

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell <gcw@igx.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2013 17:51
To: gcw@igx.net
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: Hello.jpg; Satellite.jpg; 131208DesertRoadTrip10.jpg; 131208DesertRoadTrip25.jpg; 131208DesertRoadTrip27.jpg

Hello (see attached).

It's been a while, new members on the list. If this is your first Postcard, Welcome. You can catch up on the history at <http://igx.net/Postcards/>

I've recently returned from a couple weeks in the Southwest Arizona Desert. Extremely busy with 60+ mile one way daily commutes, work, eat, sleep, no time to see the sights. Except for one Sunday Afternoon.

I left the hotel in Yuma Arizona, got on Interstate 8, and headed East. At Dateland (famous for its date flavored milkshakes, or Date Shakes as they called them) I just ventured North, and took some back sand/stone desert roads through the Painted Rock Mountains, then back to Interstate 8 (see Satellite image). There was about 30 miles of the Northern arc where I didn't see any vehicles, people or structures, I was a little concerned that if I had a breakdown of some sort, it might be a while before anyone found me, because there was no cell service. Well, I did have a breakdown - one of my tires went flat just a couple of miles before I got back on to paved roadways. You can tell on the time-lapse video (it starts at Dateland and ends after returning to Interstate 8 for the trip back):

<http://igx.net/Video/131208DesertCAM.wmv>

...I'm stopped for a while, you can see the horizon tilt as I jack up & down my vehicle. Then when I start again I go forward and backward a couple of times because I got some gravel stuck between the brake rotors and pads and the wheels were screeching like a banshee whenever I moved.

You'll note in the video that there are many electric power lines in the desert. What the video doesn't show are the large solar-power farms. Most of the ones I encountered were generating electricity, but I did see one that was making steam (parabolic solar collectors versus flat panel solar cells). Also there is lots agriculture & cattle in the desert, farmers have to drill down about 1000 feet to find fresh water.

While heading back West on Interstate 8, I took a short jaunt to a prehistoric site where there are petroglyphs (stone engravings) carved into a pile of stones. There are basically two styles of carvings – the Western Archaic Style (geometric designs) and the Gila Style (human and animal designs), not to mention the additional inscriptions made in the past few centuries as these carvings were encountered by Western Civilization. Although the actual dates of the original etchings cannot yet be determined, the Western Archaic Culture inhabited the region as far back as 9500 years ago until about 2000 years ago, and the Gila Culture existed from about 2300 years ago until the 15th century AD. It's amazing to me that these images have withstood the elements (and tourists) for so many centuries.

Cheers,
G.





Yuma

Painted Rock Petroglyph Site





