



CRUISING WITH PHOENIX

Online Phoenix Forum Activity:

New forum software. Phoenix Cruiser has updated the software used on the owners' forum as part of continuing improvement to their web presence. While a few glitches have turned up the transition seemed to be mostly flawless. Some posters are requesting the option for a different color scheme and some other layout changes but all were universal in their praise of Phoenix Cruiser for updating and maintaining the owners' forum.

[Deciding to not tow with a 2100](#) Discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of using a toad or dinghy with a small motorhome like the 2100.

[Phoenix Cruiser Facebook x2](#) Information on the Phoenix Cruiser Facebook group.

[Time for a new 2350 mattress](#) Discussion on replacing a mattress in an older PC.

[Insuring a new Phoenix Cruiser](#) Discussion and suggestions on RV insurance.

[New 2552 delivery walkthrough plan](#) A plan and checklist spreadsheet for checking out a new 2552 at the factory.

[2552 Delivery day](#) A step by step account of a new owner's (excellent) experience picking up their new 2552 at the factory.

John Trax

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### ***CITY OF ROCKS STATE PARK***

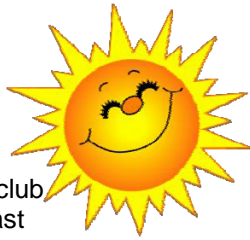


I think it was the name that drew us off the main highway to this campground in the southwest corner of New Mexico several years ago. It turned out to be one of the most interesting campgrounds we have ever visited - the City of Rocks State Park in New Mexico. The rock formations really did look like a small city. The state has worked hard to make it look natural. Trash bins are placed behind rock formations for one thing. And the sunsets are killer. The 62 campsites are located among the formations in such a way that you can feel almost alone out there. There is actually an observatory on site. And we found TWO geocaches there. There are ten sites with electricity, and 42 others without. Since it is slightly above 5,000 feet in elevations the temperatures don't go much above the mid 80s in the daytime. The camping fee is an affordable \$10 at developed sites, \$4 for electrical hookup.

*Margaret Potvin*

## WEST COAST EVENT WAS FUN!

Eight rigs and their owners attended this annual event, open to all club members (and some past club members). It was held at Pismo Coast Village RV Resort in Pismo Beach, California. The Gathering began under bright sunny skies that eventually brought a brief rain. The melodrama on Sunday evening was very entertaining – a tale of man and his dog (whose side comments stole the show). We had a wonderful potluck on the grass behind our rigs on Monday night followed by the traditional cinnamon rolls breakfast the next morning. We had several RV – related demonstrations, especially helpful for the new owners present. We interrupted two Juncos building a nest under the rear bumper of Dan and Suzanne's RV. They hadn't seemed fazed by all the humans milling around. The birds loudly expressed their unhappiness with our taking down their hard work. Gail Aagaard taught us a new card game, Wizard, and the next day Margaret and Suzanne were determined to play cards in the wind – quite funny to watch. We had a catered dinner one night and three couples took responsibility to research a place for next year. Hope to see more of you next year.



A few years back I encountered a cactus traffic cop in the Arizona desert in my old motorhome. **Howard**



## ZIPLOCK OMELET RECIPE

From Bonnie Lipke, past club member



This recipe is great for RVing and works very well when all your family comes for breakfast. The best part is no one has to wait for their special omelet. It's a great conversation piece.

### Directions:

- Put out a variety of omelet ingredients such as grated cheese, chopped ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, salsa, hash browns, and sliced mushrooms.
- Have each guest write their name on a quart-size Ziplock freezer bag with a permanent marker.
- Each person cracks two eggs (not more) into the bag and shakes it up.
- Guests add whatever ingredients they like into the bag.
- Make sure to get the air out of the bag before it is sealed.
- Place the bags into a large pot of rolling, boiling water. You can put 6-8 bags in on pot. If you have more bags, make another pot of water.
- Cook for exactly 13 minutes.
- Use tongs to remove the bags from the boiling water.
- Open them up and the omelet will roll out easily.
- Serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake.

WIFE: "There is a problem with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous"

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool."

Husband and wife had an argument. Wife called up her mom and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you."

Mom said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth."

Then He made the earth round...and He laughed and laughed and laughed!

## NORTH SHORE SCENIC BYWAY Minnesota Highway 61

Many people headed to the Duluth Reunion will take advantage of this opportunity to explore beyond the immediate area and take an extended trip either before or after the event. One such possibility would be Minnesota Highway 61, designated as the North Shore Scenic Byway, which runs 160 miles from Duluth to the Canadian border.

