



THE TOMBSTONE RUN SEPT 22 TO SEPT 27, 2025

NCV President Carm Finocchiaro designed the NCV run to and through the southern Arizona environs. Starting with a full tank of gas, radios and everyone ready to go . . . we set off on our adventure. Participating were:

Carm and Yvonne Finocchiaro
Doug and Susan Johnson
Scott and Royann McClellan
Walt and Jean Perkins
Cary and Nancy Thomas
Rick and Jan Weber
Don and Kay Wolfe

Day 1: From the Carlsbad Premium Outlets we journeyed to Yuma Arizona where the first stop was along I-8 at the remnants of the Old Plank Road, which was designed ahead of paved roadways to allow those new-fangled vehicles to traverse the sand dunes—otherwise it was a two-day detour AROUND the dunes.

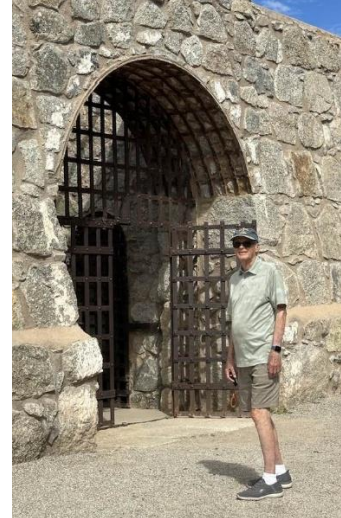
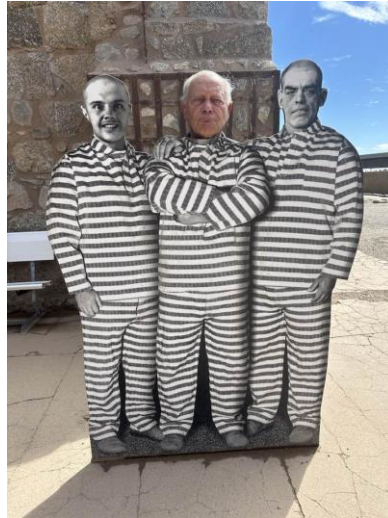


Nan, Royann, Yvonne, Jean, Rick, Jan, Kay, Don, Walt, Scott, Doug, Susan and Cary

And then we mosied on down the road . . . to lunch in old town Yuma at the Prison Hill Brewing Company and they served delicious food on prisonware.



After lunch we went over to the Yuma Territorial Prison and wandered through it—grateful not to be incarcerated therein but thankful for the cooler museum included. It was about 95 degrees the day we visited and (we are told) it was a fairly futuristic environment for its time . . . hard to believe. Each cell held six prisoners.



We spent the night in Yuma where there was a Happy Hour on the schedule. HOWEVER, there were FOUR birthdays among the group, so we had a Surprise Birthday Party.

Walt Perkins, Jan Weber,
Nan and Cary Thomas

Happy Birthday to you.

Day 2: From Yuma we knew we had a long drive day to get to Sierra Vista, but Tour Director Carm found a beautiful restaurant in Eloy that was perfect. The restaurant manager suggested that the gated community also had a car club and they might want to see our cars . . . and maybe we'd like to see theirs . . . and that's how it went. Below are some of their cars. Check out the price of gas.



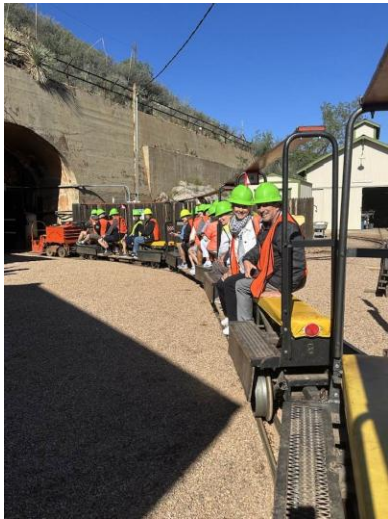
From Eloy it was a straight shot to Sierra Vista.

Day 3: Rise and shine . . . we left every morning at 8am so we covered a lot of ground (no pun intended) throughout each day. We headed to Bisbee for the Queen Mine Tour.



Safety instruction and safety gear: hard hat, light, vest, metal tag with number—so they can identify us in case of accident—although they’ve never had one.





David was our most-excellent guide as we went into the mine to the 1700-foot level. There are 3,300 MILES of tunnels in this mine . . . if stretched out, consider New York to the West coast with 300 miles extra . . . the mountain is limestone . . . the tunnels and the wood shoring are checked routinely. Miners were paid well and there were shifts of at least 5,000 miners on three shifts per day. Women who worked in Bisbee for the mining company could not work IN the mine but worked at jobs outside the mine and received the same pay as the men. This was the largest copper mine in the nation with the prices of copper fluxuating with need . . . it is greatly needed currently as all the AI, computers, and batteries need copper.



