

Table of content

| | |
|--|----|
| 11-APR-2008 6:34 40° | 1 |
| First Things 1 st | 1 |
| Birthday..... | 1 |
| Another Birthday..... | 1 |
| 12-APR-2008 VACATION STARTED | |
| (SAT.)..... | 2 |
| Day #1:10:00am..... | 2 |
| 13-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 2 (SUN.) | 2 |
| 14-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 3 (MON.) | 2 |
| 15-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 4 (TUE.) | 3 |
| 16-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 5 (WED.) | 3 |
| 17-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 6 (THU.) | 4 |
| 18-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 7 (FRI.) | 4 |
| 19-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 8 (SAT.) | 5 |
| 20-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 9 (SUN.) | 6 |
| 21-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 10 (MON.) | 6 |
| Along the Road..... | 7 |
| 22-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 11 (TUE.) | 7 |
| 22-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 11 (TUE.) | 8 |
| 23-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 12 (WED.) | 8 |
| More Beach Pictures..... | 9 |
| 24-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 13 (THU.) | 10 |
| 25-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 14 (FRI.) | 10 |
| More Highlights..... | 10 |
| 26-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 15 (SAT.) | 10 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 27-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 16 (SUN.) | 10 |
| 28-APR-2008 DAY # 17 (MON.) | 10 |
| 29-APR-2008 VAC DAY # 18 (TUE.) | 10 |
| 30-APR-2008 DAY # 19 (WED.) | 10 |
| 1-MAY-2008 VAC DAY # 20 | 10 |
| 2-MAY-2008 VAC DAY # 21 | 10 |
| 3-MAY-2008 9:45AM 48° | 10 |
| 4-MAY-2008 9:44PM 55° | 10 |
| Vacation Stats..... | 10 |
| Fuel Stats..... | 10 |
| Summary..... | 10 |
| 5-MAY-2008 9:12AM 59° | 10 |
| Slow Down..... | 10 |
| Others Vacation too..... | 10 |
| Returning to a problem..... | 10 |
| 06-MAY-2008 11:37AM 76° | 10 |
| Recalls..... | 10 |
| 07-MAY-2008 9:41AM 57° | 10 |
| Weather Station Server..... | 10 |
| Birthday..... | 10 |
| File Server..... | 10 |
| Lawn Mower..... | 10 |
| 8-MAY-2008 8:26AM 48° | 10 |
| 9-MAY-2008 2:31PM 59° | 10 |
| 10-MAY-2008 10:13AM 58° | 10 |
| 12:23pm..... | 10 |
| 11-MAY-2008 7:42PM 52° | 10 |
| Dandelions..... | 10 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| File server..... | 10 |
| 12-MAY-2008 11:23PM 41° | 10 |
| 20 Years Today..... | 10 |
| Garage..... | 10 |
| File server..... | 10 |
| 13-MAY-2008 9:05AM 58° | 10 |
| Gas Prices..... | 10 |
| I do not like SPAM..... | 10 |
| 15-MAY-2008 08:19AM 48° | 10 |
| Vacation Notes..... | 10 |
| 16-MAY-2008 8:19AM 65° | 10 |
| Follow ups..... | 10 |
| Recalls..... | 10 |
| Antenna..... | 10 |
| Dandelions..... | 10 |
| Mower..... | 10 |
| SPAM..... | 10 |
| Driving..... | 10 |
| Vacation notes..... | 10 |
| 17-MAY-2008 6:20AM 54° | 10 |
| Pictures..... | 10 |
| 18-MAY-2008 | 10 |
| Birthday..... | 10 |
| Fair Diddley..... | 10 |
| 19-MAY-2008 8:51AM 49° | 10 |
| 20-MAY-2008 1:13PM 64° | 10 |
| BIRTHDAYS | 10 |

11-Apr-2008 6:34 40°

First Things 1st

I am still home. Things got out of hand and I didn't get out of the driveway. I think I will get out of here tomorrow after breakfast. For now I am going just watch TV and not do much thinking about getting ready.

Birthday

Today is Heather's birthday. Sorry I did get to see you in person today to wish you Happy Birthday. So I will just type it here. Happy Birthday Heather!

Another Birthday

Today is Roxanne's birthday. I don't think I saw her this century. She uses to tell me I was the only one that ever remembered her birthday. Well I remembered again. Happy Birthday Roxanne where ever you are.



It was raining but I need to get ready for my vacation anyway.

12-Apr-2008 Vacation started (Sat.)

The next 3 weeks I will be on vacation and be adding hi-lights after I return.

Day #1:10:00am

I filled the motorhome with fuel. It was the first time in a year and a half. The last time was November 2006. Then I was off to the first planned stop in Macon, MO.

You may remember I broke down there three ago in the 1971 Winnebago. I wanted to just say "Hi!" to the helpful people I met there.

13-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 2 (Sun.)

I woke up early and saw that the NAPA store didn't open until 10:00am. Three years ago I stayed in their parking for 2 days. Across the street Tom was

closed on Sunday. So I thought I would drive down the street to the restaurant where I ate 3 years ago. That was another dead end. It looked like it had been closed for a year. I guess things change. Being it was only 7:30 I did not want to hang around town to just say "Hi!" to one person.



I saw this jet Parked on these polls in front of the an airport



This is did not mean I was near where I was going yet.

I started driving and arrived at Marcia & Dan's by 6:00pm in Lyons, KS. We visited all night.

14-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 3 (Mon.)

Both Dan & Marcia work the night shift so we visited until they had to leave for work around 3:00pm. Then I headed to Edie's in Hutchinson, KS. This is 50 miles away. I don't think I have seen Edie in 6 or 7 years. Melvin and Amber have grown 2 or 3 feet. It was good to see them. Camera in my shirt packet and I didn't take one picture. Edie,

send me some pictures.