Heading north from Duluth, you will pass through the quaint little town of **Two Harbors**, known for its shopping, biking, fishing, hiking, kayaking and canoeing, rock climbing, and sailing. Many of the unique shops feature craftwork reflecting the strong Scandinavian background of this area. From April to December, you can watch the giant freighters that enter the harbor to be filled with tons of taconite to deliver abroad. While visiting the harbor, look for the locomotives Three Spot and Mallet along with the Edna G. tugboat.



Just 13 miles north of Two Harbors is **Gooseberry Falls State Park** where a set of 5 waterfalls tumble down the river to Lake Superior. Four of the five falls are a short walk from the Visitor's Center and parking lot with interconnecting trails. Fifth Falls is a 2 mile out-and-back trail (4 miles total).

**Split Rock Lighthouse State Park** is just a short hop north and offers a picnic area, visitors center, tours featuring costumed interpreters, historic buildings such as the restored keeper's house, oil house, and fog signal building. Convenient hiking trails will lead you to the best spots for photos of this last-working lighthouse in Minnesota. Over 150,000 people visit this National Historic Landmark annually.





**Tettegouche State Park** is located 58 miles northeast of Duluth on Highway 61. It contains 6 inland lakes (4 of which support northern pike and one walleye fishing), 4 waterfalls, and a beach on Lake Superior. High Falls is the highest waterfall (70') located entirely in Minnesota.

**George H. Crosby Manitou State Park** is next, near Little Marais and Finland. It is situated on the Manitou River and has been intentionally left largely undeveloped.



Caribou Falls is located on the Caribou River between Little Marais and Taconite Harbor. The falls are a ½ mile hike from Highway 61 from the **Caribou Falls State Wayside**; the trail is fairly level but climbs high above the river near the end.

**Temperance River State Park** is next and has picnic areas, hiking trails, and three waterfalls which can be reached by footpath. It is also just 1 of 4 Minnesota State Parks to allow rock climbing. There are several riverside overlooks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.



The town of **Tofte** is known for their trout and bluefin fish. The North Shore Commercial Fishing Museum tells the story of fishing on Lake Superior.



The **Ray Berglund State Wayside** offers picnic tables located on a bluff with views of Lake Superior. A ½ trail provides an overlook of the Onion River. There is also access to the **Gitchi Gami State Trail**, a multi-use, non-motorized paved trail.

**Lutsen** is nestled along one of the most scenic stretches of Lake Superior in the heart of the Sawtooth Mountains. From the Lutsen Mountain Ski Area, you can take a gondola up Moose Mountain to the summit of Eagle Mountain. You can either ride the chairlift down to the valley or travel down the Alpine Slide, a specially built toboggan on a twisting 2,200' track winding down the mountain. Lutsen also offers easy access to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The **Gunflint Trail National Scenic Byway** at the edge of Boundary Waters is a 57-mile trip that will stay with you forever.





**Cascade River State Park** near Lutsen features short walking trails to overlooks and walking bridges spanning the cascades. A longer hike (3.5-mile loop) to Overlook Mountain provides views for 50 miles including Lake Superior and the Sawtooth Mountains.

The town of **Grand Marais** has an amazing arts culture, unmatched natural beauty, unique and quaint shops, and an impressive collection of restaurants and lodging accommodations.

From the **Devils Track Falls State Wayside**, you can hike 2 miles to Pincushion Mountain, a rock outcrop overlooking Lake Superior.



The **Kadunce River Wayside** offers a 1.5-mile trail with small waterfalls—you may walk the trail or the more adventurous can get into the water and follow the river!

The Brule River flows through **Judge C. R. Magney State Park**, dropping 800' and producing several waterfalls and cascades. The Lower Falls drops 7 feet, a short distance upstream is Upper Falls dropping 25', and Devil's Kettle Falls is unusual with half of the Brule River disappearing into a pothole before reappearing.



Isle Royale National Park

**Grand Portage**, your last stop in Minnesota, is 2 ½ hours northeast of Duluth and offers much to do. The Grand Portage National Monument features the meticulously restored North West Company Depot and Heritage Center where you can learn the rich history of aboriginal culture and the fur trade. Grand Portage State Park has exhibits showcasing life of the area's Chippewa Indians. From Grand Portage, you can enjoy a boat ride to **Isle Royale National Park**, an International Biosphere Reserve. Isle Royale is one of the least visited National Parks—its scenery is breathtaking. View ancient lava flows, historic lighthouses, shipwrecks, abandoned copper mining sites, and wildlife galore!

