

*Happy
Trails*

Notizen von Unterwegs
Dezember 2023 Vol. 48

MERRY CHRISTMAS



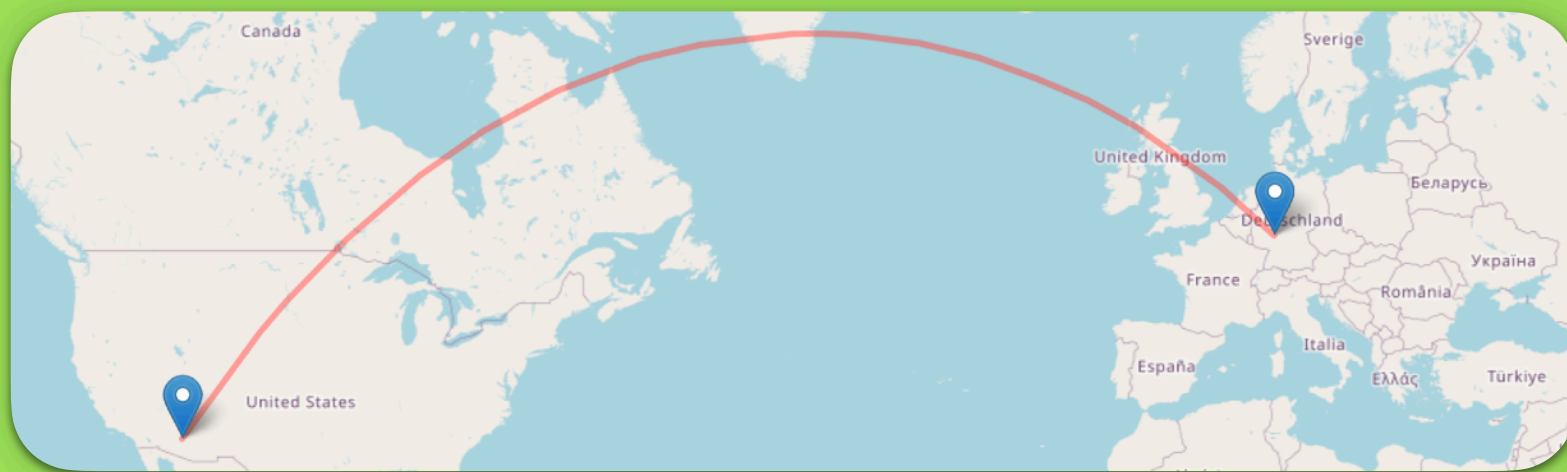
This newsletter reaches you once again from Yuma, Arizona. Now in our 6th year, we are spending and enjoying our winter months here. The mild climate, the mostly bright blue sky, many friends around us and the beauty of the Sonoran Desert make us return here again and again. Of course, Beate and I get homesick when the children or friends tell us about visits to the Christmas market or snowball fights. Of course we miss mulled wine, grilled sausage, roasted almonds and fresh gingerbread here. But at least we try to make it as Christmassy as possible inside and outside of our motorhome. So we invite friends and neighbors for Advent coffee and home-baked cookies, play German Christmas songs by German musicians and enjoy the smell of pine tree candles. Nevertheless, mulled wine in a t-shirt, shorts and flip-flops at 75 F still is not something an German will call Christmassy. The pictures of drizzling rain, wind or slush, that reach us from home, shows on the other hand, that we have nevertheless made the right decision for ourselves. The warmth wins (still).



The past year was once again exciting and eventful for us. We can look back very positively on the last few months: our visit to Germany in October, the stay with Birgit and Jim in Phoenix, our Rally with ALFA motorhome owners in Lake Havasu City in November and now the beautiful pre-Christmas season in Yuma. Life means very well with us! We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas, good health and satisfaction and the necessary happiness in 2024.

