

Ormand Family Activity

April 2014: Lake Havasu Lighthouses

Our bank account is feeling sore from a lot of dental bills and car repair bills last year, and this year (and not a little from the Route 66 trip last year), so this year won't see much in the way of elaborate vacations. Since Jerri is a lighthouse fancier, when we found out that Lake Havasu has a collection of sub-scale replica lighthouses, it got on our list of things to see. The lake tour of the lighthouses ends in April, so we took our last chance to visit Lake Havasu City (and before it got so smoking hot!).

Thursday and Friday - Lake Havasu City

Our trip took us from Tucson to Casa Grande on Wednesday afternoon, down Interstate 8 to the Arizona 85 bypass, then down Interstate 10 to Quartzite, and up Arizona 95 through Parker to Lake Havasu City. This was about five hours driving time, not counting stops for dinner, refueling, and other necessities. It was midnight before we arrived at the Travelodge in Lake Havasu City. The Travelodge is not one of our usual hotels; my preference was to take advantage of the opportunity and stay at the London Bridge Resort hotel or one of the other boutique places either on the island or near the downtown area, but everything was booked up. When we arrived, we discovered the reason: the Desert Storm motorboat race! The streets were choked with huge trucks pulling monstrous trailers carrying gigantic high-performance motorboats, as well as a host of smaller trucks pulling large trailers with pretty darn big motorboats so the race spectators (and party crowd) could get in the water to watch.

We also found that there's a big motorcycle rally in Laughlin, Nevada, which overflows into nearby communities. There were plenty of motorcyclists rumbling through town, and plenty of leather jackets and bandanas at the London Village. I believe we were lucky to get anything, let alone a pretty nice room at the Travelodge.

London Bridge Resort: <http://www.londonbridgeresort.com>

Desert Storm: www.golakehavasu.com/events/details/113/16th-annual-desert-storm-poker-run-s

Our visit started at London Village on Thursday.



London Village is pretty nice, if not impressive. Other than some shops for beachware or tourist goodies, there's not that much here. We started at the visitors' center for some info and maps.

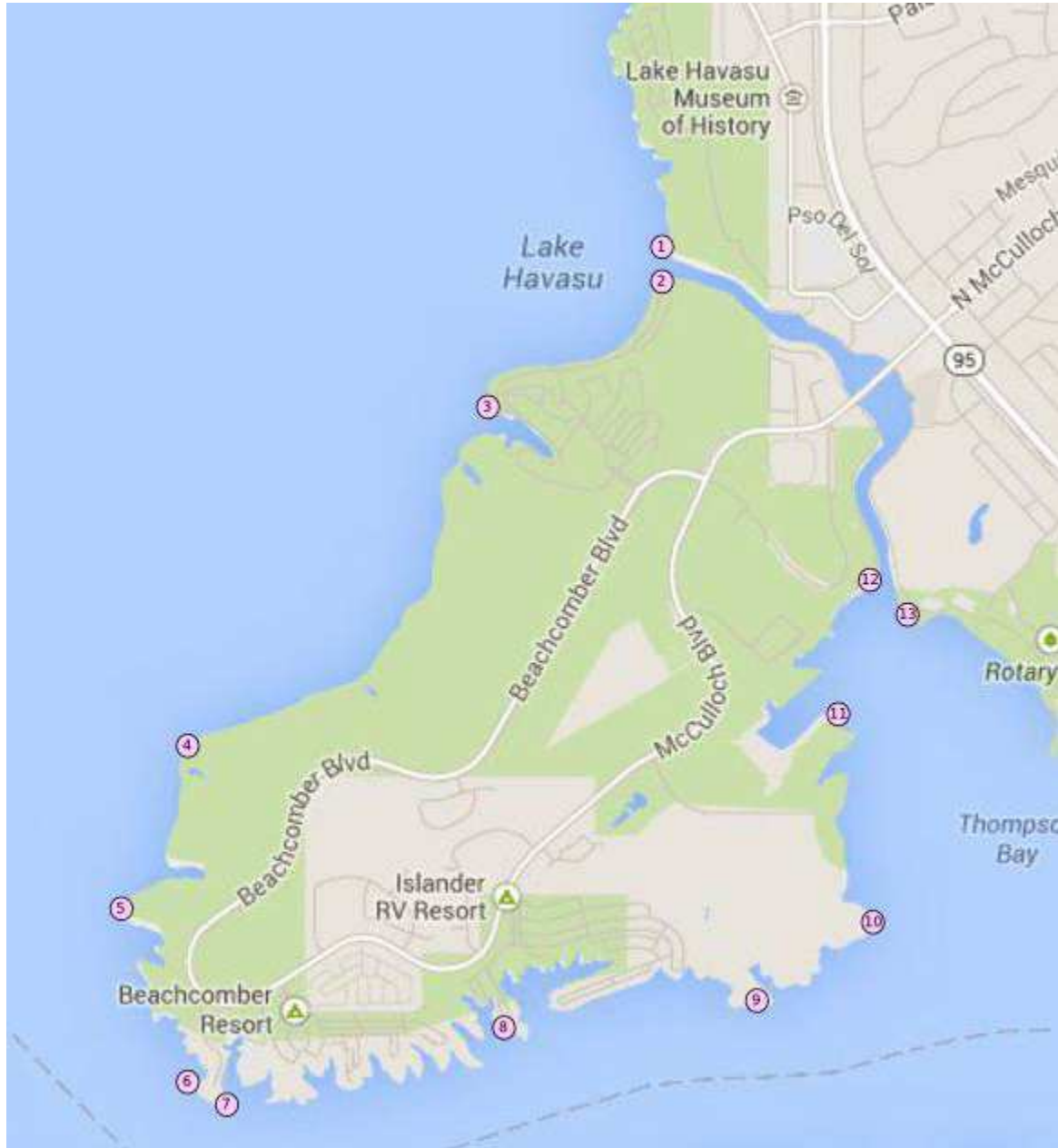
The best sight from the Village is of course the Bridge.