By now I knew I was going to burn up about fifty gallons of gasoline a day so I was checking gas mileage. I got only 5.4 MPG with

that tank of old gas or it could be the wind and rain on the first day. Today's fill up told me 9.6 MPG. That is a long way from the 40 MPG I get with my car, but is more than the 8.0 I expected. By the end of the day I had driven 937 miles since I started on April 12th. I think I camped is a rest area along the highway some where. I did not note it.



The sun was setting and trying to tell me it was time to rest.



Dan in the back and Renee and Marcia in the front

15-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 4 (Tue.)

I don't see any notes for the 15th. I just see that I had cranked out 1312 miles for the trip and burnt 164 gallons of gasoline and averaged 7.4 MPG. This is not very good for the gas mileage!



I saw a lot of wind generators along the way.

Wait...I have another note book. It says that I stopped at a small town, Texhoma, for lunch.

I think it is on the TX/OK start line. I think it was a restaurant

that was part of a stockyard. On the T-V they say the EURO is \$1.69 it was only \$1.36 when I was in Germany last year. That meant it would have cost me 25% more if I went there this year.

Nothing but driving today, I am trying to get to Sedona, AZ some time Thursday.



I went right on by Dodge City



And still another sunset in the west.

16-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 5 (Wed.)



I woke up in this nice Rest Area that had many RV in it last night.

I arrived at Clines Corners, NM. I think every time I go to Arizona via I-40 I stop at the Clines Corners. It is a truck stop, souvenir shop, and restaurant. I think that was all there was to Clines Corners, NM. The people are friendly and the food is good. Many years ago I met the Psychic Cowboy here. His day job was that of a trucker. You always meet some interesting people in small town places.

There was a man and woman sitting a table near me. They asked me if I eat there a lot. They were wondering if the food

was any good. I told them I stop there ever time I go by and had never have had anything bad. I also told them it was only once ever 5 years of so. They smiled and order their food.

They were out of regular syrup for the pancakes and it bothered the waitress to tell people. I had the pancakes with cherry syrup. Different! ☺



Today I found a lot of dust blowing around.

17-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 6 (Thu.)



I stopped at the scenic overlooks on US-89A south for Flagstaff that I would have to drive down to get the Sedona.

a gas receipt. I just found it in my little note book. I have been looking for that since I got home.

Anyway, I setup up camp under these trees that had big birds nesting. When I saw one flying it looked like a 747 with feet. More about these birds later.

I had to driven 1759 miles to get here from Woodstock. I kind of didn't do any thing else the rest of the day except for resting. That is what vacations are for.

I arrived in Sedona about 1:30pm. I drove to The Coffee Pot restaurant forgetting that I couldn't ever find a parking spot there even with a car. I drove down the road the Safeway parking lot and it was all most full too. I walked back to the restaurant. I asked them about the parking and they told me that they asked the City what they could do. The people at the City said to buy the business next door and tare down the building. Governments! ☹

After lunch I headed to Rancho Sedona RV Park. The only RV Park in 10 miles of Sedona. I got lucky to get a place to camp in Sedona. It is right on Oak Creek with many big trees for shade.

Wow!

I was missing



Near where I was sitting and talking to Cork on the phone while he was fixing my server were these wind things all over the place for sale.

18-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 7 (Fri.)

Today I went to a Mind Electric Seminar at the Creative Life Center in Sedona. I thought it was very near the RV Park so I could walk. Not sure how far it was I left at 8:00am thinking it started at 9:00. It was only a short walk up and up and up then down the road. I was early so I walked around and looked at the views. Some guy, janitor maybe, asked if he could help me. I told him I was a little early for the seminar because I was walking and didn't know how far it was. He said; "Ok." and went about his business. After it got near 9 o'clock I saw some one in the office but nobody else. I wondered if it had been cancelled. When I went to enter the office I saw the clock. It was a little before 8:00am. I forgot that Arizona doesn't change there clock so my time was off an hour. I was 2 hours early. So I thanked her and went back to the RV Park.



This is view from the Creative Life Center in the direction of Old Town in Sedona. Somewhere in between is the RV Park.

I unpacked my electric scooter. I tried to ride it back up to the Center and it wouldn't make it up the hill without me pushing it. This only took a half hour so I was still only a little early for the 9:00 seminar. I was tired from pushing the scooter up the hills.

Remember this is only about a quarter of a mile but it is all up hill and steep. So I am here and again there wasn't anybody there yet. Well I did it again the seminar didn't start until 10:00.

I decided to take the scooter back to the Motorhome. It would be much easier to walk, even the third time. I walked back and was still a half hour early. There was plenty of time to write this tail.

I got there at 8 o'clock for a seminar that started at 9 o'clock but it was really 7 o'clock for a seminar that didn't start until 10 o'clock. This means I thought I was an hour early for being an hour early but I was really an hour early for being an hour early for being an hour early. What!!!

After the seminar I went back to the motor home and cooked some food and watched a movie.



While walking around I saw these nice flowers.

19-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 8 (Sat.)

Saturday I waked up town to see what was there. I took some pictures it was all up hill. I caught the free bus to get me back near the RV Park.

In the afternoon I thought I would walk out to Bell Rock. There was so much construction it was hard walking. I felt sorry for all those people in cars.

I knew Bell Rock was 5 miles but I could handle that. If not there were a couple other places I could go before I got there. Well I was sore from yesterday so my spirit guide told me; "Maybe tomorrow, you are kind of tired today. How about I send you a bus?" Just then the free bus came around the corner and I jumped on and road it back to the RV Park.

