

Western Road Trip Newsletter



This is the main reason for the trip – 5 nights at Gouldings Lodge and 4 days on a horse

Day 10
Monday
November 4th

Goosenecks

State Park

To

Gouldings Lodge

Stats

44 miles today

2167 total miles this trip

Weather

High Temp: 54

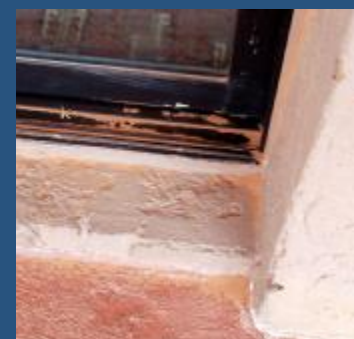
Low Temp: COLD

Conditions: Partly sunny

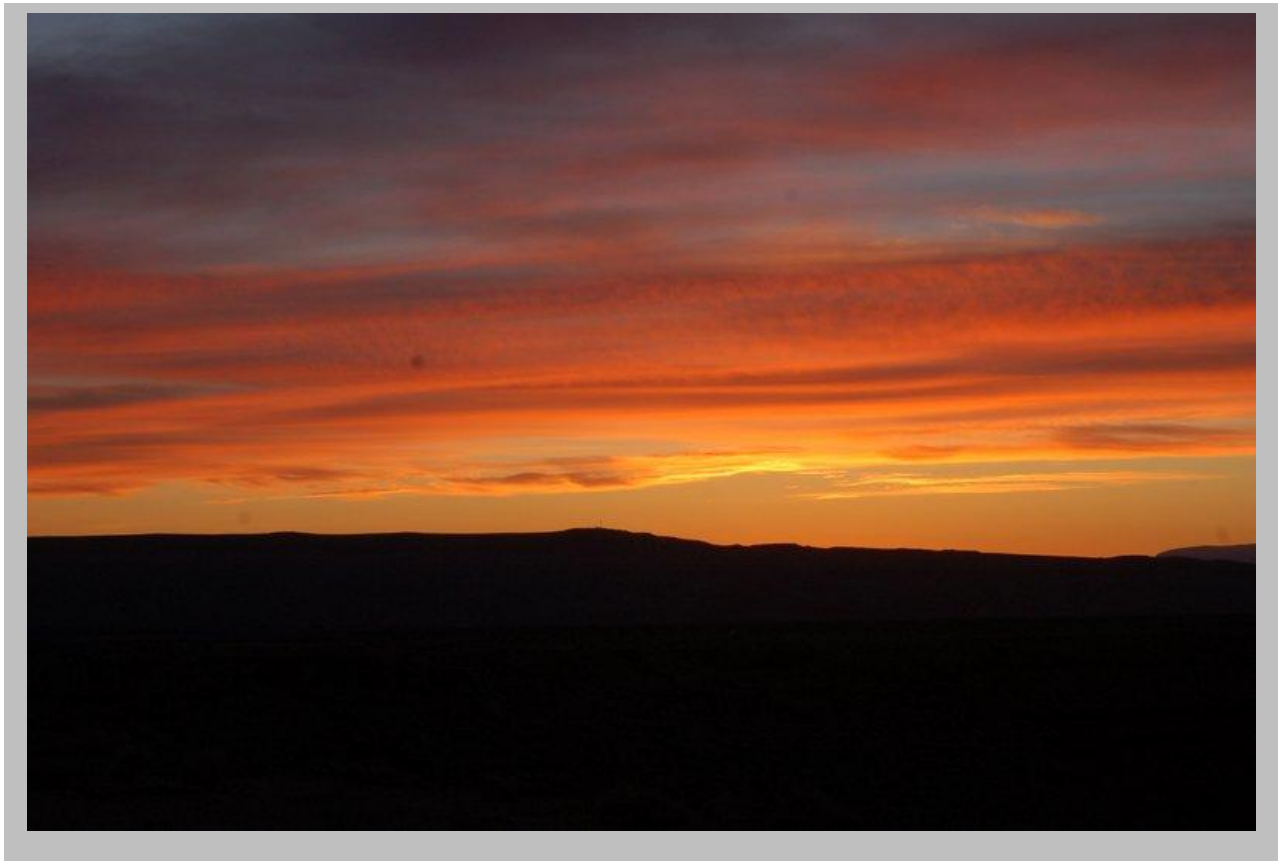
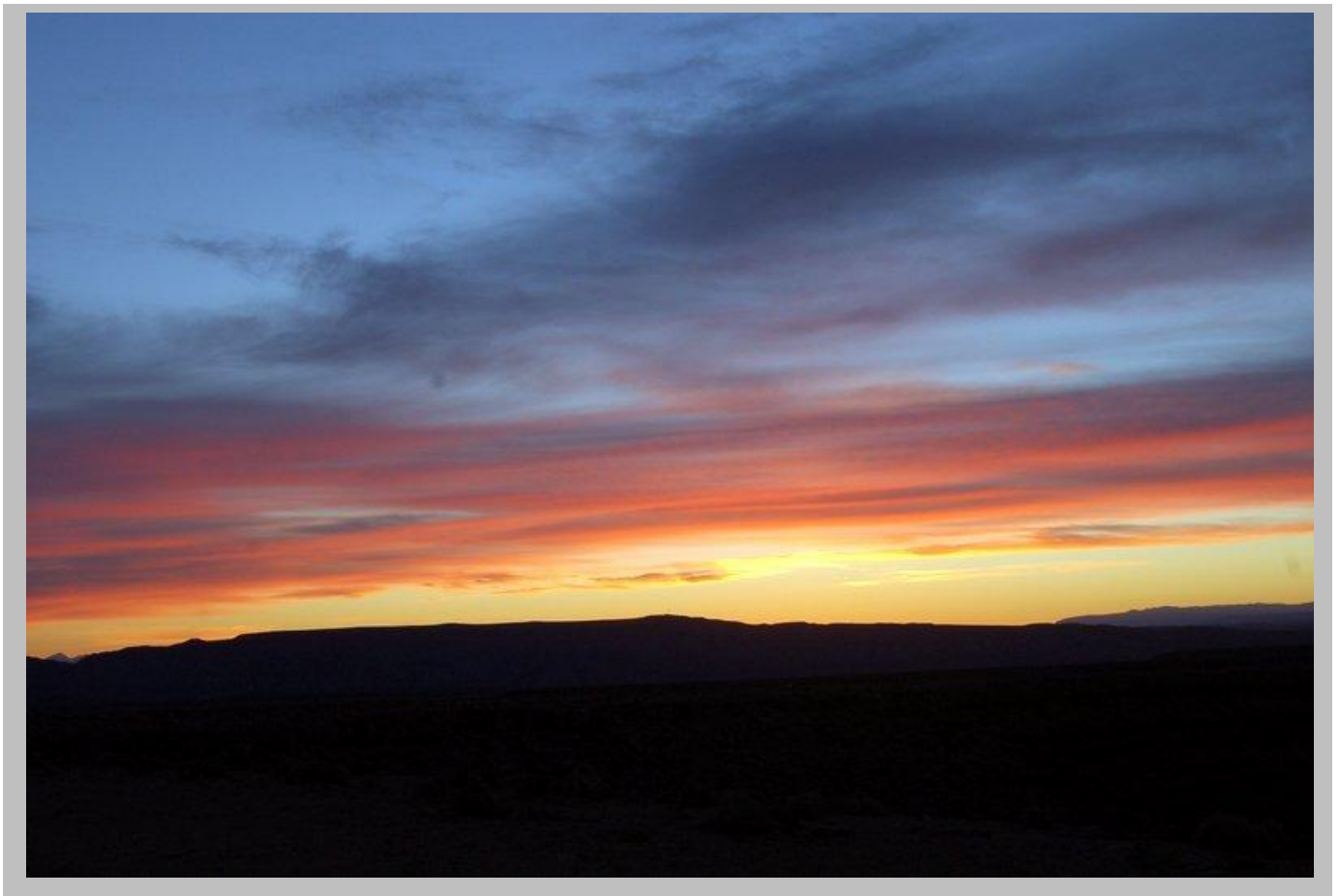
“It was pretty neat to walk through the same door as John Wayne”

Hello to My Family and Friends

I did something today that I have not done in who knows how long, I woke up before the sun. I took several photos of the sky just before sunrise. I know which one is my favorite, I just could not pick only one or two to put here, so I am adding all of them. No comments – just enjoy.



In Mesa Verde they told us that the wind blown sands of Utah and Arizona landed on the mesa tops of Mesa Verde making the soil rich. This is the pile of sand at the balcony door of my room.









Above: The sun hitting Cedar Mesa

The two shots below: The sun actually entering the Goosenecks Gorge





Remember it was the San Juan River that cut the Goosenecks Gorge? Left is the same river, just south of Mexican Hat. Notice how quickly it is cutting into the rock. This is only 3.6 miles as the crow flies from the State Park, but it is probably 11 miles that the river flows from one point to the other.

