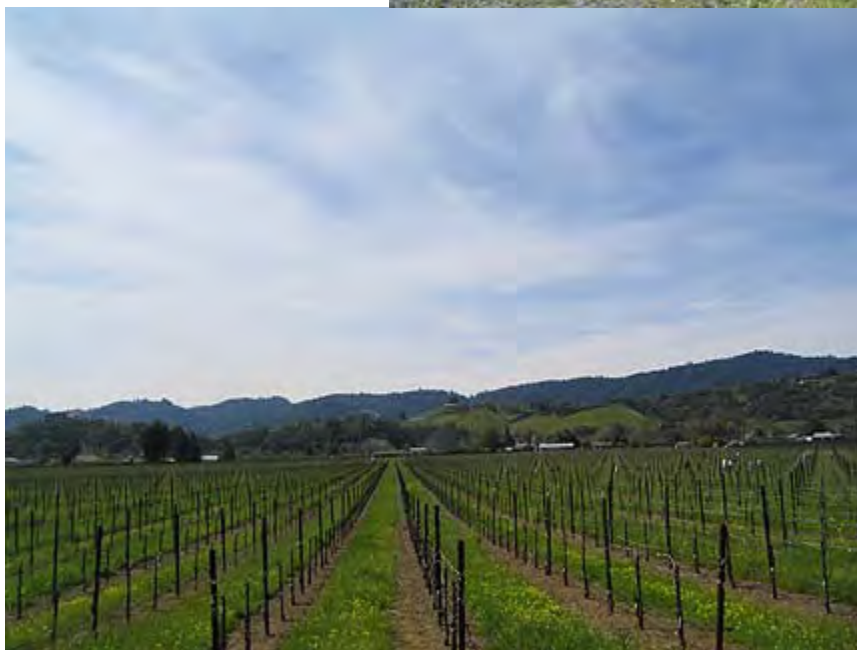


Tuesday March 16, 2010

Clowerdale is the closest community to the Russian River Preserve where we were staying. We needed to get some supplies and decided to take the back roads into town. Along the way we saw lots of Vineyards



We noted that they are not all constructed the same, but one thing is for sure. There sure are lots of them!

We crossed the beautiful aquamarine coloured Russian

River



The town was much larger than we had envisioned and was quite prosperous looking.



The flowering trees are just starting to bloom

We found Ray's Grocery store to be surprisingly large and well stocked. The staff are also quite friendly.



Wednesday March 17, 2010

Stayed at the campsite to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and get some laundry done. On the way to the Laundromat Maureen saw these deer behind our rig.



Later she rode down to the Rangers Station to extend our camp permit for a few more days. On the way back she marvelled at how this tree manages to keep growing.





Thursday March 18, 2010

HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY PERCY!

We spent the day pampering the birthday boy.

First he had a bath.



Then he dried off by rubbing his face on the carpet

Then we went for a long walk in the sunshine. He really enjoys running on the beach.

When we got home it was time to open presents







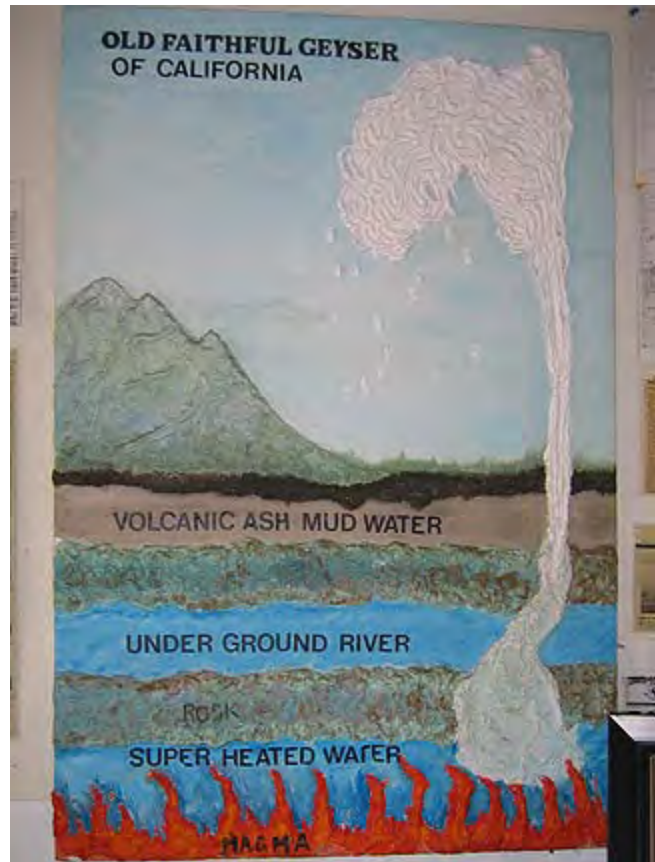
After a special dinner we all had birthday cake and went for another walk.