This was the little tour cruiser that took us around the lake. We were lucky in that six passengers showed up, as it would not have been worth their while to run the tour with fewer than six.

Our purpose on this trip is to see (and photograph) all the lighthouses

we can. We get a map from the visitors' center which turned out to be slightly less than accurate. The definitive (and interactive) map is at the Lake Havasu Lighthouse Club's site: lh-lighthouseclub.org. The following maps are my attempt to resolve the Club map against the "satellite" maps from Google:



1. East Quoddy (Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada) - Windsor State Park at Bridgewater Channel



2. West Quoddy (Lubec, Maine) - LHC Island at Bridgewater Channel



3. Robert Manning (Empire, Michigan) - Crazyhorse Campgrounds

Named in memory of an avid fisherman!



4. Vermillion (Vermillion, Ohio) - NW on LHC Island



5. Split Rock (Two Harbors, Minnesota) - NW on LHC Island



6. Alpena (Alpena, Michigan) - Site Five on LHC Island



The Alpena Light has a nickname, "Sputnik", since it was built in the day, and the four legs look like the four antennae sweeping back from the Sputnik satellite body.



7. Wind Point (Racine, Wisconsin) - Site Six on LHC Island





Originally, after Parker Dam was built and Lake Havasu filled, this large peninsula formed. The Army built the Kingman Army Air Field nearby, and established several emergency landing strips, one of which was on this peninsula, which was then called "Site Number Six". As the plaque says, Site Six became an R&R location for the training crews. After the war, some enterprising ex-Corpsmen

moved in and set up their own little vacation spot, which became popular with their former aircrew buddies.

These apartments look old enough, architecturally, to have been from that period, obviously fixed up and maintained for their current use as boater "cabins".



8. Chicago Navy Pier, Southwall (Chicago, Illinois) - Site Six Channel on LHC Island



9. White Shoal (new Mackinac Bridge, Michigan) - 15th Green of Island Golf Course



10. Algoma Pierhead (Algoma, Wisconsin) - Spectator Point



No, that's not a palm tree growing out of it. You do the best you can at taking pictures.

11. Lake Havasu Marina

This is the one that started it all. After the "island" was formed by cutting Bridgewater Channel from underneath the newly-rebuilt London Bridge, the new property owners established a boating marina on the island, and put up this little lighthouse as a harbor marker. The lighthouse fanciers (like Jerri) saw that, and the idea struck them of building actual replicas around the lake, even though this original marina marker is not a replica of anything.



