

# The Brauers, Havin' Fun

Part 1H  
April 2002  
California and Arizona



A chronicle of our RV travels as documented in a series of Emails to our grandkids (and others) and photographs. This section covers the month of April 2002.

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## **Introduction**

In May 2001, we sold our house, disposed of most of our "stuff", and started living full time in our 1990, 30-foot long, Southwind motor home. On June 1, 2001, we took delivery of our new 2001, 35-foot long, Winnebago Adventurer. In August 2001, we both retired. That's a nice thing to do when you are both in your 50's.

In April 2002 we had promised two of our Grand Daughters we would take them to Arizona. We did that and more.

On our first long trip, we discovered that some of our friends and relatives (particularly our Grand Children)) often wondered where we were and what we were doing. That's when we developed the idea of sending Emails. We wanted our grand children to understand that there was a lot more to this wonderful country than Ridgecrest and Los Angeles. We also wanted to make them curious about things. So we started our Where are we? Emails. We start each email by describing where we are without actually identifying the location. Then we describe what we've been doing. Finally, we tell them exactly where we are located.

This section of our "book" contains all the emails and some of the photographs during April 2002.

We hope you enjoy it.

Larry and Adrienne Brauer

**Subj: 61. Where are we?**

**Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2002 9:16:50 AM**

Since we've already written about Inyokern and the Indian Wells Valley, and the three grandkids that live in the Valley have already seen us, we won't bore you with a description of where we are. After all, we are back in Inyokern for a bit.

We will be taking two of our grandkids to Phoenix for about a week, then back to Inyokern, then to LA to see two more grandkids, then back to Inyokern. Finally, we are getting ready for the ultimate RV road trip, to Alaska!!

The Brauers

Havin' Fun

Where ever we are?

**Subj: 62. Where are we?**  
**Date: Monday, April 1, 2002 8:03:38 PM**

Two of the five people we write the "Where are we's?" for are with us, so it doesn't make a lot of sense to do a real one even though we send these emails to 31 different people. But, we are in the Valley of the Sun, in Phoenix Arizona.

We spent a few days in the Ridgecrest area to see three of our grand children and see some friends. We promised two of our grandchildren we would take them to see their dad in Phoenix. As it turns out, Doug, Adrienne's youngest son, is working in Phoenix selling cars (if you're in Phoenix and looking for a car, be sure to stop by Showcase Honda and ask for Doug Swinford). We promised his daughter, Breanna, that we would take her and her sister (Ashley) to visit Doug over their Spring Break. That's the real reason we are here. However, it's always good to see Adrienne's Dad, Bill Keene, and Judy (Bill Keene's very special "significant other").

We left Inyokern on Easter Sunday, and spent last night in the Date Capital of California (that's Indio). Today we drove the rest of the way to Phoenix. After arriving here, at Adrienne's Dad's house, the two girls took baths, changed clothes, and we went to see Doug at work.

Several people have asked about the cost of living in an RV and the cost of gas. I checked our expenses for March and here's the result.

On March 1, we arrived in Atlanta Georgia. During March, we drove from Atlanta, to Memphis, to Oklahoma City, to Lakewood New Mexico, to Las Cruces, to Inyokern California, and to Indio California. That turns out to be about 3,000 miles. We spent about \$550 on gasoline, paying anywhere from \$1.00/gallon to \$1.56/gallon of gas. We also spent a total of \$378 on campground fees. That includes a few free nights of camping to spending \$36 for one night at an RV resort in Indio. Gasoline and Campground fees are our two biggest monthly expenses. Now, considering that we have traveled quite a bit, we hope you can see that full time RVing is not really expensive. If you think that's expensive, consider what it would cost to stay in motels for 31 days and eat out three meals a day. Plus, all that time you are keeping a house or apartment.

We plan on leaving Phoenix next Saturday and getting back to the Ridgecrest area either Saturday or Sunday, so the girls can be back in school on Monday.

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Disneyland, Anaheim, California  
April 11, 2002



Jill, C.J., Daniel, Nicolas, and Jeff on the tram from the Mickey and Friends Parking Structure to the main gate.



Nicholas admires the flowers at Disneyland's main gate.



C.J. and Daniel enjoyed Tarzan's Tree House.



Jeff, Jill, and the kids take a ride on Casey Junior.



Daniel and C.J. like a Darth Vader made from Legos at the Lego Store in downtown Disney.



The Lego Store also has a huge giraffe made from Legos.

Disneyland, Anaheim, California  
April 11, 2002



This gives an idea of just how big the giraffe really is.



Nicolas was fascinated by the giraffe.



There were lots of things made from Legos.



C.J. made a rabbit at the "Build a Bear Workshop" in downtown Disney.



Daniel washes the bear he made for his mother.



Here's the whole crew with Mickey Mouse.

California Science Center, Los Angeles, California  
April 13, 2002



Daniel enjoyed the California Science Center.



Every gallery has a Discovery Center



The Center even has bugs on display.



There are also real experiments with sound waves.