Grill, Redlands

- As I sat at the bar with a cold pint of Stone IPA, I observed a family at a nearby table with a most unusual "guest" – a small human skeleton standing beside their young son – both being about the same size! When I asked the dad, "who's your son's friend?", he replied, "it's Bone Jovi! We're getting a head start on Halloween" What a classic response so I knew I had to take a photograph!

September

Facebook message from my dear friend Bill Brooks in Mississippi

- An announcement for the "Limited edition pumpkin spice SPAM" and "Pumpkin pie spice Pringles"! Jokingly, I replied "OMG, next we'll have pumpkin pie Vape", to which Bill responded with a "link" to order "Pumpkin Spice Vape" online!

November

Empire Bowl Bar, Redlands

- While I was at the bar writing some notes, an old, grey-haired man with a long grey beard suddenly struck up a conversation with me about his love of bowling. But he said it was becoming more difficult for him since he didn't drive anymore and had to take 3 buses to reach the bowling alley from his home in Yucaipa. As the conversation continued, his father used to be a locomotive engineer for 40 years on the old Pacific Electric Railroad, and later the Southern Pacific. When he asked me if I bowled, I told him that the last time I had bowled was 28 years ago when I was on a business trip to Moscow, Russia. At first, he thought I was joking, but it's true! *(never know who you'll meet at the bowling alley)*

December

On a concluding note, shortly after having prepared a traditional Christmas Holiday turkey dinner with all the trimmings last year, we noticed a fairly strong odor of natural gas in the kitchen. When the technician from Southern California Gas Company checked the kitchen stove, which is over 80 years old, he found several small leaks but was unable to fix the problem. So, he gave me the name and phone number of a local company that specialized in repairing vintage gas cook stoves. A couple of days later, the guys from "Old Stove Appliances Company" took the stove to their workshop for repair. To make a long story short, since the stove was an antique, it took over 10 months to complete the repair! In the meantime, they gave us a "loaner" stove, which was nice but not the same as our old one. Here's a photo of the old stove that is now back in our kitchen.



Old Gas Stove

WISHING EVERYONE A MOST JOYOUS HOLIDAY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PHOTO GALLERY



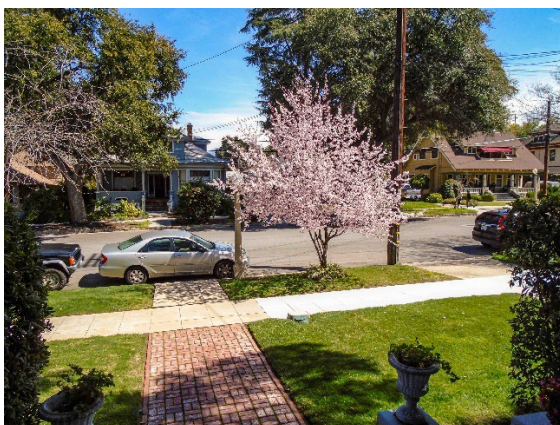
Vintage Los Angeles streetcar – Orange Empire Railroad Museum



