

OUR ARIZONA WINTER

By: Lois Krupinsky

It is hard to believe but this past trip was our 11th winter spent in sunny Arizona. Much has happened during those 11 years. We have now been in our own house for 8 years.

We have watched our grandchildren grow up. Katy is now 15 and is a wonderful young lady. Alex is 12 and just as nice as always. Katy is still a competitive figure skater and Alex has been playing ice hockey for many years. We always enjoy watching them on the ice. They are both quite accomplished in all of their school and extra-curriculum activities. We are very proud of them both. This year we were lucky that our son, daughter-in-law and 2 year old grandson (Paul, Courtney, Owen) from Boston jointed us for Christmas. It was a wonderful holiday that was enjoyed by all.

Car activites in Arizona just continue to grow. Our Tuesday morning social car club now meets at The Golden Corral for breakfast. Our usual crowd has grown to 125+.

This is a club where there are no affiliations with national clubs, no dues, no officers, no rules. Everyone just has a good time. Each Tuesday someone plans a tour after our meeting. This year the activities were numerous: Christmas parade and party, 2 poker runs, numerous restoration shop visits, 200 mile Roosevelt Dam tour, Oro Valley copper mine tour, a picnic, tour of the Coca Cola plant, an overnight trip to the Pomona Swap Meet, and an overnight trip to Sunsites AZ complete with dinner and show at a country club with a presentation at the Cochise Stronghold where it is rumored that Cochise is buried.

Tuesdays are always busy days filled with driving and talking about antique cars. The car cruises are plentiful in sunny Arizona. Albertson's Markets hosts the Friday night cruise-in. Generally there are about 125 cars in the parking lot. Saturday the cruise-in is at the K-Mart shopping center. At least 200 cars show up. Many of us meet at Little Caesar's for pizza filling up most of the pizza area inside K-Mart. There is also a cruise-in at the Pavilions in Scottsdale on Saturday. This cruise has 500+ cars on the parking lot. The weekend of the Barrett-Jackson auction, the Pavilions draws 1200+ cars.

Most any night it is possible to find somewhere to take an antique car for cruising and talking.

Car shows are always taking place. This year we attended several. One was sponsored by the Community Church in Tempe. This is a free show, draws 300+ cars, free lunch, lots of raffle prizes, children's area, etc. Every year it is filled to capacity. There were also several shows at 55-up communities. They also draw a large amount of cars and offer free lunch, door prizes, trophies, etc. Antique, classic and custom cars are everywhere.

Also, there are the car auctions. Of course the Barrett-Jackson auction is the best known since it is televised nationally. John was at B-J auction 3 days and I attended 2 days. It is always fun and somehow reminds me of a circus since so much is happening. I enjoy the vendors and John enjoys the auction. There is something for everyone. John also attended the Silver Auction and the Russo & Steel Auction. This year John and I drove to Palm Springs, California for the McCormick Auction. Lots of cars, lots of variety. We spent the weekend sightseeing and enjoying the scenery and food of Palm Springs.

Lastly, we just could not resist and bought another car. We saw a 2004 40th Anniversary Edition Mustang Convertible for sale at the patio sales held in our community in November. The Mustang is red with tan interior and tan top. With only 27,000 miles we had to add it to our PT Cruiser Convertible and our '67 Volkswagen Convertible. The Mustang made three cars that we now have for our two car garage so we had to modifyour garage and storage area in order to park all three inside for the summer. No problem.

We are also members of the Phoenix Region AACA and Region 37 of Early V-8 Ford Club. We attend their activities during our winter stay. That's our car year in Arizona with a little bit of family thrown in. We always look forward to being in Maryland for the summer and always look forward to returning to Arizona in the fall.