This is the loo; a two-seater. They were on many levels (naturally). Keep the lid closed or the cockroaches will take over.



Phelps Dodge was the owner of the mine.



Back: Scott, Yvonne, Royann, Susan, Doug, Jan, Rick, Don, Kay, Jean, Walt.
Front: Cary, Nan and Carm.



Doug and Susan found “their” gallery, but it was closed. We spent a little time walking Bisbee, but it was pretty quiet and we continued our journey to Tombstone.





Walt and Jean were ready for Tombstone in all their western wear.



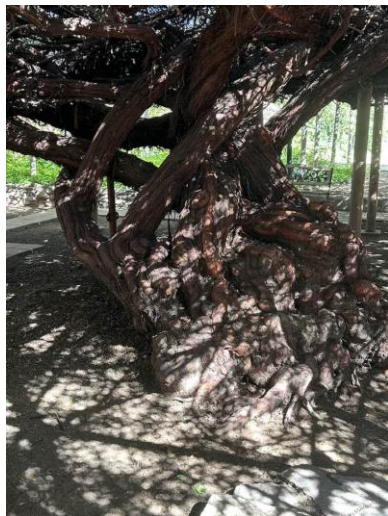


Obviously, we ate lunch at BIG NOSE KATE'S SALOON . . .





We scattered throughout Tombstone . . . there was a “show” of sorts . . . and a town tour . . . and the “world’s largest rose tree” planted in 1889. When it blooms in the spring has over 1.5 MILLION white roses. Jan, Carm and I took that in too.

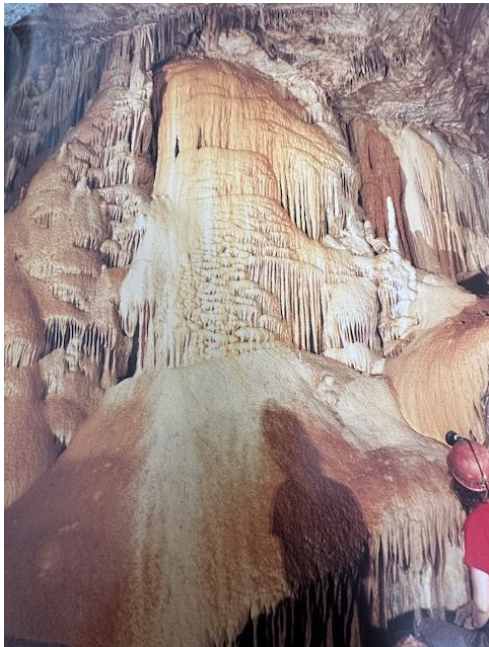
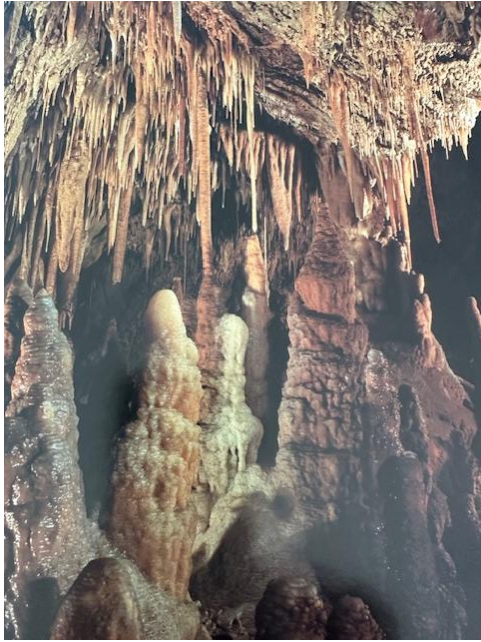


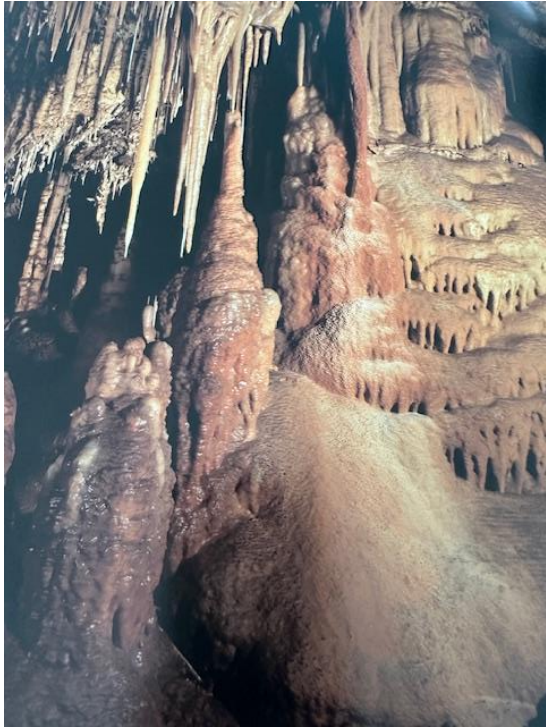
The “rose tree” had a little museum with this gossip bridle . . . check it out.

