

People ask me how hot it is here in Phoenix, it' so hot that... but first - we have four seasons, and it was wonderful a few months ago in the Spring when I would go outside in the morning and the cacti were in bloom, and it was cool, and there would be six different kinds of birds singing. Now, near the end of Summer, you don't hear any birds, you see one once in a while, but it must not have anything to sing about.

It's not like we didn't know what we were getting into, the Phoenix greater metropolitan area is known as, The Valley of the Sun. And we had lived in Las Vegas, Nevada, which is about one degree cooler.

Summer here is great for our pool because it isn't heated, yet we can go swimming at midnight, and the water temperature will be in the 90's, the same as the air temperature. Desert Rats like me enjoy an ambient temperature of about 99 degrees because our body temperature is about 98.6 so when the outside temperature, and the inside (our body) temperature are the same we reach a balance, a harmony, an equivalence that sets our inner Desert Rat free.

So how hot is it? It's so hot that for about three months in the summer there is no cold water, no cold showers, the cold water comes out hot.

A few weeks ago, it got up to 121 degrees. What was that like? I don't know, I didn't go outside, and my wife, like many people, worked from home that day.

People here use big insulated grocery bags and the stores put little bags of ice in them to keep your food from going bad before you get home.

People will leave their cars running with the a/c on, lock the car, shop, then come out and open the car with another key.

When it gets down to 105, people will be out biking, jogging, and walking their dog.

At the neighborhood athletic field, it might be 95 degrees at night, and there will be people sitting in the bleachers watching their kids play ball.

But it's not all bad; there's hardly any traffic in the summer, and the heat isn't as hard to get used to as the scorpions. Yikes!