For those ready for a more ambitious itinerary could continue on the Lake Superior Circle Tour. This distinct 1,300-mile trek will take you around the world's largest freshwater lake and into the Canadian province of Ontario and three states, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. For a wealth of information regarding this route, check <http://www.lakesuperiortravelguide.com/>. Do the trip in its entirety or pick a section—you won't be disappointed.

*Karen Thompson*

## THE PIONEER WOMAN MERCANTILE

A Touring Suggestion from Gail Aagaard

At the recent West Coast event, Gail told us about one of her favorite TV cooking shows, "The Pioneer Woman." The host, Ree Drummond, lives in Osage County, OK. Gail suggested that if we were ever near Pawhuska, it was worth the effort to stop for a visit.

You can tour the lodge where Ree films her television program for Food Network. If you are not familiar with her work, take a look at some of her recipes at the Food Network website. Here's how the network describes Ree:



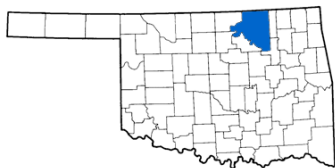
*Take one sassy former city girl, her hunky rancher husband, a band of adorable kids, an extended family, cowboys, 3,000 wild mustangs, a herd of cattle and one placid basset hound, and you have The Pioneer Woman.*

Ree has her own blog, which documents her daily life as a ranch wife and mother of four. She is also a photographer and best-selling author of cookbooks, children's books and a magazine. She sold the movie rights to her memoir, "Black Heels to Tractor Wheels" to Columbia Pictures.

The Pioneer Woman Mercantile in Pawhuska, OK is a shop, restaurant, deli, coffee bar and bakery. In addition to cooking-related items, the shop has a variety of beautiful leather totes, backpacks and hand bags on offer. The "Merc" was built in 1910, and purchased by the Drummond family in 2012. It has been called "shopping heaven."

It is evidently a very popular place to visit. Fans flock to the eatery in droves. They get 6,000 visitors a day, sometimes more! Some folks stand in line for 3 hours to visit the deli. Try visiting on non-holiday Mondays and Wednesdays. Try an early breakfast (opens at 7am) or an early dinner (after 3pm). The bakery has a shorter line. They are closed on Sunday.

You can also visit the lodge on Drummond Ranch just outside Pawhuska. Tours are free, but you must pick up tickets (1 ticket per group) and get directions at the Mercantile or Ree's restaurant in Pawhuska on the day of the tour. Check their website for the dates available: [www.themercantile.com/pages/lodge-tours](http://www.themercantile.com/pages/lodge-tours).



A nearby RV camping spot, Settle Inn RV Park, is at Co Road 2520. It is described as small and cozy with a shared fire pit in the middle of the

grounds. It is located just south of Pawhuska, off State Highway 99. Call (918) 440-8350 to reserve a spot. There appears to be plenty of shade.



### INFORMED DELIVERY

Howard and I live in a small mountain town in the California Mountains. Home delivery is not an option since it is not offered here. So everyone has a post office box. If you are going on vacation you can have the post office hold your mail until your return. This year we are planning an extended trip beyond the two month time period and have wondered how to deal with our mail. How will we know if something important comes in that needs our immediate attention?

My neighbor, who travels almost full time in her RV, just told me about a program the USPS has called "Informed Delivery." They will digitally preview all your letter-sized mail, and send a photo of the exterior to your tablet, smartphone, or computer. \* Images are only provided for letter-sized mail pieces that are processed through USPS' automated equipment. You can also track the delivery status of packages.

You can sign up online for this FREE service or go to your post office to sign up in person. This service may not be available in your area. Go to the USPS website: [informedelivery.usps.com](http://informedelivery.usps.com) to find out if this service is available in your zip code.

In our case, we can then arrange for a neighbor or relative to pick up our mail from the post office, say once a week, and can direct them to send us anything we need to take care of before we get back.



For those of you with post office boxes, you know that they must be renewed each year. You must complete a form, show proof of address, and turn in the form to the post office. The problem with this if you travel a lot is that sometimes you are away when your renewal comes due. You cannot sign it and have someone else turn it in for you. But you can complete the form ahead of time and take your proof of residency into any US post office where they will verify your proof, and send a copy to your home post office.

Margaret Potvin

## Latest Scams

### Ransomware

If you have a notice pop up on your computer that says "Microsoft or Apple Dell or HP (or anyone) has determined that your computer has been hacked" and wants you to call a number or click on something. STOP. Do not click on anything; even trying to exit the program could install a virus.

