

## RENO AND LONE PINE

Oct 10, 2004

We found a wonderful spot in downtown Reno, right under the off-ramp from IS80. The cars and trucks sped right through our living room!

With very little effort this time, we found the Toth statue of the Indian in Idyllwild Park, very close to our RV Park. The stay in Reno was 3 nights and the drive to Lone Pine put us in our Rally Park at the appointed time.

The weather is warmer than we have been used to, but we can look forward to the rest of the trip being the same. We have had quite a bit of hard winds the last few days. One of our days here, we went about the Alabama Hills, outside of Lone Pine, and then up to Whitney Portal. It is quite a change of scenery at that elevation. We had gorgeous views of Whitney peak on the way up.



We have always wondered where the Alabama Hills got its name. It seems that during the Civil War, there were a pocket of Confederate southern gold seekers in the Lone Pine area. When the Confederate battleship "Alabama" had gained fame by sinking 60 Federal ships in the war, they started naming their claims and mines after the Alabama. The name stuck and eventually became known as the Alabama Hills, to this day. While the Southerners were prospecting around Lone Pine, there were Union sympathizers about 15 miles north, in Independence. When the Alabama was sunk off the coast of France by the USS Kearsarge, in 1864, the Independence people struck back! They named a mountain peak, a mountain pass, and a whole town as well as many mining claims, after the Kearsarge!

Dave & Bonnie