In the evening I rested watching the movie "The Long, Long Trailer" then turned in for the night.



You can see the RV Park in the foreground and the Creative Life Center about mid picture. This is looking the other way from the picture yesterday. (and my finger covering the lenz on top.)

20-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 9 (Sun.)



Even in a scenic area like Sedona there are construction zones

Sunday after noon I decided to head to Airport Mesa to sit on the mountain. I came to Sedona to sit on the mountain and do nothing for a while. It was nearly a three mile up hill hike all through the construction zone and up a back road while it was getting dark. I could do that! The sun set while I on the way. I was able to write some notes before it got too dark. I decided to hike out the back way in the dark. This

time I knew the way and I had a flash-light. You lose your depth perception very quickly when the sun goes down and can't see in the dark after a while. I hiked all the way out on the trails until I got the road the lead up to Burger King. I was $\frac{3}{4}$ the way home. I ate at Burger King while rested and wrote some more notes. The rest of the hike was through the construction zone in traffic and with almost no where to walk.

It was later when I got back to the RV so I made some tea and turned in for the night.



Those 3 of 4 sticks on the other hill in the middle of the picture are people standing. It is neat how this picture came out.

21-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 10 (Mon.)



This is a picture out of the laundry room at the RV Park and the wooden tulips.

I did my laundry in the morning, washed the bird poo off the motor home, emptied the waste tanks and filled up with fresh water.

Before I left I had to get a picture of those birds. They were randomly flying around so it was hard. I did get one picture so I cropped out a picture so you could see what I meant when I called them 747s with feet.

Note: I just got an email from Linda at Rancho Sedona RV Park. The birds were Blue Herons.



This is the Great Blue Heron and one of the nest in the tree. They had about a six foot wing span!

I pointed the motor home in the direction on Paso Robles, CA and started driving.

When I stopped at a rest area for the night a man was asking me about my motor home. He and his wife, a trucker team, were going to retire in a couple of

years. They were talking about spending half the year in Florida and the other half in Canada. He told me that he passed me on the road and they thought it would be the size they were thinking about. They had some time so I showed them what it looked like inside. They thought it was about what they were thinking. They thanked me and left.

I spent my night in this rest area I think was near Barstow, CA. My notes say I had gone 2033 miles at this point.

Along the Road



I thought this was funny that there were beer festival and election for mayor signs on the same corner.



Those are not sticks up there on the hills. They are wind generators.



In the afternoon I was reminded I use to have to go to work every day.

22-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 11 (Tue.)

I awoke to a 52° temperature inside. I forgot to turn up the heat last night. I guess it was a dry cold because I wasn't cold. ☺



There is a lot of desert out this way

I went down the road to look for some California sunshine and a nice warm café.

The restaurant I found was Denny's in Mojave, CA. This is right near a wind farm. There were thousands of wind

generators up on the hills. I mean thousands! When I left Mojave and was down the road and on the other side of the hill there were hundreds and hundreds more.

Around 3:30pm I made it to Mike & Petra's in Paso Robles, CA. I had driven enough! We visited until late into the night and then I retired to my mobile house for the night.



There was a lot of road to travel in the desert.

23-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 12 (Wed.)

Mike & Petra took me to Cayucos, CA. This is the town they stayed in for while they were shopping for a place to live. Cayucos is on the Pacific Ocean. We walked along the beach for a long time and I touched the Ocean for the first time.



I got to touch the Pacific Ocean for the first time.

We ate diner at a restaurant called Ducky's that was right at the beach. They had really good food.

After diner we went somewhere else and walked around town and looked at the town.



This is a beach house with lots of flowers.

Later back at the house they showed me the slide show of their walk to Rome.

Then I got in the motor home and drove 4 blocks over to the Wal-Mart to park for the night. The City says you can only park on the street for 48 hours with a RV. This would give another two days.

More Beach Pictures



Mike & Petra and a couple birds



My friend, Jonathon, let me get right up and almost touch him.



Hen & Chickens in someone's garden



Some more flowers



Flowers in front, Petra stretching in the middle and the ocean in the background



Yes, even more flowers. There were flowers everywhere.



I took many pictures of the Ocean



We are about half way on our walk. See The pier in the back ground?



I zoomed in and retook the picture. Does this help see the pier?

Note that this pier is was I was standing when I touched the Ocean.

24-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 13 (Thu.)

I got up before Wal-Mart opened so I made some tea and made a list of parts I thought I needed to fix the range hood that the screws fell out of a few days ago before.

Petra was studying for school. She is taking an English class. Mike and I went shopping for parts Mike and I went for a long walk while Petra's studying. We ended up stopping for a couple beers. We returned late. I just went home for the night. To the motor home that is.

25-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 14 (Fri.)

This morning Mike helped me get range hood back in place. It just needed some longer screws. While Petra studied Mike drove me around the country side to show me what it looks like. There were hills, vineyards, and windy roads. It looked a lot like Spain when I was there last year.

After returning Petra made lunch and it was good! After Petra went to school Mike and I went for a long walk. Well long for me but not so long for Mike.

I think I have my dates mixed in my notes because tomorrow is Saturday and I left Saturday morning because Mike and Petra were going to a Coin Show and I was head down the road. So I will just give you some high lights and you guess what day things happened.

More Highlights



Wednesday it was very foggy on our trip to the coast. Not the case today. That is the ocean maybe 10 miles away. It was very clear.

One day we drove up the coast and stopped at the Hurst Castle. We toured to front areas with the enticements to get you to take tour the Castle. Mike said he got our money while he was alive and again after he is dead. I agreed. The Castle was a mile or more up on the hill and the only way there was by paying for the tour bus. No thanks! No good picture while I was here. Hummm, I wonder why they didn't turn out.