12. Main Buffalo (Buffalo, New York) - LHC island at Bridgewater Channel



13. Currituck (Currituck Beach, North Carolina) - Mainland at
Bridgewater Channel





1: Cape Hatteras (Buxton, North Carolina) - Windsor State Park



It took a while to find this one. It didn't occur to us (given the sketchy info we had at the time) that the replica would be *in* the State Park. So we paid the fee, saw the lighthouse... and went swimming in the lake!

2: Table Bluff (Humboldt Bay, California) - Havasu Landing Marina

This one was not on the day tour. The tour skipper told us about a ferry that runs between Lake Havasu City and the Chemehuevi Indian casino on the California side. Upon hearing about the restaurant over there, and thinking that it would be fun to get out on the lake on the ferry at night, and seeing the lights of Havasu City, we made plans. After arriving there - at night - we found that the replica lighthouse was at the marina entrance! Our cheapy little point-and-shoot doesn't work very well at night, but if you use your browser to zoom in on the picture, you can make out the broad details faintly.



3: Fire Island (Long Island, New York) - Piccadilly Point



4: Mount Desert Rock (Mount Desert Island, Main) - Grass Island



5: Pidgeon Point (Half Moon Bay, California) - California Bay

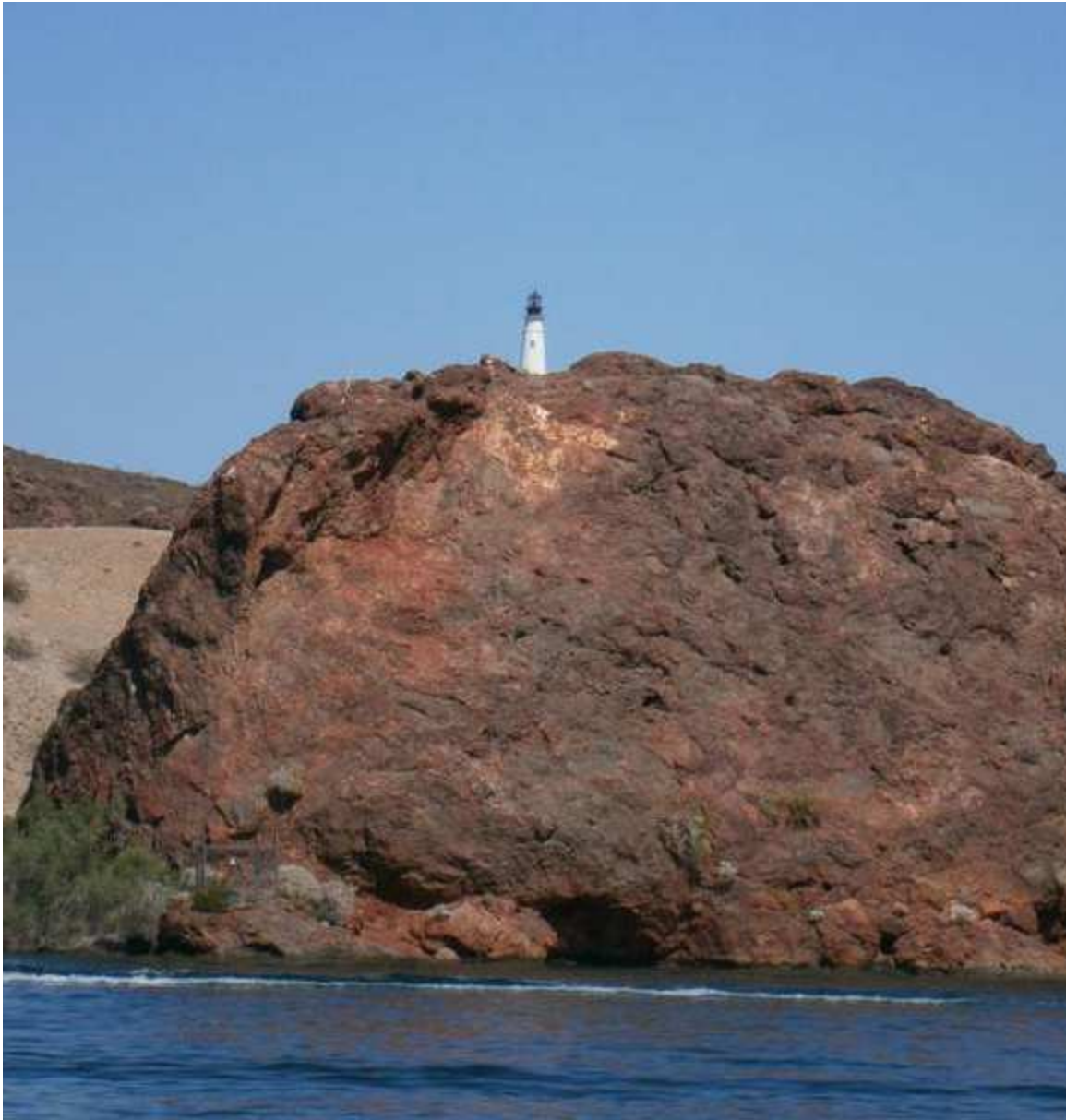
This lighthouse is at the mouth of "Skiers' Bay", but the tour boat skipper was so fixated on finding wildlife on the hills that he didn't point out the lighthouse. Or we just plain didn't see it. So, no picture.