Beate, Henna und Rüdiger



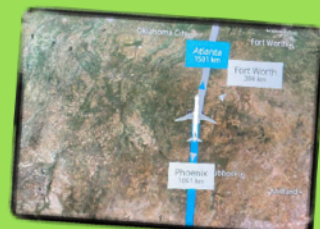


GERMANY

It already needs a FORD F-350 truck to transport all our suitcases and bags to the airport, because they are filled to the limit with all kinds of souvenirs. The palette ranged from American sweets to homemade beef jerkies from Paul in Custer, various BBQ spices, fresh Mexican tortillas, spicy chili pods to peanut butter. Yes, a few socks and a t-shirts to put on were also included. For the first time, we flew from Phoenix via Atlanta to Frankfurt. And for the first time in years again with DELTA Airlines. Very positive and significantly better than AMERICAN, with whom we have always flown for the last 10 years: super friendly, a lot of space for me (domestic and Atlantic flight) and even "chicken or pasta" were good and well dimensioned! Nevertheless, despite a variety of on-board entertainment and free adult drinks, aviation is still eternally long and exhausting! But the anticipation of our grandchild, our son, his girlfriend and good German food/beer makes us forget all the hardships. Germany, here we come!



DELTA 
AIR LINES



bei Lillien

Haring the grandchild again after more than a year is something very special and was certainly a main reason to visit Germany this autumn.



But it also gave me the opportunity to visit the newly acquired house of my son Johannes and his girlfriend Katrin. Beautifully quiet location, with a large garden and old fruit trees and plenty of space for a hopefully growing family!



Oma zu Besuch

Grandma visiting us, it was particularly nice that we were able to bring the 95-year-old grandmother Leni, Beate's mother, for a few days. 4 generations at one table - when will we be able to experience this again? Meanwhile, Johannes and Kati spoiled us all with special culinary delicacies.



Raclette and Wheat-beer



Sorry, Great-Grandma, I'm better in playing memory



The planning on this trip was excellent: perfect timing - Oktoberfest like Thanksgiving Fest was in full swing when we arrived. 4 days of party! And the weather was great.



Our friends Andrea and Uwe came to party with us!

Lillian had fun with Omi



Gabi and Dieter, the future In-Laws of Johannes had fun as well



The time with the young family flew - hiking through the beauty of their village, travel to Cologne, a lot of food, beer and wine ...



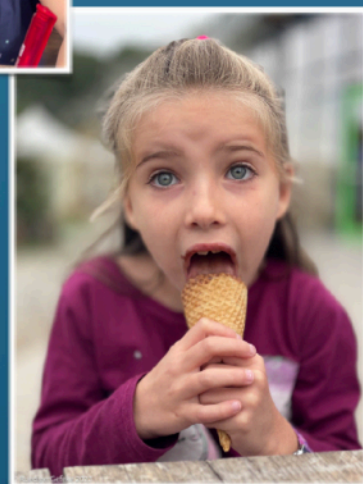
Salmon on a plank



New home owners necessities



crafting





Frank

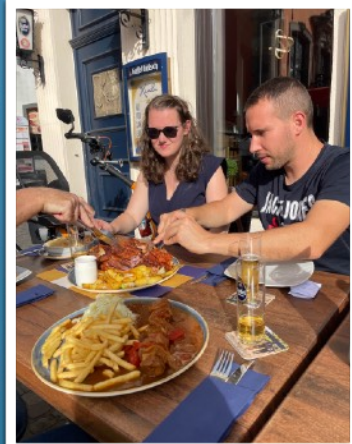


Kurt

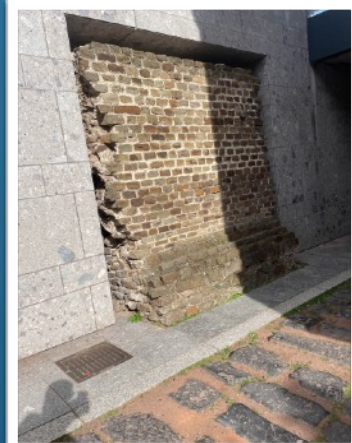
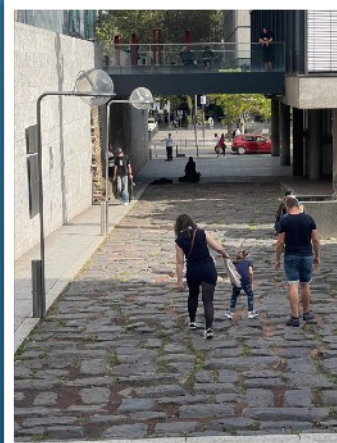
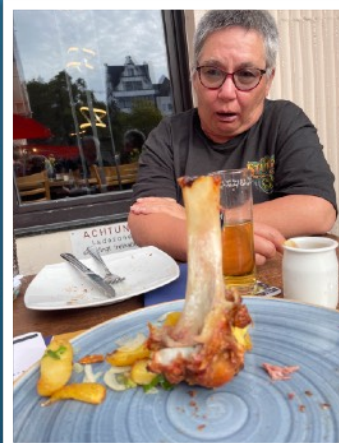


Gunnar

I was particularly pleased about the visit of old friends. My oldest school friend Frank had arrived from Fürth by train, childhood friend Kurt came from near Stuttgart with his latest TESLA and my former air force comrade Gunnar came for a cup of coffee from the other side of the Rhine. It is always nice to indulge in old memories and smile at one or the other fabricated nonsense at the time. Thank you guys for your visit!!!



