

March 2020

Fred Stoneback

Litchfield Park, Arizona



While living in Michigan my wife and I bought a second home in Litchfield Park, Arizona in 1998. Litchfield Park is located approximately 20 miles west of Phoenix. It is a small community with a high percentage of retirees. I play with men's golf groups three times a week and Ann plays with the ladies once a week. She also does water aerobics three times a week. Since the club has over 300 members we enjoy many social events. There also is no shortage of fine restaurants in the area, which we enjoy with our friends. All of Arizona's major sports teams are within 30 minutes of where we live.

It gets pretty hot in the summer with temperatures occasionally reaching as high as 120 degrees. Don't kid yourself about the dry heat -- it's hot! I still play golf but we all use our own carts, hit the ball and then seek the shade under the big trees while the others hit. Ann is more of a fair-weather golfer and is happy quilting in the air-conditioned house. During this period Ann and I travel a lot. Our favorite spot is Santa Fe, New Mexico for the Indian Market which is held on an August weekend. All the jewelry, pottery, paintings and sculpture are done by Indians of many tribes and everything is amazing! Leave your Visa at home! Over 500,000 people attend the event each year.

Other places we like to visit are Albuquerque NM, Flagstaff and Sedona AZ, Colorado and California and we do most of it in the summer to escape the heat for a little while. The most popular attraction in Arizona, of course, is the Grand Canyon.

If you have never been to Arizona, I would encourage you to visit, but maybe not in the summer. There is plenty to see and do. Lots of wonderful museums, botanical gardens, a wonderful 'living' cave and great shopping. No mosquitoes or flies, just scorpions and rattlesnakes ... but I've only seen one snake and no scorpions. There is a large contingent of gophers, however, and we are at a standoff right now. Most annoying to have holes in piles of dirt in your yard. They even went from the golf course through the back yard to the front yard *under* the house!

I'm not fond of flying so I won't be making the class reunion, but wish you all the best.