Main Street – Pioneertown



Living Desert Zoo & Gardens



Blossoming Plum tree in our front yard



Lake Matthews photo shoot



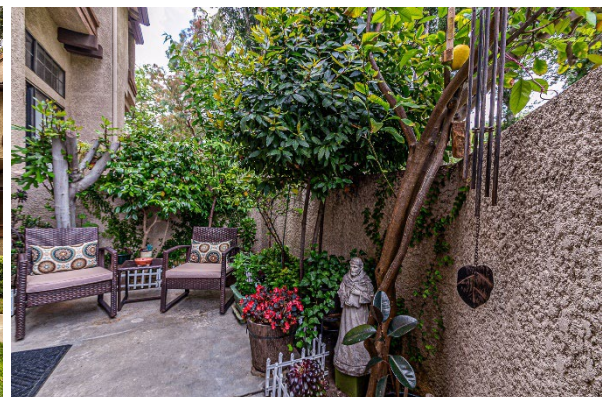
Lake Matthews photo shoot



Lake Matthews photo shoot



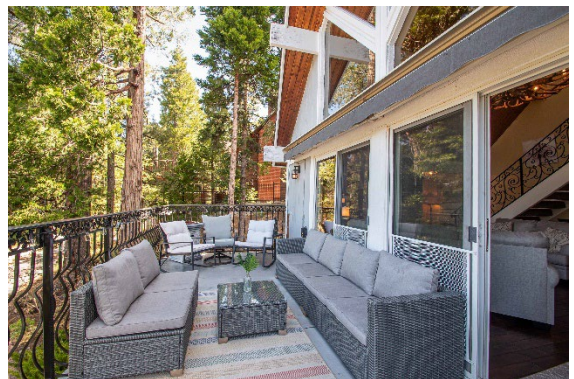
Lake Matthews photo shoot



Pomona photo shoot



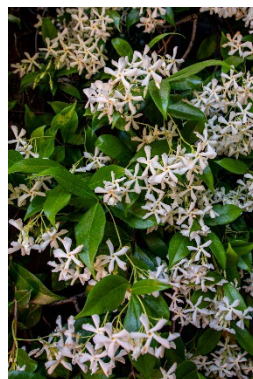
Pomona photo shoot



Lake Arrowhead photo shoot



Lake Arrowhead photo shoot



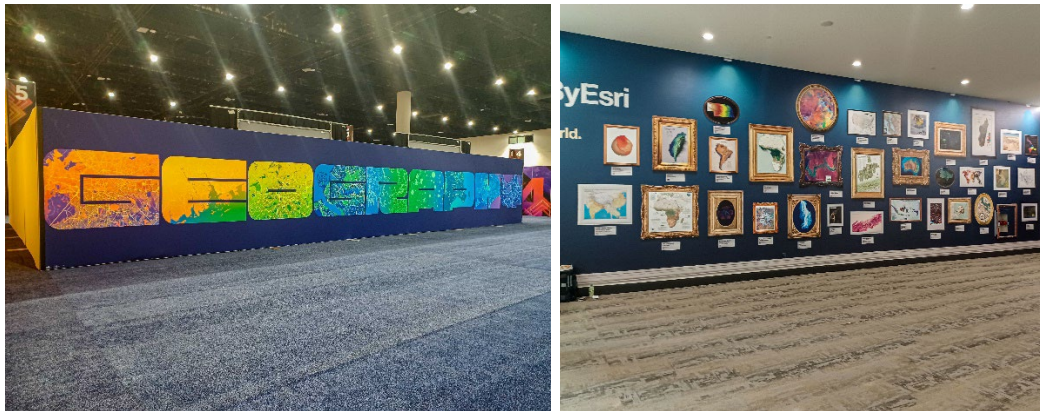
Jasmine in our garden



Oak Hills photo shoot



Oak Hills photo shoot



Esri Users Conference – San Diego



Darby's Bar – Redlands



The "High Desert" near Mojave



White House Saloon – Randsburg



Front Street – Randsburg



White House Saloon & "Floozy House"



San Timoteo Canyon trail



Delta Airlines "Sky Club" – SeaTac Airport



William Hernandez Fish Hatchery



Ship Creek – Anchorage, Alaska



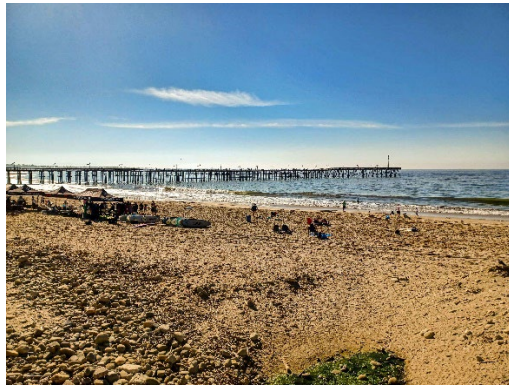
Fireweed in autumn



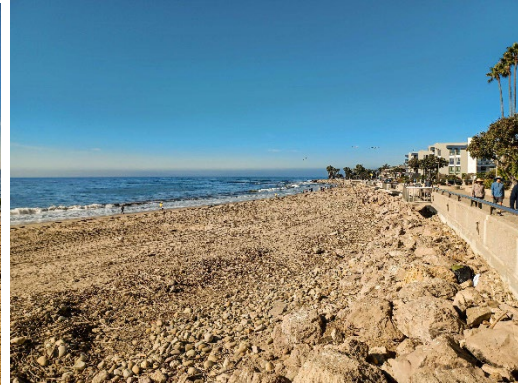
Potters Marsh – Anchorage



"Devils Club"



Ventura Pier



Ocean Front beach – Ventura



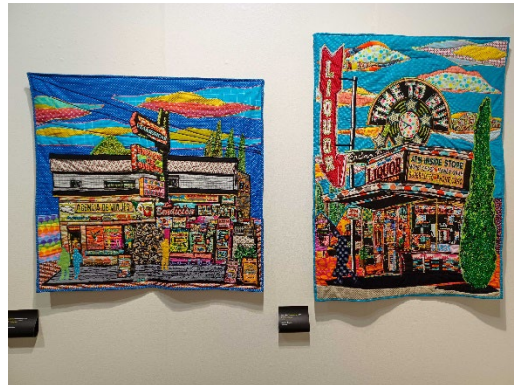
Main Street – Ventura



Tony's Pizzeria



San Buenaventura Mission



Local artwork / Historic Mural – Ventura County Museum



Murals in downtown Ventura



Approach to San Buenaventura Mission



Atrium – Clocktower Inn, Ventura



Halloween Festival – Redlands



Halloween Festival - Redlands



"Trick-or-Treaters" at our front door



San Timoteo Canyon trail



Union Pacific "Special Train" – San Timoteo Canyon