

Rocky Mountain Country Coachers

NEWSLETTER



Special Issue

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CHRISTMAS CAMPOUT—2011

On Thursday, December 8th, we arrived at Camp VanDenBerg in Tolleson for a Christmas Campout. We spent the afternoon chatting about our summer's travels, supervising the decorating of the coaches with Christmas decorations, looking at adorable grandbabies and just being with friends. In the evening we gathered for a Pot Luck dinner. Jack had assigned courses so we had a full meal, everything from Jack's hot (temperature) clam chowder to Ray's hot (spicy) beer nuts. We were stuffed and then Wanda brought around her peanut cream pie. After that we could have rolled back to our coaches instead of walking. On Friday morning, for those brave enough to face the cold morning air, there was high octane coffee and muffins. We carpoled to the New Life Center to drop off our donations of toys, clothes, food and other items for the occupants. Corrine showed us a very moving video of a few former occupants telling how and why the Center had changed their lives and helped them to gain esteem and confidence in themselves. Then we had a tour of the facilities which is the second largest domestic abuse center in the country and one of the few that admits teen-age boys. Our next destination was the Wigwam Resort for lunch and then we needed exercise so we drove to the Leyton Woolf's Rose Farm. Leyton gave us a tour of his facilities and we saw the various stages of a rose bush from stock stacks put into the ground to form roots which then will be used to graft other roses onto to the harvesting of the rose bush. The whole process takes about 2 1/2 to 3 years to complete. He grows different rose forms—roses for rose hedges, climbing roses, hybrid tea roses and others. We watched his workers harvesting rose bushes that within a few days will be shipped to the packers. Once harvested it is very important to keep the roots wet. A few of our members were able to salvage a few bushes that fell off the harvesting wagon. Many of us are growing roses now or have done so in the past and we were amazed that there were fields and fields of a variety of a rose, which we had one in our rose garden. Leyton Woolf is the largest rose grower in the country. Saturday morning we went to "Christmas in the Park" in Litchfield Park. The parade included many politicians and Brownie and Cub Scouts. Santa Claus made his appearance. That evening we had a delicious catered Mexican dinner. Vern & Celine were voted the best decorated coach and then we had the auction. There were fabulous items that were worth much more than what they were auctioned for, but we were able to send \$886 to the New Life Center. The White Elephant Gift Exchange was a Hoot!!! Ken bonded so well with his gift. Sunday morning, after a breakfast of Ray's beer batter pancakes and thick bacon, most of us departed. We had a great time and thank Ray and Harriet of the use of Camp VanDenBerg.

See you at Fort McDowell in March!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!