

2009 Holiday Greetings from the Gordons



Hiking in Sedona, AZ



Pilloried in Williamsburg, VA



Rock City,
near Chattanooga,
Tennessee



Kennedy Center
Washington, D.C.



Yosemite: Sentinel Dome,
Half Dome in background



Our usual weekly ride:
Willow Springs,
near Morgan Hill, CA



Roosevelt Monument,
Washington, D.C.



CNN Center, Atlanta, GA



Hiking in Grand Tetons, WY



Virginia Beach, VA



Barry in Sedona, AZ



Time Trial, Sattley, CA

Barry in Sedona, AZ Time Trial, Sattley, CA

2009 Gordon News

Aldene started this year by exploring Chattanooga, TN and the Tennessee River while Barry was teaching his 32-hour corrosion class at the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's training center. Yes, they discovered the Choo-Choo. They also visited Rock City and taste-tested a lot of southern barbeque.

After a short respite it was off to Atlanta for Barry's annual corrosion conference. While in town they visited the CNN Center, were served by Ted Turner's waiter, Rockin' Rob, at Ted's Montana Grill. They also saw a small group of the terracotta warriors of the First Emperor of China Qin from 210-209 BCE at the High Museum. The army's purpose was to help rule another empire with Shi Huang Di in the afterlife. It appears that they succeeded.

After brief visits to Pittsburgh for the Carnegie Museums and buggy, Sattley, CA for the Northern California/Nevada Time Trial championships (Aldene won!) it was off to Jackson, WY for another technical meeting and a brief hike around Jenny Lake.

A major trip was a visit to Virginia Beach for the 14th International Symposium on Environmental Degradation of Materials in Nuclear Power Systems. That is a mouthful! However, there was some time to visit Colonial Williamsburg, VA and play on the beach.

The Gordons returned to Bethesda, MD in September for another session of Barry's corrosion class. This time, however, they rented bikes to tour the capitol. They witnessed the Tea Baggers and other lunatics after riding from Bethesda on a beautiful bike path along the Potomac River. Again, with Metro SmarTrip® cards in hands, Aldene and Barry visited the capitol and watched the Senate in action - or is it inaction. They witnessed Aldene's friend, Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, propose that a caucus room be named after the Kennedys. This was seconded by Senator John Kerry while Ted Kennedy's son, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, looked on. Lots of other touristy stuff was accomplished on the trip (e.g., Smithsonian) plus another visit with their friends the Summers, Hacks and Webers in Annapolis.

Finally, it was time for a vacation and a return to Sedona, AZ where they did a lot of hiking interspersed with visits to Aldene's family in Flagstaff, a side trip to visit to the Harringtons in Prescott and the Hayes' back in Sedona. Chicken Point will never be the same.



On a more personal and sad note, we lost Aldene's mom, Betty Stoner in July. Betty was a true pioneer. Born on a homestead in North Dakota in 1915, she helped her family survive by trapping and selling animal pelts. She excelled academically, memorizing lessons as she traveled to school on horseback. After graduating with honors from high school she boarded a train for California to "seek her fortune." There she met Henry Stoner, a biochemistry graduate student at Stanford University, and, hence, Aldene and brother Jim.

*Our best to each of yous
Aldene and Barry*