I think the guide told us they were over 1500 sea lions that come up on the beach to rest. They are all females and the very young. The males are somewhere else.



Looking up the coast we are about 300 feet above the surface.



This is a view the other way in the same area.

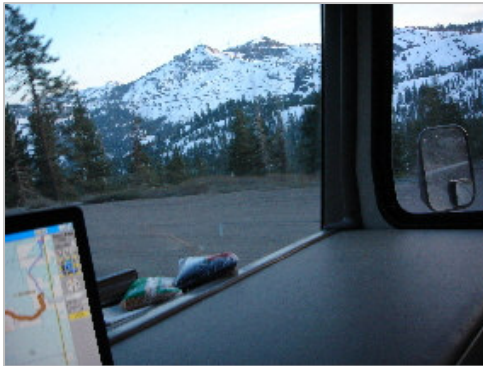
We drove along the coast to San Simeon up CA route # 1. Along the way we stopped near the beach where the seals (sea lions) come up on the beach and warm themselves in the sun, much as us people do. I got a lot of pictures here.

Thanks Mike and Petra. I enjoyed my time with you.

26-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 15 (Sat.)



Before I left I was treated to a balloon show.



There was snow very near me in the mountains.

Today is the day I left Paso Robles and my host Mike and Petra. I had a great time with them, but it is time for me to head down the road.

My plan is to head to Yellowstone National Park to see Old Faithful.

I filled the fuel tank and starting with 2307 miles on the trip odometer.

On the drive through the mountains there were pull offs for you to put chains on your tires. There was snow everywhere but on the road. I wonder if was the law to have chains when there is snow on the roads. I didn't have any.

In the evening I came over the hill and crossed the state line into Nevada. It turned dark too quick with the sun hiding behind the mountains. The bright lights on the billboards almost blinded me. I had to slow down while my eyes adjusted.

I was glad I was coming out of the mountains because I was tired! I stated looking for a place to park for the night. I left the interstate and saw a truck parked in a big opened gravel area just off the road. I pulled in behind him and parked. It thought would be more trucks before long.



My last view on Mike & Petra's before I headed down the road.

27-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 16 (Sun.)

I stopped in Winnemucca, NV for fuel and supplies. It was very warm here in the dessert. My thermometer said 98° but it was sitting in the exhaust of the laptop fan. Later I found out it was in the 80s. At the Wal-Mart I took a picture of the snow on the mountains.

My plan was to stay on I-80 to US-93 and then go north to Twin Falls, Idaho. There find a place to stay for the night.



Even in the desert at Wal-Mart there was snow in the mountains

28-Apr-2008 Day # 17 (Mon.)

At this rest area I took a picture because it was a neat rook over the picnic benches and you could see the salt from the Great Salt Lake.

For the night I had stayed at The Mountain Shadows RV Park in Wells NV. I thought I should check the tire pressure before I hit the road. They were just fine. And left in the morning and it showed it was 8 hours to Yellowstone.

Later I found I missed my turn somewhere so I will go to another way to Yellowstone. It looks like will be after Salt Lake City, Utah.

I stopped at Wendover, NV and had lunch. I figured since it was the last town before leaving Nevada, I should play some of the games. I played the slot machine until I was out of quarters. I won about \$9.00. I think I broke even.

I drove through the Great Salt Lake area. Later being tired and sleepy I got off the road for the night. I think I was near Rock Springs, WY

29-Apr-2008 Vac Day # 18 (Tue.)

You might notice I was in Wyoming last night, in Evanston, WY and not Rock Spring, WY. I was going to turn north in Salt Lake City. It didn't happen. I got tangled up in the rush hour traffic and the next thing I know I was way east of Salt Lake. So, I kept going and ended up here. I stayed in the Wal-Mart parking lot because I thought I need to turn north somewhere near here.

I picked up some supplies at Wal-Mart and found a post office to mail some cards.

I started north in the direction of Yellowstone. I



This is one of the better roads on the way to the Teton Mountains.

drove and drove and drove. Up WY-89 that turned in to US-89 and US-30 and I keep driving. Much like at home some of the road was very bad because freezing and thawing weather. I just slowed down because I thought I wanted to see Old

Faithful. I drove through the Grand Teton National Park all the way up to Yellowstone. When I came to the sign "←Yellowstone" I turned and stopped at the range station to check in.

The ranger asked; "Where are you heading?" I told



I did get to see the Great Salt Lake as I entered Salt Lake City before the traffic



I parked at one of the many pullover on the road to Yellowstone to take a picture of the snow that covered Teton

him; "Yellowstone." He told me that the road about 28 miles ahead was close because of the snow and it wouldn't be opened for another week or so. I guess this entrance didn't normally open until May. He gave me directions back to the west and north entrances that were open all year. I turned around and



On the trip back to Jackson, WY, I stopped to show you how much snow was still on the ground. This was right next to where I parked.

As you see in this picture I was really in snow country.

This is what I looked like when I was driving down the road. I did this so you would forget me because I was gone for so long. ☺

headed back to Jackson, WY to make my turn. On the way back to Jackson; "I thought this is the 3rd try to get to Yellowstone." I think the forces are trying to tell me something. After a while I decided I was being told to leave it go for this trip.

I filled up with fuel in Jackson. It was the cheapest this trip. It was only \$3.29 a gallon. I thought of this as a sign too. Maybe it was a reward of not going to Yellowstone.

I looked at the map and pointed the motor home in the direction on Woodstock.

30-Apr-2008 Day # 19 (Wed.)