A very busy day . . . and we had reservations for dinner at Pizzeria Mimosa as well. Needless to say, we’ve been eating leftovers a lot.

We say goodbye to Jean and Walt as they head to Phoenix.

Day 4: Reville and out at 8am. Headed to the Kartchner Caverns. The caverns were only discovered on the Kartchner property in 1974 and between the cavers who found them and the Kartchners, they reserved/preserved that knowledge for 14 years so the caves would not be ransacked/destroyed. It is now an Arizona State Park. The caverns were 72 degrees inside with 99 percent humidity. The stalactites and stalagmites grow about 1/16th of an inch a YEAR . . think of the eons it took to grow the huge 58-foot column, the straws—all of it.





Editor's note: There were no cameras allowed in the caverns, so I have to say that I took pictures of the cavern from the book I purchased.

Below photo: Scott, Royann, Rick, Jan, Carm, Yvonne, Nan, Cary, Kay, Don, Susan and Doug.



Day 4, Part 2: Wine tasting in the AVA of Arizona, the Sinoita District. Our first stop was the Callaghan Vineyards where we tasted and met the owners. Coincidentally, Cary's daughter had just worked with Kent Callaghan at a function in Washington state. Lisa Callaghan brought some grapes in from the current harvest and we tasted those as well. (It was a powerful day, weather-wise, look at those clouds.)



From Callaghan we went to Los Milics where we also had lunch. It was an interesting environment as it was steel, a restaurant as well.



Carm, Yvonne, Doug, Susan, Jan (the birthday girl), Rick, Don, Kay, Royann, Scott, Nan and Cary.

. . . and from Los Milics we proceeded to Rune, where the weather was clearing a little . . .



Nan, Cary, Royann, Scott, Jan and Rick

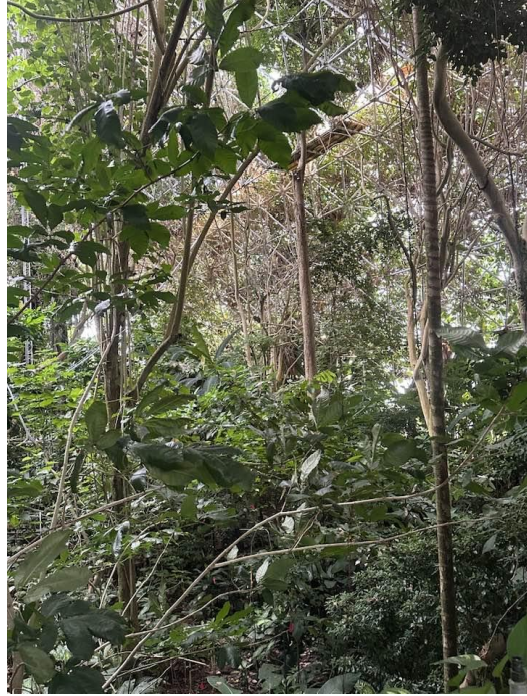


We're eating lots of leftovers at this point.

Rick and Jan had a "check engine light" appear on the way back to Sierra Vista after the wine tasting. The next morning (Friday) they took the car to the dealer to have checked; it was good to drive home and they rejoined us at lunch in Oro Valley . . . hooray!

Day 5: Leaving Sierra Vista . . . we move on to see the Biosphere 2 in Oro Valley. This was the second experiment to test living in a confined space, creating/growing ALL resources to provide life the eight Spherians lived in the space for TWO YEARS and TWENTY MINUTES. It lives on today as the University of Arizona test area. We walked through it for a couple of hours, weaving inside and outside with a little rain. The “sphere” is a variety of connected buildings to include: an ocean (for fish), a rainforest, gardens, individual apartments, kitchen . . . everything!







We had lunch in Oro Valley.

Cary and Nan left to visit a friend and the rest of us moved on to Yuma.

Chatting and ice cream for dinner in the Yuma hotel.

Day 6: A 9am start, Cary and Nan have returned and we're OFF.

WHAT A RIDE . . . pounding rain . . . and DUST out on I-8 that was really something. But we made it to Yuma, gassed up the cars with the less expensive gasoline and went to the hotel. But after Gila Bend the weather was smooth sailing back to San Diego County and home.

Carm and I hope all who attended had a great time . . . I know we did . . . a splendid travel group. Special thanks for our nice dinner on Wednesday night. Thank you.

See you on the next NCV RUN . . .

Yvonne