



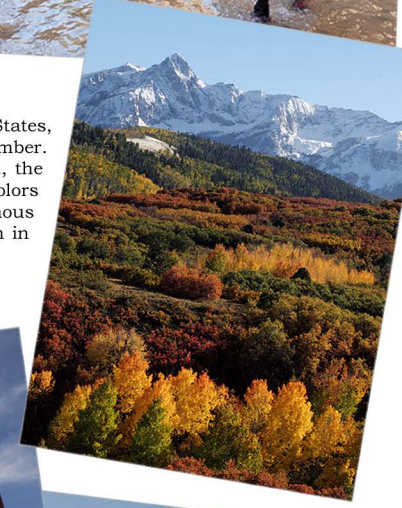
In June, we visited Land of Oz in Beech Mountain, NC. The theme park operated from 1970 to 1980, and now opens for a few days during summer and fall.



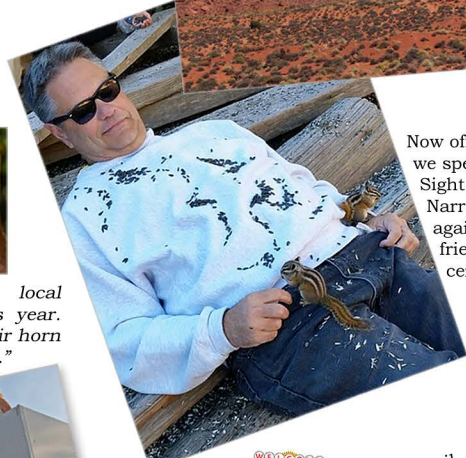
Mike played the Tin Man in the tour and did a little soft-shoe with his song.



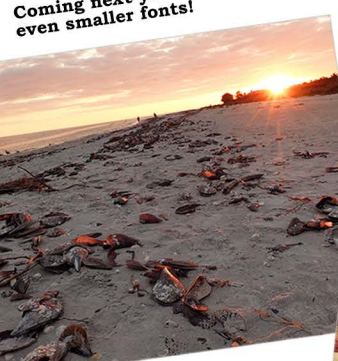
Now officially enamored with the western United States, we spent ten days in Utah and Colorado in September. Sights seen included Monument Valley in Utah, the Narrows at Zion National Park in Utah, fall colors against snow near Telluride, CO, and the famous friendly chipmunks of St. Elmo, a ghost town in central Colorado. We can't wait to return.



Lots of local color this year. Google "air horn orchestra."



Coming next year: even smaller fonts!



In February, we went to Florida, passing through the Everglades to Sanibel Island on the gulf coast. This was Mike's first visit, and Julie's first in decades. Her family vacationed there every year.



In April, Mike went west for another solo trip, exploring more of Nevada. Didn't see any UFOs, but was watched by humans as he approached the border of Area 51. Also saw Uncle Rod and Rona for the first time in ages. So great to see them.



Mike's Aunt Elaine has a winter home on Sanibel. Some of her kids were visiting, as was Mike's brother, Tim.



Lunch!

Left to right: Brandt, Tian, Mike, Tim, Kutzi, Jack.

Other activities included daily beach combing, odd wildlife encounters, and one trip to the ER, for Mike's first kidney stone.



Julie's mom Dana, dad Wayne, sister Steph, and brother-in-law Jim. She saw them again at Thanksgiving.

Concert report: ZZ Top passed through in September!



And through it all, Gracie purred the days away...