My notes only say that I am going to head east on I-80 and pile out the miles. It looks like 1,200 miles to get home. "There is no place like home." I don't have red shoes like Dorothy, but I do have a motor home to drive. I want to be home!

I spent the Night in Gothenburg, NE and the KOA RV Park.



There were a lot of wild animals.

1-May-2008 Vac Day # 20

This morning I met Ron at the RV Park. He is the brother-in-law of Merrie. Merrie is a friend from where I used to work. It is a small world!

I found out later that my water pump was broken so I could not use the water in the motor home. In Lincoln, NE I found Leach Fleetwood RV dealer for repair parts. They stayed open while I replaced the pump. The service people had already left for the day. One guy stayed over just to make sure I had the parts I needed. They were a great help. I had the pump changed and working. In 30 minutes and was on my way. Thank Leach RV!

Around 9:00pm I stopped in a rest area in Iowa. I needed a break from driving. So I decided to remount that water pump. I didn't do that right away because it was working and I needed a longer

screwdriver to do the job easier. I had picked up the proper tool during the day and now was the time to finish the job. I only took a few minutes and it is like new.

I went into the rest area building and Wow! The rest rooms and everything else inside was clean and new looking. It had to be the best I have ever seen! It was so clean and new looking it looked like I might have been the first one that ever used it. And they had free Wi-Fi too and it was a super strong signal even in the parking lot. It was so clean you could have eaten of the floors. Maybe even in the bathroom. ☺ Nice job Iowa!

I decided right then I was staying the night.

2-May-2008 Vac Day # 21

11:00am and I stopped for breakfast along I-80 at Ox York Restaurant at Wilkommen, IA. I was going to stop earlier but time flew by this morning. I ordered lunch. This was a nice friendly place to stop. And they even made a new pot of coffee just for me. Food was great. I was confused because there were only two other customers in the whole place and there were 6 people working.

Lisa, my waitress, told me that they get all the business from the interstate and the season just started. The town only had about 2,000 people and I could see three restaurants. Even the motel looked closed or empty. Lisa told me she was working this weekend and they tend to be a lot more people then. Like other restaurants they tend to visit more when they are not so busy. I enjoyed my visit but I was on a quest to get home. I thanked them for putting up with me and left.

I headed down the road wrestling with the gusty wind coming from behind me and on the right. At Davenport, I decided I would head north to lookup couple of cousins, Wally and Steve, in Maquoketa, IA. Both of them live in the same apartment building.

I stopped a McDonald's because Wally hangs out there when he isn't working. He wasn't there. I picked up a couple of cups of coffee and headed to Steve's. I guessed he might still drink coffee. I arrived about 2:30pm after calling Aunt Annie to get the address so I didn't drive all afternoon looking for the apartment building.

I hadn't seen Steve in years so when I buzzed him he



I had to get a picture of Steve.

had to ask a couple of times before he knew it was me and let me in. I thought I would visit an hour or 2 and be on my way and be home by dark. It is only a three and half hour home from Maquoketa to home.

Well we got talking and I moved to the other side of the room when the sun got low in the western sky and came through the window blinding me. I didn't even think that meant it would be dark soon. Around nine o'clock Steve reminded me I wanted be home before dark. It had been dark for an hour. I said that I guessed I wouldn't make it.

We talked and talked and talked. We had a good visit. I was thinking I had not gone down the hall and seen Wally. Steve told me that he wasn't home. Maybe next time Wally. We wrapped up and I headed up the road.

I decided after that long rest from not driving I would have no problem getting home with getting sleepy. If I did I would just stop somewhere and rest. After getting to Illinois I had to stop for fuel. That



There is still a lot of road to travel and you can't park here.

was around 11:30pm. I was on US-20 and I think the motor home could find its way home so I kept going and ... (see tomorrow)

3-May-2008 9:45am 48°

I returned from vacation at 1:20am this morning. I will be updating the vacation notes in the next few days. But for now I have to go eat breakfast.



Tulips awaited me on my return home



And there was the 12 pounds of mail that I had to go through.



The antenna is getting ready to find the ground. I need to take care of this.



The plants in my only south window where I have plants grew and need water.

I have this grass and lawn mower to work on too.

Vacation are also about returning home and doing things you might not want to do too.

I need to clean out the motorhome and pay bills and get ready for the next adventure.

4-May-2008 9:44pm 55°

First full day home from my vacation and there are so many things to do. I didn't get any of them done. I started a few and got just enough done that I could leave it sit for a day or two. In a month or so I can get back in the groove and then I can put things off longer. I wanted to fill you in on more of my vacation but it hasn't happened yet. Maybe in the next few days I will put some of the notes in the newsletter along with some pictures. After being away for three weeks I have some catching up to do. Some of these things need to be attended to first.

Vacation Stats

- 5099 Miles
- 102 Engine hours (the motor home has an hour meter)
- =====

50 MPH average speed

Fuel Stats

5011 Miles

602 Gallons of gasoline

8.3 Average MPG, 10.2 to 5.4 (First tank was the worst) next worst was 7.3

100 Engine hours, 50 MPH average speed

\$3.58 Average price for gas, \$3.26 to 3.98 per gallon

Now the bad news, \$2151.88 for fuel

\$0.43 per mile for fuel

Average 385 miles between fill up

Average 46 gallon for each fill up

Summary

I drove with the cruise control and set at 55 MPH. Gas mileage seemed to be better when the wind wasn't blowing. The wind seemed to be the biggest factor.

The total cost the trip was less than \$3,500 Yes, Fuel was the biggest cost.

If I figure \$70.00 a day for a hotel and use my car that gets 45 mpg it would cost near the same as all that money I paid for gas.

A smaller motor home with better gas mileage and cost less.

