

Monday March 3, 2008

We are really enjoying our beautiful campsite on Galveston



Island Beach. We saw horses riding by and it reminded us of Milverton (without the buggies).

We have been taking Percy on beach walks and he loves to run on the sand.



On one of these walks we met a couple with a much larger dog  
named Manny  
who wanted to play,  
but try as he might he could not catch up with Percy,  
so they decided just to be sociable.



Tuesday March 4, 2008

Maureen got up very early today to see the sunrise on the Gulf of Mexico.



The water is constantly changing and the beach swells and shrinks with tides making it different every time we see it.



Galveston State Park has shelters on each site. Great for both shade from the sun and shelter from the wind and rain.



We were able to help out a camper who was having difficulty keeping her tent upright in the very strong winds. We helped her to set up the tent inside of the shelter and anchor it to



the roof. Melissa and her dogs Arthur and Brooke, were happy when the winds diminished and the sun came out again. We wish her good luck with her exams and her travels.



Wednesday March 5, 2008

Patti and Pete joined us today for some sightseeing. First we travelled to Lake Jackson to visit Sea Center Texas.

Link: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seacenter](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seacenter)



It is a marine aquarium, fish hatchery and education center. Our GPS took us on the scenic route but we got back on track after conferring with some of the local sheriffs.

When we arrived, we were taken on a private tour of the hatchery to learn about how Red fish eggs are harvested, incubated and transported to bays to enhance the natural populations and improve recreational fishing in Texas.

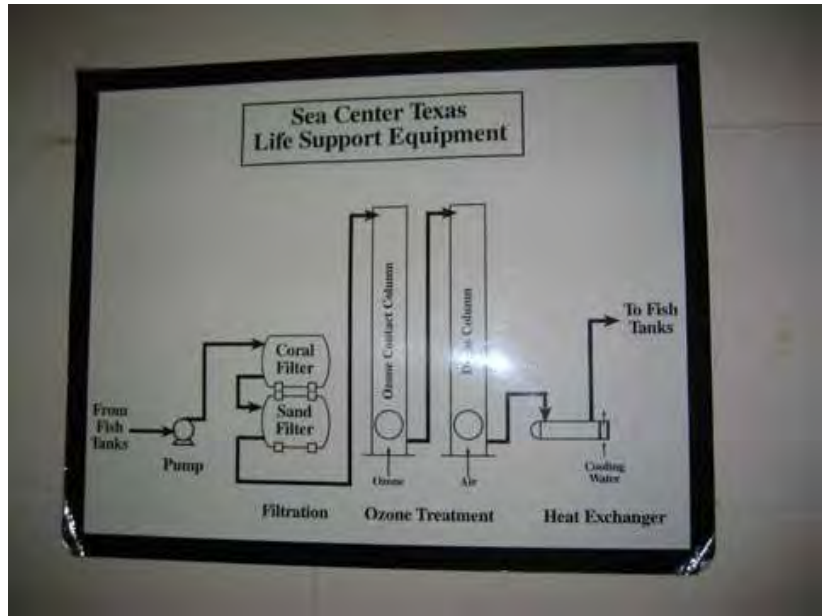
Our tour guide, Tom, explained the whole process to us and answered our questions.











He took us outside and showed us the 30 tanks that house the fish until they are ready to be transported.

Then we toured the aquarium where we met Gordon the 250 lb Grouper from Australia.



And all of his friends including a very large eel.





For lunch we went to the Bayshore Restaurant for a great feast of Gumbo and Fried Fish with all the fixings.

Then we travelled back across the bridge to Galveston to visit an Oil Rig museum.

Link: <http://www.oceanstaroec.com/>





On the way we saw lots of Pelicans including this pair of very large white ones



This is a display of some of the oil based products that we take for granted everyday.

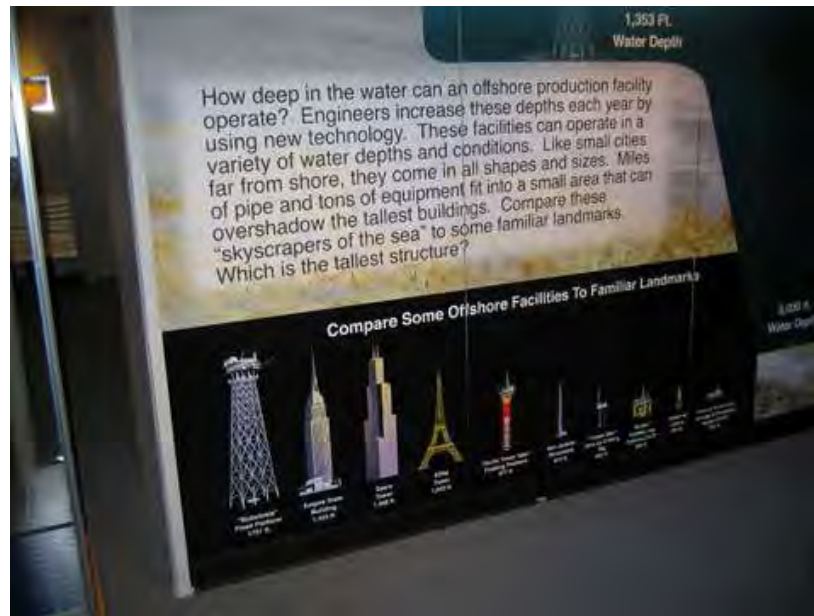
Maureen tried out the harness used to transfer workers to the rigs. The gear goes on the inside but the people ride on the outside.



A movie and the many displays explained how oil is discovered and described the many different types of oil rigs



This compares a typical rig with well known buildings around the world.



Mike checks out a model. In the days before 3D computer programs these model were used to plan the building of the oil rigs.



The third floor of the museum is devoted to the people who run everything on these floating cities. Maureen was interested in the foodservice. Here is a sample menu.



**MENU**  
Diesel  
Hamburgers / Cheeseburgers  
**Regular**  
New Zealand Steaks  
Softens, Creamed Potatoes  
**Unleaded**  
Pork Tenderloin  
Sautéed Mushrooms, Potatoes and Red Peppers  
**Super Unleaded**  
Breaded Orange Chicken

Offshore rigs have caterers who prepare all the food. The chefs are top notch and work hard to create great menus. They understand how demanding rig work is and they want the crew to start and finish their days with a good meal. Rig workers need to eat heartily because the work can be physically challenging. The catering crews rotate in 12 hour shifts just like the workers, so there is always a way to get hearty food. Meals are served every six hours, four times a day!

Special events are still special offshore...



We then found out what it would look like if we worked on a rig.



We are still not happy about the high cost of fuel but now we have a better understanding of the intricacies of producing oil.

## Thursday March 6, 2008

The sun shone for a bit in the morning but the rest of the day was overcast and windy so except for a walk on the beach, we stayed "home" and did some cleaning and maintenance. At supper time we were entertained by a thunderstorm on the bay.