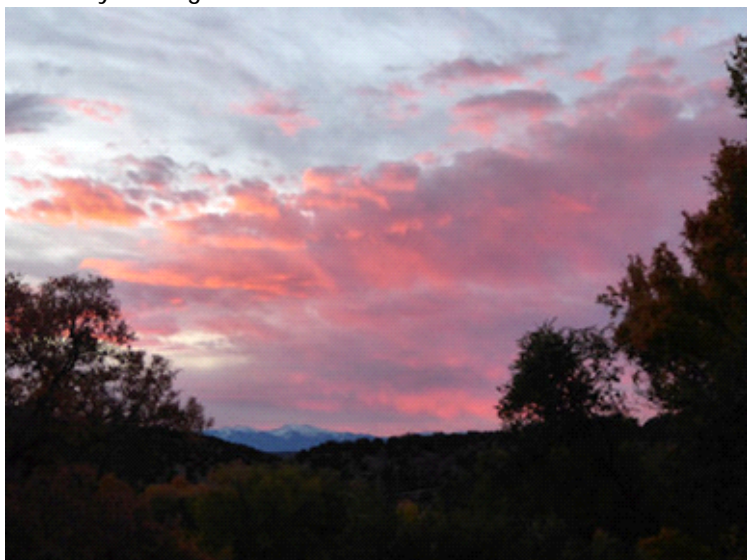


Date: 10/29/2015 9:21:26 PM

Subject: Postcard

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We're staying at a B&SB, which is a bed and sorta-breakfast. Instead of preparing us a morning repast they left 6 eggs and 4 pieces of sourdough bread in our refrigerator. And butter. And jam. But on account of we ate all of it for supper last night, we each had a bagel for breakfast. They were Sara Lee Cinnamon Raisins and we carry them on every trip and they were good.



So was sunrise.

The B&SB used to be a working cattle ranch and comprises 1200 acres on two sides of NM 111 and Rio Ojo Caliente, which parallels 111 "highway". That's almost 2 square miles. There is enough room for some hiking trails for the private use of the guests and we availed ourselves of two of them this morning. Oddly, the trails have no names.

First we tackled Unnamed Mesa. Under the road. Over the river. Through the gates. Find the cairns. Sounds easy but we were following some rather unfocused verbal directions. To put it nicely.



Unnamed Mesa Trail is marked with *special*/cairns. Each one is topped with a bright blue stone that looks like it fell out of the nest of a giant robin. A giant mutant robin. It changed the experience from a hike to an Easter egg hunt.



Found the first one and went up the mesa. We got a nice view from the top. The sun was out for about an hour until it was hidden for the rest of the day by overcast then drizzle then rain.



Wandering around on the mesa we found this.



We kept our distance. Could be poison peppermint.

Our next target was Unnamed Box Canyon. We believed (we had both listened to the same directions; they were fuzzy; we're still being nice) that at the top of the canyon was a narrow slot that we would squeeze through to see a beautiful vista. Sounded great!

The trail started in a mostly dry arroyo.





We got past a swampy section and it turned into a rocky climb.



A Red-tailed hawk watched us.



Almost to the top, we had to climb over a wall of basalt...



...only to discover that, at the very top, the canyon widened back into a sandy expanse of arroyo.



Narrow slot? Beautiful vista? Don't think so. Try broken concrete chunks, remains of barbed wire fence, 4WD tracks.

Life is still good.

D&S

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