Karen and Reimer met us in Cologne for some crackling fatty ham-hocks and beer ...

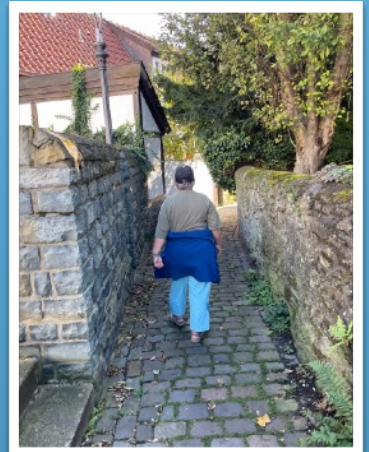


... and to walk on 2000 year old Roman streets

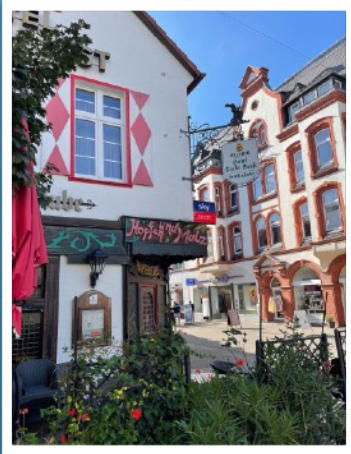
We put another stop with my sister Andrea and husband Jürgen. Both have been living in the historic Soest for years. The old Hanseatic city of Soest with well over 1000 years of history was one of the most important Hanseatic cities in Europe in the Middle Ages.



Old Market



narrow walkways



Autumn on the city wall structure

SOEST



The reunion with Joram, who had visited us in the Black Hills for 6 weeks in the summer, was also particularly nice. As always with my little sister: lots of great food, even more wine and good conversations! What a pity that we could only stop with you for a short time. Thank you for the wonderful time with you! 🥰❤️

As always: leaving hurts. But after three great weeks, we are drawn back to "our" home. We enjoyed the time and will think about it for a long time to come! Thank you Kati and Johannes for the great hours, conversations and the pampering program we have experienced! We didn't feel like a visitor. If we may, we will come back!



As expected, Lillien was of course the star of our visit. The feeling that this girl awakens in us is indescribable! In the truest sense of the word, she twisted our heads!

Being a grandparent is just a great gift!



Back in the States, we were once again able to enjoy the great hospitality of Birgit and Jim: two weeks of relaxation in the greater Phoenix area were on the program. But unfortunately, all four of us fell ill with the COVID virus and thus had to hold back very much with excursions etc. In any case, a thousand thanks to the two loved ones, for the care of our Henna (the young lady was visibly taken with the two), the care of our fat Berta and our flowers and plants during our visit to Germany!



Despite 2 weeks of COVID isolation and total loss of taste for me, the four of us had a good time.



Plenty of time to relax



We had planned this view for 2 weeks, but COVID unfortunately only allowed 3 days. As already mentioned several times in our newsletters, this part of the Colorado River (Arizona's west coast) is particularly beautiful and has magically attracted us since the beginning of our US trips. We hardly got our water rat Henna out of the floods.



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This was followed by participation in an ALFA Roadrunners Rally in nearby Lake Havasu City. Like-minded people from all parts of the USA and Canada meet here at the start of the season. We Germans must not be missing there. Joint evenings, technical instruction on ALFA-specific matters, but also the exchange of information on interesting destinations are the main reason for our participation. Here we usually get to know the people we then meet again somewhere during the year: in the Black Hills of South Dakota or elsewhere - sometimes looking for help - sometimes helping ==> our big ALFA family.



