



**Tuesday March 26, 2013**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAUREEN

To celebrate the 34th anniversary of Maureen's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday, friends and family gathered at our pad on a beautiful sunny afternoon.



Maureen's brother and his wife travelled from Apache Junction. They brought a scrumptious chocolate cake.



Arleen and Bella



Lorna, Betty and Susan



## Thursday March 28, 2013

The Lions gathered at our place for a year end party prefaced by a short meeting.





**Friday March 29, 2013**

The last day of Scrapbooking (for this season). Susan working hard!



## **Tuesday April 2, 2013**

The rubber Ducky Race raised money for Gabrielle's Angels, a pet therapy program for at risk children. Lion Dave presented a cheque for \$1,000 to representatives from the Tucson and Phoenix branches.



Time to pack everything up so we can head back to Ontario.

Some people wondered if we could get everything into the shed. Here is proof that it all fit!



## Wednesday April 3, 2013

We spent the night before in the pull through lot in order to make a quick exit in the morning. Palm Creek provided a complimentary continental breakfast for us so we did not even have to worry about what to eat.

The driving went very well with clear blue skies and wide open highways.





There was a bit of construction near Tucson,  
but no delays



We love how the Arizona highways are often  
decorated with southwestern art



Spent the night at the Little Vineyard in  
Deming New Mexico.

**Thursday April 4, 2013**

Drove into Texas and saw miles and miles of oil rigs. Sometimes Percy barks at them ☐ he must think they are funny looking cows.



Noticed that the vegetation is getting greener as we travelled north east. Wind blowing hard ☐ yup we're in Texas alright!



Spent the night at Trapark in Pecos Texas. This park has definitely seen better days. Many of the trailers belong to oil rig workers and they love to party at night. Definitely not a destination park.



### **Friday April 5, 2013**

Still in Texas. After lunch we noticed that the landscape is much greener and hillier. Not in the desert anymore!

Stopped at 3 pm at the Cactus Rose in Mingus Texas.

As we continue our trek through Texas the trees and grass got even greener.



Lots of construction as we approach Fort Worth, Dallas



These bridge supports looked like the Greek Acropolis.

Lots of traffic and cement



They sure build things BIG in TEXAS



## **Saturday April 6, 2013**

Another full day of driving. Stopped just off the freeway at the Horseshoe Casino in Bossier, MS. The buffet was not too exciting but both of us managed to win a few bucks on the slots. Camping was free with no facilities but the parking lot was well lit and relatively quiet.

## **Sunday April 7, 2013**

Travelling through the bible belt in Mississippi, the size and number of churches was amazing.







Some of the houses were in pretty bad shape though.



We crossed the muddy Mississippi.





Our new GPS has been working quite well, but sometimes gets a bit mixed up when we stop for fuel.



Have been enjoying listening to CBC Radio on our Sirius.

Spent the night at Movietown RV resort near Canton MS.

**Monday April 8, 2013**

Crossed into Louisiana and drove through Jackson. The old South sure is pretty in the springtime. Some of the places are more appealing than others!



Just past Canton we entered the Natchez Trace. This is a 444 mile long parkway that starts in Natchez and ends near Nashville Tennessee. The road is narrow but the speed limit is only 50 MPH. Commercial traffic is not allowed and there are frequent pull offs where we could stop and take a hike or have a picnic.



Our first stop was a swamp where we took a short hike



Percy was keen to see what was there.







This was the closest thing to an alligator that we saw.





Dainty spring flowers peeping through last year's leaves.





A really big log eh Percy?

Back to truck and off to see more



Next stop Bethel Mission. Unfortunately the church is gone.



Took a short hike down the old Natchez Trace. This is the route that people took north after they floated their wares down the Mississippi river to Natchez. Back then it took 35 days to walk to Nashville.



In 2011 a Tornado went through the Trace and caused a lot of damage to the trees. For about 10 miles we witnessed many fallen and trees and missing tops.



Last stop for the day was at the Mounds.



An audio display explains how the Natives lived here. They buried the remains of their dead in the mounds.

A controlled fire along the highway



Spent the night at the Natchez Trace RV Park.







The lots were very narrow but we did get electricity. Water was not turned on yet. We also had a nice view of the little lake.



**Tuesday April 9, 2013**

Travelled through Mississippi where the churches were not quite as big and the grass not as green.



Just after lunch we arrived at Arthur and Marys place in Paris Tennessee.



The driveway that we were supposed to park in was not accessible as the cable/phone line was too low and almost caught on the air conditioner. After a few phone calls Mary found us another driveway across the street and we were happy campers again.



Just as we arrived at the house, the painter and electrician were leaving. Everything in Mary's kitchen had a fresh coat of paint and it looked great. Only hitch was the fact that all the cupboard contents were still in boxes in the spare bedrooms.

## Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Wednesday night went out for Mexican dinner with Mary and Arthur, their son and his wife along with neighbour Betty alias " Mom" .

Mary and Maureen spent all day Thursday placing the kitchen stuff where it belonged. Friday,



## Friday, April 11, 2013

Friday morning  
Mary cooked  
breakfast in her  
“new” kitchen. She  
is looking forward  
to creating many  
more meals in her  
reorganized space.



Had a great visit  
with all the neighbours and celebrated the  
week with a fabulous fish dinner at Cyprus  
Lake on Friday evening. Thanks everyone for  
the hospitality!