My lunch time view



John Wayne's Point

It has been said that this was John Wayne's favorite place to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Monument Valley.



His first movie filmed in Monument Valley was John Ford's classic "Stagecoach" in 1939.

He starred in four more movies in Monument Valley culminating with his fan favorite "The Searchers" in 1952.

I was actually parked at the Goulding's Lodge gas station when I ate lunch. I had time to kill before checking in at 2:00, so I decided to take a ride up to the Monument Valley Visitor's Center and the View Lodge. I met a biker that asked me about my camper. He had been on the road since August 2nd (retired I assume), visiting relatives here and there and enjoying the scenery.

The plaque to the left was out back of the View Lodge Restaurant

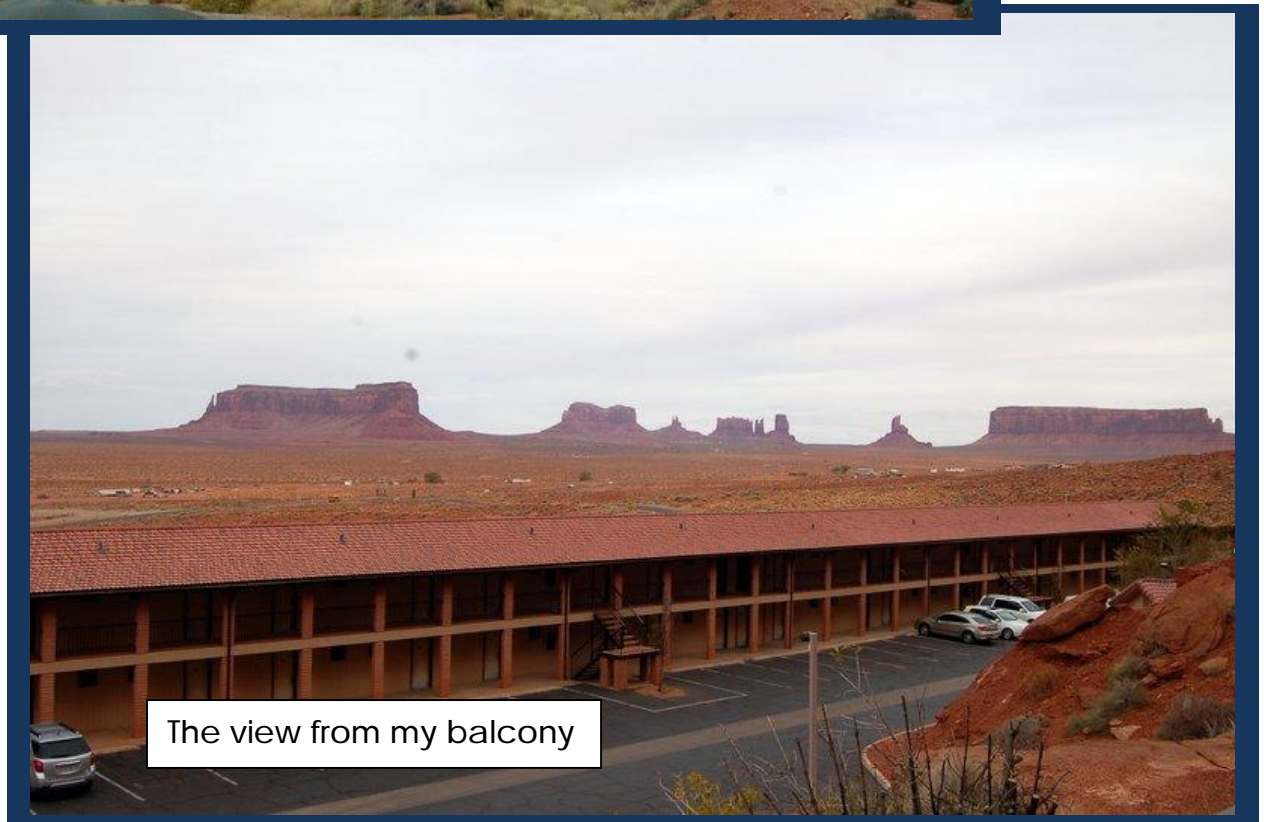


This is the view the Plaque is referring to. Left to right they are West Mitten Butte, East Mitten Butte and Merrick Butte. Merrick Butte is named for a man who worked under General Custer when 4,000 Navajos were marched in captivity to Fort Sumner, NM in 1864.