Enough about my vacation, let's hear about your adventures

5-May-2008 9:12am 59°

Today has to be start catching up day. It started up slow. I couldn't wake up. Then when I went to back out of the driveway to go to my dental appointment I almost forgot to stop at the sidewalk before I got out on to the street. 99% of the time there is nobody walking by. But today it is a good thing I stopped.

Slow Down

I have five places to look when I backup out of my driveway. Up and down Clay Street. Cars sneak through the stop sign at 1st Street and the restaurant drive across the street and once in a while some one walking down the side walk. I almost always stop before the side walk before backing out of the drive way. Today I almost forgot. That isn't the end of it either. After leaving the driveway I was turning onto 1st Street and I looked in the review mirror and there is a bright yellow car right behind me. Where did that come from?

Maybe I need to be retrained how to drive since returning from vacation. In any case I am aware that this is happening today so I am more alert. Be alert Marty!

Others Vacation too

So I went to my dental appointment and that went fine. I am going to get the lower dentures remade because they are not right. I had to reschedule one appointment because the dentist is going to the on vacation in June. This would have been the last in a series of five appointments. That means that this is going to take about 8 weeks to get this project

finished. Well I put it off for ten of fifteen years all by myself so a couple more weeks won't be a problem.

Returning to a problem

My antenna was hanging off the tower when I returned from vacation. So I have to go out this morning and take that down before it falls and damages something. Remember last year when I returned from vacation in Germany and Spain, I had trees that were going to fall in the street? I wonder what will be waiting for me when I return from the next one.

06-May-2008 11:37am 76°

I am starting to get in the being at home and not on the road mode. I am learning to drive while having my bottom dragging on the pavement. You sit a little higher in the motor home.

Here are some of the things that are going on since I returned.

Recalls

I have two recalls to deal with. One is one of my Meds and the other is my car.

I took care of the medication recall this morning. The drug store is replacing it. They left me a message last Friday and I just got there to take care of it today. I figured if I have been taking it all this time and it was bad and I am still able to get around so it can't be too bad. I think I had the good batch anyway. I will know more when I return later today to pick up the replacement.

My car was recalled too. It is something about the sensor on the front passenger seat. It doesn't know if a child is sitting in it and if I crash the air bag might go off and do bad thing to the child. Since I do not remember when there was a child in the front seat or the back for that matter. Children belong in the back seat. It is much safer. Well, there or locked in the trunk if they get wild. ☺ The back seat is the law!

I have other problem with the car since I returned from vacation. It takes 2 hands to shift it. And it is making one of those creaking noises like Aunt Annie's car when she had the tie rod bushing replaces. The difference is that my sound is in the back. Mine sound like struts. If you put your hand on the corner and push down, it makes the creaking, moaning sound. Maybe my car is mad at me for not taking it on vacation with me. So I will drop it of this afternoon while I am in Crystal Lake.

What was I doing day

Today is, "What Was I Doing Day". Yes, I am heard things like "Where was I going?" and "What was I going to do with this?" from a lot of people today. It must be a forgettable day. I am glad I did not suffer from that today. I was busy getting my car checked out, fixing my loan, my insurance and picking dandelion peddled to make dandelion wine.

07-May-2008 9:41am 57°

Yesterday was a busy day. Today is going to be another busy day. My file server with all my backups and downloads failed to reboot the other day. I need fix it! It has all my data on it and it was a backup for my web sites. Not just MartysThoughts.info but all of them, even the ones that I am hosting for other people. I will be a big hurt if the primary server fails before I get this fixed. I would survive that kind of disaster, but I do not want that kind of stress. I went through enough of that when I was working. That is the kind of stress is what helped put me in the hospital for a while. I have a plan for the backup right now and will start working on it right now.

Not having the computer doesn't bother me as much as losing all of the data. I can rebuild the server in a few hours if I had the data. Without the data would take 10 years. I have had my web site for 10 years. Maybe it is more than that. I think my first newsletter was 1998. Time sure flies when you have fun. I think I will start having fun fixing this computer too. Better get started. Now!

Weather Station Server

Because of my file server being down my weather station was not post weather data for 4 days. I just fixed it. For now I have a work around for the weather station. This and the big birthday party kept me from working on the file server. I need a break so that was a good thing.

Birthday

I just returned for a surprise birthday party. Since it was a surprise and it was the big five O maybe I shouldn't say it was Bill's party. Woops, I let it go. Since he know now I will tell you it was a surprise party. He didn't have a clue it was going to happen. I can't really say Bill is getting older but you can see from the picture that he is a "blow hard". Happy Birthday Bill!



Kim inhaled and Bill blew.



They look a lot better after they are deflated.



Jess and Haley took pictures and this other guy kept giving me more ice cream.

File Server

I found a command that might repair some of the damaged file systems on that file server. In fact I think it has already. I need to let it run to the end to finish just in cast there is another problem. It is a very slow process so I want to let it check every thing before I try something else. For now it is a waiting game.

Lawn Mower

While waiting for that file system program I thought I would get my lawnmower out and see if it would start. I removed the spark plug and it looked new. And the mower turned over ok. I looked in the fuel tank and it was bone dry. This is a good or bad thing. Being it is dry meant that the system could be filled up with gasoline that had turned to varnish and dried out. That would be very bad because the little holes in the carburetor could have been plugged up. If there was liquid in the fuel tank it had to be tar or varnish and that meant I would have to clean out all of that even before I tried to start it with gas.

In case you didn't know gasoline starts going bad after a year or so. That is one of the things I had to fix on that 1971 Winnebago I had 3 years ago. It wasn't any fun!

