

From the Camp Hosts

The end of August represents the completion of our tour as Camp Hosts for ESC. It really has been fun! Not only did we help streamline the daily service routine with our camp host position, but we got to enjoy the company of several HR 400 members. Some came and went and some never left!!! They know who they are!! This meant a daily routine of four o'clocks, and dinner out. We even joined the Terrazas clan for dinner, on one occasion at a local Mexican Restaurant, which produced a dinner party of sixteen!

Some of our friends had some major work done. Ed & Kaye Lee, for example, had their coach painted which turned out beautifully! They also converted their refrigeration from a Norcold to a residential. Then we were able to see the Chandlers (Monaco coach with Norcold fire) off to South Dakota fully restored, another beautiful job! The Trumbulls are here for a paint job as well and will most likely be the last HR 400 to leave with their job completed. Their was a core group of three to four couples here most of the time (Lees, Chandlers, Kaisers, us and later the Trumbulls). About seven others came and went during that time. There was a very strong sense of mutual support, each day while the coaches were in the shop. The Chandlers expressed real appreciation for the support received from our members. Their fire was back in the Fall of 2010 with the initial work being done in Texas prior to coming to Elkhart, causing them to deal with an incomplete coach for the better part of a year. Needless to say, we all think of them as very special friends to our chapter.....even if they have a Monaco! (-: Friendship is what this life style is all about anyway, right?

Then there is the Smith's Humane Society! You remember *Sunny* and *Lucky* from last month, right? Well, now we have a kitten which was another rescue situation. After dinner one night, she was spotted in the campground by our group. I immediately went into action and, within 20 to 30 minutes, I coaxed her with some food as she was obviously starved. We took her to the vet the next day who confirmed she was in tough shape. She was 1.8 pounds when we found her and cute as a button! Bob & I decided to keep her and named her Minnie. Whiskers was not happy, so Bob gave her most to the attention and I kept Whiskers soothed and comforted. Well, in short, it worked. Minnie tried ever so hard to make friends with him and ultimately succeeded. Initially he 'hissed', he ignored her, then she apparently worked her way into his heart. She seems to adore him! Minnie gives her own account on page 2.

The picture above are of a couple of our group dinners with our 400 crew and the Chandlers. The picture below is the day the Chandlers and dog, Maggie left Elkhart feeling whole again! The other pictures are of the Lee's switching refrigerators and Judy and I with one of Elkhart's many Elk statues.



“Hello, my name is Minni”



"As the newest member of the Smith household, I would like to introduce myself! My name is Minnie! I don't know exactly where in Elkhart I was born, or exactly when, because I think the stork must have gotten lost? I don't remember much more until my new family found me wandering around, dazed, starving, with hundreds of fleas on me. Man, was I measurable! I took a chance when my new mommy offered me some food. Honestly, after that I thought I had died and went to heaven! Then they brought me to Dr Hartnett, a really nice lady doctor in Elkhart, to get me healthy again. I barely remember my original family so you can imagine how delighted I was to meet Whiskers, even if he was a bit stand offish at first. For me it was love at first sight, and win him over I did. I feel like a new kitten now and realize how lucky I am. I really love to play, either by my self, or with my family. Whiskers does get tired easy though, so then I just play by myself. I just love my cube house where my mommy added some neat bells on a string. I still feel I have to eat everything in sight fast, so I don't starve again. When something unusual happens that, I run for the back of the couch and hide. I am sure my fears will disappear in time. Well that is enough for now, I think I smell something cooking! Watch for my September progress report, I am sure it will be interesting!" Minnie Smith

Below on the right is Lisa at ESC, the new adopted mother of Lucky and Sunny. Labor day weekend she took them to her fish tank at home, where they also probably felt they had died and went to heaven. Thank you Lisa!

The final picture is of Rob celebrating his birthday with wife Stephanie and family and friends. Happy Birthday , Rob!!!