Bonfire with cedar wood



dinner with friends



Tequila testing



Lake Havasu City, AZ 2023



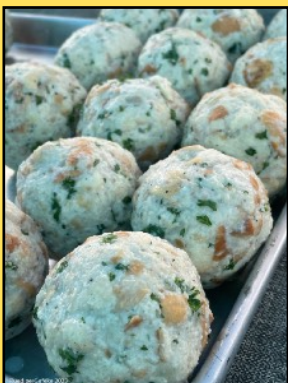
spectacular sunsets



Fiesta am Strand



Now we are back in the winter domicile Yuma, with Susan and Dale and the many Snowbirds that have flown in here from all wind directions to enjoy the mild winter on the Mexican border. We tinker with our motorhomes, get to know board games, love the many dinners together, have movie nights with popcorn and margaritas and continue to have a lot of fun and joy with our dog Henna.



Chef Hans teaches me to make authentic Austrian dumplings



**projects in Prichards
Next door Casita**



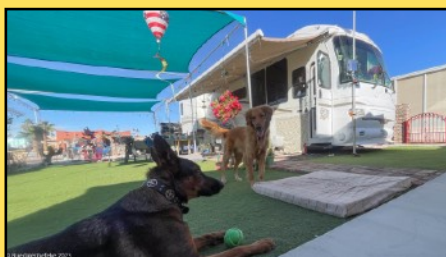
**Hans & Prime Rib
delicious**



New AC for Dave



**Pit Master Dales
brisket**

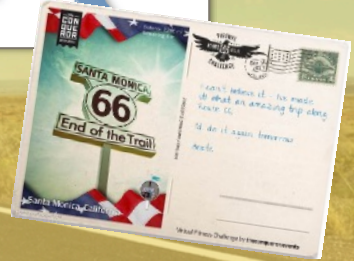
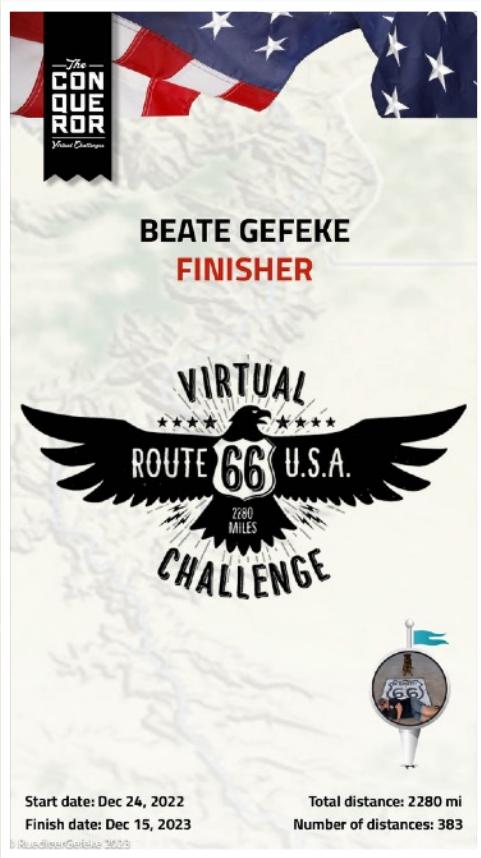


Henna & friends



Game night



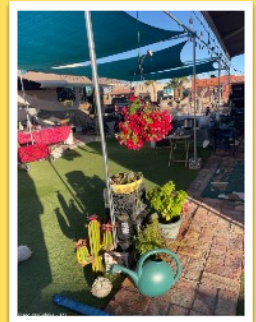


After less than a year, my two girls reached their destination and hiked 2448 miles. In wind and weather, on the sea beach of Texas, in the forests of the Black Hills or in the desert of Arizona, they ran more than 7 miles on average every day and virtually did Route 66.

I'm super proud of you! Let's see what you have in mind for 2024.



Good food, visits to Mexico, trips with friends in the nearby area or invitations to parties loosen up the otherwise so boring life as a senior! Hahah.



The new border wall that does not work



Christmas parade in the Foothills



NFL game



Thanks Clyde



The past year was really positive: Yuma, Texas, South Dakota, Germany and again Arizona.
We don't get enough of this life. Please, all of you stay healthy, have confidence in what
the future will bring and enjoy every moment in your life.

We will continue to tell you about us. Until then, best wishes

Beate, Henna und Rüdiger



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Facebook

Whatsapp

Das wärs mal wieder!
Schon **3064** Tage auf Achse.

Eure 3 Geféke's