Friday March 19, 2010

When we checked in on Sunday, Ranger Dave and Betty gave us a list of things to do in the area, so we decided to check some of them out.

First we drove to see the Geyser.



Admission was a bit pricey but Mike got in for the seniors rate so that helped.

A display showing how geysers happen.

We did not have to wait very long before the hot water came spouting up out of the ground.





We had a picnic lunch while we watched the geyser spout a few more times.

Then we headed north. Along the way we noticed many trees covered in heavy moss. Sure hope that this does not kill the trees.



We stopped at the Petrified Forrest, but decided not to go in as it was quite expensive.

Then we headed up the mountain. There were many twisty windy roads as we negotiated up higher and higher with very few guard rails.



The views were fabulous bit Mike did not get to see much as he had to keep his eyes on the road.

There is a park named after Robert Louis Stevenson as he wrote some of his books here.



Made a brief stop at a center that explains how the area makes use of the hot water to create electric energy. The displays were very educational. Recently they have been recycling water from the nearby communities to ensure that there is a continuous supply of steam for the generators.





It was getting late in the afternoon so time to head for our last stop. On the way we passed a winery that was surrounded by thousands of tulips. What a fantastic display it was!





More trees covered with moss. The lady at the power display did not think that it would harm the tree. Sure hope she is right as there were so many affected!



Sometimes we would be travelling on a very narrow road and then see a sign warning that the road would get narrower. Glad we are not towing the rig!



*Lots of signs that
spring is certainly
here in California*



*Finally after a long
drive around the lake
we arrive at the Sho-
Ka-Nah Casino near
Hopland where we
had been advised to
try out the great food
at the Many Flames*

Steak House.



It was Friday, so the Seafood Buffet was featured. We had to wait for about an hour to get a seat. Now what is a person to do while waiting? The Casino gave us both \$10 free play on the slots. Maureen made hers last about an hour. Mike turned his into a whole lot more, so we paid for dinner and still had plenty to take home with us. By the way – the food was excellent!



Saturday March 20, 2010

Maureen stopped by to thank Ranger Dave and Betty for the good advice re things to see and do.



Sunday March 21, 2010

Time to leave the lovely Russian River. We headed out early and made our way north on the 101. It was quite misty in the upper parts of the mountains.



The forests became denser and the trees larger.

Here is a little house made out of a single tree.

The scenery along the coast was breathtaking.





We stopped to let Percy run on the beach





*Mid afternoon we
arrived at the*

*Klamath Kamp on the edge of the Redwoods Forest.
It was raining when we arrived so we set up quickly and headed inside
to warm up.*



Monday March 22, 2010

Cleaned up the rig and then headed out to see the sights. It did not take long to get to the ocean side but at that point we were quite high above it.



Then it was into the forest were we stopped to see a spot which was used during WW II to monitor enemy boats in the ocean. The buildings were built to look like a barn and a farm house but contained

monitoring equipment and personnel to run it.



The forest road



was quite narrow, bumpy and steep but not a problem for the truck when Mike used the 4 wheel drive. We stopped and took a short hike out to a fabulous ocean viewpoint.





Tiny daisies were sprinkled in the grass on the way back.



Then it was deeper into the forest to get up close and personal with the mighty redwoods.

Some of these majestic trees are thousands of years old.

It was awe inspiring to stand beside them.







*Back on the highway we travelled into Crescent City.
On the way we stopped for a run on a very windy beach.*



The rocks in just off



*the coast provide
interest to the
seascape.*







Drove through the parking lot and took pictures at this tourist place.



Tuesday, March 23, 2010

We left Klamath at 9 am and were soon back on the 101 north.

It was a lovely drive along the coast under sunny skies.

Harris Beach near Brookings was quite picturesque.









At Coos Bay we crossed this unique bridge





Passed by this train exhibit



Followed the river for a while



At 230 PM we arrived at South Jetty and crossed another beautiful bridge to make our way to the campsite.







This campground is situated in a stand of very tall trees, mostly evergreens. Only a few sites have sewers and many of them are quite dark due to the abundance of vegetation. We did manage to find one that was not overly treed and by placing the satellite on the edge of the road Mike was able to get our internet running.



Thursday, March 25, 2010

The weather turned very cool and wet so it was not a good day for sightseeing. We decided to drive into Eugene to do some tax free shopping. It did not look like very far on the map, but it was a long drive on twisty, hilly roads in the pouring rain. We were able to find some good bargains, had a nice meal at the Olive Garden and made it home safely.