In any case it might have cost me a hundred bucks to get it fixed and a new gas mowers cost less than two-hundred buck. This mower has been sitting in the back corner of the garage since at least 1998.

I had planned on buying an electric mower anyway, but to save money I need to see it this started. I figured after 10 years of just sitting there was no way it would run.

I started by spraying some starter fluid in the carburetor and pulled the starter rope. Wow! It fired on the first pull. Right then I thought that was a good thing. So I put a little gas in the tank pushed the primmer a couple of time and gave the rope a yank. WOW!!!! It was running!

I must have run the system out of gas when I stopped using it 10 years ago. That is something you should each fall. By running it out of gas you almost never have trouble in the spring. Maybe I remembered to do it 10 years ago. Good going Marty!

I am a little out of shape and the bladed needs to be sharing. I mowed the back yard and I was soaking wet with sweat from ear lobes to ankles. I will do the front tomorrow.

So now that I am dried off and the mower has cooled down I will go back to working on the file server.



See, the lawn is cut. I need to put paint or siding on the garage too.

8-May-2008 8:26am 48°

I talked to Bill this morning and he survived his 50th birthday. I worked on the failed server for a long time and still have not given up. But it isn't any closer to recovering the data yet. And I am rested up from cutting the grass in the back yard.

This morning I will lube the wheels on the mower and sharpen the blade while I am waiting for the dew to get off the grass. I think this will make it easier to cut. It will at least make it easier for me to push it.

9-May-2008 2:31pm 59°

I got the grass all cut yesterday. I have to do that more often because body isn't use to that kind of activities. Another way to put that is; "I am out of shape!" I know I will get over it after a few mowing.

My file server is working just enough that I can start to salvage some of the data from it. That is what I am doing now. I can try to fix the rest of after I get a copy of all those pictures that are not stored any where else. I tell every one "Backup! Backup! Backup!" and this was my backup of 80% of my stuff. All of the pictures are not backed up. I understand how to make CD of pictures. I just need to do it.

Now that is under way I can hook up the new battery backup for PC. It will help protect my hardware when the power goes out like it did yesterday 3 times. It makes it hard while I was trying to fix this stuff. Backing up the power is a thing I have been a little behind on getting done. I need to find new batteries for my old UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) units. Then I won't be having thing breaking when the power fails. I can deal with a power outages once is while but not all of the broken computer stuff during a brown out. Brown out power is hard on electronics.

10-May-2008 10:13am 58°

This is the second day I have been recovering pictures from the failed server. Or has it been a week. Seems like forever. Later today I will start making copies of my pictures to CDs. They clam that they would be safe for 100 years on CDs. Of coarse no one has had a CD for 100 years yet since they only started to use them in the '80s. But they will be much safer than where they are now. That is except for fire and breakage the CDs should be fine.

I think I will get back at the vacation notes I only got to day nine. There are twelve more days to tell you about. And this is only the high lights. I won't to go back and fill in the gaps. I have 4 note books that I wrote notes in and a lot of electronic voice notes I recorded. Oh Yes, I have a lot of snapshots to go through too. There isn't enough room in my newsletter for all of that.

As far as projects go, I have to make that HHO generator, wing generator, solar electric panels and all of those half started projects I haven't finished. I have enough for the next 50 years.

I guess I should work on my vacation notes first then I can publish this newsletter.

12:23pm

I have been going through vacation notes all morning. I have had enough of that for now. It is about time for our Saturday afternoon get together at Vaughan's. I don't want to eat too much because I have been invited to a grill out later.

I think I will start burning backup copied of those pictures for a while. Then go read a book or something and get away from computers for a while. Yah, right!

11-May-2008 7:42pm 52°

Happy Mother's Day all of you mothers. Did you honor your mother today?

Dandelions

I started that batch of dandelion wine tonight. It should be ready by next year. Don't think I am going to give all of you a bottle of it. I only started a gallon. If I am

lucky it will yield only 3 quarts or maybe four 750ML bottles. That is four-fifth of a gallon if you don't know why wine comes in 750ML bottles.

File server

I think I salvaged my pictures from the failed server. I am working on the other parts of the file system I can't get at now. I don't know what I am doing and don't understand what I found on the Internet that I found that might help me recover it. But I am doing my best guess. Either I will save the data or learn a lesson called "Backup! Backup! Backup!"

If it is important to you make a copy and save it in a safe place. I have spent four days maybe a week on this so far and I would like to be doing other things with my time.

I have copies of most of my pictures on CDs now. But I have more to do. I will work on it as time goes on to make copies.

12-May-2008 11:23pm 41°

Yes it is a little late of this but I need to do a little because the day is almost over.

20 Years Today

Today 20 years ago I bought my house. Wow, where did that time go!

Garage

I started working on getting the garage ready to paint. I think I will paint the trim and the door and side the rest. It is time to get that done. After all it has been 14 years since I did the house. It might be neat if they were the same color. I have a lot of scrapping before I can do the painting. I can always use some help.

File server.

I just started to off load the only data left that I can salvage. When that is finished I will try an upgrade and see if it fixes any thing. If not it is time to consider it as lost. You can only spend so much time trying to save your data. I have a lot more fun things to do.

13-May-2008 9:05am 58°

Here it is another Tuesday and it looks like it might be a bright sunny day.

I should get finished with that file server today. After me doing all this crying about it, you should wash your shirt from my tears on your shoulders.

The grass looks like it will needs some cutting again in a couple days. I think I can put it off for a few more days. Maybe if I wait until Wednesday or Thursday it will be raining and I won't be able to do it.

I need to pay some bills today. I don't want to keep too much of my own money for me. ☺

Gas Prices

I went to IllinoisGasPrices.com and found out the bested posted gas price in Illinois. It showed at Flying J in South Beloit was \$3.67 a gallon at 8:00am Tuesday. In Woodstock it showed \$3.89 at Marathon Monday at 5:30pm.

