

# "Two for Art"

The adventures of Bernie and Martha Marks  
with Sugar the Campin' Cat  
and BluCon, our brand-new Lazy Daze motorhome

October 2009

In the second half of September, we took off in BluCon to southern Utah and northern Arizona. Pretty amazing places, both!

The primary purpose of this trip was for Bernie to participate in the Escalante Canyons Art Festival. Artists could range far afield, painting in any or all of three counties in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument area, which includes Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef National Parks, Calf Creek Recreational Area just north of the town of Escalante, and Red Canyon in the Dixie National Forest. Red Canyon was our best "discovery" of this trip. We spent four nights in the USFS campground there: hiking, painting, photographing, and just generally loving the place.



We took time at Calf Creek for this family portrait. Sugar wasn't entirely thrilled about being out of BluCon. Just too much stimuli for her old nerves to deal with.

The painting that Bernie entered in the show was "Bryce Canyon Wash." (See it below as he was painting it and, still unsigned, right after he finished it.) There were several enthusiastic bidders for it during the auction, and it sold



for 25% more than expected. The winning bid came from an Escalante resident who is now an official "Bernard Marks collector," since she already owned one of his large paintings of the Grand Canyon, which she had purchased earlier this year at Waxlander Gallery in Santa Fe.



A couple of days later, we were parked in a pull-off along Utah's spectacular Route 12 while Bernie painted "Bryce Canyon Wash" (left) when our friends Gary and Susan just happened to drive by en route from their summer home on Whidbey Island (WA) to their winter home in Santa Fe.

Susan—also an artist—first spotted BluCon (which she recognized from our previous newsletter), then saw Bernie painting beside the nearby wash. They stopped to say hello and got a tour of BluCon. Apparently, they liked what they saw, because a few weeks later they placed an order for their own Lazy Daze.

Susan and Gary will pick up their new LD in January, and then no doubt the Lazy Daze Camping-and-Painting Club of Santa Fe will be off and running.



## TWO FUN ENCOUNTERS

We're still new at this rambling-around-in-BluCon business, so we find lots of "firsts" along the way.

At Escalante State Park, we happily camped next to another Lazy Daze, owned by Steve and Adele from the Denver area. We didn't know them before, but now we do, and we hope to see them again soon, somewhere around the bend. That's ours (modern paint scheme) on the right and Steve and Adele's (traditional paint scheme) on the left.

South of the Border (state-wise), we camped for three nights on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and two nights at Lee's Ferry and the Paria Riffle: a stunning and historically interesting place where the Colorado River begins carving Marble Canyon, which turns into the Grand Canyon. Two rivers merge at this spot (below, right)—the Colorado and the Paria. We learned that it's called a "riffle" because it's not big enough to be called a "rapids."

Bernie painted the work below—named "Paria Riffle"—on location. It went directly to Waxlander Gallery.



Since we got home, Martha has updated Bernie's website with his latest paintings. Click the link below, then the "Acrylic Landscapes" button to see some new studio work, and the "News and Activities" page for other plein air paintings from this trip.

At right are Martha's favorite images of two of the cutest rodents she's seen in a long time. Both species were "firsts" in her shooting career... and each now has its own new page on her website. The top critter—its little cheeks stuffed with nuts—is a Spotted Ground Squirrel; at bottom is a Cliff Chipmunk. Both were feasting on this year's bumper crop of acorns near the North Rim Lodge.



We got back to Santa Fe in time for Bernie to participate in the annual Canyon Road Paint Out, on a picture-perfect October day. The street was rocking with music and good cheer, crowds were out, and Bernie had a great time painting in front of Waxlander Gallery.

*You can see more of Martha's and Bernie's art on their websites:*

[www.MarthaMarks.com](http://www.MarthaMarks.com)

[www.BernardMarksWatercolors.com](http://www.BernardMarksWatercolors.com)

For those friends who haven't heard what we're up to these days... **BluCon** (it's blue, and Bernie says Martha conned him into it) is a semi-custom 27' Class C "mini-motorhome" made just for us in the spring of 2009 by **Lazy Daze, Inc.** ([lazydaze.com](http://lazydaze.com)) in Montclair, CA. Lazy Daze's reputation for making the best Class Cs on the road is well deserved. We love this rig!