Instead, hit Ctrl+Alt+Delete. This will call up the Task Manager. In the Task Manager, select the running program and hit 'End task' on the lower right. This will end the program safely.

My brother got the notice and clicked on something and his computer locked up. He called the number and someone wanted a fee to unlock it. After much hassling, he ended up buying a new computer.

I would recommend purchasing an external hard drive and backing up all your files, just in case.

### Online Charity Scams

Thieves are now getting in on the legitimate charity websites such as "Go Fund Me" to swindle sympathetic people out of money for fraudulent reasons. Never give money to an individual or charity without verifying if it is a legitimate charity

### Mail Box Scam

Thieves are finding it more difficult to hack into computers and systems to scam you, so they are reverting to an older method. They will tie a sticky pad mouse trap on a string and drop it into the blue curbside mail drop box and fish out the mail. One person dropped a check in the mail box which was fished out and the amount was kited up to \$4,500. This time the Post Office alerted her because the signature did not match

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### Credit Cards

If you think that your new credit card with the embedded chip is safe, think again. There is a new scam out there called *shimming*. Thieves shove a thin shim into the card slot with the capability of reading your new chip card.

## 2018 Phoenix Cruiser Travel Club Reunion Duluth, Minnesota

We have 34 rigs registered for our 2018 reunion at **Buffalo Valley Camping**, 2590 Guss Road, Duluth, Minnesota. The Reunion is scheduled for Thursday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>** through Tuesday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>**. Attendees who plan on arriving early or staying over should call the campground for reservations at 218-590-8774. Please mention you are part of the Phoenix Cruiser group. Looking forward to see y'all there!!!!



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Did You Know?

Senior Citizens Are The Leading Carriers Of Aids!

- Hearing Aids
- Band Aids
- Roll Aids
- Walking Aids
- Medical Aids
- Government Aids
- And Most of All,
Monetary Aids to Their Kids!

Cardiologists Diet:
If it tastes good, spit it out.

JUST ASKING

RV'ing is a learning experience. Many of us learn something new on nearly every trip. Sometimes these learning experiences could be categorized as bloopers, some as horror stories, some just plain amusing. Please tell us your best or most recent camping/RV story.

MEMBER RESPONSES

When Holly and I started traveling full-time, we rigged our 2014 Subaru Forester for towing four wheels down behind our Phoenix 2552. Prepping it for towing was easy—attach the tow bar, put gear shift in neutral, release emergency brake, turn ignition to Accessory, turn off display, check brake lights, lock tow bar, and off we go. Five minutes is all it takes.

When we get to a campground we simply reverse the process. One of the first times we did that, we unhooked the tow bar. The Subaru started rolling downhill, slowly at first then picking up speed. It took a few seconds to realize what was happening. Shocked, panicked and more than a little embarrassed, I raced after the car, yanked open the driver-side door, jumped inside and pulled the emergency brake as hard as I could. Whew!!!

Holly thought it was hysterical and couldn't stop laughing. I wasn't quite as amused thinking I could have been run over by my own car! Needless to say, that hasn't happened again. Lesson learned!

I wish I could say I haven't done any other stupid things, like slicing open my hand on a hatchet that was lying on a picnic table. Don't ask! I guess I'm working on being included in the next edition of the Darwin Awards (<http://www.darwinawards.com/>).

John Halupka and Holly Cook, 2013 Phoenix Cruiser 2552

We picked up our new 2552 at the factory and drove to the Elkhart campground for our first night camping. We arrived just at dark and proceeded to hook up all the hoses and cables. Since it was below freezing I wanted to use on board water rather than leave the fresh water hose connected. So, hook up, fill the tank, disconnect and drain the hoses. Store them in the trunk and head back inside the new rig. Later that night, I was told that there was no water. Odd, I say, but a check of the indicator proves it true. So out with the hoses, hook up, fill the tank, disconnect and drain the hoses. Store them in the trunk and back inside. Hours later the DW wants to take a shower, but no water. Odd, I say, but she is correct, there is no water in the tank. "Too late tonight but I will check it in the morning", I say. Next morning I hook up, fill the tank, disconnect and drain the hoses and store them in the trunk. Only to discover in the light of day that water is running is out from under the rig. Obviously, a leak someplace. So back to the factory to get a fix. After describing the issue to Earl and asking if they could look for a leak, he simply replied: "Did you close the low point drains?"