Friday March 26, 2010

Today is the 20th Anniversary of Maureen's 39th birthday, so she took it easy.

Mike made brunch and supper and we finished off with candles on the cheesecake.





Thanks to the many e-mails and phone calls to wish Maureen well!



Saturday March 27, 2010

With birthday celebrations taken care of, it was time to move north again. The sun was out again but the temperature was still chilly at 70 when we left South Jetty for another pleasant drive on the Pacific Coast Highway.

The scenery was amazing as we went down to sea level and then up again through the mountains to look down on the water and rocks below.









We crossed many bridges and saw lots of sailing vessels.





Even passed through a mountain.



There were signs that we never see in Ontario warning us of Tsunamis.



Some of the houses we passed had amazing views.



About 3:30 PM we turned towards Ilwaco.



After crossing more bridges we entered Washington.





We followed the campground directions, but unfortunately they were not very clear and we managed to get a bit off track. After a call to the Eagles Nest we arrived and checked in.

The site we were assigned was too soggy, so we had to choose another one on higher ground.



We had to park very carefully in order to avoid the trees and tree stumps.

The stairs ended up at the edge of this stump.



The slide out just made it passed this tree.





Sunday March 28, 2010

It was cool and rainy again, but our time on the coast is limited, so we had to make the best of it despite the disappointing weather. We took Percy for a tour of the Ilwaco harbour.





On the boardwalk this menacing condor is perched on a whale bone.



Then it was down the road to Long Beach. Percy loved running on the sand.



It was a great day for kite flying



The waves were rolling and crashing.



Back at home Maureen marvelled at how mother nature shows off her floristry skills by planting a beautiful flower in an old hollowed out stump.







Monday March 29, 2010

Maureen put off doing the laundry at the last stop, so it was time to get out the quarters and sort the dirty clothes. It was disappointing

that the laundry room in our section had been closed for the winter but it was only a short drive to the one at the Lodge.

Unfortunately the room was dirty, smelly and small and the hot water heater was broke, so there was only cold water for the machines. One dryer ate Maureen's quarters, but did not produce any action and another dryer was vented into the room (not outside). When started, the room became a sauna. Needless to say it was not a good experience all round. Fortunately most of the campgrounds we visit have wonderful laundry facilities. This one did not, so a letter to management was written to express our disappointment in an RO resort that otherwise had a lot going for it.



Tuesday March 30, 2010

It had rained all night, so things were really soggy in the morning as we packed up to leave the Eagle's Nest.

The 101 left the coast and winded itself inland. We decided to avoid going through Seattle, skirting around it on the 405.





Our Casino Camping book described the 227,000 square foot Tulalip Casino as "the largest in the state with a vaulted ceiling over the 100 foot entry way with a hand painted mural depicting the life of the salmon." It also said that over 3 million visitors go annually, so we decided to become two of them.

The Casino has a separate parking lot for RV's which is very well laid out. There are no hook-ups, but that did not stop our many neighbours, mostly Canadians, from enjoying the opportunity to spend a night and check out the facilities.