A year ago it was \$3.42 a gallon in Illinois and as low as \$2.72 last October. Five years ago it was about \$1.50. This means that 5 years ago I could have driven my car over 2,500 miles on \$100.00 and now only a 1,000 miles. That is about 40% less miles for my buck. I need to work on my idea of running the car on water.

I do not like SPAM

I am talking junk email. It is not like junk mail I can just recycle the paper. SPAM emails are very hard to stop. The best thing to do is to just delete them. If you email them you just confirm you exist. Just delete them!

My email server has blocked 20,311 SPAM emails in the last 118 days that I never saw. That is an average of 172 a day. I don't worry about those because I never see them. It is the others that I keep getting that my filter doesn't stop that I don't want to get. I have personally blacked listed 1,040 places from sending me anything. I haven't even counted them that have leaked through. I guess I will have to tighten down the screws a little more. I think I'll do that now....That is done.

15-May-2008 08:19am 48°

Wow! I see gas is \$3.99⁹ this morning at Clark. From time to times I check gas prices at GasBuddy.com. There is a link on my web page at MartysThoughts.info if you want to check it out.

Vacation Notes

I finished entering my vacation notes yesterday. I need to proof them and add some pictures and I can get the newsletter out to you. It may not happen today because it stopped raining and the grass is calling me. I should have it maybe in the mail by Monday. Well, not the mail but available in the usual way.

16-May-2008 8:19am 65°

I have been proof this newsletter and I see that there a few things you might want to know.

Follow ups

Recalls

The meds they recalled they just replaced. They didn't know if they were bad or not. So I have a different brand of the same drug.

The recall on the car wasn't a recall it was just an extended warranty.

I did get the squeak fixed. It was the rear sway bar ends were replaces. And the hard shifting was fixed by fixing the corroded shift cable and a little lube.

Antenna

I removed the antenna that was hanging from the lead wire. Of course I waited until it was windy. You need to go up 32 feet tower when it is windy. Well, don't you?

Dandelions

I got enough Dandelion peddles to start some wine. Maybe this fall we can try it.

Mower

After using the mower again it seems to be running great. I guess no new mower!

Files Server

I copied all my data that I could get I think the rest is lost forever. Oh well, I have to let go for this. I have removed the hard drives and did a full scan on then to see if they were damaged and they check out. This means that maybe only the data was damaged. This means that I can reuse the drives to create a new file server. That can wait!

SPAM

After tightening the parameters on the spam filter I think I need to tighten it a little more. I am still getting a lot of email in my inbox. I can tighten it a lot more but if I go too far I might block some that should get through. I will have rethink how to make this work this different.

Driving

I think I have learned how to drive again since I returned from vacation. At least I haven't hit any one or any things.

Vacation notes

Vacation notes are done enough for now. I need to add the pictures. I just see it is tomorrow now so that is it for now.

17-May-2008 6:20am 54°

After falling asleep in the chair and waking up an hour ago I think I better go have some breakfast with Mary. Maybe I'll run in to Jeremy and Tonya. I haven't seen them in months. They use to go out for Saturday breakfast too. When I come back I need to get some pictures in with the vacation notes. That will make the number of pages grow in this issue. I'll be back!

Ok, Pictures first then I can print this while I finish cutting the grass.

Pictures

I just went through the pictures. There are over 150 covering my vacation and the newsletter. I think I should go for coffee and deal with it a little later. Maybe I won't get this issue published on Monday. I need a break!

I have the grass cut now and resizing the pictures for the newsletter. For now it is lunch time. I will work on this later.

After working on this for a while I think I made the pictures a little too small so I am re-sizing them again. Now it is about to go to Arlene's birthday party. I will get this done some day!

18-May-2008

Birthday

Arlene's birthday is today. Happy Birthday Arlene!

Fair Diddley

I took a little time after breakfast to check out the Fair Diddley® on the square. There were a lot of talented people displaying there wares. And there were a lot of people checking them out.



It was jacket weather but sunny and many people were on the square.

19-May-2008 8:51am 49°

I spent a lot of time yesterday working editing pictures from my vacation and getting them in this newsletter.

I pumped the water out on my pond because the hose is plugged or is has a grim somewhere and the water does not flow. I just got the water out of the pond when I had to go had coffee. Maybe I will get out here later today to get it fixed. It is still a little cold for playing in the water this morning.

Back to editing pictures now.

20-May-2008 1:13pm 64°

I think other than one coffee run I worked on this newsletter all day. I think I need to see if there more birthdays I missed the print it out and proof it and get it out to all of you. Please notes I added a lot of new birthdays to the master list. If you gave me a birthday to add to the list please go to the master list and see if it is on the master list.

Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Apr 4 | Lucy | May 2 | Cathy S | Jun 9 | Jim S |
| Apr 11 | Heather L | May 7 | Bill Mc | Jun 9 | Nora S |
| Apr 11 | Roxanne M | May 18 | Arlene | Jun 11 | Nathan H |
| Apr 14 | Jeremy M | May 23 | Kevin C | Jun 15 | Voviolca |
| Apr 18 | Petra | May 25 | Sofije | Jun 21 | Sue S |
| Apr 19 | Dave S | | | Jun 21 | Sue |
| Apr 30 | Janet J | | | Jun 24 | Daron G |
| | | | | Jun 28 | Arainna B |
| | | | | Jun 28 | Haley |

If you don't see you birthday or you want to make sure I have then let me know.
My master list is at <http://www.martysthoughts.info/randomthoughts/html/Birthdays.html>