John and Carrie Trax, 2017 Phoenix Cruiser 2552

A day after picking up our 2315 in Elkhart we registered at a campground then drove out for the first grocery store stop of our full-timer life. We carried our groceries out to the coach, and Karin said we'd better hurry back to the campground to put away the frozen items. It actually took a minute or two before we realized that we had the 'fridge and freezer with us right there in the parking lot!

Donald Cooke and Karin Young, 2015 Phoenix Cruiser 2351

We decided to put in a 30 amp outlet outside of our garage. It was not easy to route the heavy cable from the breaker box to the outside wall of the building. When finished, I happily plugged in our baby. ZAP. The electrician wired it to 220!!!! *%&%\$&*^^*\$\$. He thought it was just like wiring for a dryer, because the plugs are similar. Anyway, bottom line . . . many things still work, a few are fried. Fortunately (or UNfortunately, depending on you see the glass-half-full thing), we're leaving on our 5,000 mile road trip, and the route takes us past Elkhart. We already have an appointment. Can't wait for both the factory tour and the bill.

Gabe Palmer and Pat Kane, 2012 Phoenix Cruiser 31'

Last year we were leaving home for the reunion in Sisters / Bend Oregon. We were a few miles from home when I remarked "Why is the radio reception so bad?" I looked out the windshield and saw there was no antenna. As it turned out, I remove the antennas and windshield wipers and store them in the garage when I cover the RV for the winter. I forgot to install them before we left home.

A few years back, we pulled into a campground late at night. "It was a dark and rainy night". Margaret was guiding me back into the campsite when I got out to review the situation. She rushed forward to close the door so the cats would not get out and inadvertently locked the door. There we were, locked out, and the engine running. It took us a few minutes before we remembered that due to a previous encounter, I stored an emergency key in the outside refrigerator panel. SAVED.

Howard and Margaret Potvin, 2008 Phoenix Cruiser 2400

We've had our share of bloopers along the way, but so glad to say we're still healthy and happy. The GPS, of course, is a source of joy and frustration for all of us. We love them--until they lead us astray--then we hate them! Last year on our way to the Oregon Reunion, we spent several days visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. We were two weeks late leaving on our trip, so no longer had reservations at our preferred campground in the town of Medora. We had opted for a park about 10 miles out of town knowing that it was located 1 ½ miles down a gravel road. We exit off the expressway, and the GPS instructs us to go left. We proceed down the washboard gravel road. There are curves, and hills, and the road continues to get more and more narrow and rougher. The entire area is desolate--a few head of cattle, here and there, not much else, including a place to turn around. After we drove what felt like forever, we arrived at a dead end and the only inhabited area we'd seen—a house, a barn, several out buildings, multiple horses (not corralled), no sign of any campground but a few horse trailers, other farm equipment. We knew the campground was located at a dude ranch, but we were really scratching our heads wondering if this was the place (and hoping it was not). No cell reception, of course. We decided it was time to turn around and head back to the expressway and regroup. We climbed out of the rig to unhook our toad as there was no good place to make the necessary wide U-turn. Here comes two barking dogs tearing down the driveway and wandering behind them were 3 or 4 horses. After the initial excited greeting from the dogs, they decided we were not a threat and settled down considerably. We begin to unhook the car, when one of the horses decides he needs to help out. Mr. Horse is nudging and bumping Wayne with his nose, the dogs are still circling around the rig and the car, and I'm now convinced the homeowner living out this far must have guns (lots of them) and is probably a bit suspicious about uninvited visitors. We somehow got the car unhooked in record time, did a quick 3-point turnaround with the rig, I jumped in the car, and we retraced our route back to the expressway. There we found the small, inconspicuous sign pointing to our campground to the right. (The correct road was only slightly better than our original route, the campground was adequate, but Teddy Roosevelt NP was amazing.) Of course, this was not the first time we've had to do an unplanned unhook, but undoubtedly the funniest and scariest! So wish I had gotten a picture of the horse helping Wayne, but at the time, it was not a priority.

Wayne and Karen Thompson, 2012 Phoenix Cruiser 3100

**HOUSE OF CLOCKS
ANNIE'S BOUTIQUE
St. Paul, Minnesota**



Bob Tuerk and Annie Piro have cordially invited any of the reunion attendees that may be coming through St. Paul to stop by their business, The House of Clocks and Annie's Boutique, located at 1435 White Bear Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota. The House of Clocks is the largest clock store in Minnesota, and Annie Boutique has clothing, purses, scarves, and jewelry for all occasions. The store's website is Housofclocksmn.com for more information. They also have two spots for motorhomes in their driveway in Little Canada, Minnesota. Please contact them at 612-382-8876 if interested.