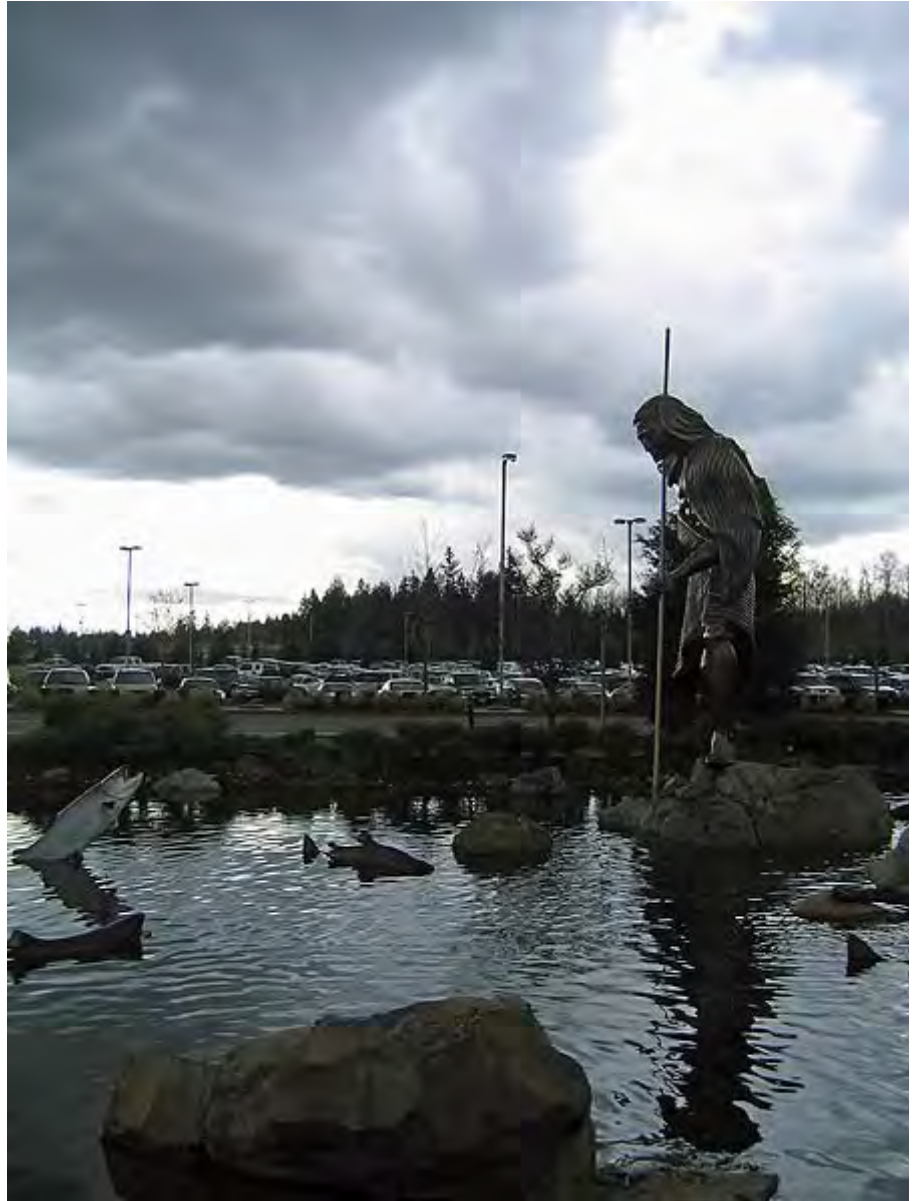
The front of the hotel and casino is indeed worth a look.



Creatures of the sea frolic in the pool



This wise looking hunter uses a spear to fish



The fountains and landscaping are quite calming.



No cameras are allowed inside. The decor was without a doubt the best we have ever seen. Everything was first class, but along with that came higher prices for meals in most of the restaurants, so we chose to eat "at home". We tried out the slots, and they provided some excellent entertainment, but in the end the machines won and we headed back to the solace of our beds.



Wednesday March 31, 2010

Time to bid farewell to the good old USA. We arrived at the Canadian border after a two hour drive and only had to wait for three vehicles in

front of us. We handed our list of purchases to the border guard and after a few questions we were on our way.







The prices at campsites in British Columbia seem to be rather inflated. As the Olympics finished here just recently we wonder if there is some gouging going on? We chose the Dogwood in Surrey, as although high priced, it is not as high as the others and was centrally located. What we did not know was that the exit beside the campsite was closed due to bridge reconstruction. Consequently we ended up on a road going across the bridge to Coquitlam and had to get turned around and cross back and find another way to get to the road we wanted. Oh well, the view from the bridge was rather nice and we have never been to Coquitlam before!



Thursday April 1, 2010

Went out to buy some groceries, fill some prescriptions and get Maureen's haircut. We checked our GPS for the nearest Shopper's Drugmart and found one just a kilometre away, so off we went. Shortly after, we ended up back on the bridge to Coquitlam. Oh well another pretty drive and this time we did not have the rig, so we could do a U turn and get back on the Trans Canada.

We arrived at the Shoppers and Mike had a funny feeling because it was so small, but Maureen was happy because there was a First Choice Hair place in the same mall.

After the haircut Maureen had to show ID at the pharmacy. They said come back in 20 minutes to pick up the prescriptions.

We did not have any Canadian money, so we decided to seek out a CIBC. Found one 2 km away, so off we went and a sinking feeling came up again when we realised we were back on the road to no return. By this time it was not fun going across the \$@&*% bridge anymore!!!

By the time we got back, the 20 minutes was up. The young lady called me over and explained that she did not have one of the three items we needed, so I would have to go to the Shoppers in Central. So I waited around for another 10 minutes and then she told me that they did not have the correct dosage of the other two drugs. I could not believe that after all that time they were just checking to see if they had them.

She gave us directions to the other drug store. This time we followed a map instead of the GPS so no bridge trip. This store had two of the drugs and could get the other one by Monday. We shall go back then and hope for the best! We did manage to find a grocery store and pick up the few things we needed and get back to the rig with no detours.

Good thing we did not have any other plans for the day as it took all day to do three things!

Friday April 2, 2010



We met PCC Lion Polly, who lives in Burnaby, for lunch. The weather was unpleasant outside, but we had a great visit and a wonderful lunch at Earl's.