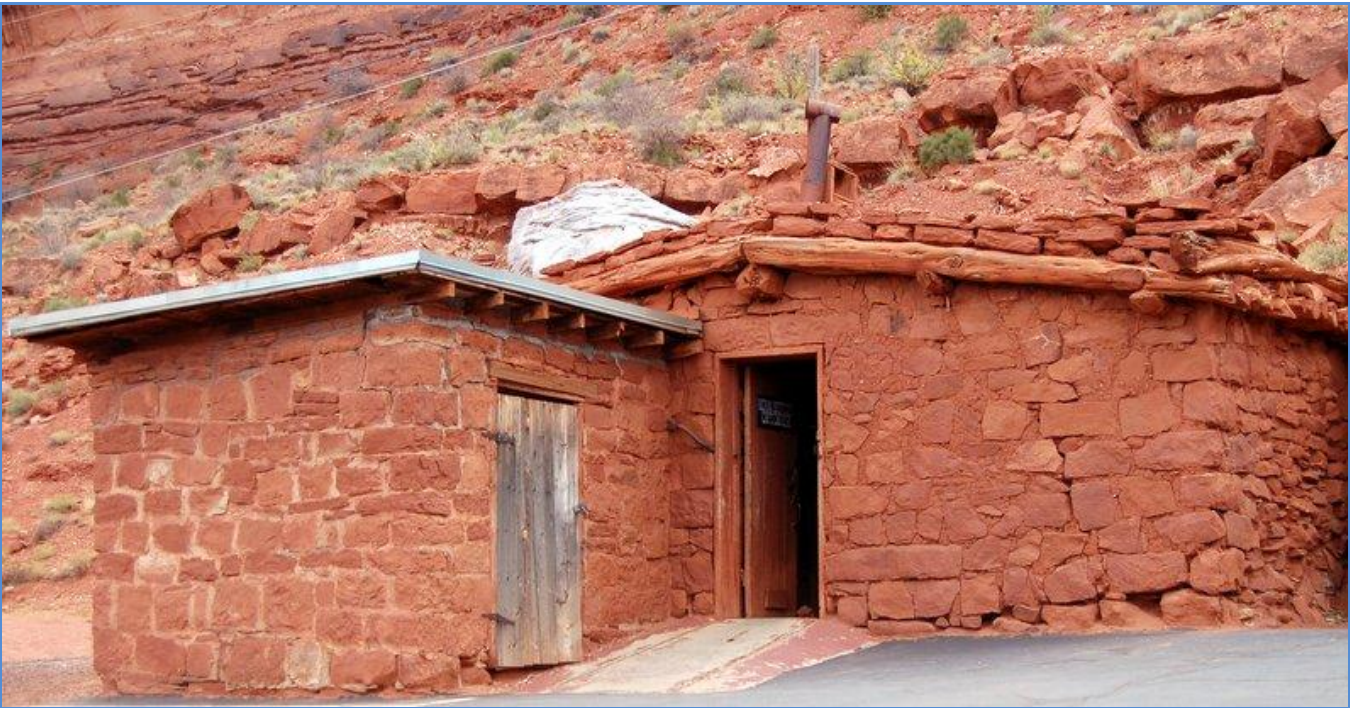
I was early but I decided to check in anyways. I was wondering if they ever worry about the lodge being crushed from above.





After 5 days of primitive camping that shower felt really good. I hung the western style shirts in the bathroom, hoping the steam would clear the creases. Then, believe it or not, I actually tried to iron the shirts. Ok, you can all get back up off the floor now. That did not work either. Then I decided that I would be wearing a jacket and nobody would really see the shirt anyways so why bother?

At 4:00, dressed like a cowboy, our tour met by the museum. The Host and Hostess and owners of Great American Adventures, Steve and Marcie Shaw, introduced themselves then sent everyone to the museum for a look see, then into the banquet hall for snacks. We all sat around discussing our adventure and getting to know everyone. I think I might be the youngest one here. We set the breakfast time for 8:00 a.m. and I went back to my room to do yesterday's newsletter and watch the Packers lose to Da Bears.



The next time you watch *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon* see if you can find this building. It is the office of the character John Wayne portrays, Capt. Nathan Brittles. This is the actual building used in the film and it is seen several times. The interior shots were filmed in a studio in Hollywood. It was pretty neat to walk through the same door as John Wayne.



Tomorrow we ride!!