6: Umpqua River (Winchester River, Oregon) - Copper Canyon



7: Portland Head (Portland Head, Maine) - Pilot Rock

Way up at the top of Pilot Rock. Short of a telephoto, this is as good as it gets! The boat turned around at this point, so we were disappointed to not go all the way down the lake and see the other four lighthouses. Even though the tour was billed as "see all the lighthouses". It was not billed as "look for wildlife on the shores". Oh, well.



8: Grays Harbor (Grays Harbor, Washington) - Whipple Bay

9: Barnegat (Long Beach Island, New Jersey) - Red Rock Point

10: Berwick (Southwest Reef shoal, Louisiana) - Larned Landing

11: Sandy Hook (New Jersey) - Havasu Springs Marina

At the end of the tour, we are greeted by a pretty awesome sight of the full bridge from bank to bank.



Saturday - Kingman

Our big-loop tour was to proceed through Kingman, so we could see the Kingman Army Airfield Museum that we missed on our Route 66 trip last year, and so Jerri could see if she could cop some goodies at the antique shops on Beale Street. We also wanted to tour the Bonelli House, but once again, it is open on very limited hours, and we missed it again.

The Kingman Army Air Field was established during World War II to train aerial gunners. And possibly to train B-17 air crews, although this was not made clear. The Airfield museum was interesting, but small. There were some exhibits from the Kingman location from the period, but not much - rusty engine parts and machine gun brass. A good bit of the other exhibits were from the World War II period, and they were fine. They also had some small airplanes, apparently loaned indefinitely from the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), which had a hangar

next door (I was surprised that the EAA would have a base in Kingman) - a Corsair, a Fokker biplane, and a French Nieuport. The most curious thing about the museum visit was the guide: his personal story was interesting in itself - he joined in 1947 while it was still the Army Air Corps, and saw the transition into the Air Force - but his knowledge about the items in the collection he was showing was shockingly limited.

From here, we went to Lunch at Mr. D's, with a crowd of elderly motorcyclists, and then a visit to the Mohave County History Museum. We were told that this museum wasn't much, but we found that it was quite good, especially the tribute to their local character, Andy Devine, and a description of the various mining camps that had lived and (for the most part) died in the region. Oatman was featured, and of course it is still alive. I'm pretty sure Goldroads is still being mined. We also found out that the town of Chloride, several miles north of Kingman, is still alive as an "artist colony", probably similar to Jerome.



After Jerri scored her victories in the antique shops, we checked up on something we heard about at the history museum. There was another mining camp north of town, Stockton Hill. Near Stockton Hill, at the "white cliffs", was a tufa quarry, used to obtain building material for the town of Kingman (why they would build using soft tufa is beyond me). The wagons carrying the tufa would move down a trail, and after many passages (or, not so many, as it wouldn't take long to erode the soft mineral), the wagon wheels left ruts. Additionally, the operators cut holes along the trail to plant posts used for tackle to slow the descent of the wagons. So

we got directions, hiked up the short trail from the road, and found the ruts.

Sunday - Flagstaff

Our brief vacation trip ended in Flagstaff, to see our children two weeks before the end of school. We were also quite surprised to find that, at the end of April - it had snowed.



Here are two Zonies enjoying the diversity (including late coldness and precipitation) in our wonderful State!